

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacolone

Lent is upon us once again. Although we have been in “pre-Lent” for several weeks (at least liturgically), the church’s time for self evaluation and penance now begins in earnest.

The word itself (Lent) means a time of slowing down. While time doesn’t really slow down, we can. The reason that the church provides us with this time each year is that unless we are reminded to do so, we probably won’t.

The Gospel for Ash Wednesday focuses our thoughts on three different aspects of the spiritual life: prayer, fasting, and charity. Each of these three things is important for our spiritual lives and Lent reminds us how we are to approach them.

During Lent, I like to provide another opportunity for Holy Communion during the week. So, on each Wednesday evening during Lent we will celebrate Holy Communion at 7:00 pm. This year I am going to offer some thoughts on the Eucharist. Most of us when we attend church receive Communion. Like so much of our liturgical lives it is possible for it to become too automatic. I hope that my reflections will provide a deeper insight into the nature, purpose, and reason for this indescribable gift from the Lord. But our private prayer life is important as well. One of the most important aspects of private prayer is silence. Listening! If you are not used to spending quiet time in prayer, try doing so this Lent. Start slowly—maybe just five minutes. When you are comfortable with that, try extending it. Remember, the most important aspect of prayer is what God has to say to you, not the other way around.

Along with prayer, fasting is important. Why? Because it takes the focus off ourselves. We often think of fasting as relating only to food or drink. But fasting can apply to anything that you hold dear in your life. If you watch too much TV, turn it off for a while. Read something spiritual. Spend a few more minutes in prayer. Get creative. Deny yourself and offer that to the Lord.

Charity is important year round but Lent provides us an opportunity to kick it up a notch. We will have our annual Lenten food drive (more about this as you read on). But there are certainly other avenues of charity you can find to pursue. You will notice that the Ash Wednesday Gospel isn’t multiple choice. Each one of these opportunities for spiritual growth is essential if we are to grow.

During Lent (and beyond) I will be leading a Confirmation class on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The ACNA catechism, [To Be A Christian](#), will be the material for the class. I envision this class lasting approximately eight weeks or so and running through April. Confirmation is scheduled for June 28 with Bishop Reed.

As I mentioned in church recently, there will also be a study of this book (the catechism) on Sunday morning, beginning at 10:30 on March 1. We will see how this goes. For the present we are attempting to fit this in between service times. If there is sufficient interest we may have to make some adjustments.

This doesn’t sound much like slowing down for Lent. But that has to take place with you—on the inside. Remember, Lent is less about what you do than how you do it. Just make time for the Lord.

THE FAILURE OF PERSONHOOD: ABORTION AND OUR NEIGHBORS

Excerpted from an article by Rev. Dr. W. Ross Blackburn

A lawyer [once asked Jesus] a very lawyerly question: "Who is my neighbor?" What might seem to reflect a concern for precision was actually an attempt to justify himself. After all, the answer would draw a distinction between his neighbor, whom he was called to love, and the non-neighbor, whom he could leave aside. In other words, it would shrink the circle of his responsibility.

We still hear the lawyer's question today. Here is one modern iteration: Is a fetus a person? There has been much discussion over this and much ink spilt. Let me give you one example. In 1999, Tom L. Beauchamp wrote an article titled "The Failure of Theories of Personhood" (Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal 9.4, 309-324), in which he engaged what has been called personhood theory. In beginning his argument, he writes, "The common sense concept of person is, roughly speaking, identical with the concept of human being." Unfortunately, Beauchamp is not content to stick with common sense. He continues:

"There is no warrant for the assumption that only properties distinctive of membership in the human species count toward personhood or confer moral standing. Even if certain properties strongly correlated with membership in the human species qualify humans more readily than the members of other species, these properties are only contingently connected to being human."

And so he goes on, one tortuous sentence after another...

In plain language, Beauchamp is suggesting that some humans have to qualify to be persons, and

that in some instances some humans would have less moral standing than a squirrel. That being the case, maybe it's OK to remove the liver or the heart of a living human being for research purposes. Or to abort him...

The move is as old as mankind. Draw a circle around persons, leave some people out, and do what you want with them...

Jesus doesn't bother to answer the lawyer's question. He will not engage in philosophical (and philological) gymnastics. He will not even dignify the question. Not only is it not a genuine question, the answer is not difficult. For one who seeks to love, it shouldn't be all that difficult to determine who qualifies. So, Jesus tells a story of a foreigner who helps a helpless stranger when others would not, a story which does not answer the question, "Who's my neighbor," but rather "What does it mean for me to be a neighbor?" We know it as the Good Samaritan.

There was one helpful aspect of Beauchamp's article: the title, "The Failure of Theories of Personhood." Some things deserve to fail. Like the lawyer's question, such theories do not seek truth, but rather seek to justify our doing what we want to do. Perhaps we should take a lesson from Jesus here, and refuse to play the personhood game. Simply call it out for what it is and get busy loving our neighbor.

Rev. Blackburn is the Rector of Christ the King, an Anglican Fellowship in Boone, NC and an Anglicans for Life's Board Member.

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2019/12/02/failure-personhood-abortion-neighbors/>

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](mailto:amy@anglicansforlife.org).

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time kicks in on March 8. If you have any clocks to set, move them forward one hour when you go to bed on the 7th, or you may be late to church.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is coming up on February 25. This means the Annual Sausage and Pancake Supper! Mark your calendar to come to the church between 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. to eat all the pancakes and sausage you can eat. (It won't end early!) This event is sponsored by the St. Polycarp's Men's Guild with the pancakes and sausage cooked on site with donations from the members of the St. Polycarp's Guild. They will do the cleanup as well. Come indulge in this all-you-can-eat event the night before the penitential season of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Lent begins on February 26. St. Francis will observe this day with a Holy Communion service with the imposition of ashes at noon and 7 p.m. In keeping with the penitential atmosphere of the liturgy that day, we will not have music at either service.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Looking for St. Francis members or friends to give one hour of their time once a week to pray in front of an abortion clinic in Austin

The next vigil campaign begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26 and ends on Palm Sunday, April 5. Go to centraltexascoalition.com to sign up to pray at one of these locations:

- Whole Women's Health Clinic, 4100 Duval Road
- Planned Parenthood, 201 E Ben White Boulevard

At the Fall Prayer campaign, seven St. Francis members committed to pray at least once a week (one prayed two separate times). Currently, six St. Francis members have committed to 7 hours of praying for this prayer vigil. Consider if you should be among this number. Let Amy Crandell know if you go and pray during the vigil - both she and Jim are looking to increase participation from St. Francis.

These prayer vigils work. Evidence is in the number of closed clinics and the slow shift of the attitude of many in our country that abortion is not the way to deal with an unwanted pregnancy.

40 CHURCHES FOR 40 DAYS

If committing to pray in front of one of the abortion clinics once a week for 5 or 6 weeks won't work with your schedule, St. Francis has adopted the Duval Clinic (4100 Duval) on March 14 with the 40 Churches for 40 Days program. We hope to have someone from St. Francis praying from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on that day and would love to see quite a bit of participation from the St. Francis congregation. Sign-up list is in the entry hall.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

A food drive benefitting the Food Pantry at St. Louis the King of France Catholic church will be conducted during Lent.

The St. Louis food pantry provides food assistance to the needy of our community and is the largest food pantry in Austin. Volunteers distribute food on Saturday mornings from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. This is one of several social ministries this large parish can offer. The St. Louis food pantry is a partner with the Capitol Area Food Bank. On a typical Saturday, up to 80 families who live in the central Austin area receive food assistance.

Bea De la Rosa is the Director of Social Ministries and welcomes contributions, but she does have specific items the pantry will accept from a food drive like this:

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 will be a table set up in the St. Francis entry hall for donations. The drive will begin on March 1 and end on Palm Sunday, April 5. Consider purchasing some or all of the items on the list and bringing them to church during Lent.

TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE

St. Francis was well represented at the Texas Rally for Life this past January. Sixteen of your fellow parishioners (including the 4 Hatley children!) joined 6,000 people from churches all across Texas to participate in both the march and the rally that followed.

The Texas Rally for Life commemorated the 47th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Roe V. Wade and its tragic consequences. The march that preceded the rally began at the intersection of 14th Street and San Jacinto Boulevard and ended at the steps of the Capitol where the crowd heard from a number of speakers.

The weather was comfortably cool and the atmosphere was upbeat and congenial. Frankly, it was a lot of fun. This is an annual event usually held on the 3rd or 4th Saturday in January so you might want mark your calendars accordingly and increase the number of folks representing St. Francis in 2021. You will experience an enjoyable afternoon of camaraderie and provide a witness to the value of human lives.

ADULT CATECHESIS CLASS

As Fr. Len stated in his article, an adult catechesis class will be held on Sundays beginning on March 1 from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. in the Nave of the church. The course will be led by members of the congregation and use the ACNA catechism, **To Be a Christian** as the source of discussion. A copy of the book can be purchased for about \$30 from Amazon, but the church has a few copies as well. Alternatively, you can download the PDF at AnglicanChurch.net.

HOME GROUPS

St. Francis has three active home groups involving more than two dozen St. Francis members and friends. Each of the three groups meets at the host's home in the 2nd and 4th week of the month. If you are interested in attending one of these groups to see what they do or if you have any questions, please email info@stfrancisaustrin.org or speak to hosts of the groups: Amy & Jim Crandell (Monday March. 9 & 23 located in Central Austin), Doug Cooper (Tuesday March 10 and 24 - located in Central Austin), or Steve & Angie McCown (Friday, Mar. 13 and 27 in south Austin).

ANGLICANS FOR LIFE

Formed in April of 2009 and affiliated with the global organization, the St. Francis chapter generally meets several times a year after the 11:00 service. 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. The group sponsors activities year round. Charlotte Ready is the leader, with other people in charge of various activities

CHOIR

The all-volunteer choir was formed in 2008. Currently, six St. Francis members & friends devote 45 minutes each Sunday to rehearsing. Our goal is to enhance the music at the 11:00 service with music sung to the glory of God. New members who enjoy singing are always welcome. Email Amy Crandell for more information or to volunteer. Along with the choir, instrumentalists and smaller vocal groups occasionally offer music during the 11:00 service or other special services. Let our music director Betty Lin Gallardo know if you have a talent to offer.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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. Since 2002, the Sunday school youth have participated in Operation Christmas Child. Missy Bernard leads the program and, she and Doug Cooper, teach the classes. Libby Ibañez is the substitute .Email Missy with questions or for more information.

EVENING PRAYER

A weekly Evening Prayer service has been said at St. Francis since at least 2006. Led by Jim Crandell, the service is held at 7 pm each Thursday, using the order of service from the 1928 Prayer Book. Prayers and lessons are said, and hymns accompanied. The Gloria and the canticles are sung without accompaniment. Contact Jim with questions. All are welcome to attend.

HOSPITALITY

Having a bit to eat while visiting after the services has been a St. Francis activity ever since the church first formed. David Norris volunteers the coordination of the coffee hour, potluck luncheons, and other receptions and gatherings, but a variety of volunteers are needed to supply the snacks. There is a sign-up notebook on the table that always has openings for someone to bring some snacks.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Prayer is the top activity at St. Francis. Towards this, St. Francis has an active Intercessory Prayer Group. Fr. Len and Nancy Giacolone maintain the church's prayer list, receiving requests in a variety of ways - discussion, email, telephone call and by putting a request in the prayer box. Members of the group receive updates via e-mail and all commit to pray each day for each person on the list. Contact either Nancy or Fr. Len if you wish to be an intercessor.

There is a prayer intention box in the back of the nave if you would like to submit a prayer request

MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES

St. Francis has supported Mobile Loaves and Fishes financially for several years. A recently added component is to volunteer with the MLF program out of St. Louis Catholic church. Currently, a team from St. Francis volunteers on the 4th Friday Food Truck run. Other volunteer opportunities related to MLF are available. Contact Amy Crandell for details.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Diocesan Altar Guild is March 7, 2020 at Church of the Holy Comforter in Cleburne. The agenda shows the event begins at 10:00 a.m. with Bishop Reed leading a Holy Eucharist. The presentation begins at 11:45 a.m. and is followed by lunch. A flyer is on the bulletin board.

HEALING CONFERENCE

The Order of St. Luke and the Diocesan Healing Ministry will present the 2020 Conference Friday through Sunday, March 13-15 at St. Timothy's Church, 201 Mitchell Blvd, Fort Worth. The weekend begins at 5 pm with a Thanksgiving mass for Bishop's Iker's deliverance from cancer, followed by dinner. Saturday includes three sessions and lunch, completing the day at about 4:00 p.m. Sunday is the closing service at 10:00 a.m. The fees are \$25 for Friday and Saturday or \$10 for Friday and \$15 for Saturday.

WHAT IS LENT?

By Norton Herbst

Source: <https://www.exploregod.com/articles/what-is-lent>

Why do Christians sacrifice for 40 days? Learn about and understand Lent.

I get a little behind during Lent, but it comes out even at Christmas.

---Fitzgibbon, "Going My Way"

How many of us can relate to the above sentiment?

You go through a season in life when you get serious about something, perhaps your diet. You give up sweets, carbs, starches, meat—whatever the newest diet craze demands. Then you exercise, going for runs and maybe even lifting weights. For a month or two, you shed a few pounds, lose a couple of inches, and feel great about what you're accomplishing.

Then come the holidays or the stress of your work, school, or family responsibilities—and with them, the end of all restraint. Everything you lost (or gained, depending on how you look at it) is gained (or lost) right back.

It happens all the time. But this pattern of fasting and feasting is not only about food. All of life is lived in similar seasons.

Some seasons are characterized by abundance, growth, joy, celebration, or indulgence: getting married, having children, achieving great accomplishments, Christmas, Thanksgiving. Other seasons are quite the opposite: we lose a job, lose our perspective, or lose a loved one. These days are filled with grief, emptiness, searching, or a sense of spiritual hunger.

This back-and-forth pattern is the rhythm of our lives—one that provides key insight into a season called Lent.

A SEASON OF PREPARATION

Lent is a period of forty days that Christians observe every year just before Easter, typically from late February to early April. The Lenten season begins on a day known as Ash Wednesday (about six weeks before Easter) and continues until Easter Sunday, not counting the Sundays in between, as they are still considered days of celebration.

The word "lent" comes from a Saxon word that meant "length." It originally referred to the springtime season in the Northern Hemisphere

when the days were lengthening and signs of new life were appearing.²

Lent is meant to be a time of reflection and repentance before the celebrations of Holy Week. For centuries, Christians have commemorated Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday and his subsequent resurrection from the grave on Easter Sunday.

Christians believe that Jesus' death on the cross provides forgiveness of the sins of anyone who asks for it. And Jesus' victory over death gives anyone who believes in him a joyful hope for a new life and a restored relationship with God.

Thus, early Christians developed the season of Lent as a time of preparation in order to experience the full meaning of Good Friday and Easter Sunday every year. Just as people carefully prepare for big events in their personal lives—a wedding, the birth of a child, or a graduation—Lent invites people of faith to make their hearts ready to remember Jesus' death, commemorate his sacrifice, and celebrate his resurrection.³

A WILDERNESS JOURNEY

The idea of Lent began during the third and fourth centuries.⁴ The number of days is based on the biblical significance of the number forty—specifically, the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert and Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness.⁵

Thus, Christians describe the forty-day Lenten season itself as a journey in the wilderness. Lent represents a time of searching for God amidst the brokenness of life, a season of intentional fasting before a time of feasting. Historically, Christians have given up something during Lent as a symbolic way to mark their journey and refocus their energy on their relationship with God.

Most often, this includes fasting from certain foods or drinks. Some skip a meal each day or give up specific things such as meat, caffeine, alcohol, or sweets. Others give up more modern luxuries such as the Internet, social media, or e-mail; reading books, magazines, or newspapers; shopping; watching television; or listening to music.

It is important to remember that none of these things are inherently bad, sinful, or evil. Yet any of these pleasures can easily become overly important in our lives. We likely have all experienced that.

The idea of a Lenten fast is to abstain from these subtle but powerful influences in our lives in order to become less distracted and better equipped to give one's full attention to the spiritual journey. It is an occasion to relinquish something one typically enjoys in order to identify with Jesus and the sacrifice he made on Good Friday.

Significantly, "Lent should never be morose—an annual ordeal during which we begrudgingly forgo a handful of pleasures."⁶ Lent should be considered an opportunity to realign ourselves with God and pursue a renewed relationship with him.

Many Christians adopt something new during Lent as well. They choose to pray at fixed times each day, read the Bible, serve the poor, observe moments of silence and meditation, or engage in habits that enrich the soul.⁷

On Ash Wednesday, some Christians attend special church services and place ashes on their foreheads as an outward symbol of the repentance and fast they are undertaking. The day before Ash Wednesday has become known as Fat Tuesday, or more familiarly, Mardi Gras. The day is considered one's last chance to indulge in rich foods, intoxicating drink, or anything else one is giving up for the following six weeks.

A STRANGE RITUAL

This yearly ritual may sound strange to anyone who has never observed Lent. But the point of Lent is not to do something "religious" to somehow impress God. Nor is it about drawing attention to what you are doing. Jesus himself warned his followers about fasting or praying in a public and prideful manner.⁸

Rather, Lent is about recognizing the regular seasons of life and embracing the rhythm of fasting before feasting. And this fasting—however one chooses to observe it—is a journey of faith. A journey of reflection and self-examination. A journey that provokes repentance and transformation.

Lent is a journey that culminates in the hope of Easter morning.

FOOTNOTES

1. So declares the character Fitzgibbon in Frank Butler and Frank Cavett's screenplay, "Going My Way" in *Best Film Plays of 1943-1944*, ed. John Gassner and Dudley Nichols (New York: Crown Publishers, 1945), 187.
2. Bobby Ross, *Living the Christian Year: Time to Inhabit the Story of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009), 129.
3. Emily Brink and John. D. Witvliet, ed., *The Worship Sourcebook*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004), 551-552.
4. For more historical background on Lent and how it fits into the liturgical calendar of the Christian Church, see Joan Chittister, *The Liturgical Year: The Spiraling Adventure of the Spiritual Life* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009).
5. The Holy Bible, New International Version © 2011, Deuteronomy 29:1-6 and Matthew 4:1-11.
6. *Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2003), xvi.
7. For various Lent readings and meditations, see *Bread and Wine* or Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Show Me the Way: Daily Lenten Readings* (New York: Crossroad, 1992).
8. See The Holy Bible, Luke 18:9-14.

MARCH SUNDAY READINGS

3/1 1 Lent (link)

- Gen. 2:4b-9,15-17,25-3:7
- Psalm 51
- Romans 5:12-19
- Matthew 4:1-11

3/8 2 Lent (link)

- Genesis 12:1-8
- Psalm 33:12-21
- Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
- John 3:1-17

3/15 3 Lent (link)

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalm 95:6-11
- Romans 5:1-11
- John 4:1-42

3/22 4 Lent (link)

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- Psalm 23
- Ephesians 5:1-14
- John 9:1-38

3/29 5 Lent (link)

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 130
- Romans 6:16-23
- John:11:1-44

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's 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 second and fourth Sundays, the psalm is chanted at the 11:00 service. The psalm pointing is based on the Cathedral Psalter and is a part of the St. Francis Psalter posted on our web site.

MARCH ANNIVERSARY

1 Larry and Eileen Cole

MARCH CALENDAR

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Said Holy Communion

Sunday School for Youth

9:40 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Adult Catechesis

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion with music. *On the first Sunday of the month, we have Morning Prayer before the Holy Communion service.*

Tuesdays

7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. Lenten Series: Holy Communion with Fr. Len's reflections on the Holy Eucharist

Thursdays

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

1st Friday, March 6

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Games Night

1st Saturday, March 7

9:00 a.m. Prayer Service for our Nation

2nd Sunday, March 8

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Worship Service and Hymn Sing at the Retirement and Nursing Center on Burnet Lane.

2nd Monday, March 9

6:00 p.m. Vestry meeting

Saturday, March 14

7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. St Francis at 4100 Duval with 40 Churches for 40 Days.

3rd Monday, March 16

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Readers of First Things group meeting.

3rd Friday, March 20

Noon Mothers' Prayer Group

4th Friday, March 27

6 p.m. Mobile Loaves and Fishes Food Truck Run

5th Sunday, March 29

~12:15 p.m. Fifth Sunday Potluck Luncheon

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 Hannah Hatley
 4 Emma Carr
 5 Bill Palmer
 8 Kenneth Robertson
 13 Keira McCormick
 14 Marilyn Palmer
 15 Shirley Ellis, Missy Nelson Bernard, Kolby Glenn
 17 Tristan DeBord
 19 Timothy McCormick
 24 Chuck Mazzeo
 26 Grady Collins
 28 Lavanna Martin



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

Libby Ibañez

Vestry Members

Jim Britt, Donna Hunt, David Kristo-Reinking

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Libby Ibañez, Christina Hatley

Fr. Len Giacolone

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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.