

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacalone

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6. As has been the case for the past several years, we will have two services on Ash Wednesday. There will be Holy Communion with the distribution of ashes at 12:00 noon and at 7:00 pm. I have said often in the past and will repeat it this year, there is nothing magical about receiving ashes on your forehead at the beginning of Lent. It is merely a symbol, a sign that you are entering into a season of renewal. That requires that you understand that you are in need of renewal from the inside out. It is not about doing things, not doing things, or omitting things from your consumption of things. It is, and has always been, about our relationship with the Lord.

The word Lent comes from a Latin word that means slow. The point of this is to back away from the distractions of the world so that everything in our life becomes more visible to us as it already is to God. The whole purpose of Lent is to allow us to see what God sees and then to allow him to do a spiritual diagnosis so that we can begin to fix what needs fixing or at least adjusting in our lives. The goal is to become more finely tuned to the will of God for us, to be led by His direction, and to submit ourselves wholly and completely to what God shows us. Anything we “do for Lent” has to be focused on that goal. Otherwise it is just some ritual we undertake for a period of time that simply waits for Easter to arrive. I’m not saying don’t do these things. I’m saying that they must be done with a purpose in mind.

On Wednesday evenings during Lent I will celebrate Holy Communion at 7:00 pm. There will of course be some reflections on a topic pertinent to our spiritual journey. As soon as I know what the topic will be I’ll let you know.

Confirmation Classes

Bishop Iker will be at St. Francis on June 23 for his annual visitation. At that time he will also confirm those I present to him. There will need to be instructions for Confirmation. These will begin on Tuesday, March 12, at 7:00 pm. I expect that there will be six to eight sessions each lasting about one hour or so. If you wish to be confirmed and have not yet informed me, I need to know now. I will have to have materials made up for the class. After the class begins there will be no further admittance.

Lenten Food Drive

In the past we have done a Lenten Food Drive for the benefit of The Storehouse. We donated our food to them for distribution because I liked their business model. It came not only with the distribution of food but with the dispensation of the Gospel. Unfortunately, as you know, The Storehouse is no longer in business, but people still need food. Therefore, this Lent we will be doing a food drive for the benefit of the food pantry at St. Louis Catholic Church on Burnet Road. They were practically our neighbors when we inhabited the office park over there. They also work with Mobile Loaves and Fishes, one of our ministry partners. More information will be given out soon about the needs. But I encourage you to participate if you are able.

Two other things. First of all, there will be the annual Pancake and Sausage Supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 5. Please watch for information in the Sunday pew sheet. Finally, 40 Days for Life will also run from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. I am sure there will be additional information later in the newsletter.

ABORTION FOR FETAL ANOMALY: THE COMPASSIONATE CHOICE FOR MOTHER AND BABY?

Based on an article written by written by Lynn Smith, R.N.

Submitted by Steve McCown

Note: Registered Nurse Lynn Smith presents an excellent overview on some key issues to consider when couples are counseled to abort their unborn child with a fetal disability. Although this article was written in the early 2000s, the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act was last attempted to be passed into law in 2018.

In considering the H 4223, the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, people need to know that abortion is not a life saving, pain sparing medical procedure in the case of fetal disability.

There are 6,000-10,000 lethal fetal anomalies in the U.S. every year. Traditional treatment for lethal fetal anomalies is termination of pregnancy, and the reasons for such treatment are not necessarily based on sound medical rationale, but on emotion: obstetric providers' well intentioned desire to spare the mother and the family a distressing experience, their need to "do something," and their discomfort with bereaved patients. On the physiological level, a prudent doctor is motivated to avoid maternal complications of pregnancy and childbirth and fear of increased maternal mortality.

The doctors' desire to be in control and to prevent suffering is understandable. However, research reveals that termination does not necessarily prevent maternal complications, mortality, or suffering, but in fact, pregnancy termination increases the risk of physical harm and prolongs suffering. Grief after termination of a pregnancy is just as intense as after a spontaneous pregnancy loss; however, grief after termination for anomalies demonstrates prolonged consequences. A study in the Netherlands of women with termination for anomalies reviewed psychological outcomes at monthly intervals. At four months, 46% of women had pathological levels of post-traumatic stress symptoms. At 16 months, 21% still had symptoms. Grief after termination is intense and persistent, as shown in another Netherlands study. Evaluated two to seven years post-termination, 2.6% had pathological grief, and 17% had post traumatic stress.

On the other hand, another study shows grief with first trimester spontaneous pregnancy loss is equal to that of live birth. In the first six months of the study, there was increased depression, anxiety and

somatization with the loss group, but after one year there was no difference with the live birth group.

Dr. Calhoun notes that in comparing a 1994 study to the 1998 CDC report, maternal mortality for induced abortion at 16-20 weeks is about the same as for non-termination. However, the CDC itself acknowledges in its own reports that induced abortion morbidity and mortality are underreported. Therefore, it can be deduced that carrying a pregnancy to term is the safer choice.

A well-designed perinatal hospice program provides the kinder alternative of assisting the mother to carry her baby to term. This is kinder to the mother, in that she was not a proactive agent in the demise of her child, and kinder to the child, allowing it to live comfortably what time it has within the womb. A 2002 analysis found that 20% of patients will continue the pregnancy no matter what the diagnosis. Two studies show that 75%-85% of patients choose perinatal hospice when presented with the idea. The patients were all positive about hospice care and the opportunity to spend time with their infants, which, after delivery, lived from a few minutes to a few days.

Someone once said that you do not eliminate suffering by eliminating those who suffer. Abortion is not healthcare. Persons who have been involved in an abortion decision for any reason, if they are truly honest with themselves, know that abortion is cruel, ugly, and a desperate choice.

In so many circumstances in our society, from abortion to euthanasia to assisted suicide, we need to recognize that killing is not compassion. The word "compassion" comes from the words that mean "together" and "to suffer." Compassion is coming alongside those who suffer and living with them through their suffering. To suggest that death is the solution for life's problems is to abandon them to despair. Is there a soul to our society? How do we measure our humanity? The answer is by the degree to which we care for those humans who are suffering: the weak and vulnerable, the unwanted and imperfect, the dying.

Source: <https://anglicansforlife.org/2018/10/22/fetal-anomaly-abortion-choice/>

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

At the annual meeting held on January 20, three St. Francis members were elected for a three-year term: Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, and Michael Ready. Thanks to all who ran. The parish was blessed in that any of the five candidates would have served the parish well. Since the annual meeting, Fr. Len appointed Donna Hunt as Senior Warden. At the February meeting, the Vestry elected Jim Britt as Junior Warden and Dinah Arce as the Secretary. Grady Collins will continue as Treasurer, but is not a Vestry member. Our 9-member Vestry is as follows, listed by the year their term expires:

2020 - Dinah Arce and Missy Bernard

2021 - Jim Britt, David Kristo-Reinking, and Donna Hunt

2022 - Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, and Michael Ready.

Fr. Len is an unelected, permanent member of the Vestry.

Also, at the annual meeting, it was announced that Frank Hunt would be the delegate to the upcoming conventions:

- **May 11** -a candidate forum to meet the three nominees for Bishop (also for clergy, their wives and the alternate delegate)
- **June 1** -to elect a Bishop coadjutor
- **November 15-16** - for the annual Diocesan Convention in Granbury

Dinah Arce will be the alternate delegate.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Hannah Hatley
- 5 Bill Palmer
- 13 Keira McCormick
- 14 Marilyn Palmer
- 15 Shirley Ellis, Melissa Nelson Bernard, Kolby Glenn
- 19 Timothy McCormick
- 23 Jim Orr
- 24 Chuck Mazzeo
- 26 Grady Collins
- 28 Lavanna Martin

MARCH ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Larry and Eileen Cole

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

As Fr. Len mentioned in his article, a St. Francis food drive benefitting the Food Pantry at St. Louis the King of France Catholic church will be conducted during Lent.

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. The drive will begin on March 10 and end on Palm Sunday, April 14. Consider purchasing some or all of the items on the list and bringing them to church during Lent.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution Statements for 2018 are on the table in the entry hall.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Hope and a Future

Daily Prayers. Please include these prayers on each day of the week:

- o Mondays: Pray for our Bishop, for Fr. Kresowaty, the Nominating Committee Chair, for Fr. Atwood, the Committee Secretary, and for Angela Fraser, the Assisting Secretary.
- o Tuesdays: Pray for each member of the Nominating Committee by name and for wisdom as they listen to the Lord. Committee members are:

Fr. DeWayne Adams	Fr. Mark Polley	Karina Loyo
Fr. Jay Atwood	Fr. Jeff Stubbs	Judy Mayo
Fr. Sergio Diaz	Fr. Christopher Woodall	Jesus Mota
Fr. Michael Heidt	Fr. Jacob Worley	Debbie Petta
Fr. Kingsley Jon-Ubabuco	Charles Bellows	Melissa Smith
Fr. John Jordan	Melody Bradford	Jim Stubblefield
Fr. David Klein	John Cook	Walter Virden, III
Fr. John Munson	Joe Francis	Jeff Wallace
Fr. Lee Nelson	Angela Fraser	
Fr. Andrew Petta	Jimmy Henry	
- o Wednesdays: Pray for the following Sub-Committees:
 - o Prayer
 - o Re Questions for the Meet & Greet Event
 - o Meet & Greet Event at St. Andrew's Church
 - o Search
 - o Checking References
 - o The Special Convention
- o Thursdays: Pray for the hearts of those who will be nominated.
- o Fridays: Pray for the Diocese and its transition in receiving a new Bishop. Note that March. 9 is designated as a fasting day.

The Diocesan web page can be found at <http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Throughout Lent on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., there will be a Holy Communion service with a series of reflections on a topic to be determined. These have always proved to be an opportunity for spiritual growth, a new way of thinking that could help all grow closer to God. Here is what we have heard in the past. Each one was memorable in its own way.

- 2015 - Brother Lawrence's The Practice of the Presence of God
- 2016 - Thomas à Kempis' The Imitation of Christ
- 2017 - The Collect for Purity
- 2018 - The Fourth Servant Song of Isaiah

The 2019 series of reflections will be announced soon.

FROM THE BISHOP

February 21, 2019

Following a Feb. 4 meeting of the Nominating Committee, members have begun organizing candidate visits and interviews, much as a search committee does when seeking a new rector. This will help the Committee determine a final slate of candidates, to be announced in Eastertide. Diocesan canons require at least three names to be placed in nomination. Biographical material and other information about each of the finalists will be published widely at that time. In addition, a process for submitting additional nominations by petition (also called 'nominations from the floor') will be announced.

On Saturday, May 11*, a Candidate Forum will be held at St. Andrew's, Fort Worth, for all clergy and their wives, and all lay delegates and alternates. These representatives, coming from each congregation, will have time to ask questions of each nominee. Afterward, audio and video recordings from the Forum will be made public online.

The Special Convention for the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor will be held Saturday, June 1*, at St. Vincent's Cathedral. The name of the Coadjutor-elect will be announced that day.

In accord with ACNA canons, the College of Bishops must examine and approve the Coadjutor-elect. This will occur during their regular meeting on June 14-15. The bishops are scheduled to gather at Christ Church in Plano, the same location where the first Archbishop was installed 10 years ago. Once the College of Bishops gives its consent, the Coadjutor-elect will be eligible for consecration.

God willing, the consecration service for the Bishop Coadjutor will take place Saturday, Sept. 21, the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, with Archbishop Foley Beach and me serving as chief consecrators. This service will include representatives from each congregation and numerous guests. The Bishop Coadjutor will begin making parish visitations on Sunday, Sept. 22.

My retirement celebration will take place at a banquet following the opening Eucharist of the 37th annual Diocesan Convention, on Friday, Nov. 15, in Granbury. Retired Archbishop Robert Duncan, who has been a friend of mine since seminary days, will be the keynote speaker after dinner. The regular Convention business meeting will be held Saturday, Nov. 16*.

I will continue to serve as chief pastor of the Diocese until my retirement on Dec. 31, 2019, when the Coadjutor will succeed me, becoming Fourth Bishop of Fort Worth on New Year's Day. His service of installation as Diocesan Bishop will be held Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, at St. Vincent's Cathedral. At that time I will hand him the bishop's crosier, completing the transition of leadership.

With the Standing Committee, I extend my sincere thanks to the Nominating Committee for the work done so far and look forward to being updated on the committee's progress in the weeks ahead. Please continue to hold the members in your prayers and to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as our next Bishop is chosen.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Jack. L. Iker

Bishop

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

As part of your Lenten discipline, consider participating in this year's 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil - a volunteer based prayer campaign that draws attention to the injustice of abortion through three simple avenues:

- Prayer and fasting
- Community outreach & Education
- Constant peaceful vigil

Prayer vigil campaigns are held at abortion clinics around the world during Lent and in the fall. The next vigil campaign begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6 and ends on Palm Sunday, April 14. You choose one hour a week for the five to six weeks. Go to <http://centraltexascoalition.com/> to sign up to pray at one of these locations:

- Whole Women's Health Clinic, 4100 Duval Road - a new location, only 3.5 miles from the church
- "Austin Women's Health" (a.k.a "Brookside Women's Medical Center") 1902 S. IH 35 Frontage Road. (Vigil is held on Saturdays only)
- Planned Parenthood, 201 E Ben White Boulevard, Bldg. B, Austin, TX 78704

There will be an information table set up in the fellowship area on March 3. You can sign up there or go online to sign up.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Lent starts on March 6, and so Shrove Tuesday is on March 5. This means the Annual Sausage and Pancake Supper will be held from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship area. This event is sponsored by the Polycarp's Men's Guild with the pancakes and sausage cooked on site with donations from the members of the Polycarp Guild. They will do the cleanup as well. Come indulge in this all-you-can-eat event the night before the penitential season of Lent.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Please consider signing up to be a coffee hour host for after the service. There are many open weeks. Sometimes, when no one signs up, we have leftovers or random food items. Everyone appreciates having a small bite to eat after the service.

SPRING FORWARD

We return to Daylight Saving Time the second weekend in March. Be sure to set your clocks forward an hour before going to bed on March 9.

RETIREMENT AND NURSING CENTER HYMN SING

On the second Sunday of each month, St. Francis holds a worship service at the Retirement and Nursing Center on Burnet Lane from 3:30 to 4:30. While we use prayers from Morning Prayer and the Bible readings for that Sunday, we sing about 15-20 hymns over the course of the hour. All are welcome to join us in this effort to minister to people who are sick or near the end of their life.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE NATION

On the first Saturday of each month, a prayer service for our nation is held in the Fellowship area. The service has a form to follow that involves songs of praise, collects, Bible Readings and extemporaneous prayer. All are welcome to join us. Amy and Jim Crandell coordinate this effort.

LOST AND FOUND

St. Francis has a lost and found table! It is located in the closet next to the stairs. Please take what is yours and leave what isn't.

CHOIR

If you enjoy singing, consider joining the choir! Under the direction of Ralph Webb, the group rehearses each week at 10:00 up in the choir room and sings every couple of weeks during the 11:00 service. Just show up - no auditions are required.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY OPTIONS

- Receive the newsletter via e-mail with a printable version attached
- Pick up a printed copy on the table at the entrance to the church
- Have a copy mailed to your physical mail box (cost to the church is 50 cents)
- View newsletters on our website.

To change how you receive the newsletter, contact Amy Crandell in person or via e-mail at StFrancisAustin@gmail.com.

MARCH SUNDAY READINGS

3/3 Quinquagesima

- Exodus 34:29-35
- Psalm 99
- 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13
- Luke 9:28-36

3/6 Ash Wednesday

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
- Psalm 103:8-14
- 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

3/10 1 Lent

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91:9-15
- Romans 10:5-13
- Luke 4:1-13

3/17 2 Lent

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

3/24 3 Lent

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

3/31 4 Lent

- 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) with the text read from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
- Each of the Sunday's readings is linked to the corresponding page on [LectionaryPage.net](#).
- The Sunday collects and text of the psalms are from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
- On the second and fourth Sundays, the psalm is chanted at the 11:00 service. The psalm markup is based on the Cathedral Psalter and is a part of the [St. Francis Psalter](#) posted on our webpage.

MARCH CALENDAR

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Said Holy Communion

Sunday School for youth

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion with music

Wednesdays

NOON & 7:00 p.m. March 6, Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

7:00 p.m. all other Wednesdays, Holy Communion and a teaching series.

Thursdays

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

1st Friday, March 1

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Games Night

1st Saturday, March 2

9:00 a.m. Prayer Service for our Nation

Tuesday, March 6

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Annual Pancake and Sausage Dinner

2nd Sunday, March 10

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Hymn Sing at the Retirement and Nursing Center, 6909 Burnet Lane

2nd Monday, March 11

6:00 p.m. Vestry meeting

3rd Friday, March 15

Noon Mothers' Prayer Group

3rd Sunday, March 17

~12:30 p.m. Anglicans for Life Meeting

3rd Monday, March 18

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Readers of First Things group meeting



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 Jack L. Iker, D.D

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacolone

Music Director: Ralph Webb

Parish Administrator: Mark Rambin

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden **Junior Warden**

Donna Hunt

Jim Britt

Secretary

Dinah Arce

Treasurer

Grady Collins

Vestry Members

Missy Bernard, Dinah Arce

Jim Britt, Donna Hunt, David Kristo-Reinking

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Fr. Len Giacolone

St. Francis Anglican Church

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

stfrancisaustin.com

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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.