



# 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. 58, No. 4

April 2021

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

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*From Fr. Warren . . .*

Christos Anesti! (“Χριστός ανέστη”), “Christ is Risen!” Alleluia!!

With this proclamation, we entered into a season of hope and new life! No more holding back the Alleluias as we did in Lent. Now we can joyously shout out the Easter proclamation that Jesus is the risen Lord! Death has no hold on Him. It is a promise we all hold dear to our hearts as we now journey with our risen Savior during His forty days after the Resurrection until his Ascension.

Last year we did not have a chance to worship together through Holy Week and Easter. After the declaration of a worldwide pandemic, all churches scrambled to figure out what to do as the darkness of the COVID 19 virus fell upon us. When would we be able to worship together or see our families again? So many unknowns and fear.

Darkness and fear were present on Calvary as Jesus was crucified. Abandoned by all but a few friends and His mother Mary, Jesus died on the Cross, betrayed, beaten and crucified. Yet despite that terrible darkness, on Easter morning, Jesus was raised from the dead. Death did not have the last say:

Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting? (1 Cor. 15:54b-55)

The story of the resurrection is a story of hope for all desperately seeking the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. Many are weary from the year-long battle. But the end is in sight! Soon we will be able to visit family and feel the hugs of loved ones. We also wait with great anticipation for a return to worship in the church.

Easter reminds us that no matter what the world can throw at us or how bad things can get, the power of God prevails. In the letter to the Romans, St. Paul says:

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. Romans 8:11

We will prevail! The Spirit that raised Jesus provides us the strength to help us rise from the ashes of the pandemic. We will come back to life, stronger and more appreciative of the small things in life- friendships; family; the freedom to travel; going to a restaurant; and the ability to gather for worship together without restrictions.

We are still waiting, but the dawn is upon us. Christ has been raised and goes before us bringing hope and light. Let us walk with Him through this time of Easter, a time beyond the darkness of the tomb.

New life is before us. The Spirit is offered to us. May the rest of 2021 be a time that will bring us back together in celebration.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

*Fr. Warren*

## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Courtyard service, 6 PM

### GOOD FRIDAY

Courtyard service, 10:30 AM

Stations of the Cross to follow

### HOLY SATURDAY—The Great Vigil of Easter

Courtyard service, 6 PM

### EASTER DAY

Courtyard services, 6 AM and 9 AM

Reservations are required for all Holy Week services. Please make your reservations via email (preferred) with the Parish Administrator ([gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org)) or, if you don't have email access, give Gerald a call at 520-625-1370 and leave a message. We will not return your call or answer your email unless space is not available.

### Maundy Thursday Vigil

In lieu of having the chapel open and holding the prayer vigil overnight, we are inviting people to hold a prayer vigil in their own homes on the evening of Maundy Thursday until Friday morning. We have designated times that people can sign up (more than one household may sign up for a time slot) and you may sign up for more than one time slot if you feel called to do so. We have a handout to give you for suggested practices and prayers for use during this time. Please connect with Fr. Nelson if you'd like to receive this prayer handout digitally ([nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org)). (You can sign up and request prayer handout online here: <https://forms.gle/hcEmMJE9RVmM5H1HA>)

### Easter Flowers

The coronavirus pandemic has made it necessary to downsize our services and all things related to them, including altar flower displays. As an alternative to a large Easter array, please consider giving flowers for a specific Sunday throughout the Easter season and beyond. Should you wish to give flowers in memoriam or as a thanksgiving, we will acknowledge your dedication in the service leaflet as we have always done. Make your wishes known to Carol Berg (520-373-5770) and she will make the proper arrangements. Flower donations are \$35. Let us hope that next year we will be able to fill the church with blooms for both Easter and Christmas.

*Parish Offices will be closed . . .*

Easter Monday

5 April

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**Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church**

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

(520) 625-1370 – [www.stfrancisgvaz.org](http://www.stfrancisgvaz.org)

[www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz)

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

Bishop

**THE REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH**

Rector

**The Rev. Nelson Mendoza**

Curate

**The Rev. Becky Williamson**

Deacon

### THE VESTRY

Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden;

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden;

Mary Beth Bates, Bill Baucom, Barbara Bundy,

Sandy Eckstein, Janie Hessong, Helen Mullaly,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Vincent Remillard,

*ex officio*: Erik Ringkjøb, Treasurer;

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

### CHURCH STAFF

**Gerald Near**

Parish Administrator

**Deborah Harby**

Financial Officer

**Gerald Near**

Director of Music

**J. Michael Case**

Organist

**Sharlyn Matthews**

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

**Sophia Witte**

Handbell Ensemble Director

**John Colip**

Head Sexton

**Susan Whitney, Clyde Tardy**

Assistant Sextons

*The mission of*

*St. Francis in the Valley,*

*Green Valley,*

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

*From Our Curate,  
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza*

SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEANING

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

Although Arizona has a very weird “Spring” season, particularly this year, I think it is a good time to take inventory of the various parts of our lives. Normally when we think of “Spring Cleaning” we think about dusting parts of our houses that are rarely given attention, or tossing out unused items and things that are in disrepair.

I believe that this approach could be applied to our spiritual lives too. How can we deep clean our spiritual lives?

Oftentimes, when we begin a process in our personal lives, we seldom extend that practice to our spiritual lives too so this might be a good guide on how to do just that!

Focus on what needs to go: Are there spiritual practices that you’ve been doing that no longer serve you? What is stopping you from letting those practices go? Sometimes, when we get into a habit of things, we will continue to do those rituals even if they no longer benefit us anymore. I invite you to consider giving those practices away to God and finding new ways to enrichen your life.

Additionally, are you harboring any leftover shame, guilt, etc for something that isn’t helpful for you? Is there a way that you are able to lay that baggage down at the feet of Jesus to allow you to move forward with a clean heart? If there is an obstacle or barrier to your ability to thrive, now might be a great time to figure out the best way to get over that spiritual hurdle.

What needs some TLC: Some of your practices have served you well but maybe you need some tuning up? This is a great time to sort out what needs some additional “tender loving care” so that you can be the best servant of God that you can be! In fact, many examples from the letters of Paul show us that we have the ability to change our behaviors into things that allow us to get right with God.

At the end of the day, only you and God know what you need to build a better relationship. Let this time of Spring be a space for you to enter intentional reflection on how you can get right with God. Perhaps

as you are boxing up some of those things in your home you can consider how those things can bless others?

Happy Spring Cleaning,

In God’s peace,

*Nelson+*

*The St. Francis &  
Imago Dei Middle School  
Partnership*

Dear Parishioner

I would like to personally invite each member of St. Francis to participate once again in our partnership ministry with the Imago Dei Middle School in Tucson. The school, one of five schools operating under the umbrella of the Arizona Episcopal Schools Foundation, operates with grades five through eight, 5 ½ days a week, 11 months a year. The curriculum is specifically designed to help bring students, many who may be a year or two behind their peers when they begin as a fifth-grade scholar, up to that expected for their appropriate age level by the time they graduate from eighth grade.

Most often, English is not even a second language in their homes, and often the family has a single parent. Nearly all families involved are at poverty level or below.

All things considered these young scholars certainly deserve special recognition for the four years of impressive academic achievement they worked so hard for.

The families are proud of their student’s accomplishments and we should be as well. Our goal this year is to raise through contributions from you, our parish members, \$2,000 to give us the opportunity to provide each of the twenty 8th grade graduating scholars a \$100 Visa Gift Card in recognition of their academic achievements. Make your checks payable to St. Francis, with the notation Imago Dei Middle School on the memo line and drop off or mail to the church offices.

Graduation will be held in late May in Tucson in Tucson, and we will have more details soon as to the specific date and location of the commencement exercises. We hope to see you there as honorary grandparents! In recent years, we’ve had as many

*Continued next page column 1*

as three dozen parish members attending graduation, and this year I'd love to see that number grow to four or even five dozen attending as Honorary Grandparents.

I thank you for reading and responding to my invitation to share in this most worthwhile and gratifying ministry. Should you have questions please give me a call at (715) 205-8374.

Thank you.

*Wayne North*

### *Making Reservations for Attendance at Services*

Reservations for seating at services are now being made—at least for the time being—through Parish Administrator Gerald Near. **PLEASE NOTE:** the deadline for reservations is Thursdays at 2 PM (Parish Offices are open from 8 AM until 2 PM, Monday through Thursday). Get in touch with Gerald (via email preferred) at [gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org). We cannot take reservations for multiple services, just the next service scheduled. If you do not have email, call the Parish Office (520-625-1370) to make your reservation (again, no later than Thursdays at 2 PM, please). If no one is available to take your call, please leave Gerald a message to let him know the date of the service you wish to attend, the number of seats you will need, and the name(s)—both first and last—of the worshippers. If space is not available, we will give you a call back.

### *Outreach*

Thank you Franciscans. Because of your generosity the Outreach Committee has been able to take on the Community Food Bank and Cruzando Fronteras as projects for this year. You have made our projects successful.

The January Community Food Bank peanut butter drive was an eye-opener. Peanut butter was everywhere. Canned meats were the focus for February Community Food Bank donations. We sent 149 pounds in February. The March focus, beans, rice, pasta and pasta sauces, netted more than 200 pounds of St. Francis donations. We were also able to give the Food Bank a \$55 anonymous donation and a \$1000 check. Because the Community Food Bank is not accepting citrus, we donated 87 pounds of grapefruit to the Sahuarita Food Bank. **Watch for**

*continued page 6, column 3*

### *Senior Warden's Thoughts*

Our new Vestry's church year began with the resignation of member Bill Baucom, as he and Alicia will soon be returning to North Carolina. Thank you so much for you Vestry service Bill. Glenn Matteo has been selected as a new member and will be in the process of filling a second vacancy. The Vestry is also working on a Vestry Covenant to govern our actions as Vestry members and fellow parishioners. Barbara Bundy has been working hard to coordinate the effort.

Lent is quickly drawing to a close. Lent is a time for prayer and reflection, preparing us for the experiences of Holy Week. Fr. Warren and Fr. Nelson have been working hard to plan worship services for each day. We'll begin Holy Week with 9 AM Zoom Morning Prayer services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Maundy Thursday will follow with a Courtyard service at 6 PM and Good Friday will be a Courtyard service at 10:30 AM, followed by the Stations of the Cross. Holy Saturday will be a 6 PM service in the Courtyard. Easter Sunday will be celebrated with a Sunrise Service at 6 AM and a later service at 9 AM, both in the Courtyard. We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us in person or electronically, as we celebrate. "Christ has Risen. Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!!"

We pray that each day of our new church year will bring us closer to being able to worship together without the limits of the pandemic. But until then, we hope you'll take advantage of the opportunities to be together in small groups or at worship or on Facebook or on Zoom. Being there for one another is what we do to share God's love.

May you and yours have a Joyous Easter Tide. Happy Easter!

*Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden*

### *Junior Warden's Notes*

Spring has sprung! With all the things going on with Church buildings and grounds, one truly knows winter is at its seasonal end, and many activities are occurring to continue sprucing up and beautifying the grounds and maintaining and freshening up the buildings and spaces.

First, the grounds are in good hands. Craig Reid and cadre of volunteers continue to work on the

front grounds to improve appearances and prevent erosion. We are grateful that some of the March 2 grounds work party of 17 parishioners, sextons, clergy, and wardens offered to take on ongoing projects including the care of the Memorial Garden, the labyrinth, and the courtyard. Craig at this time is also concentrating on keeping weeds to a minimum. We are grateful to Craig and each volunteer for their diligence and efforts! As a bonus, and in an effort to take good care of our oak trees in the courtyard, an arborist has been contracted to evaluate the trees and give recommendations for their year round care. This effort is due to a parishioner's generous support. Thank you.

On to the buildings and specific spaces that have needed repairs and refurbishing. The HVAC unit for the Parish Hall failed and is repaired. The lighting in the choir loft, the hall by the classrooms, and the hall in the office suite is rejuvenated now with LED lighting. The sink and faucets in the small kitchen in the office suite are being evaluated for replacement; a chronic leak will be repaired at the same time. The Parish Hall tile and damaged floor will soon be replaced by luxury vinyl plank (waterproof, no glue, floating, click and lock, wood grain plank) per a bidding process and final approved by the Finance Committee and Vestry. The projection is that work will start in mid-April. Bids are now being generated to replace the Parish Hall ceiling tiles and the lighting system.

To add to the many activities, the office suite is getting a look for function and aesthetics. By April, some offices will be repainted as well as the reception office, Madeline's Room, and the hall leading to the rest rooms and classrooms. Some older and damaged chairs and other furniture are being donated. Some rearranged and new furnishings are intended to improve the pastoral and staff work areas and to enhance hospitality for current and prospective Church members. One of our interior decorator parishioners is assisting Father Warren in making suggestions for this refurbishment.

Respectfully,

*Kristi Menix*, Junior Warden  
*kmenix18@gmail.com*

## Centering Prayer Group

The Centering Prayer Group is meeting once again, but on Zoom rather than in-person. Meetings include 25 minutes of silence followed by a short Lectio Divina and a few minutes for community reflection. If you would like to join in, get in touch with James or Sophie Luffman: James at *jmluffman@hotmail.com* or Sophie at *sophieluffman@hotmail.com*. They will be pleased to hear from you.

### Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at *jnrats@gmail.com*.

### Covenant Fund

Thanks to the COVID pandemic we were not able this year to schedule our traditional Christmas Card Party, the annual event that raises money for the St. Francis Covenant Fund. The fund—administered by the Rector—was established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners.

The need is still with us, pandemics notwithstanding, and you can do your part to relieve the suffering by dropping off a check to Finance Officer Deborah Harby, or you can contribute online through the Parish website. The need this year is even greater, so please help if you can.

### Temporarily Closed

The St. Francis' Boutique is now temporarily closed. There were no calls for appointments in January and at this point, it is believed that because of the pandemic, parishioners just are not comfortable coming in to shop.

We look forward to opening again and meeting your shopping needs with our unique items at reasonable prices! Thanks for remembering the Boutique and stay safe. *Jylene Wright*

### How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (*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!

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Don Scott
- 1 Sandra Welch
- 2 Mary Challman
- 2 Paige Day
- 3 Kathleen Chidester
- 4 Virginia Pinnell
- 4 Annie Whiteside
- 5 Valerie Von Guttenberg
- 6 Patty Ryan
- 6 David Vleck
- 7 Mary Levine
- 7 Linda Schnelle
- 8 Russ DeMarco
- 8 Robert Reiersen
- 10 Jack Bundy
- 11 Greg Smith
- 11 Alex Stoffel
- 12 Edith Hawkins
- 13 Christina Hornyman
- 15 Sue Spiewak
- 16 Joe Grabel
- 17 Wayne North
- 18 Shirley Gresham
- 20 Carolyn Andersen
- 21 Jenny Isiogu
- 23 Alice Haynes
- 23 Lois Weinert
- 24 William McGibbon
- 25 Carol Gaydos
- 27 Fred Keller
- 28 Jill Foerster
- 28 Ann Gritman
- 30 Bill Gates
- 30 Lois Pittenger

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

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

## Our Parish History

While planning the celebration of St. Francis in the Valley's 50th anniversary many documents, pictures and memories were donated by the congregation. We would like to continue collecting these important documents in order to have a complete record of the development of the Parish. How can you help? There are many ways. See what you have to donate from your own collection of memories. This will include your personal thoughts, pictures of events, and your story with the Parish. There will be a container available Sundays mornings to receive your submissions. We need everyone's help in making this project a success. Thanks in advance, Joyce Davison ([jadglen-dale@gmail.com](mailto:jadglen-dale@gmail.com))

## Committee Chairpersons

Calling all committee and group chairpersons: please let the Parish Administrator know of any and all upcoming meetings and events, including those regularly scheduled—i.e. recurring. Include meetings and events conveyed via Zoom as well as all in-person gatherings. As we begin to open our facilities to both Parish and outside groups, we must have an accurate calendar of events to post on our media outlets (service leaflets, newsletters, website, email). *Even if you think you are currently on the calendar*, please let Gerald know about what you and your group or committee have planned and/or scheduled. You can reach him via email (preferred) at [gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org).

## Outreach

- continued from page 4

**outreach in April. We will soon begin to collect canned soup, fruits and vegetables.**

All your donated warm jackets, sweatshirts, hats and mittens have been happily used in this cooler weather on the border. However, border needs are quickly changing. Our plan is to discontinue our clothing collection and to reassess the current needs at our border. When we know more about what is needed we will appeal again to your generous hearts.

In a serendipitous moment Deacon Becky unearthed more than 100 backpacks all filled with school supplies which were all taken down to Nogales, where they are indeed holding school. We also took more than 25 cartons of books, school workbooks, crayons, textbooks, learning aides and educational toys to our local Continental School.

We continue to take clothing to the homeless women at Prima Vera. Last visit there were 8 full bags of clothing.

News from the Pews, the weekly service leaflets, the monthly Parish Newsletter as well as Father Warren's announcements at church services have been our best means of communication.

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



**2021 Parish Statistics**  
**New Members by**  
**Confirmation or Reception**

000

**Transfers In**

Rena Robbins  
Laura Thomas  
Joyce Davison

**Deaths**

Max Mayes  
Nancy Gardner  
Kathy Helgeson  
Vern Hughes  
Janet Corton

*Amazon Smile*

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.

*Meeting Rooms are  
Open for Parish Use*

Church remains closed for worship, but our meeting rooms are available for small church groups to meet carefully for church business. We are still not open for community use groups. Here are the guidelines to host a meeting:

1. Contact Gerald Near via St. Francis' phone number 520-625-1370 to schedule the date, time and room for your meeting. Gerald will arrange for the Sextons to sanitize the room before and after use.

2. Up to 10 people may participate in the meeting. Participants will wear masks and maintain social distance while on church premises.

*Clergy*

*Discretionary Funds*

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always welcome; these funds help 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 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.

*Do we have...*

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

*Recycle*

We are able to recycle used ink jet cartridges at \$2 each, realizing over \$600 a year toward office supplies. Recycle boxes are located in the Parish Office and just inside the southwest door of the Parish Hall.



**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  
600 South La Cañada Drive  
Green Valley AZ 85614

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