



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. 59, No. 4

April 2022

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

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Monday, April 11

Morning Prayer at 9 AM

Tuesday, April 12

Morning Prayer at 9 AM

Wednesday, April 13

Holy Eucharist at 9 AM

Thursday, April 14

**THE LITURGY FOR
MAUNDY THURSDAY**

at 7 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH

8 PM until NOON on Friday

Friday, April 15

THE GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

at NOON

Saturday, April 16

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

at 7 PM

Sunday, April 17

The Sunday of the Resurrection

EASTER DAY

Festive Eucharist

at 9 AM

Words From Warren . . .

Springtime in Green Valley is so beautiful. Trees green up, some with blossoms ranging from purple, yellow, white, and pink. Flowers explode from cacti, birds are singing, rabbits are hopping and road runners running. The earth wakes from its winter slumber, and the desert comes back to life.

Back up in the land of snow and ice, whether the northern states or Canada, the springtime is a true time of awakening and great contrasts. Snow and ice-covered ground, dead and brown from winter, seems to be resurrected. What appeared dead is now alive! Shoots of new life spring up out of the ground seeking the warmth of the sun. Warm rains nourish the earth creating a canvas of color.

In the cold areas of the country, springtime is when people finally venture out of their homes, discarding their winter coats and boots, squinting at the sun and breathing in fresh air, no longer feeling the cabin fever as the snow was piling up outside.

The image of winter death being replaced with color and life offers us an image of hope after two years of COVID fears and restrictions. We are slowly coming out of the pandemic winter that isolated us as the virus storm surged around us. Relationships are being renewed. Masks are now optional giving us a chance to see faces again (or for the first time!). Life is returning to a sense of normal. People are emerging from their cocoons. Wings are spreading and the darkness is lifting!

All this is happening as we prepare to celebrate Easter—a season of hope and new life. In 1 Peter 1:3 we read, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” Spring is a time of rebirth and new birth. Easter, like spring, promises us new life and new beginnings. It is a time to move forward and shed ways and outlooks that may hold us back.

Easter reminds us that all things are possible with God (Matthew 19:26). The resurrection of Jesus from the dead offers us hope in a time of pandemic or of war. Our prayers ascend to God as we watch the news about destruction and death in Ukraine. We pray for the victims and their families. We pray for help for the refugees. We pray

continued next page

Words From Warren, continued

for peace and healing of a country devastated and for a world that has been changed. Now more than ever, we need the promise of Easter and the power of the Holy Spirit to bring new life and hope to the people of Ukraine and to all living in fear.

May the hope and love of Easter bring abundant blessings to you and your family,

Fr. Warren

Words from Fr. Nelson ...

WAR AND FAITH

War is hard. From the unnecessary bloodshed to the parents who will lose sleep and children from the violence, it can be difficult to process the gravity of all that is happening. And yet, I believe it is important as followers of Christ to not look away at the suffering that is happening in Ukraine.

It has been roughly over a month since the first news broke about the situation happening to our siblings in Ukraine. As Russian invaders descended upon the country, we have seen a flurry of articles about the resolve and the constitution of the Ukrainian people which many have looked at with admiration. Amidst the headlines, we have seen photos and video of people huddled in bunkers, finding ways to share hope despite being under bombardment and other aggression.

Perhaps my favorite photos and footage I've seen has been a number of Ukrainian clergy who are holding Eucharist and other church services despite being holed up in shelters while they are weathering the storm of war. Can you imagine attending a church service while bullets and bombs are flying overhead? I know many of you have military service so this might be a foreign concept but I think that many who have not been at the frontlines consider this a very surreal experience.

"There is no such thing as a good war and no such thing as bad peace" is a quote made by Benjamin Franklin during the 1783 treaty of Paris. As Christians, we might be invited into deeper reflection on this as the war continues in Ukraine. What does it mean for us to be faithful to God and our humanity during war? How are we praying for our "enemies" both abroad and in our daily lives?

War is hard and it is never good. People will be hurt and there will be death. In following Christ, we must work towards peace, no matter how small. When we aspire and work towards peace then we work towards uniting the divide between the children of God.

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Published monthly

except June & August by

Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

(520) 625-1370 – www.stfrancisgvaz.org

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THE REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza

Curate

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

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Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

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Sexton

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Green Valley,

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in the world.*

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“Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.” - Book of Common Prayer p.815

Nelson+

Daughters of the King Day

Back in April of 1885 a woman named Margaret Franklin envisioned a religious order for Episcopal lay women based on vows of prayer, service, and evangelism—and the Order of the Daughters of the King was born. This year the Order is celebrating its 167th anniversary. From the original chapter in New York City it has grown to hundreds of chapters through-out the United States, in Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Our chapter here at St. Francis—the St. Clare Chapter—has over 30 members, as well as a sister chapter—Dew of the Angels—in Bananera, Guatemala. To celebrate this anniversary, Fr. Warren has designated Sunday, April 3 as ‘Daughters of the King’ Day. Please join us in the Parish Hall after the Sunday service for cake and information about the Order.

The mission of the Daughters (or DOK, as it is often called) is to be the extension of Christ’s kingdom throughout the world, through prayer, service, and evangelism. As Daughters, we undertake a Rule of Life, which encompasses a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service—daily prayer for the Church, the spread of Christ’s kingdom, for our members, chapter and clergy, and for those who have asked for our prayers. The Rule of Service is composed of service by the chapter as a whole (our prayer quilt ministry, for example) and those forms of service undertaken by each individual Daughter.

To become a member, a woman participates in a 12-session study of DOK history, the Rules of the Order, and spiritual reflection, after which she may take her life-long vows. Any woman in the parish who would like to learn more about the Daughters of the King is welcome to attend any of our chapter meetings held from 9:45 to 11 AM in the Vulliamy Room on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, or talk to any one of us—you’ll recognize us by the distinctive cross we each wear! *Judy Turberg*

Easter Baskets

On Sunday, April 17, families will gather at the Crossroads Rescue Mission in Nogales for a celebratory Easter Dinner. Each child is to receive an Easter Basket filled with traditional Easter goodies donated and prepared by us here at St. Francis. We were in the middle of putting this together last year when Covid canceled it. We ended up storing the supplies collected and last week we checked and found that we have enough baskets and grass for our 100 basket donation for this year. However, we do need wrapped candy and small toys to fill them.

You will find a container in the Parish Hall marked “Crossroads Easter Basket Supplies” for your donations. Mark your Calendars—Thursday April 14 at 10 AM—and join us in the Parish Hall to fill those baskets. Please put wrapped candy and small toys on your shopping list. And thank you for your help.

Jan Hall

In Solidarity with Ukraine

A peace-loving land and country, a home with freedom from tyranny

Children, mothers, grandmothers of all faiths caring for one another

Fathers who love their families protect and cherish with so little time

Yet willingly would give their lives to save their country and humanity

All calm dashed in an instant

As the invaders cross from northern, eastern and southern borders shattering peace

Rockets and mortars rain down causing death and destruction

Elderly Holocaust survivors must endure an unimaginable second assault

Yet the spirit of the people binds them together and with the free world

Invaders falter yet cause terrible damage to the land and the innocent

But all is not lost

The will of the people is strong

The will of the free world is mighty

St. Michael the Archangel defend Ukraine we pray and expel the invaders

May goodness and love prevail

Amen

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Senior Warden's Thoughts

It's April and we're deep into our Lenten preparations for Easter. Through our Lenten suppers, we hear about other ways we can minister to those in need. Our news outlets keep us up on the invasion of Ukraine, where people like you and me are losing their homes, families and even their lives. It's such a troubling time. But I find hope in this Easter Season. Our Lord was crucified for us and when he died, they buried him. But, lo and behold, he rose from the dead, not only fulfilling scripture but giving hope to his people. In this season, I ask that you be gentle to one another, pray deeply and envelope yourself in the Hope that Easter brings.

"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." -1 Peter 1:3

May the Love of Christ envelope you with hope.
Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

B and M Roofing, LLC, of Tucson completed the replacement of all (except the tower roof!) of the Church's tile roofs on March 15th! The total cost was \$74,500, the original contract amount. Thank you to Deana Bond, Lead Sexton, for her excellent oversight of this 2-month project to ensure the project went as prescribed. Thank you to the Church Trust and a number of parishioners who funded the roof expenditure. We commend parishioners for being broad minded about any inconveniences. Let's celebrate this great accomplishment!

A donor-paid arborist is completing corrective pruning and fertilizing of the four live oak trees in the Courtyard. Four ailing and encroaching palo verde trees and some mistletoe in several trees will also be removed by a landscape contractor.

Enjoy the beautiful splashes of color in the Courtyard's raised beds from recent plantings by parishioner, Reg Kahrmanis. Thank you, Reg!

Because of a generous donation, a landscape designer has been commissioned to develop a design suggesting other possibilities for enhancing our desert property. This proposed design will be reviewed in conjunction with the 5-year landscape and grounds planning effort of the Church's grounds and landscape team. A report will be provided to the Vestry.

About 20 volunteers met on March 18 to contribute their time and talent to a spring, grounds cleanup. Mark and Sandy Eckstein provided a yum-

my lunch. Thank you both for your support of the grounds and landscape team! A big thank you is extended to Craig Reid for his orchestration of this cleanup and for all others who participated.

Happy spring and blessings
Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Social Activities

The mission of the Social Activities Team is to provide a variety of social events where parishioners can get to know one another and have a good time. The team is always looking for new, energetic members; so if you're looking for a fun way to volunteer, come join us.

I will be stepping down as Chair of this team after our Lenten and Seder meal is completed. At the May meeting we will be discussing our direction and planning for summer-survival movie nights. If you'd like to join us and become a member, see you May 10, at 11 AM in the Conference Room. If you have questions please let me know; you can reach me via email at Seckste2@gmail.com or phone at 410-808-3881. *Sandy Eckstein*

The Watch

"Come Watch With Me, Pray With Me, and Do Not Be Afraid"

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 signup sheet for the Vigil starting today, Sunday, April 3. Reading material, prayers, poetry will be provided or just sit with Jesus for one hour.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharist will be celebrated April 9 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall. Please remember to bring and wear your mask.

Jerusalem Marketplace

Join us this summer as we travel to Jerusalem, without leaving Green Valley. As part of outreach to our local community, St Francis will be offering a Vacation Bible School during the week of June 6-10. During this week, elementary school children will travel together in small groups, worshipping, learning about the culture of Jerusalem in Bible times, exploring the Jerusalem Marketplace, and experiencing true Bible stories.

Co-directed by Sophia Witte and Tisha Stril, volunteers will be needed to help lead the small groups, provide snacks, build and decorate the Marketplace, and help with costumes and crafts. We will put a date on the calendar soon to discuss the volunteer opportunities! Contact Sophia or Tisha with any questions or ideas and a willingness to volunteer.

More information will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, consider inviting family and friends to attend this exciting event! Junior High and High School Youth will be welcome as Group Helpers.

Lenten Study with Fr. Warren

LIVING WELL THROUGH LENT 2022

Week 5 – April 5: Letting Go of Shoulds

Week 6 – April 12: Letting Go of Expectations

Study booklets include Daily reflections and exercises from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day. Sessions will be held Tuesdays from 11 AM until NOON in the Parish Hall beginning March 8. You can sign up for the class and pick up a booklet (one per couple, please) in the Parish Office.

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfranciscgvaz.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!

Exploring the Life and Thought of C.S. Lewis

Clive Staples Lewis was arguably the greatest Christian apologist—as in ‘one who speaks or writes in defense of someone or something’—of the twentieth century. (His books and essays are admired across denominational lines in the twenty-first century too.) Lewis tackled many of the teachings of the church which trouble, or at least tend to puzzle, contemporary Christians; he approaches them with clarity and a genuine interest in making them not only understandable, but also a solid foundation upon which to build a lasting faith. Lewis brings to his apologetic work the same depth of understanding and deftness of thought he exhibits in his celebrated work as a scholar. If you would you be interested in a study/discussion group on the thought of C.S. Lewis, email Gerald at gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org and he will be glad to get information to you on a proposed recurring class devoted to this great Christian thinker.

Wednesday Lenten Series

Our guest lecturers for the remaining 2022 Wednesday Lenten Series include Canon Anita Braden (April 6, please note that Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the Church that evening, starting at 4:30 PM), and Fr. Warren Leibovitch (April 13—no Stations of the Cross that evening). Fr. Warren’s presentation will include a Seder Meal (*see announcement below for details*). Mark your calendar so you won’t miss these opportunities to enhance your Lenten observance.

Tickets—priced at \$7 per person—are on sale after Sunday services. Look forward to some wonderful soups and even, this year, dessert! You may also sign up in the Parish Office during the week. Please note: supper by reservation only.

April 13 Seder Meal

Join us at 5 PM in the Parish Hall Wednesday, April 13, for a traditional Seder meal planned and prepared for us by Fr. Warren. Please note that the event begins promptly at 5 PM, and that Stations of the Cross **will not** be prayed that afternoon. As seating is limited it will be necessary to register in advance if you wish to attend; plan to sign up during Sunday coffee hour or in the Parish Office during the week. The menu will include chicken matzo soup, braised brisket, roasted potatoes, green beans and carrots, wine and grape juice, and an unleavened dessert. Donations to cover costs will be collected at the event.

Wednesday, April 6, Stations of the Cross

The St. Francis Parish Choir will be leading Stations of the Cross before the Wednesday Lenten Series presentation on April 6. The service will begin at 4:30 PM and will be held in the Church.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sandra Welch
- 3 Kathleen Chidester
- 4 Annie Whiteside
- 5 Valerie Von Guttenberg
- 6 Patty Ryan
- 6 David Vleck
- 7 Mary Levine
- 8 Russ DeMarco
- 8 Robert Reiersen
- 10 Jack Bundy
- 11 Greg Smith
- 13 Christina Hornyan
- 15 Sue Spiewak
- 16 Joe Grabiell
- 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 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

Prayer Chain

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

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for February, March, and April (2022) are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall as well as the Office.

Home Communion

St. Francis is again offering home communion to parishioners unable to attend church services. If you would like a Lay Eucharistic Volunteer to bring you the Sacrament, please contact Deacon Becky (480-204-0022) or via email (1beckyw@cox.net).

Monday Morning Prayer

Looking for a great way to start your week? Consider joining the Monday Morning Prayer group at 9 am on, you guessed it, Mondays. The Prayer Book service—led by some of your fellow parishioners—offers prayers for all needs, earthly and heavenly, in a quiet and reverent atmosphere.

Kino Border Initiative

The Initiative continues to serve a midday meal consisting of beans, rice, and a stew incorporating meat or poultry, and tortillas. Recipients must still use donated plastic containers with lids since on site seating is not possible at this time. Please continue to put donated containers in the marked box in the Parish Hall. They are taken to the Comedor weekly by Samaritans when they assist with meal prep and distribution.

PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS — APRIL 2022

Monday, 4 April

Morning Prayer, 9 AM
TeleCare, 12 PM

Tuesday, 5 April

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft
Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR
Stephen Ministry, 12 PM, VR

Wednesday, 6 April

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
Stations of the Cross, 4:30 PM
Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 7 April

Stewardship, 10 AM, CfR
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Saturday, 9 April

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM

Monday, 11 April

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 12 April

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel
Handbells, 10 AM, Loft
Lenten Study, 11 AM, PH
Social Activities, 11 AM, CfR
Vestry, 4 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 13 April

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, CfR
Lenten Supper (Seder Meal), 5 PM, PH

Maundy Thursday, 14 April

Easter Baskets, 9 AM, PH
Library Cmte, 10 AM, L
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft
Maundy Thursday Liturgy, 7 PM
MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH, 8 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, 15 APRIL

Stations of the Cross, 11:30 AM
GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY, 12 PM

HOLY SATURDAY, 16 APRIL

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, 7 PM

Monday, 18 April

Parish Offices Closed

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel
Hearts & Hands, 10 AM, CfR

Tuesday, 19 April
Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR
Vision Meeting, 2 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 20 April
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Monday, 25 April
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Wednesday, 27 April
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

CALENDAR LEGEND

PH - Parish Hall
VR - Vulliamy Room
CfR - Conference Room
CR - Classroom

2022 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

Mark & Tisha Stril

Transfers Out

Bill & Alicia Baucom

Al Saterbak

Deaths

Jerry McAllister

Cruzando Fronteras Needs

Our parishioners have been most generous in their response to requests for winter needs. Although Vicks and Chapstick are no longer needed, baby diapers are always welcome. The families at La Casa de la Misericordia are most grateful. Thanks to all of you 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

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) to sign up. It's FREE!

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.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



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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