



# 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. 58, No. 3

March 2021

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

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*From Fr. Warren . . .*

Dear Friends,

Growing up in the 1960's and '70's, I was drawn to the TV every time there was a launch of a rocket into space. Like many of you, I watched Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon, the first takeoff and landing of a space shuttle, the building of the International Space Station, and the landing of the first Mars Rover.

As I write this March article, I just watched the successful landing of the newest Nasa Mars Space Rover called Perseverance. I felt like a kid again as they counted down the entry into the Mars atmosphere and I felt the tension experienced by the engineers and scientists as they waited for the landing—the deployment of the parachute, the separation of the lander, and then the landing itself. Flying at nearly 12,000 MPH there wasn't any margin for error!

It is one thing to look up at the stars and the planets, it is another thing to develop a craft to leave this planet and land on another world. The creative power given to humankind is endless. God has given us the ability to make science fiction become reality.

The ability to bring an idea to life takes trial and error. Half the attempts to land on Mars ended in failure, but it takes perseverance, the name of the new rover, to achieve success. So does faith. Once we accept Jesus into our lives, the work begins.

Faith is like the space program. It takes strength and perseverance. We all have ideas about faith, Christ, God and the universe, but incorporating faith into our lives takes trial and error. We have the amazing moments, the mountain top experiences that make us feel close to God. We also have times when we hit crossroads and dead-ends, many times caused by situations beyond our control. Do we give up? Turn around? Or do we seek God for direction and strength?

We are now on our Lenten journey that may take us up the mountain or down into the deep valleys. Lent calls us to a time of introspection, prayer, repentance, devotions and worship. Reconciliation with God and friends and family are also part of our Lenten practices. But the work of Lent, like life itself, takes perseverance and time. You may discover that Lent is only the beginning of a new direction in your life of faith or relationships with others. Ask God to help move you forward or to lift you up.

I pray you have a Holy Lent. Use this time of Lent as a time to catch your breath. Take time to pray and to reflect on God's Word; go for a walk and explore God's creation; come to our services or watch online. Whatever you choose to do, use Lent as a special time for you.

Lenten Blessings,

*Fr. Warren*

*Living Well  
Through Lent 2021*

**LISTENING WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL,  
STRENGTH, AND MIND**

Join Fr. Warren for the remaining classes in the series running through March 31.

Sessions remaining...

- SESSION THREE     *The Third Week in Lent*  
Listening to our neighbor
- SESSION FOUR     *The Fourth Week in Lent*  
Listening as an act of mercy and love
- SESSION FIVE     *The Fifth Week in Lent*  
Listening in the midst of change
- SESSION SIX       *Holy Week*  
Listening with all our heart, soul,  
strength and mind

Let Fr. Warren know of your interest via email at [frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org)

*Embodied  
Bible Study*

On January 4 Fr. Nelson began an “Embodied Bible Study” group offered weekly through Zoom.

Rooted in practices from “Embodied Theology,” the flow of the study involves reading the past week’s Sunday readings, particularly the Gospel, and then applying interpretations of the text. We read various translations and Biblical interpretations and then enter some time for reflection. As you are comfortable, we explore how your experiences, identities, and personal narratives influence your relationship to the reading and how you engage with it.

You don’t need to be a Biblical scholar to understand the Bible. In fact, this group will help to empower you to interpret and digest scripture for your daily lives.

Please email Fr. Nelson directly to register at [nelson@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:nelson@stfranciscgvaz.org)

The study is offered Mondays on ZOOM at 11 AM and runs through April 5, 2021.

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(520) 625-1370 – [www.stfranciscgvaz.org](http://www.stfranciscgvaz.org)  
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**THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL,**  
Bishop

**THE REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH**  
Rector

**The Rev. Nelson Mendoza**  
Curate

**The Rev. Becky Williamson**  
Deacon

**THE VESTRY**

Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden;  
Kristi Menix, Junior Warden;  
Mary Beth Bates, Bill Baucom, Barbara Bundy,  
Sandy Eckstein, Janie Hessong, Helen Mullaly,  
Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Vincent Remillard,  
ex officio: Erik Ringkjob, Treasurer;  
Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Gerald Near**  
Parish Administrator

**Deborah Harby**  
Financial Officer

**Gerald Near**  
Director of Music

**J. Michael Case**  
Organist

**Sharlyn Matthews**  
Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

**Sophia Witte**  
Handbell Ensemble Director

**John Colip**  
Head Sexton

**Susan Whitney, Clyde Tardy**  
Assistant Sextons

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

*From Our Curate,  
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza*

CURIOUS ABOUT THE CURATE

It has been an intriguing time to begin my vocational ministry as you all have heard me mention a few times in the past. As I approach my 9 month mark with you all here at St. Francis, it has been a reminder of some of the great things we've been able to accomplish together in such a short amount of time. From Bible studies and focused theological conversations to facilitating both online and in-person worship, it has certainly been a whirlwind the past couple of months.

And yet, it has come to my understanding that many still don't understand what a "Curate" actually is at a church. In borrowing from Wikipedia, "In the Church of England today, 'curate' refers to priests (or, in the first year, transitional deacons) who are in their first post after ordination, and are completing their training (not unlike an apprenticeship). The technical term 'curate,' as found in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, meant the incumbent of a benefice, that is the person licensed by the diocesan bishop to the "cure of souls," who, depending on how the benefice income was raised and distributed, was a rector, a vicar, or a perpetual curate."

Specifically in our context, "In the Episcopal Church of the United States, the curacy may be a temporary place to continue training after ordination, similar to an internship, or it may be a permanent, subordinate position, more akin to a perpetual curate." So think of this as a residency that many new medical doctors participate in after their core studies of medical school.

As you all know, I graduated seminary in May of last year and just a few weeks later started my "curacy" here at St. Francis. It has been a wonderful time of learning, particularly during a pandemic, and I have been blessed with so many great interactions with each of you despite the obstacles of social distancing. While this has not been an ideal way to begin ministry, I have been grateful nonetheless to have my foundations start here in such a healthy congregation.

I look forward to future interactions and opportunities to do ministry with each of you during my time here at St. Francis. I hope you all feel that

even though I am a novice priest, I have a wealth of knowledge from various studies and experiences in my life. And most of all, my commitment to extending God's love to each of you is paramount in my responsibilities and my priestly role.

In God's peace,

*Nelson+*

*Praying on Nails*

During this Lenten season we're offering what may be a different sort of discipline for you to try. This past Sunday, after the service, a basket of nails was available for anyone who wanted to take one—but these are not just any nails; these are substantial 4" nails, big enough to grasp in your hand and wrap your fingers around—and pray on the nail.

Pray your petitions to God for yourself—what you want and feel you need; what you wish God would do for you; what purpose you want God to use you for today; what your fears are holding you back from doing; what causes you pain; what are your dreams; what are your frustrations.

Pray your intercessions for others—what you want God to do for family and friends; for healing of body, mind, or spirit; for the Church; for our nation and all its present divisions; for the world, especially in this pandemic; for the big issues like climate change, racial and economic injustice, food insecurity, and educational turmoil; and for those things you think are too small to bother God about.

Pray those things you want to confess to God—the indiscretions; the untruths and exaggerations; the malicious and destructive gossip; the blindness and hardness of heart you turn to others not like you; the lack of will to change, to become a more loving person concerned for the well-being of both yourself and others.

Pray your thanksgivings—for all that God has already done for you; for relationships that bring you joy; for the beauty of the natural world; for the Church; for having a comfortable home and food on the table; for having (even a small amount of) discretionary income that you can use for the benefit of those who have less.

And praise God in prayer—praise the One who has created all, sustains all, and has redeemed all.

Keep your nail close to hand, in your pocket or purse, and pray on your nail all through Lent. Then,

*Continued next page column 1*

on Good Friday, bring your nail with you to our church service. During the Veneration of the Cross, you may return your nail to the basket at the foot of the Cross, symbolically turning all those prayers over to Jesus. Unburden yourself by giving all those prayers over to the One who can shoulder them, who can show you the way forward through faith and trust and love.

For those of you who were not there in person at last Sunday's service, nails will be available at Saturday's communion-to-go drive through (or you can use any long nail you might already have in your home). We hope you will find this a meaningful practice during Lent, and that throughout the year you will feel more confident than ever in turning all your prayers over to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Judy*

The Rev. Judy Turberg

### *Making Reservations for Attendance at Services*

Reservations for seating at services are now being made—at least for the time being—through Parish Administrator Gerald Near. **PLEASE NOTE:** the deadline for reservations is Thursdays at 2 PM (Parish Offices are open from 8 AM until 2 PM, Monday through Thursday). Get in touch with Gerald (via email preferred) at [gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org). We cannot take reservations for multiple services, just the next service scheduled. If you do not have email, call the Parish Office (520-625-1370) to make your reservation (again, no later than Thursdays at 2 PM, please). If no one is available to take your call, please leave Gerald a message to let him know the date of the service you wish to attend, the number of seats you will need, and the name(s)—both first and last—of the worshippers. If space is not available, we will give you a call back.

### *Outreach*

Congratulations Franciscans. Not only have you provided 118 pounds of canned meat so far this month but also \$55 in cash to our local Food Bank. Let's see if we can make it 300 pounds. Bring your cans of tuna, chicken, Spam, hash, any canned meat, to the church during the week, when you pick up your wafers or when you come to Sunday services.

### *Senior Warden's Thoughts*

As I was sitting in our Courtyard during our Sunday worship service I was touched by how lucky we at St. Francis really are. We are blessed by those who came before us, to have a lovely space that has become our Pandemic worship space. We are blessed to have a dedicated Altar Guild who keep everything prepared, organized and ready to use in the distribution and worship services. Our gifts include our Readers and our Acolytes, who serve during our worship. Our Greeters and Ushers meet us and get us checked in and seated. Our choir has returned to glorify the Lord through music, led by a great musical director and talented organists. And of course, worship is led by our wonderful clergy. They help us see the wonders of our Lord and Savior and send us away feeling the warmth of his Love. And our hard working Sextons return to safely clean and put away everything after the service.

Our worship happens outside when other parts of the country are suffering from rain, ice and snow. Our worship is safe, where in other parts of the world it would not even be allowed. And our worship is joyful, even in a pandemic.

Think about how, even in the pandemic, we are blessed in so many ways. Hopefully, you will be moved to share with others the Joy that you have been given.

In Christ,

*Jullie Reppenhagen*, Senior Warden

### *Junior Warden's Notes*

I have oriented myself to my new role, responsibilities, and relationships as well as to the Church buildings, spaces, and projects and the grounds and its projects. Thanks goes to Father Warren, Julie Reppenhagen, former Junior Warden, John Colip, employee and Lead Sexton, and Craig Reid, volunteer landscape manager for facilitating this orientation.

A couple of building/space projects that were in progress have been completed. John Colip orchestrated these along with Vestry members and officers, clergy, church staff, Deb Harby, Financial Officer, and Gerald Near, Parish Administrator, employees Clyde Tardy and Sue Whitney, other Church Sextons, and, also, volunteer, Neal Hursh, who expertly handled the computer issues with furniture

moving in and out of offices, with the installation of new carpeting in five clergy and staff offices in the main office suite. The second building project entailed the replacement and painting of the weather-damaged, wood structure of the overhang outside the Gift Shop. Thank you, John Colip.

The grounds are cared for year round by Craig Reid, landscape manager, and volunteers Mitch Ghoca, Ann Tenpenney, Arliene Stremming, Alicia Baucom, and Gary La Barre, and, of course, the three sextons. Recent projects include putting new rock on the front grounds along La Cañada to prevent runoff erosion, removing all the cholla and cholla pods blown on the ground, and the use of pre-emergence to control a new crop of spring weeds. Also, when you drive by the Church on La Cañada, you will also see the removal of silt in one rocked-in area and the resetting of the rocks. Again, this is another endeavor to improve property appearance and prevent erosion.

A grounds work party is planned for March 2, Tuesday, 8:30-11:00 or whenever we finish. Box lunches will be provided and a few food surprises, too. Contact Kristi per email to join in and be sure to let us know if you want a box lunch with beverage. This is being advertised in News from the Pews the week of February 22.

Respectfully,  
*Kristi Menix*, Junior Warden  
kmenix18@gmail.com

### *Temporarily Closed*

The St. Francis' Boutique is now temporarily closed. There were no calls for appointments in January and at this point, it is believed that because of the pandemic, parishioners just are not comfortable coming in to shop.

We look forward to opening again and meeting your shopping needs with our unique items at reasonable prices! Thanks for remembering the Boutique and stay safe. *Jylene Wright*

### *How to Access Service Videos*

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

### *Centering Prayer Group*

The Centering Prayer Group is meeting once again, but on Zoom rather than in-person. Meetings include 25 minutes of silence followed by a short Lectio Divina and a few minutes for community reflection. If you would like to join in, get in touch with James or Sophie Luffman: James at [jmluffman@hotmail.com](mailto:jmluffman@hotmail.com) or Sophie at [sophieluffman@hotmail.com](mailto:sophieluffman@hotmail.com). They will be pleased to hear from you.

### *Prayer Chain*

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

### *Covenant Fund*

Thanks to the COVID pandemic we were not able this year to schedule our traditional Christmas Card Party, the annual event that raises money for the St. Francis Covenant Fund. The fund—administered by the Rector—was established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners.

The need is still with us, pandemics notwithstanding, and you can do your part to relieve the suffering by dropping off a check to Finance Officer Deborah Harby, or you can contribute online through the Parish website. The need this year is even greater, so please help if you can.

### *A Tentative Holy Week and Easter Schedule*

MONDAY in Holy Week

Morning Prayer, 9 AM (Zoom)

TUESDAY in Holy Week

Morning Prayer, 9 AM (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY in Holy Week

Morning Prayer, 9 AM (Zoom)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Courtyard service, 3 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Courtyard service, 10:30 AM

HOLY SATURDAY—The Great Vigil of Easter tentatively a zoom service, 7 PM

EASTER DAY

Courtyard service, 10:30 AM (if getting too warm, may be moved to 8 AM). As we get closer to Holy Week we will keep you informed through NEWS FROM THE PEWS and Sunday service leaflets.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Melinda Kleineweber
- 3 Norman Nelson
- 4 Ginny Arundell
- 4 Debbie Pennels
- 6 Willow House
- 6 Brooklyn House
- 7 Rolando Altamirano
- 7 Stu Findley
- 8 Bob Law
- 9 Frank Anderson
- 9 Victor Levine
- 10 George Anderson
- 10 Rena Robbins
- 10 Don Ward
- 11 Bob Bates
- 11 Christine Conley
- 11 Jack Ernest
- 11 Loren Thompsen
- 11 Margaret Thompson
- 12 Larry Bear
- 12 Leon Lies
- 12 Penny Philip
- 14 Ann Paulson
- 16 Beth-el Klein
- 17 Norma Cornelison
- 18 Dale Plante
- 18 Jennifer Symons
- 19 Michael Wilson
- 22 Linda Hornyan
- 22 Bill Miller
- 22 Vincent Remillard
- 22 Laura Thomas
- 22 Jylene Wright
- 22 Kristin Zimmerman
- 24 Sib Barratt
- 24 Patricia McCarthy
- 25 Jan Travis
- 26 Margaret Terrell
- 28 Rita Beil
- 28 Jeffrey Matto
- 28 Ramon Silva
- 28 Zillah Symonds
- 28 Marge Wyly
- 29 Leslie Bindschadler
- 29 George Latch
- 30 Kenneth Jakubiak
- 31 Neil Messick

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Lee & Norma Cornelison
- 12 Richard & Kaye Tinney
- 15 Stephen & Nancy Secaur

- 16 Ginny & Chris Arundell
- 23 Scott & Annie Whiteside
- 24 David & Carol Vleck
- 29 Kenneth & Stephanie Huszar

## St. Francis Parish Choir

The COVID 19 pandemic has been hard on choral groups—and especially on church choirs. The rather unfair sign hung on us as ‘super-spreaders,’ producing little more than fear, has brought many parish music programs to a standstill. In spite of all this a few of our members here at St. Francis are meeting to rehearse during the week in order to at least fortify congregational singing. All necessary precautions are observed: masks, distancing, etc. If you would like to join us, get in touch with Music Director Gerald Near through the Parish Office (625-1370) or via email at [gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org).

## 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.

## Offering Envelopes

If you have requested offering envelopes, they are here! Please pick up your envelopes on the bench just outside the Parish Office.

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



## Altar Flowers

Would you like to sponsor Altar flowers on a certain Sunday? Flowers can be given in loving memory of someone or in thanksgiving for persons or for a special date and occasion in your life that you wish to celebrate. Say it with flowers! Call the Parish Office or Carol Berg (520-373-5770) with your request. Donations are \$35.

## Our Parish History

While planning the celebration of St. Francis in the Valley's 50th anniversary many documents, pictures and memories were donated by the congregation. We would like to continue collecting these important documents in order to have a complete record of the development of the Parish. How can you help? There are many ways. See what you have to donate from your own collection of memories. This will include your personal thoughts, pictures of events, and your story with the Parish. There will be a container available Sundays mornings to receive your submissions. We need everyone's help in making this project a success. Thanks in advance, Joyce Davison ([jadglendale@gmail.com](mailto:jadglendale@gmail.com))



## 2021 Parish Statistics

### Transfers In

000

### New Members by Confirmation or Reception

000

### Transfers Out

000

### Deaths

Max Mayes  
Nancy Gardner  
Kathy Helgeson  
Vern Hughes

## Amazon Smile

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.

## Meeting Rooms are Open for Parish Use

Church remains closed for worship, but our meeting rooms are available for small church groups to meet carefully for church business. We are still not open for community use groups. Here are the guidelines to host a meeting:

1. Contact Gerald Near via St. Francis' phone number 520-625-1370 to schedule the date, time and room for your meeting. Gerald will arrange for the Sextons to sanitize the room before and after use.

2. Up to 10 people may participate in the meeting. Participants will wear masks and maintain social distance while on church premises.

## Clergy

### Discretionary Funds

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always welcome; these funds help 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 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.

*Do we have...*

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

## Imago Dei Middle School

The COVID-19/Pandemic has had a significant impact on graduation planning at Imago Dei Middle School; St. Francis has shared a partnership with Imago Dei for the past nine years. This year, twenty-three parish parishioners have contributed nearly \$3,000 to the Graduation Gift Fund and carry the distinction of being recognized as this year's "Honorary Grandparents!"

We will publicize the rescheduling of a date and location for the school's Commencement Exercises as soon as this information is available.

*Wayne North*

## 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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