

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacalone

First of all I would like to wish each and every one of you a very blessed New Year. It is my hope that it will be better than the last one. It is also my hope that the Lord will have pity on his faithful people lest we begin to lose heart.

Yesterday I received this little ditty from a former classmate of mine back in St. Louis. "At 12:01 am on January 1, 2021, for the first time ever, hind sight will actually be 2020." I thought it was cute so I thought I'd pass it along.

Now to some more serious material. Even though attendance has been down over the course of the past nine months, just as much work must go into every celebration of liturgy, regardless of who actually shows up. I want to commend Jim and Amy Crandell for their faithfulness providing a way for those of you who can't come to celebrate with us. Our music director, Betty Lin Gallardo, has been there as well providing beautiful music for all the services. By the way, if you weren't able to come to Christmas Eve, listen to the [audio of the music](#), especially the Prelude and Postlude by Betty. Just fabulous!

The Altar Guild has also been there every Sunday to make sure everything is ready for the Service. Becky Hunt and all the ladies who help out on the altar do a terrific job. As I have said before, the volunteers at St. Francis keep the place up and running and without them, it just wouldn't be the same. Thanks to all of you.

By diocesan law we are required to have an annual meeting in January. Things are going to be a little different this year, as you might imagine. The diocese anticipated as much and provided us with some suggestions as to how we might balance the in person/virtual reality that we have been stuck with for the past several months. One of the problems would have

certainly been the elections of new vestry members. The suggestions ranged from mail in, drop off, and in person balloting for the Vestry election. Seeing how well that went for the national elections, I was encouraged to find yet another suggestion. I have asked the current Vestry if they would be willing to serve another year so that we might have a better chance of meeting in person in 2022. Each of them has selflessly answered in the affirmative. I will be asking the bishop for permission to postpone the Vestry elections but since it was one of his ideas, I don't anticipate any objection. For those of you who might have been waiting in anticipation of serving on the Vestry beginning this year, here is a chance to polish your resume or even add some resume enhancements. (I don't honestly know what that might look like). The Rector and Senior Warden are still required to give a report at the meeting. Given present circumstances, those reports might be sent to you electronically. Still I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to be present for the meeting. It will take place after the 9:30 service on January 24. Since there will be no elections for the Vestry, the meeting will be shorter than usual. But it will take place because it has to.

January is also Pro-Life month. The annual March and Rally for Life sponsored by Texas Alliance for Life will take place on January 23. There was some information in the newsletter last month and probably will be again later on in this newsletter. One Sunday in January I will preach on some aspect of the Pro-Life vision. While I know that most of you are solidly in this camp, we are still in a war with Satan on this one. So please continue to pray and speak out on Life issues.

Fr. Len can be reached at Rector@stfrancisaustin.org



WHY DO WE MARCH?

Why? Why do we do this? Does the Church really have an effective voice? Does this really make a difference to anyone? These are all questions we have heard before. The effort, the work, the cold—it must seem extreme to the critics and purposeless to the jaded and frustrated.

There are a number of reasons why we march and why it's important that the Church join us—but I'd like to share with you some of the reasons from our bishops and church leaders who join with us every year:

Bishop John Miller – I march because I believe every human God creates deserves to have life according to His plan; someone must bear witness to that divine truth. I march for the many children who will never use their feet to walk, their lips to speak, their ears to hear, or their hearts to love. I march to acknowledge their tragic loss; I am honored to do so.

Bishop John Guernsey – “I march to honor God the creator of life and in support of those who are at the beginning or the end of life, those who are the weakest and most vulnerable among us”

Bishop Atwood – The tenets of the Anglican Church of North America declares the Sanctity of Life. By marching my fellow bishops and I serve as a visible declaration of the Church's continuing defense of the defenseless, the unborn.

Bishop Charles Masters – I march because of the plight of the unborn in a culture that increasingly embraces abortion. We, as the church must call attention to their value and seek to protect them.

Bishop William Wilson – It is remarkable to see the attendance at the March—every year there are more people who want the world to know that abortion is not the answer. We march because we believe that God can use this march to inspire the greater Anglican Communion to stand up for Life.

Bishop Thompson – The Canons of the Anglican Church state that God, not man, is the creator of human life and that the clergy are called to respect and protect the sanctity of life. We march because the sanctity of life is not just a “hot topic” issue but a truth on which the Anglican Church was founded.

Bishop Murdoch – Over 40 years ago, the Church was silent and Roe vs Wade was decided. Now we march because the Church can no longer be silent in the face of the millions of children who have died.

Archbishop Foley Beach – I march shoulder to shoulder with members of the Anglican College of Bishops, to provide a witness that our church affirms that life is given by God and that we are against the destruction of life through abortion and euthanasia.

We don't march out of a sense of tradition. We don't march to congratulate ourselves on our higher sense of morality.

We march because we serve as Christ's ambassadors in a fallen world, and we need to tell the world that the Church will not stand aside while God's gift of life is being disregarded and destroyed.

We march because all lives matter, from the unborn in the womb to elderly people who are expecting to see the end of their days.

And we march because we have hope. Hope that, through us, God will bring an end to abortion. Hope that a culture that values death will instead value life. And hope that there will come a day when we no longer march for the unborn but celebrate that their lives are valued and protected.

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2016/09/23/why-do-we-march/>

TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE

23 JANUARY 2021

As far as can be determined, the Texas Rally for Life will be held this year. Join with other St. Francis parishioners and thousands of Texans at the Texas Rally for Life on Saturday, January 23, at the Capitol in Austin. Show the media and our elected officials that Texas is PRO-LIFE! The 2021 Texas Rally for Life will commemorate the 48th anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973, which made abortion legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy. In the wake of Roe, legal abortion in our nation has claimed the lives of more than 60 million unborn children and has hurt countless women and men.

Schedule

1:00 PM

Meet at 14th and San Jacinto to march to the Capitol

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Rally on South Steps of Capitol

3:00-4:00 PM

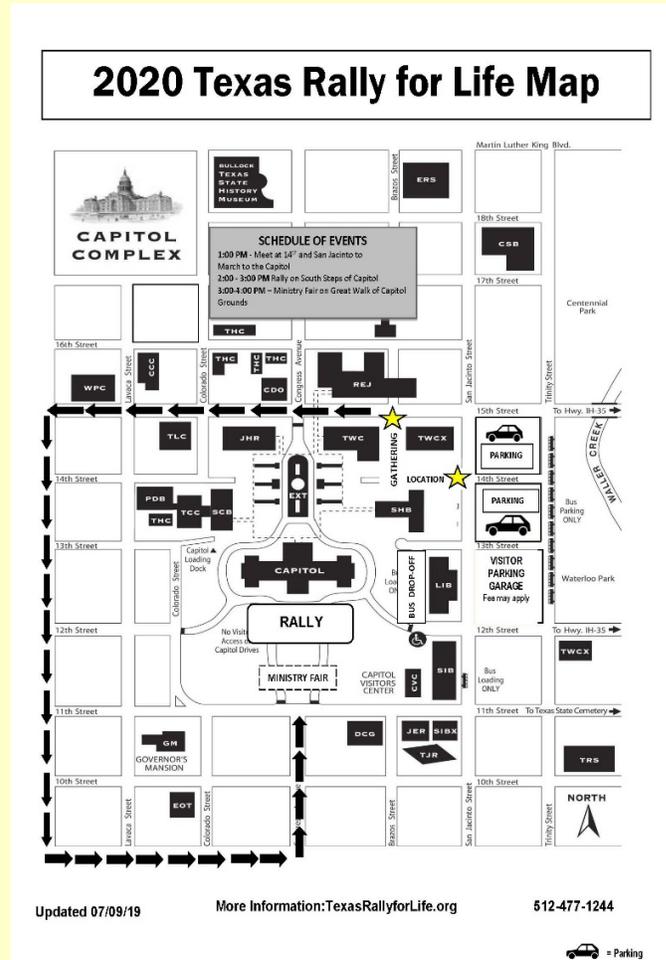
Pro-Life Expo on Great Walk of Capitol Grounds

The map shows the location of the assembly area for the march and where you can park. Anyone from St. Francis will be at the southeast corner of 15th Street and North Congress, near the curb of 15th Street. We are looking forward to a great turnout (considering that COVID-19 will still be around) from St. Francis. No banner

this year, as it is hard to hold and the banner's staff is not allowed on the Capitol grounds.

As with most events, this is subject to being canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions or the potential for not many to show up.

Questions? Contact Charlotte Ready or email info@stfrancisaustin.org.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Audrey Woodgate
- 4 Allan Parker, Maeryn McCormick
- 5 Doug Cooper
- 7 Tom George
- 19 Arthur Woodgate, Regina DeBord
- 31 Ben Ellis

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

- 11 Grady and Michelle Collins

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY OPTIONS

- 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.

AMAZON SMILE

St. Francis is now registered as a charity with Amazon. This means that a portion of your Amazon purchases can be donated to St. Francis. To set this up, click this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2564742> and St. Francis will be set as your charity. Then, each time you go to Amazon, enter Smile.Amazon.com in the address line. This is an easy way for the church to get some extra funds.

RANDALLS' GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

If you shop at Randalls and have a Remarkable Card, you can go to customer service and have them add the number 1304 to your account. Each quarter, Randalls rebates to St. Francis 1% of the total spent by their partners.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

As Fr. Len stated in his article, the annual meeting will be on January 24 after the 9:30 service. At this meeting, reports will be offered by the Rector, Senior Warden and Treasurer. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. It will be quite easy to remain socially distanced, as our Nave can easily hold the number of people likely to attend.

EVENING PRAYER

Since the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions started, Evening Prayer has continued to be held on almost every Thursday at 7 p.m. We added the additional feature of participating via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. This laity-led 30 minute service begins with a hymn and is followed by the order of Evening Prayer with the canticles sung. We conclude with a hymn. Come in person or send an email to info@stfrancisaustin.org to ask for the Zoom meeting link. We typically have 6 who physically attend and 2 who attend via Zoom. Lots of room for social distancing. Jim Crandell leads the service.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP

The Mother's Prayer Group continues to meet monthly on the 3rd Friday of the month at noon in the fellowship hall. We have no virtual option, but could if someone were interested in participating online. At each prayer session we offer written and extemporaneous prayer of praise and adoration, thanksgiving, confession and supplication including prayer for each other's family and all the St. Francis youth and their parents. Any mother is welcome to join us. Charlotte Ready leads this program.

PRAYERS FOR THE NATION

The St. Francis Prayers for the Nation group continues to meet. After a couple of months of low attendance, we have settled on a hybrid meeting of in person and via Zoom that seems to suit most of the participants. Prayers are offered both written and extemporaneously on the major areas of life in this country. All are welcome to attend. Meetings are on the first Saturday of the month at 9 am in the fellowship hall or via Zoom. Send an email to info@stfrancisaustin.org if you would like to participate. Amy Crandell coordinates this prayer group.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Over the centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance. Members of this ministry donate their time and talent knitting or crocheting shawls filled with the power of prayer for those in need of physical or spiritual comfort. The shawls are prayed over before and during the time of knitting/crocheting. In addition, the shawls are blessed before being given out. Recipients are comforted, and many are profoundly impacted from being surrounded in prayer. Anyone who knits/ crochets (or wants to learn) can volunteer to create a shawl. If you want to help but knitting/ crocheting is not an option, you can donate to help procure yarn and gift bags. If you would like to participate in this comforting ministry, please contact Charlotte Ready in-person or email info@stfrancisaustin.org

JANUARY SUNDAY

READINGS

1/3 2 after Christmas ([link](#))

- Jeremiah 31:7-14
- Psalm 84:1-8
- Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
- Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

1/10 1 after Epiphany ([link](#))

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalm 89:20-29
- Acts 10:34-38
- Mark 1:7-11

1/17 2 after Epiphany ([link](#))

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- Psalm 63:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 6:11b-20
- John 1:43-51

1/24 3 after Epiphany ([link](#))

- Jeremiah 3:21-4:2
- Psalm 130
- 1 Corinthians 7:17-23
- Mark 1:14-20

1/31 Septuagesima ([link](#))

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Psalm 111
- 1 Corinthians 8:1b-13
- Mark 1:21-28

Notes on the readings:

- St. Francis follows the [1979 BCP Lectionary](#) for the lessons. We are in Year B.
- 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.

Notes on the calendar:

- For now, the 9:30 service will be live streamed on Facebook and recorded and posted to the web site. The 11:00 service will not be held at this time.
- To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email info@stfrancisaustin.org.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion in-person, live streamed and recorded. Nursery is provided from 9:15-11:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for youth (Not on January 3)

Tuesdays

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Doug Cooper's Home Group. Meeting online via Zoom.

Thursdays

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer in-person and via Zoom at the church

2nd and 4th Sunday

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Home Group. Meeting online via Zoom.

2nd and 4th Friday

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Home Group. Meeting online via Zoom.

January 2, 1st Saturday

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Prayers for the Nation Group in person at the church and via Zoom

January 11, 2nd Monday

6:00 p.m. Vestry meeting

January 15, 3rd Friday

NOON to 1:00 p.m. Mother's Prayer Group in person at the church only

January 18, 3rd Monday

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.

January 22, 4th Friday

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

5:30 p.m. Food Truck Run

January 23 - 2021 Texas Rally for Life

1:00 p.m. March to the Capitol

2:00 p.m. Rally on the south steps

January 24

10:30 a.m. Annual meeting in the nave of the church



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

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

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacolone

Music Director: Betty Lin Gallardo

Parish Administrator: Mark Rambin

Treasurer: Grady Collins

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden **Junior Warden**

Donna Hunt

Jim Britt

Secretary

Jim Crandell

Vestry Members

Jim Britt, Donna Hunt, David Kristo-Reinking

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer

Fr. Len Giacolone

St. Francis Anglican Church

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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.