



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Holy Week

You should be receiving this as we are about to begin Holy Week. It is called that for obvious reasons and our thoughts should turn toward those reasons as we enter into the sacred mysteries that we celebrate. These eight days in the life of Jesus must have seemed like an eternity to Him. There was little question in His mind what was to take place even as He entered Jerusalem amid shouts of “Hosanna to the Son of David.” St. John tells us very early in his gospel that Jesus would not entrust himself to men, for He knows how fickle human beings can be.

The days between Palm Sunday and the celebration of the Passover with His disciples on Thursday evening must have been ones of deep thought and probably constant prayer, leading up to His giving them the eternal memorial of His passion and death shortly before entering into His bloody agony in the garden on the night before He died. We cannot even imagine the thoughts of a holy, divine, human savior surveying the depths of separation from His Father for the only time in His life and pleading that He not have to undergo this trial before ultimately surrendering to the divine will. I remember a phrase from the Stations of the Cross during my early seminary days. O superabundance of love! It was for our sake that He surrendered Himself. Jesus was not dragged kicking and screaming to the cross. He willingly gave up His life out of love for the world to make atonement for our sins. O superabundance of love, indeed.

Jesus was never preoccupied with Himself, even on the cross. As our current version of the Stations of the Cross relates, “For three hours has Jesus hung

upon his pierced hands; his blood has run down in streams; and in the midst of excruciating sufferings, he has pardoned his murderers, promised the bliss of Paradise to the good thief, and committed his blessed Mother and Beloved Disciple to each other’s care.” Only then did He surrender His life.

While these events seem so familiar to us, we should question whether or not they really are. It is, of course, one thing to participate in these liturgical celebrations and I certainly encourage that. Let me encourage you to walk through Holy Week with our Savior this year. Read these scriptures again and again. Let the Lord speak to you about His Holy Week, not just your commemoration of it. Ask Him to take you along with Him as He rides into Jerusalem. Sit with Him at the Last Supper and experience the first Eucharist along with Judas’ betrayal. Walk the Way of the Cross and stand with the holy woman and beloved disciple at the foot of the cross. And then hurry to the tomb on Easter morning to be confronted with the angel’s “He is risen.” Let Him open up these passages to you, perhaps like never before. Whatever your Lent has been to this point, make your Holy Week one that you may have not experienced in a long time or perhaps ever before. Then, come and celebrate with us these sacred mysteries. Our Sunday worship on both Palm Sunday and Easter will be at 9:30 and 11:00 am. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be at 7:00 pm and the Solemn Easter Vigil on the night before Easter Sunday will be at 7:30 pm.

Global Orphan Advocates

Darryl and Stephanie Fast are global orphan advocates. For over 25 years they have been involved in the cause of orphans worldwide. They spread an encouraging, powerful message of hope and forgiveness to orphans all over the world and advocate that every orphaned child should have an opportunity to live in a “forever” home. Currently, the Fast family is seeking to raise \$2,500 in monthly pledges for an Austin sponsored home in Haiti. Through your help abandonment and abuse can be turned into God’s purpose causing the fatherless to experience the love of the Father. To make a monthly pledge, or for further information, please contact Lori DeVillez at the Austin Pregnancy Resource Center, 512-476-7774.

Christian Education News

Elementary Class

To help the students in the Sunday school class to observe Lent, each worked on a poster that emphasized Prayer, Alms, and Fasting to put up at home. Each child created a box for coins to collect during Lent which will be combined together after Easter and a donation made to one of several charities the children know about. The poster had a sheet that showed the road to Easter with separate blocks for each day. I asked them to say a prayer and mark that day off, so they can see the progress towards Easter. The fasting is more challenging – but most came up with something to give up and seem to be diligent in keeping their fast.

The lessons during April are:

- April 1: Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem (followed by a quick review of the events of the rest of Holy Week)
- April 8: Resurrection Story
- April 15: The Road to Emmaus
- April 22: Breakfast with the Savior
- April 29: The Great Commission

The youth class continues to be led by Doug Cooper. The lessons during April are:

· April 1 – Tough Jesus – The Resurrection

· **April 8 – No lesson**

The next begin a series of 5 lessons on the Beatitudes

· April 15 - Thinking Like Jesus: Pure in Heart (Matthew 5:1-3)

· April 22 - Thinking Like Jesus: Mourn, Meek (Matthew 5:4-5)

· April 29 - Thinking Like Jesus: Hunger, Merciful (Matthew 5:6-7)

Fifth Sunday Potluck

April 29th is the next potluck luncheon. Held after the 11:00 service, this a great time to catch up with the happenings of your St. Francis friends. Plan to bring something to eat and share with everyone else.

Retirement and Nursing Home Visit

If you are interested in reaching out in Christian love to folks really in need, consider joining the small group at the Retirement and Nursing Center on Burnet Lane from 3:30-4:30 on April 29th to sing, pray and share scripture with the residents. We have been doing this for several years and the everyone involved is quite appreciative of us coming. You can’t help but to walk away knowing you shared a little of God’s love with those who really need it. The address is 6909 Burnet Lane Austin, TX 78757.

Austin City Prayer Walk

Join us on Saturday, April 7th as we walk and pray along 4th Street. Hope to see you at 9 am for coffee before we head downtown. What a way to begin your Holy Saturday! All are welcome! Contact David & Kim Norris at austincityprayerwalk@hotmail.com or tel. (281) 923-9028.

Anglicans for Life

The April meeting of Anglicans for Life will be held on Sunday, the 15, after the 11:00 coffee

hour in the parish hall.

Everyone is invited to join us in supporting life. Also, the "Choose Life" license plates are now for sale. The cost is \$30.00, \$22.00 of which goes toward promoting adoption.

Easter Lilies

We are now in the Season of Lent and we look forward to the celebration of Easter. This is a time that you may want to remember those no longer with us or you wish to offer a thanksgiving for any person or occasion. There are envelopes on the table in the back of the church where you can indicate the names of the people or occasion you wish to honor. Give the envelope with your donation to Angie McCown, Nancy Critchfield-Jones or Shirley Ellis.

Shirley Ellis,
Altar Guild Director

Coffee Hour Sign-up

There are several open dates on our sign-up calendar. Don't worry if you have never hosted before...it is very easy and a great way to serve your parish family. Simple snacks are welcome and we'll even set up the coffee station for you. Would love to see some new names up there along with all of our regular members. Consider joining up with a friend and hosting together! Questions? Contact David & Kim Norris at tel. (281) 923-9028.

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Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone

Senior Warden: Mark Rambin

Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthday

- 1 Susan LaRoux
- 3 James Ogden LaRoux
- 4 Don Watkins
- 5 Paige Adkins
- 6 Elliott Wilkes
- 8 Micah Looke
Robert Bernard
- 9 Julie Rambin
- 10 Shannon Adkins
- 13 Christina Coley
- 17 Hannah Presley
- 20 Ray Merrill
- 21 Jim Crandell
- 22 Victoria Ruth Stults
Samantha Wathen
- 23 Diane Darling
Jace Phillips
- 24 Steve Ogden
- 26 Lorraine Pangle
- 27 G.W. Martin
- 29 Miller Hicks
- 30 Elizabeth Kalash

Anniversary

- 3 Jack and Mildred Farris
- 5 Roy and Nancy Jones
- 8 Karl David and Pam Stephan
- 19 David and Amy Malish



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults

Organist: Paula Blaha

**Servers: Ray Merrill and Arthur Woodgate
Ed Sandlin and Philip Crandell**

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 Tricia Denslow at 640 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 Anglican Church

1408 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

APRIL 2012

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| <p>1 Palm Sunday
<u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am</u>
Mark 11:1-11a
Isaiah 45:21-25 Psalm 22:1-11
Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:32-15:47
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30</p> <p>3 Anglican Rosary, 12 noon</p> <p>4 Stations of the Cross/Transformation Prayer, 7:00 pm</p> <p>5 Maundy Thursday, 7pm
Exodus 12:1-14a Psalm 78:13-25
1 Cor. 11:23-32 John 13:1-15</p> <p>6 Good Friday, 7pm
Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22:1-11
Hebrews 10:1-25 John 18:1-19:37</p> <p>7 Solemn Easter Vigil, 7:30pm
Genesis 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</p> <p>EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>8 <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am</u>
Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:14-29
Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30</p> <p>9 Vestry meeting, 5:30 pm</p> <p>11 Transformation Prayer, 7pm</p> <p>12 Evening Prayer, 6pm Church</p> | <p>15 <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am</u>
Acts 3:12a, 13-15, 17-26 Psalm 111
1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30
Anglicans for Life Meeting, 12:30pm</p> <p>16 Mothers Prayer Group, 11am</p> <p>17 Anglican Rosary, 12 noon</p> <p>18 Transformation Prayer, 7pm</p> <p>19 Evening Prayer</p> <p>22 <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am</u>
Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 98
1 John 1:1-2:2 Luke 24:36b-48
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30
Anglicans for Life Meeting, 12:30pm</p> <p>24 Anglican Rosary, 12 noon</p> <p>25 Transformation Prayer, 7pm</p> <p>26 Evening Prayer</p> <p>29 <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am</u>
Acts 4:23-37 Psalm 23
1 John 3:1-8 John 10:11-16
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30
Pot Luck, 12:30 pm</p> |
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