



# 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. 61, No. 1

January/February 2024

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

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## Words From Warren . . .

Dear friends,

Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope your Christmas was filled with much joy and blessings!

The beginning of a new year allows us to start fresh, whether it is a resolution to do more to lose that extra holiday weight or a decision to get more involved in the community or our church.

One thing the church offers that the GVR doesn't is a chance to build up spiritual muscles. I would like to offer a bigger variety of studies based on what you would like to learn. I am also interested in starting some home study groups that can meet at times and places that can accommodate more people's schedules.

Have you ever led Bible or Church History studies at St. Francis or at previous churches? Please let me know. If you would like to be a host house for a study group of five to ten people, also let me know. I especially want to start a study or two in Sahuarita and Madeira Highlands neighborhoods. For those who work, I want to offer evening studies.

The new year will also be a time to come together in small groups to Re-imagine Church. This comes out of recommendations from our Finance Committee to look at ideas to grow our church and ministries as we continue moving beyond the Pandemic.

Upcoming:

The winter months are always very busy at St. Francis as we transition from Christmas and Epiphany to Lent and Easter.

Two dates to note in January include a coffee hour presentation and update by the Gideons on Sunday, January 14, in the Parish Hall. The other important date is The Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, following the morning service.

On Sunday, February 4, at 9 AM, we welcome guest preacher Canon Jana Sundin, our Diocesan Canon for Children and Youth. Please come out and welcome her to our parish.

February is also the ramp up to Lent with the Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13, followed by Ash Wednesday services at 9 AM and 7 PM (which falls on February 14, Valentine's Day). *Don't forget to eat up all your chocolates before you come to church!*

The Lenten Supper and Speaker series begins on Wednesday, February 21 and runs through March 27. We have a great line-up of speakers and topics! Please see the pro-

*continued next page*

motion in the newsletter.

I hope to see you at Sunday worship and our special events over the coming months. If you can't come to church don't forget you can watch us online. Please let me know if you would like a communion visit.

Blessings to all,

*Fr. Warren*

## Franciscan Focus

For the next several newsletters instead of describing Franciscan values we'll be sharing stories of our members who are living them in our prison and border ministries. Here is Mary Staples' story.

"Thanks for inviting experiences from those of us who volunteer at the border. Sue Spiewak has been active in this work for years; my involvement is recent. Previously I volunteered at Casa Alitas in Tucson, serving lunch to asylum seekers once a week with a neighbor who has since moved away. I grew up in the UCC church with parents and a youth leader who taught us to stand against racism and for justice. The importance of these stances has stayed with me all these years.

"Sue Spiewak asked me a few months ago to go down to Nogales, Sonora with the group. My neighbor Susie Sanders (from Good Shepherd UCC) drove me across to visit Casa de Misericordia and one other shelter. Casa is an excellent shelter for many asylum seekers, sponsored by Cruzando Fronteras. Anyone interested in learning more about it should definitely visit there. Our Diocese helps keep Casa de Misericordia going through its financial support

"Anyway, I volunteer now on the AZ side, greeting people who have passed their Credible Fear interview with ICE and are headed to sponsors' homes in the U.S. Many families, even with young children, have walked from Venezuela. Some are from Africa, Europe, Cuba or Haiti. I greet them in Spanish and tell them briefly about Casa Alitas, which offers meals, a bed and assistance with securing air or bus transportation to their sponsors. Very few turn down this generous offer. So I walk them to the Casa Alitas Welcome Center a few

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

**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

### THE VESTRY

Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Jim Ratley, Junior Warden

Barbara Bundy, Joyce Davison,

Joyce Kaminski, Glenn Matto,

Vince Remillard, Rena Robbins, Jean Ross,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Kristi Menix,

*ex officio*: Gloria Cadwalader, Treasurer

Lou Terry, Clerk

### CHURCH STAFF

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Office Manager

**Gerald Near**

Communications

Director of Music

**Megan McAllister**

Financial Assistant

**J. Michael Case**

Organist

**Sharlyn Matthews**

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

**Sophia Witte**

Handbell Ensemble Director

**Matthew Harby**

Lead Sexton

**Nathaniel Martinez**

Sexton

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blocks from the border. It is a joyous occasion, with tears and rapid cell phone conversations with family at home!

“The one person who stands out is an older woman from Chiapas, Mexico. She spoke little Spanish; her native language is one of the indigenous ones. A border patrol officer brought her to me and said, “this lady will need your special care.” He had made contact with her daughter in S. Carolina and together they had made a plane reservation for her to fly there the next day. She was well under 5 feet tall, and she held my hand all the way until we reached the Welcome Center. She had witnessed killings by drug lords. I am thankful to have had a very very small part in helping her on her way to safety.

“If you are interested in visiting the border ministry with us, you are very welcome. Please contact Sue Spiewak (520) 481-5263.”

### Prison Ministry

February will be Camp Genesis month. We will be collecting donations to raise money for backpack supplies and special outings for the campers. There will be two camps in 2024: one for the older campers and one for the younger campers. Each camp will have special outing in addition to the exciting activities that take place each year. Thank you for your continued support of Camp Genesis and Prison Ministry!

*Rena Robbins*

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church Parish will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024.

### Prayer Chain

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

### Parish Offices will be closed...

Martin Luther King Day                      Monday, 15 January  
Presidents' Day                                      Monday, 19 February

## Boutique News

Thanks so much to all our parishioners who shopped in our Boutique during the holidays. As we welcome in the new year, we hope you will continue to remember the Boutique when you're looking for a gift for a special person (maybe YOU!) or for a special occasion. You're always welcome just to come in and look around after the 9 o'clock service when we're always open. You'll see that we offer unique and beautiful items at better prices than you'll find elsewhere and to make it even better, please know that when you buy in the Boutique, you are helping the needy in our Green Valley community as all Boutique profits to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. We look forward to seeing you soon. *Jylene Wright*

### Green Team Update

Thank you Franciscans for the steps that have been taken to Care for Creation. Recycling has become more routine, earth-friendly products have been sold, the St. Francis Green Team has expanded into the community and new trees have been planted in the parking lot. In addition, fewer paper products have been used during parish gatherings. When appropriate we encourage sharing bulletins and also using the hymnals to reduce the number of printed pages. These small steps make a difference!

*Susan Burch sburch33@gmail.com*

Tip: Remember the old series “Have Gun Will Travel?” Consider this scenario “Have Mug Will Travel.” If you regularly drink church coffee or tea, consider reducing costs and waste. Travel with a personal mug.

### Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharistic celebrations are scheduled for January 13 and February 10 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall.

## Senior Warden's Thoughts

Happy 2024! We look forward to longer days and lots of new adventures. This will be my last *Senior Warden's Thoughts*, as my three years of service close at the end of January. I have been humbled by the opportunity to serve the Parish of *St. Francis in the Valley* as your Senior Warden, and have been blessed by being able to work with such wonderful folks. Your new Senior Warden will be announced at our Annual Meeting after worship on January 28, 2024.

Three of our Vestry members are finishing their Vestry terms this year, Barbara Bundy, Kristi Menix and Vince Remillard. Please thank them for their dedication to the Vestry and to St. Francis. We have been blessed by their service. We also give thanks to Bobbi Tucker for her years of service as the Clerk of the Vestry. Bobbi resigned during the summer and Lou Terry was elected as the new Clerk.

Sunday, January 21, right after worship, we will be holding a MINISTRY FAIR in the Parish Hall. This will give you the opportunity to see the various Ministries working hard at our church and give you an opportunity to become part of it. Please save the date to come see the opportunities you have to serve our church and our community.

In February, we'll begin our Lenten season with our SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER on Tuesday, February 13. That will be followed by our Soup and Speaker Suppers beginning February 21 to March 20. Watch the *News from the Pews* and the Sunday Bulletin for details.

So, as I close this one last time, I thank you all for having given me the opportunity to serve you. And I leave you with the request to be kind, thoughtful and loving to one another as Jesus would want us to.

*Jullie Reppenhagen*, Senior Warden

## Junior Warden's Notes

•The Columbarium Brick repair (water intrusion rain cap), with impermeable cementitious coating and raised center, the placement of a site

drain with a Geotech Product is placed against the wall at the south side of the foundation wall and the white wash work has been completed. The total amount including materials plus tax: \$ 3,065.00 (Trust Funded). It should be re-sealed every 3 to 5 years.

•The stained-glass panels in the bell tower have sustained wear damage over time. The glass itself is okay for now but the lead frames have warped out of shape and need to be replaced. Lead was the original and traditional material used. Unfortunately, over time and summer heat, they are losing their shape. Zinc metal framing is the best choice for reframing and has a rigid strip giving them strength and a finished edge. (Will be asking the Trust Fund for help)

*James Ratley*, Junior Warden

## News from SAT

The Social Activities Team is busy planning the social events for 2024. Here are some future activities to put on your calendars.

► February 13 will be the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5 PM and the...

► Lenten Suppers, with guest speakers, will be offered weekly at 5:30 PM starting Wednesday, February 21 and running through March 20. (Stations of the Cross will be offered in the Courtyard—at 5 PM—before the Wednesday suppers.)

Guests and topics will include Deacon Becky Williamson speaking on pilgrimages and icons (February 21); Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary (February 28); Imago Dei Middle School and Tile Works presentation (March 6); Bishop Jennifer Reddall on her trip to Kenya (March 13); and Soleste Lupu-Rodgers and children from *Dancing in the Streets* (March 20).

► The Seder Meal will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at 4:45 PM.

We will be taking reservations for all of these events, so be on the lookout for the Social Ac-

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tivities table in the Parish Hall after church on Sundays starting January 21.

If you have ideas for a social activity that you would like to share, please contact Julie Repenhagen, Tisha Stril or Judy Turberg. We are always open to new ideas. If you'd like to volunteer for any of the events, stop by the Social Activity Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays.

### Handbell Ensemble

Our Handbell Ensemble is again rehearsing in the Choir Loft on Mondays at 10 AM and new members are welcome. If you can count to four and maintain a steady beat, you're in! Just contact Sophia Witte by text at 520-509-5037 or email at [smw\\_witte@yahoo.com](mailto:smw_witte@yahoo.com).

### Centering Prayer

Go into your inner room and pray...

Matthew 6:6

St. Francis Centering Prayer Circle gathers every Thursday, online, from 10 to 11 AM for 25 minutes of Centering Prayer, followed by a spiritual reading, (Lectio Divina), and Community sharing.

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence—a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

To Join the Zoom Meeting, just click on this link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96811055153?pwd=NGZtWEJtNlFQUWVPMzhwZGRKOW9rdz09>

Or

Zoom Meeting ID: 968 1105 5153

Passcode: 170012

For information contact James Luffman at (520)425-1072 or Sophie Luffman at (520)262-3876

*Do we have...*

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

### 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 are always welcome and needed in all sections of the choir. Get in touch with the Choirmaster at [gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org) and let him know of your interest.

### Library Book Sale

*Happy 2024 from your Library Committee!* It's a new year—a time for new beginnings, fresh starts, clean sweeps, out-with-the-old-and-in-with-the-new. So how about starting with your sagging shelves and stacks of books next to your easy chair—books that you've read and loved, but probably won't read again, or those you've started twice, but can't really get into? Your St. Francis Library Committee would be delighted to take them off your hands (so you can make room for new or new-to-you books in the new year). Our massive book sale is scheduled for two Sundays in February (the 18th and 25th), but we need your donated books NOW so we can plan for our set-up and staffing. So please bring any books you'd like to contribute to the sale (preferably in boxes) and leave them in the Library (just down the corridor from the Parish Hall) on Sunday, or drop them off in the Church Office during the week. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated—and the people who get to find new treasures in your old books will be grateful too. All proceeds (at \$1 per pound) will go toward the purchase of new books for your Parish Library and technical support for our digital catalog which you can access from home. *Thank you, and Happy New Year!*

### How to Access Service Videos

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

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Jim Bush
- 3 – Chris Anderson
- 3 – Leroy Vaughn
- 6 – Stephen North
- 6 – Carol Wingereid
- 7 – Mary Messick
- 10 – Robert Marben
- 13 – Shirlee Schappach
- 13 – Scott Whiteside
- 14 – Jay Adams
- 14 – Stephen Huhta
- 14 – Paula Moore
- 19 – James Collins
- 19 – BrandE Faupell
- 19 – Lincoln Mastandrea
- 21 – Stephanie Huszar
- 22 – Penny Junke
- 23 – Linda Berg
- 26 – Jan Misner
- 27 – John Smith
- 29 – James Moore
- 30 – John Burk
- 30 – Jan Poole
- 30 – Robert Vint
- 30 – Katherine Vint

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 – George & Chris Anderson
- 28 – Joseph & Kathleen Chidester
- 30 – Bud & Marsha Tripp

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Alice Walker
- 3 – Tony Mariscal
- 4 – Patty Russell
- 5 – Theresa Bonser
- 5 – Fred Junggren
- 5 – Barry Sheridan
- 6 – Joyce Hayes
- 6 – Jenica Hisko
- 6 – Sharlyn Matthews
- 7 – Joyce Remillard
- 7 – Wil Wiemer
- 8 – Frances Gordon
- 8 – John Packer
- 10 – Christie Kuebler
- 10 – Mike Kuebler
- 10 – Diane Schwarzmann

- 11 – Ken Breitenbucher
- 11 – Pris Junggren
- 12 – Arliene Stremming
- 14 – Roger Ward
- 15 – Annette Mariscal
- 16 – Kathleen Keller
- 18 – Ellie Paredes-Garcia
- 18 – Norma Pool
- 19 – Jeannie North
- 20 – Victor Chavez
- 20 – Janis Gallagher
- 20 – Joan Jakubiak
- 21 – Charles Gardner
- 22 – Shirley Law
- 25 – Helen Mullaly

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 – Arnie Berglund & Darlene Gregory
- 2 – Mike & Christie Kuebler
- 4 – Jack & Barbara Bundy
- 4 – Victor & Terri Chavez
- 13 – Mitch & Pat Ghoca
- 14 – Tom & Gloria Cadwalader
- 16 – Bruce Folkers & Jan Gaylord



## PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

**Altar Guild:** meetings called as necessary

**Border Ministry:** meeting called as necessary

**Daughters of the King:** 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 9:45 AM in the Vulliamy Room

**Finance Committee:** meetings called as necessary

**Green Team:** meetings called as necessary

**Handbell Ensemble:** Mondays, 10 AM in the Choir Loft

**Hearts & Hands (Outreach):** 3rd Monday, 10 AM in the Conference Room

**Library Committee:** 4th Tuesday, 1 PM in the Library

**Memorials and Special Gifts:** 2nd Wednesday, 10 AM in the St. Francis Room

**Men's Group:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9 AM in the Conference Room

**Parish Choir:** Thursdays, 2 PM in the Choir Loft

**Prison Ministry:** meetings called as necessary

**Saints Francis Trust:** meetings called as necessary

**Social Activities Team:** 4th Monday, 2:30 PM in the Conference Room

**Stephen Ministry:** meetings called as necessary

**Stewardship Committee:** meetings called as necessary

**Vestry:** 1st Tuesday, 4 PM in the Conference Room

Parish meetings and events are listed in the announcements section of Sunday service leaflets and, via email, in NEWS FROM THE PEWS. If you would like to be added to the email list, contact Finance Officer Deborah Harby ([deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org)) 520-625-1370.

## 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.

### 2023 Parish Statistics

#### Baptisms

Billy Paul Smith  
Angel Vincent Gamon  
Olivia Dale Mastandrea  
Lincoln Maverick Mastandrea

#### Transfers In

Ralph & Alice Walker  
Susan Burch

#### Deaths

Rita Beil  
Neil Helgath  
Neil Messick  
Carol Hinterthuer  
Phebe Anderson  
Robert Law  
Carol Putnam  
Cayo De Mendoza  
Bonnie Kleeberg  
Edward McDonald  
Bart DallaMura  
Sue Howell  
Margaret Bowman  
Barbara LaBarre  
Kathy Ravine  
Dorothy Blakely  
Bill Peissig  
Clyde Tardy

### 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 Office Manager Deborah Harby. 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 Deborah 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 sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE 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 sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE 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.

### Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for February, March and April 2024 are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall.

### A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 and let her know of your interest. If she is not at home, just leave a message with your name and phone number and she will return your call. Flower donation is \$35.

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