

The St. Francis Bulletin

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. On this day we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but also read the passion narrative, this year according to Matthew, to recall that Jesus' popularity was fleeting while on earth and that his suffering and death were the ultimate reason for his being here. At both services, we will begin in the fellowship area for the blessing of the palms and process into church.

April 6 is Maundy Thursday and the Holy Communion will be celebrated in remembrance of the supper Jesus had with His disciples on the night before he died. Maundy, as you may know, comes from the Latin word *mandatum* from which our word *mandate* comes. There are many things that the Lord commanded us to do, but this command speaks specifically of the command to love one another. We do this on Maundy Thursday by celebrating the Eucharist remembering the greatest act of love toward us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This will take place at 7:00 pm.

On Good Friday, April 7, we will remember the Lord's passion and death with readings from Scripture, including the Passion according to John. Our service also includes the Veneration of the Cross, the primary and most recognizable symbol of Christianity. The Veneration takes place with a bow, perhaps a genuflection before the cross, or even kneeling to kiss the cross as a sign of our love for Jesus and what he did for us on the cross. We will also have the distribution of Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament. Also at 7:00 pm.

Our Sunday services for Easter will be at 9:30 and 11:00 am. The latter service will be preceded by the flowering of the cross by our children. Hopefully all can attend one of our Easter services, as well as those in Holy Week.



Holy Week & Easter Services

- April 2 - Palm Sunday, 9:30 & 11 am
- April 6 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm
- April 7 - Good Friday Liturgy, 7:00 pm
- April 9 - Easter Sunday, 9:30 & 11:00 am

In-person and livestreamed.

HOLY WEEK

Much of the Christian experience, and by that I mean living the Christ-life, is shrouded in mystery and encapsulated within a few days in the springtime each year. We call it Holy Week, not because the week itself is special but because the mystery of our salvation is brought to life in the liturgical celebrations we enact during these days. Much of liturgy is theatre, drama. It involves staging, with people playing different roles and saying lines to make the drama real. But it is different than a stage play. When you go to the theatre and watch a play, even a really good play, there is some momentary satisfaction which may last for a time but in the end is ephemeral. The drama of Holy Week and its liturgical celebrations, while experienced in a moment in time, stands for a life changing experience that lasts for eternity. That is why the church does this every year. Not because we haven't seen it or experienced it before but because we need to experience it often. There is always the hope that this year the Holy Spirit will touch us with a different part of the mystery that has heretofore escaped us. Don't think that this is a "been there-done that" experience. That if you have done Holy Week in the past, that's all there is. The mystery of our salvation is so deep, so profound that it can never be plumbed too deeply. As with all of our liturgical celebrations, there is a tendency to allow familiarity to breed contempt. To judge the service on the basis of the sermon because, after all, that's what's new every time (at least hopefully). But these mysteries stand

on their own, with or without commentary. The objective here is not just to attend them but to allow yourself to be saturated by them. To be part of the crowd shouting Hosannas on Palm Sunday; seated at table with Jesus and the apostles celebrating the new Passover; standing at the foot of the cross with the women and the disciple whom Jesus loved; and finally, approaching the empty tomb. You simply have to place yourself in the scene, live in that moment, and allow yourself to be transformed. But there is one liturgy that transcends even all of Holy Week although we do it several times during it. That is the Eucharist itself. The Sacrifice of the Mass. The Holy Communion. However you wish to call it. This is the pinnacle of our worship because Jesus Himself gave it to us to do over and over and over again. With music, without music. With sermon, without sermon. Processions or not. ... The Eucharist is the center of our life because **He** is the center of our life. Without this we have nothing. More and more the "sola scriptura" crowd is coming back to what Jesus gave us to do, because Jesus gave it to us to remember who He is and what He did for us. Otherwise we wouldn't. Which brings me back to Holy Week. We do Holy Week because we need it to be a living part of our lives and not just a once a year ritual. Lest we forget!

Fr. Len Giacolone

(Excerpted from an article in April 2021)

5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

April 30 is the second month in 2023 with five Sundays. This means there will be a potluck luncheon held after the 11:00 service on April 30. Plan to bring something tasty to eat to share with fellow parishioners. It is fun to enjoy food that others have made and to visit with St. Francis friends.

EASTER LILIES

The sanctuary will be adorned with flowers and lilies beginning on Easter Sunday, April 9. If you would like to make a remembrance or thank offering for the flowers, there are envelopes on the table in the entry hall for this purpose. Gifts will be collected through Palm Sunday, April 2.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TEAM

Do you have the talent and time to help with the upkeep of the St. Francis grounds? Junior Warden Jim Crandell is looking for people to add to the team to help make the area around the church and the parking lot look crisp and neat.

We currently have four people who can help from time to time, but the tasks with the growth that happens in the spring are beyond what a small team can do. The idea is for a group to get together and knock out this maintenance periodically. Now that the groundcover is growing, this will be an ongoing project until next winter. Let Jim know if you can help by emailing info@stfrancisaustin.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Since the Dobb's decision by the Supreme Court last year, pregnancy resource centers need our help more than ever. They support women in unplanned pregnancies throughout their pregnancies and beyond. They provide numerous free services such as helping these women access medical care, social services, educational services (parenting classes, budgeting classes), physical needs (such as diapers, formula, baby clothes, bottles etc.) and support for their families. We here at St Francis have been supporting Trotter House for many years. In coordination with the national Anglicans For Life, we are holding a baby shower for Trotter House on Sunday May 7, 2023 after the 11:00 am service. Lori DeVillez, the director of Trotter House, will be here to talk about Trotter House, updating us on all they provide, as well as answering any questions you may have. Please consider attending and make this an overwhelming success. Even if you can't attend on May 7th, consider donating items to help out. We will be accepting items for the shower up through May 31st. Any questions, or if you want to help in the planning, contact Charlotte Ready at (512) 288-5597.



Our church is participating in the world's LARGEST *Baby Shower*

April 1-May 31

Our church is participating in a nationwide baby shower. Please donate so new mothers in our community can be blessed.

For more information visit AnglicansForLife.org/40-for-life



Suggested items: Diapers, wipes, clothing (baby/toddler), blankets, pacifiers, baby bottles, formula, bibs, toys, bedding, baby food, strollers, car seats, cribs.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

5	Roy and Nancy Jones
17	Mack and Margery Lindsey Doug and Cesiah Cooper
22	Susan and Michael Jones

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

8	Robert Bernard
10	John Goodrich
11	Keira Kristo-Reinking
13	Don Brown
15	Mary Collins
16	Seth Griffin
17	Marlene Meredith
21	Jim Crandell
24	Donna Hunt Samantha Armstrong
28	Elizabeth Hoyt

READINGS FOR APRIL

4/2 Palm Sunday (Link to Readings)

Palm Gospel: Mt. 21:1-11
Isaiah 45:21-25
Psalm 22:1-11
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:36-27:66

4/6 Maundy Thursday (Link to Readings)

Exodus 12:1-14a
Psalm 78:14-25
1 Corinthians 11:23-32
John 13:1-15

4/7 Good Friday (Link to Readings)

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

4/9 Easter Sunday (Link to Readings)

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:14-29
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

4/16 1 after Easter (Link to Readings)

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 111
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

4/23 2 after Easter (Link to Readings)

Acts 2:14a, 36-47
Psalm 116:10-17
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

4/30 3 after Easter ([Link to Readings](#))

Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Notes on the readings:

- St. Francis follows the [1979 BCP Lectionary](#) for the lessons. We are in Year A.
- 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.
- On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, the psalm is chanted during the 11:00 service. The pointing is from the St. Francis Psalter, found at <http://stfrancisaustin.org/psalter>, which is based on the Cathedral Psalter.

APRIL CALENDAR

Sundays

9:15 a.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

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for youth

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

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

Tuesdays

7:00 - 8:30 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.

Apr. 1 - 1st Saturday

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Palm Cross Folding in the fellowship area

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

Apr. 6 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Apr. 7 - Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

Apr. 10 - 2nd Monday

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

Apr. 14 - 2nd Friday

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study in person at the McCown's house

Apr. 17 - 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 to the fellowship hall

Apr. 21 - 3rd Friday

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

Apr. 23 - 4th Sunday

12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study - upstairs at the church

Apr. 28 - 4th Friday

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

5:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves and Fishes Truck Run

Apr. 28 - 4th Friday (cont.)

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study in person at the McCown's house

Apr. 30 - 5th Sunday

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. 5th Sunday Potluck

Note on the calendar:

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

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.

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

Interim Rector: Fr. Rogers Meredith

Organist: Elisante Msengi

Parish Administrator: Mark Rambin

Treasurer: Grady Collins

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden - Doug Cooper

Junior Warden - Jim Crandell

Secretary - Dinah Arce

Vestry Members

Fr. Rogers Meredith, Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell,

Michael Ready, Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer,

Dinah Arce, Susan Rambin, Mack Lindsey

St. Francis Anglican Church

3401 Oak Creek Drive

Austin, TX 78727

Phone:

512-472-7514

E-Mail:

info@stfrancisaustin.org

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