



# THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

The Newsletter of the people of  
Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church  
600 South La Cañada Drive  
Green Valley AZ 85614

Vol. 60, No. 4

April, 2023

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*Our mission is to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world.*

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## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2

The Palm Sunday Liturgy at 9 AM  
Taizé Service at 4 PM

Monday, April 3

Quiet prayer and devotion,  
9 AM until NOON, Chapel

Tuesday, April 4

Quiet prayer and devotion,  
9 AM until NOON, Chapel

Wednesday, April 5

Holy Eucharist at 9 AM

Thursday, April 6

**THE LITURGY FOR  
MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
at 7 PM

**MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH**

8 PM until NOON on Friday

Friday, April 7

**THE GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY**  
at NOON

Saturday, April 8

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**  
at 7 PM

Sunday, April 9

**EASTER DAY**  
Festive Eucharist  
at 9 AM

## Words From Warren . . .

Dear friends,

You should be receiving this newsletter during Holy Week. With that in mind, I want to speak about the special role Holy Week plays for us as we prepare to celebrate Easter.

Depending on the church denomination you worshipped in growing up, Holy Week may or may not have been an important part of your faith experience. I invite you to come and worship, pray and reflect, on the last days of Jesus throughout Holy Week.

Holy Week is for me an important part of entering into the experience and love of Jesus, laying out the context that leads to His sacrifice on the Cross, and then to enter into the mystery and power of Easter Sunday.

Holy Week is full with rich images that continue after Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Jesus wept over Jerusalem, and then entered the Holy City knowing the Cross was just days away. Holy Week is a window into how political and religious forces clash with Jesus and plot His death.

Each day in Holy Week offers us a real-time glimpse into Jesus' final days including how Jesus continues to prepare His disciples for what is to come. In His final hours, Jesus teaches His disciples about Love through service to others.

On Maundy Thursday, we read in John 13, that Jesus gets down on His knees and lovingly washes the feet of His Disciples, even the one who was to betray Him, giving a New Commandment to love one another as He loved us.

The Gospel story then continues with the breaking of bread and sharing the cup of wine during a Passover meal, a meal that retells the story of God's power and salvation for God's people. This Last Supper of Jesus becomes for us a sustaining Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, the Great Thanksgiving

*continued next page*

ing—The Eucharist: A meal of inclusion, healing and forgiveness.

The story then moves quickly from the meal to prayer and betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane, the fleeing of Jesus' disciples, a Roman trial, the brutality of the Cross, death, and the darkness of the tomb. An overwhelming grief was felt by all who loved Jesus, a grief that pierced the heart of Mary, the mother of Jesus, just as Simeon predicted when he held the infant Jesus in his arms in Luke 2:34-35.

Holy Week helps us to understand how the joy of Palm Sunday led to the Cross, inviting us to enter into the daily experiences of Jesus and His disciples. Take time to read one or all of the Gospels and follow Jesus from the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Mt 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44 or John 12:12-19) through the events of the week.

Beginning on April 2, Palm Sunday at 4 PM, we will start Holy Week with a special Taizé Prayer service in the Chapel. Taizé is a beautiful service with icons, candles, and chanting music. Come and bring a friend.

Journey with us through the week. Experience the Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday with the lighting of the Easter fire.

The Chapel will remain set up and open on Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday from 9 AM until NOON for private devotions and prayers.

Please see the list of other service times and days on the left side of the front page of the newsletter. Don't forget to bring the nails given out on the First Sunday in Lent on Good Friday.

May Holy Week be a special and holy time for you as you prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Blessings and peace,

*Fr. Warren*

## Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for May, June and July are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall.

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**Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church**

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

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**THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL, D.D.**

Bishop

**THE VERY REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH**

Rector

**The Rev. Becky Williamson**

Deacon

**The Rev. Linda Hutson**

Deacon

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Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

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Joyce Kaminski, Glenn Matto, Jim Ratley,

Vince Remillard, Rena Robbins, Jean Ross,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin

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Lead Sexton

**Nathaniel Martinez**

Sexton

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# Franciscan Focus

## St. Francis and the Fifth Crusade

### Peace and Justice

#### Part 1

After Pope Honorius III in 1217 called for a Christian Crusade in Egypt, Francis felt it was urgent for him to go there to convert Muslims and to preach to wayward Christians in the Crusader camp. His method was not to convert Muslims by force and coercion or doomsday warnings, but rather to preach and proclaim the word of Christ, much as he had already been doing.

After Francis had made his decision to go to Egypt he was accompanied by a dozen of his 'brothers,' one of whom was Illuminatus, chosen perhaps for his rudimentary ability to express himself in Arabic.

Francis, Illuminatus and the other brothers boarded a ship, first to Syria, and later to Egypt on a voyage which would last nearly six weeks. During that whole voyage they were surrounded by thieves and murderers who were joining the Crusaders in the hope of earning the Pope's forgiveness.

Upon finally arriving in Egypt, late in 1218, Francis witnessed the horrible living conditions in the Crusaders' camp. Living in the camp were criminals of various sorts, as well as harlots. Crusaders were dying from dysentery and hunger, others were being executed for trying to survive by stealing food and water. The heat and drenching humidity and decaying corpses floating down the Nile made living there beastly awful. Furthermore, the military situation among the Christian Crusaders at that moment was desperate due largely to the Pope's replacement of a competent military commander, John of Brienne, with Cardinal Pelagio, a man totally unfit by temperament and competence to lead the Crusade.

The conditions among the Muslims in Damietta, on the other hand, were more favorable upon Francis' arrival in several respects: better morale, better equipment and an abundance of victuals. The Muslim fortification wall surrounding Damietta was formidable and more than sufficient to withstand the projectiles of javelins and stones launched by the Crusader artillery. When those objects failed to destroy the wall, the Christians had used ladders to scale the wall, only to receive severe beatings when they got to the top or boiling oil poured on them

as they ascended. Even worse, during one siege, the Crusaders had been informed that the Sultan had abandoned Damietta and fled into the desert. Eagerly, they pursued him only to find out that most of the Muslim army was hiding in the sand dunes. The Muslim trap worked and the Crusaders were massacred, losing almost 6,000 soldiers.

As bad as the overall situation was for the Christians, Pelagio rejected several very generous offers of peace by the Sultan. In more than one instance, the Sultan actually tried to prevent further bloodshed by offering generous concessions, such as a 30 year truce, relics from the true cross and even the kingdom of Jerusalem itself, if the Christians would leave Egypt. Instead, Pelagio refused these peace overtures and continued later to attack the fortifications, suffering a huge number of casualties with no success. Military morale among the Christians was disintegrating and many soldiers deserted.

Why did Pelagio refused all such peace offers? He thought he could win all the Sultan's concessions in battle, and in so doing support the Italian merchants who wanted to continue their profitable trade in Egypt. He also knew that if he succeeded militarily it meant that it would cut off Egypt from Palestine and the Arab supply lines to the Egyptian wheat fields. This would then put pressure on the Arabs to surrender Jerusalem unilaterally.

*In our next Newsletter, Francis seeks peace and justice in his visit with the Sultan.*

*Dr. Vincent Remillard*

## Boutique Quilt Raffle

A talented St. Francis parishioner has generously gifted the Boutique with two beautifully hand-stitched quilts, which will be offered in a raffle beginning Sunday, March 5. The two lucky winners' numbers will be drawn on Easter Sunday, with the first ticket drawn choosing which of the two to take home; the second winning ticket will take the other quilt. These unique quilts will be on display each Sunday in the Parish Hall, and raffle tickets may be purchased in the Boutique at \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Be sure to come see these amazing works of art. All funds from this raffle will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which assists those in need in our Green Valley community. *Jylene Wright*

## Senior Warden's Thoughts

April is here with the promise of "April showers bring May flowers." Lucky for us, the flowers have already begun to decorate our desert landscaping. Flowers bring us that feeling of renewal and April brings us the renewal of Easter. On Maundy Thursday we wash each other's feet as Christ washed his Disciples' feet. I find that the ritual of our Good Friday service helps me to begin to close down the Lenten season and prepare for the glory of Easter. The Easter Vigil on Saturday evening slowly prepares the church for the Resurrection of our Lord. The lights slowly go up as the altar is slowly redressed and we are all renewed by repeating our Baptismal prayers. All this in preparation for a glorious Easter Sunday which celebrates the rising of our Lord.

I only pray that you can be a part of some, or all of our Easter week services and that they may bring even closer to our Lord. May the joy of the Resurrection bring you Peace.

Happy Easter. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!  
*Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden*

## Junior Warden's Notes

1. Matt and Nathaniel are reorganizing the two sexton rooms. The back room is now a repainted, computerized office, and the front room is more for storage of supplies. Stay tuned!

2. Susan Burch and Jon Nichols are leading the development of what will be known as the St. Francis GREEN TEAM. This initiative is seeking interested members. Find the Green Team table after Sunday services. The initial effort is to evaluate and boost recycling efforts with appropriate containers.

3. We continue to investigate, study blueprints—thank you Jack Gardner, and seek a real solution to achieve consistent comfort for the Parish Choir and reduce the costs of inconsistent temperature control. Thank you, Matt Harby, Lead Sexton, for your mechanical expertise!

4. A successful, grounds/landscape work party on March 16 moved almost 6 tons of gravel across the front yard of the Church for erosion control and improvement of the overall appearance of our property. Thank you, Susan Burch, Jon Nichols, Harvey Eaves, Geoffrey Hill, Chris Arundell, Gary La Barre, Craig Reid, and Reg Kahrmanis.

5. Lighting: Matt, Lead Sexton, has assessed every light inside and outside the Church campus. He has cleaned up and replaced many. Enjoy the wonderful lights again on the Rose window in the choir loft; the multiple lights along the south stairs entering the choir loft; and the steps leading from the west parking area to the lower level on the south end of the property. One more light has been added to the track above the Chapel altar for better lighting to the left of the altar and columbarium area. Lighting on the exterior of the Boutique is being repaired. The lighting at the main entrance into the narthex is restored. And much more! Thank you, Matt!

6. The flat roof replacement project is mostly complete. We have had the company return to correct leaking into light fixtures in the meeting rooms and to clean up debris. When the final work is done to our satisfaction, the last half of the payment (\$24,900) will be paid from roof damage insurance money.

7. The weed crop this year is widespread. Craig has done a great job of spraying the main property. Anyone who would like to spend time removing weeds on an area of grounds, please consider. Tools are in the tool room and accessible through the lead sexton. Small garbage cans on wheels found in the trash enclosure near employee parking can accommodate the weed debris. A D-hoe works well! Thank you in advance!

8. The Vestry approved two capital improvement projects in March: 1. This is the removal and replacement of carpet with new carpet in the Parish Hall, the hall by the meeting rooms and library, the hall by the office bathrooms, the front 2/3 of the office workroom, Madeleine's Room, and the reception office for a cost of \$22,800. This project's funding is \$13,931 awarded by the St. Francis Trust for the Parish Hall carpet, and the remaining \$8,872 is from a Church bequest for capital improvements. The tentative start date is after Easter; and, 2. Bates Paving and Sealing will replace pavement and repaint markings tentatively after April 9. The project covers the employee and handicapped parking areas (lower level) and is funded by \$20,000 from the St. Francis Trust and the remaining \$4,110 from insurance payments to the Church.

9. The locking mechanisms of two Parish Hall entrance doors, one handicapped accessible, have

been replaced for ease of locking, unlocking, and continued security.

10. To improve the lighting in the choir loft, all bulbs in the choir loft have been replaced with appropriate LEDs.

11. The gift of money from the Memorial Committee has allowed the purchase of a three-tiered fountain. It replaces the now removed, deteriorated metal fountain at the east entrance of the Courtyard. The new fountain tiers are now planted with cactus and succulents. You will not only see a small statue of St. Francis of Assisi in the top tier, but you may find some St. F. friends!

12. The oak topper for the sound booth in the Church continues to be admired. Thanks to the excellent work of Jim Ratley! And, thank you, Matt, and Nathaniel, for repainting the underside of the sound booth.

13. While doing its annual termite check, Rick's Pest Control discovered termites near the AED and first aid kit in the Parish Hall. They will be treated March 14.

14. The latching, metal gates for the entrances into the Courtyard are scheduled for installation on March 24. Welcome signs will be affixed to both sets of gates as well as generic plaques thanking parishioners for their donations for the gates. Another sign will show the purpose of the gates as barriers to the many javelina that visit at various times of day. They are easily latched gates like people have on most home gates.

15. With more people wearing hearing aids and an increasing number of audio presentations and activities in the Parish Hall (PH), consideration is being given to the potential replacement of the PH amplifier with induction loop capability that is damaged and needs repair. We will be exploring further whether, 1. This type of hearing enhancement is worth the money, and 2. The answer about how many people would benefit from this is substantial, and lastly, 3. There is a less expensive and more appropriate technology that would benefit more parishioners. So far, we have learned that some people's aids can link into the PA system, because their aids have the necessary t-coil, while others are upgrading to Bluetooth and wi-fi hearing components. Stay tuned!

Happy Easter, Everyone,  
*Kristi Menix*, Junior Warden

## Hearts & Hands

The Hearts and Hands Ministry for April is backpacks for children attending Camp Genesis at Chapel Rock. To qualify for the camp the camper must have an incarcerated immediate family member (not just women in Perryville). This is a week of fun activities for the campers with similar family situations. If you would like to participate in providing backpacks, you can write a check to St. Francis then write the "Camp Genesis" in the memo line. You can put your check into the offering basket on Sunday, mail it to the church or take it in to the office. The backpacks will be filled on May 1.

Multiple things happen with your gift. First, you will receive credit for your tax purposes. Second, St. Francis will not have to pay the Diocesan assessment on this contribution as long as you designate your gift to "Camp Genesis". And third, and most importantly, the children will receive a backpack at summer camp.

Items for the backpacks can also be purchased from Amazon Wish List for the backpacks by scanning the QR code on the flyer available at the Prison Ministry table in the parish hall during coffee hour.

Story: There are 28 people in our parish who are praying for an individual Camp Genesis camper. Each person has a laminated heart with their camper's name imprinted on it. Those imprinted hearts, along with a pledge card signed by the person who had been praying for them everyday for a year, are placed in that camper's backpack - or sent to them, if they do not attend this year's camp. Last year, when the campers opened their backpacks and found the card, with their own name on the heart, many wept and many others smiled because they realized that someone thought about them every day.

## Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharist is scheduled for May 13 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall. (Please Note: No Saturday Eucharist in April.)

## How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website ([www.stfrancisgvaz.org](http://www.stfrancisgvaz.org)), scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will see the current video, click on the arrow ▶ to start the video, and enjoy!

## The Watch

After the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, the Sacrament is taken in solemn procession to the Altar of Repose, a free-standing altar in the Chapel, and a vigil is kept.

At the Altar of Repose, parishioners keep vigil in silent prayer and adoration, recalling our Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and his rebuke to his disciples: "What? Could you not watch one hour with me?" Those keeping vigil at the Altar of Repose further recall and respond to Jesus' admonition to his disciples to stay awake to pray with him until the Roman soldiers come to arrest and imprison him. The vigil will conclude prior to the Good Friday Service.

Deacon Becky will have a sign-up sheet for the Vigil starting Sunday, April 2. Reading material, prayers, poetry will be provided or just sit with Jesus for one hour.

## Altar Flowers

Would you like the flowers on the altar to be given in thanksgiving or in remembrance of someone or something you cherish? We would like to restart this tradition here at St. Francis. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 with your request. If she is not at home, leave your name and number and she will get back to you. Flower donation is \$35.

*Do we have...*

**your@e-mail.address?**

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Kathleen Chidester
- 4 Annie Whiteside
- 5 Valerie Von Guttenberg
- 6 David Vleck
- 7 Mary Levine
- 8 Russ DeMarco
- 8 Robert Reiersen
- 10 Jack Bundy
- 11 Patricia Schultz
- 11 Greg Smith
- 13 Sherry Evans
- 13 Christina Hornyman
- 15 Sue Spiewak
- 16 Joe Grabel
- 20 Carolyn Andersen
- 23 Alice Haynes
- 24 William McGibbon
- 25 Carol Gaydos
- 27 Fred Keller
- 28 Jill Foerster
- 28 Ann Gritman
- 30 Bill Gates
- 30 Lois Pittenger

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Craig & Thomasina Reid
- 17 Peter & Margaret Murphy
- 21 Eric & Shirley Gough
- 23 Tom & Charlotte Neyland
- 26 William & Patricia Peissig
- 27 Penny Philip & Michael Wilson
- 30 Joseph & Patricia McCarthy

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## PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS — APRIL 2023

**Palm Sunday, 1 April**  
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Church  
Taizé Service, 4 PM, Chapel

**Tuesday, 4 April**  
Men's Group, 9 am, Cfr

**Wednesday, 5 April**  
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel  
Seder Meal, 4:45 PM, PH

**Maundy Thursday, 6 April**  
Lenten Study, 10 am, PH  
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft  
Maundy Thursday Liturgy, 7 PM

**Good Friday, 7 April**  
Good Friday Liturgy, 12 PM

**Holy Saturday, 8 April**  
The Great Vigil of Easter, 7 PM

**Easter Day, 9 April**  
The Feast of the Resurrection,  
9 AM

**Monday, 10 April**  
Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

**Tuesday, 11 April**  
Vestry, 4 PM, Cfr

**Wednesday, 12 April**  
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Cpl  
DOK, 9:30 PM, VR  
Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, SFR

**Monday, 17 April**  
Handbells, 10 AM, Loft  
Hearts & Hands, 10 AM, MR2

**Tuesday, 18 April**  
Men's Group, 9 AM, Cfr

**Wednesday, 19 April**  
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Cpl

**Thursday, 20 April**  
Deanery Service, 11:30 AM, Cpl  
Deanery Lunch, 12 PM, VR  
Library Committee, 1 PM, L

**Monday, 24 April**  
Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

**Wednesday, 26 April**  
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel  
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

## CALENDAR LEGEND

PH - Parish Hall  
VR - Vulliamy Room  
Cfr - Conference Room  
Ctyd - Courtyard  
Cpl - Chapel  
SFR - Saint Francis Room  
L - Library  
MR2 - Meeting Room 2

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## 2023 Parish Statistics

### Baptisms

Billy Paul Smith  
Angel Vincent Gamon

### Transfers In

Ralph & Alice Walker  
Susan Burch

### New Members by Confirmation or Reception

0

### Deaths

Rita Beil  
Neil Helgath  
Neil Messick  
Carol Hinterthuer

## La Joya Communion Service

A reminder to all residents of La Posada that we offer a weekly Service in the Celebration Room at La Joya. Gary LaBarre leads a weekly service of communion from the reserved sacrament. One of the clergy leads a service of Holy Eucharist once a month, usually the second Wednesday. You are welcome to attend even if you're not a La Posada resident.

## Arizona Episcopalian Magazine

The AZ Episcopalian magazine is now available online. The current issue has a variety of articles showcasing all the great things going on around the Diocese. If you would rather receive it by mail—or to sign up to receive it online—contact Deborah (Finance Officer) through the Parish Office (520-625-1370 or [deborah@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:deborah@stfranciscgvaz.org)) to sign up. It's FREE!

## Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at [jnrats@gmail.com](mailto:jnrats@gmail.com).

## Clergy

### Discretionary Funds

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always needed and always welcome; these funds make it possible for us to offer assistance to people in our community who are struggling. Because of your generosity, we've been able to help people with such things as food, gas, utilities, rent, school clothing, school supplies, unexpected medical bills and even burial expenses. As we see it, it's not the clergy being able to help people in need, it's all of us, together, touching the lives of people who feel like they've hit a dead end due to adverse circumstances in life. Thank you so much for your generosity.



## Video Reflections

Fr. Warren provides short weekly Psalm video reflections. They are updated Thursdays on Facebook and YouTube. Past videos back to March 2020 are also available.

## RESERVING MEETING TIME AND SPACE AT SAINT FRANCIS

Individuals wishing to reserve meeting space at St. Francis and/or discuss room set-ups should make those arrangements through Parish Administrator Gerald Near. It is **essential** your meeting be logged into the Master Calendar. If you need it, be sure to ask for 'set-up' and 'clean-up' time as part of your booking.

One week prior to your event please inventory the pantry next to the kitchen and let Gerald know if there are enough supplies to meet your needs. A parishioner usually shops for us twice a month. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

## GETTING YOUR EVENT INTO PARISH PUBLICATIONS

Sunday Bulletin notices should be given to the Parish Administrator by NOON the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you wish the notice to appear. Notices should be in written form and sent via email whenever possible.

*Franciscan Staff* material should be given to the Parish Administrator NO LATER THAN the 10th of the month preceding publication.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please let us know if your e-mail address, street address, zip code or telephone number changes. Get in touch with Deborah Harby in the Parish Financial Office to update your information for our records.

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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