

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025 ♦ 8:00 am

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump

Guest Musician: Mark Bassett, Cello



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.

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Val & Holly Valiquette in loving memory of Carmela Valiquette, and in thanksgiving for Holly Valiquette.

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

This Week at St. Francis

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

Monday, December 22

- 9:00 am Altar Guild "Deck the Halls"
- 6:00 pm St. Anne's Guild Meeting
- 7:00 pm Sunday Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 23

- 9:00 am Altar Guild "Deck the Halls"
- 4:30 pm Teen Tuesday (Parish Hall)
- 7:00 pm Taizé (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church office closed

- 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
- 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Choir Christmas Concert
- 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

Church office closed

- 9:00 am Christmas Morning Service (Chapel)

Sunday, December 28

- 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)

Note: The church office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025 through Friday, Jan. 2, 2026.

*For more worship opportunities, events, and small groups,
visit our website at <https://stfrancispalosverdes.org/>*

*The Prelude**The Wexford Carol*

Arr. David Knight

The Processional Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel..... Hymnal #56

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mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear. us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re an - cient times didst give the law, in cloud, and maj - es - ty and awe. perse the gloom - y clouds of night and death's dark shad - ow put to flight. thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.

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joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. "Hymnal 1940," alt. Music: "Veni, veni, Emmanuel," plainsong, Mode 1, "Processionale," 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

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 1 Samuel 1:19-28

¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

²¹The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. ²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time." ²³Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only — may the LORD establish his

word." So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. ²⁴When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. ²⁵Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. ²⁸Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD."

She left him there for the LORD.

The Response Canticle of Hannah: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

^{1b} "My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.

**My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory."**

²"There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God."

³Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
**for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed."**

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength."

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

**The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn."**

⁶The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts."

⁸He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.

**For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world."**

⁹"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
for not by might does one prevail."

¹⁰The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;
the Most High will thunder in heaven.

**The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed."**

The Epistle Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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 Long Expected Jesus Hymnal #66

Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the
 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our

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peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our
 earth thou art: dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery
 yet a king, born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gracious
 hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf - fi - cent mer - it raise us to thy

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rest in thee.
 long - ing heart.
 king - dom bring.
 glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: "Stuttgart,"
 melody from "Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige un Schöne Gesange," 1715;
 adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).

The Postlude

Rorate Coeli

Pietro A. Yon

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!

Volunteers Needed to fold Bulletins for Christmas services

Tuesday, December 23

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 pm 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.



CAMP PENDLETON AND FORT MACARTHUR COLLECTION

Saturday, January 10, 2026
9:00am-12:00pm

SUPPORT OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

Camp Pendleton is home to over 70,000 Marines and 10,000 children under 5. More than 160 babies are born there each month. Most families arrive with only what fits in their car and often lack essentials for newborns and small children, plus furnishings for their housing. The Rotary Clubs of District 5280 are collecting new and gently used items for these families to select from at Camp Pendleton's "Warrior Warehouse" and Fort MacArthur's "Airman's Attic", which is filled with donated items that are free for local military families.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Diapers
- Baby & children's clothes
- Toys, books, bathtubs, strollers, cribs
- Dishes, cookware, meal prep tools
- Bedding
- Gift cards (\$25) to Target/Walmart

DROP OFF

 **Hawthorne High School**
4859 El Segundo Blvd.
Hawthorne, CA 90250

For More Information:
David Henseler
Rotary Club of South Bay Sunrise
310-753-0929

Bring items by Friday, January 9, 2026 to the church office or Susie's house (call for address).

Items will be loaded to drop off at Hawthorne High School on Jan. 10. Meet at St. Francis at 8:15 a.m. to load. Leave at 8:45 a.m.

St. Francis Contact:

Susie Zimmerman
susiehzimmerman@gmail.com
or leave text: (310) 316-5941

If you can help drop off items on January 10, please contact Susie.

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, Will Piepenbring, and Michael Valquette.

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, Cери Falk, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Daniel Drayling, Elizabeth Beadle, Erica, 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

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