



About St. Francis in the Valley

St. Francis-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church was established in 1966; in 2016 it celebrated its 50th anniversary. The church is in the heart of Green Valley, Arizona. Green Valley is immediately adjacent to the incorporated city of Sahuarita, a rapidly growing community south of Tucson. Green Valley, unlike Sahuarita, has a population that expands and contracts greatly according to the summer/winter season, due to its draw as a retirement community in Southern Arizona.

Green Valley sits at about 3000 feet in elevation, and is located approximately 20 miles south of Tucson, and about 40 miles north of Nogales, Arizona which is on the Mexican border. South of Green Valley, tourists are drawn to Tubac, a noted artist's community and Tumacacori National Historic Park. North of Green Valley en route to Tucson sits the historic San Xavier Del Bac church and mission (known as the White Dove of the Desert). Both the Tumacacori Mission and the Mission San Xavier Del Bac are two of the original missions left from the Spanish exploration of this area by Fray Eusebio Kino in 1692.

At St. Francis, our mission is to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world and due to our proximity to Mexico, we have various ministries related to outreach to the border. We are committed to helping our neighbors, whoever they are. Through our outreach ministry, we pledge to work with our hearts and hands in the name of Christ and provide help to those in need, and to encourage others to join in this work.



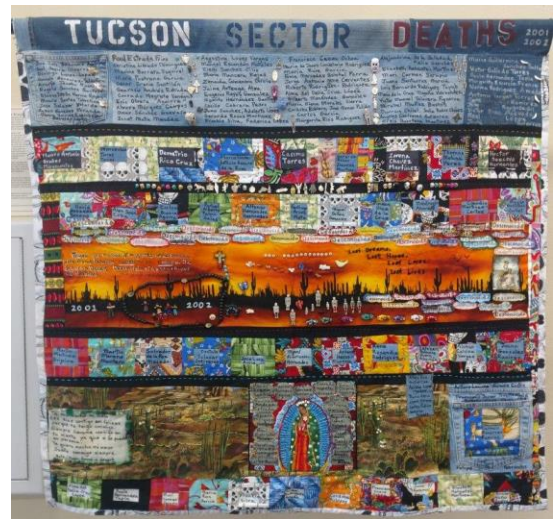
The St. Francis Outreach Committee reaches out to those in need in many creative ways through support of multiple outreach projects and through its support of individual ministries. Some involve almost the entire parish, and some involve only a few people. All are important, and all forms of participation in outreach are welcomed.



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A few border initiatives we have include the following:

- Borders and Blankets, Nogales, AZ – donations of handmade blankets and clothing for newborns
- Cruzando Fronteras – assist asylum seekers at the border
- Kino Border Initiative – Feeding the migrants in Nogales, Sonora
- Casa Alitas - Serves migrant families who have left their home countries to escape violence and poverty. They provide care, short-term shelter and help to reunite with family members in the U.S.



Moving forward in Christ, growing in faith and practice, St. Francis has envisioned goals to transform lives and energize its ministry. Our church is determined to bring about growth. Even though the church is in a retirement community, there will be a concerted effort to pursue younger families. There will be a genuine attempt to draw in those that have no church affiliation. Not only will we continue the very best traditional worship service but explore the possibilities of a more contemporary service and accompanying music. The church has numerous worthwhile outreach programs and they will be substantially maintained. St. Francis has made a considerable investment in its mission on the southern border with Mexico. This mission will remain a priority. Stewardship plays a prominent role in the church's well-being. Of course, pledging is important, but also is our time and talent.