

2025 GET CONNECTED

Ministries at St. Francis



Welcome!

We are happy you're a part of the St. Francis Church family.

St. Francis Church thrives because of the dedication, energy and self-less support of its members. Their focus on service and community fosters the vibrancy and the welcoming spirit of our church.

If you hear the call to serve, consider joining one of the many ministries at St. Francis. We have listed the different groups, guilds and ministries that serve our church and community. If you are interested in joining any of these groups, contact the person listed under each ministry or talk to one of our clergy.

We pray that you find yourself wanting to take a more active role in the life of the church and that one of these groups speaks to your soul. There is a place for everyone in the larger life of the church, and we welcome you to join us.

Fr. Jason Shelby



Youth Participation

Acolytes



Acolytes carry the torches (candles), the cross and help the clergy during the service. It is a great way for children and teens to be actively involved in the service and to better understand the how and why of our liturgical tradition. And who doesn't like to play with fire and long sticks?

Sunday School Programs

Nursery Care (Ages 0-3)

Godly Play (Ages 3-11)

Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Based on Montessori principles and used worldwide across Christian denominations.

Dragon Slayers (Ages 11-18)

Our newest offering for 2025-2026! This creative yet intentional, power-packed program teaches teens and pre-teens to identify the “dragons” that threaten to bring them down or hold them back – anxiety, fear, self-doubt, anger, apathy, gossip, shame, etc – and ward off these threats with faith and courage.

Contact: Shelley Reece,
Missioner for Programming and Youth
Shelley.reece@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Adult Christian Education



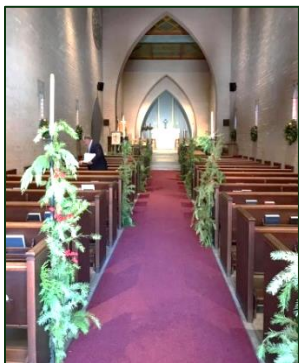
Christian Education covers a lot of territory, including Sunday School, youth group, adult education, the Lenten Programs, and inquirer's classes.

Contact:

Fr. Jason Shelby

jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Altar Guild



The Altar Guild prepares the church and chapel for worship each Sunday by setting up everything needed for Holy Eucharist, making sure that there are flowers on the altar and that the candles are full of oil. They also decorate the church for Christmas and Easter, putting a lot of time and energy into making beautiful displays.

Additionally, the Altar Guild cleans and irons all the linens used during the service, cleans, and polishes all the silver used in the service and stores it securely. If you enjoy the ritual of the service and are detail-oriented, this is the group for you.

Contact:

Sara Schulz

s.schulz@cox.net

Antiques Show



The annual Antiques Show takes place in May and has been in operation for over 53 years. It is the chief fundraiser for the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and the church. Antique dealers from throughout the region participate and set up mini shops in the parish hall.



Opportunities include setting up and tearing down booths in the parish hall, cooking or serving food, helping clean during the event, bartending, taking tickets at the door, and helping with promotion and preparations beforehand.

Contact:

Jamie Bellows

Bellows151@aol.com

Audio-Visual Team



The Audio-Visual Team at St. Francis takes care of streaming our 10:00 AM service online on Facebook and YouTube. They also livestream other services held at the church, such as funerals, when requested and as they are able. You don't need to be a computer whiz to do this; the major prerequisite is that you are not afraid of technology.

Contact:

Fabrizio Pela

Fpela1@yahoo.com

Choir



If you enjoy singing and standing in front of people, then you should join the St. Francis Choir! The Choir adds oomph to our congregation, singing as well as performing anthems, solos and music during communion. The Choir is a wonderful place to enrich

your journey with Christ. New members are always welcome!

Contact:

Dr. Mark Bennett, Director of Music

Mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Christian Life / Prayer and Pastoral Care



This ministry has a lot of different opportunities for fellowship:

Taizé: This is a meditative prayer service held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, modeled on the services held in Taizé, France. The service combines prayers, music and hundreds of candles to create a very holy and somber space.

Good Grief: This is a support group for people who are grieving, be it a death in their family, having a family member with a debilitating illness, the loss of a job, spouse or friend, or experiencing a rough patch in their life in general. We are not trained counsellors, but we offer a space to be heard.

SAGES: Senior Adult Group of Episcopalians is for people who are retired or able to go out during the day. We play Bunco, go to museums, have cookouts, and talk about how wonderful it is to be retired or not have to work during the day.

Contact:

Kristina Pela, Prayer and Pastoral Leader
Krab3@yahoo.com

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)



All women baptized in the Episcopal Church are considered members of the ECW. At St. Francis, we have a strong women's auxiliary including two guilds: St. Anne's and St. Teresa's. Their members support outreach projects and community organizations with funds raised at a Christmas auction and Chinese New Year's celebration, respectively. Each also provides its members with a strong community. The main ECW fundraiser is the Annual Antiques Show.

Contact:

Anna Eakins

annatkozaki@gmail.com

*I got involved because I love to iron,
and it brings me such joy to
arrange the altar flowers
~Janet~*

Fellowship



Fellowship encompasses everything from Sunday morning coffee to Shrove Tuesday dinner, Lenten Program meals, Easter egg hunts, Mother's Day appreciation, graduating

Senior Sunday, Get Connected Sunday, St. Francis Sunday, and Advent Wreath making. If you enjoy planning events, cooking, setting tables, making centerpieces, picking up food or washing dishes and collecting garbage, you should join Fellowship.

Contact:

Mary Deley

Mary_deley@yahoo.com

Friars



The Friars do much of the work listed in fellowship, but more cooking/cleaning than planning/decorating. If you love to cook and/or clean, join the Friars!

Contact:

Ed Hinz

Kn6jn@aol.com

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)



Formerly known as Chalice Bearers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers help the clergy distribute the elements (bread and wine) during communion. If you would like to join the altar party and become an integral part of the service, contact Father Jason.

Contact:

Fr. Jason Shelby

Jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Outreach



Outreach is what we call anything that we do for people outside of the congregation. It is collecting and sorting clothes from the Blue Bin, making lunches for St. Luke's Homeless Ministry in Long Beach on Fridays, making Breakfast for St. Luke's on Saturdays and passing out clothing, collecting items for Camp Pendleton, or making blessing bags for the homeless. If you feel called to help others outside of church, consider participating in one of our many outreach opportunities.

Contact:

Gayle Taylor

gaylentaylor@gmail.com

Rummage Sale



The Annual Rummage Sale serves a dual purpose: to lessen the things that go into a landfill and to raise money for capital building improvements at St. Francis. Every year, we receive many donations of all kinds of items from clothing to furniture. Then, four weeks before the sale opens, dedicated and hard-working volunteers sort, price, display, and arrange all the items in the parish hall.

The sale is open on two consecutive Fridays and Saturdays in August and has been a successful fundraiser for the church. If you love “thrifting”, organizing, and/or merchandising, join the Rummage Sale team!

Contact:

Gloria Jones

golakid43@yahoo.com

Scholarship Fund



For the past 28 years, the St. Francis Outreach Scholarship Fund (SFOSF) has helped students of limited means with their unmet college expenses such as covering unsubsidized loans and buying laptops, books and other study materials. Our goal is to help students through all four years of college until graduation. The students must stay in touch with us and provide us with their grades and updates on their classes. We do not promise assistance but help and mentor them as appropriate. Many of these students are first-generation college students and don't have much guidance in their home situation.

We are very proud of our four graduates this year: Eghosa, UC Merced, Tamilori, UC Irvine, Christopher, Stanford and Shania, UC Santa Cruz. They all graduated on time or early!

Our fundraising efforts include partnering with Ralphs Community Support Program and Bettolino Kitchen in Redondo Beach as well as private monetary donations.

We always welcome new members and mentors to our group. Something in your own background may help a student who is in college now.

Contact:

Cheryl Gutierrez

cacgmayday@gmail.com

St Anne's Guild



We are a diverse group of ladies from many different areas, and we welcome you to join us. We meet in the Boardroom on the fourth Monday of each month at 6pm. Our meetings begin with Devotions and prayers for people in need. Two members per month are co-hostesses and provide delicious goodies along with coffee, tea and, occasionally, wine. We have our

own Distinguished Speaker Series and WE are the speakers, with members giving a brief bio of their life so far. It has proven to be very interesting and fun.

We provide refreshments after the 10am service on the third Sunday of each month (cookies, cakes, fruits, vegetables and, of course, doughnut holes). Our main fundraiser is our Christmas Auction, another very lively activity to which all are invited. We also staff Memorial receptions at the church for which we receive donations. For the Antiques Show Gala, we provide food and staff the dessert table. We help operate the Harvest cupboard and provide help in the kitchen or wherever needed. We also help with the Annual Rummage Sale.

Contact:

Anna Eakins

annatkozaki@gmail.com

St. Teresa's Guild

St. Teresa's Guild at St. Francis is a dedicated group of women supporting women and children in the South Bay through mission, fellowship, and care.

Our Annual Fundraiser: Our Chinese New Year event is held in the parish hall and features Chinese food prepared by our members, entertainment and a live auction with unique items and treasures. Everyone leaves with something special.

Organizations we support:

- **Mama Hill's Help:** A Watts-based after-school program providing a safe, violence-free zone for children and their families.
- **House of Hope:** Located in San Pedro, this community helps women recover from drug and alcohol addiction, restoring their lives and purpose.
- **Rainbow Services:** An organization in San Pedro that provides shelter and support for those impacted by domestic violence
- **St. Francis Outreach:** We also contribute to St. Luke's Episcopal Church's Homeless Ministry in Long Beach by donating food and essentials.

Join Us: We welcome everyone to join our group or participate in our events. Reach out to Robin Pano or any member for more information.

Contact:

Robin Pano
310-779-0486

Sunday Service Ministry



This is an opportunity to participate actively at the 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM Sunday services. Your time and talents make a difference in making our worship services a meaningful experience for everyone.

We need volunteers to fill crucial roles during Sunday and holiday services:

- Greeter (8am & 10 am)
- Usher (10 am)
- Reader (8am and 10am)
- Oblation Bearer (10am)
- Verger (10am)
- Chalice Bearer (10am)
- Prayer Team (10am)
- Live-streaming technician (10am)
- Sound technician (10am)

When you sign up, your name will be added to the volunteer roster. Volunteers are rotated and may be scheduled one or two* Sundays a month. (*Depending on the availability and number of volunteers in each role, some people may be asked to serve more than two Sundays in any given month.)

Would you be willing to serve in any of these important ministries?

Contact:

Gina McQueen, Office Administrator/Receptionist,
gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Verger



The Verger is a lay minister who supports the clergy during worship services. Among the verger's duties are setting up supplies like wine and wafers and coordinating with other ministries like the altar guild and ushers.

Contact:

Fr. Jason Shelby

jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org

*I fell in love with St. Francis from the
moment I arrived in South Bay. All
the people are so warm and
welcoming—truly bring God's Word
~Shelley~*

Vestry

The Vestry is the governing body of the church that's responsible for the church's non-liturgical affairs. The twelve Vestry members are elected parishioners who manage the church's finances, maintain facilities, support the Rector, and help define the parish's mission and goals. Each member serves for three years. The role of the vestry is fundamentally about stewarding the parish for its sacred mission to spread the Gospel and unite people with God in Christ.

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Assistant Junior Warden

Technology

Stewardship

Vestry Nominations

Family and Youth

Outreach

Human Resources

Safety

If you would like to take an active role in the governance of the parish, you should join the Vestry.

Contact:

Alex Sams, Senior Warden

ajsams@verizon.net



Notes

Notes



Clergy

The Rev. Jason Shelby, Rector,
jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org
Church Office: (310) 375-4617

The Rev. Celeste Stump, Deacon, Chaplain at The Canterbury,
cstump@thecanterbury.org

Staff

Dr. Mark Bennett, Director of Music (310) 594-7416,
mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Wayne Hastings, Communications Specialist,
wayne@waynehastings.net

David Knight, Organist.

Gina McQueen, Office Administrator/Receptionist (310) 375 4617,
gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org,

Joel Miranda, Sexton/Facilities Manager

Elaine Mistele, Business Manager (310) 594-8268,
elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Kristina Pelá, Prayer and Pastoral Care Leader, krab3@yahoo.com

Shelley Reece, Missioner for Programming and Youth,
shelley.reece@stfrancispalosverdes.org

St Francis Episcopal Church

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