

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... APRIL 2021



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We are a Resurrection People and Alleluia is our song!!!

We are celebrating the highest Feast day of the Christian Church, where we take a week to honor, remember and walk the days of Jesus betrayed, crucified, and resurrected! It is an intense week for the church as we come close to Christ and his life given for us.

It is also new beginnings! It is the time of nature's cycle of Spring, where we look around and see new blossoms, and flowers urging us to delight and joy. It is new beginnings as we consider the movement of the church. We are now in Eastertide. It is a season of great joy.

I wonder what we will experience at St. Francis in this Resurrection season? Our life of our community is growing and we are blessed with new families that are finding our doors open and welcoming. Are there new avenues for us as a community to consider in worship? In community action and service? Our church reflects the life of the community and what we discern God is doing among us. What do you sense for St. Francis? As we begin to move from closed doors to open space, shared fellowship, and blessed community we welcome anew God's ever present love and GRACE – GIFT given to us through Jesus Christ! This is all part of Resurrected Living and the community involvement here at St. Francis. We are a Resurrection People and ALLELUHIA is our Song!!!!!!!!!!





PALM SUNDAY

March 28 10:15 am

On The Patio for the entire service with the Passion Narrative.

Save the Date and Mark Your Calendar --- ON THE PATIO



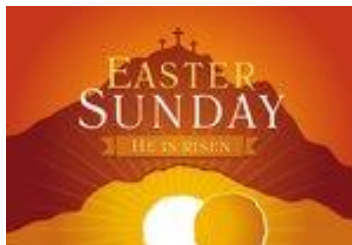
During Holy Week, **Maundy Thursday Service** will be on the Patio at 7PM April 1. Food will be in a plastic microwave safe box and choices will be chicken, lamb, beef or vegetarian. Donations for dinner at the door. Call the church office, 805-526-5141, to place your order.

We will light the candles and observe the Holy Light through Good Friday.



Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be observed on Friday April 2 at 2:30.

Then a Tenebrae Service will be offered that night at 7PM on the Patio.



April 4, 10:15 am - He Has Risen Indeed!

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141, email revsarahkitch@gmail.com or cell 818-442-4514
 - Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
 - Sunday Worship Live Streamed with link in the St. Francis Weekly
 - BIBLE STUDY 7:30 April 19 with David Kitch on the Lectionary Reading.
 - Remember to keep in touch with each other through the Phone Tree and stay connected.
 - Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge by <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>
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hy do you look for the living among the dead?” This is the poignant question the “men in dazzling clothes” ask the women who have come to Jesus’s tomb with their spices. It is a question well worth asking ourselves. Why do we look for the living among? the dead? The women didn’t even find the dead in the tomb — it was empty.

The emptiness encountered by the women at the tomb strikes deeper than death. To death, one can respond with tears and wailing, with anointing and spices, with funeral processions and eulogies. To emptiness there is no response. When emptiness takes over, the core of one’s humanness disintegrates.

One is no longer capable of despair, for despair implies the presence of enough hope to feel its loss. Emptiness is the ultimate threat to religious faith. Each of us has within ourselves a tomb into which we have placed something that perhaps originally was most dear to us but now, as far as we are concerned, is dead. Maybe it’s a failed marriage, a broken friendship, an emotionally distant child or parent. Maybe it is our own tomb, in which lodges something we want to be dead, a sense of shame, or greed, or self-centeredness. Or perhaps it is, in fact, Jesus’s tomb and we’ve placed him in it because, deep in our minds, we really don’t know what to make of the Christian story, and so we bury Jesus in this tomb and seal the opening shut with a huge stone and try to continue our lives, pretending everything is fine, thank you very much.

We are supported and even encouraged to guard our tombs by our own society and culture. We have developed incredible resurrection resistance. We have a kind of Easter evasion in our culture. We can handle it ourselves. We don’t need help. We can take care of life on our own terms. We have gotten used to our “un-freedoms” — the ways in which our tombs actually bind us — and their attendant pain has become our friend. So we lose sight of what is possible in our lives. We lose sight of the fact that persons, places, and things can bind us. Instead we choose to live with brokenness and loneliness. We lose sight of the potential that is ours. How do we move from this stuck place? How do we begin to claim the goods news of Jesus’s resurrection?

Claiming the good news, claiming the resurrection, making the resurrection ours as well as Jesus's means that we go on a journey to our own tombs, not knowing exactly what we will find. In Mark's Gospel, on their way to the tomb the women ask, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" They knew they couldn't do it themselves, but that didn't stop them from going to the tomb to anoint Jesus's body. They went anyway. They kept asking. They kept walking. They had a problem they could not solve, a stone they could not move, and yet they continued on their journey.

We have a partnership with God. God is with us. We need to trust that partnership, claim that relationship, and continue walking toward the tomb. To walk willingly to the tomb, acknowledging the stones, acknowledging our brokenness with God and others, is to walk toward health. We go to the tomb knowing that what it holds represents death — or, even worse, emptiness. We go to that tomb because things sometimes have to die in order for us to live more fully. We have to let go of certain things so that their binding power over us can be released.

In all of the gospels, when the women arrived at the tomb that morning, God had already acted.

The stone was already rolled back and Jesus had already risen and stepped forward with all of the light, life, love, and power of God. And the stone was not moved so that the Risen Jesus could get out. The stone was moved so that those women, and each of us, can step in and see that Jesus is not there, that Jesus has risen.

Now, therefore, we can live without worry, fight without surrender, suffer without despair, love without limits, and die without fear, knowing that there is no stone in us or outside of us that can stop us from rising with Christ and living through the resurrection power of our God. And that, as they say, is certainly good news!

Written by Bishop Mary Glasspool



Elegant Gardens and St. Francis of Assisi

Spring Garden Fundraiser

Elegant Gardens is a favorite among many of our parishioners and sells a wide variety of plants including annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees and succulents, as well as soil amendments, fountains, and more. This is a large nursery and you can walk and enjoy the beautiful grounds as you shop. It is only several minutes from our church!

Elegant Gardens located at 2046 Tierra Rejada Road, Moorpark They will be donating 10% of our St. Francis garden purchases, back to our church!

Simply complete the coupon below, fill in your name and date and when you make your purchases give the coupon to the check-out employee. Elegant Gardens will forward us a check at the end of each month, now through May 2021.

Let's kick off the spring planting season with a trip to Elegant Gardens (805) 553-0565 Website: elegantgardens.com (directions online). You can always purchase plants for St. Francis landscaping! See the Website for plants needed for our grounds.

Elegant Gardens and St. Francis of Assisi

SPRING GARDEN FUNDRAISER

Name _____

Give this coupon to the sales counter when you purchase your items.



Huge Mattress Sale

ST. Francis & Simi Samaritan Center

Save 67% On Every Mattress

While Supporting Your Community



- Huge Selection
- Bedding Accessories
- Adjustable Beds
- 60-day Sleep Guarantee
- Life-time Warranty
- Open Air and CDC Compliant

ST Francis & Simi Samaritan

280 Royal Ave, Simi Valley, CA 93065

Date: April 10th and 11th, 2021

Time: 10am to 5pm (Saturday and Sunday)

Fundraising Goal

\$20,000 For ST. Francis & Simi Valley Samaritan Center

Please call Dean (Event Organizer) at 951.377.3478 with questions you may have.

Certificate

2 Free Memory Foam Pillows - \$120 Value

(with a purchase of any mattress and a Yelp Review)

Present to a Mattress 33 representative on the day of the event and you will receive two pillows with a purchase of a mattress. One coupon per customer.

Offer good only on April 10th and April 11th

My friends,
So many of us these days are ordering on-line through Amazon. It has become a way of life.

When you do, please order through AMAZON SMILES. Every donation that is given from AMAZON SMILES supports St Francis. Your ordering brings gifts to the church and you don't have to do anything other than your own order! How easy is that! Next time you go on-line and order through AMAZON look for AMAZON SMILES, and direct it to St Francis. St Francis thanks you!!!

Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848 and

Amazon donates to

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church every time you order through Amazon



BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet that is ongoing. Please talk with Gerri Harrington if you have questions. The Baby Closet is collecting DIAPERS SIZE 4,5,6. diapers; baby cream; baby wipes.

Stock up each week so you can

help fill the closet with Diapers, Wipes and Baby Cream!

Parish Prayer Needs:

Healing: Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Megan, 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 Alan's family, Kevin, Eve, Amy.

My faith is defined by the actions I pursue as I live each day.

Diantha Ain



NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS

Our church members have asked what useful items **The Samaritan Center** can use the most. Your donations go directly to feed the needs of our community. Donations can be brought to church or left at the Sam Center kitchen door. Thank you so much.

Here is a link for much needed items for the Samaritan Center:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/BXFBPE9HRPQR?ref=wl_share

All shelf-stable goods are helpful, as well as cleaning products and trash bags.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN WITH...

- Men's Jeans, shorts waist 30-34
- Men's & Women's work boots
- Men's belts
- Men's t-shirts size M or L
- Unopened/new Men's underwear & socks
- Disposable gloves size L or XL
- Face masks – Disposable
- Clorox wipes & bleach
- Unopened plastic utensils (forks & knives)
- Water bottles (16.9 fl oz)
- Disposable coffee cups(12 oz)
- \$10 Gas Card
- Canned meals (like stew, soups, ravioli, spaghetti'Os)
- Paper Towels
- Grape Jelly For Sandwiches
- Peanut Butter (Creamy) for Sandwiches
- Plastic Forks and Spoons
- Toilet Paper (Septic Safe)
- Gallon And Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags
- Soup Bowls
- 10 oz Coffee Cups

More Information:

<http://www.thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org>

Caring for Each Other

Do not forget to keep in touch through the Phone Tree!	
Sylvia Moya	Megan Anderson
Megan Anderson	Beverly Chojnacki
Amy Brown	Jan Jones
Margie Roblin	Leslie Lonergan
Leslie Lonergan	Pat Udell
Pat Udell	Carol Fox
Cathy Grimes	Nancy Corradini
Terri Meadows	Donna Hull
Bernadette Schnaible	Millie Reina
Eden Suguitan	Rebecca Sang, Aida Reyes
Liz Kavetsky	Yvonne Robello
Sam Anuseim	Marilyn Taylor
Steve Bayles	Ruthie Haskins
Nancy Corradini	Fr. Steve & Dorrie Dean
Ruthie Haskins	Richard & Cynthia Chadwick
Marilyn Taylor	Steve Bayles
Chrissy Bowden	Gerri Harrington
Paula & Brad Keatts	Peter & Shelby Harksell
Dan & Chris McCarty	Jennifer Jones McIntyre & Clint
Jennifer Jones McIntyre	Ginny Morgan
Ginny Morgan	Lisa & Richard Nilles
Ken Simmonds	Roger Paul
Bethany Tucker	Deb Wollum
Rob & Kristin Wahlstrom	Jeff & Dale Heckler
Susan Swoish	Eric & Carroll Strome

Offering

We lift up our hearts and minds and all that we are in offering to God, and here God becomes present to us in the gifts of bread and wine: the bread broken for us, the wine poured out for us. It is the re-membering of the ultimate sacrifice of love given by Jesus on the cross, forever joining the eternal to the temporal, and by grace the temporal to the eternal.

-Br. Jim Woodrum

[Society of Saint John the Evangelist](#)

The American Red Cross is so grateful to all our partners that continue to stand with us through the evolution of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Hundreds of thousands of donors and blood drive hosts have responded to the call to support the lifesaving mission and we can't thank you enough!

Your commitment to host a blood drive with the American Red Cross truly made a difference! Your team registered 33 total donors, collected 34 pints of blood and recruited 7 first-time donors. Your efforts have helped boost the community blood supply and ensure hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need.

Yahooo!! We had SEVEN first timers :)

**Next Blood Drive will be May 13
1-5 pm**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Eucharist Service	2 Good Friday 2:30 pm Stations of the Cross 7 pm Tenebrae Service 8 pm AA PH	3
4 EASTER Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	5 8 pm Men's AA PH	6 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	7 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	8	9 8 pm AA PH	10
11 Easter 2 David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Mattress 33 Fundraiser 6:30 Men's AA PH	12 8 pm Men's AA PH	13 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	14 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. Services 10 am, 12 pm & 6 pm 6 pm Woodranch HOA 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	15	16 8 pm AA PH	17
18 Easter 3 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	19 7:30 pm Bible Study With David Kitch 8 pm Men's AA PH	20 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	21 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	22	23 8 pm AA PH	24
25 Easter 4 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Noon BC Meeting Recycle Sunday 6:30 Men's AA PH	26 7:30 pm Bible Study With David Kitch 8 pm Men's AA PH	27 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	28 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	29	30 8 pm AA PH	

April 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	April 4 Easter	April 11	April 18	April 25	May 2
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Chrissy B.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Chrissy B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Eden S.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Chrissy B.	Eden S.
LEM (Chalice)	Chrissy B.	David K.		Bernadette	Chrissy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters		Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Rebecca	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Ruth H.	Cathy G.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah

If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled – please make arrangements with someone else to substitute for you. Please contact the church office to inform them of the changes. Thank you!

May 2021 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Chrissy B.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Bernadette	Chrissy B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Eden S.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Chrissy B.	Eden S.
LEM (Chalice)	Chrissy B.	David K.		David K.	Chrissy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters		Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Rebecca	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Ruth H.	Cathy G.
Home Communion					
Vestry Counters					
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah

If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled – please make arrangements with someone else to substitute for you. Please contact the church office to inform them of the changes. Thank you!



RECYCLING AT ST FRANCIS

Please bring in your Recycling on the **last Sunday of the month** and we'll put those cans and bottles to good use! Our efforts will help support the needs of a family in our community and will be appreciated. See what glass and metal can do? So mark your calendars now with a big "R" for recycling at the end of the month. Thank you ahead of time for all your contributions!



LOVE GIVEN AWAY

As a Chaplain at St Patrick's Episcopal Day School, I am asked to explain various concepts and liturgical seasons of the church. Recently, of course, we had Ash Wednesday. Now Ash Wednesday is not something that every tradition of the Christian Church observes. Usually, it is familiar to the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Episcopal Church, but many denominations do not set this day apart. So, in explaining it to the students at St Patrick's we are often seeking to help them understand the concept of love given away, such as the cross and Jesus' life for us. We

combine this effort with the idea of "Pay It Forward." Pay It Forward represents us doing something for others and giving ourselves away because of God's Love for us.

At St Francis, I would like to ask if you would consider a Pay It Forward project with me. We are so blessed with our facilities and the community outreach we offer to use the fellowship hall, the sanctuary, not to mention the grounds outside.

St Francis needs to replace our white round tables to better accommodate events and outreach that we offer through the year. We have investigated the brand LIFETIME and learned that we are able to purchase 12 round tables, with a cart to hold them, for \$2400.00.

This is our Pay It Forward project. I would like to invite you this Lent to consider prayerfully a one-time gift towards this project for replacing our tables. Please feel free to call and talk with me about this idea if you have any questions. We bless the work of the Spirit among us and are excited to see what God can do.

In Grace, Sarah

the Franciscan

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

Newsletter – April 2021

TO:

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

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Phone (805)526-5141

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Sunday Service:

10:15 am

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**