



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. 5

May/June 2022

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

Words From Warren . . .

Dear friends,

We had an amazing Lenten season at St. Francis-in-the-Valley which included Wednesday Eucharists, a Lenten study focusing on "Letting Go," a three-part series on St. Francis of Assisi led by Art and Vince Remillard, and the Wednesday lecture series with weekly guests speakers, delicious meals, and a variety of The Stations of the Cross.

Holy Week was equally full with services of Morning Prayer on Monday and Tuesday, a Passover Seder meal on Wednesday, and the Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and The Great Vigil of Easter.

Easter Sunday was a wonderful celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection attended by almost 200 worshippers! The church was beautifully decorated with lilies and the flowered Cross.

Holy Week and Easter had an attendance of over 350 parishioners and guests!

Thank you to the choir, our organist Michael Case, Music Director Gerald Near, the Altar Guild, Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, Prayer leaders, Fr. Nelson, Deacon Becky, Rev. Judy and our Sextons. A special thank you to our Social Activities Team and Mark and Sandy Eckstein for organizing and cooking the dinners for the six Lenten Lecture series.

Lent and Holy Week seem like a blur. So much is packed into a seven week period and then it is done. Even our seasonal worshippers and visitors have left or are leaving till next fall or winter. There is a feeling of emptiness in some ways, but it is also a chance to catch our breath and prepare for the fall season.

While the busy Lenten season is done and Easter Sunday celebrated, let's not forget that Easter is a 50 day season that continues till Pentecost. Jesus is our Risen Lord! He is alive and with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit that sends us into the world to continue the work of Jesus.

Pentecost is the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. This year Pentecost is on Sunday, June 5. Come out to church wearing something red to celebrate the Holy Spirit!

Update on Daniel: My son Daniel continues to improve. New medications have helped the hepatitis to decrease allowing Daniel to begin some of his landscaping work. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Fr. Nelson Mendoza: It's hard to believe two years have gone by since Fr. Nelson came to be our Curate. I will miss his cheerful smile and working with him. I pray for God's blessings on him as he begins his new ministry and adventure in NYC.

Fr. Nelson's final Sunday with us is May 29. Please join us after church on May 22 for a reception to say goodbye as he heads off to be the Priest-in-charge of the Church of Our Savior in Manhattan's Chinatown.

Have a great summer! Safe travels to those heading away to friends and relatives.

Fr. Warren

For the past two years we have been fortunate to have Fr. Nelson in our lives. Now he has to move on; but that doesn't mean we can't celebrate! Join us after the service on Sunday, May 22, for refreshments and a light lunch in his honor.

He needs to travel light and fit into a NYC apartment, so St. Francis is collecting a purse to assist him on his travels to the Big Apple. If you would like to make a cash donation, please send, or bring, it to the Parish Finance Office by Wednesday, May 18.

Words from Fr. Nelson ...

INTO THE UNKNOWN

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise."

(Isaiah 43:19-21)

As many of you know, I am about to embark on a curious new journey to the concrete jungle of New York City. After arriving at St. Francis in the Valley for my curacy in the summer of 2020, during a very strange and tumultuous time in the world, I will be packing my bags soon and trading in the beautiful desert landscape for the wondrous smells of the Big Apple.

And yes, I have heard the cautionary tales about the glorious smells that will bless my nasal passages. However, the thing about doing new things and having new experiences is that it isn't always pleasant, easy, or fun. As we have all learned during the pandemic, sometimes doing new things are hard and we don't want to do them but we find ways to persevere, to survive, and hopefully thrive.

My time with you all has been incredibly important to me for a variety of reasons. Many years from now I will recall this season of learning with fond memories as I took my first steps as a priest here at St. Francis. I celebrated my first Eucharist and other amazing "firsts" here so please know that there will always be a soft spot for the people of this community in my heart, always.

God has made a way for me in the wilderness of the desert and I know I will find a way at my new call in Lower Manhattan's Chinatown. God has made a way for you all too and I am incredibly excited to see the work you all will do for the rest of the Green Valley community. I will keep

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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,

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

Ginny Arundell, Marybeth Bates, Barbara Bundy,

Joyce Davison, Sandy Eckstein, Glenn Matto,

Orji Isiogu, Vince Remillard, Cheryl Tardy-Albin

ex officio: Erik Ringkjob, Treasurer

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Gerald Near

Parish Administrator

Deborah Harby

Financial Officer

Gerald Near

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Organist

Sharlyn Matthews

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

Deana Bond

Lead Sexton

Clarke Green

Sexton

Gary Homman

Sexton

The mission of

St. Francis in the Valley,

Green Valley,

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in the world.

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you all in my heart and in my prayers and I hope you will do the same for me.

And, as I've mentioned to some of you, if you ever find yourself in NYC please feel free to reach out to me. I will provide my non-St. Francis email should you want to connect. The first bagel, pizza, or order of dim sum is on me.

In Love,
Nelson+

Living St. Francis' Life and Values Right Here In Green Valley

I think the most important thing you and I can do as individuals is to discover who we are—not who we thought we were. And I think the most important thing a congregation can do is to discover who it is. Who are we as a community in Christ? Who are we to each other and to those outside? What makes us unique?

On April 19 leaders and interested others met again to review and add to existing and possible ministries under St. Francis' three coordinated values—forgiveness/reconciliation, justice and care for all creation. Existing groups in the parish could be asked to provide liasons and manage some of the ministries. A follow-up meeting of all interested is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, at 2 PM.

Please join us if you want to discover the identity and life of our namesake, St. Francis, as our dream continues to unfold in this time and place.

The Rev. Tom Neyland

Relief for Ukrainian Refugees

Episcopal Relief and Development is working with The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, the Diocese of Europe, the Anglican Alliance and United Society Partners in the Gospel as the churches prepare to mobilize on potential immediate and long-term responses to assist Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Romania, Hungary and other parts of Europe. Donations to Episcopal Relief and Development's Ukraine Crisis Response Fund (<https://support.episcopalrelief.org/ukraineresponse>) will help the organization and its partners continue to provide assistance to people displaced by the crisis in Ukraine.

Easter Baskets

A great big thank you goes out to all who donated toys and candies to our annual Easter Basket project. On Thursday, April 14, with your help we assembled and sent over 100 filled baskets to the Crossroads Rescue Mission in Nogales. Thank you again from the Hearts and Hands committee.

Jan Hall

TeleCare Ministry

Our TeleCare Ministry is looking for several volunteers to make phone calls to parish members on a quarterly basis. This is a wonderful ministry that enables our members to remain in contact with the church. If you are interested in making phone calls please contact Deacon Becky at 480-204-0022 to discuss this valuable ministry.

National Day of Prayer

St. Francis will be one of five churches participating in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5. Our part begins with a prayer service at NOON in the Church, with lunch to follow in the Parish Hall. You are cordially invited to attend.

Volunteers Urgently Needed

The more we do to enhance our outreach to the community and to our parishioners, the more help we need to make things happen, AND the more opportunity there is for service to your Parish. By 'help' we mean people, ready, willing, and able to pitch in. Of the several areas of parish life in need of volunteer help, one of the most important—and most urgently needed—is for audio and visual (sound and camera) assistance for Sunday services and for occasional events such as memorial services; i.e. we need help with anything that requires recording and broadcasting. We have good folks eager to train you for this important ministry. Let Gerald know of your interest (gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org).

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.

Senior Warden's Thoughts

As we begin the months of May and June, our winter residents are in the process of returning home to the cooler weather, family and home. Our full-time residents are using this time to travel, visit family and just "get away" for a little while. Know that we at St. Francis will miss you and look forward to your return. But you can always worship with us online with Facebook or from our website *stfrancisgvaz.org*. Even the Worship Bulletin can be downloaded from the website. May God bless your time away and return you to us safely.

This May we will be saying goodbye to our wonderful Curate, Fr. Nelson Mendoza, who has been with us since June 2020. Hold the date of Sunday, May 22, 2022, after worship, for our Goodbye Party for Fr. Nelson. He'll be off to NYC starting on June 1, responding to the call of priest-in-charge at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior in Manhattan's Chinatown! We have loved having Fr. Nelson as part of our clergy and wish him all of God's blessings as he steps into his new role. He will be missed.

Another wonderful summer activity coming in June is Vacation Bible School. It will be held June 6 to 12 from 8 to 11 AM, in the Parish Hall. Sophia Witte and Tisha Stril are in charge of the event. It sounds like a fun opportunity to volunteer. Watch for more information.

As you look forward to summer's adventures, we wish you God's Blessings and safe travel.

In Christ,

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

Multiple projects and activities have been completed or are in progress. Great appreciation is extended to our Lead Sexton, Deana Bond, and to our Sextons, Clarke Green and Gary Homman, for their excellent support of Vita Tax Service who used our Parish Hall twice a week to do free tax preparation for the community and for all the Lenten dinner preparations to include table and chair manipulation and washing of dishes and floors!

1. Courtyard oaks are newly pruned, have restored soil and gravel bases, are fertilized deep into their roots, and are fully watered. New growth is occurring! The watering continues per seasonal needs. Thank you, Reg Kahrimanis and Chris Arundell.

2. A successful grounds work party on March 18 resulted in 26 volunteer parishioners and sextons completing multiple projects across the property

and sacred spaces with lunch grilled and provided by Mark and Sandy Eckstein. Craig Reid, Mitch Ghoca, and Mark Stril hauled 2,662 pounds of yard waste to the transfer point. Thank you to all!

3. A tall, bar chair has been donated to the audio-visual team for use in the back of the Church where videotaping takes place. Thank you, Susan Davis!

4. The tile roofing with a five-year warranty was completed in early March at a cost of \$74,500. The flat roofs over the Parish Hall, classrooms, and office complex are being rechecked by Lynch Roofing who put on a protective coating in 2019 with a 5-year warranty. Lynch reinforced the coating in the fall of 2021.

5. Swanson Plumbing repaired a number of toilet and sink issues as well as the replacement of several malfunctioning faucets. The ice machine in the kitchen has received a new pump. An improperly installed plumbing pipe in the Boutique was repaired.

6. To complete a reevaluation of the efficiency of our outdoor water and runoff system, the gutters/downspouts on the Allegria Street side of the meeting rooms will be tested for adequate drainage this next week.

7. Four bollards of metal and cement at a total cost of \$1000.00 have been installed to protect new gutters with downspouts near the lower level handicapped parking by the west side storage buildings.

8. A framed print donated by Ann Zublin, parishioner, will soon be hung in the Parish Hall bathroom. Thank you, Ann,

9. The upholstered blue kneeling pads in the Chapel that were damaged by flooding last July are now not being used. Can someone let me know the history of these?

10. Bids are being requested from several companies for safety handrails by the Chapel entrance and alongside the upper level handicapped parking area in the west parking lot.

11. Electrical power has been extended to the Church marquee/sign on La Canada. LED lamps now provide bright light at night. A plan is being made to replace the sign.

12. A contract has been signed with Felix Landscape and Maintenance to shore up the blacktop with hardscape along Allegria Street (north) (\$1,494) and then fill and pack the adjacent, side parking lot (\$1,240).

13. New directional signs to help people locate Chapel bathrooms have been installed on the walls at the front of the Church proper.

14. A 50-gallon water cistern will be installed on the north side of the labyrinth to facilitate the weekly scrubbing off of bird excrement by volunteer parishioners. Thank you, Arliene Stremming.

15. I will be requesting approval from the Vestry on Tuesday, April 26, for a bid of \$3,200 to replace the irrigation system in the Memorial Garden, one of our sacred spaces. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe will protect the lines from heat deterioration for many years. An additional faucet to attach a hose will also be installed outside the wall of the Memorial Garden to allow watering of plants in the front of the Church.

16. Everyone is cautioned to watch where you step, as a couple of rattlesnakes were removed from our property by the Fire Department several weeks ago.

17. The family of John and Jacquelyn Zimmerman have donated a nice bench to the Memorial Garden.

Your support of the maintenance and improvement of our buildings and grounds is greatly appreciated.

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Dinner and a Movie

After a two year hiatus our summer “dinner and a movie night” will once again be held on the last Friday of each month in June, July, and August. Dinner begins at 5 PM and the movie at 6 PM. More information will follow in the bulletins starting in June.

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!

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharist will be celebrated May 14 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall. Please remember to bring and wear your mask.

Prayer Chain

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

Parish Offices will be closed...

Memorial Day

Monday, May 30

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.

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for May, June, and July (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.

C.S. Lewis Class

Clive Staples Lewis was arguably the greatest Christian apologist—as in ‘one who speaks or writes in defense of someone or something’—of the twentieth century. (His books and essays are admired across denominational lines in the twenty-first century too.) Lewis tackled many of the teachings of the church which trouble, or at least tend to puzzle, contemporary Christians; he approaches them with clarity and a genuine interest in making them not only understandable, but also a solid foundation upon which to build a lasting faith. Lewis brings to his apologetic work the same depth of understanding and deftness of thought he exhibits in his celebrated work as a scholar. If you would you be interested in a study/discussion group on the thought of C.S. Lewis, email Gerald at gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org and he will be glad to get information to you on a proposed recurring class devoted to this great Christian thinker.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Judy Craig
4 Carol Berg
4 Reg Kahrmanis
5 Joseph Chidester
5 Bruce Folkers
7 George Grove
12 Kim DeMarco
13 Joyce Kaminski
13 Harry Lyons
14 Kelly Smith
14 Ed Wanek
16 Carolyn Gates
16 Dorothy North
16 Judy Richards
17 Neil Helgath
17 Henry Ramirez
18 Joan Henley
19 Joyce Davison
19 Jennifer Skelton
21 Louise Hursh
21 Don Misner
22 Patricia Mabie
22 Robert Thornby
23 Shoo Adams
23 Mary Ellen Benarth
23 Gail Haight
24 Grace Marben
26 Julianne Reppenhagen
27 Janet Graff
27 Carol Lyons
28 Terri Chavez
28 Bill Wells
28 Dorothy Zimmerman
29 Edward McDonald
30 Nancy Secaur

May ANNIVERSARIES

5 Klein, Beth-el & Batwin, Phillip
8 Paulson, Ann & Ramon Silva
13 Hursh, Neal & Louise
17 Barnes, James & Pamela
19 Breitenbucher, Julie & Ken
24 Eckstein, Mark & Sandy

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Sherri Cadeaux
1 Linda Pantoja
3 Jack Gardner
3 Carolyn Moorehead
4 Christopher Green
4 William Symons

5 George Schappach
7 Joyce Bair
8 Marie Miller
9 Barbara Adams
9 Joe Turberg
13 Ted Bair
13 Nancy Symons
15 Craig Reid
16 Barbara Miller
19 Sharon Faletti
19 Victor Stevens-Rosenberg
19 Ben Travis
20 Gary Jacobs
20 Phyllis Messier
20 Bernie Ravenelle
20 Erik Ringkjob
20 Louisa Terry
22 Ronda Stanford
23 Jan Gaylord
24 Roger Hinterthuer
25 Tom Cadwalader
25 Deborah Harby
26 Mike Gaydos
26 Mona Kiefer
27 Anne Charter
27 Wendy Hill
27 Roger Miller
27 Donna Sheridan
27 Robert Tenney
28 Bob Ogus
28 Al Quick
29 Susan Davis
29 Shirley Ryan
29 Carol Vleck

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Grove, George & Terry, Louisa
2 Holt, William & Diane
4 Turberg, Joe & Rae
5 Luffman, James & Sophie
6 Barratt, Ken & Sib
8 Bush, Jim & Judy
15 Remillard, Vincent & Joyce
18 Isiogu, Orji & Jenny
18 Keller, Fred & Kathleen
23 Saavedra, Eloy & Justine
24 Moss, Greg & Kim
26 Packer, John & Karen
26 Tenney, Robert & Susan
30 Nielsen, Lucy & Kenneth

PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS — MAY/JUNE 2022

Monday, 2 May

Morning Prayer, 9 AM

Tuesday, 3 May

Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR

Wednesday, 4 May

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 5 May

Stewardship, 10 AM, CfR
Nat'l Day of Prayer Service, 2 PM
Nat'l Day of Prayer Lunch, PH

Monday, 9 May

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 10 May

Social Activities, 11 AM, CfR
Vestry, 4 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 11 May

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, CfR

Thursday, 12 May

Library Cmte, 10 AM, L

SATURDAY, 14 MAY

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Monday, 16 May

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

Tuesday, 17 May

Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR

Wednesday, 18 May

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Saturday, 21 May

Symes Memorial, 1 PM, Church

Monday, 23 May

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Wednesday, 25 May

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

Monday, 30 May

Memorial Day

Parish Offices Closed
Morning Prayer, 9 am, Chapel

Wednesday, 1 June

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 2 June

Stewardship, 10 AM, CfR

Monday, 6 June

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 7 June

Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR

Stephen Ministry, 12 PM, VR

Wednesday, 8 June

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, CfR

Thursday, 9 June

Library Cmte, 10 AM, L

Saturday, 11 June

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Tuesday, 14 June

SAT, 11 AM, CfR

Vestry, 4 pm, CfR

Wednesday, 15 June

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 16 June

Personnel Cmte, 10 AM, CfR

Monday, 20 June

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Outreach, 10 am, CfR

Tuesday, 21 June

Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR

Wednesday, 22 June

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

Friday, 24 June

Dinner and a Movie, 5 am, PH

Monday, 27 May

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Wednesday, 29 June

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

CALENDAR LEGEND

PH - Parish Hall

VR - Vulliamy Room

CfR - Conference Room

CR - Classroom

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

2022 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

Mark & Tisha Stril

Transfers Out

Bill & Alicia Baucom

Al Saterbak

The Rev. Pat Kirk

Deaths

Jerry McAllister

Grace Marben

*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@stfrancisgvaz.org) to sign up. It's FREE!

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



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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Green Valley AZ 85614

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