

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacolone

Episcopal Visitation, Part Two

We have been informed by the diocese that Bishop Keith Ackerman will be at St. Francis on Sunday, December 5, the Second Sunday of Advent. This is being done to “enhance Episcopal presence in the diocese.” At this point I do not know whether Bishop Ackerman will be here for one or two services. I probably won’t know that until mid-November. As you may remember, Bishop Ackerman was here a couple of years ago for confirmation when Bishop Iker was unable to come. There will be a meal provided with the details to be worked out between the St. Clare’s Guild and the St. Polycarp’s Men’s Group. I’m grateful for their service on that as I am for everything that anyone does on these occasions. It’s usually a big deal when a bishop visits the parish, and it does take some planning. So, thanks to everyone who will be involved in this.

We usually start our annual pledge drive at the end of October. Although the Vestry hasn’t talked about this yet, I am assuming that we will do so again. As I mentioned to you this past Sunday, (September 19), we have been holding our own with regard to our Operating Fund. It is our Building Fund that is lagging. Contributions to the Building Fund dropped off dramatically over the summer months and while we are not in trouble yet, we could get there very quickly unless things turn around. So, I’m asking you, as I did in church, to do what you can to make up whatever contributions you might have missed or even to throw a little extra in the plate if you are able. Thanks.

Forty Days for Life continues throughout all of October. There is still plenty of time to sign up for one hour a week to pray in front of an abortion facility here in Austin. Even with the new restrictions passed by the Texas Legislature this year I understand that abortions are still being performed in these facilities, Planned Parenthood and Whole Women’s Health. As you know, all these laws passed to protect the unborn are challenged in court almost immediately. This “heartbeat law” is no exception. The Supreme Court has set December 1 as the date for hearing a similarly restrictive anti-abortion law from Mississippi. It is possible that they may also include laws from other states that have been passed like the one in Texas. While the makeup of the court suggests that there is a possibility that something good could come out of these cases, the Supremes are wildly unpredictable these days. If you have a prayer list of intentions for which you pray daily, add this one to it. With all the other chaos going on in the world, I still consider that the slaughter of innocent lives is the defining issue of our times. A civilization that kills its own children cannot long continue to exist. After almost fifty years many just assume that this is the way it always was and the way it should be. Much of our population doesn’t remember a time when abortion wasn’t legal. But the Lord has a message for us all. “Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me.”

Fr. Len can be reached at Rector@stfrancisaustin.org

PSALM 67: A BLESSING TO ALL PEOPLE

The Rev. Canon Greg Goebel



Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for thou dost judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee!

The prayer of this Psalm is that the God of Israel would make himself known to all the earth and would save and bless all people. That all peoples would praise him

and be glad and sing for joy! That God's equitable justice would ring out, and the earth would again be fruitful. Finally, as God blesses all the earth, people would finally revere and honor him as our loving God, our creator.

He is the God of all peoples of the earth, and of each person on the earth. Each and every person we meet is beloved by God. He is gracious and loving, and to know him is to be saved.

One people group among us is people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families and caregivers. Some people are born disabled in some way. Others are disabled by accident or illness. There are people who are not able to produce monetary value due to mental disability. Not everyone can support himself, not everyone can keep herself alive and functioning every day.

And yet all people are beloved of God, and he is their creator. Sadly, many proponents of abortion would rather we terminated any pregnancy in which such a disability is suspected. In fact, this is happening more and more. Yet we are Psalm 67 people. We believe that everyone is able to praise the Lord in his or her own way. Everyone deserves life, everyone has a purpose.

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2020/08/17/psalm-67-a-blessing-to-all-people/>

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

- Pick up a printed copy on the table at the entrance to the church
- Have a copy mailed to your physical mailbox (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 CATECHISM CLASS

Anyone may join the ongoing Adult Catechesis Class. Held via Zoom on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m., the class uses the book To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism. You can participate fully without the book. The book's format is a series of questions and during each session 3-4 questions are covered. Doug Cooper facilitates the conversation.

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

- New or gently used socks are quite popular
- Gently used clothing
- New toiletries - as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, lotion

Bring your items to the table in the entry hall.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

St. Francis has an Intercessory Prayer Group who commits to pray daily for healing and guidance for the names on the prayer list. New prayer requests can be placed in the prayer box next to the kitchen. If you are interested in being a member of the prayer group, contact Fr. Len or Nancy.

SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED

The 9:30 service continues to livestream on Facebook as well as the 11:00 service. We continue to have viewers who are not members and live a fair distance away tune in to the 9:30 service. The recording will continue to be uploaded to the website, if it is being viewed over the course of the next week. Anyone who has the link can watch the livestream - you don't need to be a member of Facebook to view the service during the livestream.

The URL is facebook.com/stfrancisaustin/live

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school classes are ongoing.! All classes are held during the 9:30 service. Missy Bernard, with Sue Orr as the substitute, will be teaching the younger class (kindergarten through 5th grade) and Doug Cooper will be teaching the older class (sixth grade and up). Sunday school students attend the beginning of the service for the readings and move upstairs to the classrooms during the announcements. If your children are new to Sunday school at St. Francis, or if you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact Missy Bernard at nelson440@gmail.com.

SUPPORT TROTTER HOUSE

St. Francis continues to have a partnership with Trotter House. With two locations in the area, they serve as a pregnancy resource center by offering free pregnancy tests, abortion education, confidential support for those with an unexpected pregnancy.

Trotter House is planning their fall Help, Healing & Hope benefit for Wednesday, 10/6 from 6:30-8:30 pm. The proceeds from this virtual event will fund Trotter House program services for babies, children and families seeking support when choosing life.

Will you consider being a sponsor? Sponsor levels are:

- **\$25,000 – Mighty Angel**
- **\$10,000 – Joyful Warrior**
- **\$7,500 Peaceful Protector**
- **\$5,000 – Faithful Defender**
- **\$2,500 – Grateful Encourager**
- **\$1,000 – Devoted Champion**
- **\$500 – Blessed Guardian.**

Can't sponsor? You can still contribute to the cause: Go to **Help, Healing & Hope** (also accessed from **Trotterhouse.org**) to learn more and to participate. Tune in at the same site on October 6th at 6:30 p.m. to watch the virtual benefit!

APPRECIATION

Jim and Amy Crandell appreciate and value the card signed by many members of the congregation to thank us for what we are doing. Martha Freeman did an amazing job of organizing the signing of the card and successfully keeping it a secret from us for weeks.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life is a volunteer-based prayer campaign that draws attention to the injustice of abortion through three simple avenues:

- Prayer and fasting
- Community outreach & Education
- Constant peaceful vigil

The fall 40 Days for Life campaign is running through October 31.

These grassroots efforts--like 40 Days for Life--change the abortion landscape, and you can help continue this change. The presence of vigil volunteers praying in front of a clinic drastically reduces the number of women who go through with an abortion.

Austin is one of 588 cities around the world participating in the vigil. Since 2009 we have witnessed hundreds of women (that we know of) choose life for babies scheduled to be aborted (at least four women were pregnant with twins)! Pregnancy centers report a significant increase in clientele when our efforts are more concentrated on the sidewalks. We have given information to thousands of men and women about healthcare alternatives. At least twelve abortion workers have had conversions and quit their jobs. Hundreds of women have been connected to post-abortion healing ministries, including several of our own volunteers. We are seeing abortion end before our very eyes and we are excited for what God has in store!

There are two abortion clinics in Austin with the prayer vigil:

- Whole Women's Clinic on Duval Road
- Planned Parenthood on Ben White

Go to <https://centraltexascoalition.com/signup/> to sign-up for an hour between 7 am and 7 pm.

Contact Amy or Jim Crandell if you have questions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

St. Francis' Operation Christmas Child collection will begin in October with donations collected beginning October 24th. This is an exciting yearly event for the St. Francis youth. A short three weeks later - on **November 14th, one week earlier than usual** - we look forward to packing boxes.

This is St. Francis's 19th year of participation!

How to get involved: Beginning October 24, we will be happy to accept your donations of toys and supplies at the table near the front doors of the church. Below are suggested donation items: St. Francis usually tries to focus on the 5-9 age group. Go [here](#) to see a more detailed list than can be included in this newsletter.

- A "Wow" Item - Doll (with accessories), soccer ball (with a pump), stuffed animal, clothing outfit, small musical instrument, backpack
- Personal Care Items
- School Supplies
- Clothing and Accessories
- Craft and Activities
- Toys

Alternately, you may donate funds toward the purchase of gift items, or toward shipping costs for the boxes (OCC suggests a donation of \$9 per box for shipping). Please make checks out to St. Francis.

Learn more about this wonderful ministry [here](#). Please contact me with any questions and suggestions you may have at info@stfrancisaustin.org. Thank you for your consideration!

READINGS FOR OCTOBER

10/3 - 18 after Trinity

- Genesis 2:18-24
- Psalm 128
- Hebrews 2:9 -18
- Mark 10:2-9

10/10 - 19 after Trinity

- Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
- Psalm 90:1-8, 12
- Hebrews 3:1-6
- Mark 10:17-27

10/17 - 20 after Trinity

- Isaiah 53:4-12
- Psalm 91:9-16
- Hebrews 4:12-16
- Mark 10:35-45

10/24 - 21 after Trinity

- Isaiah 59:9-19
- Psalm 13
- Hebrews 5:12-6:1, 9-12
- Mark 10:46-52

10/31 - 22 after Trinity

- Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- Psalm 119:1-8
- Hebrews 7:23-28
- Mark 12:28-34

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.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

5	Kevin Burnette
6	Gideon Hatley
13	Ella Collins
18	Rudy Montalvo
28	David Norris
30	John Hatley

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	John and Christina Hatley
3	Fr. Len and Nancy Giacalone

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sundays

9:15 a.m. Nursery is provided.

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion in person, live streamed and recorded. Healing prayers at the altar rail follow the service

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion in person, livestreamed with healing prayers after the service.

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 in person at the Crandells' house.

2nd and 4th Friday

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

1st Saturday, October 2

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

2nd Monday, October 10

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

3rd Friday, October 17

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

3rd Monday, October 18

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

4th Friday, October 24

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

Note on the calendar:

- To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email info@stfrancisaustrin.org.



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

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 Giacolone

Music Director: Betty Lin Gallardo

Parish Administrator: Mark Ramin

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 Giacolone

St. Francis Anglican Church

3401 Oak Creek Drive
Austin, TX 78727

Phone:

512-472-7514

E-Mail:

info@stfrancisatx.org

We're on the Web!

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StFrancisAustin.com

Follow us on social media!

Facebook

[@StFrancisAustin](https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisAustin)

Instagram

[@StFrancisAustin](https://www.instagram.com/StFrancisAustin)

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.