



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

As you receive this we are on the verge of the most important week in the church's liturgical calendar. We call this week HOLY WEEK simply because it brings us face to face with Jesus' passion, death and resurrection and therefore the reality of our salvation in Christ. As usual we will have a full schedule of liturgical celebrations to bring that remembrance into our consciousness and therefore into our daily lives. These liturgical events are essentially reenactments of the steps Jesus and his disciples took during the last week of his earthly existence. To take these steps with them is to confess our faith in their reality for us even to this day and for this reason I encourage you as I always do to participate in as many of them as possible.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. Because of the extra rites included in this celebrations, namely the blessing of the palms and the reading of the passion, this year from Luke, we will not have Morning Prayer on Palm Sunday, even though it falls on the first Sunday of the month. As the gospels record, the events of Palm Sunday precede only by a few days Jesus' arrest and execution. They should be a reminder to us of how fickle we human beings are and how quickly we can turn away from Our Lord when it is convenient for us to do so.

On Wednesday of Holy Week we will have the last praying of the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm. All through the Lenten season we have reminded ourselves of the cost of our sinfulness to Jesus. One last time before the solemn commemoration of His passion and death on Good

Friday will we walk the steps that Jesus walked to his cross and grave for our salvation.

Maundy Thursday marks the commemoration of the last supper Jesus had with his disciples on the night before he gave his life for our salvation. Even though we celebrate the Holy Communion frequently in our church, there is special emphasis on the institution of the Eucharist and the command (mandatum, from which comes Maundy) to "do this in remembrance of me." This service ends with the stripping of the altar. This solemn rite calls to our minds that Jesus was stripped of his garments prior to being nailed to the cross, the altar being a symbol of Jesus himself. Nothing is left in the sanctuary. The starkness of the usually well adorned altar shows us that Jesus took nothing with him to the cross save for our sins.

The liturgy of Good Friday offers us a solemn reminder of the Lord's passion and death. Once again we read the passion, this time according to St. John. We spend some time in intercessory prayer and the last rite of this service in the ancient tradition of the veneration of the cross. The cross is both the instrument of Jesus suffering and death and the symbol of our salvation. There is no other symbol in all of Christendom that more clearly identifies Jesus and his followers. Therefore it is quite fitting that on the day which commemorates his suffering and death, we, his followers, venerate in some fashion (usually by kissing, bowing or genuflecting) the instrument of his life-giving death. We adore thee, O Christ, and we praise thee. Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world. There will be no Evening Prayer on Good Friday. Only the solemn Good Friday liturgy. Likewise, Game Night will

not be held in April since it falls on Good Friday.

Since the earliest days of the church the followers of Jesus have so eagerly anticipated the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord that they held a solemn vigil on the night before they celebrated the great feast of the church. The blessing of the fire (a symbol of God), from which we light the Paschal candle (a symbol of the risen Lord), the Paschal Proclamation announcing the resurrection and Christ's triumph over sin and the several readings from the Hebrew Scriptures recalling the history of salvation all lead to the first Mass of Easter. Since this celebration should take place after dark, it will begin at 7:30 instead of the usual 7:00 for all the other services during Holy Week.

On Easter Sunday morning we will have the usual services at 9:30 and 11:00 am. I am presuming that we will have the flowering of the cross before the 11:00 service, the same cross we venerated on Good Friday. As the old timers know, the 11:00 on Easter is usually quite full and sometimes SRO. If you want a good seat you might want to arrive a few minutes earlier than usual. Please don't let the crowds keep you away.

That's Holy Week in all its glory. Even the parts of these celebrations that are more somber in tone are glorious and wonderful in their meaning and impact. I urge you to be part of these magnificent feasts of the church. They will move you, inspire you and hopefully draw you closer to God. I don't know that anyone who prays and worships through these services who is not blessed. Who of us is rich enough that we can afford to pass up a blessing?



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION **NEWS**

Classes continue to meet each week in the Parish House. Children in grade 6-12 meet in the meeting room with Mike Ready to discuss the lessons appointed for that day. The discussion is almost

always lively and keeps the teacher on his toes the whole hour. The younger children meet in the nursery for a Godly Play lessons. During Lent, the children are hearing and responding to the Gospel stories on Jesus' life and his ministry. We began with a reminder of the Christmas story of Christ's birth, the story of 12 year old Jesus staying in Jerusalem to speak with the elders, Jesus' baptism, and the 40 days of being tempted in the wild. The next couple of Sundays feature selected stories of his ministry and ends with the Palm Sunday events and of course, the Easter story. Julie Rambin is doing a fantastic job of telling the story, leading the discussion, and leading the prayer before the feast.

St. Francis Sunday classes are always open to other people. If you have a child or grandchild between the ages of 2 and 17, bring him/her to class to see what good things are happening at St. Francis Sunday School.

We will not have any classes on Easter Sunday, April 8.

To update on our Adopt-a-Soldier project: we have collected enough items to send two boxes to our adopted soldiers. Included was a letter written by Victoria, and another by James. These two soldiers may not have time to write back, but they should enjoy the package and letters.

NURSING HOME OUTREACH

The Retirement Center and Nursing Home is interested in St. Francis continuing to lead the residents in prayer and song on the fifth Sunday. (This was an outreach project for the children for a few years.) A couple of adults were interested in singing, plus Sylvia Kelley volunteered to keep playing the piano, so this outreach will continue for the time being. Anyone of any age who can carry a tune is welcome and strongly encouraged to come. The center is located at 6909 Burnet Lane. We are expected to come on April 29th from 3:30-4:40pm. Claire Ducker and Amy Crandell are spearheading this effort.

FR. LEN OPPOSES GAY MARRIAGE AT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

On Tuesday evening, Mar. 6, Fr. Len traveled to Texas State University to speak at a panel discussion on gay marriage sponsored by the Student Association for Campus Activities. The panel included a male homosexual student and two politically active women favoring gay marriage, and Fr. Len and a psychology undergraduate student opposing it. Fr. Len was the only panelist who approached the issue from a religious perspective. Although most of the audience appeared to be in favor of the proposal, they listened respectfully as Fr. Len described the roots of Western law in Biblical truth. As the person who invited Fr. Len to speak, I want to thank him for taking a courageous public stand in front of a potentially hostile audience. It's not any easier even though he does that most Sundays!

-Karl Stephan



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Through this new ministry, shawls knitted or crocheted by members, are given to recipients at times of illness, to the elderly, those in hospitals, etc. They begin and are given with prayer and love. Anyone who knits, crochets, or would like to learn and be a part of this ministry, please call Pheobe Hughes at 476-6216.

Rector: The Reverend Len Giacalone
Senior Warden: Mark Rambin
Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



SPRING MEETING PLANNED

A meeting of 'The Women of St. Francis Church' is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. A brief business meeting will be followed by a Devotional and refreshments. All women of the Parish are encouraged to attend to participate in the work and service of our church.
-Leanne Read



Birthdays

1	Susan LaRoux
2	Jay Brummett
3	James Ogden LaRoux
4	Don Watkins
5	Paige Adkins
8	Micah Looke
9	Julie Rambin
10	Shannon Adkins
16	Graham Kinahan
20	Ray Merrill
21	Jim Crandell
22	Victoria Ruth Stults
23	Diane Darling Jace Phillips
24	Steve Ogden
26	Lorraine Pangle
27	G.W. Martin
28	Fiona Campbell Kim Kinahan
29	Miller Hicks

Anniversaries

3	Jack and Mildred Farris
5	Roy and Nancy Jones
8	Karl David and Pam Stephan
28	John and Joan Gaitan



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults
Organist: Sylvia Kelley
Server: Ray Merrill

Newsletter Submissions

Any parishioner that has news of any kind they would like to share with everyone is welcome to send it in writing to Erika Denslow at 640 B Lakeside Dr., Wimberley, TX 78676 or to her e-mail address (triciadenslow@yahoo.com). If received by the 20th, it will appear in next month's newsletter.

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1408 West 9th Street

Austin, Texas 78703

APRIL

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1	Palm Sunday <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Luke 19:29-40, Isaiah 45:21-25, Psalm 22:1-11, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:39-23:56 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>	8	Easter Sunday <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:14-29, Colossians 3:1-4, Luke 24:1-10
2	Mother's Prayer group, 11:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	13	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
4	Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m.	15	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 11:00 a.m., Acts 5:12a, 17-22, 25-29, Psalm 111, Revelation 1:9-19, John 20:19-31 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
5	Maundy Thursday <u>Holy Communion</u> , 7:00 p.m., Exodus 12:1-14a, Psalm 78:13-25, 1 Cor. 11:23-32, John 13:1-15	20	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
6	Good Friday <u>Holy Communion</u> , 7:00 p.m., Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22:1-11, Hebrews 10:1-25, John 18:1-19:37	22	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 11:00 a.m., Acts 9:1-19a, Psalm 33:1-11, Revelation 5:6-14, John 21:1-14 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
7	Holy Saturday <u>Holy Communion</u> , 7:30 p.m., Gene- sis 1:1-2:2, Genesis 22:1-18, Exodus 14:10-15:1, Isaiah 55:1-11, Ezekiel 36:24-28, Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-10	27	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
		29	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 11:00 a.m., Acts 13:15-16, 26-33, Psalm 100, Revela- tion 7:9-17, John 10:22-30 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>