

# *Parish Profile*



## *The Episcopal Church of Saint-Francis-in-the-Valley Green Valley, Arizona*

*600 S. La Cañada Drive  
Green Valley, Arizona 85614  
(520) 625-1370  
[www.stfranciscgvaz.org](http://www.stfranciscgvaz.org)*

# *Rector Search Prayer*

## *St. Francis-in-the-Valley*

Almighty and ever living God, the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, send forth your Holy Spirit to guide the Search Committee, Vestry and parish family of St. Francis in the Valley, to be of one heart and mind in our search for a rector who will be your faithful Servant and who will minister to your flock.

By your light O Lord, draw to us those with vision and passion for St. Francis' future. Guide them as they discern your call. Raise up for us a faithful pastor, a dynamic preacher of Your Gospel, to shepherd us as your flock, strengthen our ministries, and work with us in building up your kingdom.

May we strive to be your heart and hands in our Parish and be a light of love to all.  
Amen



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# *History of St. Francis-in-the-Valley*

The first Episcopal service was held in Green Valley on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1966 at the Green Valley Recreation Center. Fr. John Christensen celebrated his first communion service with 34 people in attendance.

In late 1966, with approval granted from the Arizona Diocese, the parishioners agreed on the name St. Francis-in-the-Valley. A building fund began with the help of a few anonymous donors and 5 lots on La Canada were purchased. Architect David Mackie developed the plans for the church and on April 4, 1972 construction started. Unfortunately, before the opening of the church on October 4, 1972, Fr. John, the driving force behind the creation of St. Francis-in-the-Valley, passed away. One day after Fr. John died, David Mackie also passed away, neither of them getting to see the results of their enormous efforts.

When the building was in its final stage of construction a cornerstone of white marble near the bell site was consecrated at a dedication service on October 4, 1972. A box of photographs, newspaper clippings, architectural plans, memorabilia, and Fr. John's holiday letters to the congregation were interred as a time capsule.

In 1982, four additional offices and two restrooms were added for clergy and support staff thanks to a gift from Howard and Eva Jensen. By 1988 the parking lot expansion was completed.

The years 1987-1990 saw the creation of the St. Francis Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is an ongoing effort and has grown to become an essential part of the financial condition of the church.

In the summer of 1988, the Lay Eucharistic Ministries program began and trained lay persons were permitted to take consecrated Communion elements from the church to the homes of those unable to attend services.

In March of 1990 construction started again and a chapel was added to the south side of the church. The chapel had moveable chairs and allowed for handicapped accessibility.

The Blessing of the Animals tradition started in 1992 by Fr. Roy Kephart and continues to be a well-attended event for St. Francis and the community.

In 2003, the Bell Tower was completed and in 2007 the Labyrinth and Pet ossuary were added.

# Demographics

St. Francis-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church was established in 1966; in 2016 it celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The church is in the heart of Green Valley, Arizona. Green Valley is immediately adjacent to the incorporated city of Sahuarita, a rapidly growing community south of Tucson. Green Valley, unlike Sahuarita, has a population that expands and contracts greatly according to the summer/winter season, due to its draw as a retirement community in Southern Arizona.

Green Valley sits at about 3000 feet in elevation, and is located approximately 20 miles south of Tucson, and about 40 miles north of Nogales, Arizona which is on the Mexican border. South of Green Valley tourists are drawn to Tubac, a noted artist's community and Tumacacori National Historic Park. North of Green Valley en route to Tucson sits the historic San Xavier Del Bac church and mission (known as the White Dove of the Desert). Both the Tumacacori Mission and the Mission San Xavier Del Bac are two of the original missions left from the Spanish exploration of this area by Fray Eusebio Kino in 1692.

According to WorldPopulationReview.com, the average age for Green Valley is 72.4 years and for Sahuarita the average age is 35.8 years. The population of Green Valley is approximately 21,500 (which fluctuates greatly between November and April each year). Sahuarita's population is 29,318.

The median value of homes in Green Valley is approximately \$163,000; the mean household income is approximately \$62,000.

According to the Executive InSite Report prepared for the Diocese of Arizona, within a 15-mile radius of Green Valley, one would see the following demographic trends. Rapid growth (primarily due to the incorporation of Sahuarita). At present, the population within this area is



67,302 people.

Green Valley is noted as a retirement community and is located in an area filled with recreational opportunities. These include outdoor activities such as hiking, birdwatching, golf (there are seven 18-hole golf courses in the immediate area) as well as other sports activities at one of the many Green Valley Recreation Centers. Members of GVR have access to pools, tennis and

pickleball courts, multiple workout rooms, and many social clubs (Bridge, metal working,

camera, canasta, quilting, sculpture, foreign language study, and numerous other groups and clubs). There are a several world-famous birdwatching areas nearby, and the National Titan Missile Museum (America's largest nuclear weapons museum) is located in Green Valley.

The area is served by the Santa Cruz Valley Regional Hospital and Northwest Healthcare has recently broken ground on a new hospital in Sahuarita. There are also additional hospitals and medical care facilities in the Tucson area.

Green Valley is in the middle of the Sonoran Desert and has three seasons: October to March has cool to chilly nights with mild daytime temperatures. June, July and August tend to be extremely hot, while July through September is known as "monsoon" season and is hot and relatively humid due to the seasonal rains. Snow is rare but does occur (as it did in January 2019, over a 2-day period).

Helpful Websites:

[www.greenvalleysahuarita.com](http://www.greenvalleysahuarita.com)

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

# *Worship*

## *Eucharist*

The Eucharist is central to our life as Episcopalians. As liturgy it is what we do together in an interchange of loving expression between ourselves and God. We are not passive recipients of spiritual grace but active participants freely embracing God's call to be the presence of his Son Jesus Christ to all.





St. Francis-in-the-Valley offers Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. with organ music and 10:00 a.m. with the choir and hymns accompanied by organ music. There is also a Wednesday Holy Eucharist-Healing Service at 9:00 a.m.

### *Morning Prayer*

In many times and places, daybreak has been a time of prayer. The Episcopal Church follows the example of early monastic communities in providing for prayer throughout the day through "The Daily Office".



The brief service of Morning Prayer (~20 minutes) on Mondays at 9 a.m. is the perfect way to begin the day. We recite psalms, read scripture, and offer both collects (prayers) and private intercessions. Morning Prayer may be led by either a member of the clergy or a lay person.

### *Blue Christmas*

On the Third Sunday of Advent, we offer a service at 4 p.m. for those who experience the

Christmas season as one filled with sadness, hardship, loneliness, and heaviness of heart, leaving one feeling blue.

## *Centering Prayer*

Each Sunday, an ecumenical group gathers at St. Francis for 20 minutes of prayerful meditation and spiritual growth, followed by group discussion and a short video.

## *Music*

The St. Francis-in-the-Valley Choir currently has 22 volunteer members. While the focus of the choir is the 10:00 a.m. worship service, they also participate in services at Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter and Stations of the Cross services during Lent.

Director of Music, Gerald Near, is a well-known composer of liturgical music. The present Hymnal of the Episcopal Church includes both hymns and service music from his considerable output. Gerald holds degrees in music from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with advanced work in conducting from the University of Minnesota.



J. Michael Case provides great organ literature for all our services. He has a degree in organ performance from Indiana University and over 25 years' experience as a music typesetter.

St. Francis-in-the-Valley also offers Evensong sung three to four times a year by members of True Concord Voices and Orchestra with J. Michael Case at the organ. Evensong is sung

according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer with Choral repertoire drawn from traditional sources.





## *Parish Life/Pastoral Care*

St. Francis-in-the-Valley has a rich and encompassing Parish Life and Pastoral Care within our Parish and we value the pastoral care provided by our clergy. At St. Francis we are committed to serving our parishioners and making them feel part of our family. We have many opportunities for personal enrichment through active participation with our parish family.

A few examples are: Altar Guild, Ushering, Chalice Bearer, Acolyte, Crucifer, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector and Greeter. Our parish is active in Stephen Ministry, Daughters of the King,

Lay Eucharistic Visitors for the homebound, and Newcomers Ministry to welcome our new family members and make them feel at home.



Our Social Activities Team (SAT) provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy many social fellowship meals and gatherings. The SAT sponsors Lenten Potlucks, summer monthly potlucks, and movie nights, fall BBQ, and the Covenant Christmas party which is a fundraiser to help our parishioners who

are experiencing difficulties. We have a Men's Group that meets every two weeks and a Solo Journeyers Group to help those in our parish who are journeying through life without a spouse or partner.

St. Francis-in-the-Valley is a home for all parishioners and we are a loving family that you'll be happy to join.

## *Outreach*

At St. Francis, our mission is to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world. We are committed to helping our neighbors, whoever they are. Through our outreach ministry, we pledge to work with our hearts and hands in the name of Christ and provide help to those in need, and to encourage others to join in this work.

The St. Francis Outreach Committee reaches out to those in need in many creative ways through support of multiple outreach projects and through its support of individual ministries. Some involve almost the entire parish, and some involve only a few people. All are important, and all forms of participation in outreach are welcomed.

These are a few of the projects we engage in and organizations that we assist:



- Crossroads Rescue Mission, Nogales, AZ -- Easter baskets for children
- Dancing in the Streets, Tucson, AZ – general support
- Christmas Stars project – Christmas gifts for local children, distributed by the Salvation Army
- Posada Life Community Services, Green Valley, AZ – support for behavioral health program
- Community Food Bank, Green Valley, AZ – food donations and general support
- Arivaca Boys Ranch, Arivaca, AZ – general support
- Aviva Child Protection Services, Tucson, AZ – clothing donations
- Youth on Their Own, Tucson, AZ – general support
- Reunion House, Tucson, AZ – general support
- St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, Nogales, AZ – support for orthopedic surgeries
- Valley Assistance Services, Green Valley, AZ – gift bag drive for the elderly



- Casa Paloma Women's Shelter, Tucson, AZ – clothing and toiletries donations; general support
- Borders and Blankets, Nogales, AZ – donations of handmade blankets and clothing for newborns
- Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary – blessing of the animals
- Imago Dei Middle School – clergy or parish member serves on the Board of Directors, financial support, honorary grandparents

- Lutheran Re-Settlement – assist the Lutheran Church in re-settling a family from Afghanistan
- Cruzando Fronteras – assist asylum seekers at the border
- Kino Border Initiative – Feeding the migrants in Nogales, Sonora

## *Stewardship*

Stewardship at St. Francis has long been an on-going ‘event’. Rather than focusing on the annual Estimate of Giving, we focus on continual discussion of stewardship and practice stewardship beyond pledging. Once a month a different parishioner takes a few minutes during the worship service to describe what stewardship means to that individual, and to discuss what the church and parish means personally as well. In the monthly newsletter there is always an article about stewardship, and not just the monetary side. The clergy regularly weave in moments of what it means to be in community, to support the community with our time and talent, not simply treasure.

We hold an annual Gratitude Dinner in the Fall, which is when we gather in the Estimates of Giving for the following year. This dinner is very well-attended, and we focus on gratitude for all that the parish has, all that we have been offered, and all that parishioners do for each other.

We look forward to further strengthening this Ministry. In Spring 2019, the Chair of Stewardship and the Treasurer both attended a workshop provided by the Diocese in creating good stewardship events, and the Stewardship Ministry always considers new ideas to create excitement about stewardship.

## *Christian Education*

Christian Formation at St. Francis-in-the-Valley is focused on our adult population. Our parishioners have many opportunities to enrich our spiritual lives through our Christian Formation program. We have had in the past series of bible studies given by our rector and educational series on Episcopal tradition, studying the Book of Common Prayer, the Our Father along with other areas of spiritual interest. Our past rector and interim rector have created a strong Christian education program.



In addition to our Christian Formation program we also have a Seekers Discussion Group which is a small collection of people who like to learn about other faiths, new books on religious subjects and other subjects about the ways that Christians are working toward understanding the world around them. People of all faiths are welcome.

We are a spirit-filled parish with a desire to grow in knowledge of our Christian Faith.



## *Lay Leadership*

St. Francis-in-the-Valley is a church that values the talents and contributions of everyone in the parish. We are passionate about hospitality which creates a loving environment inside and outside the church.





All our ministries and activities at St. Francis fall within eight ministry teams. Some of these ministries are led by the clergy, some by staff, and some by lay leaders who represent their ministry on the Vestry.

<https://www.stfrancisgvaz.org/>

One of the easiest ways a parishioner gets involved at St. Francis is to identify an area of the church's ministry and then get involved with that team. Not only does it let them live out their faith in a practical way, it provides a more intimate experience of the Christian community.

Below is a list of the categories and some of the Ministries that are included in them.



**Outreach** - Our annual Tour of Homes, Imago Dei Middle School partnership, Newcomers, and both our Outreach Committee and our Refugee Outreach Committee. This allows us to follow God's heart into the world around us.

**Pastoral Care** - Stephen Ministry, Daughters of the King, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Prayer Chain and Sunday Flower Delivery. These ministries provide support for one another in all the diverse areas of our individual journeys.





*Worship* - Altar Guild, Ushers, Crucifers, Greeters, Acolytes, Lectors, Choir, Organist. These Ministries includes everyone who is involved in the planning and leading of our worship services.

*Education* - Christian education, Lenten program, Seekers Discussion Group and Bible Study. These Ministries help foster and understand the practices within the parish of sharing gospel that is consistent with Biblical principles and Episcopal culture.

*Prayer* - Centering Prayer and Labyrinth. The source of Centering Prayer, as in all methods leading to contemplative prayer, is the Indwelling Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with the living Christ. Walking a labyrinth is a spiritual exercise to quiet, center, and allow contemplation and prayer.

*Social Activities* - Social Activity Team, Parish Meals, Men's Club and Solo Journeyers. These Ministries foster a parish culture where we can simply enjoy relaxing and being with one another in a spirit of fellowship and community where genuine relationships can grow. It tends to involve a lot of food and beverages!



*Service* – composed of the following Ministries: Vestry, Stewardship, Finance, Building and Grounds, Communications, Trust and Endowment, and Memorial Reception and Special Gifts. These Ministries oversee the total practical operation of the church and oversee our spiritual culture.

*Media/Office* - Office Volunteers, Tellers/Auditors, IT & Office Equipment Technician, Newsletters/Bulletins. These Ministries run the everyday operations of the church to ensure that all needs are met.



St. Francis-in-the-Valley is a church which values the talents and contributions of everyone. We are devoted to a community rich in service towards others.

## *Finances*

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Green Valley is a congregation on a very solid financial footing. The church operates on an annual budget of about \$630,000 a year. It owns a large property (described elsewhere) without any debt or mortgage and has over \$400,000 cash in the bank. In addition, it has a Trust/Foundation of over \$1,000,000 where the annual operating income is designated for use in the church's operating budget.

St. Francis runs a tight financial ship with the proper safeguards including an external annual audit.



St. Francis has a critical mass of generous givers regardless of socio-economic status. We have a diverse group of parishioners who are generous with their time, talent, and treasure.

## St. Francis-in-the-Valley

### Five-year Income Statement in \$

Year	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Operating Income</b>					
Plate	21,795	20,464	25,532	20,652	20,390
Pledges	448,725	445,119	474,218	419,449	421,689
Other Income	144,208	138,969	89,096	48,858	41,927
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>614,731</b>	<b>614,552</b>	<b>588,846</b>	<b>488,959</b>	<b>484,006</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Outside Expenses	97,611	108,425	98,232	83,616	79,510
General Expenses	97,139	76,426	73,872	71,668	75,142
Salaries and Benefits	412,557	373,757	348,804	309,656	299,444
Trans to Operating Funds	21,835	21,835	11,282	11,560	11,254
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>625,385</b>	<b>591,604</b>	<b>541,631</b>	<b>494,510</b>	<b>473,740</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>-10,654</b>	<b>22,948</b>	<b>47,215</b>	<b>-5,551</b>	<b>10,266</b>

Outreach Giving occurs outside the income statement

Diocesan Giving is included in the Outside Expenses

## *Dreams*



In March parishioners gathered together to reflect on the strengths at St. Francis Church. It was a time to recognize its many accomplishments all in the name of its Christian mission in today's world. We also shared the church's future vision. This Parish Profile is built on the outcome from that Day of Discovery.



Moving forward in Christ, growing in faith and practice, St. Francis has envisioned goals to transform lives and energize its ministry. Our church is determined to bring about growth. Even though the church is in a retirement community, there will be a concerted effort to pursue



younger families. There will be a genuine attempt to draw in those that have no church affiliation. Not only will we continue the very best traditional worship service but explore the possibilities of a more contemporary service and accompanying music. The church has numerous worthwhile outreach programs and they will be substantially maintained.

St. Francis has made a considerable investment in its mission on the southern border with Mexico. This mission will remain a priority. Stewardship plays a prominent role in the church's well-being. Of course, pledging is important, but also is our time and talent.

## *Rector Profile*

We are searching for a rector who has a strong background in Pastoral Care; someone who will be available to all parishioners as well as reaching out into the community. We are looking for an engaging and inspiring preacher of the gospel with deep spiritual roots who enjoys teaching. We seek a rector, with a sense of humor, who is empathetic and approachable. We are looking for a person who accepts people where they are in their own life's journey and has a broad Christian Vision with the understanding that all are welcome at the Lord's Table. Our hope is to find the person who will help us see our Mission "living as Christ's heart and hands in the world" fully realized.

