

Canterbury Tales

The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California



Lent 2026



From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's.

On Ash Wednesday, February 18th, Christians throughout the world will gather in churches large and small, reading prayers and scriptures that invite us to repent, to turn around, to change our minds. We will also have ashes placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, reminding us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. This odd ritual will mark the beginning of 40 days of Lent in which we will journey together with Jesus from the loneliness of the desert to the crowded city of Jerusalem. Along the way, each Sunday, we'll read about interesting characters who find their lives changed as a result of having interacted with this teacher, healer, and movement leader.

Lent 2026 at St. Anselm's will offer us a variety of opportunities to deepen our own relationship with Jesus. We can join Spirit Walks each Sunday afternoon with our friends from St. Paul's, Walnut Creek, attend Wednesday Noonday Eucharists, join an online study on Thursday evenings wrestling with the challenging topic of Christian Nationalism, and hear from experts on housing insecurity, wealth inequality, and our healthcare system at 11:30 a.m. Sunday mornings in March.

Our sanctuary will also look a bit different over the next few months as we welcome the work of Bay Area artist Sukey Bryan. She will share her 12 panel work "The Fire Within," which has been shown in a variety of sacred spaces including Stanford Memorial Chapel and Grace Cathedral. You can read more about this work within the pages of this edition of Canterbury Tales.

On Sunday, March 29th, we will begin Holy Week on Palm Sunday and welcome the Diocese of California's Canon to the Ordinary, The Rev. Canon J. Sierra Reyes, as guest preacher.

St. Anselm's has always been a special place for individuals and families to seek to know God, grow and serve. The season of Lent is a beautiful time to step deeper into the life of this congregation and invite others to join you.

See you soon!
The Rev. Will Scott
Rector

Anselm's Angels

A great big thank you to our outgoing Class of 2026 Vestry members: **Bob Eddy, Peg Matson, Joni Pearce & David Rowe**. And special thanks to Sr. Warden **Peg Matson, Jr.** Warden **Kaitie Taggart** and Clerk **Joni Pearce** for your dedication and leadership.

Thank you to everyone who helped St. Anselm's prepare for our Annual Meeting on February 1st, especially our treasurer **Marian Mulkey** and Bookkeeper, **Steve Zimmerman**.

Thank you to **Joni Pearce** and everyone who stepped up to collect blankets and towels for the Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition.

Thank you to **JP Zhang** for all his support of the Property Commission, especially related to our recent challenges with preschool dishwasher.

Thank you to **Judy Peak** and the Worship Commission, **Sylvia Williams** and the Altar Guild for helping us prepare for Lent. Many thanks to our Christian Formation Commission for all their efforts to organize a robust set of programs for the Lenten season.



From The Senior Warden



I accepted Rev. Will's invitation to become Sr. Warden for the coming year, realizing I have huge shoes to fill. The past two years have been a roller coaster ride, dealing with upsets from 2024, searching for and hiring a new Rector and an Organist, hosting the Institution Service and reception for Will, our new Parish Priest, plus activities marking the 65th Anniversary of St. Anselm's.

My goals this year are to work with the Vestry in mapping out a comprehensive, but calm and solid program with vision into the future, which we will work on together at the Vestry Retreat in May. I plan to meet with each Commission and Ministry chair person, to learn more about what each group is doing and who the members are. Looking over the Commission System Chart, it's apparent that almost everyone is involved with at least one group, some are wearing several hats. With your prayers and continued support, we will continue to welcome new members to the congregation, making our church family an extension of our own family.

Iris Hillman
Senior Warden

Special Recognition



Each year at our Annual Meeting St. Anselm's lifts up members of the congregation who have shown exceptional dedication, commitment, and faith. This year we honored **Georganne & Bob Eddy, Dharmini Harichandran, and Sarah Vickers Webb.**

The Eddy's have been members of St. Anselm's for decades and have served in a variety of roles, most recently as Deanery & Convention Delegates. In 2025, Bob also served as head of Michael Lane Preschool Board, on the Vestry and Property Commission. Georganne provided essential leadership for our February Art & Music Festival.



Dharmini Harichandran is a long serving member of the Altar Guild, a member of the Vestry and can always be counted on for an encouraging word.

Sarah Vickers Webb is a new member and has stepped in numerous ways, taking a lead on organizing our Queer Faith Festival, joining the choir and supporting our First Sunday All Ages Service.



Michael Lane Preschool

2026 is off to a great start at Michael Lane Preschool - we are at full enrollment!

We have been learning about winter, making snow for our sensory bin, reading many books about winter weather and clothes, making different kinds of bears, and even embraced the cozy spirit of the season by wearing our pajamas to school, and making pancakes. We have been working on learning all of the names of our classmates, and singing lots of seasonal songs.

We just hosted our Valentine Tea Party for our families which was a feel good affair with songs, valentines, and red and pink snacks in the Parish Hall. Wishing you all a cozy winter!

Fondly,
Holly Higgins




 The logo for Spirit Walks features the words "Spirit Walks" in a white, cursive script font. The text is set against a dark blue background that transitions into a lighter blue gradient at the top, suggesting a sky or a horizon.

Spirit Walks for Lenten Season: Join Rev. Krista of St. Paul's Walnut Creek & Rev. Will for Spirit Walks. Enjoy fresh air, connection and sacred contemplation in nature. Each Sunday afternoon for six weeks – rain or shine – we will walk for two to three miles, starting with a prayer and reflection. Halfway into our walk, we'll take a brief break and check in with each other. Then, we'll return to our starting point and enjoy a closing circle and prayer. We'll walk paved local trails of easy to moderate difficulty:

Sunday, February 22, 2:00-3:30 p.m. – Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail in Lafayette. We'll meet at the trail entry point across the street from the Stanley Middle School parking lot on School Street. We will enter the paved trail, turn right, and walk east. (3455 School St, Lafayette, CA 94549)

Sunday, March 1, 2:00-3:30 p.m. – Iron Horse Trail meet at the Creek Walk bridge at the north end of the Civic Park parking lot, in Walnut Creek. We will cross the bridge and walk left on the Creek Walk, connecting with the Iron Horse Trail. (1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek 94597)

Sunday, March 8, 2:00-3:30 p.m. – Lafayette Community Park Loop, we'll start at the parking lot near the lower community baseball fields (480 St Marys Rd, Lafayette, CA 94549).

Sunday, March 15, 2:00-3:30 p.m. – Contra Costa Canal Trail and Briones Trail meet in the parking lot for Walden Park in Walnut Creek. We will cross Oak Road to take the Contra Costa Trail East towards Jones Rd. (2698 Oak Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94597)

Sunday, March 22, 2:00-3:30 p.m. – Rossmoor Parkway Trail, we'll start near the Buckeye Grove & Tennis Courts and walk down Rossmoor Parkway and return. Path is flat and paved. For non-residents of Rossmoor let them know you are with the Spirit Walks group for entry. [rossmoor-walkers-map.pdf](#) (3425 Tice Creek Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94595)

Sunday, March 29, 2:00-3:30 p.m. – Shell Ridge: Indian Creek Loop Trail. Meet at the park gate near Indian Valley Elementary School. We will walk south to connect to the Indian Creek Loop. The trail is mostly flat and unpaved. (551 Marshall Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94598)

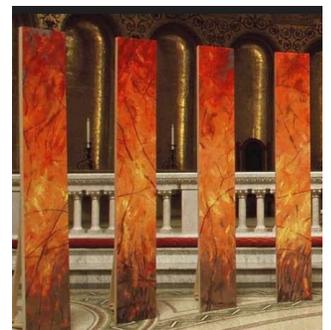
If you wish, bring walking shoes, a hat, water, walking poles, and a snack. Carpool or leave extra time to find parking.

Questions? Reach out to Rev. Will.

The Fire Within comes to St. Anselm's

The Fire Within was designed to be adaptable to many spaces and has been displayed in schools, churches, universities and art spaces. The California environment relies on seasonal fires for a renewed, fertilized and rebalanced ecosystem. The piece is a recognition of the crucial life-sustaining role of fire in nature. It is also a metaphor for the hope of our own inner transformation, getting rid of what is a hindrance, to give oneself to and be filled with love. Like a wild-fire, this spiritual fire is seen as regenerative, a cleansing fire and a reclaiming fire.

About the Artist: Sukey Bryan is a San Francisco Bay Area artist who creates work concerning the cycles of nature in paintings, prints and large-scale installations. She makes work that raises climate awareness and explores our spiritual connection with nature. "The First Within" will be on display in St. Anselm's sanctuary from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday 2026.



Lent, Holy Week & Easter at St. Anselm's

Ash Wednesday Eucharist with imposition of ashes

Noon on Wednesday, February 18th

Traditional service with music and sermon

Lenten Contemplative Eucharists

Every Wednesday in Lent from February 25th thru April 1st

Simple liturgy with a seasonal poem, gospel reading, and centering prayer.

First Sunday All Ages Service

10 a.m. March 1st

Upbeat music, interactive sermon, craft, snacks and bouncy house.

Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Sunday, March 29th

with guest preacher the Rev. Canon J. Sierra Reyes

Maundy Thursday Service

Noon on Thursday, April 2nd

with agape lunch (vegetarian) & foot/handwashing (optional)

Good Friday Service

Noon on Friday, April 3rd

solemn service followed by Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 5th

followed by an epic Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday Guest Preacher: Canon J. Sierra Reyes

On Palm Sunday, March 29th we will welcome the Diocese of California's Canon to the Ordinary as guest preacher. After the service join her for a "Conversation with Canon Sierra" an interactive opportunity to learn more about her journey and her role.



The Rev. Cn. J. Sierra Reyes began her call to serve as the Diocese of California's Canon to the Ordinary in September 2024. In this role, Reyes serves as the chief of diocesan staff and assists Bishop Austin Rios in supporting clergy, lay leaders, and congregations throughout the Bay Area. Reyes most recently served as Canon for Ministry in the Diocese of Chicago, where she managed pastoral transitions and coordinated clergy deployment, search processes, and new clergy support.

Reyes graduated with high honors from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, and earned her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. Her formation for ministry included coursework at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, and a year of study at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

Following her graduation from Harvard Divinity School, Reyes served as Associate Rector of Christ Church Episcopal in Savannah, Georgia; Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Denver, Colorado; and Interim Associate of Ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Reyes is married to Dr. Rudolph Reyes. They live in Alameda with their daughter.



St. Anselm's 2026 Lenten Series **Navigating Faith and Public Life in Troubling Times**

This Lent St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Lafayette will help us think more deeply about how our Christian faith intersects with civic life in the United States at the present moment. We will ground ourselves in Gospel stories and our baptismal covenant as we grapple with troubling trends related to Christian Nationalism, increasing intolerance of diverse identities and beliefs, and public policies that favor those with power and resources and disfavor poor and marginalized communities.

Understanding & Responding to Community Needs

On Sundays (March 8, 15 and 22) at 11:30 a.m. we will welcome speakers with expertise in housing, racial wealth inequity, and healthcare for presentations and conversation in our Parish Hall.

Understanding & Responding to Christian Nationalism

On Thursdays (February 19 and 26, March 5, 12 and 26) from 7-8 pm a **Zoom** study and discussion series will consider how Christian Nationalism emerged, explore how it shows up in American public life, and analyze how and where it diverges from a gospel of love. Suggested short videos and readings between the weekly 1-hour sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to engage more deeply.

Sign up on our website: www.stanselmslafayette.org

Vestry Updates



Vestry Meeting held January 18th :

- The Minutes from the December 21, 2025 meeting were approved and posted in the Parish Hall Conference Room

The vestry had an interactive discussion:

- The Annual Meeting details were discussed as well as the Deanery Delegates (Marty Fischer, Kayce Rane and Bob Eddy) and Vestry Candidates (Julie Rinkenberger, Keith Pearce and Elisabeth Ward).
- The Vestry Person of the Day procedure was discussed and it was decided to keep the same process and Katie Taggart would create a new schedule for 2026.

Action Items:

- A new counting procedure will be established. There will be 4 teams of 2 counters – one person will be a vestry member and the other will be a parish member. Team #1 will do the first Sunday of the month, #2 the second Sunday, etc. and the 5th Sunday of the month and special services will be rotated by the teams.
- The vestry voted to keep the check signing procedures and check signers the same for the next year.

Updates:

- Joni Pearce reported that the recent Outreach Meeting was well attended and they mapped out 2026 outreach ideas.
- Julie reported that Christian Formation is working on a Lenten Series to look at learning more about Christian Nationalism, housing insecurity, racial economic gap and health insurance issues facing our nation.
- Naomi's Deacon Report included her switch to attending on Zoom for the First Sunday All Ages services and having Zoom Coffee Hour with the attendees. She mentioned Pam Jester is starting a Bible Study Group for Rossmor. In addition, she said the Deacon's Retreat will only be a 1 day event in March of this year.
- Bob reported that the Property Commission is working on a leak in the sanctuary roof as well as monitoring work on the hillside behind the church where the neighbors have experienced a leak in their irrigation system that has compromised our property.

Next Vestry Meeting Sunday, February 15th at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room

Vestry Meeting held February 1st :

The Vestry classes of 2027, 2028, and 2029 met after the Annual Meeting to choose a Clerk and a Junior Warden. Julia Starr volunteered as Clerk. Julie Rinkenberger volunteered as Junior Warden. Both were approved for the posts. Rev. Will Scott announced that the Vestry retreat will be Saturday, May 16, 2026, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek.

Julia Starr
Clerk



Third Sunday Offerings for Discretionary Fund

Third Sunday loose plate offerings will be designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. As the name indicates, Reverend Will may, within boundaries, use these funds at his discretion. The funds are for charitable purposes, primarily to aid the poor and needy, for example to assist with food, rent, utilities, and medical bills for individuals facing a crisis. Contributions may also be used to support a recognized charitable organization whose mission aligns with the mission of St. Anselm's. Adding the plate offering from one week per month to the Rector's Discretionary Fund is a common practice among Episcopal congregations and has been done at St. Anselm's at times in the past. Individuals in need or facing a crisis may reach out to Rev. Will on a confidential basis to explore potential assistance.

CELEBRATING...



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

John Powers
Chris Sherwood
Tim Brown
Don Liddle
Amity Buxton
Leslie Weaver
Jane Dawkin
Mike Morf

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Norm & Sheila Gorsuch

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sonny Vickers-Webb
Jill Schon
Jim Burns
Pamela Green
Barbara Thorton
Elizabeth Henry
Michael Hollinger

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Peg Matson & Duane Nelsen
Shanda Young & Sarah Leahy

CANTERBURY TALES

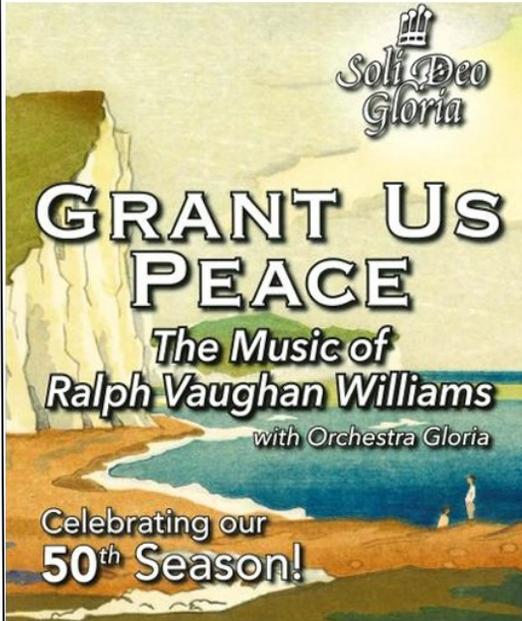
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In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Saturday, March 7, 3:30 p.m.
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, Lafayette

Ralph Vaughan William's (1872-1958) fascination with the voice was both lifelong and deeply profound. Regardless of their subject matter, his choral compositions affirm and celebrate the human experience. From the sensuous beauty of the *Serenade to Music* - a piece so exquisite that it caused Sergei Rachmaninoff to weep - to a powerful plea for peace in the *Dona Nobis Pacem*, this is a timely and timeless program.

General admission tickets:
\$30 adults; \$25 students/seniors
Grades K-8 are free

Advanced Prices:
\$28 adults; \$25 students/seniors

Order by phone (510) 522-1702
Order Online: www.sdgloria.org

FEBRUARY WORK PARTY

Saturday, February 21, 2026
9 a.m. to Noon
lunch included

Rain or shine
bring your work gloves

Please let us know if you will be joining us by emailing: Peg at plmatson@comcast.net



OUTREACH



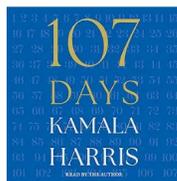
During Lent, the Outreach Committee will be collecting white socks for the Annual Deacon's Sock Drive to benefit Trinity Center. Please bring new white socks to church to donate. Thank you!

The Outreach Commission will meet **Sunday, March 1st** during coffee fellowship in the library to discuss upcoming service projects. All are welcome, hope to see you there.

Joni Pearce
Outreach Commission Chair

BOOK CLUB

Thursday, February 19th
at 2:00 p.m.
in the Library



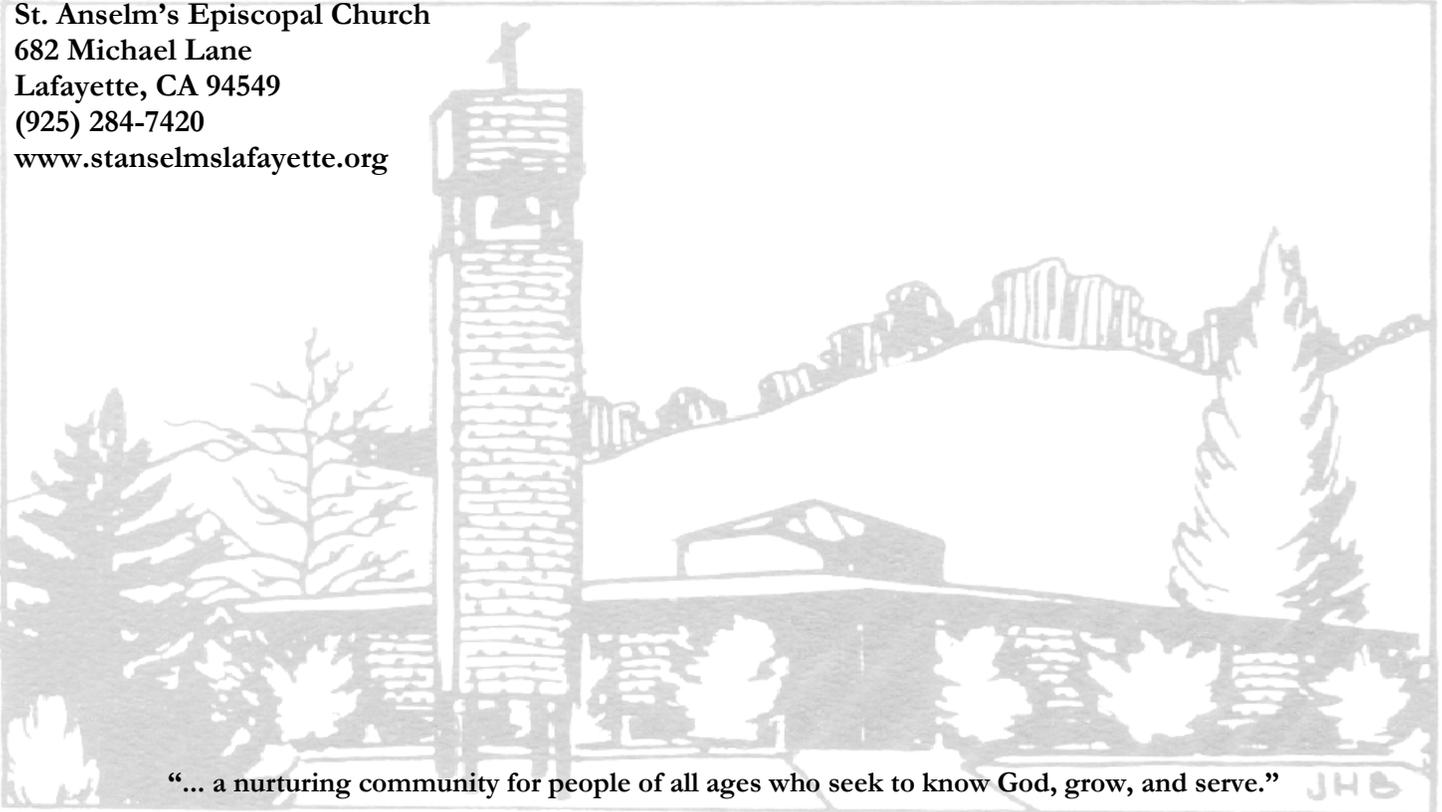
For questions, please contact Sharyn Barrington Carlson at 847.337.0875 or Deacon Naomi at 925.395.1395.

ST. ANSELM'S STAFF

The Rev. Will Scott, Rector
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
Chris Kula, Director of Music
Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager
Steve Zimmerman, Bookkeeper
Holly Higgins, Michael Lane Preschool Director

To schedule an in person conversation with Rev. Will,
email: rector@stanselmmlafayette.org

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 (925) 284-7420
www.stanselmslafayette.org



“... a nurturing community for people of all ages who seek to know God, grow, and serve.” JHB

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ministry of the Month — February: [Worship Commission](#) & March: [Parish Life](#)

Thursday, February 12th — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 13th/20th/27th & March 6th/13th/20th/27th — Lamorinda Village Strength & Balance class from 11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Sunday, February 15th & March 15th — Vestry Meeting will meet in the conference room at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, February 17th/24th & March 3rd/10th/17th/24th — Morning Prayer will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 18th & March 18th — Stephen Ministers will meet at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 19th & Wednesday March 18th — Book Club in the Library at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday February 19th/26th & March 5th/12th/26th Understanding & Responding to Christian Nationalism will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 22nd/March 1st/8th/15th/22nd/29th — Spirit Walk at from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 1st — First Sunday All Ages Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 1st — Altar Guild at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 1st — Outreach Commission will meet in the library at 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, March 3rd — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon.

Tuesday, March 3rd — Property Commission will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 8th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday March 15th & 22nd Understanding and Responding to Community Needs at 11:30 a.m. in Parish Hall.