



# The Franciscan



March 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*

## From Our Vicar

*We are now in the season of waiting and giving ourselves forty days of quiet attention to our lives.*

*It is Lent. The word Lent means lengthening and so it is the lengthening of the days of Spring. Light is coming, but not yet.*

*We hold this time in reverent honor and allow ourselves to reflect on our patterns, habits, choices, desires and routines.*

... read article on pg. 2

We're  
Collecting  
TOYS for  
Hillsides. Ask  
Sylvia Moya for  
details.  
**Drive ends  
March 31st.**

## Hillsides TOY Drive



Published monthly by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Email: [stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

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

office- 805.526.5141

fax- 805.520.3819

# From Our Vicar...

*Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue.*

*Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them.*

*And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now.*

*Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” - Maria Ranier Rilke*

We are now in the season of waiting and giving ourselves forty days of quiet attention to our lives. It is Lent. The word Lent means lengthening and so it is the lengthening of the days of Spring. Light is coming, but not yet. We hold this time in reverent honor and allow ourselves to reflect on our patterns, habits, choices, desires and routines.

If we give ourselves time to reflect, we might explore questions such as “is this what I want to give my time, talents, and treasure?” The practice of fasting from some pattern of behavior, or habit, is to give an opportunity to consider what we might do with the time or space that is available. Perhaps in the quiet attention, questions come up that we have not considered. Can we embrace these questions like “locked rooms and like books that are written in a foreign language”, that might yet be explored?

Even, what it means to live the questions, now. If there is absence of something, what is it that I might consider giving myself towards during this time? Is there some bidding invitation of something I might do that I haven't done that might be for this time? Volunteering? Planning a visit to someone? Writing that journal, you keep putting off? Participating in some spiritual discipline that you haven't done?

If Lent is lengthening than it is going toward the light of the day. I like to consider that whatever practice I take on is doing just that. It is that I am living along some distant day into the answers to some of my questions. Can I make a quest during this Lenten Season? Perhaps a quest of questions that I don't know the answers, but I'm willing to journey with during this time.

Let this season of Lent be an invitation of Jesus' love for you as we journey with Jesus to the Cross. May it be a love relationship that is calling you to fall deeper in love with yourself, with God and with your community. See where it takes you as you open yourself to the Spirit's leading in the quiet. Indeed, you will find yourself in the answer that God's love embraces all around you, right where you are now.



*Shelby*

---

*“SELF-FULFILLMENT, JESUS SAYS, COMES THROUGH LETTING GO, RELINQUISHING OUR NEED TO CONTROL AND DEFINE, TO MANIPULATE AND POSSESS. SELF-FULFILLMENT COMES THROUGH LAYING DOWN OUR LIVES IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S DEEPEST YEARNINGS FOR US.”*

---

The above quote from Brother David Vryhof of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Boston, Massachusetts, seems very appropriate for the month of March as we lean into Lent.

“Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencton – meaning “spring” or “lengthening” from the time of year when the days grow long. In 2023, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and ends with the Easter Triduum (Maundy Thursday through Easter Day), covering 40 days (excluding Sundays which are little feasts of the Resurrection). Some believe that the word “Lent” may derive from the Latin lentare, which means “to bend.” This understanding reinforces a sense of Lent as a time of preparation for personal and collective transformation. Having nurtured ourselves through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Lent becomes the time to look truthfully at ourselves and consider change.

This is our opportunity to take a look truthfully at ourselves and move into developing changes and growth. As we quiet ourselves during this Season, we listen more to the Holy Spirit, and the nudges that get our attention. We might consider our readings and take time to reflect and practice Lectio Divina (Holy Reading) during this time, reading a passage and asking “what catches my attention?” We might hold a time of quiet prayer as a discipline this Lent or participate with Centering Prayer or our Taize Service.

However, we enter into this Season of reflection and self-introspection with God, it is a time that we lay down our lives of busyness and bustle and let our deepest yearnings be attended. What is it that you long for? What is it that doesn’t seem to be resolved or reconciled in your life?

Take this Season quietly and intentionally. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you seek God and give God your heart, once again, to God’s great Love. Peace be with you always.

### **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.stfranchischurchofsimi.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.stfranchischurchofsimi.org/donate>

Jan Richardson, a writer, artist, and minister, writes blessings for all occasions. It seemed appropriate to include a blessing for this time of Lent and our reflection in this quiet time of the church. We are held in a waiting period. We are mindful of our own shortcomings and our heart's longing for something better. We are longing for something we cannot name and find Someone of whom we hope we know. It is a time in the Desert. It is a time in the dark. Yet, in this time of quiet and reflection, what is it that we hear as we respond to the Psalmist words, "Be Still and Know That I Am God?" As we are still, what do notice and celebrate? What gives us hope in this held time of God's Great Love?

### **Blessing the Desert**

Ask me what this blessing sounds like  
and I will tell you about the wind  
that hollows everything  
it finds.

I will tell you about locusts  
who chose this night  
to offer their awful,  
rasping song.

I will tell you about rock faces  
and how it sounds when what was sturdy  
and solid suddenly shears away.

But give me long enough,  
and I will tell you also  
how beneath the wind,  
a silence, not of absence  
or of agony that leaves all speechless  
and stricken when it comes,  
but of rest, of dreaming,  
of the seed that knows its season  
and the wordless canticle of stars  
that will not cease their singing  
even when we cannot bear  
to hear.

—Jan Richardson

From *The Cure for Sorrow*

QUMRI PILGRIMAGES LTD.



A Journey to the Holy Land

***St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church – Simi Valley, CA***  
***A Journey to The Holy Land***

***Led by The Reverend Sarah Kitch***  
***Local Guide Canon Iyad Qumri & Rami Qumri***  
***12-Days: June 26 - July 8, 2024***

Leaving the United States on Wednesday, June 26.  
Thus, arriving at Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on Thursday, June 27.  
Departure flight from Ben Gurion will be in the afternoon / evening Monday, July 8.

*June 27- Jul 2 Saint George's Guest House*  
*Jul 2-5 Sisters of Nazareth*  
*Jul 5-8 Saint George's Guest House*

Cost is **\$2850.00** per person based on double occupancy, (add **\$560.00** for a single)  
*Cost includes all land accommodations, bus transportation, breakfast/lunch/dinner, tour guide, most tips, etc. Airfare is not included.*

As of Jan 2023, non-stop airfare is approx. **\$1400.00**/person, round trip, economy.  
A deposit of \$500.00 per person will be collected in or around June of 2023.

*Friends and family are welcome.*  
*Please speak with Rev. Sarah about the physical demands of this tour.*  
*A clipboard will be located at the front of the church, to collect names of those interested, or you can email questions/interest to Rev. Sarah.*

*A follow up meeting of those who have expressed interest will occur in Spring of 2023 – Information to follow.*

# MARDI GRAS 2023



Guest Appearance: Father Kim



# KING & QUEEN

After many shenanigans and an intense title claiming victory arm-wrestle, King Steve (above) and Queen Michelle (below) were declared - Officially!

Thank you for your support!

We're  
Collecting  
TOYS for  
Hillsides. Ask  
Sylvia Moya for  
details.  
**Drive ends  
March 31st.**

## Hillsides TOY Drive



## Lenten Taíze Services

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

**March 1st  
March 8th  
March 15th  
March 22nd  
and  
March 29th**



DOK held a day  
retreat at Amy  
Brown's home  
**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

*pictured: (left to right top  
row) Peggy, Chris, Cynthia,  
September, Aurora, Sylvia,  
Beverlee, Jennifer,  
Rev. Sarah, Amy,  
(bottom row) Pat, Joyce,  
Ana, Reina, Tracy.*



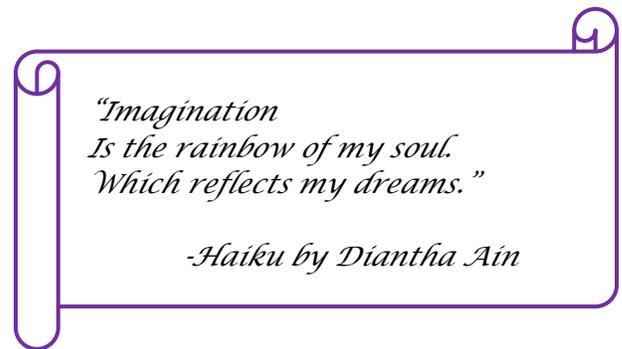
## Parish Prayer Needs:

**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 and family, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan.

**St. Francis Book Club**  
Anyone who would like to join should contact:  
Chris M at 805.276.4971



**Amazon Smile ended Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.**  
Thank you to all who participated during the partnership between St Francis and Amazon.



*Line Dancing Wednesdays on the patio MOVED to Mondays @ 5:30pm*

## BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet -

The Baby Closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-11am.

*Healing Service Continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary.*  
All are welcome to attend this casual mid-week service with Eucharist at **10:00 am on Wednesdays.**

They are collecting **DIAPERS SIZE 4,5,6,7** and have a continual Need for **BABY WIPES** and helping hands. Please connect with Gerri H. if you are able to help with these needs or Volunteer - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

**In observance of Good Friday, Next ECW Meeting will be Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm.**

Contact Sylvia Moya for more details.

# March 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Peggy S.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Lisa N.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	David K. Tracy H.	
Usher / Greeter	Tony F.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	
Altar Guild	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Chrissy B.	Rev. Susan Klein	

# April 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

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

# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>2</b> Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>3</b> 9 am Exercise  6:00 ECW Mtg 7 pm AA PH	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>6</b>  5:30 Line Dancing  8 pm Men's AA	<b>7</b> Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	<b>8</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>9</b> Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>10</b> 9am Exercise  7 pm AA PH	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>13</b>  5:30 Line Dancing  8 pm Men's AA	<b>14</b> Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	<b>15</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>16</b> Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	<b>17</b> 9am Exercise  7 pm AA PH	<b>18</b>  <b>Private Event</b>
<b>19</b> Chrissy B Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>20</b>  5:30 Line Dancing  8 pm Men's AA	<b>21</b> Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Outside <b>VERNAL EQUINOX Drumming Circle</b> 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA 8 pm Women AA	<b>22</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>23</b> Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>24</b> 9am Exercise  7 pm AA PH	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Rev Susan Klein Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>27</b>  5:30 Line Dancing  8 pm Men's AA	<b>28</b> Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	<b>29</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>30</b> Baby Closet 10-11  <b>5 pm Bishop's Committee Mtg</b> 7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>31</b> 9am Exercise  7 pm AA PH	



# The Franciscan

## Newsletter – March 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  
**Lenten Taizé Services:**  
6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent