



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. 2

February 2022

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

Words From Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

It has been a few years since the whole month of February is in the season of Epiphany.

Epiphany, is a season of discovery. Beginning with the visit of the Magi bearing gifts (January 6), it is followed in our church calendar with the Baptism of Our Lord on the following Sunday.

Jesus' baptism reminds us of our own entry into the church. It is a beginning of a lifetime of discovery, growth and service. As we journey through the season of Epiphany with the first signs or miracles of Jesus and the calling of the disciples, we are reminded of our own calling to be followers of Jesus and to be the Body of Christ.

1Cor 12:12 (read on January 23rd) says, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." We are one Body, and we are one with Christ. Epiphany reminds us that we are one Body, linked to each other and Christ through the Holy Spirit. As the Body of Christ, and as the Parish of St. Francis in the Valley, we are called to be the Light of Christ in the world.

The season of Epiphany and discovery is the beginning of what I hope will be a year of discovery. As I mentioned on Sunday, January 23rd, before the Annual Meeting, I will be using 2022 as a time to discover who we are as followers of Jesus in light of the teachings of our Patron Saint, Francis of Assisi.

I asked those who were present on that Sunday, "What are we known for" that is unique? We are one church of many local churches that do good works and ministries, but what are we doing that immediately identifies us in terms of work and ministry?

This will be an ongoing conversation. Who are we as Episcopalians and Franciscans that identify and draw people to us? What do we want to do or be?

This year we will begin looking at the life and teachings of St. Francis to help us focus our energies and organize our ministries. A similar process began in the fall with the Outreach committee to prioritize their activities using the teachings of St. Francis.

To assist us in learning about St. Francis, Art Remillard, Professor of Religious Studies at St. Francis University, along with his father Vince, will join us in zoom lectures to help us discover the teachings of St. Francis and how going deeper into those teachings will help us to grow in our identity as the Parish of St. Francis.

To better understand how we are the Heart and Hands of Jesus as Episcopalians walking in the path of St. Francis, we will draw together all outreach, in-reach, caring and supportive ministries under one umbrella called St. Francis Ministries with all leaders and organizers working with and supporting each other.

Much more to come this year. The first meeting of leaders is scheduled for February 3rd at 10 AM in the Parish Hall. This meeting is hosted by Marybeth Bates and the Stewardship Committee.

Blessings and peace,

Fr. Warren

Words from Fr. Nelson ...
UNDERSTANDING COMPLEX EMOTIONS AND
DISNEY'S ENCANTO

Last month, just a week before Christmas, I received a call from my mother asking me to return home because my “lola” (Filipino term of endearment for grandmother) was critically ill and in the ICU. I left less than 24 hours later carrying only a bag, prayers, and a healthy amount of anxiety.

For those of you that may not remember, my lola was the one who really set the foundations of faith for me. Since my mother worked two full-time jobs, my lola was often the built-in childcare that would look after myself, my brother, and the small army of my cousins who were also put under her wing. When we were very young, she taught us the basic tenets of Christian faith and put in the groundwork that continued to grow as we got older.

Whether it was prayer, how to be a compassionate friend or family member, or simply just how to be kind, my lola gifted all of that to us.

As I entered her ICU room, as I’ve entered hundreds of ICU rooms before as a hospital chaplain, I tried to leave all of my emotions with God and to be strong for my family. Now, I won’t lie to you and tell you that I didn’t cry. The tears would cascade when no one else was looking and when I could steal a moment to just be her grandson and not the family’s newly appointed chaplain. It was hard trying to be strong for the family because I thought I had to be.

But then I remembered a lesson that she taught us which echoes in my mind to this day. It’s a simple lesson and it’s this: “Be kind to yourself and to one another.”

Yes, sometimes we need to carry on and put a brave face on for our loved ones or the communities we are part of. And also, it is absolutely okay to not have to be the “strong one” all the time. In thinking about my lola’s words, which reminded me of our favored “love yourself, love your neighbors” as Christians—I became aware that I was not being kind to myself at that moment.

Now, as silly as it sounds, this interaction also made me think of a particular character from a Disney movie I just saw called “Encanto.” Set in Colombia, the movie revolves around the Madrigal family, a family blessed with an encanto, a magical enchantment that gives all the members of the family a gift. These include superhuman strength, the ability to communicate with animals, controlling the weather or shapeshifting. All members of the family receive their gift at age 6 and use it to help their village; all of

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Published monthly
except June & August by

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Deacon

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Sexton

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them, that is, except Mirabel.

I won't spoil the movie for you but one of the character's that stood out to me was Luisa, Mirabel's sister, who was blessed with superstrength.

Throughout the course of the movie, Luisa eventually comes to the realization that she does not have to rely on her strength alone and that she is allowed to experience a complexity of emotions and feelings. The pressure she feels to always be at peak performance was absolutely affecting her overall wellbeing. Luisa was not being kind to herself and as a result she wasn't allowing others to care for her in a way that was helpful.

How many times have you had to be the "strong one" in your life? How many times has being the strong one led to you feeling neglected or pushing others away?

I guess what I am getting at is that you don't have to be the strong one all of the time. Especially as followers of Christ, and in truly heeding the words of loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves—we need to remember that self-care and being mindful of our own needs are important to the thriving of community.

For those that have continued to pray and inquire about my lola, Aurea Mendoza, she is still with us. She has a strong mind and spirit. I know that she is comfortable and that is what is important. When the time comes, I know that God will be with her and my tears will not be a weakness but a sign that she was loved.

Nelson+

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.

2022 Lenten Series

Our guest lecturers for the 2022 Wednesday Lenten Series include Canon Debbie Royals (March 9), The Rev. Laura Adelia (March 16), The Rev. John Caleb-Collins (March 23), Bishop Jennifer Reddall (March 30), Canon Anita Braden (April 6), and Fr. Warren Leibovitch (April 13). Fr. Warren's presentation will include a Seder Meal. Each evening will begin with STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 5 PM in the Courtyard, followed by dinner at 5:30 PM and our guest speaker presentation at 6:15 PM in the Parish Hall. Mark your calendar so you won't miss these opportunities to enhance your Lenten observance.

Tickets—priced at \$7 per person—will be on sale after services beginning Sunday, February 20. 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 that we will not be able to accommodate drop-ins; supper by reservation only.

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.

Handbell Ensemble

Our Handbell Ensemble is now rehearsing in the Choir Loft on Tuesdays at 10 AM and new members are welcome. Just contact Sophia Witte by text at 520-509-5037 or email at smw_witte@yahoo.com.

Parish Choir

The St. Francis Parish Choir is back in session. Rehearsals are held at 2 PM on Thursdays in the Choir Loft. New members always welcome. Get in touch with the Choirmaster at gerald@stfrancis-gvaz.org.

Prayer Chain

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

Senior Warden's Thoughts

February is here and so... "Happy Valentine's Month." We see red hearts and lots of candy in the stores this time of year reminding us to love one another. On February 13, we will be celebrating our own volunteers with our Volunteer Appreciation Day. A wonderful church like St. Francis wouldn't exist without the help and support of our wonderful volunteers. They are everywhere doing so much. I hope you are one of them. From our worship services, ushering, greeting, to our coffee hour, our Library, Boutique, office, counting money, preparing the Newsletter, calling church members, chairing and serving on church ministries, taking communion to home bound, singing, teaching, praying, and helping those in need. And I haven't even touched all the wonderful ways our volunteers serve. Our volunteers support a small but outstanding team of paid staff to help make us "to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world."

This year we pray that more of our ministries are able to be more active and we hope that you will be a part. Serving the Lord is a wonderful gift to give.

In Christ,
Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

The New Year is well on its way! The approved 2022 Church budget will support additional work and projects to be discussed in future newsletters and other Church communications.

GROUNDS

1. Limited watering of the Courtyard oaks and the Memorial Garden plants and shrubs is being done due to cooler temperatures.

2. Craig Reid reports he's trimming bushes and later trees. At some point he will dig out drainage runs starting on the north side of the property.

3. The landscape and grounds team met on January 20. The agenda was designed to look back on accomplishments in 2021 and to set achievable short term and long term goals, mostly related to landscape design, an irrigation system in the Memorial Garden, and the possibility of plantings. More information will be reported in future communications.

BUILDINGS AND SPACES

1. As a reminder, guidelines for accessing the tools secured in the tool storage area/workshop are now finalized and implemented: new door lock with specific, ground volunteers receiving new keys; bulletin and writing boards hung inside at entrance

directing users to guidelines and sign-out book. Equipment batteries are charged from a pullout drawer. The equipment is padlocked to the shelving units with padlock keys accessible.

2. The roofing company began roof replacements on January 3. Please note and avoid areas marked with yellow tape and areas where roofers are working. They have been very good about cleaning up debris generated at the end of their work day. The company has extended a tentative completion date of early February. New gutters will be installed when the roofing is completed. Deana Bond, Lead Sexton, and Kristi Menix, Junior Warden, are project managers. Please contact Deana or Kristi with any questions.

3. Code locks to the Vulliamy Room side door and one door allowing entrance into the meeting room hall in the office complex are now installed. Deana Bond, Lead Sexton, is managing the pass codes to those locks.

Thank you for your support. Blessings to all in this New Year.

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Prince of Egypt:

Pre-Lenten Film Discussion

If you are looking for a unique way to prepare for Lent consider joining for a three week film discussion on the PRINCE OF EGYPT, an animated retelling of the Book of Exodus. This series may help set a tone for the coming of our Lenten suppers and speakers. During our time we will separate the film into viewing and discussion. Class will be held February 8, 15, and 22 from 11 AM to NOON.

Cruzando Fronteras Needs

Cruzando Fronteras continues to need Pampers, Luvs (or similar product) in sizes 2 through 5, and Vick's Vapo Rub or a generic. Thanks for all the socks and Chap Stick. That need has been met for now.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharist will be celebrated February 12 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall. Please remember to bring and wear your mask.

Parish Offices will be closed...

Presidents' Day

Monday, 21 February

Your Arizona Tax Credit Options

We are so fortunate in the state of Arizona to be able to direct our own tax dollars to schools, groups and charities that we care about deeply. You all know that you are able to use your Arizona Tax credit option as a gift to Imago Dei—our partner school. You may not know that you can also direct your tax dollars to our Sahuarita and Continental schools. You are not limited to one choice for your tax dollar. You have many additional gift options. For instance, you are able to use your tax liability as a gift to help support other charities currently under the wing of St. Francis and dear to the hearts of many Franciscans like Youth on Their Own, The Food Bank, Salvation Army, Valley Assistance, Friends In Deed, Hands of a Friend to name a few. All these charities are supported by you through your work with the Tour of Homes and through your support of Outreach projects. Why not consider designating your Arizona tax liability as gifts to one or more of these charities. When you donate you can claim a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your Arizona state income taxes.

Of course, there are rules, regulations, dates and gift amounts to follow but they are as close as your fingertips on the Department of Revenue website azdor.gov. Take a look at publication 707. Please do check with your tax consultant also. This is easy giving. Since we are already obligated to pay our taxes why not direct them. For even more information contact Orji Isiogu (isiogu@aol.com).

Book Review

If you like books that are short, but are worthwhile reading, you might like “The Shopkeeper’s Story, Suddenly One Morning” by best-selling author, Charles R. Swindol. This is a story of a week in the life of an ordinary shopkeeper in Jerusalem in the time of Christ. He is a bystander to the events of the Holy Week when Christ came into Jerusalem. It is a story of curiosity, seeking, discovery, enlightenment, and an “aha” moment. You speed readers could read this book in less than 30 minutes. However, if you are a reader who likes to take their time and absorb and contemplate what you are reading, take a little longer. If I had any criticism of this book, it is not necessarily in its brevity, but it in its seeming to stop too soon. *Jack Gardner*

A New Opportunity

I hope you heard Father Warren speak about Outreach last Sunday; you will be hearing lots more about Outreach in a new and more inclusive way. In short, Outreach will not be a single committee. In the true meaning of the word, Outreach will be all of St. Francis ministries: all the church does outside the walls and all the church does inside the walls. (The old Outreach Committee name will be changed to a more explanatory title.) It will re-form with all who want to offer their time and talent. The newly-named group will take its place at the table with all the other St. Francis Ministries when that larger group is formed. The mission to use our hearts and hands to help the marginalized, the broken and those in need will remain the same.

We need you. Call Barb Hook (648-7949) or contact me via email (behook@aol.com) with questions or to tell us you want to be part of this new and exciting ministry.

We will meet Monday, February 21, at 10 AM to brainstorm a new name, choose projects from our four groups and determine team leaders for the chosen projects. It is a new year and a wonderful opportunity to begin again. *Barb Hook*

Food Bank

Local supermarkets aren’t the only places you’ll find empty shelves these days: shelves are empty at our Food Bank too. Remember to pick up a bit extra—and especially sale items—to help our neighbors in need. You will find baskets ready to receive your bounty as you enter the Church from the Courtyard and Chapel. Special thanks to Jann Dalla-Mura, Arlene Stremming and Jan Hall who will do the work of delivering your bounty to the Food Bank.

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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Margaret Murphy
4 Patty Russel
5 Theresa Bonser
5 Fred Junggren
5 Barry Sheridan
6 Joyce Hayes
6 Jenica Hisko
6 Sharlyn Matthews
7 Joyce Remillard
7 Wilfrid Wiemer
8 Fran Gordon
8 Margaret Hennel
8 John Packer
10 Diane Schwarzmamm
10 Margaret Ward
11 Ken Breitenbucher
11 Pris Junggren
11 Barbara Maxwell
12 Arlene Stremming
14 Roger Ward
16 Kathleen Keller
18 Bonnie Kleeberg
18 Norma Pool
19 Jeannie North
20 Nancy Allen
20 Victor Chavez
20 Janis Gallagher
20 Joan Jakubiak
21 Charles Gardner
22 Steve Hickman
22 Shirley Law
25 Lee Cornelison
25 Helen Mullaly

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 Arnie Berglund & Darlene Gregory
4 Jack & Barbara Bundy
4 Victor & Terri Chavez
10 Daniel & Patty Ryan
13 Mitch & Pat Ghoca
14 Tom & Gloria Cadwalader
16 Bruce Folkers & Jan Gaylord

Library Resource Center Now Open for Business

Your church Library Resource Center is waiting for you to stop by and select books to read from its collections of 100s of books. It is located in the hallway from the Parish Hall main meeting room and is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am until Noon and Sunday after church. Wednesdays and Thursdays there is a volunteer to help you find what you are looking for.

The emphasis of our collection is spirituality, self-improvement, learning to listen and learn, and helping us live wonderful lives and sharing that with others. The library volunteers have been very busy for the past months processing books for your enjoyment.

Come in, browse the shelves and ask for help. That is what we are here for.

Joyce Davison, Your Librarian



PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2022

Tuesday, 1 February

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

Wednesday, 2 February

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 3 February

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

Monday, 7 February

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 8 February

Handbells, 9 AM, Loft
Pre-Lent Class, 11 AM, PH
Social Activities, 11 AM, CfR
Vestry, 4 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 9 February

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 10 February

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

FRIDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

Vestry Retreat, 8:30 AM, SFR

SATURDAY, 12 FEBRUARY

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Monday, 14 February

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 15 February

Handbells, 9 AM, Loft
Men's Group, 9 AM, PH
Pre-Lent Class, 11 AM, PH

Wednesday, 16 February

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 17 February

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 21 February

Parish Offices Closed
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel
Outreach, 10 AM, CfR

Tuesday, 22 February

Handbells, 9 AM, Loft
Pre-Lent Class, 11 AM, PH

Wednesday, 23 February
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

Thursday, 24 February
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 28 February
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

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

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



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.

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

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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