



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

CONFIRMATION COMING SOON

Sometime in the near future we will once again welcome Bishop Millsaps to St. Francis for Confirmation. This year we will have five members of our parish confirmed. They are Rory Motl, Morgan Tamez, Samantha and Gabrielle Wathen, and Mary Lauren LaRoux. For the second time in a row our Confirmation class is all female. I don't know what that says. It's simply a fact. I do not have a date as I write this but I expect it to be in September or early October depending on the Bishop's schedule.

Confirmation is a big part of the life of sacramental churches. But depending upon which sacramental church you frequent confirmation may mean something slightly different. All agree that the gift of the Holy Spirit is the focus. Our own ritual calls for an increase in the Holy Spirit. The Roman Catholic ritual says "Receive the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Father" although since the Holy Spirit is received in Baptism, this must also be an increase. The Orthodox administer the Sacrament of Confirmation along with Baptism and Holy Communion when the child is baptized. Their construct of this is that the child is fully initiated into the church all in one ceremony.

Regardless of how an individual denomination characterizes the sacrament, the Holy Spirit is the same Holy Spirit with whom the Lord gifted the early church at Pentecost. As I have mentioned before, not everyone who received the Holy Spirit at that time received exactly the same gifts and I am sure that is true today. The Holy Spirit is always looking out for the welfare of the whole

church in His gifting. Therefore, many gifts may be given when the Holy Spirit is once again released on the church. The important thing for each of the recipients to remember is that they should be open to how the Spirit is leading them to act in and for the church. He knows what the church needs and how to prepare the church for what has to be done in the work of salvation. Listening to Him and moving with His promptings is for the benefit of the church and the salvation of souls. It is just a hunch on my part, but I suspect that when the Holy Spirit gives a gift He also makes it possible for us to know what that gift is and how and when to use it. That takes some listening and discernment on our part, but I am sure that the Spirit does not want to hide any of the gifts He bestows.

Confirmation should be a major celebration whenever it is celebrated. I know it will be this time as well. Please welcome the Bishop when he comes.

Father Andrew and Jessica Brummett will be leaving with their family for the United Arab Emirates after the first of the year. Bishop Nedd has spent a great deal of time there recently helping to establish an Anglican parish which has called Father Brummett to be their new Rector. Even though the UAE is one of the more westernized of the Arab nations, spreading Christianity in any locale in the part of the world is tricky at best. Father Andrew has spoken to me for years about his love for the missions and he did special work during his seminary training in that area. I would simply ask you to keep their whole family in your prayers. Missions is a special work for those who are called to it. But it is also a charism for the whole church.

Continued from the Rector:

A few months ago I asked you to consider making a contribution to the Knights of Columbus for the benefit of a new sonogram machine for the Austin Pregnancy Resource Center. Funds are still needed and may be sent to Knights of Columbus, c/o St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, 1520 N. Railroad Avenue, Pflugerville, Texas 78660, Attn: Blake Krass. Put sonogram machine on your check. Thanks very much.

Sunday School News

Classes for children and youth begin on September 11 at 9:30 am in the Parish House and run through May 20, 2012, with a two week break at Christmas (Dec., 25 and Jan 1). All youth are welcome and encouraged to join a Sunday School class at St. Francis.

Activities for Elementary Aged Students

The children in grades 5 and below will begin by attending the first part of the 9:30 service to participate in the prayers, readings, psalms and saying the Creed. Afterwards, all will file over to the Parish House for 45 minutes of activities related to a Bible story. The plan is to divide the class for some of the activities into upper Elementary and the younger kids, for the older students to read and discuss the story themselves.

The first part of the year will be devoted to Old Testament stories and the New Testament stories studied in the Spring. During September, we will cover passages from Genesis: The Promise Given to Abraham (Genesis 11:27-12:9), Abraham and Lot (Genesis 13:1-18), the Birth of Isaac (Genesis 18:1-5; 21:1-7) and Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24:1-67).

Each lesson will include the teacher telling the story using simple props, singing songs that relate to the story and the theme, reading passages of the story from the Bible, discussing the main points, as well as art or game activities for all age groups. We always end with prayer and a quick snack.

St. Francis has participated in Operation Christmas Child since 2002 and will continue this year. If you have shoe boxes with a separate lid,

you are welcome to bring them at any time to the church. The packing day will be November 20.

During Advent, this class will spend part of the class time preparing for the pageant or play to be presented on the 4th Sunday in Advent, Dec. 17.

Activities for the Youth, graded 6-12

This year the youth will begin using a new curriculum from Teach Deep. This is "a 6 year curriculum for Jr. and Sr, High students designed to plunge deep into God's Word, and deep into the adventures of following after Christ." The first year content is on the Life of Christ with the theme of "...*fixing our eyes on Jesus*..." from Hebrews 12:2. Over the course of the year, the students will cover these themes from the Gospels: *Jesus on "Jesus"*, Miracles of Jesus, Thinking like Jesus, Parables, Salvation, What Ticked Him Off, Toughness of Jesus, and Death and Resurrection

The lessons are Biblically sound and are flexible enough for St. Francis classes. A variety of methods of presentation are used -- games, slide shows, and group discussion (which ends up being a small group).

Check out www.teachdeep.com for more information. During September, the lessons are titled *Fixing Our Eyes On Jesus, Defining Our Relationship and In These Steps*.

All teenagers are encouraged to attend this class. It is small enough that everyone gets a chance to be heard with no one being lost in the crowd.

Activities for the Youngest Students

There will be a nursery for the youngest children staffed by an adult volunteer.

God willing, the Parish House will be full of children and youth from 9:30-10:30 each Sunday. Please include the teachers, students and parents of the St. Francis Sunday School in your prayers. My intention is to carry out God's will for this program and your prayers are vital. I know I will be praying.

Amy Crandell, Director of Christian Education for Children and Youth

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will start again on Thursday, September 15, at noon in the Parish Hall. We will be studying the book of James using a study called "Blue Jean Faith". We will continue on Thursdays through November 10. All are welcome. Contact Becky Hunt at 636-5442, or bhunt27@austin.rr.com for more information.

Nursery Help Needed St. Francis provides a nursery during both services and adult volunteers are needed to help watch the children. Our nursery is well stocked with toys, books, and art supplies that keeps the children occupied for the time they are away from their parents. Serving in the nursery is not just babysitting, but is a ministry in our church. Volunteers serve the Lord and children, parents, as well as our church. This year, Missy Bernard is scheduling the volunteers. This will be only an hour commitment about once every 4-6 weeks. If you are interested in helping out, please contact her in person or via e-mail at nelson440@gmail.com.

Ushers Needed

The fall season is fast approaching and St Francis is in need of ushers for the 9:30 am and 11:00 am church services. At present each usher only serves one Sunday each month, when there are five Sundays one usher serves for two Sundays. Also an usher is needed for special church service, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, funerals and any other services requiring one.

Please contact Bennie Ellis, **512-707-9848**, e-mail: bellis2@austin.rr.com, for more informa-

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone

Senior Warden: Mark Rambin

Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthdays

- 4 Judith Bernard
- 7 Eileen Cole
- 15 Katie Sandlin
Michelle Collins
- 19 Erin and Anna Brummett
- 20 Kimberly Norris
- 22 Brian Hoard
- 25 Sheri Brummett
- 28 Nathan Jensen

Anniversary

- 5 Mark and Susan Rambin
- 6 Steve & Angie McCown



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults

Organist: Paula Blaha

Server: Ray Merrill and Arthur Woodgate

Newsletter Submissions

Any parishioner that has news of any kind they would like to share with everyone is welcome to send it in writing to Tricia Denslow at 640 B Lakeside Dr., Wimberley, TX 78676 or to her e-mail address (triciadenslow@yahoo.com). If received **by the 20th**, it will appear in next month's newsletter.

St. Francis Anglican Church

1408 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

September 2011

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|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Evening Prayer, 6 pm Church | 15 | Women's Bible Study, 12pm |
| 2 | Games Night, 6:30pm | 15 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church |
| 3 | Austin City Prayer Walk, 9am | 18 | <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u>
Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145
Philippians 1:21-27 Matthew 20:1-16
Sunday School for Children |
| 4 | <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am,</u>
<u>Morning Prayer and</u>
<u>Holy Communion, 11:00 am,</u>
Ezekiel 33:1-11 Psalm 119:33-48
Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 18:15-20 | 19 | Mothers' Prayer Group, 11 am |
| 5 | Labor Day | 20 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon |
| 6 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon | 21 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm. |
| 7 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7pm | 22 | Women's Bible Study, 12pm |
| 8 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church | 22 | Evening Prayer, 6p |
| 11 | <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am</u>
Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7
Psalm 103
Romans 14:5-12
Matthew 18:21-35
Sunday School for Children | 25 | <u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u>
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-14
Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:28-32
Sunday School for Children |
| 12 | Vestry Meeting, 5:30pm | 27 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon |
| 13 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon | 28 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm. |
| 14 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm. | 29 | Women's Bible Study, 12pm |
| | | 29 | Evening Prayer, 6pm |