



The Franciscan



October 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
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From Our Vicar...

“We are a part of a vast story, a story that is lived out in our everyday lives as we connect with one another. It is a story that is to be celebrated, honored, respected with one another. To appreciate and value being together, being human, and being here.”

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Blessing of the Animals

1st Sunday of October - 10:15 am Outside Service



stfranchischurchofsimi.org



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From Our Vicar...

“All our stories, are in the end one story, one vast story about being human, being together, being here.”
Frederick Buechner

October is one of those months that seem “in-between” to me. We are no longer riding the wave of back to school and beginning Fall and haven’t arrived at Thanksgiving or the winter months. Often when I am teaching at St Patrick’s, we talk about Harvest. We focus our attention on the transition of the season, when what has been grown is stored for the long winter ahead. We don’t have such a sense of that in Southern California very much. However, in our Spiritual Life, what has grown and what is stored, as we look towards the end of the year? Can we see areas we can identify that our faith has been cultivated, like a rich crop that is about to be harvested? Are there habits that have been replaced by better disciplines?

When I think of my Spiritual Life in those terms, I think of the human stories around me that influence my faith. I recollect the human stories that I’ve known in my life that have formed my values, my sense of self-worth, my place in the world. I realize we are one vast story of a collective narrative that is about Christ’s Love and the Grace of God given for the world.

Some of those stories are still living on in my life. Some of those stories have passed on and I’m the living legacy of those lives. We celebrate those stories as we think of All Saints Day, and the gift of those lives. As the season turns, we watch the change of the leaves on trees, the light of the day getting shorter, the temperature getting cooler. We shift our gaze to recognize the connections between the change of seasons, and the story we are living with one another.

We are a part of a vast story, a story that is lived out in our everyday lives as we connect with one another. It is a story that is to be celebrated, honored, respected with one another. To appreciate and value being together, being human, and being here.

I wonder what I’ve cultivated in my faith this past season, and what is stored for me to be more fruitful in being human, in being together, in being here. What about you? Are there areas of faith that have been seeded with good soil and now are ready to be harvested to give food to others? Maybe in this “in-between” season, we might reflect on what we bring to the Harvest Table as we share with one another, being human, being together, being here. Happy Harvest.

Stewardship

We are in October and soon we will be in November, the month of Thanksgiving, thanksgiving for all that we have and have been given. It is amazing when one stops and reflects on how much we are entrusted with by God with resources both large and small.

For instance, as a community of St. Francis, we have been given an incredible property to steward and care for. We have been entrusted with a church building and grounds that offers sacred space to all who come. We are partnered with an active mission of outreach for the community through the Samaritan Center, Baby Closet and the Bogota Kid's Mission. As a community, we uphold one another with great love. We genuinely seek to help one another, support one another, and believe God's abundant mercy and love given for all people.

It is evident in the Scriptures that God's character is Divine Generosity lavished on God's people. We see God abundance in Creation, in Jesus' story of redemption to all people, and in the power of the Holy Spirit as the church is born in the multitudinous variations of people speaking in many languages. It doesn't surprise me, and shouldn't surprise you, that we experience such divine generosity in our community life here at St. Francis. It is God's nature.

Alongside that generosity is responsibility. I think of responsibility as our responsiveness to our ability to care for, steward, and look after what has been given to us. It could be our time given to look after the grounds, or our talents in making banners or our treasure in giving our tithes and offerings to God's community.

Whatever it is, we join together as a community to respond to God's nature of abundant blessing and grace lavished on us individually and collectively.

As we turn into October and the month of Thanksgiving, I am beginning to talk about our stewardship and commitment to the ministry and Holy Spirit's movement and work here at St. Francis. I am eager to focus this time not on how much one gives to the church, but to what one's commitment is to what God is doing here at St. Francis.

There is new activity and increased ministry that is taking place. Our music ministry is getting stronger and more vibrant, increasing our ministry of worship. Our ministry of hospitality is growing as we increase the use of the building and grounds for outside missions and ministry. Our church is growing into a vital season. It is also seeking to be faithful to be sustainable for the future.

Are you aware of this increased movement of the Spirit? Do you sense that the church is moving into a new revitalization? Do you want to be a part of this work? That's what stewardship is about. It is our commitment as a community to the work of the Holy Spirit as we seek to be about the Kingdom's work.

The question then is about each of us participating together in what God is doing here. Let's have some conversations together about that commitment and participation. I want us to be listening and talking together about the part that each of us play as a body of Christ. Blessed be God's Divine Generosity lavished freely on us all.

In Grace, Sarah

Blessing of the Animals

1st Sunday of October - 10:15 am Outside Service



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Bring your furry, feathered, hooved, or scaly friends to St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church for our annual Blessing of the Animals service, a time-honored tradition celebrating the special bond between humans and their animal companions.

Join us on St. Francis' Day, October 6th at 10:15 AM as we gather on the church patio located at 280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley, for a special Sunday Service and to receive individual blessings for our beloved pets.

All are welcome to attend this heartwarming interfaith service and luncheon, courtesy of Smokin' Steve's of Moorpark, so mark your calendar and invite your family, friends, and pets to join us for a memorable and meaningful experience.

We ask that all animals be leashed or crated while attending services.

ALL Pets, People, and Faiths are Welcome!



*Lord make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon, where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope, where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy*

*O divine master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love*

*For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life*

Amen

Prayer attributed to St Francis

As we turn into Autumn and the Fall Season, we celebrate our Patronal Feast of St Francis with the Blessing of the Animals. What a fitting way to be the church as we bless God's Creation and all the wonder of God's creativity through fur and wings, gills and scales! There is a great invitation handwritten to us by the Spirit to renew our gratitude and thanksgiving for all the wonder of nature and God's Creation around us!

There is also an invitation written for us by St Francis through this prayer attributed to him. As we reflect on these words, I wonder if we renew our commitment to the God of Peace and Love, to be people of God's reflection of peace and love. I wonder if we pray to the Spirit for the strength of hope when we see despair, and to be people of light when we see darkness.

For there is no value in celebrating the gifts of God around us, unless we are willing and choose to surrender our lives to participate in those gifts of Grace God has bestowed on us. It means we are giving ourselves the renewed vows in our love relationship with God, to give freely. It means we choose to forgive others and ourselves and release forgiveness in the world. It means that we offer ourselves a little more of dying to my selfish desires and wants and know the freedom of Grace.

Fall is a season of planting and reaping, of sowing and harvesting. What will be our renewed planting and sowing as we reflect on the prayer of St Francis? Where do we need to reap and harvest that which has been, and allow a new season to emerge?
Blessings on you all! See you at the Blessing of the Animals!

Doug's Corner

Meet Reina Klooth

Getting to know you . . . and each other

Reina Klooth is such a multifaceted, multitalented person that no one single word does her justice. So, here are just a few to try: Mother. Wife. Faithful Episcopalian. Artist. Whimsical. Antique collector. Tattoo collector. Entrepreneur. And, cat rescuer. A native Californian, Reina comes from a large Nicaraguan family, “full of brothers and sisters” she says. She and her husband Christoph have raised two children, who are now adults –Angelina and Romeo.



With a smile, she proudly announces that she and Christoph are proud “paw-rents” of numerous cats. Her love for cats is so passionate that you can find her and her family every year at Pasadena’s annual CatCon convention. She usually comes home with an armful of cat souvenirs for both her cats and herself. “I just love rescuing cats and any other cat activities,” she says. As an artist, Reina

says she has a very creative mind and “with God’s love, makes dreams into reality.”

There is a business side to Reina too. She and Christoph run AuxxLift in Moorpark. It’s a family-owned business specializing in motorized garage storage systems. When not doing that, Reina loves antique and jewelry collecting. She says it’s a way to preserve history. She also enjoys travel including cruises (especially days at the spa) and staying along with her family at Aulani, the Disney resort in Hawaii.

Reina has been an Episcopalian since she was a teenager . . . “wherever I’ve been I’ve found my nearest Episcopal family.” She’s been with St. Francis since moving to Simi Valley. “I like St. Francis for all the community outreach and support we do.” She turns that appreciation into action volunteering at the Baby Closet because “I’m able to help the parents in need of our community and feel their appreciation. I hope with my contributions we can do more to help our community and also grow the church.” “God is good . . . all the time,” she fervently believes.

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





Need a location for your next event or meeting?

St. Francis may have the solution for you

Whether it's a family gathering, an office celebration, a business meeting, or a location for homeschooling, Simi Valley's St. Francis Episcopal Church may be able to economically accommodate you.

Here's what we offer:

Fellowship Hall with adjacent kitchen perfect meetings or family gatherings

Large outdoor shaded patio. Perfect for larger gatherings

Large sanctuary that can become a perfect place for large group meetings

Classrooms that can be used long-term for homeschooling or for one-day meetings

For additional information or to make reservations, please contact the church office at 805-526-5141.

St. Francis is much more than a congregation. It's a group of individuals in a fellowship. . . a community. . . a family. As family members it would be great to know each other better and share what is going on in each of our busy lives. So, briefly tell us what's happening with you and your family --- your births, family weddings, job promotions, graduations, new jobs, vacations, accomplishments, life events . . . you name it and we'd like to share it in the monthly "Franciscan".

Just e-mail your happenings to Doug Onyon at sfrancis.simi@gmail.com and let's get to know each other better!

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>

Parish Healing Prayer Needs:

Barbara, Reina, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Scott, Lee, Michael, Kim, Jean, Braydon, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jamie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan, Peggy.

IT'S HERE!

Vicar's Forum First Sunday of the Month starting September 1. We will be offering teaching time after the service to talk about service texts for that morning. Do you have questions about the Church and why we do what we do? Come and learn and bring your questions. Grab a cup of coffee and be with us in an informal discussion as we look at the Scriptures and our practices of worship.

ECW – Episcopal Church Women

Please contact Sylvia M. or Pat U. if interested. Meetings are held the first Friday of each month in the sanctuary at 5:30 pm.

Interested in Joining a Book Club?

Contact Chris McCarty for details.

FALL EVENTS:

*October 4th – ECW Meeting
October 6th – Blessing of the Animals
October 20th – ECW Italian Lunch*

As part of observing creation tide, which honors the earth and its creatures, St. Francis Episcopal Church will be holding a special e-waste collection. The collection box will be in the Narthex throughout the season of creation.



We continue to also hold our 4th Sunday of the month *Recycling Sunday* – bring your CRV recycling and we will put those CRV funds to good use.

Thank you for helping us take care of our environment!

October 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Blessing of the Animals With UCC	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)		Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	
LEM	Tracy H. Kerri-Jo H.	Evie M.	Kerri-Jo H. Craig A.	Chrissy B.	
Usher / Greeter	Reuben A Ted W	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Ted W.	
Altar Guild	Tracy H Chrissy B	Cathy G.	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K	

November 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Nov 24	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	
LEM	Lisa N. Evie M.	Kerri-Jo H. Craig A.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	
Usher / Greeter	Rebecca S.	Reuben A.	Ted W.	Joe Z.	
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	
Preaching	Rev Sarah	David K	Rev Sarah	David K	

Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve your scheduled day. Thank you for Serving!

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	2 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	3 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	4 ECW MTG 8 pm AA PH	
6 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 6:30 Men's AA PH	7 8 pm Men's AA	8 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	9 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	10 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	11 PRIVATE EVENT 8 pm AA PH	12
13 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	14 8 pm Men's AA	15 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	16 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	17 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	18 8 pm AA PH	19 PRIVATE EVENT
20 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music ECW ITALIAN LUNCH 6:30 Men's AA PH	21 8 pm Men's AA	22 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	23 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	24 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	25 8 pm AA PH	26
27 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	28 8 pm Men's AA	29 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	30 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	31 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm		

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Newsletter – October 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
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TO:



Join Us:

- ◆ Sunday: 10:15 am Service
- ◆ Wednesdays:
10 am Healing Service

Blessing of the Animals

1st Sunday of October - 10:15 am Outside Service



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