

# THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

*Doug Cooper*

This month I have bad news and good news for you. The bad news is that I am writing the article for the parish newsletter. The good news is that it's not a permanent change.

Our dear Pastor will begin his well-deserved and postponed retirement on May 1. I know we are all sad to see him go but happy because it's what he wants and deserves. He has helped us through some hard times and has left us in a good place. I will not try to express how important it has been for me to have him as a shepherd. I don't think I can.

So the question is, what happens now. We will be in the good hands of Bishop Reed and a committed vestry until the arrival of our new pastor. The search has already begun. Bishop Reed will recommend at least three qualified prospects; we already have two. I do not anticipate a long search process.

During this period, we will have interim pastors approved by the bishop. Everything else should continue as usual until we find the right man.

You probably have noticed we've experienced some growth lately. Let's keep it up. Keep inviting people and remember your presence is important to us every Sunday. Please remember visitors see children as a sign of health and growth. It would also be good for your children to know how happy they make all of us when we see their faces.

Finally, I want to remind everyone of our goodbye celebration for Father Len and Nancy. We will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1st at Maggiano's Little Italy in the Domain. Many of you have already registered, and it looks like we will have wonderful attendance. If you would like to contribute towards the gift for the Giacolones, give your check either to me or Grady. I hope everyone will join us for this celebration.

## Retirement Celebration

Honoring

**Fr. Len and Nancy Giacolone**

**Sunday | May 1, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.**

Maggiano's Little Italy

10910 Domain Drive, Suite 100 (across from Dillard's at the Domain's south end)

Please RSVP by emailing [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org) or signing up at the church by 4/24

# TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

*Meesh Vits, Anglicans for Life Director of Children's Ministry*

I believe every child – regardless of circumstances – has equal and irrevocable worth. There's no such thing as unwanted. Shifting the culture from believing this is going to take radical and intentional steps from parents and communities about how we teach children about the value of life, from a very young age.

When I say, "sanctity of life", you may automatically think about a political point of view. I want to note something before we move forward: While that way of thinking may be true for some people, I believe that sanctity of life is so much more than that.

We see how God values life all over the Bible. In every book, we're reading about altruism, education, activism, and radical hospitality. Those things are transferable beyond a political or religious viewpoint. In fact, raising children who value life can be independent from any particular faith orientation, allowing our children to impact the church community & wider culture.

Teach your children about the sanctity of their lives. By doing that, by talking openly about the identity that God has given them, it's only natural that this will shape their view of others.

So...

## What can you do?

Here is a small list of ways to practically teach, through intentionality and action, the values of pro-life to our children:

- When reading the Bible, focus on the person of Jesus. He came to us and for us, and He is with us today. Why? Because God has placed irrevocable value on our lives, value that cannot be taken away. Through the stories in the Bible, we see God's rescue plan unfold- a plan to reconcile us to the Father through the precious blood of Jesus.
- Read scripture verses with your children about the value God places on human life.
- Talk to kids about pregnancy! Almost every family has a friend who is expecting a baby or has

a baby in their home. Explain how pregnancy works, how babies develop, etc. Speak about these things in such a way that kids come to learn about their holiness and sacredness.

- If you know someone who is facing an unexpected pregnancy, invite them into your home and offer your time, attention, wisdom, kindness, acceptance, and love.
- Adopt a child (if you can and you feel like that is what God is calling you to!).
- As a family, spend time with families who have adopted or fostered children and get to know the heart behind why they do it.
- Babysit for families who have adopted/foster children to give the parents a date night.
- Make meals for families who have adopted/foster – make and deliver meals with your children and include them!
- Babysit for a family who has a child with disabilities.
- Become a host home for [Safe Families for Children](#).
- Provide a safe place or safe space to your child's friends who might have a difficult and challenging home life. Mentorship can move mountains!
- Open your home to your children's friends or teammates. Be involved in the lives of your children and get to know their friends.

Teaching our children to be genuinely pro-life requires intentional and often-times, inconvenient actions. As with all things, [it is imperative to look at the example Jesus gave us while here on Earth](#). I mean, talk about someone who was pro-life. Christ served others relentlessly, and ultimately, He willingly surrendered his life so we could have eternal life. He gave up Heaven's comforts to sacrifice everything for us – those formed in His image.

<https://anglicansforlife.org/2022/04/11/teaching-kids-about-the-sanctity-of-life/>

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

### FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK

May has five Sundays which means a parish potluck on May 29 after the 11:00 service! Plan to bring something tasty to contribute to the meal.

### THE COFFEE HOUR

It is wonderful to see people sign up to help with the coffee hour tasks! More volunteers are always needed. The sign-up notebook is on the table near the kitchen:

- Make Coffee
- Bring Snacks (either service)
- Clean up after the 11:00 Coffee Hour.

### BISHOP ACKERMAN'S VISIT

Bishop Keith Ackerman is scheduled to visit St. Francis on June 12, Trinity Sunday. To celebrate his visit, the St. Polycarp's Men's Group will transfer the BBQ luncheon from June 5 to June 12 and supply the meat for the meal. The St. Clare's Guild members will provide the rest of the food. All that is needed is for you to attend the luncheon!

### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The first Thursday of May is designated the National Day of Prayer and this year the 71st Annual Event falls on May 5. The 2022 theme is: **Exalt the Lord who has established us.**

The theme verse is "*Therefore as you have received Christ, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*" *Colossians 2:6-7.*

At St. Francis, additional prayers for this day will be offered during Evening Prayer at 7 p.m.

Other observances held around the Austin area:

- 7 - 7:45 a.m., Burnet County Courthouse, corner of S. Pierce and E. Washington in Burnet
- 7 - 8:30 p.m. Courtyard Prayer at Bannockburn Church in South Austin, 7100 Brodie Lane Austin, TX 78745
- Noon - 1 p.m. Capitol of Texas Prayer Event in the Texas Capitol Rotunda.
- Noon - 1 p.m. Cedar Park National Day of Prayer Event at the Cedar Park Police Station, 911 Quest Pkwy, Cedar Park TX. 78613

### LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

The food collected during Lent was delivered in two loads to the food pantry at St. Louis Catholic Church

on Burnet Road. They didn't have a scale to measure the food, but we filled up two large flat bed carts with food. The same food filled the trunk, plus some in the back seat of the Crandells' car two times. The food was well received. Bea Dela Rosa, the Director of Social Ministries at St. Louis asked to pass along a big **'Thank You!'** to us for the donations.

### ONGOING COLLECTIONS

Now that the food drive is completed, we go back to collecting items for the Trotter House (a pregnancy resource center) and for Mobile Loaves and Fishes.

Trotter House accepts:

- Diapers, bottles, teething toys, new or gently used clothing and toys
- Monetary donations can be made at: <https://www.betterunite.com/TrotterHouse-alwayson>
- For more information go to: <https://www.trotterhouse.org/>

Mobile Loaves and Fishes accepts:

- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, almost any hygiene item)
- New or gently used clothing for adults and children
- Monetary donations can be made at: <https://give.mlf.org/give/138838/#!/donation/checkout>
- For more information, go to <https://mlf.org/>.

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Amy Crandell
- 3 Mary Griffin
- 4 Cathy Stevenson
- 8 Veronica Armstrong
- 9 Randy Scheer
- 10 Michael Jones
- 17 Sandy Scheer
- 19 Ikenna Ifesineke, Chimzi Eziechile, Marsha Crosby
- 30 Champ Cooper

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Tristan and Regina DeBord
- 21 Michael Adams and Kerry Manning
- 23 Claude and Missy Bernard
- 30 Don and Marci Brown
- 31 Ben and Shirley Ellis, Thomas Sager and RobinRuth Alexander

## ADULT CATECHISM CLASS

Did you ever wonder what is discussed in the weekly adult catechism class? The best way to find out is to join it and see for yourself. The catechism we use is organized so as to permit the material to be read and understood in small pieces. The class, which is held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., nearly always ends promptly at 7:30, because a suitable stopping point is always in view. You can join the class at any time, and you are not required to commit to any number of sessions.

Catechesis -- the formal teaching of a document called a catechism (which is a presentation of basic and important Christian principles) -- is a time-honored practice in the Church, and has been an important part of the Anglican Way since the beginning; the 1549 edition of the Book of Common Prayer contains a catechism nearly identical to the one found on pages 577-582 of our 1928 BCP. This brief document has been used for centuries in the instruction of children who had been baptized as infants and needed preparation for Confirmation. However, the adult catechism class is using a much more detailed, book-length catechism intended for use by all who seek a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith. It is an excellent resource for adults who count themselves believers and who recognize the need to improve their own understanding of the Faith once delivered.

The book *To be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism* is organized into four sections:

- Beginning with Christ
- Believing in Christ
- Belonging to Christ
- Becoming like Christ

Within the four sections are a series of short questions with slightly longer answers with citing Bible verses that support both. We discuss the question and the answer and move quickly through the Bible verses.

As of the writing of this article, the group is in the third section "Belonging to Christ", working through questions on the Lord's Prayer. The text to questions is shared on the screen for all to view, along with the Bible verses in another document.

Here are samples of what we discuss:

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### 162. Why should you practice the Lord's Prayer?

I should pray the Lord's Prayer regularly because it teaches me to pray as Jesus commanded and to desire what his Father wills. (*Psalm 34; Matthew 12:46-50; 26:36-44; 1 John 5:14-15*).

### 163. How is the Lord's Prayer a pattern for prayer?

The Lord's Prayer models the primary types of prayer: praise of God, intercession for his rule, petition for his provision and protection, and confession of sins. I should pray regularly in all these ways. (*Psalm 150; Isaiah 63:7-64:12; Acts 9:36-43; 3 John 2*)

### 164. What are the parts of the Lord's Prayer?

The traditional form of the Lord's Prayer begins by addressing God the Father, makes seven petitions, adds a doxology, and concludes with "Amen."

The next few months will be discussion on the Lord's Prayer. In the end, this results in a mini-Lord's Prayer course, but at a pace of 30 minutes, once a week.

Please consider joining us! We have about 9-10 people who regularly join in and want to spread the word that the half hour spent in discussion is well worth the effort. We all find value in this class and want to encourage others to join us.

An email is sent out each Wednesday morning with the link to the Zoom meeting.

## BIBLE STUDY GROUPS FOR ADULTS

- **Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.** via Zoom. Currently reading through Genesis. This group has 8-12 participants from St. Francis as well as non-members. Doug Cooper is the coordinator.
- **2nd and 4th Fridays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** at the home of Angie and Steve McCown in far south Austin in the Shady Hollow neighborhood (off of Brody Lane). This group discusses the upcoming lectionary lessons. Currently up to 11 St. Francis members and friends attend.
- **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. The Bible study lasts until 2 p.m., and up to 6 are present. Amy and Jim Crandell are organizing this group.

Email [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org) if you would like to join any of the groups.

## READINGS FOR MAY

### 5/1 2 after Easter (link to readings)

- Acts 9:1-19a
- Psalm 33:1-11
- Revelation 5:6-14
- John 21:1-14

### 5/8 3 after Easter (link to readings)

- Acts 13:15-16, 26-33
- Psalm 100
- Revelation 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30

### 5/15 4 after Easter (link to readings)

- Acts 13:44-52
- Psalm 145:1-9
- Revelation 19:1, 4-9
- John 13:31-35

### 5/22 5 after Easter (link to readings)

- Acts 14:8-18
- Psalm 67
- Revelation 21:22-22:5
- John 14:23-29

### 5/26 Ascension Day (link to readings)

- Acts 1:1-11
- Psalm 47
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Luke 24:49-53

### 5/29 6 after Easter (link to readings)

- Acts 16:16-34
- Psalm 47
- Revel. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20
- John 17:20-26

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.
- On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, the psalm is chanted during the 11:00 service. The pointing is based on the Cathedral Psalter and is available on our website.

## MAY 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 following the service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for youth (last day is May 22)

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion in person, live streamed 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, May 7

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

### 2nd and 4th Fridays, May 13 and May 27

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

### 2nd & 4th Sundays, May 8 and May 22

~12:45 - 2 p.m. Luncheon and Bible study in person at the church.

### 2nd Monday, May 9

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

### 3rd Monday, May 16

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Readers of First Things group online meeting. Contact Karl Stephan at [kdstephan@txstate.edu](mailto:kdstephan@txstate.edu) to join the online meeting via Zoom or come in person to the fellowship hall.

### 4th Friday, May 27

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

### 5th Sunday, May 29

~12:15 p.m. 5th Sunday Potluck in the Fellowship Hall.

To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto: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 Alameda St.

Fort Worth, TX 76108

<http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>

**Bishop:** The Rt. Rev'd Ryan Reed

**Rector:** Fr. Len Giacolone (until May 1)

**Music Director:** Betty Lin Gallardo

**Parish Administrator:** Mark Rambin

**Treasurer:** Grady Collins

### ***Vestry Officers***

**Senior**                      **Junior**

**Warden**                    **Warden**

Doug Cooper      David Norris

**Secretary**

Jim Crandell

### ***Vestry Members***

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer,

Dinah Arce, David Norris, Susan Rambin

## St. Francis Anglican Church

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Austin, TX 78727

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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.