



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. 60, No. 3

March, 2023

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

Words From Warren . . .

*O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again.
Amen. ~Henri Nouwen*

Another Lenten season and journey beckons us to enter into the wilderness of our emotions and hurts, as well as into the wilderness of hope and encounter with God.

Henri Nouwen's quote presents us with the reality it is Lent again. A whole year has gone by. The recent Advent and Christmas seasons brought us to a time of discovery in Epiphany. The voice from heaven identified Jesus as God's Son. The same voice that calls us forward out of the busyness of life...into the wilderness.

After His baptism, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to pray and fast, and to be faced with human temptations that tried to put a divide between Jesus and His Father.

These temptations also seek to draw us from Jesus and to set us up higher than God. Temptations of power and self-importance and ego. These negatives can destroy relationships with others and draw us away from God.

Henri Nouwen said, "Let me find you again." We have been baptized in Christ and signed as Christ's own forever. God knows us, but many have wandered away at different times in our life. Lent calls us to come back. To find God again.

May this season of Lent be a time of reflection, discernment and discovery. May the Holy Spirit help you attain the spiritual realities that you seek. May Lent be a time of renewal and hope as your journey towards easter.

Fr. Warren

C.S. Lewis Class takes a detour

In one of our earlier classes we drew upon the thinking of American philosopher (and chairman of Encyclopedia Britannica's board of editors) Mortimer J. Adler. His book *THE ANGELS AND US* took us momentarily away from Christian apologetics and into the realm of philosophical theology. For the next few sessions, we will be reading, thinking about, and discussing Adler's book *HOW TO THINK ABOUT GOD*. Adler attempts a purely philosophical look at the possibility of demonstrating the reasonableness of believing in the existence of a supreme Being, that is to say, a demonstration accomplished without recourse to Divine revelation or the teachings of sacred theology. Can it be done? If the most important question of all is 'does God exist?' then the answer is the most important answer of all.

If you would be interested in joining the class, get in touch with Gerald Near at (gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org) and let him know. The paperback edition of *HOW TO THINK ABOUT GOD* is available from Amazon (at \$14.69) or from your favorite bookseller. Class time and place to be determined.

Hearts & Hands

The Hearts and Hands Team thanks all of you who contributed so generously to our February project, PAWS PATROL. And thanks too for your support of the fabulous STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART exhibit. So many, more than 350 visitors from all over, enjoyed and purchased the art. The PRISON MINISTRY project is active throughout the year writing birthday cards to the women at Perryville, and praying for the children who enjoy CAMP GENESIS. We also continue to sort clothing in Nogales, and greet travelers with an energy bar and kind words.

In March we will help to host Easter Dinner at the CROSSROADS RESCUE MISSION in Nogales. We will also fill 100 baskets for their Children's Easter Egg Hunt. We are counting on your help. We need Easter baskets, small toys, wrapped candy and grass (paper rather than plastic if you have the choice.) *Please do not put plastic eggs on your list as we have an abundance of them.* Look for the marked container in the Parish Hall for your contributions.

If for any reason you would like someone to shop for you, you may write a check to St. Francis and put Easter Baskets on the memo line, and someone will do the shopping on your behalf.

On Thursday, April 6, you are invited to help assemble our baskets in the Parish Hall at 9 AM.

THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

Published monthly

except June & August by

Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

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

www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz

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

Bishop

THE VERY REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

The Rev. Linda Hutson

Deacon

THE VESTRY

Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Barbara Bundy, Joyce Davison,

Joyce Kaminski, Glenn Matto, Jim Ratley,

Vince Remillard, Rena Robbins, Jean Ross,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin

ex officio: Gloria Cadwalader, Treasurer

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Gerald Near

Parish Administrator

Deborah Harby

Financial Officer

Megan McAllister

Financial Assistant

Gerald Near

Director of Music

J. Michael Case

Organist

Sharlyn Matthews

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

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.*

Franciscan Focus

In 1205, Francis of Assisi was called by God to rebuild the Church. Early in his ministry, Francis recognized the need to include people from all walks of life within his movement of reform and renewal. The work of following Christ in humility, love and joy, which is the vocation of all Christians, could not be restricted to the traditional life of the Friars and Sisters. This was true in the thirteenth century and it remains so today.

The Third Order consists of men and women, single or in committed relationships, who, though following ordinary professions, are called to a dedicated life of service to our Lord through prayer, study, and work. Like the First Order, Tertiaries make a lifetime commitment to live a Rule of Life in company with the sisters and brothers in their Order. Tertiaries follow Francis in prayer and action by striving to be peacemakers, working for social justice, and deepening our relationship with God. We share Francis' concerns for the well-being of the earth, the poor, and the marginalized.

Some of us recently watched a zoom meeting for information about the Third Order, led by Fr. Sam Dessordi Leite, rector of St. James the Apostle, Tempe, and the former director, Anita Miner. She talked about Franciscan influence in her faith journey. Fr. Sam will be at St. Francis at the Lenten supper on March 22, speaking to us in person about the Third Order.

As you know more, consider with me whether or not God is calling us to the life we share in the Third Order. Peace and Good, *Fr. Tom*

Boutique Quilt Raffle

A talented St. Francis parishioner has generously gifted the Boutique with two beautifully hand-stitched quilts, which will be offered in a raffle beginning Sunday, March 5. The two lucky winners' numbers will be drawn on Easter Sunday, with the first ticket drawn choosing which of the two to take home; the second winning ticket will take the other quilt. These unique quilts will be on display each Sunday in the Parish Hall, and raffle tickets may be purchased in the Boutique at \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Be sure to come see these amazing works of art. All funds from this raffle will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which assists those in need in our Green Valley community. *Jylene Wright*

Social Activities

Sweet desserts and smart people made for a fun evening for the folks who attended the Dessert Lollapalooza and Bible Trivia Challenge—the Social Activities Team's (SAT) first offering of the new year. The desserts were amazing (with enough left over to supplement Sunday's coffee hour) and the trivia questions were challenging for the four teams vying to take home the trophy. (If you ever want to know anything about the Bible, just ask Joyce Kaminski.)

Next up on the SAT calendar is the Lenten Supper Speakers' series, New Beginnings, each Wednesday beginning March 1 and going through Wednesday March 29. Each session will start with Stations of the Cross at 5 PM (4:30 PM in the Church ON MARCH 29), then a simple meal of soup, salad, and dinner roll at 5:30 with the evening's speaker introduced at 6 PM. The cost is \$6 a week or \$25 for the entire five week series if paid in advance. Tickets are on sale in the church office or after Sunday service in the Parish Hall. If you only want to come for the speaker, that's a freebie; just show up before 6 PM and find a seat. The speaker lineup is:

March 1, Canon Pam Hyde: Care for Creation

March 8, Cameron Taylor (Head of School) and
The Rev. Susan Smith (Chaplain and Co-Founder)
of Imago Dei Middle School in Tucson

March 15, Jeannie North, Bereavement Care

March 22, The Rev. Dr. Sam Dessordi Leite,
St. James the Apostle, Tempe:
Franciscan Spirituality and
Third Order Franciscans

March 29, Gary and Pam Chambers, Stress Busters—Care for Caregivers of people with Dementia

April 5, Fr. Warren: Seder Supper

Oh, and by the way, if you're interested in helping with any of our events, the SAT is always in need of helping hands. No long-term commitment is required. If there's something you would like to help with—a single event or several—just contact Tish Stril at tishastril@gmail.com. You will be welcomed with open arms.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharist is scheduled for March 11 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall.

Senior Warden's Thoughts

March has arrived and we have begun our Lenten watch. Ash Wednesday blew in with 50 mile per hour winds. What a way to arrive. Lent allows us time to quietly prepare for EASTER. There are several study opportunities available: Fr. Warren's Lenten Study "Practicing Compassion with all your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind" on Thursday mornings and Fran Coleman's series of discussions based on the viewing of the movie "Messiah," held on Wednesdays.

In March are our Lenten Suppers Series with soup and a salad and a speaker which happen every Wednesday in March (1, 8, 15, 22 & 29). Stations of the Cross are at 5 PM in the Courtyard (on March 29 Stations will be in the Church at 4:30 PM) followed by dinner and a speaker. This series allows us time to do the Stations of the Cross with various parish ministries and to hear speakers from various areas. We'll begin on March 1 with our former Assistant Rector, Cannon Pam Hyde, speaking on CARE FOR CREATION.

And Lent is a good time not only to give something up, but take something on. Perhaps you could look into volunteering somewhere or joining a ministry at St. Francis or being a support to someone you know. Always know that to Love One Another is a wonderful way to live Lent and beyond.

May you have an enlightened and loving Lent as we prepare for a Glorious Easter.

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

The new year promises the continuing challenges of the day-to-day upkeep and operation of our Church. We have never seen so many groups who want to use our facility, like the great Prison Art Show and various groups for our multiple meeting rooms. The days since the first week in January also include the continuation of building and grounds maintenance, repairs, and some replacement projects. The Church has an approved budget for 2023, and the Church Trust has awarded monies to help accomplish selective capital improvement projects.

On February 1 the Church officially welcomed new Lead Sexton Matthew Harby and Part-time-Seasonal Sexton Nathaniel Martinez (see biographical sketches in this Newsletter). They have "hit the ground running." They are smart, talented, helpful,

and respectful, as they navigate the multiple elements of our fast moving, demanding Church environment. They are making lists and are prioritizing to meet the many needs of the Church as well as for groups and parishioners.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

1. During the week of February 6, B & M Roofing, LLC, began the replacement of the entire flat roof over the Parish Hall, meeting rooms, and office complex. The final work and clean up continues as of February 21, the date of this article. Some leaking has occurred into the ceiling tiles, which is being hastily addressed by Matthew and the roofers.

2. Lighting: 1. The timer for the back parking lights has been reset. 2. We are scheduling another LED fixture to be added to the overhead Chapel lighting system. 3. To improve the choir loft lighting we are changing to all LED bulbs to include those in the skylights. 4. The exterior light fixtures at the main entrance of the Church have been cleaned and bulbs replaced! Thanks, Matt, for making sure all the fixtures and bulbs on our campus are repaired and shining!

3. Courtyard gates: The donation goal for the purchase of the ornamental Courtyard gates has been met as of February 9! Thank you to all who have donated toward the \$6246 cost of the gates. We are so grateful for the generosity. The purpose of the gates is not to keep people out but to provide barriers to roaming, destructive, and sometimes aggressive javelinas and their babies. The gates have been ordered. T & R Ironworks has given us a 4-6 weeks out installation date. Welcome signs will be added to each set of doors to ensure our hospitality to all.

4. Quotes for upcoming projects are for: a. replacement of carpet in the Parish Hall; b. restoration measures for the brick columbarium wall of the Memorial Garden; c. repair of growing cracks in our parking lot pavement; d. purchase of gravel to continue the upkeep and erosion prevention in the front (east) property along La Cañada Drive. We will need help to distribute the gravel—talk to Craig Reid or Reg Kahrmanis to volunteer; removal of defunct fountain at east entrance of Courtyard and replacement (current memorial rock and plaque will remain)—thank you to the Church's Memorial and Gifts Committee for the donation of \$1000, and for the donation of \$150 from an anonymous donor; and, the purchase of some safety equip-

ment (simple helmets with shields or safety glasses for grounds volunteers who do trimming or other chain saw work).

5. The locking mechanism on the main entrance into the Parish Hall has been revised to allow easier locking and unlocking.

6. In the Parish Hall the damaged induction loop technology used by many wearers of hearing aids to link into the public address/microphone/amplifier technology is being reevaluated. Almost three years ago, a company assessed this problem, told us what needed to be repaired and replaced, and gave us a cost estimate of \$3,000 plus. At that time, the decision was made to focus on tech expenses in the Church/Chapel. We are seeking a new evaluation. Thank you, Neal Hursh, for your assistance. Watch this space for updates.

7. Tom Cadwalader, audiovisual and streaming project lead for the Church Proper and Chapel, partnered with RMK Productions the week of February 13 to complete additional improvements to the new AV/streaming system. Thank you, Tom, for your leadership on this project.

8. Jim Ratley, parishioner, has completed the creation and installation of the beautiful oak topper on the new sound booth in the Church proper. Please take a look and thank Jim for his fine woodworking!

9. Check out the Labyrinth next time you drive in or out or use the Labyrinth in the southeast corner of Church property! The grounds team spent last Thursday trimming shrubs and trees there, raking up debris, and generally sprucing up this sacred area. Thanks to Jon Nichol and Susan Burch, Harvey Eaves, Steve Huhta, Reg Kahrimanis, and Craig Reid for their good works. To those who keep the labyrinth clean from bird droppings and swept of debris on a continual basis, please thank Arlene Stremming and Joyce & Vince Remillard. Chris Arundell and Reg continue the watering of the Courtyard oak trees. Jon and Susan will be working on developing berms to create passive water harvesting in the Memorial Garden. Also, Susan Davis has created a couple of dry rock creek runs on the grounds. One is in the St. Clare Garden off the Parish Hall. Reg has also recently planted a bed of desert plants in this Garden. Watch for other plantings! Thanks to all!

10. The Memorial Garden gate handle is working better with a new handle.

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Greet Our New Staff Members

Matthew Harby, Lead Sexton

Please welcome Matthew Harby, new Lead Sexton, to St. Francis! His official start date was February 1. Matt just concluded 24 years of customer service-based management with Discount Tires. He is highly qualified for maintenance and custodial work. He spent his early years working alongside his grandfather, who loved to tinker and take things apart and put them back together, and with his parents, who bought homes and restored them through upgrades in electric, plumbing, painting, roofing, flooring, and wall carpentry. Don't be too surprised if Matt's hobby is to work on houses and do related projects! Matt's main goals at St. Francis are to serve, provide service to all, and achieve an excellent physical plant at St. Francis!

Nathaniel Martinez, Sexton

Nathaniel came on board officially on February 1, as a part-time/seasonal sexton, 10-12 hours per week. In addition to work hours at St. Francis, he attends Pima Community College where he is earning an Associates in Science degree. His job description sets expectations for moving the ever changing table and chair arrangements in our Parish Hall and meeting rooms. He also works with Matt to accomplish many other tasks. Nathaniel is skilled in prepping walls and painting due to his post-high school employment with a painting company. The skills learned combine well with his time helping his father with house renovation. Please welcome Nathaniel to St. Francis. *Kristi Menix*

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for February, March and April (2023) 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.

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfranciscgvaz.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

- 1 Lloyd Schultz
- 2 Charles Covert
- 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
- 17 Norma Cornelison
- 19 Michael Wilson
- 22 Linday 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 Annette Leibovitch
- 26 Mark Stril
- 28 Ramon Silva
- 28 Zilah Symonds
- 28 Marge Wylly
- 29 Leslie Bindschadler
- 29 George Latch
- 30 Pam Chambers
- 30 Kenneth Jakubiak

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Stephen & Nancy Secaur
- 16 Ginny & Chris Arundell

- 17 Frank & Nancy Davidson
- 23 Scott & Annie Whiteside
- 24 David & Carol Vleck
- 29 Kenneth & Stephanie Huszar

PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS — MARCH 2023

Wednesday, 1 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
'Messiah' videos, 10:30 AM, PH
Stations of the Cross, 5 PM, Ctyd
Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 2 March

Lenten Study, 10 am, PH
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 6 March

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

Wednesday, 8 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, SFR
'Messiah' videos, 10:30 AM, PH
Stations of the Cross, 5 PM, Ctyd
Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 9 March

Lenten Study, 10 AM, PH
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Saturday, 11 March

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Monday, 13 March

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

Tuesday, 14 March

Vestry, 4 PM, Cfr

Wednesday, 15 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
'Messiah' videos, 10:30 AM, PH
Stations of the Cross, 5 PM, Ctyd
Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 16 March

Lenten Study, 10 AM, PH
Library Committee, 1 PM, L
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 20 February

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft
Hearts & Hands, 10 am, MR2

Tuesday, 21 March

Men's Group, 9 AM, Cfr

Wednesday, 22 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
'Messiah' videos, 10:30 AM, PH
Stations of the Cross, 5 PM, Ctyd
Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 23 March

Lenten Study, 10 AM, PH
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Friday, 24 March

True Concord Concert, 7 pm

Monday, 27 March

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

Wednesday, 29 March

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
'Messiah' videos, 10:30 AM, PH
Stations of the Cross, 4:30 PM,
Church

Lenten Supper, 5:30 PM, PH

Thursday, 30 March

Lenten Study, 10 AM, PH
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Friday, 31 March

Carol Hinterthuer Memorial,
2 PM

CALENDAR LEGEND

PH - Parish Hall
VR - Vulliamy Room
Cfr - Conference Room
Ctyd - Courtyard
Cpl - Chapel
SFR - Saint Francis Room
L - Library
MR2 - Meeting Room 2

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

2023 Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Billy Paul Smith
Angel Vincent Gamon

Transfers In

Ralph & Alice Walker
Susan Burch

New Members by Confirmation or Reception

0

Transfers Out

0

Deaths

Rita Beil
Neil Helgath
Neil Messick

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 leads 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.

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!

Prayer Chain

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

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
600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley AZ 85614

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Green Valley AZ
Permit No. 9