

# THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

## FROM THE RECTOR

*Fr. Len Giacalone*

Monday, November 1, is the Feast of All Saints. Since this is a major feast of our church, we will have a Holy Communion service at 12 noon on that day. I realize that you will have just been in church the previous day. But for most of you there's little reason you can't come back on Monday. This celebration was put in place to honor all those who do not have their own individual celebration like our patron, St. Francis (October 4 in case you were wondering). Everyone who has reached the dignity of heaven is considered a saint, a Sanctus, which means holy. There is a tradition in our church as in many others that we honor all those who have gone before us and who have given us an example of how to lead the life of Jesus in our own.

Thanksgiving Day is not a Holy Day per se. But it is an opportunity to take time to give thanks to God for His many blessings. I realize that in the times in which we find ourselves, many may not feel particularly blessed. I get that. But think about it. The richness of God's mercy alone is reason enough to spend an hour worshipping the God who created, redeemed and sanctified us so that we are able to worship Him in spirit and in truth. So we will celebrate with Holy Communion at 10:00 am. I do not suspect that either of these services will be live-streamed so please make an effort to attend.

Operation Christmas child will continue until Sunday, November 14. We have been doing this for a long time now and you have been quite generous to poor children around the world. If you have not done so yet, please pick up a list of items that we need and bring some of them to church by the 14th. Cash donations are also accepted. Since the mailing of the boxes is being

covered by a generous donor, any other donations will be used to secure additional items for the children.

Our pledge drive continues through Sunday, December 5. If you have not yet received your pledge cards in the mail you will be receiving them shortly. One for the Operating Fund and one for the Capital Campaign. I am very appreciative that contributions to the building fund have picked up a bit. Obviously, that needs to continue. Our debt on the building is in the neighborhood of about \$370,000. While we are ahead of schedule in paying off our debt due to some very generous donations, we cannot slow down on our giving. And, as you are well aware, the cost of everything is going up. We try to be as frugal as we can but we cannot control prices. Please return your pledge cards either in the mail to the church, give them to Grady Collins, our Treasurer, personally or put them in the collection plate. This year there will also be a box on the front table in which to place your pledge cards. Make use of one of these options as soon as possible and, of course, no later than December 5. The Vestry will begin to tackle next year's budget at our December meeting on 12/13. Thanks for your cooperation and your generosity.

Finally, I have decided that we will not be sponsoring a family for Christmas at Trotter House. I know that this has also been a tradition at St. Francis for many years. We can't do everything all the time and this is where I've chosen to trim this year. If you have the means and wish to do something on your own I would encourage you to contact Trotter House at 512-476-7774 or see their website at [trotterhouse.org](http://trotterhouse.org).

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

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE: AN UPDATE

We are at the end of the fall 40 Days for Life campaign. This is a good time to reflect on what it is all about and what it has accomplished. These campaigns happen twice a year and make a difference.

40 Days for Life is not just a U.S. event. It is an internationally coordinated campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.

### **Prayer and Fasting**

Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families, and groups join in prayer so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus.

People of faith are also invited to fast throughout 40 Days for Life. We believe that when God's people fast with a broken, repentant, and contrite spirit, our heavenly Father will hear from heaven and heal our lives, our churches, our communities, our nation, and our world.

### **Community Outreach**

During 40 Days for Life, the message is taken proactively to every corner of your community. Media outreach is conducted through carefully targeted news stories, talk shows, and editorials. Church involvement begins by meeting with local pastors, other church leaders, and members of different congregations.

### **Constant Vigil**

The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non-stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion facility in your community.

### **Results**

Since September 22nd over 400 mothers chose not to end their child's life through abortion. Since 2007 the total is 19,518. The 40 Days campaign has also been instrumental in the closure of 114 abortion businesses and influencing 222 abortion center workers to quit their jobs.

### **How can you participate?**

Several St. Francis parishioners stand vigil at one of Austin's abortion businesses for each campaign. If you are not able to do that you can still participate by joining in prayer at home. You might want to set aside a specific time of day to add your prayers to those standing vigil. A Daily Devotional is published for all days of the campaign, with a day or added at the beginning and the end. Below is a sample.

### **Intention:**

That those tempted to abort may understand that their child is already present, and already a real person.

### **Scripture:**

And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. —Luke 1:41-44

### **Reflection:**

Jesus not only loves unborn children —He was one himself! Think about this for a moment. We often hear people speak of a pregnant mother by saying, "She's expecting a child. "Now if one is expecting a package, the package is not yet there. As reflected in our verse for today, however, this is not the case with the mother. Her gift is already there. The pregnant woman, a mother already, does not have a child "on the way," but has a child, already present and in full possession of his or her human rights, starting with the right to life.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, Open my eyes to your presence in the life of every child. Open my heart to joy in the birth of every child, a birth that reflects the joy of your own birth in Bethlehem.

As you shared life in the womb of Mary, so now send your protection upon every child still in the womb, and grant to their mothers the strength and joy that comes from welcoming the gift of life. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[https://40dfl.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Campaign+Templates/English+Files/Daily+Devotional/Day\\_30.pdf](https://40dfl.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Campaign+Templates/English+Files/Daily+Devotional/Day_30.pdf)

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2021**

By the time you are reading this newsletter, you should have received an email about Operation Christmas Child, an annual activity of the youth in the Sunday School classes at St. Francis. Since 2002, we have packed shoe boxes for this program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Your help is needed to provide the contents for the boxes or to make a donation toward St. Francis purchasing items to go in the boxes. The youth of the Sunday school assemble the donated items in boxes.

This is a great program that performs a wonderful ministry for children around the world. Check out their website at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>.

If you have donated items or money in the past, please continue to help us out again. If you are new to St. Francis, please consider helping out. It is easy to do! In the entry hall (and at the online link below) you will find a list of suggested items needed for the boxes we hope to pack. Here is an online list of suggestions: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>.

The idea is to pick one or two items and purchase many of your selected item(s). All donations need to be received by 9:30 on November 14th, as the youth are packing boxes that day during Sunday school time.

### **POTLUCK LUNCHEON**

October 31. For the first time since December of 2019, we will have a 5th Sunday Potluck after the 11:00 service. It will most likely be held inside, as moving everything outside is a big effort. Plan to bring something good to eat to share with the other folks who stay for lunch.

### **TIME CHANGE**

Don't forget to set your clock back an hour when you go to bed on Saturday, November 6. Standard time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. We get back that hour we lost in March.

## **PLEDGE DRIVE**

November is pledge drive month. During the last week of October, all St. Francis member households will receive a letter and pledge card in the mail. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for this next year and fill out a Capital Campaign and Pledge Card. You can leave in the offering plate or mail to the church. The vestry would like the pledges by December 5.

### **ELECTION DAY - NOV. 2, 2021**

As always, you are encouraged to exercise your right to vote. Early voting is going on now, with the Election Day on Nov. 2. On the ballot are 8 propositions to change the Texas Constitution. This publication is a non-partisan analysis of each proposition: <https://www.tlc.texas.gov/docs/amendments/analyses21.pdf>. In addition, each of us will have local items to decide. For those of you in Travis County, go to <https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/elections/current-election/what-s-on-the-ballot.html> to see what is on your ballot.

### **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 Catechism 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.

## DIOCESAN HAPPENINGS

### Diocesan Convention

November 12-13, the 39th Annual Diocesan Convention will be held at St. Peter & St. Paul in Arlington. The theme is "Building up the Body." A main focus will be the introduction and launch of the Strategic Plan for the growth of the Diocese. The plan has four "pillars": Revitalization, Church Planting, Multicultural/ Immigrant Ministry, and Ministry to the Next Generation.

Fr. Len is our Clergy Delegate and Franklin Hunt is the Lay Delegate.

<http://fwepiscopal.org/diocesanconvention/21convention/index.html> presents information related to the Convention.

### Episcopal Visit to St. Francis

On Sunday, December 5, Bishop Keith Ackerman will visit St. Francis for a now semi-annual visit by one of the Diocesan Bishops. Details will be in the next newsletter.

## ADOPTION ARTICLES

### Take Action: Adoption

<https://anglicansforlife.org/issues/orphans-and-vulnerable-children/adoption/>

Adoption Awareness Month: Did you know that November is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of adoption and the needs of orphans waiting for forever families?

Have you ever considered the experience of birth mothers (and fathers) who choose adoption over abortion?

The majority of adoptive families in the United States maintain ongoing contact and relationship building with birth families. This type of adoption is referred to as "open adoption." They stay in touch via letters, email, phone calls, face-to-face visits and/or social media. The birth mom and dad receive updates about their children, often receiving photos of the kids as well.

But guess what? The majority of the birth parents are never asked about their children. If the pregnancy was

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 3 Mark Rambin
- 11 Katya Kristo-Reinking
- 12 Michael Adams
- 14 Bev Scheer
- 15 Don St.Martin
- 17 Kerry Manning Adams
- 25 Steve McCown
- Mary Boswell
- 27 Rebecca Hunt

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 22 David & Adriane Kristo-Reinking
- 30 Glenn & Rebecca Hunt

not kept a secret, then friends and family most likely know the biological parents chose to gift their baby to another family. Yet, it is rarely discussed.

Consider the heroic mothers (and fathers) who chose adoption over abortion. That baby grew inside of her for nine months. She labored for hours. But she left the maternity ward empty handed. No blue or pink flowers or balloons tied on to her wheelchair. No smell of a new car seat safely strapped in. No list of meal-bringers on the front of the fridge. Nothing.

Birth parents do not "give up" their babies. The love that has grown for their child since conception does not end at delivery. It's hard to estimate the value of the gift

of their child to another family. And it is a gift that deserves to be recognized and honored.

If you know a birth parent whose baby has been adopted by another family, ask about the child—no matter how old the child is! Ask the birth parent how s/he is doing in this season of life. Be aware that grief can present itself in a variety of ways, ranging from joy to anger and grateful to resentful.

Georgette Forney, Anglicans for Life's president, tells the story of asking B., whose teenage girlfriend got pregnant, about their baby. She was stunned when he

pulled out a stack of photos from his wallet to show her. (Obviously, this was in pre-cell phone camera days!)

Georgette was more stunned when B. told her she was the first person to ever inquire about the child.

Will you be somebody's first?

#### **Action Ideas:**

1. Acknowledge the birth. Affirm the courage and selflessness of the birth parents.
2. Ask for updates on the child.
3. Remember birth parents on Mother's and Father's Day—in church and personally.

## **Adoption**

God designed children to be raised in families. Many times, due to various circumstances, children are not able to be raised in their birth families, so they are in need of new, permanent families through adoption.

Though many people typically view adoption as a couple bringing a single, healthy, newborn baby into their families, adoption takes on many other forms as well. There are often sibling sets that need adoptive families. Many older kids need adoptive families. Many kids with special needs are in need of adoptive families as well. It is important as followers of Jesus that we remain open to what He is calling us to do and who He might be calling us to adopt.

#### **There are three different types of adoption:**

1. Domestic
2. International
3. Adoption from foster care

#### **Open vs. Closed Adoptions**

In an open adoption, birth families remain involved in the child's life through visits, phone calls, etc.

In a closed adoption, there is little to no contact between the child's adoptive family and his or her birth family.

#### **Why Adopt?**

Anglicans For Life believes there is no more uniquely Christian calling than that of adoption. Other faiths or moral teachings may share some aspects of the ethical

life described in the Scriptures; they may agree that a moral person should be generous to the poor, enact impartial justice, not oppress the weak. But to care for the orphan and fatherless, specifically through adoption, is irrevocably entwined with our understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

#### **Adoption Options**

##### *Snowflake Adoption*

In snowflake adoption, an adopting family is able to use the frozen embryos from another couple's in vitro fertilization process to achieve a pregnancy and give birth to an adopted child. [Nightlight Christian Adoptions](#) pioneered embryo adoption in 1997. Since then, 460 babies have been born and 1,100 families have donated embryos.

##### *Special Needs Adoptions*

Not all adoptions involve newborn babies. Many children in need of adoption have special needs, such as physical or mental disabilities, have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused, are groups of siblings who want to stay together, are older teens, or have been exposed to drugs or HIV. Adopting special needs children requires emotional and spiritual resolve, but these children are especially in need of a loving home.

##### *Traditional Adoption*

Traditional adoptions involve working with an agency, lawyer, or humanitarian effort to legally adopt a child. Adoptive parents face their own challenges. The adoption process can often be long and frustrating. An

adoption possibility can fall through, administrative delays are not uncommon, and the knowledge that women are choosing abortion, when they dearly want a child themselves, can be painful. But adoptive parents also know the joy of opening their hearts to a child in need of a home and creating a loving family

### **How Does Adoption Benefit Birth Mothers?**

Sadly, many women considering adoption or abortion will often chose the latter, as adoption, to them, seems as though they are abandoning their babies. In fact, not only does adoption allow their children to live and bring joy to the families who adopt them, but it has shown to be a benefit for the birth mother. Women who have chosen adoption for an unplanned pregnancy are more likely to finish school and delay marriage. They are less likely to live in poverty, receive public assistance, and have another unplanned pregnancy.

### **Why Should Adoption be Important to the Church?**

According to the book of James “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows.” (James 1:27 NIV). It is part of

## **Anglican Adoption Fund**

### **What is the Anglican Adoption Fund?**

The Anglican Adoption Fund (AAF) is not new; in fact, it was created in 2015 and was known as the Anglican Chaplains Adoption Fund. It was developed under and implemented by the Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy (ACNA), and the fund’s committee was made up of Anglican Chaplains who were adoptive parents themselves.

Since 2015, the fund has helped eight Anglican families involved in international, domestic, and foster care adoptions and granted over \$15,000 in financial support. In August 2021, however, the jurisdictional authority of the fund was passed to AFL, which complements our position as the go-to life-affirming ministry of the Anglican Communion. Anglicans for Life created a fund review board in September 2021, which will review grant applications of potential adoptive families and send out funds accordingly.

### **Funding**

Some adoptions can be costly. If God is calling your family to adopt, do not let cost be a barrier. Anglicans For Life has an adoption grant fund to help Anglican families offset some of those costs. There are other organizations that might be able to help as well.

## **FAQs**

our duty as Christians to protect the fatherless and orphan, and adoption is one of the best ways we can care for and love these children. Additionally, as children of God, we come into God’s family through adoption. Therefore, as we have been adopted into Christ, we must affirm and celebrate adopted children, adoptive parents, and birth parents.

### **Are There Any Adoption Resources Available?**

Yes! Below are some recommended resources.

#### **Best Resources:**

- [Adoption Share](#)
- [Bethany Christian Services](#)
- [Anglican Chaplain Adoption Fund](#)
- [Brave Love](#)
- [Nightlight Christian Adoptions](#)

### **Why Donate?**

The goal of the fund is to assist Anglican families during the adoption process by reimbursing adoption expenses (such as home studies or placement fees). All donations are tax-deductible, and go towards the grants gifted to adopting couples. AFL aims to gift ten grants between \$2,500 and \$5,000 dollars in the fund’s inaugural year. Donating is a wonderful way to take action For life.

### **Private Agency Fees**

Working with a private agency to adopt a healthy newborn baby or to adopt from another country can cost \$5,000 to \$40,000.

### **Home Study Fees**

Home study fees alone can run between \$1,500 and \$4,000.

Adoption costs can add up. Your generous donation will help offset these expenses.

Donate [here](#).

## READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

### 11/1 All Saints Day

#### Link to text

- Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10, 13-14
- Psalm 149
- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17
- Matthew 5:1-12

### 11/7 23 after Trinity

#### Link to text

- 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Psalm 146
- Hebrews 9:24-28
- Mark 12:38-44

### 11/14 24 after Trinity

#### Link to text

- Daniel 12:1-13
- Psalm 16:5-11
- Hebrews 10:31-39
- Mark 13:14-23

### 11/21 Christ The King

#### Link to Text

- Daniel 7:9-14
- Psalm 93
- Revelation 1:1-8
- John 18:33-37

### 11/25 Thanksgiving Day

#### Link to Text

- Deut. 8:1-3, 6-10, 17-20
- Psalm 65:9-14
- James 1:17-18, 21-27
- Matthew 6:25-33

### 11/28 1 Advent

#### Link to Text

- Zechariah 14:4-9
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-31

#### *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](http://LectionaryPage.net).
- The Sunday collects and text of the psalms are generally from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

## NOVEMBER 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.

### November 1, Feast of All Saints

12:00 p.m., NOON Holy Communion

### 1st Saturday, November 6

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

### 2nd Monday, November 8

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

### 3rd Monday, November 15

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.

### 3rd Friday, November 19

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

### Thanksgiving Day, November 25

10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Holy Communion Service.

#### *Note on the calendar:*

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



ANGLICAN CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

## ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTIN

*A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth*  
Diocese Office: 2900 Alemeda 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 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 Giacolone

## St. Francis Anglican Church

3401 Oak Creek Drive  
Austin, TX 78727

Phone:  
512-472-7514

E-Mail:  
[info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org)

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[StFrancisAustin.com](http://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.