

# THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

## FROM THE RECTOR

*Fr. Len Giacalone*

The fourth Sunday in May is Pentecost Sunday. It is also the day that we will return to our original schedule of 9:30 and 11:00 am services. These services will look like they used to. The 9:30 will be said without music. The 11:00 will be a full music service. I do not intend to reinstate communion under both species at this time. Other than that, our Sunday services will return to normal.

For those of you who have not been coming to church on Sunday for one reason or another, you no longer have a reason. Face coverings have not been required for some time. They are optional. I am also considering ending the live streaming we have been doing since March of 2020. Since we will be returning to what we had before COVID interrupted us, there really isn't any reason not to be in church. So I look forward to seeing all of you, especially those who I haven't seen in over a year. I want to remind you that the Offices of Instruction in the Prayer Book says the following, "My bounden duty is to follow Christ, to worship God every Sunday in His church; to work and pray and give for the spread of his kingdom" (page 291).

There is also another major feast of the church this month. May 13 is the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. It is a day of obligation in our liturgical calendar, not that many take that seriously. I will celebrate the Holy Communion

at 12:00 noon on that day and I encourage you to celebrate with me. We have very few of the Days of Obligation and I don't think it's too much to ask to make a little extra effort to celebrate these days. Yes, some of you have to work. But many of you don't. Please try to attend.

I want to congratulate Doug Cooper and Cesiah Molina who are now Mr. and Mrs. Doug Cooper. Doug and Cesiah married each other at St. Francis on April 17. I know that we all wish them a very happy marriage in the Lord.

Also, congratulations to Tristan and Regina DeBord who added a little girl to their family on April 2. Her name is Lydia and we are grateful to God for her safe arrival into this world.

Our organist, Betty Lin Gallardo, will be absent for a few months, working on activities for her doctoral dissertation at the University of Texas. We have had four organists in my tenure as Rector here and although all of them have been good, Betty is by far the best we've ever had. We are fortunate to have her. So we look forward to her return in August. Jim Crandell will be handling the music for us while Betty is away. I want to commend Jim for his willingness to step in whenever he is needed. Not just with the organ but in many other areas as well. Thank you, Jim!

Easter seems far in the past at this point, but Holy Week and Easter never happen without a

great deal of effort on the part of a number of people. Although we have been a bit scaled down recently, the same activities have to take place. The Altar Guild, the Music Director, the Choir, the live stream team, all stepped up this

year once again to make these celebrations wonderful. Thanks to all of you for your service to our parish.

*Fr. Len can be reached at [Rector@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:Rector@stfrancisaustin.org)*

## **THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HAVE CHILDREN**

*Written by The Rev. Michael Hinton*

My great aunt, Harriet Brightman, was a devout Church woman and very bright. She never got married and, of course, never had children of her own. But she was notoriously happy because of her calling, which she loved. She graduated with honors from the University of Texas at the age of 16 and then taught math at Comanche High School for fifty years.

The instinct of a mother is so strong that at an early age, while still a teenager, Aunt Hattie, as we called her, took on the role of a parent to school children barely younger than herself. She poured her heart into their lives in the way she found to do it, according to the gifts that God gave her. I understand that she never left Texas but once her entire life.

Being an avid reader, she had a fertile mind and probably travelled the entire world in her own consciousness. Generations of her students spoke with affection about the way she injected faith, humor, pithy quotes, and real-life stories into otherwise boring classes of algebra. There was no lack of political and religious conversation in her life, either. Family discussions often escalated into rousing debates!

She had, in a manner of speaking, hundreds of children that she led and inspired to better lives.

Hattie lived in the large Victorian home where she grew up. With five siblings she enjoyed all of us descending descendants when we converged there for special occasions. We younger ones were fascinated by the tall ceilings and chandeliers, the winding staircase, the hall of endless rooms upstairs, and circle of four back to back fireplaces.

But what I remember most is the twinkle in her eye when, with a well-placed phrase or perfectly complete sentence, Hattie made the whole parlor of us laugh until the lights flickered.

Thank you for the gift of motherhood and for the women in our lives who nurtured and loved us. We pray for all women—mothers of small children, adoptive parents, birth mothers who chose adoption, and especially for women who have never had children—for the care they gave to others and for their willingness to be used by God whether caring for their own children, their families, or friends. In Jesus's Name We Pray, Amen.

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2016/10/04/sunday-october-9th-2016-twenty-first-sunday-after-pentecost/>

## **NEWSLETTER DELIVERY**

- Pick up a printed copy on the table at the entrance to the church
- Have a copy mailed to your physical mail box (cost to the church is the current cost of a stamp)
- View newsletters on our website.
- To change how you receive the newsletter, contact Amy Crandell in person or via e-mail.

## ADULT CATECHESIS CLASS BEGINS

On Wednesday, May 5, from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m., the Catechesis Class will begin again, but this time it will be held on Zoom. The book to be used is [To Be a Christian An Anglican Catechism](#). (The text is linked to the page in Amazon where you can purchase the book. Price is about half of what it was last year) This will be the [Zoom link](#) to participate in the class. Doug Cooper is part of the team and will lead the first discussion. The link will be distributed prior to each class. It will continue each week on Wednesdays until we finish the book.

## BISHOP'S VISITATION

Bishop Ryan Reed, Bishop of the Diocese Fort Worth will be at St. Francis on June 6 for his annual pastoral visitation.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Amy Crandell
4	Cathy Stevenson
8	Veronica Armstrong
9	Randy Scheer
10	Michael Jones
17	Sandy Scheer
24	Leah Lindsey
30	Champ Cooper

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5	Tristan and Regina DeBord
21	Michael Adams and Kerry Manning
23	Chaille and Melissa Bernard
31	Ben and Shirley Ellis; Thomas Sager and RobinRuth Alexander

## AMAZON SMILE

Don't forget that St. Francis is registered as a charity with Amazon. A portion of your Amazon purchases can be donated to St. Francis. To set this up, click this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2564742>

and St. Francis will be set as your charity. Then, each time you go to Amazon, enter Smile.Amazon.com in the address line. This is an easy way for the church to get some extra funds. This is working!

## ONGOING COLLECTIONS

St. Francis has ongoing drives to support our outreach projects with the Trotter House and Mobile Loaves and Fishes. Consider donating to one or more of these causes - bring something to church each time you come!

### Trotter House

- Diapers of all sizes
- Baby clothing (even gently used)
- Children's toys (even gently used)

### Mobile Loaves and Fishes Clothing Drive

- Gently used or new clothing for men, women and children
- New toiletries - as toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, lotion

Bring your items to the table in the entry hall.

## ON ASCENSION DAY

*Fr. Lee Nelson, Rector Christ Church Waco*

*"And truly great and unspeakable was their cause for joy, when in the sight of the holy multitude, above the dignity of all heavenly creatures, the Nature of mankind went up, to pass above the angels' ranks and to rise beyond the archangels' heights, and to have its uplifting limited by no elevation until, received to sit with the Eternal Father, It should be associated on the throne with His glory, to Whose Nature It was united in the Son. Since then Christ's Ascension is our uplifting, and the hope of the Body is raised, whither the glory of the Head has gone before, let us exult, dearly-beloved, with worthy joy and delight in the loyal paying of thanks. For today not only are we confirmed as possessors of paradise, but have also in Christ penetrated the heights of heaven, and have gained still greater things through Christ's unspeakable grace than we had lost through the devil's malice." -Leo the Great, Homily 73*

A few years ago in Jerusalem, I tried to go up to the Chapel of the Ascension, high up on the Mount of Olives. This site is not administered by Christians, but by the Islamic Waqf of Jerusalem, as it has been since Jerusalem fell to Saladin in 1187. I was on foot, and found that by the time I finally arrived, the site was closed. All I could

think as I stood there, winded and tired from the climb, was “that just figures.”

The Doctrine of the Ascension has been terribly neglected by Christians, theologians and the faithful alike. Indeed, Muslims often have more to say about the Lord’s Ascension than we do, since they believe in it and not His Resurrection, nor His bodily death. Christians in the West have tended to focus upon Christ’s atoning sacrifice on the Cross or His Resurrection from the Dead. We forget that Holy Scripture points us to the Ascension as the fulfillment of all of this. Jesus says to Mary Magdalene on Easter Morning: “Go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20:17 ESV)

The Ascension is very good news! It is the news that not only is the perfect Son of God crucified for our salvation and raised for our redemption, but has ascended to the Father in His full human nature as a forerunner on our behalf, to pray and intercede for us, to make continual sacrifice of Himself before the Father on our behalf. Leo the Great was right. We have gained greater things through Christ’s unspeakable grace than we had lost through the devil’s malice. The Ascension of Our Lord shows us just how complete our salvation is: not just forgiveness of sin, not just a new bodily life free from death, but eternal life with the Father, above even the angels. The Christian conception of heaven, no matter what it has been, must always be, first and foremost, an understanding of the fulfillment of the divine image in us, that we were made and fashioned, like Jesus, to behold the very face of God, not in some sentimental heaven, but with our own redeemed eyes. Heaven is, in short, the very dwelling-place of God.

I love what the Anglican Divine Lancelot Andrewes says about this:

*“... as she [the Church] saw by His rising that He had ‘the keys of hell and death’, and unlocked those doors and came out from thence; so by ‘I ascend’ He tells her further that He hath the keys of Heaven-gates also, which He would now unlock, and so set up open the kingdom of Heaven to all believers.”*  
Resurrection sermon 16

The Ascension also speaks, according to Saint Paul, of how it is that the Lord Jesus Christ gives manifold gifts to his Church for her up-building:

*“He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”*  
(Ephesians 4:10–12, ESV)

The basis for the work of the Gospel is not our own intelligence, or skills, or talents, but the intercession of Jesus, Risen and Ascended to the Father’s right hand, filling His Church with abundant grace, equipping us for the work of ministry. It is through this ministry of Jesus at the Right Hand that the Church is built up, therefore it is all the more important that the Church continually give herself over to the work of intercession and spiritual discipline as superior to any active work. In any age, the most powerful works of evangelism, the most powerful eras of renewal and dynamic witness in the Church, have all come because of sustained intercession, first in the Person of Jesus, interceding for us, second, in His Body the Church, and third, in the Church’s Eucharistic life, whereby she is granted participation in the Body and Blood of Jesus, and given grace to fulfill her holy calling. What makes the grace of Jesus so powerful is that it is given through this life of priestly intercession, the Lord being one with us and one with the Father.

Thus, we can understand how it is that Christians have spoken of being with Jesus at the Father’s right hand; even in this earthly life, how we can say that He, though gone from our sight, is with us still. Paul called upon the Church at Colossae, since they had been raised with Christ, to “seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” (Col. 3:1) The Christian understands: I am, at once, with Christ at the Father’s right hand, and at the same time, where I am now. Every time in which I live, every place where I am, is itself a place where the Lord’s Kingdom has come, where I may diligently seek the face of the Father, and where I may make priestly intercession for my neighbor.

## MAY READINGS

### **5/2 4 after Easter (link)**

- Acts 8:26-40
- Psalm 66:1-8
- 1 John 3:14-24
- John 14:15-21

### **5/9 5 after Easter (link)**

- Acts 11:19-30
- Psalm 33:1-8, 18-22
- 1 John 4:7-21
- John 15:9-17

### **5/13 Ascension Day (link)**

- Acts 1:1-11
- Psalm 47
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Luke 24:49-53

### **5/16 Sunday after Ascension Day (link)**

- Acts 1:15-26
- Psalm 47
- 1 John 5:9-15
- John 17:11b-19

### **5/23 Pentecost (link)**

- Acts 2:1-11
- Psalm 104:25-37
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-13
- John 20:19-23

### **5/30 Trinity Sunday (link)**

- Exodus 3:1-6
- Psalm 93
- Romans 8:12-17
- John 3:1-16

#### ***Notes on the readings:***

- St. Francis follows the [1979 BCP Lectionary](#) for the lessons. We are in Year B.
- The text read at the service is from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
- Each of the listed Sunday readings is linked to the corresponding page on [LectionaryPage.net](#).
- The Sunday collects and text of the psalms are generally from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

#### ***Note on the calendar:***

- To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org).

## MAY CALENDAR

### **Sundays**

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion in-person, live streamed and recorded.

9:15 a.m. Nursery is provided.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for youth

10:35 a.m. Healing Prayers at the Altar rail.

10:45 a.m. Choir Practice

#### **Starting on May 23**

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion in-person, with healing prayers after the service. Nursery will be provided. Choir will be some other time.

### **Tuesdays**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Home Group. Meeting online via Zoom.

### **Wednesdays**

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Catechism class via [Zoom](#)

### **Thursdays**

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer in-person in the church and via Zoom

### **2nd and 4th Sunday**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Home Group. Meeting via Zoom.

### **2nd and 4th Friday**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Home Group. Meeting in-person at the McCown's house.

### **May 1, 1st Saturday**

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Prayers for the Nation in- person in the fellowship hall and via Zoom

### **May 10, 2nd Monday**

6:00 p.m. Vestry meeting via Zoom

### **May 13, Ascension Day**

Noon Holy Communion Service

### **May 17, 3rd Monday**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Readers of First Things group online meeting. Contact Karl Stephan at [kdstephan@txstate.edu](mailto:kdstephan@txstate.edu) to join the online meeting via Zoom or come in person to the fellowship hall.

### **May 21, 3rd Friday**

NOON to 1:00 p.m. Mother's Prayer Group in-person only in the fellowship hall

### **May 28, 4th Friday**

4:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves & Fishes Make Ready Team in-person at St. Louis Catholic Church, Social Ministries Building

5:30 p.m. Food Truck Run, in-person, starts at St. Louis Catholic Church



## ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTIN

*A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth*

Diocese Office: 2900 Alameda St.

Fort Worth, TX 76108

<http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>

**Bishop:** The Rt. Rev'd Ryan Reed

**Rector:** The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone

**Music Director:** Betty Lin Gallardo

**Parish Administrator:** Mark Rambin

**Treasurer:** Grady Collins

### **Vestry Officers**

**Senior Warden**      **Junior Warden**

Doug Cooper              Jim Britt

**Secretary**

Jim Crandell

### **Vestry Members**

Jim Britt, Donna Hunt, David Kristo-Reinking

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer

Fr. Len Giacalone

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## ST. FRANCIS' MISSION STATEMENT

- We are a community of believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ whose mission it is to spread that Gospel in what we preach and in the way we live.
- We are called to know the Word of God, to act on it in our lives and to share it with our brothers and sisters in the world.
- We are determined to uphold the ancient faith of our ancestors in the Anglican tradition, to offer traditional Christian values based on the Holy Word of God and to be faithful witnesses to the person of Jesus in the Austin Community.
- St. Francis parish is dedicated to the presence of Christ in the lives of the poor, the needy, the sick, to each other and to all those to whom Jesus comes to minister in his life on earth.
- As a community of believers, we intend to entrust our growth in love, in faith and in resources to the generosity of God.