



The Franciscan



December 2024

• **Diocesan Bishop** •

The Rt Rev John Taylor

• **Our Vicar** •

The Rev. Sarah Kitch

stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

• **The Bishop's Committee** •

• *Bishop's Warden*

Amy Brown

• *Junior Warden*

Dan McCarty

• *Finance*

Sam Anusiem

• *Clerk*

Cathy Grimes

• *Communications*

Doug Onyon

• *Pastoral Care*

Tracy Hurst

• *Service/Outreach*

Gerri Harrington

• *Worship*

Chris McCarty

From Our Vicar...

Celebrations and thanksgivings, shared community and fellowship with one another, is what St. Francis is all about. It's all part of welcoming in a new season at St. Francis and blessing the sense of hospitality and worship. We begin our liturgical calendar once again from the beginning and the Advent Season.

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ADVENT VESPERS
www.stfranchischurchofsimi.org
December 8, 2024 5PM



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From Our Vicar...

Celebrations and thanksgivings, shared community and fellowship with one another, is what St. Francis is all about. It's all part of welcoming in a new season at St. Francis and blessing the sense of hospitality and worship. We begin our liturgical calendar once again from the beginning and the Advent Season.

Now we turn to what is the season of charity and mercy, Grace given to us from God, through Jesus our Savior. This is a focused time. Our **ANGEL TREE** this year will offer opportunity for our **MUSIC MINISTRY, BABY CLOSET, and LANDSCAPING** to bolster our ministries here at St. Francis. This is a focused time when we enter into preparation for Advent and allow ourselves to reflect and are quiet, awaiting the birth of our Lord. Our **TAIZE SERVICES** will be weekly as we pause in the mid-week, letting ourselves pray and be present to our Lord and one another. We honor the change of the seasons and the **WINTER SOLSTICE** as we gather together.

This is a focused time when we prayerfully enter into a Covenant and commit ourselves to this community, offering our resources of time, talents and treasure for another season at St. Francis through our **PLEDGES**. We are seeking what God has for us in the present moment and for our time to come. The Scripture continues to speak to us as we anticipate our future in Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

As each one of us commit to the community and work of St. Francis we will realize this promise. We are the church collectively, and our life and worship, fellowship and shared sacred moments are what make up St. Francis. As we turn into this season of charity and mercy, Grace and Love, may we prayerfully discern what our part is to participate in the Spirit's work at St. Francis. As we await our Lord's birth, may this Advent season be our awakening into a fresh revelation of the Lord our God, even as the shepherd's were startled by the guiding star. We follow that star and cast our gaze, in this focused time, on a newborn baby that is the hope for the world.





The **Greening of the Church** will take place following Sunday Service on **December 22nd**.

We need your help in decorating the tree, hanging garlands, decking the halls with wreaths and many more tasks. No matter your skill level please, come! We also need a pew audience to let us know when things are straight or need to move. So please, come! Help make light work for many hands.



Poinsettias will be placed at the Altar **December 22nd** with the greening of the Church. If you would like to contribute: contact the church office or place your offering in the plate with a “floral” envelope available in the Narthex. We appreciate your generosity!

Christmas Eve Service will be Candlelight Service with Eucharist *at 6:00 PM.*

December 25th Christmas Day (no service)



Doug's Corner

Getting to know you . . . and each other: **Meet Ted and Judy Wilming**

Ted and Judy's courtship, engagement, wedding and honeymoon would make for a very good Hollywood romance movie. Judy, a native of Chicago, was a USO hostess with her best friend where she met Ted, who was in school at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Ted returned to his ship in Rhode Island (near where he was born in New Milford, Conn.) and proposed long distance mailing the engagement ring to Chicago. They visited in person only once during the next year. They were married in 1963 after Ted's sister and brother-in-law drove him to the wedding in Chicago and then the two couples drove back to New York stopping in Niagara Falls for the traditional honeymoon visit. Ted and Judy continued on to Providence, R.I., later settling in Narragansett.

Ted grew up in upstate New York and St. Petersburg, Fla., joining the Navy (later Air Force and Coast Guard) after high school. He spent his early military service patrolling the East Coast transitioning to Air Force radar operator before retiring from the Coast Guard reserve in the San Francisco area. While in the Coast Guard he worked on the Valdez Oil spill in Alaska. He then worked for California Forestry as a fireman and as a fire captain in Sacramento County.



After moving to Rhode Island as a new bride, Judy returned to her career in the financial service industry, which she started when she was 16 after school and on weekends in Chicago. She took a break from banking when their daughter Deborah was born. She returned to work when their daughter started school eventually being promoted to vice president/closing officer. She then worked for a state pension fund advisory firm and finally worked for a commercial real estate management company.

Judy retired in 1997 moving with three cats and two dogs to the Adirondack Mountains. Ted joined her when he retired in the summer of 1998. They lived for 23 years on four acres in the country next to Ted's boyhood hometown. They moved to Simi Valley four years ago to be near their daughter and her husband Marc.

Ted and Judy have been very active in their retirement participating in veteran groups, classic car clubs, Habitat for Humanity (where Judy was treasurer for a tri-county area), Red Hats, gardening, craft clubs, senior social groups, car trips and camping. Ted has collected numerous Hudson automobiles and now owns a 1966 Chevy Corvair.

Ted and Judy were drawn to St. Francis because they wanted a more traditional form of worship with the liturgy and music they appreciate. They are thankful for the support and welcoming congregation. It's that welcoming spirit that Ted demonstrates many Sundays as he warmly greets all who arrive for services.

The Walk to Emmaus- *by Aurora Haydostian*

About a year ago, I was a “Pilgrim” in my first Walk to Emmaus. Some of you may have heard about this Spiritual Walk and are wondering just what it is all about. The Emmaus Community here in Ventura (CIE) is strong and growing. We seek to serve and learn more about what it truly means to be “walking with Jesus.” The retreat is over the course of 3 days (72 hrs.) and during that time it is our hope that each Pilgrim be touched and emboldened in ways to become closer to God. The walk takes place every 6 months for Men and Women separately. Married Couples are strongly encouraged to participate. The weekend is filled with learning, praying, singing, joy and much much more! If you are interested in learning more about the next upcoming Walk-please see myself or Stephen Bayles. We would be happy to speak to you and give you further details.

Are you curious about the Walk to Emmaus? Would you like to deepen your relationship with Christ?

If the answer is yes - Steve and Aurora would like to speak with you! Please prayerfully consider the following and reach out directly to them-after service.

What is the Walk to Emmaus?

This is a 72 hour Spiritual retreat that happens every 6 months. The next upcoming Emmaus Walk will be held in Ventura at the United Methodist Church.



Men's Walk #68

Thursday, Feb 20th 2025 - Sunday, Feb 23rd 2025

Women's Walk #68

Thursday, Feb 27, 2025 - Sunday, March 2nd 2025

Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email stfrancis.simi@gmail.com
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
 - Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.

Secure online giving available through PayPal:

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

OUR ANGEL TREE greets us in the narthex each Sunday, heralding the goodness of God of all that God has done for us.

This year we wish to offer our Angel Tree for supporting our ministries here at St Francis.

Our Baby Closet ministry that services low-income families and their needs alongside the Samaritan Center. **Our Music Ministry** offers outreach to the community and a rich variety of events for our Summer Program, Jazz on the Patio. **Our Landscaping**, which daily offers respite and refreshment to all who come on the grounds.

These are part of the active “face” of St Francis and our outreach and manifestation of God’s love to our neighbor. Please take an angel and designate an area that you wish to support for these ministries this season. The funds will go directly to support these areas as designated.

Perhaps you would like to make a monthly contribution for one of these ministries? These are vital streams of our work at St Francis that are part of the heart of St Francis. May these angels fly off our tree and bless others as we are blessed.

This is a loving, accountability, with a big smile and much affection but also a gentle reminder and invitation.

St. Francis church is healthy. The strength of that is our commitment and our continued sense of human flourishing to the well-being the church community, and our strength of mission and ministry outside the church.

All that said, we need to invite you to meet your pledge to the church. We are grounded and formed in Jesus’ teaching of Stewardship and care for that which has been given to us. We are faithful to attend to the ministry of St. Francis and its outreach and God’s mission for us.

Please, if you are caught a little behind on your pledge at this point of the year, would you consider catching that up? Would you consider being faithful to offer that to St. Francis?

If you find this challenging, would you please speak with me confidentially? We are truly blessed by the grounds and the community of St Francis and want to be faithful to keep that alive, active, loving and faithful.

May we continue to bless each other and our community in our shared life together here at St. Francis. Grace and Peace. Sarah+

December 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	TBD	Susan S.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Gerri H.	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	TBD	Chrissy B.
LEM	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H. Evie M.	Chrissy B.	Kerri-Jo H Craig A.
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Ted W.	Reuben A.
Altar Guild	Chris M. Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.
Preaching	Rev Sarah	David K	Rev Sarah	David K	Pulpit Supply

January 2025 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	Chrissy B.	
LEM	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H. Evie M.	Chrissy B.	Kerri-Jo H. Craig A.	
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S.	
Altar Guild	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	
Preaching	David K	Rev Sarah	David K	Rev Sarah	

Please note the above schedule is subject to change. Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on the date(s) you've been scheduled. Thank you for Serving!

Christmas Eve Service will be 6:00 pm Candelight Service on December 24th – Schedule TBD

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	2 8 pm Men's AA	3 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	4 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 5:00 PM TAIZE Service 7:30 pm AA PH	5 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	6 8 pm AA PH	7 Samaritan Center EVENT
8 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music DOK MEETING 5:00 PM ADVENT VESPERS 6:30 Men's AA PH	9 8 pm Men's AA	10 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	11 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 5:00 PM TAIZE Service 7:30 pm AA PH	12 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	13 8 pm AA PH	14
15 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	16 8 pm Men's AA	17 Chris McCarty Book Club 6:30PM 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	18 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 5:00 PM TAIZE Service & Winter Equinox 7:30 pm AA PH	19 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 PRIVATE EVENT 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	20 8 pm AA PH	21
22 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music GREENING OF THE CHURCH 6:30 Men's AA PH	23 8 pm Men's AA	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6 PM 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 pm AA PH	26 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	27 8 pm AA PH	28
29 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	30 8 pm Men's AA	31 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH				

St Francis Offices will be Closed Christmas Day in observance of Christmas

Christmas Day Evening we will serve our friends from the Samaritan Center from 4-5pm.

If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office. 805.526.5141





Vespers, one of the two main hours of the Church's daily Office, has roots extending into the evening prayers of ancient Israel.

Lucernarium (literally: lamp lighting time) was another name for these periods of devotion which began at the rising of the evening star with a blessing prayer.

The Book of Common Prayer preserves the evolution of these early forms of worship and prayer in a way that is faithful to our heritage and open to creating new traditions.

**Join us on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 5:00PM
for this Advent Service with light refreshments.**



Advent Taíze Services

will begin on December 4th.
Services will be held each
Wednesday of Advent in the
Church at 5:00pm.

December 4th
December 11th
and
December 18th*

*December 18th will also include
Winter Equinox*

TAIZE SERVICES DURING ADVENT EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5:00

“Come O Come Emmanuel,” hearkens each Sunday as we journey towards the Christ Child, awakening in our hearts the Salvation Light born to all the world. This Advent we open ourselves once again to be born anew with a small baby’s cry to render Kings and Rulers powerless, and to follow the footsteps to the lowly and humble. We stir our spirits to be calmed by the ancient carols and prophetic readings of the coming of the Promised One, Christ the Lord.

Join St Francis in this journey as we meet Wednesday Evenings for Taize Services at 5PM, and quietly meditate and pray in this coming birth. Let us find time to walk the Labyrinth in reflection of what the Holy Child means to us. May we hear the Angels song to us of glad tidings brought anew to give us hope and promise for the coming days.

We open our arms with warmth and welcome to all and offer the ever-present Light given to all through the birth of Jesus. A blessed Advent and Christmastide to you and your family, to all those around you, and to the needs of the community near and far.



WINTER WONDERLAND

fundraiser festival

MOVIE SHOWING - SANTA - FOOD - VENDORS - CRAFTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

280 ROYAL AVE., SIMI VALLEY 93065

2:00PM - 7:00PM

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!



Celebrate the holidays by joining us to take some pictures with Santa, see a holiday movie, shop vendor booths, and merry more! All proceeds will help the mission to support those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in Simi Valley. \$50 fee Vendor Booths available ~ Arts/Crafts

**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO
BECOME A
VENDOR!**



 **The Samaritan Center**
Simi Valley restoring lives



The Franciscan

Newsletter – December 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
Phone 805.526.5141
www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

TO:



Join Us:

- ◆ Sunday: 10:15 am Service
 - ◆ Wednesdays:
10 am Healing Service
- CHRISTMAS EVE:**
- ◆ 6:00PM *Candlelight Service*