

# THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

## FROM THE RECTOR

*Fr. Len Giacolone*

Bishop Keith Ackerman will be here on Sunday, December 5 for both services. The bishop has been to St. Francis only once before to stand in for Bishop Iker. There will be nothing special about this visit, no confirmations, receptions, etc. He will celebrate and preach at each liturgy. There will be a reception following the 11:00 am service in the fellowship area. The St. Claire's Guild members are staging this reception, and we're all grateful to them for their work on this. As I mentioned in church on November 21, Bishop Ackerman is a very affable and genial fellow who loves meeting and talking with folks. He's one of those people who's never met a stranger. So, if you would like to talk with him about anything, I'm sure he would be receptive. One thing will be new. Bishop Ackerman will be bringing with him one of the diocese's postulants for Holy Orders. His name is Jacob Hootman and he will be acting as the Bishop's chaplain. I don't know him at all, but this is good training for someone who wants to be a priest. Since there are no special festivities, we can all look forward to a pleasant, relaxing visit with Bishop Ackerman.

### CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY

On Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, we will have our usual service of Lessons and Carols, followed by Holy Communion. The service will take place at 8:00 pm. We are currently working on the music program for the service, and I hope that it will be as festive as it always is. We had a bit of a setback last year with the pandemic. A lot fewer people showed up than usually attend. I am hoping that this year's celebration will be

much better attended since most people are pretty much back to normal. We shall see. But I always look forward to this feast as I think most people do.

Christmas falls on a Saturday this year and we will have a Holy Communion service at 10:00 am that morning. This service does not have quite the fanfare as the night before, but it is no less a solemn ceremony since it commemorates the birthday of Our Lord. For those of you who cannot attend the Christmas Eve service, I encourage you to come Christmas morning. It is a beautiful start to a wonderful day.

And, of course, there's Sunday, the following day. You will have extraordinary opportunities to spend some time with the Lord.

### PLEDGE DRIVE

I hate for my sign off for the year to be about money, but we are at that time of the year. The annual pledge drive continues through Sunday, December 5. I would hope that all of you have your pledges in by that time so that we can begin working on the budget for next year. I realize that with things the way they are all over the country, things are tight and may be getting worse before they get better. As I always do, I encourage you to seek the Lord's guidance about your pledge, both for our Operating Fund as well as the Capital Campaign. God's work needs to continue in every time. We're doing God's work here and regardless of how things seem, the future is always bright in the kingdom.

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

## **ANGLICANS FOR LIFE: TAKE ACTION**

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 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?

<https://anglicansforlife.org/take-action/>

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

If you wish to donate for the Christmas poinsettias as a remembrance, memorial or thank offering, please use an envelope from the table in the Narthex to enclose your donation. Fill the envelope front out as appropriate and place in the wooden box on the same table. If you are not attending services and wish to contribute, you can mail a check to the church 3401 Oak Creek Dr, Austin, TX 78727) or use PayPal to donate on our website: <http://stfrancisaustrin.org/donate.html>.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2021**

Fourteen St. Francis youth from five families packed a record 100 boxes for Operation Christmas Child on November 14! Thank you to everyone who donated gifts and funds for the boxes. Your thoughtfulness and generosity in choosing items is so appreciated, and the monetary gifts are equally appreciated. Please pray for the children who will be receiving these gifts. It is wonderful how much joy they bring.

## **TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE 22 JANUARY 2021**

The Texas Rally for Life will be held this year! Join with other St. Francis parishioners and thousands of Texans at the Texas Rally for Life on Saturday, January 22, at the Capitol in Austin. March starts at 1 p.m. and the rally at 2 p.m. Show the media and our elected officials that Texas is PRO-LIFE! The 2022 Texas Rally for Life will commemorate the 49th anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973, which made abortion legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy. In the wake of Roe, legal abortion in our nation has claimed the lives of more than 60 million unborn children and has hurt countless women and men. We are looking forward to a great turnout from St. Francis!

## **BISHOP’S RECEPTION**

As Fr. Len stated, Bishop Ackerman will visit St. Francis on Dec. 5. A Bishop’s Reception will be held after the 11:00 service to welcome Bishop Ackerman and Jacob Hootman. Hosted by members of the St. Claire’s Guild, the food will be Greek themed, with a nod to St. Nicholas included.

## READINGS FOR DECEMBER

### 12/5 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent (link to text)

- Baruch 5:1-9
- Psalm 126
- Philippians 1:1-11
- Luke 3:1-6

### 12/12 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent (link to text)

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Psalm 85:7-13
- Philippians 4:4-9
- Luke 3:7-18

### 12/19 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent (link to text)

- Micah 5:2-4
- Psalm 80:1-7
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-56

### 12/24 - Christmas Eve

- Genesis 3:8-19
- Genesis 22:15-18
- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Luke 1:26-38
- Luke 2:1-7
- Luke 2:8-16
- Matthew 2:1-12
- John 1:1-14

### 12/25 - Christmas Day (link to text)

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Psalm 96
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-20

### 12/26 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. after Christmas (link to text)

- Isaiah 61:10-62:3
- Psalm 147:13-21
- Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7
- John 1:1-18

#### *Notes on the readings:*

- St. Francis follows the 1979 BCP Lectionary for the lessons. We are in Year C.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 1  | Joshua DeBord    |
| 3  | Mack Lindsey     |
| 11 | Rick Fleming     |
| 12 | Ngozi Ifesineke  |
| 18 | Angie McCown     |
| 19 | Dinah Arce       |
| 30 | Genevieve Hatley |

## DECEMBER 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

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for youth (not on 12/26)

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

### 1st Saturday, Dec. 4

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

### 2nd Friday, Dec. 10

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

### 2nd Sunday, Dec. 12

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Home Group. Meeting in person at the Crandells' house.

### 2nd Monday, Dec. 13

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

### 3rd Friday, Dec. 17

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

### 3rd Monday, Dec. 20

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.

### December 24 (Christmas Eve)

8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion

### Christmas Day, Dec. 25

10:00 a.m. Christmas 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).

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- |    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 4  | Ed and Ruth Ann Stillman    |
| 12 | John and Veronica Armstrong |
| 29 | Ikenna and Ngozi Ifesineke  |
| 30 | Arthur and Audrey Woodgate  |



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 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

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[StFrancisAustin.com](http://StFrancisAustin.com)

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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.