



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. 63, No. 2

March/April 2026

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

Holy Week & Easter Schedule 2026

PALM SUNDAY, March 29

The Palm Sunday Liturgy, 9 AM

Monday in Holy Week, March 30

Quiet prayer and devotion,
9 AM until NOON, Chapel

Tuesday in Holy Week, March 31

Quiet prayer and devotion,
9 AM until NOON, Chapel

**Wednesday in Holy Week,
April 1**

Holy Eucharist at 9 AM
Taizé Service, 5 PM (Chapel)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2

**THE LITURGY FOR
MAUNDY THURSDAY, 6 PM**

MAUNDY THURSDAY WATCH

7 PM until NOON on Friday

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3

THE GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY
at NOON

HOLY SATURDAY, April 4, 6 PM

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Sunday, April 5, 9 AM

EASTER DAY
Festive Eucharist

From our Interim Rector...

As I write this, we are at the beginning of the Season of Lent. I always chuckle when people start talking about what to give up for Lent. Usually, it's things like chocolate or ice cream, or sweets in general, or other food indulgences. Maybe it's other things besides food, but it's not something that makes a difference in how we strengthen our relationships with God and one another. I've always encouraged people to do something extra during Lent instead of giving up something. Get involved in an outreach or a volunteer program. Perform one (extra?) act of kindness a day. Maybe keep a gratitude journal of all the things you're grateful for and take on an attitude of gratefulness. Maybe even take on some positive, life-giving habits, like making sure to spend more time with family either in person or by phone, reducing time spent on social media, or intentionally eating healthier.

I was struck, however, by Pope Leo's take on what to abstain from or fast from during Lent. Pope Leo called for a "fast from words," and "disarming language that wounds," and instead encouraging the use of speech for peace rather than slandering or judging others.

Both ways I've outlined—adding something and the admonition from Pope Leo—are true ways to strengthen our relationship with God and one another.

Lent is meant to be a time of renewal based on reflection and prayer. It's a time to sweep away the dust and dirt in our lives; to wipe away the cobwebs that have found their way into our daily living. Having engaged this process, we can then celebrate Easter with a renewed faith and a more loving heart as we reflect better the love of Christ to those we meet every day.

But before we get to Easter, we have the opportunity to walk the last days of Jesus' earthly journey during Holy Week. Holy week is a very special, solemn experience that helps us to understand better the love God has for us in the Easter message.

continued next page

From our Interim Rector, continued

I encourage your participation in all the Services during Holy Week as a way of moving closer to Jesus the Christ. I am reminded of the traditional Gospel hymn, "Just a closer walk with thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea, Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be." Look up the rest of the lyrics, they're very moving. Many blessings,



News from SAT

March and April bring us Lent and Easter; please join us for our wonderful events during this Holy Season.

For the entire Lenten season we will be serving our Wednesday night Soup Suppers followed by the special series "Journey With Jesus Through Lent." Stations of the Cross will begin at 5 PM followed by homemade soup and salad beginning about 5:30 PM followed by the program. 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.

Week 1: Jesus' Baptism and temptations in the wilderness. Week 2: The Wedding at Cana. Week 3: The feeding of the 5,000. Week 4: The Samaritan woman at the well. Week 5: The raising of Lazarus.

Then we will entertain you and invite your participation through skits, trivia, and table discussion. The dates are February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. Mark your calendars. The cost is \$6 per supper or \$25 for all 5 suppers.

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, before the 6 PM service, we will be serving an Agape Meal which is a table filled with Mediterranean foods served during Christ's time. Come and explore what foods we would have savored if we were living then. The service follows at 6 PM.

And just peeking into May, we will be serving our Woman's Tea on Saturday, May 16, at 3 PM in the Parish Hall. Find your teacup and plan to bring a friend or two.

Sign-ups for these events can be done after church at the Sign-up Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays and in the Parish Office during the week. Any updates will
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Published bi-monthly

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600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

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

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THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL, D.D.

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

Vergger

THE VESTRY

Gary LaBarre, Senior Warden

Mark Stril, Junior Warden

Larry Howell, Joyce Kaminski,

Bill Miller, Lee Parks, Rena Robbins,

Andrea Paredes, Bobbi Tucker,

Phil Vande-Riet, Alice Walker

ex officio: Gloria Cadwalader, Treasurer

Lou Terry, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Deborah Harby

Parish Administrator

Financial Officer

Gerald Near

Communications

Director of Music

Megan McAllister

Junior Financial Officer

J. Michael Case

Organist

Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

Matthew Harby

Lead Sexton

Nathaniel Martinez

Sexton

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

appear in the News from the Pews.

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. Wishing you a Joyous Easter Season. ✝

Senior Warden's Musings

We think of Lent as giving up something to show our contrition. Tom Neyland shared the following with our Men's Group, and it makes a lot more sense, since it changes us and those we touch. Instead of giving up something, we take on something.

1. Random Acts of Kindness: Perform small acts like letting someone merge in traffic, holding doors for others, or surprise gifts.
2. Volunteer: Donate time to local organizations, such as food banks, animal shelters or community centers.
3. Environmental Efforts: Pick up trash, plant trees, or participate in community cleanups.
4. Support neighbors: Offer help with yard work, grocery shopping or errands for those in need.
5. Compliment strangers: Brighten someone's day with genuine praise or appreciation.
6. Donate Uncommon Items: Contribute to food banks or charities with items like high quality food, or other essentials.
7. Book Sharing: Leave books in public spaces with a note, spreading knowledge and joy.
8. Donate money or resources to organizations that support causes you care about.
9. Personal Development: Engage in activities like journaling, prayer, or creative pursuits that foster personal growth and positivity.
10. Community Engagement: Participate in local events, join community groups, or attend town hall meetings to make your voice heard. And at the end of Lent, keep on going.

Gary LaBarre, Senior Warden

Parish Offices will be closed...

Monday in Easter Week

April 6

Audio/Visual News

The "Listen System" (a hearing-assist system for those not using the "Loop" technology) has been relocated from the Church to the Parish Hall. The demand for hearing assistance in the Parish Hall for classes and events is far greater than the demand in the church.

The system can accommodate up to (4) individuals at the same time and can be initiated by the event leaders. Note: If you are an event leader, please contact Tom Cadwalader (231-290-0336) or Gloria Cadwalader (231-290-0436) for a "walk-through" of the system and its operating procedure. ✝

Boutique Update

St. Francis' Talents Unlimited Boutique is a gift shop offering beautiful unique merchandise at discount prices, open every Sunday after the 9 o'clock service, September through May. It is a vital ministry for St. Francis, as all profits go directly to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which is used to assist the needy in the Green Valley community. The Boutique can only exist with parishioner's support throughout the year, and 2025 was a very good year—BRAVO St. Francis parishioners! Thanks to your shopping with us, the Boutique was able to give a four thousand dollar check to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Managers/Volunteers of the Boutique are Wendy Hill, Jylene Wright, Jill Mulligan, and Carolyn Moorehead. We all look forward to serving you in 2026. *Jylene Wright*

Prayer Chain

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

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharistic celebrations are scheduled for March 14 and April 11 at 4 PM in the Chapel.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Charles Covert
- 7 – Rolando Altamirano
- 7 – Stuart Findley
- 9 – Frank Andersen
- 10 – George Anderson
- 10 – Rena Robbins
- 10 – Don Ward
- 11 – Loren Thompsen
- 11 – Margaret Thompson
- 12 – Steve Burton
- 12 – Penny Philip
- 19 – Michael Wilson
- 22 – Linda Hornyan
- 22 – William Miller
- 22 – Laura Thomas
- 22 – Jylene Wright
- 23 – Judith Creech
- 24 – Sib Barratt
- 24 – Joe Choquette
- 24 – Patricia McCarthy
- 25 – Jan Travis
- 26 – Mark Stril
- 28 – Nancy Choquette
- 28 – Judy Davis
- 29 – Leslie Bindschadler

March ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 – Cheryl & Keith Green
- 17 – Frank & Nancy Davidson
- 24 – David & Carol Vleck

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 La-Barre 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. ❀

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Judith Allen
- 2 – James Harris
- 3 – Kathleen Chidester
- 6 – Shirley Bourdeau
- 6 – David Vleck
- 7 – Mary Levine
- 8 – Robert Reiersen
- 10 – Jack Bundy
- 11 – Greg Smith
- 13 – Sherry Evans
- 13 – Christina Hornyan
- 15 – Alida King
- 15 – Sue Spiewak
- 20 – Carolyn Andersen
- 20 – Cheryl Green
- 21 – Jennifer Isiogu
- 21 – Jill Mulligan
- 23 – Alice Haynes
- 24 – William McGibbon
- 25 – Carol Gaydos
- 28 – Jill Foerster
- 28 – Ann Gritman

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 – Craig & Tommy Reid
- 21 – Eric & Shirley Gough
- 23 – Tom & Charlotte Neyland
- 27 – Penny Philip & Michael Wilson
- 30 – Joseph & Patricia McCarthy

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. ❀

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

Loving Our Neighbors: 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.

A Note From Your Treasurer

Given that we have many ministries supporting both our church community and various outreach opportunities, I would like to clarify how cash receipts through methods other than the collection plate should be handled. It is essential to be transparent in all financial activities, accurately representing our costs and outgoing support. Example: Let's say the A/V team has a special collection at coffee hour for an additional camera for our live stream. The A/V leader purchases the camera with the cash. Some time later, I, a contributor, ask the church for proof that the collection was used for the correct purpose: not on record. Additionally, the actual cost of the camera is not reflected in our "Live Streaming" expenses: no transparency. The net is that all money collected should be forwarded to the finance office, not used for direct expenses or direct support. Upon receipt, the finance office will issue a check for the specified purpose. Additionally, if there are expenses associated with the particular activity generating the income, they can be paid either by our finance office or can be paid out of pocket, and the receipt forwarded to the finance office for reimbursement. Not only does this ensure transparency, it also documents that the contributions given by individuals actually go for the intended purpose. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to give me a call or email. And, thank you to all involved in the many ministries that support our Parish life and the many outreach opportunities—You are awesome! (treasurer@stfrancisgvaz.org /231-290-0436) ✠

2026 Parish Statistics

BAPTISMS

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TRANSFERS IN

Douglas Hamilton
Orji & Jennifer Isiogu

TRANSFERS OUT

0

DEATHS

Fred Keller
Anne Gillespie
Jack Davis
Tom Moorehead

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for February, March, and April 2026 are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall.



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
600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley AZ 85614

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