

December 2019

# The Connection

A Publication from Mission San Luis Rey



Merry Christmas to all of you from the Friars and the Mission Staff. We are so grateful to all of you for your support of the Mission. This is such a wonderful time of the year as we rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child. It's also a time when we are

grateful for all of the gifts in our lives; our friends, family, and our faith. But my favorite thing about Christmas is seeing people sharing their gifts with those who are less fortunate or struggling in life. If this time of year is difficult for you we'd like

to invite you to stop by the Mission and spend some time in the historic church or wherever you feel at peace on the Mission grounds. We hope it will bring you some peace and joy during the Christmas season. Bless you all.



## Greccio - The Site of the First Christmas Creche

Christmas was the most important feast to St. Francis and he wanted to celebrate it by creating a realistic depiction of the Birth of Christ. "The sight of the crèche in its glorious simplicity was a symbol of the advent of lowliness, the exaltation of poverty, the praise of humility." (Quote from *"St. Francis of Assisi and the Conversion of the Muslims."*)



# Mission EVENTS

- **December 6, 2019 | 7PM**  
**December 7, 2019 | 2 PM**  
**Annual Christmas Concert with the San Luis Rey Chorale in the Historic Church**  
Dessert reception in the Sacred Garden immediately following the Friday night performance.
- **January 25, 2019**  
**3 PM - 5PM**  
**Art Restoration Lecture**  
*by Alexis Miller and Bianca Garcia from Balboa Art Conservation Center*  
Wine & Cheese Reception included. \$25
- **Now until December 12th**  
**Mission Tamales on Sale!**  
Place your order on our website today.
- **Every Weekend**  
**Behind-the-Scenes Tours**  
To learn more about the mission and see areas not normally open to the public, take one of our Behind-the-Scenes Tours on Saturdays at 11am or 1pm and Sundays at 1pm. Visit our website for times and availability.

*Reservations are highly recommended.*

[www.sanluisrey.org](http://www.sanluisrey.org)

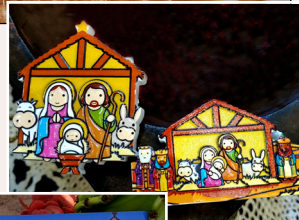
## Welcome Our New Cemetery Director



The Cemetery has a new Director. Danielle Napoli comes to Mission San Luis Rey with

over 13 years of experience in the funeral and cemetery business. Danielle is a wonderful addition to our Cemetery Ministry. She has a unique combination of knowledge of the cemetery business and the caring and compassion for families

who are going through the grieving process. The next time you're at the Mission stop by and say hello to Danielle. If you haven't already bought your space in the Cemetery she'll be happy to give you a tour of our beautiful grounds and share with you the many different types of spaces available.



## Small Business Saturday

There's no better place to shop locally this "Small Business Saturday" than Mission San Luis Rey's Museum Store. If you haven't been in the Museum Store for a while, stop by and browse for awhile; we always have new items. If you've never been in the Museum Store, you're in for a treat. We have one entire room devoted to religious items: Franciscan books, bibles, beautiful rosaries, religious icons, holy water, handmade crosses, crucifixes, and of course, nativity scenes for Christmas. Our souvenir room features many Mission items, one-of-a-kind greeting cards, artwork, jewelry and so much more. If you have trouble finding something in particular, Corrie and her staff are more than happy to help you find just the right item for a gift or a treat for yourself. Small Business Saturday is November 30th, but we are open 7 days a week if you can't make it in that day.

Cem

# Franciscan CORNER

## Meet the New Friars

Three friars from the Province of St. Barbara have recently moved to Mission San Luis Rey.

**Br. Jeff Shackleton, OFM**, grew up in Spokane, Washington, and entered the Franciscan formation program less than



a week after the attack on the Twin Towers. he decided it was a good time to dedicate

his life to serving God and working for peace. His solemn profession was on August 22, 2009. Since joining the friars, Br. Jeff has been a hospital chaplain, religious education

coordinator and editor and writer for several province publications. He is now a Formation Director for our friars in temporary profession.

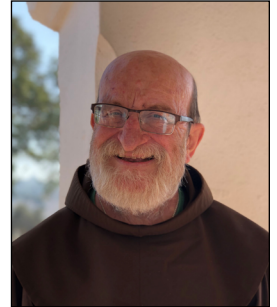
**Fr. Steve Barnufsky, OFM**, is also from Spokane. He made his Solemn Profession in October of 1975 along with Fr. Anthony Garibaldi, OFM who is the Mission's Cemetery Chaplain.



Fr. Steve was Vicar Provincial when Fr. Finian McGinn was Provincial of St. Barbara Province from 1997 - 2003. He has spent most of his life as a friar in parish work where his last assignment was at San Xavier del Bac in Tuscon for the past 16 years before coming here to retire. He currently helps with celebrating

the daily noon Mass in the Historic church.

**Br. Pat Groves, OFM**, was born in Ventura, California. He met the friars at the seminary college here at San Luis Rey in 1965. After graduation, he went



into the Novitiate program and received his Master's degree in Theology. He has spent many years as a social worker. In his spare time, he paints and writes music. On his 25th anniversary, he left the friars and became a secular Franciscan. A year ago, he came back to the friars and is currently taking care of the elderly friars at the Mission.

We welcome them and are thankful for the gifts they bring to our community at Mission San Luis Rey.



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Did you know the Tuesday after Black Friday, this year December 3rd, has been designated as Giving Tuesday. This gives us a chance to make a gift of a donation to our favorite charity. What a special gift for a friend or family member that they will truly treasure. If the Mission

is your favorite charity we'd love to have you make a gift to the Mission in the name of or in memory of a loved one. This year we're designating all donations for our Rose Garden. We have quite a few older roses that must be replaced this year. You can donate on our website at [www.sanluisrey.org/giving/make-a-donation](http://www.sanluisrey.org/giving/make-a-donation) or just click on the Giving tab at the top of our web page. You

can also donate directly from our Facebook page, Mission San Luis Rey.

Another way you can donate to the Mission is every time you make a purchase from Amazon. By logging into <https://smile.amazon.com/> and designating Mission San Luis Rey as your charity, Amazon will make a donation on your behalf every time you make a purchase.

# Retreats & EVENTS

- **December 7, 2019**  
9:00am - 3:00pm  
**Connect with Advent:  
A Loving Response of  
Hospitality**  
*Sr. Sharon Becker, CSJ*
- **January 31, 2020 -  
February 2, 2020**  
**Connect with Recovery:  
Serenity Retreat**  
*Fr. Tom Weston*
- **February 14 - 16, 2020**  
**Lessons from the Hive:  
Creation, Community and  
the Christian Life**  
*Martin Marklin*
- **February 26, 2020**  
**Ash Wednesday: A Journey  
of Faith (bi-lingual)**
- **March 13 - March 15, 2020**  
**Spring into Serenity**  
Regain your enthusiasm  
and energy for living the  
good life.
- **Quiet Days**  
Spend a day away from it all  
at the Mission.
- **Private Retreats**  
Spend time in solitude and  
personal spiritual reflection  
without participation in a  
formal program.

*Visit our website for more  
information and to make  
reservations.*

[www.sanluisrey.org](http://www.sanluisrey.org)



## Connect with us at the Retreat Center!

The upcoming months are filled with new and unique opportunities at the Retreat Center. Embrace the Advent season at our new day retreat, **Advent: A Loving Response of Hospitality**. Sr. Sharon Becker, CSJ facilitates this engaging experience of reflecting on Advent as a time of joyful preparation to welcome God's abundant love in the gift of the Christ Child.

In February, we welcome Martin Marklin for **Lessons from the Hive: Creation, Community and the Christian Life**. This interactive retreat brings to life the unique qualities of honey bees and how their hive communities can inspire our own sense of beauty and transformation in the world. Spiritual lessons are woven together with inspiration to care for each other and for creation.

Retreatants will experience lively presentations with engaging prayer, savor fresh honey, and take home a beeswax candle handcrafted by presenter Martin Marklin.

In addition to these new opportunities, our Ash Wednesday mini-retreat is back with a fresh Franciscan perspective along with a Spanish version. Join Fr. Michael Guinan, OFM and Br. Javier "Tito" Garcia, OFM for **Ash Wednesday: A Journey of Faith**. Finally, the popular Serenity Retreats continue to offer peace, fellowship and support for the journey of recovery. Fr. Tom Weston, SJ returns for **The Serenity Retreat** and the women of Al-Anon present **Spring Into Serenity**. Visit [sanluisrey.org](http://sanluisrey.org) for more information and to join these renewing retreats.

## Simple Ways to Care for Creation

A great way to be a good steward to the Earth is to consume your food. Did you know that Americans throw away 25% of the food they buy? Not only is this a waste of money but it is also harmful to the environment. Producing food takes land, water, people, and heavy machinery. By eating your left-overs you are not only saving money but also preventing energy waste from food production. You are also

keeping them from taking up space in a landfill.

Commit to Low or No Waste Grocery Shopping: Some ways to reduce the waste when shopping for groceries are to buy unpackaged fresh fruits and vegetables, bringing your own container to a bulk food store, investing in some produce bags to transport fresh foods, avoid prepared foods, and bring your own grocery bags.