

# The Franciscan



June 2023

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

*John Harvey Taylor*

● **Our Vicar** ●

*The Rev. Sarah Kitch*  
[stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

● **The Bishop's Committee** ●

- *Bishop's Warden*  
*Amy Brown*
- *Junior Warden*  
*Dan McCarty*
- *Finance*  
*Sam Anusiem*
- *Clerk/ Communications*  
*Cathy Grimes*
- *Service/Outreach*  
*Gerri Harrington*
- *Pastoral Care*  
*Tracy Hurst*
- *Worship*  
*Chris McCarty*

## From Our Vicar

### Power

*It is an extraordinary thought that God's Spirit has come mightily upon us – and not just once, at our baptisms, but as with David, "from that day forward!" We each have that Spirit now – a great power which we can all upon every day. Call out that power! Come, Holy Spirit! And that Spirit, like the sun and the rain, will help the seeds which God has planted deep within us to grow and flourish.*

*-Br. Geoffrey Tristram*  
... read article on pg. 2



Sunday June 25th at 6:00PM on the beautiful St Francis Patio:  
We welcome Latin Jazz! Bring your picnic, or grab take-out nearby. We'll provide beverages or you can bring your own, and we'll enjoy this casual and relaxing evening under the enchanting lights and the beautiful summer sunset. Hope to see you there.



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# From Our Vicar...

## Power

*It is an extraordinary thought that God's Spirit has come mightily upon us – and not just once, at our baptisms, but as with David, "from that day forward!" We each have that Spirit now – a great power which we can all upon every day. Call out that power! Come, Holy Spirit! And that Spirit, like the sun and the rain, will help the seeds which God has planted deep within us to grow and flourish.*

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram  
*Society of Saint John the Evangelist*

Someone said to me the other day, "Pentecost is just one day, not a whole season." If we think of this day literally, yes that's true. It is the celebration of the birth of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit's nature upon the disciples, to empower them to bring the Good News to all people. However, I like to consider that Pentecost is in fact a season – a season during Ordinary Time – that we would be conscious and grow in our understanding of the Holy Spirit. I wonder if the Holy Spirit is the part of the Trinity that we least draw upon because we feel we don't know it very well or experience it! Ah! That to me is our downfall in our teaching for without the Holy Spirit, we are unable to apprehend how alive God's presence is in our lives! That is the point. The Holy Spirit is like the nurturing mother around us all the time to empower us, to enrich us, to imbue in us the love of God, the mercy of God and the presence of God in and through us now!!!!

Too often we think only of the Holy Spirit as the "gifts of the Spirit", and that is only partly the story. For the Holy Spirit is the power in us that allows us to do the work of the Kin-dom today and tomorrow and the next day. Being a follower, a disciple of Jesus, is about our responsiveness to the needs of our community and being empowered to respond. What gives us the ability of that response is the Holy Spirit and we need to call upon her often and a lot because there is a lot of work to be done!!! This season of Ordinary Time, may we be stirred by the Holy Spirit to be more conscience and aware of her presence. Let us learn more and dig deeper in our relationship with Jesus, that the Spirit of God is experienced with greater vitality and life within us. May we know how deeply loved we are by God and the community around us through the loving embrace of the Holy Spirit. Blessings always,



*Sarah*

In the Book of Common Prayer, there is a well known Collect that says:

*“O Lord Our God,  
accept the fervent prayers of your people;  
in the multitude of your mercies,  
look with compassion upon us  
and all who turn to you for help;  
for you are gracious,  
O Lover of Souls,  
and to you we give glory,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.  
Amen. “*

I love this Collect because it expresses attributes of God that are present to us always, such as God’s compassion, mercy and graciousness. I often imagine the graciousness of God as the extravagant love of God just poured out over us, like some magnificent elixir of life that is generously distributed over us all.

I am refreshed and renewed again as we enter into worship and community life with one another. God catches us up in extravagant love of just enjoying being with God and one another. The measurement of effect is seen as we simply allow ourselves to come together and enter into the moment.

Refreshment comes unbidden often during a day. Sometimes it catches me off guard when I see something that calls my attention to watch and be blessed. It could be someone’s smile, a picture, a moment of reflection, or prayer. In the midst of a busy day, the discipline of taking a moment away and seeking God’s compassion, mercy and grace is available and present to us anytime.

Where do you find refreshment? Often it is in the bigger events such as the vacation at the beach, or the days that don’t demand responsibilities and concentration. Yet, the Grace of God is to be experienced, and indeed given, to us every moment. I wonder in the everyday-ordinary of the work place, of the home, of the children, of the school, wherever we find ourselves if we can find ourselves refreshed in God.

Is it giving ourselves a break at lunch, and taking a walk? Would it be a silent prayer at our desk? Maybe it’s just a quick moment to read a Scripture on that coffee break. Sometimes, it’s just sitting and being quiet. However you consider what might be a way to be refreshed for you, give yourself the value that it is important enough to do it.

Then enter into God’s rest in that moment for you. Please know that I am praying for you as the Collect expresses God’s lavished Grace over us all as we turn to God, for our everything.

May you be blessed this month and refreshed.

There is something about the beginning of summer that awakens us to projects. There is an anticipation of tasks that we've not been able to accomplish until now. There is an excitement as we consider ideas large and small of changes in the backyard, or the house. A smile comes across our face as we think about picnics, family gatherings, vacation trips and just good 'ol relaxation.

In summer, there is the luxury of time that is given to us like no other season. We linger in the longer days and stay up a little later, enjoying the "sleeping in" mornings. There is a slower pace that invites us to take time with God's creation on fishing or camping trips, hikes, or a get-away to the beach.

I have a hummingbird feeder outside my kitchen window. I love watching the hummingbirds dart in and out of the feeder, gluttonously filling their tiny beaks with the sweet water. I consider it a perfect morning if there is a hummingbird flitting about drinking its nectar, as I sip on my coffee. I smile viewing this miracle of life, creation in motion, and think I could watch these delights all day.

Of course, then I have to get out the door and go to work. There goes the somnolent luxury, the drowsy sleepy relaxation over coffee.

Yet, for that moment, I have been close to God. Time has stood still and I have been in God's presence through Creation, and felt God's love and care as this tiny bird is nourished. I realize I have been nourished and feel within me God's love and care for me.

In a relaxed atmosphere, and outside in Creation, St Francis is a little like sitting at my kitchen table, watching hummingbirds. Our outdoor patio is often joined with the chorister singing of the birds around our grounds, the hawks, the owls, the sparrows. We enter into nature, God's first hymn, as we are nourished by God's presence.

Our patio lends itself to a comfortable setting, with the flowers, trees and twinkling lights sparkling above us. We are joined in community as we enjoy Jazz on the Patio and events outside.

We are extending our outdoor patio to all who wish to come. It is a comfortable atmosphere for young and old alike. Come one, Come all. Our summer experiences are beginning as we celebrate our life together.

Gotta' go now, there are hummingbirds at my feeder.





## **Jazz on the Patio Concert Series is in full swing this summer!**

**Please consider joining us on:**

[JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>](#) as we gather together with a ten piece band for a festive night of Latin Jazz – you guessed it – On the Patio!

[JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>](#) as we welcome a Full Traditional Jazz band selected by our very own Dan McCarty. Come one; Come all!

[AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup>](#) will be headlined by Claire Holley, returning to the stage at St Francis with a line-up of Country Music to wrap up the summer series with a shake up to the traditionally played jazz music... Still on the Patio, Still **FREE!**

**Bring your Picnic, your family, neighbors, friends, pets  
... Bring them all or come solo. - Just COME!**

**B.Y.O.P.** (Bring your own Picnic) to be enjoyed on the grass or on the patio at one of our pre-set tables. We bring the drinks or you're welcome to bring your own.  
Each night is **FREE** of charge.

Each concert kicks off at 6PM; in perfect timing for patio to be optimally shaded as we begin the night of music under the canopy of string lights...

## THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE:

*Every year at the Annual Meeting, opportunity is offered to participate in the oversight of the church through the work of the Bishop's Committee. St Francis of Assisi is a Mission Church, not a Parish, and as such is always responsible to the Diocese of Los Angeles for the Episcopal Church. It is a Mission and does not have autonomy from the bishop's oversight. So, we have a Bishop's Committee, which is responsible for annually reporting to the bishop the ministry of the previous year. That is why we also have Annual Meetings that we are accountable to the bishop for the work of St. Francis. On the Bishop's Committee, oversight of our finances, the worship, pastoral care, ministry opportunities and outreach, Christian education, and other aspects of church life is represented. It is a shared experience of community to bless and care for our beloved St Francis.*

**We welcome Tracy Hurst (Pastoral Care) and Chris McCarty (Worship)** as they join the Bishop's Committee this year to serve alongside Amy Brown (Warden), Dan McCarty (Jr Warden), Sam Anusiem (Finance), Cathy Grimes (Clerk/Communications), and Gerri Harrington (Outreach) and see that St Francis continues to be a bright light in Simi Valley. Blessings on you and your individual ministries everywhere you serve.

### Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email [Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto: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 Prayer Needs:

**Healing:** Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, 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.

*Empty words of love  
Penetrate the human heart  
And tear it to shreds.*

*-Haiku by Diantha Ain*

## What Does It Mean to Love and Serve God?

Each week we pray God "Send us now into the world in peace ... to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart." What does it mean to love and serve God in our everyday lives? Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year program of theological education developed to answer that question. EfM is designed for lay people -- all of us! -- who are interested in deepening our understanding of the Christian faith and exploring our ministry as lay persons.

Through EfM, you will:

- Study the Bible, church history, and theology
- Engage in theological reflection and discussion
- Build deep relationships with other people of faith

EfM is a great way to learn more about yourself, your faith, and your work in the world at large. Some EfM groups meet in-person, others meet online, and most offer hybrid solutions. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Elizabeth Bryant at (805) 469-8897 or [e.vana.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:e.vana.bryant@gmail.com) Elizabeth can help you to find an EfM group that suits your needs.

Enroll in EfM today and discover your call to every day ministry!

## Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium 2023

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Baseball season is underway, so it is time once again for all Episcopalians to gather at Dodger Stadium for **Episcopal Night**, featuring the **Dodgers** and the **Atlanta Braves**.

This year's date will be Friday evening, **September 1**, at **7:10 p.m.**

We have been able to keep the ticket price the same as last year, at **\$30**. This will be a battle with playoff potential, with fireworks on and off the field (after the game.) This is one time when we can all come together and have a good time as the Diocese of Los Angeles. We will be joined by the Lutherans of the Southwest California Synod in the true spirit of baseball and ecumenism, so do invite your Lutheran friends to come out and join us.

Faithfully yours,  
The Rev. Canon Gregory B. Larkin, Coordinator





The Samaritan Center  
Simi Valley restoring lives

and



Concert Ticket  
Fundraiser

6 SHOWS FOR 2

= 12 TICKETS

\$35

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OR VISIT:



[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/SAMCENTERCC](https://tinyurl.com/samcentercc)

Save the Date

30th Anniversary  
Celebration

of the Samaritan Center - Simi Valley

SUN

01

OCT

Sterling Ranch, Moorpark

Dinner, Live Music, Silent Auction

More details to come!

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI EPISCOPAL

# Summer Solstice Drumming Circle

*Celebrate the Summer Season*

WEDNESDAY  
**JUNE**  
**21**  
6:00 pm

**An Invitation to Stay Awake**

**St Francis of Assisi Simi**  
**280 Royal Avenue**

*Just as the Summer invites us into longer days, so the longest day of the year invites us to be awake to be in the light. What might we do with the gift of longer days? How might we stay awake to all that God is inviting for us to enjoy in Creation and with one another?*

*Come and participate with the heartbeat of Creation as we celebrate the Summer Solstice through Drumming. Whether you have a beat or not, it's great to celebrate together the changes of the season and welcome Summer.*

*6 PM on the Patio of St Francis. See you there!*

[www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org](http://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org)

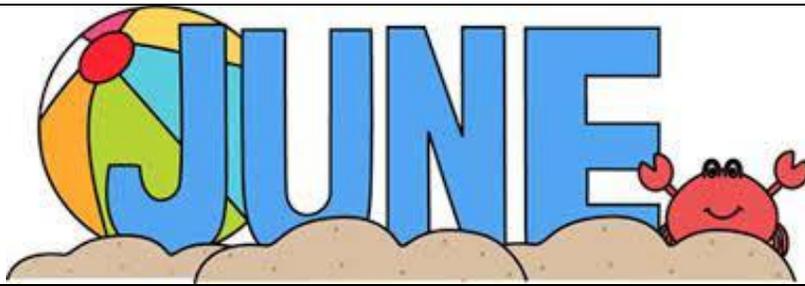
# June 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

|                               | May 28     | June 4      | June 11    | June 18              | June 25   |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Lector (O.T./Psalm)</b>    | Susan S.   | Kerri-Jo H. | Eden S.    | Bernadette           | Susan S.  |
| <b>Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)</b> | Gerri H.   | Reuben A.   | Suzanne L. | Peggy S.             | Gerri H.  |
| <b>LEM</b>                    | Chrissy B. | Tracy H.    | Lisa N.    | Rob W.<br>Kristin W. | Tracy H.  |
| <b>Usher / Greeter</b>        | Tony F.    | Joe Z.      | Rebecca S. | Reuben A.            | Tony F.   |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>            | Chrissy B. | Tracy H.    | Chris M.   | Chrissy B.           | Tracy H.  |
| <b>Preaching</b>              | Rev. Sarah | David K.    | Rev Sarah  | Fr. N. Hull          | Rev Sarah |

# July 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

|                               | July 2      | July 9     | July 16              | July 23    | July 30    |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Lector (O.T./Psalm)</b>    | Kerri-Jo H. | Eden S.    | Bernadette           | Susan S.   | Reuben A.  |
| <b>Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)</b> | Reuben A.   | Suzanne L. | Peggy S.             | Gerri H.   | Chrissy B. |
| <b>LEM</b>                    | Tracy H.    | Lisa N.    | Rob W.<br>Kristin W. | Chrissy B. | Tracy H.   |
| <b>Usher / Greeter</b>        | Joe Z.      | Rebecca S. | Reuben A.            | Joe Z.     | Tony F.    |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>            | Tracy H.    | Chris M.   | Cathy G.             | Chrissy B. | Tracy H.   |
| <b>Preaching</b>              | David K.    | Rev Sarah  | David K.             | Rev Sarah  | David K.   |

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



| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday                              |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
|  |   |   |  | <b>1</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br><b>Private Event</b><br>7 pm NA Clare Rm  | <b>2</b><br>9am Exercise<br><br><b>Private Event</b><br>7 pm AA PH  | <b>3</b><br><b>Private Event</b>      |
| <b>4</b><br>David Kitch,<br>Preaching<br><b>10:15 am Eucharist</b><br>with Music<br><br>6:30 Men's AA PH                   | <b>5</b><br><br>5:30 Line Dancing<br>8 pm Men's AA  | <b>6</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br>6:30 pm Women AA<br>7 pm AA PH<br>8 pm Women AA  | <b>7</b><br><b>10am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b><br><br>7:30 pm AA PH   | <b>8</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br>7 pm NA Clare Rm<br>6 pm WR. HOA          | <b>9</b><br>9am Exercise<br><br>7 pm AA PH                          | <b>10</b><br><b>Private Event</b>     |
| <b>11</b><br>Rev Sarah Kitch<br>Preaching<br><b>10:15 am Eucharist</b><br>with Music<br><br>6:30 Men's AA PH               | <b>12</b><br><br>5:30 Line Dancing<br>8 pm Men's AA | <b>13</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br>6:30 pm Women AA<br>7 pm AA<br>8 pm Women AA    | <b>14</b><br><b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b><br><br>7:30 pm AA PH   | <b>15</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br>7 pm NA Clare Rm                         | <b>16</b><br>9am Exercise<br><br>7 pm AA PH                         | <b>17</b><br><b>Private Event</b>     |
| <b>18</b><br><b>Father's Day</b><br>Fr Norm Preaching<br><b>10:15 am Eucharist</b><br>with Music<br><br>6:30 Men's AA PH   | <b>19</b><br><br>5:30 Line Dancing<br>8 pm Men's AA | <b>20</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br>6:30 pm Women AA<br>7 pm AA PH<br>8 pm Women AA | <b>21</b><br><b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b><br><br><b>Summer Solstice Drumming Circle 6pm</b><br><br>7:30 pm AA PH | <b>22</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br>7 pm NA Clare Rm                         | <b>23</b><br>9am Exercise<br><br>7 pm AA PH                         | <b>24</b>                             |
| <b>25</b><br>Rev Sarah Kitch<br>Preaching<br><b>10:15 am Eucharist</b><br><b>Jazz on the Patio 6PM</b><br>6:30 Men's AA PH | <b>26</b><br><br>5:30 Line Dancing<br>8 pm Men's AA | <b>27</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br>6:30 pm Women AA<br>7 pm AA PH<br>8 pm Women AA | <b>28</b><br><b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b><br><br>7:30 pm AA PH   | <b>29</b><br><b>Private Event</b><br>Baby Closet 10-11<br><br>7 pm NA Clare Rm | <b>30</b><br><b>Private Event</b><br>9am Exercise<br><br>7 pm AA PH | <b>July 1</b><br><b>Private Event</b> |



# The Franciscan

## Newsletter – June 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church  
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065  
Phone 805.526.5141  
[www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org](http://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org)

**TO:**



**Sunday Service:**  
10:15 am

**Wednesday Service:**  
10:00 am Healing

