

# The St. Francis Bulletin

## **FROM OUR RECTOR**

*Fr. Aaron Cappucci*

I would like to make explicit what was implicit in September and October's Parish Newsletters as it relates to our Collects and Lessons throughout the liturgical year. As is well-known among you, our parish holds to and utilizes the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. This has been primarily evidenced in and through our service of [Holy Communion](#). What has not been used is the weekly lectionary of our prayer book (that is, [the epistle and gospel lessons](#)).

With the advent of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year, our parish will not only continue following the weekly collects but also the weekly epistle and gospel lessons found in our Prayer Book. This is being done in consultation with Bishop Reed, as well as our vestry as we seek to continue to more fully embrace our Prayer Book. Robert Crouse (a noted Anglican pastor and theologian) has this to say regarding the lectionary of the 1928 Prayer Book:

*In the cycle of the Christian Year, in the ancient lectionary - that cycle of Epistle and Gospel lessons which has served the Church for well over a millennium, and still survives in our Book of Common Prayer - the essential message of Holy Scripture, God's word to us, is set before us in an orderly and supremely logical way. As we follow the lessons appointed for the Sundays and the great festivals, as we meditate upon them, as we open our minds and hearts to understand the pattern and meaning of them, we are led, step by step, into an ever deeper and clearer perception of Christian truth and the essentials of Christian life.*

In addition, on the second Sunday of each month, we will be saying Morning Prayer and Holy Communion together in one service. This is made possible by following the rubrics found within our Prayer Book – that is, it is nothing new but rather something ancient. It had been the custom of our parish to say Morning Prayer with Holy Communion once a month, however, this discipline was stopped during the covid years. By reintroducing Morning Prayer with Holy Communion, my hope is that it will help reinforce the disciplined use of the Daily Offices in our homes throughout the week.

Using our Prayer Book lectionary, along with the Daily Offices and Adult Sunday School, enables us together as a parish to be fully immersed in the reading and study of God's Holy Word from Genesis through Revelation. And in doing so, we will continue to plunge the depths of the riches of Christ as we worship and glorify Him both now and forever.

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

For the duration of Advent from the 3rd through the 24th, there will be no flowers on the altar. This bareness will be in strong contrast with the 12 days of Christmas and Epiphany when the altar and the entire church will be beautifully decorated with flowers and poinsettias. If you wish to make a donation for the poinsettias as a remembrance, memorial, or thank offering, please use an envelope from the table in the Narthex to enclose your donation. Fill the envelope front out as appropriate and place it in the basket on the same table.

### **CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICES**

Sunday, December 24 is both the 4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve. We have quite a schedule of services on the 24th and 25th!

#### **Dec. 24**

*10:00 am* - 4th Sunday in Advent Holy Communion Service

*4:00 pm* - Lessons and Carols

*9:00 pm* - Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service with music

#### **Dec. 25**

*10:00 am* - Christmas Day Holy Communion Service with music

### **PLEDGE DRIVE**

The annual pledge drive started in November, but cards will continue to be collected in December. The hope is that all of you have your pledges in by that time so that the Vestry can begin working on the budget for next year. You are encouraged to seek the Lord's guidance about your pledge, both for our Operating Fund as well as the Capital Campaign. We're doing God's work here and regardless of how things seem, the future is always bright in the kingdom.

### **5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON**

2023 ends on a 5th Sunday - New Year's Eve as well! This means there will be a potluck luncheon held after the 11:00 service on December 31. Plan to bring something tasty to eat to share with fellow parishioners to bring in the new year (sans the champagne and fireworks).

### **EPIPHANY CELEBRATION - JANUARY 6, 2024**

All are welcome to come to the St. Francis Epiphany celebration on January 6. Jim and Amy Crandell are hosting the event. Come to church at 6:15 p.m. to enjoy a candle-lit meal together, ending with King's Cake. At 7 p.m., we will have a laity-led Evensong including the St. Matthew reading of the wisemen visiting the Christ child. Please let Amy or Jim know if you would like to attend so that enough food can be prepared. Either speak to one of them or email [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org) to RSVP.

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SERVICE TIMES CHANGE**

Adult Sunday School will commence and service times will adjust accordingly beginning on January 7, 2024 (the first Sunday in January). The new schedule is listed below.

#### **Sunday Schedule beginning January 7, 2024**

8:30 am - Said Communion Service

9:30 am - Sunday school for all ages

10:30 am - Choral Holy Communion Service

## **INCREASED USE OF MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER**

To encourage the use of morning and evening prayer in your home and at church, all should be aware of the following resources:

- The Cradle of Prayer (<https://cradleofprayer.org/>) offers recordings for morning and evening prayers and free daily downloads, read directly from the pages of 1928 Book of Common Prayer. The hope is these readings and songs refresh your mind, heart, and soul as you walk in the path of our Lord together. You are welcomed to participate as you listen, where you might find yourself in a prayerful chapel with only your priest and cantor. It's time made for you without the distractions of our world. They provide a written copy of the service as well. Each service is about 15 minutes long.
- Common Prayer (<http://commonprayer.org/>) is an independent, privately sponsored collection of resources based on the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, especially the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer. CommonPrayer.org is not affiliated with or sponsored by any parish, diocese, province, or other ecclesiastical body; it is a personal ministry offered as a gift to those who love the 1928 BCP and traditional Anglican liturgy. They offer a place of prayer and peace to all, with no politics or agendas.
- Of course, you are welcome to have your own service. The lessons appointed for each day begin on page *x* of the prayer book, with the Morning Prayer liturgy beginning on page 3 and Evening Prayer on page 21.
- You are welcome to come to St. Francis Evening Prayer on Thursdays at 7 pm. Fr. Cappucci leads the 30 minutes service, with Jim Crandell leading the singing of the hymns and canticles and reading the lessons. There is even an option to participate via Zoom. Email [infor@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:infor@stfrancisaustin.org) for the link. Up to 15 people are now attending.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2023**

St. Francis youth packed 60 boxes for Operation Christmas Child on November 19! Thank you to everyone who donated gifts and funds for the boxes. Your thoughtfulness and generosity in choosing items is so appreciated, and the monetary gifts are equally appreciated. Please pray for the children who will be receiving these gifts. It is wonderful how much joy they bring.

## **TROTTER HOUSE ADOPT-A-FAMILY**

At Christmas time each year, St. Francis adopts a family from the Trotter house, a community outreach assisting women and families who have experienced an unplanned pregnancy. Funds were collected at the end of November to help a family or two with multiple needs - clothing, shoes, toys. The funds we collected were given to the Trotter House staff who will purchase the gifts for the family. Thank you to all who donated this year. We were able to provide the Trotter House with \$765.00, even with an abbreviated donation period.



## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

4	Ed and Ruth Ann Stillman
12	John and Veronica Armstrong
15	Mary and Clifford Collins
29	Ikenna and Ngozi Ifesineke

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3	Mack Lindsey
5	Elisante Msengi
11	Rick Fleming Fr. Aaron Cappucci
12	Ngozi Ifesineke
17	Ethan Hoyt
18	Angie McCown
19	Dinah Arce
30	Genevieve Hatley

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

### **Sundays**

- 9:15 a.m. Nursery is provided.  
9:30 a.m. Said Holy Communion. 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. Choral Holy Communion. Healing prayers after the service.

### **Tuesdays**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Bible Study online via [Zoom](#)

### **Thursdays**

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

## **DECEMBER CALENDAR**

### **Dec 2 - 1st Saturday**

10:00 a.m. Prayers for the Nation

### **Dec 8 - 2nd & 4th Friday (Dec 22)**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Home group at the McCown's house

### **Dec 10 - 2nd Sunday**

12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Church Small Group - upstairs at the church

### **Dec 11 - 2nd Monday**

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

### **Dec 18 - 3rd Monday**

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

### **Dec 24 - Christmas Eve**

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 4th Sunday in Advent Holy Communion

4:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

### **Dec 25 - Christmas Day**

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

### **Note on the calendar:**

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

## **READINGS FOR DECEMBER**

### **12/3 1 Advent ([Link to Readings](#))**

Romans 13:8-14  
St. Matthew 21:1-13

### **12/10 2 Advent ([Link to Readings](#))**

Romans 15:4-13  
Psalm 25  
St. Luke 21: 25-33

### **12/17 3 Advent ([Link to Readings](#))**

1 Corinthians 4:1 -5  
St. Matthew 11:2-10

### **12/24 4 Advent ([Link to Readings](#))**

Philippians 4: 4-7  
St. John 1:19-28

### **12/24 Lessons and Carols. 4 pm ([Link to Lessons](#))**

Genesis 3:8-15	Luke 2:1-7
Genesis 22:15-18	Luke 2:8-20
Isaiah 9:2-7	Matthew 2:1-12
Micah 5:2-4	John 1:1-14
Luke 1:26-38	

### **12/24 Christmas Eve, 9:00 pm ([Link to Readings](#))**

Titus 2:11-14  
St. Luke 2: 1-12

### **12/25 Christmas Day ([Link to Readings](#))**

Hebrews 1:1-12  
Johns 1: 1-14

### **12/31 1 after Christmas ([Link to Readings](#))**

Galatians 4: 1-7  
St. Matthew 1: 18-25

### **Notes on the Readings:**

- St. Francis follows the lectionary from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
- The text read is from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
- On the second Sunday of the month, we will use the Psalm appointed for that day in the Morning Prayer portion of the service.
- Each of the listed Sunday readings is linked to the corresponding page on <http://commonprayer.org/>

**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. Aaron Cappucci

**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. Aaron Cappucci, Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell,

Michael Ready, Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer,

Dinah Arce, Susan Rambin, Mack Lindsey

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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.