

# Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7, 2025 ❖ 8:00 am



*Celebrant: The Rev. Jason Shelby*

*Preacher: Shelley Reece*

*Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump*

---

*We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.*

*St. Francis Episcopal Church welcomes all people to receive Holy Communion. If you have not been baptized but would like to be, please talk to Father Jason after the service.*

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Walter Christmas in loving memory of his parents, Captain Walter and Eleanora Christmas, and his brother, Lawrence Christmas.*

*Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.*

---

## Coming Events

### **Sunday, December 7**

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:15 am Advent Breakfast
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal
- 11:30 am ECW Meeting

### **Monday, December 8**

- 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Sunday Choir Rehearsal

### **Tuesday, December 9**

- 4:30 pm Teen Tuesday (Parish Hall)

### **Wednesday, December 10**

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, Chapel)
- 11:00 am Good Grief Group
- 6:00 pm Men's Corner (Corner Bakery)
- 7:00 pm Lectionary Study (Library)

### **Thursday, December 11**

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

### **Friday, December 12**

- 6:00 pm St. Anne's Christmas Auction

### **Saturday, December 13**

- 6:00 pm Las Posada

### **Sunday, December 14**

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:00 am Moonstone and Mist Book Fair
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:30 am Faithful Families
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal

The Processional Hymn: Prepare the Way, O Zion ..... Hymnal #65



Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing  
 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a -  
 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em -



near! — Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap -  
 bove. — His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and  
 brace. — His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery



pear. — Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred  
 love. — Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy — a -  
 place. — All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will — a -



sto - ry. Oh, blest is Christ that came — in God's most ho - ly  
 bound - ing. Oh, blest is Christ that came — in God's most ho - ly  
 dore — him. Oh, blest is Christ that came — in God's most ho - ly



name.  
 name.  
 name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920),

© 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: "Bereden väg för Herran," melody from

"Then Svenska Psalmboken," 1697; harm. "Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan," 1939, alt.

The Opening Acclamation ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 323

The Collect for Purity ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 323

The Summary of the Law ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 324

The Kyrie ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 324

The Collect of the Day ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 325

The First Lesson ..... Genesis 17:15-22

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years

old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" <sup>18</sup>And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!" <sup>19</sup>God said, "No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. <sup>20</sup>As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year." <sup>22</sup>And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

The Response ..... Psalm 78:1-7 (Book of Common Prayer p. 694)

The Epistle ..... Romans 8:18-25

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Holy Gospel ..... Luke 1:39-45

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Sermon ..... Shelley Reece

The Nicene Creed ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 327

The Prayers of the People ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 328

The Confession ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 331

The Peace ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 332

## The Welcome and Announcements

*Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:*

Watch over your child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 333

The Post-Communion Prayer ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 339

The Blessing and Sending Forth ..... Book of Common Prayer p. 339

The Recessional Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed..... Hymnal #616



Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great  
He comes with suc - cor speed - y to  
He shall come down like show - ers up -  
Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and

Da - vid's great - er Son! Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his  
those who suf - fer wrong, to help the poor and need - y, and  
on the fruit - ful earth, and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring  
gold and in - cense bring; all na - tions shall a - dore him, his

reign on earth be - gun! He comes to break op - pres - sion, to  
bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sigh - ing, their  
in his path to birth: be - fore him on the moun - tains shall  
praise all peo - ple sing; to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and

set the cap - tive free; to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and  
dark - ness turn to light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were  
peace, the her - ald, go; and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from  
dai - ly vows a - scend; his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a

rule in eq - ui - ty.  
pre - cious in his sight.  
hill to val - ley flow.  
king - dom with - out end.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72. Music: "Ellacombe," 1784, melody from  
"Gesangbuch. . . der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen katolischen Hofkapelle, " 1784, alt.;  
adapt. "Katolisches Gesangbuch, "1863; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889);  
Descant by permission of Oxford University Press.

*The Postlude*

*Lift Up Your Heads*

*Praetorius/Fey*

# Advent & Christmas at St. Francis

## Second Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec. 7**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:15 am – Advent Breakfast and Family  
Nativity Set Craft

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**

10:00 am – Midweek Holy Eucharist Rite II

**Friday, Dec. 12**

6:00 pm – St. Anne's Christmas Auction

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

6:00 pm – Las Posadas (Nativity Reenactment)

## Third Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec. 14**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**

10:00 am – Midweek Holy Eucharist Rite II

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec. 21**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:15 am – Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour

**Tuesday, Dec. 23**

7:00 pm – Taizé

## Christmas Eve

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**

Church office closed  
4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service  
8:00 pm – Christmas Choir Concert  
9:00 pm – Christmas Holy Eucharist Rite II

## Christmas Day

**Thursday, Dec. 25**

Church office closed  
9:00 am – Christmas Morning Holy  
Eucharist Rite II (Chapel)

## First Sunday after Christmas

**Sunday, Dec. 28**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II

**Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025**

**through Friday, Jan. 2, 2026**

Church office closed

For more events and small discussion groups  
at St. Francis, visit our church calendar:  
<https://bit.ly/stfranciscalendar>



St. Francis Episcopal Church  
2200 Via Rosa  
Palos Verdes Estates 90274  
[www.stfrancispalosverdes.org](http://www.stfrancispalosverdes.org)



## Advent Sunday Breakfast & Nativity Set Craft Sunday, December 7

Come and celebrate the Advent season together with one of our favorite St. Francis traditions! On **Sunday, December 7, following the 10 am service**, join us in the Parish Hall for our annual Advent Sunday Breakfast — a time to gather as a parish family, share a meal, and embrace the joy of the season.

The Friars will be serving up a delicious pancake breakfast, complete with hot cocoa, warm cider, and plenty of cheer. It's the perfect way to slow down, reconnect, and prepare our hearts for the Advent journey ahead.

Something new this year! We'll also be hosting a Nativity Set craft, where everyone is invited to create a one-of-a-kind Nativity scene. All the materials will be provided, so you can design and assemble your set, as a family or on your own, as a meaningful keepsake to bring the spirit of Advent into your home.

Come enjoy good food, great company, and the warmth of community as we begin this holy season together.

Contact: Mary Deley (mary\_deley@yahoo.com)

## Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Meeting Sunday, December 7

The St. Francis ECW will meet on **Saturday, December 7, at 11:30 am in the St. Francis Library** to discuss the distribution of funds raised this year.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the Antiques Show—whether through generous gifts in response to the Angel Letter or through the many hours of hard work that made the show such a success! This annual event is our primary fundraiser, enabling us to give generously to both the parish and local community organizations.

A detailed report of ECW giving will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

More information about next year's Antiques Show will be coming soon!

Contact: Anna Eakins (annatkozaki@gmail.com)

## Christmas Toy Drive with Malaga Bank

St. Francis Episcopal Church is partnering with Malaga Bank this holiday season to help bring joy to local families in need. We're collecting new, unwrapped toys, and we'd love your help! You can drop off donations at the St. Francis church office or at any Malaga Bank location **through December 12.**

## St. Anne's Christmas Auction Friday, December 12

Mark your calendars for one of our favorite St. Francis traditions! On **Friday, December 12 from 6–9 pm, the Parish Hall** transforms into a festive marketplace filled with Christmas cheer, homemade treats, and gifts waiting to find new homes.

Hosted by the St. Anne's Guild, this live auction raises funds for local charities—and it's always a joyful evening of fellowship, fun, and holiday spirit. ✨

Enjoy refreshments, browse beautiful Christmas items, and take home something special for the season. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome!

Come celebrate generosity, community, and the joy of giving.

## Las Posadas (Nativity Reenactment) Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 pm

Come experience the beauty and tradition of **Las Posadas on Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 pm** at St. Francis! This beloved celebration reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for shelter before the birth of Jesus. We'll begin outdoors with singing and the traditional procession, then move inside to enjoy delicious Mexican food and fellowship.

Las Posadas has been celebrated for over 430 years, and we're delighted to share this meaningful tradition with our whole community. All are warmly invited to participate.

For more information, please contact Ed Hinz at 310-418-8138.

## Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour Sunday, December 21

Join us after the 10:00 am service for a festive Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall! Everyone is invited to bring a plate of cookies to share — homemade, store-bought, fancy, simple... all are welcome.

Come enjoy sweet treats, warm fellowship, and a joyful moment together as we celebrate the final Sunday of Advent. Bring cookies, bring friends, bring Christmas cheer — we can't wait to see you there!

## Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Alyssa Capellino Baxter, Barry Witt, Drew Deley, Jonathan Zimmerman, Joseph Leahy, Mark Kappelmann, Michael Strong, Scott Ruston, Steve, Thomas Dawson, TJ Malzahn, and Will Piepenbring

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Andrea, Anne Sharp, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bob Cook, Brad, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Celeste Stump, Ceri Falk, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Daniel Drayling, Elizabeth Beadle, Erica, Gail Winters, Joseph and Danielle Diestel, Judy Morgan, Kathy Falk, Kerry Myers, Kristen, Krystal, Loren, Miguel Diaz, Natalie Massey, Patt Parker, Phyllis Massey, Richard Cantine, Roxanne Wall, Roz Hadley, Sally Hill, Susie Zimmerman, Tommy, the people of the Middle East, and for victims of violence everywhere.

We pray for all who have died, especially Joan Fenske, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

## Our Staff

### **Gina McQueen**

**Office Administrator & Receptionist**

gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 375 4617

### **Elaine Mistele**

**Business Manager**

elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 594-8268

### **Dr. Mark Bennett**

**Director of Music**

mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 594-7416

### **David Knight**

**Organist**

### **Kristina Pelá**

**Prayer and Pastoral Care Leader, Volunteer**

krab3@yahoo.com

### **Shelley Reece**

**Missioner for Programming and Youth**

shelley.reece@stfrancispalosverdes.org

### **Cara Nilsen**

**Discerner**

cara.nilsen@stfrancispalosverdes.org

### **Joel Miranda**

**Sexton**

mirandajoel@outlook.com

### **Wayne Hastings**

**Communications**

wayne@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (901) 219-6564

## Our Clergy

### **The Rev. Jason Shelby, Rector**

jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Direct Line: (310) 594-7984

Church Office: (310) 375-4617

### **The Rev. Celeste Stump, Deacon**

Chaplain at The Canterbury

cstump@thecanterbury.org

Direct Line: (310) 913-1069



2200 Via Rosa  
Palos Verdes, CA 90274

(310) 375-4617

www.stfrancispalosverdes.org



**YouTube**