



SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Green Valley, Arizona

The Rev. Daniel J. Messier, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Mike Kuebler, *Deacon*
Glenn Matto, *Verger*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
22 MARCH 2026

We appreciate the silencing of all electronic devices and ask that, out of respect for those who wish to pray quietly or listen to the music played on the organ, all conversation be held until coffee hour following the service, to which all are cordially invited.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Gerald Near, b. 1942

Deep River

OPENING HYMN 149

1. Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and
toward your presence bent:
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

2. So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,

knowing ourselves
baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.

3. If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the first-born of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green
shoots break, glorious in springtime
dress of leaf and flower,
so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Together Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TRISAGION

Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
People *Have mercy upon us.*

THE SALUTATION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON (*Please be seated*)

A Lesson from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (37:1-14).

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit

within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (130) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; * let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, * O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; * therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; * in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, * more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, * for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, * and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Lesson from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:6-11).

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 665 (omit stanza 4)

1. All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2. Mortal pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
though with care and toil we build them,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

3. God's great goodness e'er endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought:
splendor, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore from his store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

5. Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

THE GOSPEL (*please stand, as you are able*)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (11:1-45).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard

that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Daniel J. Messier

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through

him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *The people may stand, sit, or kneel*

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and to be loved. Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Leader We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble. Give them courage and hope in their distress, and bless those who minister to them.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Leader We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage of these lands. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Give wisdom to those in authority among us and to all leaders of the nations.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for your Church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his kingdom. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Leader We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that we may enter with them into the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The People may add their own petitions, silently or aloud.

Leader Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Hear the prayers of your people.

Leader We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather:

We pay our respects to the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

Together Almighty and everliving God, you are with us in every transition and change. Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide the Search Committee, Vestry and parish family to be of one heart and mind in our search for a new Rector who will be your faithful servant and who will minister to your flock. By your light, O Lord, draw us to those with vision and passion for St. Francis' future. Guide them as they discern your call. Raise up for us a faithful pastor and dynamic preacher of your gospel, who will shepherd us as your flock. Strengthen our ministries and work with us in the building of your kingdom. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People together

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the
power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYER (TO BE SAID BY ALL)

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life and for all the blessings you have poured upon your servants celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, especially those standing before us today. As they begin another year, we pray that you continue to guide, protect, and shower them with your grace. May this new year be filled with love, joy, and peace, as they walk closer to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)*

AT THE OFFERTORY

David Halls, b. 1963

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me. (Psalm 51: 2-3)

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant Gracious God, accept these gifts,
and with them our lives, to be used in your service;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B; Expansive Language version)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments,

they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

The Celebrant continues

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Francis and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Together Our Father, who art in heaven...
...for ever and ever. Amen.

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

AGNUS DEI, HYMNAL S166

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The elements are offered at the Communion Rail and may be received either kneeling or standing. Wine is received by intinction only. If you would like to receive a blessing only, simply cross your arms over your chest. After receiving Communion, if you would like personal prayers for yourself or others, members of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) will be available in the Chapel to pray with and for you.

PRAYER FOR THE SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (TO BE SAID BY ALL)

In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.
Together Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 300

1. Glory, love, and praise, and honor
for our food now bestowed
render we the Donor.
Bounteous God, we now confess thee:
God, who thus blessest us,
right it is to bless thee.
2. Thankful for our every blessing,
let us sing Christ the Spring,
never, never ceasing.

Source of all our gifts and graces,
Christ we own; Christ alone
calls for all our praises.

3. He dispels our sin and sadness,
life imparts, cheers our hearts,
fills with food and gladness.
Who himself for all hath given,
us he feeds, us he leads
to a feast in heaven.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Bernhard Schmid, 1520-92

Gagliarda

We Welcome You

A WARM WELCOME to all and, if you are a visitor, we encourage you to make yourself known to your fellow worshippers and to our St. Francis clergy. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card and hand it to an usher or one of the clergy, or place it in the offering basket. We would love to hear from you; and plan to join us in the Parish Hall following the service for a cup of coffee.

Easter Flowers

We will be taking your requests for Easter Flowers following the service this morning. Just visit the table in the Parish Hall to place your order. (During the week Easter Flower forms are available in the Parish Of-

fice.) Flowers may be given as memorials or thanksgivings; a \$35 donation is appreciated.

Wednesday Program during Lent "JOURNEY WITH JESUS THROUGH LENT."

This year we will not have speakers but, instead, using the Lenten Gospel stories, we will begin each night following the journey of Jesus geographically. Then we will entertain you and invite your participation through skits, trivia, and table discussion.

There's one program remaining in the series: The raising of Lazarus.

Remember that the evening begins with STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 5 PM (led by a Parish group) followed by a scrumptious SAT-prepared soup and salad supper (home-made—yum!) about 5:30.

Taizé Service

Prayer in the spirit of the Taizé Community is a meditative form of common prayer. Gathered in the presence of Christ, we sing uncomplicated, repetitive songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through this beauty of simplicity. Please join with your voices in the Chapel on Wednesday, April 1, at 6 PM.

Loving Our Neighbors

Prayer is a good way to show love for our neighbors. Everyone can use prayers and it is what we are called to do. During the Lenten Season please pray for the young men of Camp Genesis by name. They are: Daniel, 15; Kolten, 9; Linkin, 9; Oscar, 15; Killian, 14; Gavin, 15 and Levi, 13, Thank you for your prayers.

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 10a	Handbells, Loft
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Cpl
Wednesday, 10a	DOK, Vulliamy Room
Wednesday, 10a	Easter Baskets
Wednesday, 5p	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday, 5:30p	Lenten Soup Supper
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft

Prison Ministry

We have an updated total for the transportation fund. Thank you all. The new total is \$6,732. AMAZING!

Prayer Chain

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

Centering Prayer

The St. Francis Centering Prayer Group meets off-campus via Zoom; if you would

like to know more about the group and how to participate, contact Sophie Luffman at s.luffman@icloud.com or 520-262-3876.

Prayer Requests

Remembering those in need of our prayers: Kelly Davis, Delilah Wegrzyn, Jean Schwafel, Jim Ravenelle, Bob Hutson, Linda Hutson, Jerry Lounsberry, Bonnie Haifley, Eva Jenkins, Isaac Garcia, Tomi Adams, Stephen North, Connie Nord, Paul Deysenroth, Elaine Deysenroth, Clark Adams, Ken Mattson, Gary Bates, Lee Parks, the Salinas-Cook Household, Joyce Davison, Pat Ryan. Pray for those who have died, remembering especially Patricia Rodemeyer.

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley, Arizona 85614
520-625-1370

www.stfrancisgvaz.org

www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, *Bishop*
The Rev. Daniel J. Messier, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Mike Kuebler, *Deacon*
Glenn Matto, *Verger*
Gerald Near, *Director of Music,*
Parish Communications
Deborah Harby, *Parish Administrator,*
Finance Officer
Megan McAllister, *Junior Finance Officer*
Gary LaBarre, *Senior Warden*
Mark Stril, *Junior Warden*
J. Michael Case, *Organist*
Sophia Witte, *Handbell Ensemble Director*
Matthew Harby, *Lead Sexton*
Nathaniel Martinez, *Sexton*

«Additional Announcements»

News from SAT

Our new year is here, and the Social Activities Team has lots of things on our calendar for 2026. We hope you'll be able to join us.

If you'd like to help out with any of our activities, contact Tisha Stril at tishastril@gmail.com. Your Social Activities Team looks forward to seeing you all.

Needed: Parishioners With Personnel/Human Relations Experience

The Vestry is looking for three or four folks to serve on the Personnel Standing Committee established in the St. Francis bylaws. The committee meets as necessary to oversee personnel matters and ensure compliance with St. Francis and diocesan personnel policies. If you are interested, please talk with Fr. Dan. *Lou Terry, Clerk of Vestry*

From Your Parish Treasurer

Now that the largest majority of ESTIMATES OF GIVING have been received, I would like to share the success of the Stewardship Campaign for the 2026 Budget year. We received 119 Estimates of Giving at an average of \$3,004 per estimate. This is the highest number of estimates since 2022 and is also the highest average. 35% of those estimates were increased from last year. What a wonderful testament to the love and commitment of St. Francis in the Valley. I sincerely thank each of you who provided your Estimate of Giving, as it is very helpful when planning for the coming year. I also thank those of you who generously support St. Francis but without providing your Estimate of Giving, as your contributions are equally as important. Great progress has been made toward allevi-

ating the deficits we have been experiencing over the past several years.

More from Your Treasurer

As Fr. Dan announced at the March 15 Sunday Service, an overview of the current financial activity will be provided on a monthly basis. Following is a summary of the January and February activity.

Average January Sunday Attendance :147

Average February Sunday Attendance:180
(Totals include the Saturday Contemporary Service)

	INCOME	EXPENSE
January 2026	\$123,804	\$84,249
February 2026	\$69,720	\$56,730
BUDGET 2026	\$658,614	\$655,696

These numbers exclude all Capital Project Income and Expense.

Please note: In January the income includes the annual Trust allocation and the expense includes the property insurance payment. These were both high value items.

In the spirit of "transparency," I would like to share with you that the Diocesan Assessment on the Trust contribution for 2025 was not forwarded to the Diocese. Therefore, a payment of \$18,550 will be made in 2026. This was not discovered until after finalization/approval of the 2026 Budget and will, therefore, create a loss from Budget for 2026. Prayerfully, through the generosity of our parish family, we will be able to offset this additional expense.

Feel free to contact me at treasurer@stfranciscgvaz.org with questions.

Gloria Cadwalader, Parish Treasurer

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for February, March, and April 2026, are now available in the Parish Office, Narthex, and Parish Hall.

Music Notes

Our Gradual Hymn this morning is one of the great collaborations of text and music, and one that should be better known than it is. The words are by English poet Robert Bridges, *Poet Laureate* from 1913 until his death in 1930. The music of Hymn 665 is by Herbert Howells (1892-1983), one of the twentieth century's greatest composers of sacred music. Howells named his tune 'Michael,' after his son who died of polio at age nine.

The organ Prelude played this morning was written to be performed at the memorial service for beloved St. Francis parishioner Madeline Williams. Madeline served for many years as Parish Administrator and organist for the 8 o'clock service (when we had one). Madeline and I had a wonderful and, sometimes, somewhat contentious (in the best sense) relationship. She was fond of the old habit of playing three 'dings' on the organ chimes stop at the end of a service. I took delight in threatening to disconnect the chimes the next time she dinged, although I had no idea how to disable the stop (which I think she knew). The piece I wrote for her memorial is based on her favorite spiritual *Deep River*; it brings to mind one of the greatest of great ladies I have known, as well as one of her sentimental habits. *Gerald*