

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacalone

First of all, thanks to all of you who are participating in the 40 Day for Life campaign and the Lenten Food Drive. These will continue through Sunday, April 14, which is Palm Sunday. Both of these activities are material, concrete ways that we can show our love for others as part of our Lenten observance.

Sunday, April 14, is Palm Sunday and is the beginning of Holy Week. During Lent we enter into the mystery of Jesus' forty day fast in the desert. That comes at the beginning of His public ministry. Holy Week is the culmination of those three years of public ministry. St. Luke's Gospel is characterized by Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem where he will suffer and die for the sins of the world. On Palm Sunday we will read St. Luke's version of the Lord's passion, but not before we also celebrate His triumphal entry into Jerusalem with crowds shouting "hosanna to the son of David." Our minds and our hearts are torn in this dual commemoration – from joy to sorrow, only to set us up for the great celebration of the resurrection.

In between Palm Sunday and Easter, we celebrate the great Easter Triduum, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Solemn Easter Vigil on Saturday evening before Easter Sunday.

On Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 pm we will have a Holy Communion service followed by the stripping of the altar. This service reminds us of the love that Jesus has for us in allowing us to share in his Body and Blood along with the command that we love one another. "Do you know what I have done for you," Jesus asks his disciples after washing their feet. "So you must also do for one another."

Good Friday service will also be at 7:00 pm. The service revolves around the reading of the passion according to St. John. If there is what might be called a "triumphant" passion, it is St. John's. From first to last Jesus is fully in charge of all that is taking place. It is not Jesus who is on trial before the Sanhedrin and Pilate, but the world. Jesus declares, "It is finished" and the world lives again. Holy Communion will also be distributed from the reserved sacrament under the species of bread alone.

The Triduum concludes on Saturday evening of Holy Week with the lighting of the Paschal candle, signifying that Jesus is the light of the world, the singing of the Paschal Proclamation indicating that the world is made new in Jesus' death and resurrection, readings from the Holy Scriptures on the theme of salvation history, followed by the first Easter Eucharist. This service begins at 7:30 pm. As always, I encourage you to attend all of these services if you are able. This is not just "extra church." Holy Week celebrates the central mystery of our faith, the passion, death and resurrection of our Savior. I know that it takes extra effort to get to church on a week night, especially multiple times. And I'm learning from people who live south, it's a real effort to get through the traffic on MoPac at that time. But it's once a year. The church should be full on these days. It never is, but it should be. Please try.

Finally, our Lenten series of Holy Communion and my reflections on Psalm 51 continue on Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. That includes Holy Week. I know that the reflections are posted on the webpage. But it's not the same as being there.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON ON MARCH 31

March 31 is a 5th Sunday, so there will be a potluck luncheon after the 11:00 service. Plan to bring something to eat and stay to visit with your St. Francis friends.

FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

*THE RT. REV. JOHN MILLER, III - DEAN OF THE GULF ATLANTIC SOUTHERN DEANERY AND RECTOR
OF CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN IN VERO BEACH, FL
SUBMITTED BY STEVE MCCOWN*

The theory of Darwinian Evolution rests upon the premise that all biological life, as we know it, is the result of time plus chance plus mutation. In other words, unpredictable, random changes in gene frequency, over millennia, have caused one species of plant or animal to evolve into a new organism. No hint of intelligent design or divine spark lies behind the existence of everything from algae to zebras; life on earth is nothing more than one huge cosmic accident.

As a former biologist, I lived, moved, and had my being in that thesis of life—that was until I stood at my wife's side and watched our first child birthed into this world. Nothing I learned through my genetic or life history studies with marine invertebrates prepared me for that event, though I had successfully raised sea urchins in the laboratory by stimulating adult urchins to spawn, precipitating fertilization by mixing their sperm and eggs in a petri dish, and rearing the resultant larvae under carefully controlled, environmental conditions, until such time as they metamorphosed into juvenile urchins. No need for supernatural intervention, just good, sound science. Then, again, our newborn son was no sea urchin!

I can remember with great clarity how overwhelmed I was to behold John just seconds after his birth. Totally undone by the intensity and soberness of the moment, I found myself light-headed and had to take a seat on a nearby stool. Although the attendant nurses were certain the sight and sounds of the birth were too much for a young, first-time father, what weighed heavily on my mind and equilibrium was an entrenched scientific understanding that my infant son, like other life forms, was simply the product of time, chance, and mutation. Those few moments in that delivery room after John's birth changed forever my understating and approach to human life, for I

knew unequivocally that my son was no accident.

In Genesis 1:27, we learn that humans are crafted in the image and likeness of God, who has lovingly knit each one of us together in our mother's womb such that we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:13,14). Therefore, from conception to natural death, human life is anything but cheap, disposable, or simply a matter of choice. Rather it is sacred, for each of us is a unique work of our divine Creator, placed on this earth to worship and serve Him, no matter how far from those purposes our sin and self-will have led us.

...[L]et us not ignore the cultural and political influences working relentlessly to desensitize us to the attack on the unborn and elderly alike through abortion and physician-assisted suicide. Let us not turn a blind eye or deaf ear to those least able to help themselves. Instead, let us rejoice in the gift and sacredness of human life. Let us serve as salt and light, doing our part to preserve and protect the most vulnerable of God's children.

How? Get involved with Anglicans for Life. Write to your senators and congressmen encouraging them to support legislation that protects and upholds the dignity of human life. Offer to volunteer at a pregnancy center or donate your financial support to one of those life-saving organizations. Participate in a local march for life event. Finally let us ask God the Holy Spirit to convict each of us of those words in the Lord's Prayer which states, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. For if that be our sincere desire, we can in no way support, or surrender to, a culture of death by doing nothing.

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2019/02/12/fearfully-wonderfully-made-the-sanctity-of-human-life/>

EASTER LILIES

The sanctuary will be adorned with flowers and lilies beginning with the Easter Vigil. If you would like to make a remembrance or thank offering for the flowers, there are envelopes on the table in the back for this purpose. Gifts will be collected through Palm Sunday, April 14.

DIOCESAN NEWS

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

Hope and a Future (Links to this page: <http://www.fwepiscopal.org/bishop/coadjutor.html>)

Upcoming Important Dates

- **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 Bishop Iker 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**.
- A retirement celebration for Bishop Iker 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 will be the keynote speaker after dinner. The regular Convention business meeting will be held **Saturday, Nov. 16**.
- Bishop Iker will continue to serve as chief pastor of the Diocese until his retirement on Dec. 31, 2019, when the Coadjutor will succeed him, 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. Bishop Iker will hand him the bishop's crosier at that time, completing the transition of leadership.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

The St. Francis Lenten series continues through April 17 in Holy Week. Held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Fr. Len offers his reflections on Psalm 51 in the context of a Holy Communion service. This is proving to be a most enlightening series.

Matthew Henry stated in his commentary on Psalm 51:

"Though David penned this psalm upon a very particular occasion, yet, it is of as general use as any of David's psalms; it is the most eminent of the penitential psalms, and most expressive of the cares and desires of a repenting sinner."

This series at St. Francis fits Bishop Iker's statement in his Ash Wednesday letter, "Nearly every church in our Diocese offers some sort of Lenten program or weekday Eucharist to help us learn how to please God and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit."

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

FROM THE BISHOP

March 13, 2019

Following screening tests conducted Monday in Houston, I have been assigned to the CART-cell therapy research group at M.D. Anderson (MDA) Cancer Center. Though still in trial use, this is the premier treatment for large B-cell lymphoma available through modern cancer research. It has shown very promising results so far and offers the greatest possible hope for remission.

CAR treatment uses immune system cells (T cells) from the patient, which are then modified with special proteins to target the specific cancer type and grown in large numbers. This lab work is done in California and requires two to three weeks to complete. Then the immune cells are infused back into the patient, where they recognize and target the cancer aggressively. MDA has a brief video about this process available on its Web site or through YouTube.

The procedure to remove a sample of my immune cells was conducted Tuesday, March 12. Donna and I have now returned to Fort Worth. The results of the biopsy performed last week will tell the lab how to re-engineer the cells.

Along with the CAR T-cell infusion, the treatment protocol requires a very high dosage of chemotherapy. The treatment program begins as early as March 26. Side effects of both parts of this therapy can be considerable, so I will be admitted as an in-patient during treatments and be required to remain in the Houston area for as much as 30 days.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Donna and me, and for the hospital and lab personnel involved with the trial program.

March 22, 2019

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,

Donna and I return to Houston on Tuesday evening, March 26, for me begin three days of “bazooka” (high-powered) chemotherapy as an outpatient at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. On Sunday, March 31, I will be admitted as an inpatient and my CAR T-cell therapy begins with long, daily infusions at the Hospital on April 1 and continues for about nine days. In order to be close at hand for possible side effects that may require me to return to the hospital, we will be remaining at a facility adjacent to M.D. Anderson until April 30, when we hope to be able to return home to Fort Worth and so I can reengage in my pastoral duties.

During my absence, all Sunday morning confirmation visitations will be made by Bishop Keith Ackerman, and Bishop Wantland will be celebrant and preacher at the annual Chrism Mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week at the Cathedral. The affected visitations are:

St. Barnabas, Fort Worth – Lent IV, March 31
Christ Church, Waco – Lent V, April 7
St. Laurence, Southlake – Easter II, April 28
No visitations are scheduled for Palm Sunday or Easter.

I am deeply grateful that Fr. Jay Atwood, President of the Standing Committee, will bring me the Blessed Sacrament and anoint me in Houston on Maundy Thursday, since I will be unable to attend Holy Week services this year.

Thank you for your continued prayers and petitions on my behalf, as well as for Donna and our family in the weeks to come. Please continue to pray for divine healing by God’s grace and for a successful response to this innovative treatment that enables my lab-engineered T cells to seek and destroy all cancer cells in my body.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Jack. L. Iker

Third Bishop of Fort Worth

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4	Lewis Armstrong
6	Bryan Gentsch
8	Robert Bernard
10	John Goodrich, Keira Kristo-Reinking
14	Morgan McCormick
20	Ray Merrill
21	Jim Crandell
24	Donna Hunt, Samantha Armstrong
25	Reed Robinson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

5	Roy and Nancy Jones
11	Dale and Mary Boswell
17	Mack and Margery Lindsey

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

The Lenten food drive continues. We could use many more donations. So far, we have donated only enough to fill up two grocery carts.

Here are the foods that the pantry accepts from food drives:

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 is a table set up in the St. Francis entry hall for donations. The drive ends on Palm Sunday, April 14. Consider purchasing some or all of the items on the list and bringing them to church during Lent.

Please note, since we don't really have storage space for the food, the items are taken to the food pantry fairly often.

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 current campaign ends on Palm Sunday, April 14. Go to one of these sites to pray: At this point, you can simply just show up.

- 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

ACOLYTES

An acolyte serves at the altar during the Sunday services - lighting the candles, carrying the processional cross, helping prepare Communion, and assisting the Priest. Under the direction of Fr. Len, we have a team of four who periodically serve.

ALTAR GUILD

This group is responsible for assisting the Priest in preparing for services at St. Francis. They are divided into teams and set up and clean up the altar (among many other duties) for all the services that week. New members are always welcome. If you have questions or if you would like to volunteer, contact [Becky Hunt](#)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Associated with the altar guild are the altar flowers. In general, every two weeks (exceptions are during Pre-Lent, Lent and Advent), fresh flowers are placed on the altar. (The set being replaced is taken to the Retirement and Nursing Center on Burnet Lane for the residents to enjoy.) Anyone can make a remembrance for a loved one or a thank offering with the altar flowers at any time during the year, by simply filling out an envelope from the table in the back, enclosing a donation, and leaving it in the box on the left side of the back of the Nave. Contact [Angie McCown](#) or [Nancy Critchfield-Jones](#)

ANGLICANS FOR LIFE

Formed in April of 2009 and affiliated with the global organization, the St. Francis chapter generally meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm. Anglicans for Life is the global Anglican ministry that educates, equips, and engages the Anglican Church in fulfilling Scripture's mandate to protect the vulnerable, defend the fatherless, and plead for the widow. Rory Motl leads the group. All are welcome to attend. Contact [Rory](#) with questions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

Sunday school classes for the youth of St. Francis are held each week at 9:30 between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Classes always center on Biblical stories with activities designed to help the students live the lessons. Missy Bernard leads the program and, she and Sue Orr and Doug Cooper teach the classes. Contact [Missy](#) with questions or for more information. All parents are encouraged to bring their children to Sunday school.

EVENING PRAYER

A weekly Evening Prayer service has been said at St. Francis since at least 2006. Currently led by Jim Crandell with 7-9 in attendance, the service is held at 7 pm each Thursday, using the order of service from the 1928 Prayer Book. Prayers and lessons are said, but the Gloria, and the canticles are sung without accompaniment. Hymns are typically accompanied by recorder and harmonica. Contact [Jim](#) with questions. All are welcome to attend.

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](#).

Holy Week and Easter Services

- ❖ [Palm Sunday](#) – April 14: 9:30 said and 11:00 am with music (beginning with Palm Cross liturgy in the fellowship area).
- ❖ [Wednesday](#) – April 17, 7 pm, Holy Communion with the last reflection on Psalm 51.
- ❖ [Maundy Thursday](#) – April 18, 7 pm, Holy Communion with music and the stripping of the altar.
- ❖ [Good Friday Liturgy](#)- April 19, 7 pm. Holy Communion will be from the reserve.
- ❖ [Solemn Easter Vigil](#) – April 20, 7:30 pm.
- ❖ [Easter Sunday](#) – April 21, 9:30 am (said service) and 11:00 am (with the flowering of the cross and music).



APRIL SUNDAY READINGS

4/7 5 Lent

- Isaiah 43:16-21
- Psalm 126
- Philippians 3:8-14
- Luke 20:9-19

4/14 Palm Sunday

- Palm Gospel Luke 19:29-40
- Isaiah 45:21-25
- Psalm 22:1-11
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Luke 22:39-23:56

4/18 Maundy Thursday

- Exodus 12:1-14a
- Psalm 78:15-26
- 1 Corinthians 1:23-32
- John 13:1-15

4/19 Good Friday

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22:1-11
- Hebrews 10:1-25
- John 18:1-19:37

4/20 Solemn Easter Vigil

- 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

4/21 Easter Sunday

- Acts 10:34-43
- Psalm 118:14-29
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Luke 24:1-10

4/28 1 after Easter

- Acts 5:12a,17-22,25-29
- Psalm 111
- Revelation 1:1-19
- John 20:19-31

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.

APRIL 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 (through April 17)

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion with reflections on Psalm 51

Thursdays, except during Holy Week

[7:00 p.m.](#) Evening Prayer

1st Friday, April 5

[7:00 - 9:00 p.m.](#) Games Night

1st Saturday, April 6

[9:00 a.m.](#) Prayer Service for our Nation

2nd Monday, April 8

[6:00 p.m.](#) Vestry meeting

2nd Sunday, April 14

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

3rd Monday, April 15

[7:00 - 8:30 p.m.](#) Readers of First Things group meeting. .

Holy Week

[7:00 p.m.](#) Maundy Thursday

[7:00 p.m.](#) Good Friday

[7:30 p.m.](#) Solemn Easter Vigil

4th Friday, April 26

[Noon](#) Mothers' Prayer Group

4th Sunday, April 28

[~12:30 p.m.](#) Anglicans for Life 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 Giacalone

Music Director: Ralph Webb

Parish Administrator: Mark Rambin

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden Donna Hunt
Junior Warden 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 Giacalone

St. Francis Anglican Church

3401 Oak Creek Drive
Austin, TX 78727

Phone:
512-472-7514

E-Mail:
info@stfrancisaustin.org

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
stfrancisaustin.com

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[@stfrancisaustin](https://www.facebook.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.