

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 2025 ♦ 8:00 am



Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

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 Dick & Liz Cantine in celebration of 59 years of marriage.

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

Coming Events

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 Potluck
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal

Monday, December 15

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

Tuesday, December 16

- 4:30 pm Teen Tuesday (Parish Hall)
- 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting and Potluck

Wednesday, December 17

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, Chapel)
- 11:00 am Good Grief Group
- 7:00 pm Lectionary Study (Library)

Thursday, December 18

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Sunday, December 21

- 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 Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal

The Processional Hymn: Tell Out, My Soul Hymnal #437

Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord! Un -
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name! Make
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might! Powers
 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word! Firm

5
 num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice; ten - der to
 known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mer - cy
 and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by. Proud hearts and
 is his prom - ise and his mer - cy sure. Tell out, my

10
 me the prom - ise of his word; in God my Sa - vior
 sure, from age to age the same; his ho - ly Name, the
 stub - born wills are put to flight, the hun - gry fed, the
 soul, the great-ness of the Lord to chil - dren's chil - dren

14
 shall _____ my heart re - joice.
 Lord, _____ the Might - y One.
 hum - ble lift - ed high.
 and _____ for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926), based on "The Song of Mary," Copyright © 1962
 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All Rights Reserved. Use by permission.
 Music: "Birmingham," from "Repository of Sacred Music, Part II," 1813; harm. "Songs of Praise," 1925.

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 Judges 13:2-7

²There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren, having borne no children. ³And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, or to eat anything unclean, ⁵for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of

the Philistines." ⁶Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name; ⁷but he said to me, 'You shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.'"

The Response Psalm 115:9-15 (Book of Common Prayer p. 758)

The Epistle 1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Holy Gospel Luke 1:46-56

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Sermon The Rev. Jason Shelby

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: Come, Thou Almighty King Hymnal #365

Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,
Come, thou In - car - nate Word, by heav'n and earth a - dored;
Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
To Thee, great One in Three, the high - est prais - es be,

7
help us to praise. Fa - ther whose love un-known all things cre - at - ed own,
our prayer at - tend: come, and thy peo - ple bless; come, give thy word suc - cess;
in this glad hour: thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
hence ev - er - more; thy sov - ereign ma - jes - ty may we in glo - ry see,

13
build in our hearts thy throne, An - cient of Days.
'stab - lish thy right - eous - ness, Sa - vior and friend.
and ne'er from us de - part, Spi - rit of power.
and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Words: Anon ca. 1757, alt. Music: "Moscow," Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. "The New Hymnal," 1916,
based on "Hymns Ancient and Modern," 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The Postlude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Thomas Helmore
(organ arr. David Knight)*

Advent & Christmas at St. Francis

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 14

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 am – Pop-up Book Fair
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:30 am – Faithful Families Potluck

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



Wanted: Volunteers to fold Bulletins for Christmas services

Are you available to come to the church office on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 23, from noon to 3:00 pm to fold bulletins for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Sunday, Dec. 28, services? If you can help, please contact Gina at 310-375-4617 or gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org.

Calling all shepherds, animals, angels, and wise men!

We want you! It's time for the St. Francis Christmas pageant. Please let Jennifer Sams know if you would like a specific costume for the pageant. You will pick them up at 3:30 on Christmas Eve and we will tell you everything you need to do. No speaking necessary. Just children ready to be a part of the story of Jesus's birth. If you have any questions please email Jennifer at ajsams@verizon.net.

Faithful Families Potluck and Pop-Up Book Fair Sunday, December 14

On Sunday, December 14, St. Francis will host a pop-up book fair from Moonstone & Mist, a new independent bookstore in Redondo Beach. The book fair will be open from 9:00 am to noon and will run alongside our monthly Faithful Families Potluck in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 am service.

Moonstone & Mist features books by local, diverse, and LGBTQA+ authors, along with children's Bible stories, themed cookbooks, and a wonderful selection of additional titles. Come browse, support a local bookseller, and pick up meaningful gifts for the season!

Learn more about Moonstone & Mist on their website at <https://www.moonstoneandmist.com/>

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!

Help Us Deck the Halls for Christmas Monday, December 22

As we prepare for the beauty and joy of the Christmas season, the St. Francis Altar Guild would love a few extra hands to help decorate the church. We'll gather on Monday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m., and even 30 minutes to an hour of your time would make a big difference.

If you enjoy Christmas greenery, bows, candles, or simply good company while preparing a sacred space, we'd be grateful to have you join us. Come be part of making St. Francis shine for our Christmas services!

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.

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