

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacolone

For those of you who were not present at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 23, and for some reason have not heard the news, I announced that I will be retiring as the Rector of St. Francis this year. Long story short, I do not have a specific date for my departure, and as of this writing, have not spoken with the bishop about it. I expect to do that soon. It will be the responsibility of the bishop, along with the Vestry of the parish, to begin the process to find my replacement. Meanwhile, Nancy and I would ask your prayers for the transition we are about to undertake.

Speaking of the Vestry, congratulations to Dinah Arce, David Norris, and Susan Rambin on their election to the Vestry, for a three year term. In addition, I want to thank Kevin Burnette and Mack Lindsey for allowing their names to be placed in nomination for the election. All five of these members of our parish have blessed us with their willingness to be a part of the future of St. Francis. Once again I want to thank Donna Hunt, Jim Britt, and David Kristo-Reinking for their service to the parish for the past four years. Each of them has made an enormous contribution to the welfare of the parish during their time on the Vestry. Also, I want to thank Frank Hunt. Frank has been our lay delegate to everything that has taken place on a diocesan level for the past three years, not just to the annual conventions, but for the election of our new bishop. We are grateful to Frank for his service to the parish.

Another point from the meeting on the 23rd that I mentioned but did not make too much of was the fact that we added fifteen new members to the parish last year. Nancy pointed out to me that that's a pretty big deal for a parish of our size. Even though we deleted thirteen people from the roster, we hadn't seen them in quite a while anyway, so the addition of these new

members has given us a boost, both in attendance on Sunday as well as our bottom line. We have not had that number of new parishioners in a single year for some time. It's a positive sign and an indication that God may have more in store for us in the days ahead. It is my hope that the new diocesan revitalization program which is just getting underway will be a catalyst for new and exciting things for the diocese and the parish. As I mentioned a few weeks ago in my sermon, things are just beginning to take shape on a diocesan level. As a starter, the Vestry and the parish may wish to take a new look at our Mission Statement, to see if it needs to be tweaked a bit. Or, simply to put new eyes on a old document that hasn't been looked at in a while. If you don't know what our Mission Statement is, it can be found on almost everything you get from the parish: the Sunday Pew Sheet, the parish web site, the newsletter. It's everywhere. Is it fine the way it is? Do we need to add, subtract, modify something? There's nothing wrong with it. But it was written twenty something years ago and may need to be refreshed a bit. If the parish is to have a future, it cannot be satisfied with the past. Look for God to lead and then follow.

While I have mentioned a number of your fellow parishioners in this article for their service to the parish, I recall the second reading from this past Sunday's liturgy. You might want to look at it again, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. We are all the Body of Christ. No one is excluded; no one is unnecessary. Each is given a gift or gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ. Every member is important for the welfare and vitality of the local Christian community. Whatever your contribution, it is important.

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

A DAY OF INFAMY

*Georgette Forney
President, Anglicans For Life*

Do you remember where were you on Monday, January 22, 1973? Like most of us, it is highly unlikely you can recall that specific day, unless you gave birth, got married, or someone special in your life died. I was 12 years old, and my family had just moved from the suburbs of Detroit to a little town called Wixom, Michigan. I had started classes at my new junior high school as a seventh grader at the beginning of 1973. To me, it would have been just another day.

But January 22, 1973 should live in infamy for all of us, because it was the day the U.S. Supreme Court announced two decisions that now, 49 years later, are still the focus of massive debate and angst nationwide. The first decision, *Roe v. Wade*, legalized abortion, and the second case, *Doe v. Bolton*, declared women could have an abortion any time during a pregnancy if it caused her duress. (This [short video](#) does a great job explaining both cases.)

Forty-nine years of legalized abortion in the United States has resulted in 63,459,781 abortions. Each abortion intentionally ends the life of an unborn baby growing in his or her mother's womb. We don't know for certain exactly how many babies this abortion number represents, as the abortion of twins or other multiples in pregnancies are not specifically recorded. However, suffice it to say that there have been at least 64 million human beings that have had their lives ended before they were named.

AMAZON SMILE

St. Francis is 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.

Randall O'Bannon, Ph.D., Director of Education and Research for the National Right to Life Committee, puts these numbers into perspective: "A nation with a population of 63.5 million would rank about twenty third on the list of the world's most populous countries. In terms of population, a nation that size would rank ahead of such countries as Italy, Spain, Kenya, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Argentina, Columbia, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Cambodia, South Korea, or Canada. This is more than the population our country's most populous state (California) and a number greater than the combined population of our 23 least populous states."

It is truly hard to imagine all the people missing in our lives because abortion prematurely ended theirs.

My prayer is that after 49 years of legal abortion, the U.S. Supreme Court will be honest enough with our country to acknowledge the atrocity that abortion is – and overturn the *Roe* and *Doe* cases. Doing so would return the legislation of abortion back to individual states, where we can and will work with each state's legislature to make it illegal.

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2022/01/12/january-22-a-day-of-infamy/>

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.

2022 BISHOP'S CONFERENCE FOR MEN

Come and participate in the largest men's ministry event in the Diocese!

The [15th Annual Bishop's Conference for Men](#) will be held February 11th & 12th at St Peter & St Paul Anglican Church in Arlington. [Online registration](#) is open now through February 10, 2022. Cost is \$20 for Friday night, \$40 for Saturday or \$60 for both.

THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER for the 2022 Men's Conference is the Rev. Jerry Kramer. He is a front-line missionary catalyzing Disciple Making Movements among seventeen Unreached People Groups. Fr. Kramer and his wife Stacy have shared the Gospel and ministered to the Syrian, Iranian, and Iraqi Kurds in the Middle East, the Maasai of remote W. Kenya, and East African Muslims along the Swahili Coast.

In 2003 the Kramers formed Love for the Least. The ministry of L4L shares the compassion of Christ among people groups where less than 4% of the population has heard the Gospel. Efforts are focused on the most marginalized and forgotten, including widows, orphans, refugees, and the unborn. Their passion is to make disciples who make disciples who manifest and expand the Kingdom of God.

Conference Theme: What is the answer? Come and find out!

Schedule:

Friday night - Mass at 6 pm, catered dinner at 7 pm for men, wives, and anyone interested.

Saturday - Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m. Conference 9 a.m. to 2 p.m..

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. FRANCIS

Looking for adult Christian Education opportunities?

St. Francis currently has three Bible study groups and a Catechism class for adults. Due to time and space constraints, none are on Sunday mornings. You are welcome to participate in any or all of the offerings.

1. **Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.** via Zoom. Currently reading through St. Luke. This group has 10-14 participants from St. Francis as well as non-members. Doug Cooper is the coordinator.
2. **2nd and 4th Fridays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.** at the home of Angie and Steve McCown in far south Austin in the Shady Grove neighborhood. This group discusses the upcoming lectionary lessons. Currently 10 St. Francis members attend.
3. **2nd and 4th Sundays, after the 11:00 service** and towards the end of the coffee hour. After sharing a coordinated potluck lunch, this group discusses the lessons just read in the Sunday service. Currently 6

people attend. The Bible study lasts 1.5 hours. Amy and Jim Crandell are spearheading this group.

4. **Wednesdays from 7 to 7:30 p.m.** via Zoom is the Catechism class. This group will be meeting for quite a while as the Catechism contains questions on our faith and the answers with related Bible verses. This group of about 8-10 has made it through just over 100 of the questions with 268 to go. We cover 3-4 questions each session. Anyone can join at any time and be able to understand what is being discussed. An email is sent out weekly with the Zoom link.

All four of these groups welcome new people at any time. Contact the leaders in-person or email info@stfrancisaustin.org.

Anyone else who wishes to form a new Bible study group is more than welcome to do so.

HELP NEEDED WITH THE COFFEE HOUR

Just about everyone enjoys visiting over a cup of coffee and a bite to eat after each of the services. Although Doug and Cesiah Cooper have taken on the role as hospitality hosts, much help from the congregation is needed. Please consider signing up to make coffee (following specific directions), bringing food to eat, or cleaning up after the coffee hour. There is a notebook on the table next to the kitchen to commit to helping out.

5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK

Sunday, January 30 is a 5th Sunday and the potluck luncheon after the 11:00 service will be happening. Bring something tasty to eat and share with your St. Francis friends. This is always an enjoyable event.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES - LENT BEGINS MARCH 2

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 1st is Shrove Tuesday and is fast approaching. As has been the custom at St. Francis, the men of St. Polycarp's Guild will prepare a feast of pancakes and sausage for all to enjoy. Plan to join us between 6 and 7 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is on March 2. Stay tuned for more details on the services.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

NOT canceled! From March 2nd-April 10th we will unite with hundreds of cities across the world for a simultaneous 40-day prayer vigil. 40 Days for Life is a 40-day campaign of prayer & fasting, education, and a constant peaceful prayer vigil in front of abortion facilities. This international movement has resulted in 100+ abortion facilities closing, over 200 abortion workers having conversions and leaving their jobs, and over 20,000 women choosing life for children they

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dan Harrison
- 2 Bud Lockhart
- 4 Jim Britt, Dominic DeBord
- 5 Patricia Burnette
- 9 Ed Stillman
- 10 Marci Brown
- 12 Mike Ready
- 14 Tom Rhyne
- 19 LeAnn Carr

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

- 15 Jim and Sue Orr

were going to abort. Here in Central Texas at least 290 women have changed their minds and chosen life! To claim your hour (and for other resources) visit CentralTexasCoalition.com or call the Coalition for Life office at (512) 296-2071.

There is one important announcement about this vigil. After much prayer and discernment, the Coalition for Life has decided to switch the south location of the vigil from Planned Parenthood on East Ben White to Austin Women's Health Center on S IH-35. At the S IH35 location, the prayer location is right next to the parking lot, so the coalition determined that we can make a greater impact there. The address is 1902 S IH-35 Suite A Austin, TX 78704.

A sign-up table will be setup on Feb. 20.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

A St. Francis food drive benefitting the Food Pantry at St. Louis the King of France Catholic Church will be conducted during Lent from March 2nd through April 10 (Palm Sunday). More details later.

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

2/6 5 after Epiphany (Link to readings)

- Judges 6:11-24a
- Psalm 85:7-13
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Luke 5:1-11

2/13 Septuagesima (Link to readings)

- Jeremiah 17:5-10
- Psalm 1
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
- Luke 6:17-26

2/20 Sexagesima (Link to readings)

- Genesis 45:3-11, 21-28
- Psalm 37:3-10
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50
- Luke 6:27-38

2/27 Quinquagesima (Link to readings)

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

Notes on the readings:

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sundays

9:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Nursery is provided.

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion in person, live streamed and recorded. Healing prayers at the altar rail follow the service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for youth

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion in person, livestreamed with healing prayers after the service.

Tuesdays

7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Bible Study online via [Zoom](#).

Wednesdays

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Catechism class via Zoom

Thursdays

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

1st Saturday, February 5

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Prayers for the Nation in person in the fellowship hall

2nd & 4th Fridays, Feb. 11 and Feb. 25.

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Home Group. Meeting in person at the McCowns' house.

2nd & 4th Sundays, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27

~1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Bible study in person at the church.

2nd Monday, Feb. 14

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

3rd Friday, Feb. 18

NOON to 1:00 p.m. Mother's Prayer Group in person in the fellowship hall

3rd Monday, Feb. 21

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 to the fellowship hall.

4th Friday, Feb. 25

4:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves & Fishes Make Ready Team in-person at St. Louis Catholic Church, Social Ministries Building

5:30 p.m. Food Truck Run, in-person, starts at St. Louis Catholic Church

To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email info@stfrancisaustin.org.



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTIN

A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth
Diocese Office: 2900 Alemeda 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**

Doug Cooper

TBD

Secretary

TBD

Vestry Members

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready
Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer, Fr. Len Giacolone
Dinah Arce, David Norris, Susan Rambin

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.