



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. 62, No. 2

March/April 2025

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

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Schedule 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 5
Ash Wednesday Liturgy, 7 PM

PALM SUNDAY, April 13
The Palm Sunday Liturgy, 9 AM
TAIZÉ SERVICE, 4 PM (CHAPEL)

Monday in Holy Week, April 14
Quiet prayer and devotion,
9 AM until NOON, Chapel

Tuesday in Holy Week, April 15
Quiet prayer and devotion,
9 AM until NOON, Chapel

Wednesday in Holy Week,
April 16
Holy Eucharist at 9 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 17
**THE LITURGY FOR
MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7 PM**

MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH
8 PM until NOON on Friday

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18
THE GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY
at NOON

HOLY SATURDAY, April 19, 7 PM
THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Sunday, April 20, 9 AM
EASTER DAY
Festive Eucharist

Words From Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent begins March 5 with ASH WEDNESDAY. We offer several options for worship on Ash Wednesday beginning with a service at 9 AM in the Chapel. You will receive the Imposition of Ashes and prayers for healing. A second service will be held at 7 PM in the Church.

If neither time works for you, we will have ASHES TO GO in front of the church from 11 AM until 1 PM, and from 4 to 6 PM. Just drive up the semi-circle driveway for a prayer and the Imposition of Ashes.

Lent is a special time in the church. It is much more than a time to give up chocolate or other activities. It is a six-week period when we are called to seek God's love, grace and forgiveness. Lent is a time of reflection and prayer to help us refocus and realign our lives to Jesus as we walk the path of discipleship and the Way of the Cross.

Is there something you have wanted to do to deepen your spiritual life but never seem to have the time? Lent seeks to draw you to a new beginning by encouraging you to put aside the busyness and focus on your spiritual needs.

Beginning Tuesday, March 11, at 10 AM in the Parish Hall, I will lead a six-week study using the Living Compass series. The theme this year looks at *The Fruit of the Spirit* that St. Paul speaks of in Galatians 5:22.

If Tuesday doesn't work for you, a smaller house study group will be held at Bobbi Tucker's house beginning a week earlier on Thursday, March 6, at 1 PM. Please speak to me or Bobbi for the address.

As of the writing of this article, I am also trying to set up a study group at La Joya at La Posada. More information to come.

The Lenten Supper and Speaker series begins on Wednesday

continued next page

Words From Warren, continued

day March 12. There will be no cost for the suppers to allow more people to attend. Instead, there will be a freewill offering each night. Each night begins with THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 5 PM. Soup and Salad at 5:30 PM, and the speaker presentation or lecture at 6:15 PM.

The schedule of topics and speakers are:

- March 12: Practicing Lent when giving up chocolate isn't enough! Deacon Becky Williamson
- March 19: "What Can Brown Do for You? The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory and Religious Life in the Episcopal Church"; Brother David Benedict Hedges, Rector at St. Michael and All Angels, Tucson.
- March 26: Crossroads Mission and its ministry; Jason Gonzales
- April 2: Open Discussion with Bishop Jennifer Reddall
- April 9: Camp Genesis at Chapel Rock Children's Ministry; Deacon Kim Crecca
- April 16: Seder Supper

The Lenten and Holy Week schedule is listed on the left side of the front page of this Newsletter. I hope you will take time to join a study or attend some of the upcoming Lenten suppers and Holy Week services.

Lent is your opportunity to seek God in a faithful and intentional way. If you want to talk about your spiritual journey during Lent or just want to have a cup of coffee and chat, please call or email me and we will get together.

May the seasons of Lent and Easter be times of nourishment, spiritual enrichment and blessings.

Fr. Warren

With Easter so late this year, April 20, some of you will already be back north and will miss our Holy Week and Easter services. We will miss you!

Franciscan Focus

I think it's a good reminder for us in the Lenten season to review our Franciscan values and ask ourselves how we are doing as a congregation and as individuals to live into the example of our patron saint. Here they are. *Fr. Tom Neyland*

* Peace & Justice

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Published bi-monthly

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Bishop

THE VERY REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

The Rev. Linda Hutson

Deacon

Glenn Matto

Vergar

THE VESTRY

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Jim Ratley, Junior Warden

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Bill Miller, Glenn Matto, Rena Robbins,

Andrea Paredes, Bobbi Tucker,

Phil Vande-Riet, Alice Walker

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Handbell Ensemble Director

Matthew Harby

Lead Sexton

*The mission of St. Francis in the Valley,
Green Valley, is to live as Christ's heart and hands
in the world.*

We strive to be a community that understands, as did Francis and Clare, that justice is a precondition of peace and that human justice can be transformed by divine justice. We commit to serve as instruments of peace and justice to one another by showing reverence for all persons, by working together for the common good, and by bearing the burdens of those who suffer.

** Care for Creation (Service)*

We recognize that Christ is particularly present in the least of our brothers and sisters, and especially among the poor, the marginalized and the disenfranchised. As Francis states in his Cantic of the Sun, we affirm a deep kinship bond that exists within all creation. Francis' words remind us, that for humans to flourish, we must be attentive caretakers of the water that we drink, the air that we breathe, and the soil from which our food grows.

** Compassion*

Compassion for all people underlied everything that Francis did in this world and has consequently been cited as the most essential Franciscan value. In that spirit, we endeavor to open our hearts and seek to form caring relationships by promoting empathy and forgiveness. We strive to build up all of God's people everywhere, to bring reconciliation, and to act as instruments of solace.

** Spirituality*

Francis envisioned spirituality as following Christ based on the Gospels. He sought union with God as Paul described it: "It is no longer I who live, it is Christ who lives in me." In so doing, Francis saw, in Bonaventure's words, that "...all things are transformed in Christ since in the fullness of his nature he embraces every piece of creation."

Following the example of Francis, we seek spirituality by lifting up one another in our personal and communal prayers, meditation and contemplation, and in our rites and rituals, thus opening our hearts, mind and soul to the God's presence. ✠

Green Team

▶ Mark your calendars - March 12, Thursday, at 10 AM. Randy Peterson from Imago Dei will be in the parish hall to discuss Environmental Education at the school and how St. Francis can be actively involved.

▶ March 22, Saturday, at 9:45 AM. Students from Imago Dei will assist with tree and flower planting preparation. They will also tour Desert Meadows and return for lunch at the church. Funds are needed to buy two trees and mulch. Your donations will be appreciated. A basket will be at the Green Team table. The flowers are being donated. Sandy Eckstein, Imago Dei board member and the Green Team are coordinating the lunch. This is a great outreach for the Parish and also the kids. Hopefully, parishioners will be available to welcome the students and thank them for their help.

▶ Creation Care Sunday - May 4. Details ASAP

▶ Blessed Tomorrow - Seven Denominations have created a partnership to address environmental concerns. The Green Team is hoping to sign up 25 or more parishioners to attend the seminar on line or in small groups. A stipend will be given to churches with 25 attendees. More information to come.

▶ A Green Team has been started at the United Methodist Church. Susan has met with the new team and the leadership to offer assistance.

Jon, on behalf of the Green Team, has met with the Continental Vista Board to clarify recycling issues. The Green Team is growing into the community. Thank you! ✠

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharistic celebrations are scheduled for March 8 and April 12 at 4 PM in the Chapel.

Prayer Chain

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

Senior Warden's Thoughts

We are called the body of Christ, and we have incorporated that into our parish statement "to be the heart and hands of Christ to the world". You might want to look up 1 Corinthians 14 ff where it speaks of the various and varied members of the body. When I look at our congregation, I see the many different parts of the body, functioning as one, but using many different gifts and talents. As in most parishes, some play many parts, while others either don't know what part they could play, or they have taken a sabbatical. What possibilities would be created if ALL of us discovered and shared the gift that has been given to us, and put that gift to use for the entire body! I know, we are older, tire easily, have our physical limitations, but we are alive. And what gives life meaning is to serve, even if it is in the smallest way. Think about it.

Gary LaBarre, Senior Warden

Social Activities Team

MARCH/APRIL ACTIVITIES

SHROVE TUESDAY MARDI GRAS PARTY

Come join us for our Mardi Gras Party on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, at 5 PM. There will be delicious New Orleans-themed foods for dinner and some Mardi Gras fun to follow. Think about donning a Mardi Gras mask, colored beads and a costume (optional). There will be a contest for the best costume. The cost is a free-will donation. Sign-ups have begun after church in the Parish Hall or in the Parish Office during the week. ✿

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Our traditional Lenten Soup Suppers will begin Wednesday, March 12, with Stations of the Cross at 5 PM and dinner at 5:30. The series will continue on March 19, 26, and April 2 and 9. We begin with a presentation by Deacon Becky Williamson on Spirituality and Prayer. There is no charge for the dinner, just a donation as you are able. Signups are already underway in the Parish Hall.

Our traditional Family Seder will be held on Wednesday, April 16, at 4:30 PM. Fr. Warren will lead a traditional Jewish Seder, and a delicious family dinner will follow. The cost will be a free will donation.

Here's a sneak peek into May: a Ladies Tea on Saturday, May 17, at 3 PM. More to come, but share the date with your friends, Ladies. Remember, friends are always welcome to attend our events.

If you'd like to help out with any of our activities, contact Tisha Stril at tishastril@gmail.com or Julie Reppenhagen at jrepp@snet.net. Your Social Activities Team looks forward to seeing you all. Happy Spring! ✿

Heart & Hands

How do you feel about outreach—support for those who are marginalized in our community—and its importance for St. Francis?

Your recent gift of \$4326 to those victims of the California wild fires announces your Christianity in action. St. Francis HEART AND HANDS group carries out this mission of giving all year long, not just in crisis time, but all year. Among others we support the NOGALES CROSSROADS MISSION, the Salvation Army teens, our local food banks, Green Valley Assistance and Imago Dei Middle School. Your support of incarcerated women and their families and support at the border. are both multi-faceted projects

Each member of this team leads a project and comes together to report on progress, seek advice and ask for help. Last budget year the Heart and Hands group was able to give over \$25,000 in gifts to 23 organizations in our community and to the greater Episcopal Church. It is a responsibility we take seriously and for which we are grateful.

HEART AND HANDS needs your support in another way. We need a leader for this group of amazing mission-driven women in 2026. Think about it. Ask questions of anyone in the group. Sit in on a meeting the third Monday of the month at 10 o'clock. You will be welcome. ✿

Lenten Home Communion

We are bringing back Lenten Home Communions, where a small group will gather weekly at someone's home for communion and a shared supper. Home Communion will be held Thursday evenings at 6 pm, starting March 13 and going through April 10. Signup sheets will be available in the Parish Hall during coffee hour. We ask that you sign up for only one to start with to give everyone an opportunity, but if slots are open close to the date, you may fill that opening. ✝

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. Recommended reading: OPEN HEART OPEN MIND by Thomas Keating.

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: James Luffman at (520) 425-1072 or Sophie Luffman at (520)262-3876. We hope you will come pray with us.

Boutique News

What is unique, convenient to use, colorful, located in a friendly, loving space and serves those in need in the Green Valley community? Give up? Why, it's St. Francis' Boutique! Located right off the Parish Hall, the Boutique is open every Sunday following the 9 o'clock service, September through May and offers unique merchandise at discount prices. There are items on consignment made by our very own talented parishioners such as crosses, jewelry, pottery, paintings, knitted pieces, greeting cards, wood cuttings and St. Francis notecards. There are seasonal gifts to help you prepare for all the holidays and it's such an easy, convenient way to shop while enjoying your cup of coffee after Church. But wait! How does this easy shopping help the needy in Green Valley? It is because the Boutique serves as one of St. Francis' ministries, with all Boutique profits going directly to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. It's a total win/win deal when you shop in the Boutique. Come in and take a look; you're going to enjoy seeing unique items and you'll love the prices. Boutique managers/volunteers are Wendy Hill, Jylene Wright, Annette Leibovitch, Jill Mulligan, and Carolyn Moorehead. *Jylene Wright*

Parish Offices will be closed...

Monday in Easter Week

Monday, 21 April



Grief Support Group

St. Francis will be sponsoring another Grief Support Group in May 2025. This group is non-denominational and is open to anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one. It will be facilitated by Jeanie North, BSN, MC who has been a bereavement counselor for more than thirty years.

Session Dates: Tuesday, May 6, Tuesday, May 13, Tuesday, May 20, Tuesday, May 27, and Tuesday, June 3. The group will meet in the St. Francis room from 1:30 - 3:30 PM.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lloyd Schultz
- 2 Charles Covert
- 3 Norman Nelson
- 7 Rolando Altamirano
- 7 Stu Findley
- 9 Frank Anderson
- 9 Victor Levine
- 10 George Anderson
- 10 Rena Robbins
- 10 Don Ward
- 11 Loren Thompson
- 11 Margaret Thompson
- 12 Larry Bear
- 12 Steve Burton
- 12 Leon Lies
- 12 Penny Philip
- 17 Norma Cornelison
- 19 Michael Wilson
- 22 Linda Hornyan
- 22 Bill Miller
- 22 Laura Thomas
- 22 Jylene Wright
- 23 Judith Creech
- 24 Sib Barratt
- 24 Patricia McCarthy
- 25 Jan Travis
- 26 Annette Leibovitch
- 26 Mark Stril
- 28 Judy Davis
- 28 Zillah Symonds
- 28 Marge Wylly
- 29 Leslie Bindschadler
- 29 George Latch
- 30 Kenneth Jakubiak

March ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Stephen & Nancy Secaur
- 17 Frank & Nancy Davidson
- 24 David & Carol Vleck
- 29 Kenneth & Stephanie Huszar

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Kathleen Chidester
- 5 Valerie Von Guttenberg
- 6 David Vleck
- 7 Mary Levine
- 7 Daniel Messier

- 8 Robert Reieron
- 10 Jack Bundy
- 11 Patricia Schultz
- 11 Greg Smith
- 13 Sherry Evans
- 13 Christina Hornyan
- 15 Alida King
- 15 Sue Spiewak
- 20 Carolyn Andersen
- 23 Alice Haynes
- 24 William McGibbon
- 25 Carol Gaydos
- 27 Fred Keller
- 28 Jill Foerster
- 28 Ann Gritman

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Eric & Shirley Gough
- 23 Tom & Charlotte Neyland
- 27 Penny Philip & Michael Wilson
- 30 Joseph & Patricia McCarthy



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

Altar Guild: meetings called as necessary

Border Ministry: meetings 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

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

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

Saint 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: 2nd 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*) 520-625-1370.

2025 Parish Statistics

NEW MEMBERS BY
CONFIRMATION OR
RECEPTION

○

TRANSFERS IN

○

TRANSFERS OUT

○

DEATHS

○



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.

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for February, March, and April 2025 are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall.

La Joya Communion Service

A reminder to all residents of La Posada that we offer a weekly Service in the Celebration Room at La Joya. Gary LaBarre and Sophia Witte lead a weekly service of communion from the reserved sacrament. One of the clergy leads a service of Holy Eucharist once a month, usually the second Wednesday. You are welcome to attend even if you're not a La Posada resident.

Ongoing Need

We are always looking for more volunteers: we need crucifers (to carry the Processional Cross before the Choir and Altar Party during the Opening Hymn), servers (to assist at the High Altar in various ways during the service), Altar Guild members (to perform those indispensable tasks of preparation for the Eucharistic Liturgy each time it is celebrated), ushers and greeters (to welcome and assist worshippers at services), and soundboard technicians (to make things audible). If you lack experience in these areas of service, fear not! We are here to train you. Let Fr. Warren know you're available to assist. ✝

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 the Parish Office at 520-625-1370 and let Deborah know of your interest. Flower donation is \$35.

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.

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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