

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacolone

First of all, I want to wish you all of God's blessings for a wonderful New Year. Whatever may happen in 2022, God remains in charge and will be our help in good times and in not so good times.

Secondly, I want to thank, as I always try to do, everyone who made Christmas at St. Francis beautiful and inspiring. I know if I start naming people, I will forget some and I don't want to do that. But the Altar Guild, the music ministry, our lectors, acolytes, ushers, and tech crew all made Christmas possible, as they do each year. I am grateful to them all. After a disappointing 2020 in our attendance at Christmas services, we came back strong in 2021. It was really good to see that many folks in church again.

Now, moving on to 2022. The annual parish meeting will take place on Sunday, January 23, after the 11:00 am service. In addition to a number of reports that will be given, the highlight of the meeting is always the election of new Vestry members. Last year, because of the pandemic, I asked the Vestry members to serve an additional year. All of the members indicated their willingness to do so. This year, Donna Hunt, who served two years as Senior Warden, Jim Britt who served four years as Junior Warden, and David Kristo-Reinking, who in addition to his Vestry duties is also our Head Usher, will be retiring from Vestry duty. Each of them has served with distinction over the past four years and I want them to know that they not only have my thanks, but yours as well, for their service to the parish.

Five of your fellow parishioners have indicated a willingness to stand for election for a three-year term on the Vestry beginning in February. They are Dinah Arce, Kevin Burnette, Mack Lindsey, David Norris, and Susan Rambin.

- Dinah Arce has served previously on the Vestry and headed up our Audit Team for several years. You may not know this, but the Diocese requires that we do an audit each year, or at least make some kind of certification of our financial records. Dinah is an accountant, and her skill set was perfect for us at just the right time when we came into our current diocesan affiliation.
- Kevin Burnette also served previously on the Vestry and was its Secretary for the better part of three years.
- Mack Lindsey is relatively new to our parish. But in the brief time he has been with us has become an usher, lector, and choir member. I guess you could say he jumped in with both feet.
- David Norris has also previously served on the Vestry as both Senior and Junior Warden. In addition, David has run our hospitality ministry for the past several years. I don't know how long off the top of my head, but it has been quite a while.
- Finally, Susan Rambin is currently the head of Women of St. Francis as well has a member of our Altar Guild. She has served in many capacities over many years, mostly behind the scenes.

All of these members have given of their time and talents in the past and are willing to continue to do so. We owe them our gratitude for their willingness to serve.

Also, we will be electing a Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the annual Diocesan Convention in November of 2022.

As was done last year, the meeting will be held via [Zoom](#) for those who want to hear the reports. Everyone who is a registered member of the parish and is at least sixteen years of age is eligible to vote in the parish elections. However, you must be present at the meeting to vote. There will be no mail in ballots of any kind.

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

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

What better time than now to consider how you can get involved with honoring the sanctity of life. Every life is a gift from God worthy of respect from conception to natural death. Annually, churches celebrate Sanctity of Life Sunday in January. It is a time to celebrate God's gift of life, commemorate the lives lost to abortion, and commit to protecting human life of every stage and age. This year it is on Sunday January 23, 2022. So how can you get more involved this new year?

PRAY

- 1) Pray for the Supreme Court in deciding the Mississippi case, Dobbs vs Jackson women's health organization
- 2) Pray as an active participant in the 40 Days for Life campaign that will occur during Lent and again in the fall
- 3) Pray for women and men who have been affected by abortion

SUPPORT

[Trotter House](#), as well as other pregnancy resource centers, is experiencing a significant increase in clients

since the Texas heartbeat law took effect. They have an increased need of:

- 1) Donated items such as diapers, bottles, teethers, new or gently used clothing/ toys.
- 2) Volunteers
- 3) Monetary donations to support their multiple programs that assist these women and their families dealing with unplanned pregnancies
- 4) [Anglican Adoption Fund](#), a fund set up by the national Anglicans for Life, gives grants to families to offset adoption expenses

PARTICIPATE

The Texas March and Rally for Life this year is on Saturday January 22, 2022 at the Texas Capitol. March is from 1pm to 2 pm, the rally is from 2 pm to 3pm

- 1) Attend in person
- 2) Attend online
- 3) Spread the news and encourage others to join you.

For further information, contact Charlotte Ready.

TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE 22 JANUARY 2021

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. 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. Parking is in almost any of the state lots on San Jacinto around 15th street. St. Francis people will be at the southeast corner of 15th Street and North Congress, near the curb of 15th Street. We are looking forward to a great turnout from St. Francis.

As with most events, this is subject to being canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Questions? Contact Charlotte Ready or email info@stfrancisaustin.org.

Schedule

1:00 PM

Meet at the southeast corner of 15th and Congress to march to the Capitol

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Rally on South Steps of Capitol

3:00-4:00 PM

Pro-Life Expo on Great Walk of Capitol Grounds

THERE IS NO “RIGHT” TO ABORTION

Debunking Abortion Misconceptions Amidst Dobbs

Georgette Forney
President, Anglicans For Life

As our country awaits the U.S. Supreme Court decision on the issue of abortion in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization](#), I think it is important to address two misconceptions that surround the abortion debate.

First, while those who support abortion like to claim that women have a constitutional right to abortion, the truth is there is NO “right to abortion” in the Constitution. The Court has held that if a fundamental right is not mentioned explicitly in the Constitution, it should at least appear in the history, legal traditions, and practices of the United States. But abortion does not. When the 14th Amendment was adopted in 1868, which some have since invoked to favor abortion, unborn children were protected across the nation.

Even [Roe vs. Wade](#) made it clear that the “right” to get an abortion was not absolute, and that it had to be a medical decision. Moreover, it affirmed, as [did Planned Parenthood vs. Casey](#) in 1992, that the states have an interest in the life of the unborn child as well as in the protection of the health of the mother. The courts have allowed significant restriction of abortion by the states because it is not a “Constitutional Right.”

The second misconception is that abortion is good for women, and that we need abortion to be successful.

A key argument in the Dobbs case is that Mississippi, in prohibiting abortion after 15 weeks, is asserting its interest, which the Court acknowledges it has, in protecting women from the harmful effects of abortion. Many of the amicus briefs filed document the harms, about which we know more now than ever.

The briefs that support Mississippi also point out that when the Court reaffirmed Roe in 1992 with the Casey decision, it asserted that women have come to rely on abortion to advance in society. The briefs go on to argue that this argument is without evidence, and that, on the contrary, evidence shows women are quite capable of taking leadership roles in society while being mothers, and that abortion, far from helping them, actually hinders their progress by the wounds it inflicts.

As a woman who had an abortion myself, co-founded the [Silent No More Awareness Campaign](#) to raise

awareness about the healing and forgiveness available after abortion, and has spent the last 24 years of my career helping women who regret their abortion find healing and peace, our personal experiences reveal that far from empowering us, our abortions undermined our sense of self-esteem, and self-confidence. With over 20,000 members and 3,000 testimonies that can be read at [AbortionTestimony.com](#), people need to stop buying the lie that abortion is good for women.

Recently I received this email from a woman:

“I terminated my pregnancy. I thought that I would feel relieved but instantly I regretted it. I didn’t know how to cope with my decision, so I relapsed. I really lost myself. I didn’t expect to fall so fast. Something happened last night, and it was a huge wake up call for me. This morning I confessed my relapse to my husband, and he is supportive. I’ve been writing, just trying to get my thoughts onto paper. This morning I contacted my therapist to seek treatment. I attended an AA meeting this morning and this evening I am going to an NA meeting at a local church. In addition, I poured out all of my alcohol, flushed my substances, and threw away my supplies. This time I am so serious about recovery. I have to do 5 days of detox plus 30 days of inpatient rehabilitation. I am so scared but there is healing that needs to be done. I need to heal from past traumas, addiction, and several abortions. It’s hard for me to look at my babies knowing that I killed their siblings. I have to live with that guilt and it’s a hard pill to swallow. Hopefully at some point I can learn to forgive myself.”

Do her words reflect a woman who feels empowered because she exercised her “right” to abort her baby? Her words, her story, are repeated over and over again in the testimonies found on the [Silent No More Campaign](#) website.

I remember driving to the abortion clinic the day of my procedure and thinking “this feels wrong, but it is legal, so it must be OK.” The reality is that I was never OK after that day and my right proved to be very wrong.

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2021/12/08/9839/>.

AMAZON SMILE

St. Francis is registered as a charity with Amazon. This means that 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.

RANDALLS' GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

If you shop at Randalls and have a Remarkable Card, you can go to customer service and have them add the number 1304 to your account. Each quarter, Randalls rebates to St. Francis 1% of the total spent by their partners.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Cesiah and Doug Cooper have agreed to take on the leadership of the Hospitality Ministry at St. Francis. David and Kim Norris were wonderful in their leadership for years - and we are indebted to them for doing wonderfully in this role and for establishing a good foundation for this ministry to continue. Lately Jim and Amy Crandell made a valiant attempt to lead but realized this a little beyond what they can do.

Looking forward to Cesiah and Doug's ideas! Remember that this takes the efforts of many volunteers to make things work. Please offer your support to them as they figure out this role.

5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

2022 starts out with five Sundays in January. This means there will be a potluck luncheon held after the 11:00 service on January 30. Plan to bring something tasty to eat to share with fellow parishioners. These potlucks are always enjoyable.

COFFEE HOUR FOOD

Thanks to those of you who bring an item or two of food for the coffee hour. It makes for an interesting assortment of food to enjoy. Would love to see more folks doing this.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

All are welcome to come to the St. Francis Epiphany on Jan. 6. Jim and Amy Crandell are hosting the event. Come to church at 6:15 to enjoy a candle-lit meal together, ending with King's Cake. At 7 p.m., we will have a laity-led Evensong including the St. Matthew reading of the wisemen visiting the Christ child. Please let Amy or Jim know if you would like to attend so that enough food can be prepared. Either speak to one of them or email info@stfrancisaustin.org to RSVP.

2022 BISHOP'S CONFERENCE FOR MEN

Come and participate in the largest men's ministry event in the Diocese!

The [15th Annual Bishop's Conference for Men](#) will be held February 11th & 12th at St Peter & St Paul Anglican Church in Arlington. [Online registration](#) is open now through February 10, 2022. Cost is \$20 for Friday night, \$40 for Saturday or \$60 for both.

THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER for the 2022 Men's Conference is the Rev. Jerry Kramer. He is a front-line missionary catalyzing Disciple Making Movements among seventeen Unreached People Groups. Fr. Kramer and his wife Stacy have shared the Gospel and ministered to the Syrian, Iranian, and Iraqi Kurds in the Middle East, the Maasai of remote W. Kenya, and East African Muslims along the Swahili Coast.

In 2003 the Kramers formed Love for the Least. The ministry of L4L shares the compassion of Christ among people groups where less than 4% of the population has heard the Gospel. Efforts are focused on the most marginalized and forgotten, including widows, orphans, refugees, and the unborn. Their passion is to make disciples who make disciples who manifest and expand the Kingdom of God.

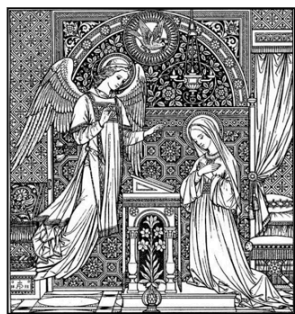
Conference Theme: What is the answer? Come and find out!

Schedule:

Friday night - Mass at 6 pm, catered dinner at 7 pm for men, wives, and anyone interested.

Saturday - Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m. Conference 9 a.m. to 2 p.m..

Immerse yourself in the Catholic faith.



St Gabriel's Conference

SOUTHWEST • GRANBURY, TEXAS

February 3-6, 2022 stgabrielsw.org

Join us at St. Gabriel's Conference for an immersive community of formation in the Anglican tradition of the Catholic faith, meeting in conference for study, fellowship, and worship.

Details: The conference begins on Thursday evening, February 3, at Camp Crucis in Granbury. It is arranged so that a typical attendee will only need to take Friday off from work. Friday,

Saturday, and Sunday will be occupied with praying the Daily Offices, Solemn High Mass, classes, devotions, group discussions, fun, food, fellowship, and more. The all-inclusive cost is \$199.

Registration: You can learn more at stgabrielsw.org. Registration for the 2022 conference began in Advent in 2021 and ends on January 25, 2022. Like them on their [Facebook page](#) and share with anyone interested.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. FRANCIS

At a recent meeting, the Vestry had discussion on the results of the survey done last year. In the survey, several people commented that they would like to see more adult education. With the current times of the services and the accessible space, having an adult course offering of more than 10-15 minutes on Sunday mornings simply isn't feasible.

This doesn't mean St. Francis has no adult education classes at all - we simply don't offer these on Sunday mornings.

We do have three Bible study groups that meet either weekly or twice a month, as well as the weekly Catechism class.

The Tuesday group meets each week from 7 to 8:15 p.m. via Zoom and is currently reading through St. Mark. This group has 10-14 participants from St. Francis as well as other places outside of Austin. Doug Cooper is the coordinator.

The other two groups follow the same format: After fellowship and the sharing of the work of the Holy Spirit, the lessons for that Sunday are discussed with reflections made on how to apply the lessons to our own lives.

One group, led by Jim and Amy Crandell, meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 3 - 4:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. This group has about 6 members.

The third group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at the home of Angie and Steve McCown in the Brodie Oaks neighborhood in far south Austin each month. This group has 10-11 members.

The fourth educational offering is the weekly Catechism class on Wednesdays from 7 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. This group will be meeting for quite a while as the Catechism contains questions on our faith and the answers with related Bible verses. This group of about 8-10 has made it through just over 100 of the questions with 268 to go. We cover 3-4 questions each session. Anyone can join at any time and be able to understand what is being discussed. An email is sent out weekly with the Zoom link.

All four of these groups welcome new people at any time. Contact the leaders in-person or email info@stfrancisaustin.org.

Anyone else who wishes to form a new Bible study group is more than welcome to do so. Be sure to check with Fr. Len.

READINGS FOR JANUARY

1/2 2nd Sunday after Christmas ([link](#))

- Jeremiah 31:7-14
- Psalm 84:1-8
- Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
- Luke 2:41-52

1/9 1st Sunday after Epiphany ([link](#))

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalm 89:20-29
- Acts 10:34-38
- Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

1/16 2nd Sunday after Epiphany ([link](#))

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Psalm 96:1-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- John 2:1-11

1/23 3rd Sunday after Epiphany ([link](#))

- Nehemiah 8:2-10
- Psalm 113
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- Luke 4:14-21

1/30 4th Sunday after Epiphany ([link](#))

- Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Psalm 71:1-6, 15-17
- 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20
- Luke 4:21-32

Notes on the readings:

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Audrey Woodgate
3	Dave Thomas
5	Doug Cooper
7	Tom George
19	Arthur Woodgate, Regina DeBord, James Cox
31	Ben Ellis

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

11	Grady and Michelle Collins
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JANUARY CALENDAR

Sundays

- 9:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.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 1/2)
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice (not on 1/2)
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion in person, livestreamed with healing prayers after the service.

Tuesdays

- 7:00 - 8:15 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 Thursday, Jan. 6

- 6:15 p.m. Epiphany Meal

2nd Saturday, Jan. 8

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

2nd & 4th Friday, Jan. 14 and 21.

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

2nd & 4th Sunday, Jan. 9 and 23

- 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. "Home" Group. Meeting in person at the church.

2nd Monday, Jan. 10

- 6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

3rd Friday, Jan. 21

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

3rd Monday, Jan. 17

- 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 Sunday, Jan. 23

- ~12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting

4th Friday, Jan. 28

- 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

5th Sunday, Jan. 30

- ~12:15 p.m. 5th Sunday Potluck Luncheon

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 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

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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.