



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. 59, No. 3

March 2022

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

Words From Warren . . . LENT 2022

Dear Friends,

A few years ago, someone came up to me in a local coffee shop to ask some questions. She did not attend a church but was curious about why people were walking around with ashes on their foreheads, and what's up with some people suddenly giving up chocolate!

I invited her to sit down, and I explained that we just entered a season of the church called Lent. She seemed intrigued about the ashes but giving up chocolate was a non-starter with her.

Historically, the nearly 7 weeks of Lent has been a time of prayer and study. Signs of the season include ashes on Ash Wednesday, the purple color that adorns the altar, refraining from saying or singing *Alleluia*, and the removal of the *Gloria* from our liturgy. These changes define the season as more somber and penitential than the rest of the year.

The ashes on our forehead, a sign of our mortality and dependence on God, begin a season that takes us on a journey with Jesus to the Cross. It is a journey that can be demanding spiritually and emotionally for many as we are asked to "take up our cross" and follow Jesus. We are asked to deepen our relationship with Jesus and spend time with Him through daily devotions, reading of scripture and in prayer. Some give up something such as sweets or meat, others do special devotions, studies or charitable work.

The challenge for some people with Lent is they say they are too busy to pray or study. Really? Is our spiritual wellbeing and health less important than one's physical health? Have you ever noticed that when a health crisis occurs people seem to find time for rehab or life adjustments? What about your spiritual health? Does it not deserve your time, energy, and efforts?

LENTEN STUDIES AND LECTURES: Throughout Lent we have several options. Beginning March 8, at 11 AM, I will be leading a six-week Lenten study, *Living Well Through Lent 2022*, that examines how we can LET GO of the experiences in our lives that hold us back from healthy relationships with others and with God.

On Wednesdays, from 5-7 PM, we have our weekly Lenten dinner and lecture series beginning with the *Stations of the Cross* in the Courtyard followed by a soup supper at 5:30 and the guest lectures at 6 PM.

On Thursdays March 3, 10 and 17, at 10 AM, Vince Remillard will be leading a special series on the life and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi in the Parish Hall. (Please see the information in this Newsletter.)

Also on Tuesdays, we are invited to join Fr. David Chavez, Canon for Border Ministries, as he leads a study on the book *THE US IMMIGRATION CRISIS*, by Miquel de la Torre, March 8-April 5. The study is being held as a joint venture with St. John's Episcopal Church in Huntington, NY, and with St. Francis. A Zoom link will be provided. **(Due to the upcoming time change in NY, the first session on March 8 will be at 11 AM or 5 PM. The following sessions will be 10 AM or 4 PM.)

continued next page

Words From Warren, continued

PASSOVER SEDER MEAL: On April 13, the Wednesday of Holy Week, I am hosting a Seder Supper. The meal will be a full supper with wine for the ceremony. Since the meal is not a soup supper, a separate sign-up sheet will be available by mid-March. A donation will be taken the night of the meal to cover costs.

CONFESSION: The Episcopal Church offers the opportunity for confession. If you would like to include this as part of your Lenten Journey, please email or call me for an appointment.

Have a blessed and spiritually enriching Lent,

Fr. Warren

Words from Fr. Nelson ...

ENDURING

“our backs
tell stories
no books have
the spine to carry.” - *Rupi Kaur*

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - *Matthew 11:28-30*

What does this poem from Rupi Kaur and the Gospel of Matthew have in common? Well, in short it has to do with how we engage the heavy trials and suffering that we all experience in various ways. As I am writing this, news has broken about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there is legislation targeting vulnerable transgender youth and families in Texas, and the threat of the pandemic continues for many in the world.

Our existence appears to be under the constant deluge of new threats and new hardships but as we journey during this season of Lent, we must remember this is a season of penance and penitence; not punishment. Lent is here and it's more than just going without chocolate, or other forms of entertainment.

For me, Lent is about remembering how I can draw nearer to God and part of that is reflecting on some of the suffering and obstacles that we often endure in our lives. How are we connecting with the suffering of those who are the survivors of war, of political oppression, or those lacking medical resources needed to live healthy lives? These are some of the things I wrestle with during this Lent as we pray, fast, and adopt other practices to draw closer to God.

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Sexton

The mission of

St. Francis in the Valley,

Green Valley,

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

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As we journey through Lent, may we consider that we travel this path of suffering and we endure this journey to prepare us for the Resurrection. We are Easter people, a people of joy and celebration, but we must also remember the suffering and sin that leads us there.

Nelson+



Chapel Rock Sunday

Bishop Reddall has designated March 6th as Chapel Rock Sunday through-out the Diocese. On that day, Bishop Reddall is asking each church and congregation members to support the Chapel Rock Campership Fund for the benefit of our children and youth.

The experiences that our campers have at Chapel Rock are life changing and extraordinary. Every year, when we read camper evaluations, camper after camper says, "That was the best week of my summer!" It is fun, Christ-centered, and provides the opportunity to grow closer to God through the beauty and power of our Episcopal Church traditions. Help send children and youth to camp this summer! There will be a collection taken to support the campership fund Sunday, March 7th. You can also go to Chapel Rock's website, www.chapelrock.net/donate.htm to contribute securely online.

Home Communion

St. Francis is again offering home communion to parishioners unable to attend church services. If you would like a Lay Eucharistic Volunteer to bring you the Sacrament, please contact Deacon Becky (480-204-0022) or via email (1beckyw@cox.net).

Monday Morning Prayer

Looking for a great way to start your week? Consider joining the Monday Morning Prayer group at 9 am on, you guessed it, Mondays. The Prayer Book service—led by some of your fellow parishioners—offers prayers for all needs, earthly and heavenly, in a quiet and reverent atmosphere.

2022 Lenten Series

Our guest lecturers for the 2022 Wednesday Lenten Series include Canon Debbie Royals (March 9), The Rev. Laura Adelia (March 16), The Rev. John Caleb-Collins (March 23), Bishop Jennifer Reddall (March 30), Canon Anita Braden (April 6), and Fr. Warren Leibovitch (April 13). Fr. Warren's presentation will include a Seder Meal. Each evening will begin with STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 5 PM in the Courtyard, followed by dinner at 5:30 PM and our guest speaker presentation at 6:15 PM in the Parish Hall. Mark your calendar so you won't miss these opportunities to enhance your Lenten observance.

Tickets—priced at \$7 per person—will be on sale after services beginning Sunday, February 20. Look forward to some wonderful soups and even, this year, dessert! You may also sign up in the Parish Office during the week. Please note that we will not be able to accommodate drop-ins; supper by reservation only.

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for February, March, and April (2022) are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall as well as the Office.

Handbell Ensemble

Our Handbell Ensemble is now rehearsing in the Choir Loft on Tuesdays at 10 AM and new members are welcome. Just contact Sophia Witte by text at 520-509-5037 or email at smw_witte@yahoo.com.

Parish Choir

The St. Francis Parish Choir is back in session. Rehearsals are held at 2 PM on Thursdays in the Choir Loft. New members always welcome. Get in touch with the Choirmaster at gerald@stfrancis-gvaz.org.

Prayer Chain

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

Senior Warden's Thoughts

March is a month of change—the weather warms up and many of our plants will begin to stir. This year March brings us right into Lent. So, what is Lent? Well, the word is derived from the old English “lencten” meaning “Spring Season.” We Christians observe this 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter (plus the 6 Sundays) as a time of penitence and fasting. But perhaps we might consider adding something, taking on a new project of caring. People are always in need of food, maybe I could bring a few extra cans to church for the Food Bank. My neighbor has had some losses in her life. Maybe I could give her a call to see if she needs anything and then provide it. Just using this Season of Lent to be a time to help a little more can add to all we can become.

May the Love of Christ permeate your heart.

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

1. The ROOFING PROJECT is proceeding now with a completion date of later in February. Some materials needed are on order. The roofers consistently clean up debris at the end of their work day. If you find any nails, please dispose of them properly or leave them in the Junior Warden's mailbox with a note with your name, so I can follow up with you. Thank you. As mentioned earlier, new gutters will be installed around the campus once the roofing is completed. Project managers are Deana Bond, Lead Sexton and Kristi Menix, Junior Warden.

2. The GROUNDS TEAM is meeting on February 17 to continue drafting a 5-year landscaping and grounds plan. The Plan will be presented to the Vestry to discuss priority needs and funding resources. Meanwhile, seasonal and other grounds/landscaping care continues by volunteers and Sextons. Thanks to each of them for their dedicated work!

3. The short pole lights (bollards) in the front area of the Church have a new timer, so lights will be on only in darkness.

4. A new first aid kit has been installed in the garden tool storage niche off of the Memorial Garden. Other kits are located in the Parish Hall and the Office workroom.

5. A framed print of sand hill cranes, donated by parishioner Ann Zublin, has been hung in the Parish Hall restroom.

6. A couple of ceiling lights over the altar need to be replaced. The Church will need to rent a lift

(cherry picker) to do this, and while we have that equipment, other high lighting and AV equipment work will be done. Thus, it will be a future priority when all the pieces come together.

7. To prevent the roosting of bats behind the Stations of the Cross (and subsequently the leaving of their excrement on the Courtyard sidewalks), we are occluding the spaces around each of the plaques with the recommended steel wool.

8. The electrician is evaluating whether there is power to the marquee in the front grounds of the Church visible from La Canada. We are moving toward replacing the marquee with a new, digital model.

9. The non-functional electrical outlets at the base of the Courtyard oak trees will be replaced in the future.

10. The fountain on the east end of the Courtyard is being made functional again. One more part installation will have all the metal flowers spilling out water again. Thank you, Gary Homman, Sexton!

11. A leaking faucet in the Conference Room and frozen, water turnoff handles will soon be repaired.

12. Colorful primroses and grape hyacinths now grace one of the raised beds in the Courtyard. Thank you, Reg Kahrimanis.

13. Two parishioners have recently joined the Grounds/Landscape team. Welcome and thank you, to Jack Ross and Mark Stril. As spring work gears up—pruning, cleaning up debris, sweeping/blowing, painting, and watering—any offers to help are welcomed. Email or text Craig Reid, ctreid83@gmail.com or 520-288-9393 or contact Deana Bond, Lead Sexton, at the Church, or Kristi Menix, Junior Warden, kmenix18@gmail.com or 406-600-9344.

Best wishes and blessings to all,

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Cruzando Fronteras Needs

Cruzando Fronteras continues to need Pampers, Luvs (or similar product) in sizes 2 through 5, and Vick's Vapo Rub or a generic. Thanks for all the socks and Chap Stick. That need has been met for now.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharist will be celebrated March 12 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall. Please remember to bring and wear your mask.

Life And Message Of St. Francis Of Assisi

On March 3, at 10 AM in the St. Francis Parish Hall, we will offer the first of three classes exploring how St. Francis of Assisi exemplified the mission of our Parish “to live as Christ’s heart and hands in the world.” Our first meeting will consist of a zoom presentation by Dr. Arthur Remillard, Professor of Religious Studies at Saint Francis University. In his presentation, Dr. Remillard will summarize St. Francis’ life and provide us with a direction as to how the Parish community and we, as individuals, can implement his example and teachings. Use this link to join the classes via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/Francis101>

Two more classes will be held on Thursdays, March 10 and 17, in the Parish Hall.

Jerusalem Marketplace

Join us this summer as we travel to Jerusalem, without leaving Green Valley. As part of outreach to our local community, St Francis will be offering a Vacation Bible School during the week of June 6-10. During this week, elementary school children will travel together in small groups, worshipping, learning about the culture of Jerusalem in Bible times, exploring the Jerusalem Marketplace, and experiencing true Bible stories.

Co-directed by Sophia Witte and Tisha Stril, volunteers will be needed to help lead the small groups, provide snacks, build and decorate the Marketplace, and help with costumes and crafts. We will put a date on the calendar soon to discuss the volunteer opportunities! Contact Sophia or Tisha with any questions or ideas and a willingness to volunteer.

More information will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, consider inviting family and friends to attend this exciting event! Junior High and High School Youth will be welcome as Group Helpers.

Pancake Supper

March 1 is ‘Shrove Tuesday’ and that means pancakes for supper. Join us in the St. Francis Parish Hall from 4 to 6 PM for pancakes, sausage, fruit salad and the usual beverages. You will need to let us know you’re going to be there (we can seat only 120) by signing up in the Parish Office on Sundays and during the week from 9 AM until NOON, Monday through Thursday. And it’s only \$5 per person! So put your Mardi Gras and on and join the crowd on the day before Lent begins, Tuesday, March 1.

Lenten Study with Fr. Warren

LIVING WELL THROUGH LENT 2022

Theme: Letting Go with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind

Week 1 – March 8: Letting Go of Control

Week 2 – March 15: Letting Go of Hurt and Disappointment

Week 3 – March 22: Letting Go to Enhance Our Health and Well-Being

Week 4 – March 29: Letting Go in Love

Week 5 – April 5: Letting Go of Shoulds

Week 6 – April 12: Letting Go of Expectations

Study booklets include Daily reflections and exercises from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day. Sessions will be held Tuesdays from 11 AM until NOON in the Parish Hall beginning March 8. You can sign up for the class and pick up a booklet (one per couple, please) in the Parish Office.

New in the Parish

Would you like to be a part of a new group? The old Outreach Committee is now *Hearts & Hands* and we’re ready for business. We are committed to using our hearts and hands to serve the marginalized, the broken, and those in need. We work to serve in creative ways through the support of multiple projects which serve the community, help the environment, or work with adults, families and youth. If you would like to add a group you are passionate about, please let us know. If you would like to join us, we are currently meeting the 3rd Monday of the month at 10 am. Just call me (520-648-7949) or email me (behook@aol.com). *Barb Hook*

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (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!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Norman Nelson
- 4 Ginny Arundell
- 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 Loren Thompson
- 11 Margaret Thompson
- 12 Larry Bear
- 12 Steve Burton
- 12 Leon Lies
- 12 Penny Philip
- 14 Ann Paulson
- 16 Beth-el Klein
- 17 Norma Cornelison
- 19 Michael Wilson
- 22 Linda Hornyman
- 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 Annette Leibovitch
- 26 Mark Stril
- 28 Rita Beil
- 28 Ramon Silva
- 28 Zillah Symonds
- 28 Marge Wylly
- 29 Leslie Bindschadler
- 30 Kenneth Jakubiak
- 31 Neil Messick

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Lee & Norma Cornelison
- 12 Richard & Kaye Tinney

- 15 Stephen & Nancy Secaur
- 16 Ginny & Chris Arundell
- 17 Frank & Nancy Davidson
- 23 Scott & Annie Whiteside
- 24 David & Carol Vleck
- 29 Kenneth & Stephanie Huszar

Food Bank

Local supermarkets aren't the only places you'll find empty shelves these days: shelves are empty at our Food Bank too. Remember to pick up a bit extra—and especially sale items—to help our neighbors in need. You will find baskets ready to receive your bounty as you enter the Church from the Courtyard and Chapel. Special thanks to Jann DallaMura, Arlene Stremming and Jan Hall who will do the work of delivering your bounty to the Food Bank.

Kino Border Initiative

The Initiative continues to serve a midday meal consisting of beans, rice, and a stew incorporating meat or poultry, and tortillas. Recipients must still use donated plastic containers with lids since on site seating is not possible at this time. Please continue to put donated containers in the marked box in the Parish Hall. They are taken to the Comedor weekly by Samaritans when they assist with meal prep and distribution.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS — MARCH 2022

Tuesday, 1 March

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft
Men's Group, 9 AM, PH
Stephen Ministry, 12 PM, VR
Pancake Supper, 4 PM, PH

Ash Wednesday, 2 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
Ashes-to-Go, 11:30 AM
and 4 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY, 7 PM

Thursday, 3 February

Francis of Assisi, 10 AM, PH
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Saturday, 5 March

Wayne North Memorial, 1 pm

Monday, 7 March

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 8 March

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft
Lenten Study, 11 AM, PH
Social Activities, 11 AM, CfR
Vestry, 4 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 9 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, CfR
Stations of the Cross, 5 PM
Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 10 March

Library Cmte, 10 AM, L
Francis of Assisi, 10 AM, PH
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

SATURDAY, 12 MARCH

Schnelle Memorial, 9 AM
Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Monday, 14 March

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 15 March

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft
Men's Group, 9 AM, PH
Lenten Study, 11 AM, PH

Wednesday, 16 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
Stations of the Cross, 5 PM
Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 17 March

Francis of Assisi, 10 AM, PH
 Personnel Cmte, 10 AM, CfR
 Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 21 March

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel
 Hearts & Hands, 10 AM, CfR

Tuesday, 22 March

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft
 Lenten Study, 11 AM, PH

Wednesday, 23 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
 DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
 Stations of the Cross, 5 PM
 Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 24 March

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 28 March

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 29 March

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft
 Lenten Study, 11 AM, PH

Wednesday, 30 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
 Stations of the Cross, 5 PM
 Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 31 March

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

CALENDAR LEGEND

PH - Parish Hall

VR - Vulliamy Room

CfR - Conference Room

CR - Classroom

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.

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

Arizona Episcopalian Magazine

The AZ Episcopalian magazine is now available online. The current issue has a variety of articles showcasing all the great things going on around the Diocese. If you would rather receive it by mail—or to sign up to receive it online—contact Deborah (Finance Officer) through the Parish Office (520-625-1370 or deborah@stfranciscgvaz.org) to sign up. It's FREE!

Clergy Discretionary Funds

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always needed and always welcome; these funds make it possible for us to offer assistance to people in our community who are struggling. Because of your generosity, we've been able to help people with such things as food, gas, utilities, rent, school clothing, school supplies, unexpected medical bills and even burial expenses. As we see it, it's not the clergy being able to help people in need, it's all of us, together, touching the lives of people who feel like they've hit a dead end due to adverse circumstances in life. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Video Reflections

Fr. Warren provides short weekly Psalm video reflections. They are updated Thursdays on Facebook and YouTube. Past videos back to March 2020 are also available

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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