



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. 62, No. 3

May/June 2025

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

Words From Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a blessed Easter!

While Easter Sunday has passed, From Easter Day till Pentecost on June 8th, we are still in the season of Easter. Throughout May we will continue to hear the Gospel stories of our risen Lord who continued to teach and shape the fledgling church until his Ascension.

With the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the forming, nurturing, and growing the Church continues till this day. As an Easter people empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to be Christ's presence in the world.

How are you living out your call to be Christ to other people? Being Christ for others can take many forms. It may be up front and active through leadership in the church such as being a committee chair or member of the Vestry. It may be reading the Lessons on a Sunday or singing in the choir. Perhaps it is behind the scenes through helping on the Altar Guild preparing the altar for worship. Maybe it is simply praying daily for friends and family.

Being Christ for others can take many forms such as the examples above. But the work of Jesus Christ may be in very quiet ways: Driving someone to a medical appointment; calling or visiting someone who is unable to leave their home; helping at the Foodbank; volunteering in the community such as the Foodbank or the White Elephant; providing a caregiver with some time to get out for time for themselves, etc.

Being Christ for someone means listening with a compassionate heart, providing a helping hand and being a loving and healing presence.

As you can see, it isn't always the big things that brings Christ to others. It's the small and often quiet actions that allows others to experience Jesus through you: Being present, offering a helping hand, praying for others.

As we continue through the Easter season, take time to reflect on the miracle of Easter. What does the hope given to us through the power of the Resurrection mean to you? As Pentecost approaches, what does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Easter and Pentecost remind us that the presence and power of the Risen Lord are available to us and allow us to be Christ to others. How are you making a difference in the lives of others?

May the blessings and power of our Risen Lord fill you with blessings, love and peace.

Fr. Warren

Franciscan Focus

The St. Francis Green Team has formed a new partnership with the Imago Dei Environmental Education team. With funds from the Diocese, Creation Care Council, and Hearts and Hands of St. Francis, Green Team members and students will work together to care for creation, and combat poverty through education. On March 22, students visited the St. Francis campus to plant flowers, water trees and redo existing water trenches. Lunch was provided by the Green Team, DOK, and an Imago Dei board member. In addition, it was a time for intergenerational connections. In the future the Green Team will explore a more sustainable process for serving meals at Imago Dei. This partnership is tangible proof that Franciscan values are practiced and celebrated. Your input and membership is always welcomed. *Susan Burch sburch33@gmail.com*. 520-528-4271 ☘

Imago Dei Graduation

SAVE THE DATE!

Graduation for 20 Imago Dei scholars is set for Thursday, May 15, at Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Avenue in Tucson, at 5:30 PM. You are cordially invited to attend as “honorary grandparents!” To celebrate the accomplishments of these 20 scholars, please consider giving a donation to the fund to gift each of the graduating scholars with \$100, a gift which has been the tradition at St. Francis in the Valley since 2011. A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to St. Francis, with the notation “Imago Dei Graduation Gift” on the memo line. You may put your check in the offering basket, mail it to the church, deliver it to the Parish Office, or stop by the Imago Dei table at Coffee Hour on Sundays, May 4 or 11. Please contact Barbara Bundy (571-332-8713) for more information.

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfrancisgvaz.org), on the “HOME” page, scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will see the current video, click on the arrow ► green “Livestream” box to start the video, and enjoy!

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Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

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

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Bishop

THE VERY REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

The Rev. Linda Hutson

Deacon

Glenn Matto

Verger

THE VESTRY

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Bill Miller, Glenn Matto, Rena Robbins,

Andrea Paredes, Bobbi Tucker,

Phil Vande-Riet, Alice Walker

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Organist

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Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

Matthew Harby

Lead Sexton

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

Boutique Closing for Summer

St. Francis' Boutique is open September through the end of May, operated by volunteers who work diligently throughout that time to bring you quality merchandise at bargain prices. Before we close in May, we hope you will shop in the Boutique for any gifts you might need for the special people in your life over the summer months. Please keep in mind that we continue to offer new items almost weekly so we hope you'll come check us out. To continue to be a viable St. Francis mission, your support is critical because all profits go directly to the Rector's Discretionary Fund to assist the needy in our Green Valley community. The Boutique's volunteers totally appreciate the support you have given us and look forward to serving you when we open again in September. Managers/Volunteers of the Boutique are: Wendy Hill, Jylene Wright, Annette Leibovitch, Jill Mulligan, and Carolyn Moorehead. *Jylene Wright*

A Note from your Stewardship Committee

Many Arizona Churches have grown to depend on the financial support that is often most generously forthcoming from its snowbird parishioners, even though they are still supporting their home church "up north". As for your St. Francis Church, we will be praying for your safe journey home and your safe return to us. Will you kindly consider making (or continue making) the pledge to St. Francis over the summer and continue until you return to us? We value your worship, fellowship, and friendship. Please let us know how we can pray for you too.

Prayer Chain

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

From the Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom, c. 349-407

If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let them enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival. If anyone is a grateful servant, let them, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord. If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let them feast. If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let them have no misgivings. If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let them draw near without hesitation. If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let them not fear on account of tardiness. For the Master is gracious and receives the last even as the first. He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward. O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy! The table is rich-laden: feast royally, all of you! Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness. Let no one lament their poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn their transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free.

O death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the first-fruits of them that have slept. To Him be glory and might unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharistic celebrations are scheduled for May 10 and June 14 at 4 PM in the Chapel.

Memorial Day Sunday

MAY 25, 9 AM

We warmly welcome the Navy JROTC from Sahuarita who will be joining us to celebrate Memorial Day Sunday. The NJROTC will be doing the Flag Folding ceremony at the service, and Mike Finklestein will be back to play Taps on his trumpet. Memorial poppies will be given to all who come that Sunday. PLEASE SEND IN NAMES OF FAMILY MEMBERS WHO DIED IN ACTIVE DUTY. The names will be read aloud at the service as we remember those who served our country.

Social Activities Team

It's Spring and we have some fun activities planned! On Saturday, May 17, at 3 PM, we will be having a *Ladies Tea*, and all the ladies are invited. We will be serving delicious tea sandwiches, scones, macarons and other delightful, sweet treats. And of course, we'll be serving tea, hot and cold. This will be a wonderful time to bring a friend or two to join you for the fun. And bring your favorite teacup.

On Friday, June 27, we'll begin our Summer Movie Potluck Series which will continue July 25, August 29, and September 26. Watch NEWS FROM THE PEWS for the movie titles. Good food and great movies—a fun way to spend a summer evening with friends.

For all Social Activities events, sign-ups will be in the Parish Hall after services or in the Parish Office during the week. We look forward to having you join us and plan to bring a friend. ✝

News from the A/V Team

AUDIO/VIDEO, THAT IS

In an effort to coordinate the activities of the A/V Team and streamline communications we are asking that all requests for coverage or problem resolution be forward to Gloria Cadwalader, Team Leader (231-290-0436/gcadwalader@gmail.com)

And just “What is this A/V Team?” The Audio/Video team enables our parishioners and visitors from near and far to participate in St. Francis in the Valley's church services visually via the internet and also provides enhanced audio for all (in person or online). The services can be viewed “Live” (concurrent with the actual service) or can be viewed at any later time. Upon request, funeral services can also be broadcast/recorded or just recorded. Additionally, the broadcast can be restricted or public.

The A/V Team is actively recruiting new members for both the video and audio roles. Training will be provided as appropriate. Please contact Gloria if you are interested in joining this most necessary and rewarding effort. ✝

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.



Heart & Hands

How do you feel about outreach—support for those who are marginalized in our community—and its importance for St. Francis?

Your recent gift of \$4326 to those victims of the California wild fires announces your Christianity in action. St. Francis Heart and Hands group carries out this mission of giving all year long, not just in crisis time, but all year. Among others we support the Nogales Crossroads Mission, the Salvation Army teens, our local food banks, Green Valley Assistance and Imago Dei. Your support of incarcerated women and their families and support at the border, are both multi-faceted projects

Each member of this team leads a project and comes together to report on progress, seek advice and ask for help. Last budget year the Heart and Hands group was able to give over \$25,000 in gifts to 23 organizations in our community and to the greater Episcopal Church. It is a responsibility we take seriously and for which we are grateful.

Heart and Hands needs your support in another way. We need a leader for this group of amazing mission driven women in 2026. Think about it. Ask questions of anyone in the group. Sit in on a meeting the third Monday of the month at 10 AM. You will be welcome.✝

St. Francis Phone App

You can access the church directory from your phone. Search for MinistryOne in your device's app store. It should be a purple cross logo. (Sometimes it says Church by MinistryOne). Search for our church using our zipcode, 85614, we are the only church that shows up. You will then log in with the email address and phone number the church has listed in the directory. Your personal profile will show you more information than is made public to others. If you have any questions or need assistance signing up please contact Megan at megan@stfrancis-gvaz.org or come into the office Mondays or Wednesdays between 10 AM and 12 PM. ✝

Grief Support Group

St. Francis will be sponsoring another Grief Support Group in May, 2025. This group is non-denominational and is open to anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one. It will be facilitated by Jeanie North, BSN, MC who has been a bereavement counselor for more than thirty years. Session Dates: Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 and Tuesday, June 3. The group will meet in the St. Francis room from 1:30-3:30 PM. ✝

Centering Prayer Circle

Go into your inner room and pray. (Matt. 6:6)

St. Francis Centering Prayer Circle gathers every Thursday, online, from 10 to 11 AM for 25 minutes of Centering Prayer, followed by a spiritual reading, (Lectio Divina), and Community sharing.

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence—a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

To Join the Zoom Meeting:

Zoom Meeting ID: 968 1105 5153

Passcode: 170012

For more information call:

Deacon Becky Williamson (480)204-0022 or James & Sophie Luffman at (520)262-3876

We hope you will come pray with us.



Parish Offices will be closed...
Memorial Day Monday, 26 May

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Stewart McKendry
- 2 – Kim Moss
- 3 – Janet Ohri
- 4 – Marcia Allison
- 4 – Carol Berg
- 4 – Reg Kahrimanis
- 5 – Joseph Chidester
- 5 – Bruce Folkers
- 7 – George Grove
- 10 – Olivia Mastandrea
- 11 – Caylee Malone
- 12 – Carmen Figueroa
- 13 – Joyce Kaminski
- 13 – Harry Lyons
- 14 – Kelly Smith
- 15 – Stephen Creech
- 16 – Carolyn Gates
- 16 – Dorothy North
- 16 – Judy Richards
- 17 – Henry Ramirez
- 18 – Joan Henley
- 19 – Joyce Davison
- 19 – Jennifer Skelton
- 21 – Don Misner
- 22 – Robert Thornby
- 23 – Mary Ellen Benarth
- 23 – Gail Haight
- 24 – Carolyn Carter
- 26 – Julie Reppenhagen
- 27 – Janet Graff
- 27 – Carol Lyons
- 28 – Terri Chavez
- 28 – Bill Wells
- 29 – Lee Parks
- 30 – Nancy Secaur

May ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 – Jesse & Carmen Figueroa
- 17 – Ellie & Andrea Paredes
- 19 – Julie & Ken Breitenbucher
- 24 – Mark & Sandy Eckstein
- 27 – Dave & Barbara Struyk

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Linda Pantoja
- 3 – Jack Gardner
- 3 – Carolyn Moorehead

- 4 – William Symons
- 5 – George Schappach
- 8 – Marie Miller
- 9 – Barbara Adams
- 9 – Joe Turberg
- 13 – Court Fraley
- 13 – Nancy Symons
- 15 – Craig Reid
- 19 – Sharon Faletti
- 19 – Victor Stevens-Rosenberg
- 19 – Ben Travis
- 20 – Bernie Ravenelle
- 20 – Erik Ringkjøb
- 20 – Lou Terry
- 23 – Jan Gaylord
- 24 – Roger Hinterthuer
- 25 – Tom Cadwalader
- 26 – Mike Gaydos
- 26 – Mona Kiefer
- 27 – Anne Charter
- 27 – Wendy Hill
- 27 – Donna Sheridan
- 27 – Robert Tenney
- 28 – Bog Ogos
- 29 – Susan Davis
- 29 – Carol Vleck

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

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



PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

Altar Guild: meetings called as necessary

Border Ministry: meetings called as necessary

Daughters of the King: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 9:45 AM in the Vulliamy Room

Finance Committee: meetings called as necessary

Green Team: meetings called as necessary

Handbell Ensemble: Mondays, 10 AM in the Choir Loft

Heart & Hands (Outreach): 3rd Monday, 10 AM in the Conference Room

Memorials and Special Gifts: 2nd Wednesday, 10 AM in the St. Francis Room

Men's Group: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9 AM in the Conference Room

Parish Choir: Thursdays, 2 PM in the Choir Loft

Prison Ministry: meetings called as necessary

Saint Francis Trust: meetings called as necessary

Social Activities Team: 4th Monday, 2:30 PM in the Conference Room

Stephen Ministry: meetings called as necessary

Stewardship Committee: meetings called as necessary

Vestry: 2nd Tuesday, 4 PM in the Conference Room

Parish meetings and events are listed in the announcements section of Sunday service leaflets and, via email, in NEWS FROM THE PEWS. If you would like to be added to the email list, contact Finance Officer Deborah Harby (*deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org*) 520-625-1370.

2025 Parish Statistics

BAPTISMS

Eliza Rose Annette Naccara

Sky Kylie Smith

TRANSFERS IN

o

TRANSFERS OUT

o

DEATHS

Ellen Sax

Roger Williams

Ann Zublin

Mary Messick

Shoo Adams

Ken Jakubiak

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.

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for May, June, and July 2025 are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall.

La Joya Communion Service

A reminder to all residents of La Posada that we offer a weekly Service in the Celebration Room at La Joya. Gary La-Barre and Sophia Witte lead a weekly service of communion from the reserved sacrament. One of the clergy leads a service of Holy Eucharist once a month, usually the second Wednesday. You are welcome to attend even if you're not a La Posada resident.

Ongoing Need

We are always looking for more volunteers: we need crucifers (to carry the Processional Cross before the Choir and Altar Party during the Opening Hymn), servers (to assist at the High Altar in various ways during the service), Altar Guild members (to perform those indispensable tasks of preparation for the Eucharistic Liturgy each time it is celebrated), ushers and greeters (to welcome and assist worshippers at services), and soundboard technicians (to make things audible). If you lack experience in these areas of service, fear not! We are here to train you. Let Fr. Warren know you're available to assist. ✝

A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call the Parish Office at 520-625-1370 and let Deborah know of your interest. Flower donation is \$35.

RESERVING

MEETING TIME AND SPACE AT SAINT FRANCIS

Individuals wishing to reserve meeting space at St. Francis and/or discuss room set-ups should make those arrangements through Office Manager Deborah Harby. It is **essential** your meeting be logged into the Master Calendar. If you need it, be sure to ask for 'set-up' and 'clean-up' time as part of your booking.

One week prior to your event please inventory the pantry next to the kitchen and let Deborah know if there are enough supplies to meet your needs. A parishioner usually shops for us twice a month. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

GETTING YOUR EVENT INTO

PARISH PUBLICATIONS

Sunday Bulletin notices should be sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE by NOON the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you wish the notice to appear. Notices should be in written form and sent via email whenever possible.

Franciscan Staff material should be sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE NO LATER THAN the 10th of the month preceding publication.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please let us know if your e-mail address, street address, zip code or telephone number changes. Get in touch with Deborah Harby in the Parish Financial Office to update your information for our records.

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Green Valley AZ 85614

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