



SAINT FRANCIS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN

聖公會聖法蘭西斯堂

PARISH PROFILE

November 2024

INTRODUCTION

We are excited about St. Francis Willow Glen's future with a new rector.

St. Francis is in a period of transition, a healthy and positive opportunity to begin a new journey with a new commitment to reaching new heights in service to Christ.

Our foundation is strong. We are blessed with a sanctuary whose renovation five years ago has provided us with an inviting place to worship. But, like many churches, we do face some challenges. Church attendance patterns have shifted, with fewer in the pews but a small but steady influx of new members. Budgets have grown tighter. While St. Francis is not operating at our greatest potential, we have many strengths—not least a loving, welcoming parish community—that await our new rector.

Following the departure of our priest who served St. Francis faithfully and lovingly for 10 years while leading us through the challenges of a pandemic and the opportunities of a million-dollar capital campaign, we are fortunate to have a creative, energetic interim priest. He has been challenging us to look more closely at ourselves, to explore new approaches to worship and community, and to prepare for a new chapter in the life of this special church community.



We, the St. Francis Willow Glen community, are excited to welcome a new rector to lead our diverse and evolving bilingual community in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Who We Are

St. Francis is a welcoming, multi-generational congregation with members from various backgrounds.

We're a healthy mix of people who grew up Episcopalian and transplants from other faiths and denominations. A number of us began attending church as adults, some at this parish. Some attend St. Francis because it's an Episcopal church, and others because the location is convenient and they feel they've been welcomed here.

We embrace diversity—ethnically, socioeconomically, and spiritually. Our community includes everyone from tech execs to refugees, tradespeople to professors, a former Chamber of Commerce chair and two city council members. Many parishioners are financially secure, while some are

striving to making to make ends meet. We've recently grown to include a vibrant Mandarin-speaking group and growing LGBTQ+ presence.

Our Space

Our newly renovated sanctuary is a flexible, welcoming space for worship and community events. It's used by a variety of groups, from 12-step programs to town halls hosted by the mayor. We also have a beautiful, recently renovated labyrinth—created as a Girl Scout project by a youth, who's now mom to a toddler—that's open to all, offering a peaceful retreat right on our campus.

What Inspires Us

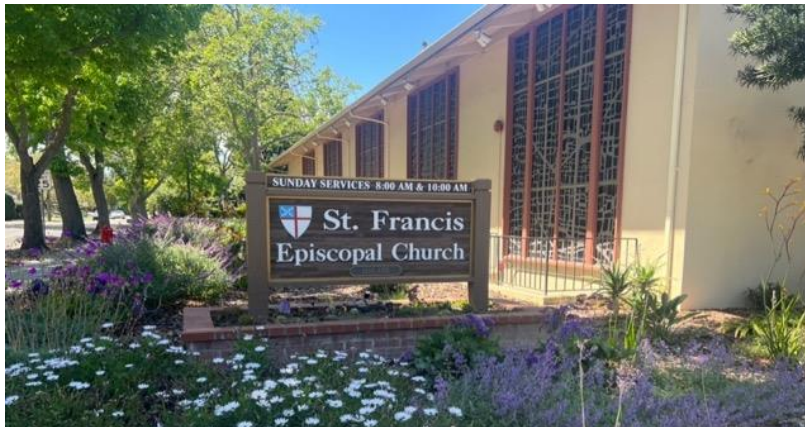
We seek spiritual nourishment and community connection amidst the busyness of Silicon Valley. We value sermons that uplift, challenge and inspire us to grow. As our rector, you'll engage with us, lead us, and help us explore new ways to live out our faith.

Our Hopes

We're looking for a dynamic leader who will inspire, comfort, and challenge us. We want to grow—spiritually, in numbers, and in our outreach to the community. We're committed to supporting you with open hearts and minds.

We look forward to celebrating, sharing, and growing together in Christ's love.

GATHERING AND GROWING SINCE 1927



St. Francis Church has been a cornerstone of the Willow Glen community in San Jose since 1927. From its humble beginnings in a remodeled butcher shop to its modernized campus renovated in 2019, the church is more than just a building; it's a community of people who worship, celebrate, and support one another. Over the years, seven rectors have guided the parish, each bringing their unique leadership. The church's core mission, expressed through taglines like "Where God's Children Gather and Grow" and "To Know Christ and Make Him Known," reflects its commitment to fostering a welcoming and loving community. With God's guidance and new leadership, the church continues to grow and spread Christ's love.



At St. Francis Episcopal Church our warm, caring family welcomes all to Christ's table in worship, grows together in love, supports our youth, and gathers for fellowship, music, and service.

CONNECTING WITH GOD AS WE WORSHIP

At St. Francis, we embrace a broad church approach to worship, with two Sunday services that follow Rite II. We also offer online morning and evening prayers in both English and Mandarin.

- 8 a.m. Service: Held in our intimate chapel, this contemplative service sees 15-20 regular attendees. It's a perfect fit for early risers who want to worship before heading out to their weekend activities.
- 10:15 a.m. Service: Our larger service, with around 75 attendees, blends meaningful tradition with a relaxed vibe. It's family-friendly, featuring a Mandarin translation, lively greetings, and moments for quiet reflection. Despite a post-pandemic dip, attendance has stabilized, with some weeks seeing a boost.
- Sanctuary Renovation: In 2019, we transformed our sanctuary with new stone and wood flooring. We opened up the chancel and replaced pews with flexible seating to create a dynamic worship space.
- Livestream: About 25 viewers join us online each week, including locals and international guests, with older members especially appreciating this connection.
- Community Highlights: We celebrate milestones like birthdays, anniversaries, and personal victories during our services, reflecting the strong sense of community at St. Francis. We're especially known for our annual St. Francis Sunday blessing of the animals—a lively event loved by all.

With 78% of our parishioners seeking spiritual nourishment and 65% aiming to stay connected, St. Francis stands as a pillar of faith and fellowship.



PRAISING GOD THROUGH MUSIC

At St. Francis, music is a vital part of our worship and fellowship. Our 10:15 a.m. service blends traditional hymns with contemporary pieces, folk songs, and spirituals, ensuring there's something to inspire everyone.

The adult choir, now 10 strong, leads the congregation with organ or piano accompaniment by our music director, Michael Langham, who also arranges many of the musical interludes during services. While the choir takes a summer break, a new worship band is emerging, carrying forward the legacy of the Music Makers group. This ensemble, featuring violins, flutes, guitars, and piano, plays contemporary worship music from Cursillo and artists like Matt Maher.

Special occasions like Easter and Christmas are enhanced by the sounds of string quartets, timpani, and trumpet. Though the handbell choir is currently inactive, the instruments await new ringers.

Our sanctuary features a unique Hauptwerk Virtual Pipe Organ, which replicates the sounds of famous European organs, and a Beckstein piano, both adding richness to our services. Parishioners and outside groups alike tell us they love the acoustics and are welcomed by the beautiful stained glass windows.



SERVING AS GOD'S HANDS BEYOND OUR CAMPUS WALLS

Members of St. Francis are fortunate to be part of a large, caring community – in essence, a large extended family. Caring on this scale often requires organized efforts, and parish committees play an important role, from visioning to implementation.

Just like in any family, we celebrate joys and triumphs with one another and help bear each other's sorrows and burdens. We grieve, celebrate and educate. Not only do we care for one another as we seek God's presence, healing and peace, but we also provide spiritual and practical support to people we don't know personally, many of whom we will never meet.



St. Francis hosts the Daytime Shelter February 9 - March 4

Some ministries, such as Stephen Ministries, faded during the pandemic. Some continued such as Sunday School. Others have been slowly coming back and still others need to be restarted or reimagined.

Among the ways parishioners have served as the hands of Christ in our community:

- Helping create and lead [Village House](#), a rotating homeless shelter that brought together about twenty faith communities to house nearly 200 women, about 15 at a time, over four years before it was forced to shut down because of the pandemic. From logistics to meal preparation, **nearly 90 percent of our parishioners** found an opportunity to serve.
- Serving women and children through financial and in-person support for projects administered by [Santa Maria Urban Ministry](#) (our Diocesan outreach agency) and the Teen Success program for teenage mothers.
- Supporting local students and teachers by supplying backpacks and school supplies through Santa Maria Urban Ministry and coordinating Christmas gifts and food for families through our “angel tree” program.

St. Francis is ready for a new outreach project that brings our congregation together, not just through donations, but by actively making an impact. After all, 69% of us agree: it's time to strengthen our presence in the community.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AS WE JOIN TOGETHER TO KNOW GOD BETTER

St. Francis: Your Spiritual and Social Hub

At St. Francis, we're all about creating a meaningful, lifelong connection to faith. From our vibrant children's programs to adult education, we've got something for everyone—whether you're a seasoned member or just finding your spiritual path.

For the Kids: Our kids are at the heart of our community. With programs led by Leah Tedeschi, they learn, laugh, and grow in their faith through church school, special services, and fun events like Easter egg hunts. We're committed to giving them a solid spiritual foundation.

About 15 children are enrolled, a significant decline from five years ago, but on any given Sunday, we can easily recognize their excitement and exuberance when they come upstairs to attend the remainder of the service and Holy Communion with their families.



For Teens: Keeping teens engaged can be tough, but we're dedicated to making church relevant and exciting. We hope to rebuild a program that once attracted 30 to 40 regular participants but has dwindled since the pandemic.

Since 2008, a total of about 100 different St. Francis middle and high school students have loaded into vans and headed to life-changing opportunities in a variety of remote [Sierra Service Project](#) locations throughout the West. Serving people whose cultural and life experiences differ greatly from Silicon Valley, they painted homes in Native American communities and built wheelchair ramps in rural Oregon, usually sleeping in church basements.

Following a pandemic hiatus, our youth – often bringing along friends and cousins – have continued the Sierra Project tradition. Our youth also attend [Camp Saint Andrews](#), our diocese's summer camp for children from diverse social and economic backgrounds.

We are committed to providing our children with a spiritual and moral foundation before we send them out into the world. So we are eager to find new ways to serve them and the moms, dads and other family members who bring them to church.

For Adults: From dinner groups to book clubs, our parish life is full of opportunities to connect with others. We're even piloting a young adults ministry to help build deeper bonds in our community. Whether it's a potluck, a social event, or just coffee hour, we hope everyone finds a place to build community at St. Francis.

We're a church that feels like home—a place where we want to know your name, celebrate your joys, and support you through challenges.



THE ST. FRANCIS CHURCH CAMPUS

A Sanctuary in the City

Nestled in the peaceful Willow Glen neighborhood, St. Francis is more than just a church—it's a vibrant community space. Our beautifully remodeled sanctuary, complete with stunning stained glass and top-tier acoustics, seats 275.

The sanctuary contains a columbarium with over 100 niches with plans to build more due to demand. Parishioners welcome the space as an ideal and reasonably economical resting place for loved ones. As one member said, "It gives me a warm feeling to know that I'm still able to attend church services with my wife of so many years."

Beyond Sunday services, our campus is alive with activity. From concerts to Scout troop meetings and support groups, there's always something happening here.

Other areas on campus, some of which are available for rent or as community space, make St. Francis a hub for connection and reflection

When passing by campus you'll notice people sitting in our garden or walking through the labyrinth, enjoying a quiet and spiritual place of welcome.

FINANCES AND PLEDGING

St. Francis' stewardship program lays a strong financial foundation for our ongoing ministries. We have **no debt**, pay our bills on time, and have a reserve of \$110,000 in investments and savings.

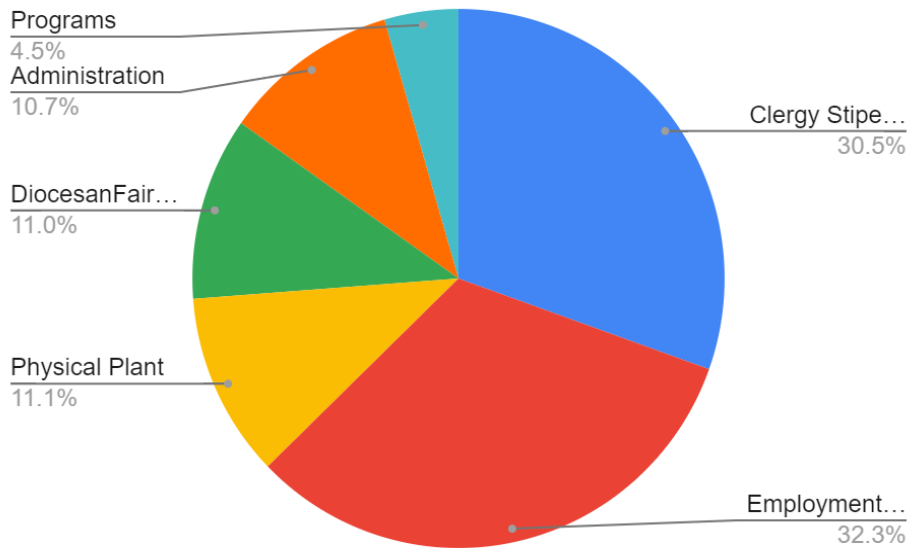
We maintain our property and, as part of our capital campaign, completed two phases of a major infrastructure initiative: a \$200,000 project to improve the sound system in the social hall, renovate classrooms and offices, and replace antiquated telecommunications equipment and then an \$800,000 sanctuary renovation. .

Sunday attendance at our two morning services averaged around 100 in 2023 with 65 confirmed pledging units.

In 2023, pledge income provided about 65% of our income, facility-use fees from community groups 19%, and plate offerings 4% our income, with another 12% coming from COVID relief.

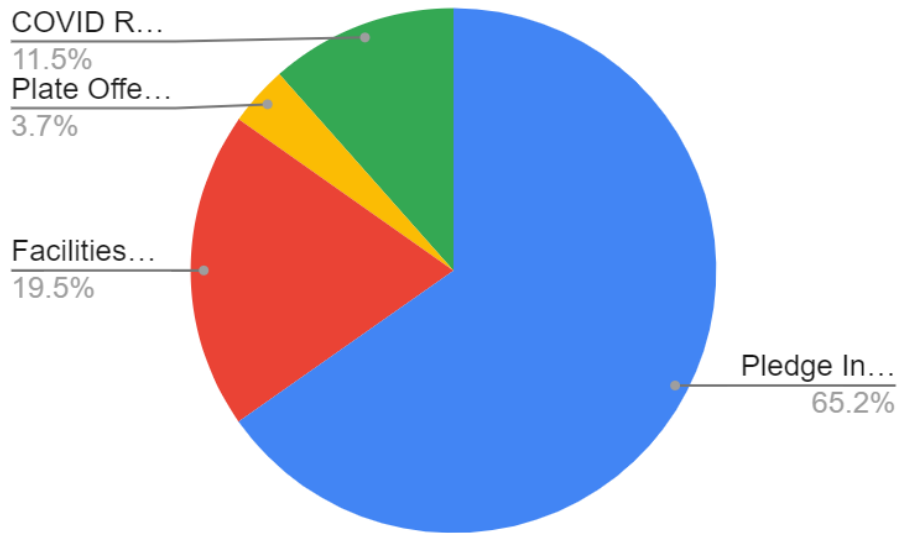
The traditional Sunday offering plate, an automatic debit program and PayPal provide convenient, anytime giving options.

2023 Total Operating Expenses



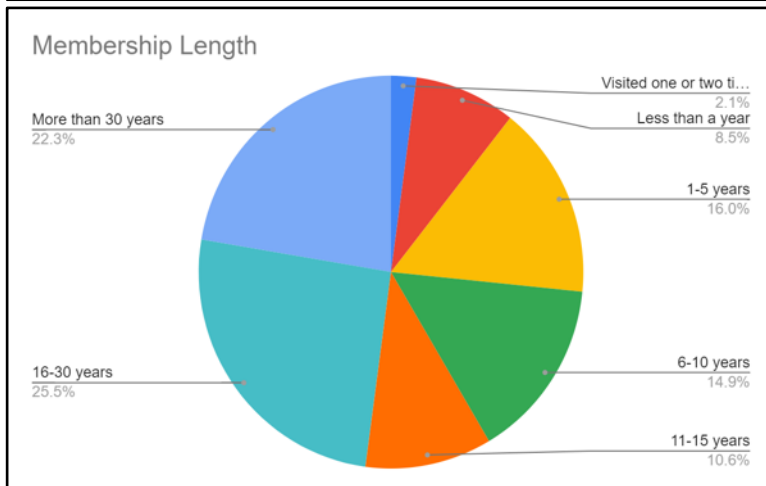
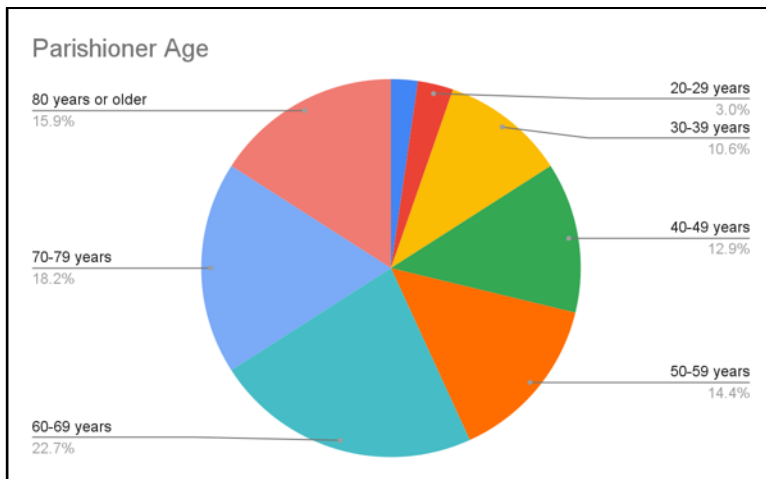
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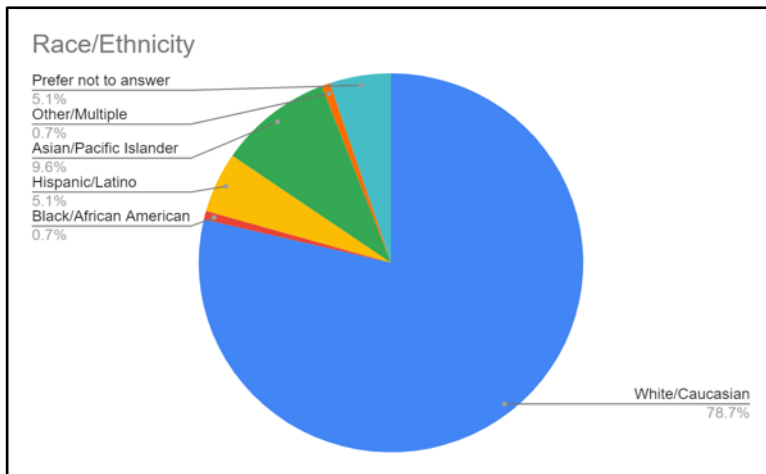
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OUR PARISH BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers never tell the whole story of a congregation, but a survey and review of parish records provide helpful information about our parishioners and how best St. Francis can serve them and help them serve God.





(Note: Statistics in this Parish Profile are derived from a parish online survey, which had 158 responses from parishioners, plus an expanded sample from our broader community; parish treasurer's reports; parochial report; and other parish records.)

STAFF

St. Francis has a [loving, dedicated team](#) that tends to the spiritual and administrative needs of the parish, including a Director of Children and Family Ministry, our music director with more than 45 years of experience as organist, harpist and church musician, our reverend who leads the Mandarin community, and the administrative and support team consists of an office administrator, communications coordinator and janitor.

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Willow Glen: A Hidden Gem in San Jose

Willow Glen, one of San Jose's oldest and most charming neighborhoods, blends historic beauty with modern vibes. Tree-lined streets, unique shops, diverse churches, and expansive parks make it a vibrant community.



Living here means easy access to the best of the Bay Area. Enjoy top-tier universities like Stanford and UC Berkeley, cheer for local teams like the San Jose Sharks and Earthquakes, and explore cultural hotspots like Symphony San Jose and the Tech Interactive.

Outdoor enthusiasts will love the 65-mile urban trail network and nearby hikes with ocean views. Plus, iconic destinations like the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, Monterey, and even Yosemite are just a short drive away.

Whether you're catching a local game, enjoying the arts, or simply exploring the neighborhood, Willow Glen offers something for everyone. Come see why we love calling it home!

HOW TO APPLY

Questions and applications should be sent to the Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Canon Martha Korienek, at canonmartha@realepiscopal.org. Applications should include a resume, OTM profile, and a cover letter addressed to the Transition Team. Applications are due Jan. 15, 2025.