

THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Len Giacalone

November always brings us two days of rather important commemorations. All Saints Day and Thanksgiving Day. This year All Saints Day falls on a Sunday so there will be no special celebration outside of the regular Sunday service at 9:30. Usually the Sunday would take precedence over a feast day but the feast of All Saints is of such importance as to require celebration regardless. Why? There are two principal reasons. The first is to remember that the seemingly impossible task of living a good or even great Christian life is not only possible, it has been accomplished by thousands over the centuries. Secondly, and perhaps even more importantly, it is there to spur us on to victory. It is unlikely that any of us will make it on to the Church's liturgical calendar. But this day is for all those who aren't celebrated individually but are nonetheless feasting at the Lord's banquet table in the heavenly realms. Nothing is impossible with God. That includes sainthood for anyone who attempts to live the life of Christ in this world.

The second special day this November is a bit more problematic this year. Over and over again we hear people say, "It's 2020," as if some curse has been put on the whole year. Believe me when I say that I understand the sentiment. While I don't think that's true, it may be a reminder to us of what things may be like when God removes His almighty hand of protection from us. It has been difficult for all of us and even more difficult for some. It has certainly affected us as a parish with our worship. I am grateful to those who have continued to come Sunday after Sunday to worship. It is far easier for me to celebrate with a congregation than without one.

That also and especially applies to preaching. I am also grateful to all of you who have kept up your pledges throughout the scourge. I think we're doing OK financially. More on that later.

But there are reasons to be grateful. No one from St. Francis has lost his or her life from the virus. We have certainly been inconvenienced because of it. But we have managed to find ways to work around the inconvenience (at least liturgically) thanks to some resourcefulness on the part of Jim and Amy Crandell who found ways to livestream our services despite not having any sophisticated equipment. I know that some have managed to keep up with others in the parish despite not seeing one another at church on Sunday. I encourage you to maintain that practice. We will get through this. Hopefully we will be wiser and more attuned to God when we do.

There is a third day this November that is of great importance. November 3 is Election Day. We have heard much about this being the most important election of our time. Joe Biden says it's an election "for the soul of the country." On that, and only that, can I agree with him. Obviously each of us has to make a decision based on our understanding of what God is telling us. (Yes, you should ask God how you should vote). But the choices seem clear to me. No Christian is free to disregard Christian principles when making a decision on how to vote. Living the Christian life means living it in every aspect of it. There can be no separation of spiritual and secular for the Christian. God and His will always come first. This election is not

about personalities. It is about policies. And God does have something to say about the policies that are offered in this election.

As is always the case at the end of the year, there are several things we have to look forward to in the coming weeks. Operation Christmas Child will be in full swing by the time you get this, and we will be adopting a family for Christmas through Trotter House. Finally, the annual

Pledge Drive runs through December 6. We need your pledge cards in by that date so that the Vestry can consider a budget for next year. There are opportunities everywhere to be generous. Please be generous where and when you can.

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

THE GOD WHO VALUES LIFE VALUES RELATIONSHIPS, TOO

Published September 25, 2020

It's been going on for awhile now. The lines are drawn. Social media relationships have been blocked or unfriended. The Sanctity of Life has unfortunately been a divisive topic for a long time—way before this election year. But the God who values life values relationships, too.

How do you keep peace when friends and relatives are not always on the same page?



Here are some easy steps:

1. **Pray.** Of course, prayer is the first course of action! Ask God to put a hedge of protection around the relationships in your sphere of influence. The evil one who destroys life is more than happy to destroy the bond between parents, children, siblings, and friends.
2. **Ask questions.** Questions are a powerful tool. Asking questions conveys a sincere

interest in others, allowing them to “present their case” first. (Doing so is a helpful strategy for any difficult situation, by the way.) This often prompts a less defensive stance. Plus, when they hear their thoughts out loud it may actually help them to change their own minds!

3. **Listen to the answers.** You've heard St. Francis of Assisi's famous quote: “O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be understood as to understand.” People want to be heard. When you listen, it means their opinion matters, even if you don't agree with it. When anyone feels heard, s/he is more likely to listen with an open-mind.
4. **Respond in a kind manner.** When it is your turn to talk, do so with compassion. “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person” as Paul encouraged the Colossians.

Want more ideas? The book *Love Unleashes Life*, written by Stephanie Gray, is the go-to resource to help you reach people's minds and hearts on the controversial topic of abortion. Through the use of sample dialogues and proven strategies, Stephanie equips you with the confidence to truly communicate the truth—in love.

[Love Unleashes Life is available on Amazon.](https://anglicansforlife.org/2020/09/25/god-who-values-life-values-relationships/)

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2020/09/25/god-who-values-life-values-relationships/>

DIOCESAN NEWS

A call for

Prayer and Fasting

Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 3

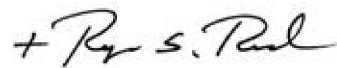
To the faithful people of the Diocese of Fort Worth,

Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, is fast approaching. While I certainly encourage you to exercise your right to vote, I would like to ask you to consider doing something just as important.

I am calling for **a day of Prayer and Fasting** on Election Day. With political discord in many levels of our common life, with the experience of injustice by some and economic hardship by many, with civil unrest and violence in our cities, and with brutal rhetoric by both the media and politicians, we as Christians have a special responsibility to our nation.

Let us use this day to repent of where we have failed to sow love, justice, and peace to our neighbors. Let us fast and pray that God would quell violence and bring unity and prosperity to our nation. Let us pray for our leaders for them to have godly wisdom as they lead our nation, our states, and our communities. Let us pray for an end to the pandemic and for the safety of our first responders and hospital teams. Finally, let us pray for a national revival that many of our friends and neighbors would come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and turn to Him as the Lord of their lives.

God bless each you and please pray that God would bless our nation.



Important dates for Texas voters:

- Oct. 5 – Last day to register to vote
- Oct. 13-30 – Early voting period
- Oct. 23 – Last day to request a mail-in ballot
- Nov. 3 – Election Day, polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Last day to return in mail-in ballot by hand
- Nov. 4 – Last day for mail-in ballot to arrive by mail

More: votetexas.gov

- A CLAY SHOOT FUNDRAISER benefiting Camp Crucis is being organized for Friday, Nov. 13, at Alpine Shooting Range in Fort Worth. The tournament will be organized in teams of four; registration fees are \$150-\$200 per person. Drawing tickets are also available. A PDF flyer with details is attached. A registration form is [here](#).

- The Diocesan Convention is scheduled for Nov. 14. with the theme of "The Lord is my strength." According to the website, delegates and clergy will meet by deanery at designated locations. All business will be completed in 3 hours. Frank Hunt is our lay delegate and Fr. Len is our clergy delegate. Updates are posted [here](#).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2020



By the time you are reading this newsletter, you should have received an email about Operation Christmas Child- an annual activity of the youth in the Sunday School classes

at St. Francis. Since 2002, we have packed shoe boxes for this program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Your help is needed to provide the contents for the boxes or to make a donation toward the organizer's recommended donation of \$9 per box to fund shipping. The youth of the Sunday school assemble the donated items in boxes.

This is a great program that performs a wonderful ministry for children around the world. Check out their website at

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

If you have donated items or money in the past, please continue to help us out again. If you are new to St. Francis, please consider helping out. It is easy to do! In the entry hall (and at the online link above) you will find a list of suggested items needed for the boxes we hope to pack. Items for the boxes are needed by November 22nd, as the youth are packing boxes that day during Sunday school time at 9:30.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to make a remembrance, memorial or thank offering, consider donating for the altar flowers. Use an envelope from the back shelf to enclose your donation. Fill the envelope front out as appropriate and place in the wooden box on the same shelf.

TIME CHANGE

Don't forget to set your clock back an hour when you go to bed on Saturday, October 31. Standard time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. We get back that hour we lost in March.

PLEDGE DRIVE

November is pledge drive month. During the last week of October, all St. Francis households will receive a letter and pledge card in the mail. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for this next year and fill out a Capital Campaign and Pledge Card. You can leave in the offering plate or mail to the church. The vestry would like the pledges by December 6.

PRAYERS FOR THE NATION

On the first Saturday of each month, the Prayers for the Nation group gathers in the fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m. Songs and prayers are lifted up for our Government, the Military, the Media, Business, Education, the Church, and the Family in our nation. There are written prayers, most being collects from the Prayer Book, as well as extemporaneous prayers.. If you don't wish to come in person, contact Amy Crandell for the Zoom invitation. Most people are attending via Zoom.

NOV. BIRTHDAYS

3	Mark Rambin
10	Jimmy Parker
11	Katya Kristo-Reinking
12	Michael Adams
14	Bev Scheer
15	Don St.Martin
17	Kerry Manning Adams
25	Steve McCown, Mary Boswell
27	Rebecca Hunt

NOV. ANNIVERSARIES

22	David & Adriane Kristo-Reinking
30	Glenn & Rebecca Hunt

NOVEMBER SUNDAY

READINGS

11/1 All Saints Day (link)

- Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10, 13-14
- Psalm 149
- Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17
- Matthew 5:1-12

11/8 22 after Trinity P27 (link)

- Amos 5:18-24
- Psalm 70
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Matthew 25:1-13

11/15 23 after Trinity P28 (link)

- Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
- Psalm 90:1-8, 12
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10
- Matthew 25:14-15, 19-29

11/22 Christ The King P29 (link)

- Ezekiel 34:11-17
- Psalm 95:1-7
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
- Matthew 25:31-46

11/26 Thanksgiving Day (link)

- Deut. 8:1-3, 6-10, 17-20
- Psalm 65:9-14
- James 1:17-18, 21-27
- Matthew 6:25-33

11/29 1 Advent (Year B) (link)

- Isaiah 64:1-9a
- Psalm 80
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- Mark 13:24-37

Notes on the readings:

- St. Francis follows the [1979 BCP Lectionary for the lessons](#) We are in Pentecost of Year A, up until 11/29, when we move to Advent of 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.

NOVEMBER 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.

November 9

6:00 p.m. Vestry meeting

Thursdays

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

Tuesdays

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

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.

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.

November 7

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

November 20

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

November 20 (3rd Friday)

4:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves and Fishes Make Ready Team (~4:30 pm) and Food Truck Run (~ 5:30 pm)

November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

10:00 am. Thanksgiving Day Service with Holy Communion

Notes:

- For now, the 9:30 service will be live streamed on Facebook and recorded and posted to the web site.
- To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email info@stfrancisaustrin.org.



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

3401 Oak Creek Drive
Austin, TX 78727

Phone:
512-472-7514

E-Mail:
info@stfrancisaustin.org

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

StFrancisAustin.com

Follow us on social media!

Facebook

[@StFrancisAustin](https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisAustin)

Instagram

[@StFrancisAustin](https://www.instagram.com/StFrancisAustin)

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.