

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacalone

On Monday evening, February 21, Bishop Reed met with the Vestry of St. Francis to speak about the transition that will take place after I leave. He spent about forty-five minutes with us discussing the procedures that are currently in place in the diocese for the search process. Over the next few months and beyond you will be hearing from the Vestry about the various stages of this process which will include taking a good look at our parish, its needs, desires, etc., and creating a parish profile in order to identify candidates who might be a good fit for the parish. This process will be the project of the Vestry in consultation with the bishop. Doug Cooper, the Senior Warden, will lead this search process along with the Vestry, and I am sure that the Vestry will be seeking input from anyone who is interested in participating. Bishop Reed emphasized at the beginning of the meeting that the most important aspect of this process is prayer and fasting. In order to really seek God's will for the parish, the parish must be in touch with God. I would encourage you to begin praying daily for this effort. It should not be done in haste, but prayerfully and patiently, with the full knowledge that God wants the best for St. Francis even more that we can possibly imagine.

Ash Wednesday

As is our custom, there will be two services on Ash Wednesday, one at noon, and one at 7:00 pm. Each will be a Holy Communion service with the distribution of ashes after the homily. As I have stated so often in the past, the wearing of ashes, even for only a couple hours, should have meaning far deeper than the external sign itself. You are making a statement both to God and to yourself that you are entering into a period of self examination and penance. One of the reasons Lent no

longer has the sting it once did is that the recognition of the need for repentance and conversion is no longer a big deal. Do I see myself as God sees me? Ask yourself this question: Is the day after Ash Wednesday any different in your life than the day before it? The season of Lent is meant to be different than the rest of the year. It is meant to be more self reflective (not self absorbed). Serious examination is the key to a purposeful Lent. The pattern of your life during Lent should be at least somewhat different than during the rest of the year. If you don't as a rule pray Morning or Evening Prayer, at least do it occasionally. Consider attending the Thursday Evening Prayer service, either in person or via Zoom. If you do not as a rule open your bible to spend some time reading and meditating on the Word of God, blow the dust off your bible and do it at least a few times per week. These things are not just meant to change your schedule but your life. So they need to be done with that in mind. Plan for what you might do beginning on Ash Wednesday so that you can be ready to start on day one and then come to church on that day with the intention of making this Lent something that will change your life. At the very least you can be praying during this Lent for the Vestry and the process of finding the new Rector, asking God to bless the search and provide the right priest to lead the congregation in the years to come.

On an upbeat note, with a recent significant contribution to the Building Fund and your recurring generosity, I have just been informed that the balance on our mortgage debt is down to around \$335,000. Way ahead of schedule. I may have another surprise for you in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

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

LEARN ABOUT AFTER-ABORTION

Abortion supporters have popularized the myth that abortion is much safer for women than pregnancy. However, beyond physical complications after the procedure, the emotional and spiritual harm caused by abortions is immeasurable.

Although women often feel relief immediately after the abortion, many women experience depression, suicidal thoughts, increased drug/alcohol use, anxiety, and guilt in the months and years after the abortion.

A woman who undergoes an abortion has a suicide risk six times higher than women who have given birth to a child. Additionally, according to a 2011 study from Britain's Royal College of Psychiatrists, women who have abortions are 81 percent more likely to experience subsequent mental health problems.

Many women who have had abortions suffer spiritually, fearing the judgement of friends, family, and God. They believe they cannot be forgiven and often suffer in silence.

What is the Impact of Abortion on Men?

While they are often told they have no say in the abortion debate, men do suffer from abortion. It is not unusual for men to feel sadness, depression, suicidal thoughts, or anxiety after abortion or to mourn their lost fatherhood. These feelings can be complicated if he encouraged or even coerced the woman into having an abortion. Often these feelings are not temporary and can influence his family relationships and emotional and spiritual health.

How Can People Who Are Hurting Get Help?

After-abortion care programs were created to bring help and healing to women and men suffering from abortion regret. Although there are many different programs, almost all programs guide women and men in acknowledging and grieving their aborted child and share with them the forgiveness given freely to them by God. Find a healing program near you (silentnomoreawareness.org).

<https://anglicansforlife.org/issues/after-abortion/>

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

On February 21, Bishop Ryan Reed of the Diocese of Fort Worth visited St. Francis and met with the Vestry to discuss plans for the Rector transition some time this year. One thing Bishop Reed considers of singular importance is that the people of St. Francis create an opportunity to honor Fr. Len's almost three decades with us in an appropriate manner. We all know that his and Nancy's tireless service has benefited us in more ways than we can even count. Suffice it to say, an enormous celebration is in the works, but it is in the early planning stage at this point. Please stay tuned for the details. You won't want to miss this!

EASTER LILIES

We have already begun the 9-week period of no flowers on the altar, but come Easter, you can look to see the church adorned with dozens of Easter lilies. In mid-March, an appeal for gifts to our flower fund in remembrance, in thanksgiving, or for any other reason will be made.

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.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. FRANCIS

Looking for adult Christian Education opportunities?

St. Francis currently has three Bible study groups and a Catechism class for adults. Due to time and space constraints, none are on Sunday mornings. You are welcome to participate in any or all of the offerings.

- **Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.** via Zoom. Currently reading through Genesis. This group has 8-12 participants from St. Francis as well as non-members. Doug Cooper is the coordinator. (Won't be meeting on March 1st)
- **2nd and 4th Fridays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** at the home of Angie and Steve McCown in far south Austin in the Shady Grove neighborhood. This group discusses the upcoming lectionary lessons. Currently 13 St. Francis members and friends attend.
- **2nd and 4th Sundays, after the 11:00 service** and towards the end of the coffee hour. After sharing a coordinated potluck lunch, this group discusses the lessons just read in the Sunday service. Currently 9 people attend. The Bible study lasts 1.5 hours. Amy and Jim Crandell are organizing this group.
- **Wednesdays from 7 to 7:30 p.m.** via Zoom is the Catechism class. 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 up to 11 has made it through 138 of the questions with 230 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. (Won't be meeting on March 2).

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

2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE

The 2021 contribution statements are available electronically. If you want to receive a 2021 contribution statement, please email our Parish Administrator, Mark Rambin, at mrambin@msn.com to make a request.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Mark your calendar! On Sunday, March 13, Daylight Saving Time kicks in. Don't forget to move your clock one hour forward and mourn that one hour of sleep you will be missing. Maybe someday, this insanity of changing the time twice a year will end.

HELP NEEDED WITH THE COFFEE HOUR

Just about everyone enjoys visiting over a cup of coffee and a bite to eat after each of the services. The food after the coffee hour tends to be unplanned with interesting results at times. Some days we have more food than can be eaten and other days only bags of chips. Please consider signing up to bring food to eat. Help is also needed to make coffee (following specific directions) and to clean up after the coffee hour. There is a notebook on the table next to the kitchen to commit with helping out.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Hannah Hatley
- 5 Bill Palmer
- 8 Kenneth Robertson
- 12 Ganne McCullough
- 14 Marilynn Palmer
- 15 Shirley Ellis, Melissa Nelson Bernard
- 17 Tristan DeBord
- 24 Chuck Mazzeo
- 26 Grady Collins
- 28 Lavanna Martin

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Larry and Eileen Cole
- 21 Fr. Rogers and Marlene Meredith

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 1st is Shrove Tuesday. As has been the custom at St. Francis, the men of St. Polycarp's Guild will prepare a feast of pancakes and sausage for all to enjoy. Plan to join us between 6 and 7 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is on March 2. Two services will be held - noon and 7 p.m. Both will have the imposition of ashes, Holy Communion with a homily. This is an essential service to mark the beginning of Lent.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

NOT canceled! From March 2nd-April 10th we will unite with hundreds of cities across the world for a simultaneous 40-day prayer vigil. 40 Days for Life is a 40-day campaign of prayer & fasting, education, and a constant peaceful prayer vigil in front of abortion facilities. This international movement has resulted in 100+ abortion facilities closing, over 200 abortion workers having conversions and leaving their jobs, and over 20,000 women choosing life for children they were going to abort. Here in Central Texas at least 290 women have changed their minds and chosen life! To claim your hour (and for other resources) visit CentralTexasCoalition.com or call the Coalition for Life office at (512) 296-2071.

There is one important announcement about this vigil. After much prayer and discernment, the Coalition for Life has decided to switch the south location of the vigil from Planned Parenthood on East Ben White to Austin Women's Health Center on S IH-35. At the S IH35 location, the prayer location is right next to the parking lot, so the coalition determined that we can make a greater impact there. The address is 1902 S IH-35 Suite A Austin, TX 78704.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

A St. Francis food drive benefiting the Food Pantry at St. Louis the King of France Catholic Church will be conducted during Lent from March 2nd through April 10 (Palm Sunday).

The St. Louis food pantry provides food assistance to the needy of our community and is the largest food pantry in Austin. Volunteers distribute food on Saturday mornings from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. This is one of several social ministries this large parish can offer. The St. Louis food pantry is a partner with the Capitol Area Food Bank. On a typical Saturday, up to 80 families who live in the central Austin area receive food assistance.

Bea De la Rosa is the Director of Social Ministries and welcomes contributions, but she does have specific items the pantry will accept from a food drive like this:

Protein

- Canned chicken
- Canned tuna
- Canned Salmon
- Spam

Starch/Protein

- 1-2 lb. bag white rice
- 1-2 lb. bag pinto beans
- Oatmeal
- Mac & Cheese

Vegetables

- 14 oz. Canned Corn
- 14 oz. Canned Green Beans

There will be a table set up in the St. Francis entry hall for donations. Consider purchasing some or all of the items on the list and bringing them to church during Lent.

READINGS FOR MARCH

3/6 1 Lent ([Link to the readings](#))

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91
- Romans 10:5-13
- Luke 4:1-13

3/13 2 Lent ([Link to the readings](#))

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27:10-18
- Philippians 3:17-4:1
- Luke 13:22-35

3/20 3 Lent ([Link to the readings](#))

- Exodus 3:1-15
- Psalm 103:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Luke 13:1-9

3/27 4 Lent ([Link to the readings](#))

- Joshua 5:9-12
- Psalm 34:1-8
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Luke 15:11-32

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.
- On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, the psalm is chanted during the 11:00 service. The pointing is based on the Cathedral Psalter and is available on our website.

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

MISSING BLUE BOOKS

If you inadvertently took a blue book home after church, please try to bring it back. There were 50 copies printed less than a year ago and only 20 copies remain.

MARCH 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 following the service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for youth

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

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

Tuesday, March 1

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, March 2

Noon and 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service with the imposition of ashes

Tuesdays (except March 1)

7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Bible Study online via [Zoom](#).

Wednesdays (except March 2)

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, March 5

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

2nd & 4th Fridays, March. 11 and March. 25.

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

2nd & 4th Sundays, Mar. 13 and Mar. 27

~1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Bible study in person at the church.

2nd Monday, Mar. 14

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

3rd Friday, Mar. 18

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

3rd Monday, Mar. 21

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, Mar. 25

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



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

Doug Cooper

Junior

Warden

David Norris

Secretary

Jim Crandell

Vestry Members

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready
Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer, Fr. Len Giacolone
Dinah Arce, David Norris, Susan Rambin

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.