

The St. Francis Bulletin

A PRODUCTIVE LENT

Fr. Len Giacalone

The [gospel reading for Ash Wednesday](#) points to three different activities that enhance our spiritual life that we should practice, not just in Lent but especially so during Lent. Fasting, prayer, and alms giving are the three areas of concern in Matthew's Gospel. Each one of these is integral to our spiritual life. Jesus makes it clear that these things are not optional when he says "When you fast... When you give alms.... When you pray." Not if, but when. The reason why these things are so important is that they take the focus away from us and place it either on God or on his people and bring to mind the great commandments of the law, the love of God with all your heart and mind and soul and the love of our neighbor as ourselves. These Lenten disciplines are essential to train us for the Christian life. They are not meant to be "penance" simply for Lent or during Lent, but spiritual training to last the year round. While Lent is a time of special focus for these disciplines, they are disciplines that we need to continue after Lent is over. Perhaps not on as rigorous a schedule as we observe during Lent but certainly as part of our overall spiritual life. Prayer and fasting place our attention on God, and almsgiving on our neighbor. By focusing less on ourselves we train ourselves to be less self-centered and more other-centered. This is the kingdom of God in its truest form where love abounds, love of God and love of our neighbor. Schedule these activities into your busy schedules. That's the only way it will happen. Good intentions are simply that. But they won't get the job done. For those of you who have never tried any of these things, it is never too late. Heroic effort is not required but some effort is. Don't put this off another Lent. Plan to make this Lent a productive one.

(Excerpt from February 2008 Newsletter)

PRAYING AT HOME

An excellent resource for Morning and Evening Prayer is "Cradle of Prayer". Led by a priest and cantor using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, it's a wonderful way to refresh your mind, heart, and soul as we walk in the path of our Lord together- especially during these uncertain and trying times. Go to cradleofprayer.org/this-weeks-prayers and click on the day of the week. If you prefer to say the service yourself, Morning and Evening prayer in the written form are available at CommonPrayer.org. Of course, all are welcome to come to St. Francis on Thursdays at 7 pm to say Evening Prayer with a small group of St. Francis members and friends.

CONFIRMATION

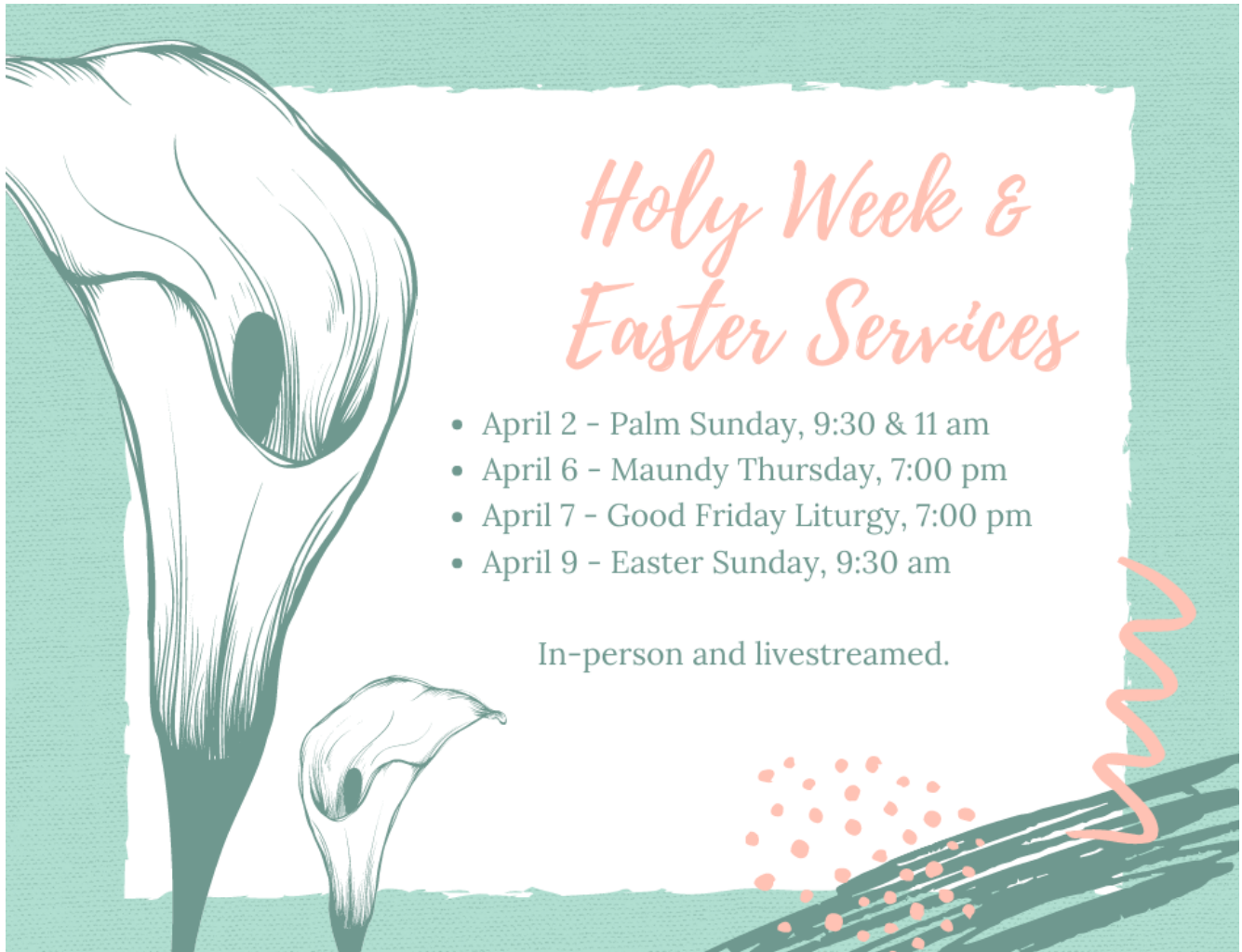
On June 11, 2023, Bishop Ryan Reed will be at St. Francis for his annual pastoral visit. This will include confirmation, reception and re-affirmation as well. All Baptized members or potential members of St. Francis can be confirmed. Adults - let Fr. Rogers know so that he can be sure you are prepared. He is holding confirmation classes on March 5 and 12 after the 11:00 service.

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2022 contribution statements are available electronically. If you want to receive a 2022 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 12, Daylight Saving Time kicks in. Don't forget to move your clock one hour forward.



Holy Week & Easter Services

- April 2 - Palm Sunday, 9:30 & 11 am
- April 6 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm
- April 7 - Good Friday Liturgy, 7:00 pm
- April 9 - Easter Sunday, 9:30 am

In-person and livestreamed.

EASTER LILIES

The sanctuary will be adorned with flowers and lilies beginning on Easter Sunday, April 9. If you would like to make a remembrance or thank offering for the flowers, there are envelopes on the table in the entry hall for this purpose. Gifts will be collected through Palm Sunday, April 2.

PRIESTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Now that Fr. Brummett's other jobs have settled a bit, he thinks he may be able to celebrate and preach at St. Francis at least once a month. The next time he will be here is on Sunday, Feb. 26.

ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Diocesan Altar Guild is March 25, 2023 at St. Alban's at 911 S. Davis in Arlington. The [pamphlet](#) shows the event begins at 10:00 a.m. with Bishop Reed leading a Holy Eucharist. The presentation begins at 11:45 a.m. by Bishop Keith Ackerman where he will explore some of the mysteries and questions that we have about events and customs of the Lenten and Easter seasons, and is followed by lunch.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

40 DAYS FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

From February 22 - April 2, 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.

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 February 22 - April 2 (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 Capital 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 (listed to the right)

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.

Suggested Donations

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

WHAT IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING?

Our diocese subscribes to the traditional Anglican concept of membership "in good standing." The recent publication of the current Diocesan Customary and an instructional video from Fr. Tom Hightower has raised awareness that we should apply this concept conscientiously.

A member in good standing is an adult member (over the age of 18) who is confirmed and is a financial contributor to the church. In the annual meeting, we are to report this

number. Each parish also creates a Parochial Report to the ACNA with this number, among dozens of other numbers.

How to become a member of St. Francis

- Complete the membership form found on the table in the Narthex and give it to senior warden, Doug Cooper. Your name will be included on the St. Francis roster.

Confirmation .

- The Bishop comes once a year to confirm or receive members into the church.
- Check with Fr. Rogers if you would like to be confirmed or with any questions about your confirmation.

Financial Contributor to the Church

- A yearly pledge that is in some amount that is fulfilled is generally considered the standard of financial contribution. Our treasurer keeps track of these contributions.

If you would like to be counted as a "member in good standing" simply complete any of the steps you are lacking. Remember, that is simply a number.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 2 | Hannah Hatley |
| 5 | Bill Palmer |
| 8 | Kenneth Robertson |
| 12 | Ganne McCullough |
| 14 | Marilynn Palmer |
| 15 | Shirley Ellis |
| | Melissa Nelson Bernard |
| 24 | Chuck Mazzeo |
| 26 | Grady Collins |
| 28 | Lavanna Martin |
| 30 | The Rev. Bill Dickson |

READINGS FOR MARCH

3/5 2 Lent (Link to Readings)

Genesis 12:1-8
Psalm 33:12-21
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

3/12 3 Lent (Link to Readings)

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95:6-11
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:1-42

3/19 4 Lent (Link to Readings)

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:1-14
John 9:1-38

3/26 5 Lent (Link to Readings)

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 6:16-23
John:11:1-44

Notes on the readings:

- St. Francis follows the [1979 BCP Lectionary](#) for the lessons. We are in Year A.
- 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 from the St. Francis Psalter, found at <http://stfrancisaustin.org/psalter>, which is based on the Cathedral Psalter.

MARCH 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

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

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

Tuesdays

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Bible Study 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, Mar. 4

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

2nd Friday, Mar. 10

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study in person at the McCown's house

2nd Sunday, Mar. 12

12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study - upstairs at the church

2nd Monday, Mar. 13

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

3rd Friday, Mar. 17

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

3rd Monday, Mar. 20

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. 24

4:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves and Fishes Make Ready Team

5:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves and Fishes Truck Run

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study in person at the McCown's house

4th Sunday, Mar. 26

12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study - upstairs at the church

Note on the calendar:

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

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

Interim Rector: Fr. Rogers Meredith

Organist: Elisante Msengi

Parish Administrator: Mark Rambin

Treasurer: Grady Collins

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden - Doug Cooper

Junior Warden - Jim Crandell

Secretary - Dinah Arce

Vestry Members

Fr. Rogers Meredith, Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell,

Michael Ready, Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer,

Dinah Arce, Susan Rambin, Mack Lindsey

St. Francis Anglican Church

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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.