



The Franciscan



February 2024

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

The Rt Rev John Taylor

● **Our Vicar** ●

The Rev. Sarah Kitch

stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

● **The Bishop's Committee** ●

• *Bishop's Warden*
Amy Brown

• *Junior Warden*
Dan McCarty

• *Finance*
Sam Anusiem

• *Clerk*
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• *Communications*
Doug Onyon

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Tracy Hurst

• *Service/Outreach*
Gerri Harrington

• *Worship*
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From Our Vicar...

Lent isn't a time that we reflect on our behavior and give ourselves a penance that for forty days we're going to give up something. It's about the fulfilled kin-dom relationship we have with God through Jesus, and allowing ourselves to put down deeper roots in that relationship.

... *Read Article on pg.2*

Ash Wednesday Services

Services will be Wednesday
February 14th

10:00 am
12:00 pm
and
6:00 pm



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From Our Vicar...

“Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” Psalm 1

I love the idea of being a tree beside streams of water, with my roots going down deeply, yielding fruit in season and my leaves never turning dry. It’s a great image for us presently as we continue to appreciate the rain we have had. It also has value when we are facing the dry summer and remember our drought.

I wonder if Lent doesn’t sometimes feel a little like the dry time – even drought. We have been formed to believe that Lent is the quiet, reflective time of the church year, when we spend time dwelling on our sins, and giving up something that is a habit. Sounds dreary and unappealing and something I wouldn’t wish to practice. Certainly imagery of trees beside streams of water doesn’t seem to be relevant when I’m giving up chocolate, coffee, wine, or television. So I’ve been meditating on what this really is about and I came across some reading recently about righteousness. Too often I think we equate righteousness with good behavior, a code of conduct that we uphold. Actually righteousness means a fulfillment of the claim that a relationship makes as satisfaction of the obligation of a relationship. Let me re-state that in the vernacular. My relationship with Jesus fulfills my righteousness. I don’t have to try to be good to be righteous.

Lent isn’t a time that we reflect on our behavior and give ourselves a penance that for forty days we’re going to give up something. It’s about the fulfilled kin-dom relationship we have with God through Jesus, and allowing ourselves to put down deeper roots in that relationship. It means that we set aside this season to make time to be with our best friend, our lover, our Lord. It’s like setting aside time and going on a vacation with your best friend. (I bet you never thought of it like that!) We make choices of things that take our time, and yield them to spend some quality time with our relationship with God.

Making quality time comes in all different forms and a multitudinous variety. I like to give something away. For example, I might choose to get a less expensive cup of coffee each week and take the money I’m not spending and give it secretly to someone in need. It might be random acts of kindness of groceries, or notes sent, or some measure of grace that no one would be expecting. If I think of the season of Lent in this way, I’m asking God “hey, what’s up for today? What kind of adventure, blessing, or act of kindness can we do today that is all about your love?” I’m spending quality time in my relationship with God, and we’re having a vacation together that can’t be beat! I might even be sipping wine in a lovely spot, and eating chocolate with a friend.

The point is the time we set aside for Lent is giving ourselves away to God. It's allowing ourselves to be deeply nourished in the streams of living water that we may flourish and find ourselves alive and vibrant in the kin-dom work of God's redemption. It's not a penance that we have to uphold to know righteousness. Jesus already has given us righteousness through our relationship with him. We choose to give Jesus our undivided attention during this time because we want to grow deeper in love with Jesus. When we choose to let go of some of the things that take our attention, we're saying that I long to be more attentive with God, and we know that God's attention longs for us.

So what do you say? Think it's worth a gamble to give yourself away on a vacation this season with God? The adventure is all yours and opens up possibilities and surprises that await you because the Divine Lover embraces you in the dance of Life! Happy Lent!



Shelby

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTING:

MARDI GRAS

GREAT GUMBO COOK-OFF

LIVE MUSIC

6:00PM TUE FEB 13th Tickets: \$15

stfrancischurchofsimi.org

Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email stfrancis.simi@gmail.com
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
 - Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.

Secure online giving available through PayPal:

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

Parish Healing Prayer Needs:

Barbara, Reina, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Scott, Lee, Michael, Kim, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan, Peggy Pauline.

*"My smoke detector
Serves mostly as a critic
Of my bad cooking."*

-Haiku by Diantha Ain

ECW – Episcopal Church Women –

Please contact Sylvia Moya or Pat Udell if interested in joining in.

We're
Collecting
TOYS for
Hillsides.

Drive ends
March 31st.

Hillsides TOY Drive



Interested in Joining a Book Club?

Contact Chris McCarty for details.



Baby Shower Sundays

4th Sunday of the Month

Please bring your diapers, wipes and baby toiletries in support of the Baby Closet on the 4th Sunday of the Month to help support the Baby Closet and their needs.

If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please speak with Gerri Harrington or Rev. Sarah.

The Baby Closet is open weekly

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 11am

Ash Wednesday Services

Services will be Wednesday
February 14th

10:00 am
12:00 pm
and
6:00 pm



Lenten Bible Study



After Sunday Services



Beginning Feb 18th with David Kitch



Lenten Taíze Services

Services will be held each
Wednesday of Lent in the Church
at 6:00pm.

Feb 21st
Feb 28th
March 6th
&
March 13th

February 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Feb. 25	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B. Evie M.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	
Preaching	Rev Sarah	David K.	Rev Sarah	David K	

March 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	Bernadette
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	Suzanne L
LEM	Lisa N.	Chrissy B. Evie M.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Chrissy B.
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	Ted W.
Altar Guild	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chris M.
Preaching	Arch Deacon The Venerable Laura Siriani	David K.	Rev Sarah	David K.	Rev Sarah

Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day. Thank you for Serving!

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Baby Closet Closed 7 pm NA Clare Rm	2  Happy Groundhog Day! 8 pm AA PH	3
4 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH 2-5 Mtg Clare Rm	5 Samaritan Dinner 8 pm Men's AA	6 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	7 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	8 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	9 8 pm AA PH	10
11 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	12 8 pm Men's AA	13 Baby Closet 10-11  5:30 Mardi Gras Gumbo Cookoff 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	14 10 am, 12pm & 6pm Eucharist Service with Ashes  6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	15 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	16 8 pm AA PH	17
18 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Lenten Study 6:30 Men's AA PH	19 Presidents' Day DOK WOMENS' RETREAT 8 pm Men's AA	20 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	21 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6:00 pm Taize 7:30 pm AA PH	22 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	23 8 pm AA PH	24
25 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Bishop's Committee Mtg Lenten Study 6:30 Men's AA PH	26 8 pm Men's AA	27 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	28 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6:00 pm Taize 7:30 pm AA PH	29 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm		

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Newsletter – FEBRUARY 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
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TO:



**DOK WOMEN'S DAY
RETREAT:
FEBRUARY 19th @
10AM – Call for
location info
All Women Welcome**

Sunday Service:

10:15 am

Wednesday Service:

10:00 am Healing

Ash Wednesday Services:

10:00 am Healing

12:00 pm

6:00 pm

Lenten Taize Services:

6:00pm Wednesdays