

# THE ST. FRANCIS BULLETIN

## FROM THE RECTOR

*Fr. Len Giacalone*

Ordinarily at this time of the year we would be talking about starting things up again after a long, hot summer. This year is different, however. You may have noticed that everything has been a bit different this year.

We have, of course, been able to maintain our worship services on a rather limited basis. Up to this time I have not seen enough attendance to warrant adding back the second service. I apologize to any of you who only come to the 11:00 am. I anticipate that at some point we will be back to two services, but it isn't time.

We are taking steps to get the nursery back but with all the guidelines regarding the pandemic, we have to be careful. I have been in contact with Missy Bernard who runs our Sunday School and nursery, and have decided that we will put off returning to Sunday School until October. The nursery will be staffed for children from 9:15 to 11:00 beginning August 30.

The corona virus has wreaked havoc on our country and the world. The back and forth advice and commands of our so called experts have added to the confusion and fear. There are some who believe that this was intentional. I'll withhold judgment on that (at least publicly) for the time being. I know this: people are suffering, and not just from the virus. The isolation, the fear and even panic, the total upheaval in our lives, all have caused us to question a lot of things. There is now, and has always been, One constant. There has never been a better time to spend more time with the One who can actually make sense out of what is going on. God has been trying to get our attention for a long time. He has provided us opportunity after opportunity to do so. The additional time spent at home during this siege is perfect to try to re-anchor ourselves in our One foundation. It is my hope that you are at least trying to do that. I assure you that it

will be more profitable than grousing about what we cannot change.

There have been a lot of calls for prayer, repentance and revival during this time and I want to make you aware of one national event coming at the end of September. On Saturday, September 26, Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, whose books many of you have read, will lead an event in Washington, D.C. calling for repentance and revival in our country. Cahn maintains, and I agree, that we are running out of chances to return to the Lord. In fact, this is called "The Return." I'm not going to provide you with the details. There is too much to put here. If you search for Jonathan Cahn, the Return, you will be able to find out all you need to know and how you can participate. The fact that this is set to take place approximately 40 days before our national election is also significant. Biblically, the number 40 has always indicated a period of struggle. Nothing could be truer now. The times in which we find ourselves are a turning point in the history of our country and our world. If the United States falls, so does the western world. We have some serious choices to make and we need to make them wisely.

It is not unusual that our collections go down during the summer months. The fact that our attendance has been sharply limited in recent months has not helped. Many of you have been very faithful in sending in your contributions to both our general and building funds. However, if that doesn't include you, please do what you can to get back in the game. We are not in dire straits yet, but we are behind. God bless you!

*Fr. Len can be reached at [Rector@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:Rector@stfrancisaustin.org)*

# REACHING OUT AND REACHING UP

*A Letter from Bishop Ryan Reed*

There are two lessons from the pandemic that I have learned over the last six months that I would like to share with the whole Diocese.

The first is the need for the saints of God to reach out. Probably at no other time since the Spanish flu has this need for Christians to reach out to others been so urgent. My neighbor is a nurse in the Covid ICU at a downtown hospital, and I have seen the look of exhaustion in her eyes and the toll of witnessing death after death. We have health care workers and first responders who are living daily with the stress of this virus. We have members who have had a family member die alone in a nursing home. They were not allowed to be with them in their final hours, and even their belongings were set out on the curb for them to pick up after the death. We have other seniors who have been locked away in assisted living centers or their own homes with no human contact for months on end. We have members of the clergy who are ministering in an exhausting time and under circumstances they never anticipated. They continually second guess their own decisions and suffer the same sadness that comes from social distancing, no in-person pastoral visits, and virtual classes and Bible studies. Many people around us are struggling with depression, anxiety, and loneliness. Sadly, every hour of the day, a veteran takes his or her own life in the United States. Death rates are up in almost every category, even when Covid is not directly responsible.

This is an age when we as Christians need to be reaching out to our neighbors, our family members, our co-workers, and our fellow brothers and sisters in the Church. We are equipped through prayer with the healing power of the Holy Spirit and the saving message of the Gospel, and now more than ever people are hungry for both healing and salvation. Just a personal connection may be all that is needed to open someone's heart to the saving love of Jesus. I pray our clergy are staying connected to the flock of Christ, and that the flock, in turn, is reaching out to those near to them.

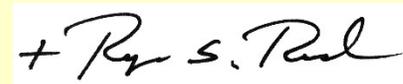
The second thing I've learned is that this is an age when more than ever we need to be reaching up. Despite many churches having closed to worship since March, we are doing all that we can to continue to offer up Word and Sacrament to the people of God and on behalf of the world. More than ever, the prayers of the saints are needed. Along with a raging pandemic, there is racial strife, attacks on law enforcement, rioting in cities, and the looting of businesses. This is a time when we are called to prayer and to worship. If you can't join your local congregation in person, take advantage of all the online opportunities that are offered throughout the Diocese and join other saints in prayer and in Spiritual Communion. The world needs our prayers, and the Church needs to be fed to do the work that God has called her to do.

It is time when we need to be courageous and cautious as well as challenging and charitable. The Christian faith is incarnational and grounded in relationship to God through Jesus and with one another through the Divine Life of the Holy Trinity. In the midst of social distancing, we must be intentional in our willingness to reach out to others and to reach up to God allowing our prayers to rise to heaven like incense.

May God protect, provide, and bless us today and in the coming months, and may we do all that we can in this age to bring glory to his name.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)

Because He lives,



Bishop Reed

P.S. If you need a Parish Roster, please email [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org).

## 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
- View newsletters on our website.

To change how you receive the newsletter, send an email to [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org).

## YOUR PLEDGES

Thank you to those of you who are keeping up your pledges!

During this time, it is essential that you do the best you can to maintain your pledges, both to the general fund as well as our building fund. The best way to do this is to send your contributions to the church at the mailing address:

**3401 Oak Creek Drive, Austin, TX 78727**

There is also the option to make your contributions on line on our website: <http://stfrancisaustin.org/>. Just click the donate button on the top right.



and follow the instructions. Thank you for your continued support.

## 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 table to enclose your donation. Fill the envelope front out as appropriate and place in the wooden box on the same table. You can also send in a check or make an electronic donation as you would a pledge and add a note that it is for flowers.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life is a volunteer-based prayer campaign that draws attention to the injustice of abortion through three simple avenues:

- Prayer and fasting
- Community outreach & Education
- Constant peaceful vigil

The fall 40 Days for Life campaign runs from Sept. 23 through Nov. 1.

Even with the pandemic, a prayer vigil will be held. It is quite easy to maintain the social distance and to wear a mask.

These grassroots efforts--like 40 Days for Life--change the abortion landscape, and you can help continue this change.

Austin is one of 588 cities around the world participating in the vigil.

There are three abortion clinics in Austin with the prayer vigil:

- Whole Women's Clinic on Duval Road
- Planned Parenthood on Ben White
- Austin Women's Health on South IH-35.

Go to <https://centraltexascoalition.com/signup/> to sign-up for an hour between 7 am and 7 pm.

## VOTING IN TEXAS

Do you know if you are 65 or older, sick or disabled, or plan to be out of the country during the election period, you can vote by mail in Travis County? Once you apply for and receive your ballot, there will be three locations where you can hand deliver your own voted mail-in ballot (with ID). Ballots will be accepted beginning October 13. Of course, you can mail the ballot in as well.

<https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/elections/ballot-by-mail.html> has all the information needed to vote by mail.

In person early voting will begin on Tuesday, October 13 through Friday, October 30 seven days a week. This website is a little sparse, but will have more information soon:

<https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/elections/current-election.html>.

Voting is always recommended.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Sunday school begins October 4! All classes are held during the 9:30 service. Missy Bernard will be teaching the younger class (kindergarten through 5th grade) and Doug Cooper will be teaching the older class (sixth grade and up). Sunday school students attend the beginning of the service for the readings, and move upstairs to the classrooms during the announcements. If your children are new to Sunday school at St. Francis, or if you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact Missy Bernard at nelson440@gmail.com.

It has been a long break! Everyone is looking forward to returning.

## **MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES**

By Amy Crandell

About a month ago, an appeal was made for gently used clothes, including shoes and socks. Four families responded and the truck was filled - for this one time.

I would like this to continue. Please look through the clothes in your house to see if any gently used clothing could be donated and brought to the church. There is a table in the entry hall to collect clothes.

Several people are asking who is getting the food and the clothes. At the last Truck Run, we stopped at:

1. Mehls and the Texas Motels in the 6700 block of North Lamar - a rather run down place where rooms can be rented by the week.
2. Drove up Lamar to the Thurmond Heights low-income housing on Lamar just north of 183.
3. Went east and made an unscheduled stop at a convenience store at Powell Lane and Lamar
4. Drove a couple miles east to the Georgian Manor low income housing off of Georgian Drive.

In the past, we have stopped for the homeless living underneath 183 between IH35 and Mopac, but probably won't go there any longer.

The Make Ready Team assembles the donated food into bags - enough for 100 meals. Yesterday, it took the team (Judy Reinart, Champ Cooper, and me) about 45 minutes to make the meals.

The Mobile Loaves and Fishes organization has identified pockets all around Austin where food insecure families live.

A Truck Run team lead (me in this case) chooses 3-4 places where the meals could be handed out in about an hour. I had a partner from St. Louis Church who helped., but sometimes, Jim helps. We were glad to give out all the food in an hour.

This is always a group of appreciative people. Many were delighted in the large number of clothing items yesterday. We were delighted when a 10 year old boy ran around one of the housing projects to let people know we were here. This was a great way to reach more people.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Our Altar Guild is an essential part of the service. Each Sunday, the Sanctuary is setup for the Communion service in a very particular way. After the service, the reverse is done. Even with the pandemic, this group has continued their service every Sunday. Many thanks to Becky Hunt, the fearless leader and members Shirley Ellis, Eileen Cole, Susan Rambin, Nancy Critchfield-Jones., Roy Jones, Judy Reinhart, Lavanna Martin, and Cesiah Molina. When there is interest (and when the pandemic is over), Becky organizes the Junior Altar Guild.

## **ANGLICANS FOR LIFE**

The AFL group continues to support the Trotter House - a pregnancy resource center that we have supported for many years.

Donations of diapers wipes, and other baby things for the Trotter House continue to be needed. They particularly need sizes 1 & 6 diapers, wipes, baby bottles, and specifically "Similac Advanced" formula. Please leave the your donation in the entry hall.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

### Sundays

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion in-person, live streamed and recorded. Nursery is provided from 9:15-11:00 a.m.

### September 14

6:00 p.m. Vestry meeting

### Thursdays

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer in-person and via Zoom at the church (Except on September 3)

### Tuesdays

7:00 - 7:40 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](mailto:kdstephan@txstate.edu) to join the online meeting via Zoom.

### September 12

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

### September 18

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

### 4th Friday

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

### Notes:

- For now, the 9:30 service will be live streamed on Facebook and recorded and posted to the web site.
- Sunday school classes will begin Oct. 4
- To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org).

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Mark & Susan Rambin
- 6 Steve & Angie McCown
- 10 Franklin & Donna Hunt
- 16 Brian & Kerry Glenn

## SEPTEMBER SUNDAY

### READINGS

#### 9/6 13 after Trinity (link)

- Ezekiel 33:1-11
- Psalm 119:33-40
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 18:15-20

#### 9/13 14 after Trinity (link)

- Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7
- Psalm 103:8-13
- Romans 14:5-12
- Matthew 18:21-35

#### 9/20 15 after Trinity (link)

- Jonah 3:10-4:11
- Psalm 145:1-8
- Philippians 1:21-27
- Matthew 20:1-16

#### 9/27 16 after Trinity (link)

- Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
- Psalm 25:3-9
- Philippians 2:1-13
- Matthew 21:28-32

#### *Notes on the readings:*

- St. Francis follows the 1979 BCP Lectionary for the lessons We are in Pentecost of Year A. 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](http://LectionaryPage.net).
- The Sunday collects and text of the psalms are generally from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Tara Montalvo, Ruth Ann Stillman
- 4 Judy Bernard
- 7 Eileen Cole
- 9 Margery Lindsey
- 10 Hally Glenn
- 15 Michelle Collins
- 18 Curran Peter Hatley
- 20 Kimberly Norris, Adriane Kristo-Reinking
- 21 David Kristo-Reinking, John Armstrong
- 23 Eileen Goodrich
- 24 Stephen Jon Moss



## 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**

TBD

### **Vestry Members**

Jim Britt, Donna Hunt, David Kristo-Reinking

Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, Michael Ready

Christina Hatley, Vacant

Fr. Len Giacolone

## St. Francis Anglican Church

3401 Oak Creek Drive  
Austin, TX 78727

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512-472-7514

E-Mail:  
[info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org)

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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.