

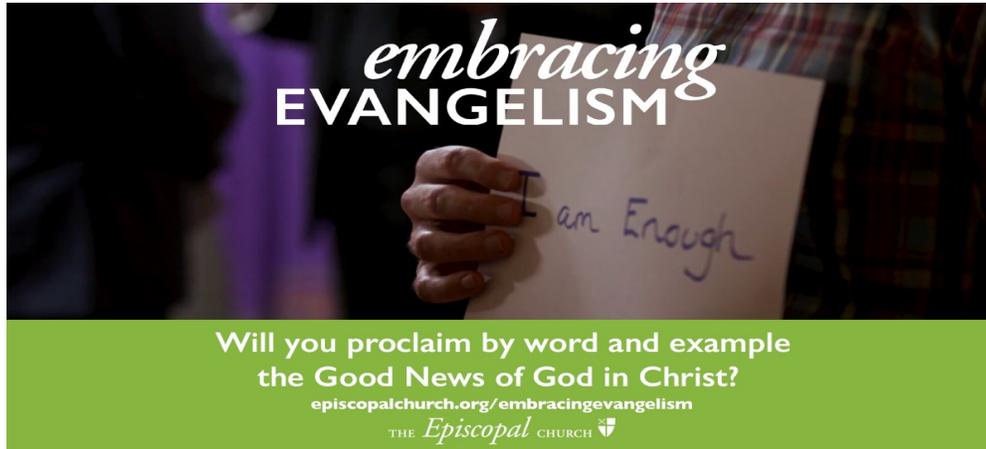


Saint Francis Journal

March, 2023



A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom



“37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40 And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ Matthew 25:37-40 NRSV

I believe this passage is an excellent example of how we can be Jesus in the world through evangelism. You see, when we take the six-week course on Embracing Evangelism this Lent, we will not only be learning how to speak to God's activity in our own lives, but we will also learn to listen. We learn to listen for God's activity in the lives of those we engage in our story-sharing discussions. While the larger message in this passage of Matthew above is more about who has experienced God through helping others in their lives and who hasn't, the passage above points to listening.

Jesus was listening, and being helped, through those that fed, gave drink, clothed, and visited others. When people share their stories and say they have not experienced God's activity in their lives, as trained evangelists we will point out that in helping others they were helping Jesus. The evangelism is the Good News

that people do not even know what they are doing is already being a follower of Jesus, and already being examples of God's activity in the world. For we all have been given gifts by the Holy Spirit and we have been already using them. What people need is for others to point that out – like Jesus does above. We do this by listening.

I believe it is important for everyone in the congregation to be exposed to doing this work. This work of sharing God's activity in our lives with Jesus as the moral example through the gifts of the Holy Spirit as being the work we are called to do. We are called to do this work in response to Jesus' sacrifice delivering us all from sin and death.

This month, for evangelism, let's not talk about Jesus' activity in our own lives. Let's listen for Jesus' activity in the lives of those we engage in story sharing. Once done listening, when the other is done sharing their story, then it is time to reflect on that activity and tell them the Good News of how Jesus is in their life when they feed, give drink, clothe, and visit others. When they do these things, they are doing those things for Jesus.

And that is Good News.

God's Peace, Mitch+



Embracing Evangelism

This year St. Francis is going to focus on evangelism. We will be doing a six week study as a church during Lent. There will be one class each week of Lent and it will be offered three times during the week. That is how much I want to encourage participation. The times are:

- Sundays between services, 9:45 to 10:30am.
- Wednesdays following the Healing Eucharist around 12:30pm.
- Wednesdays at 6:00pm.

We will also post the videos on Thursdays.

I want to encourage you to come to this series, even if you can only make it in part. The videos are nice but to experience the discussion is priceless.

See you there!

Fr. Mitch & Kathy Clark

VESTRY

Lisa Kraus, Senior Warden (2024)
Jeremy Cole, Junior Warden (2025)

Todd Lestage (2023)
Paul Streufert (2023)
Doug Clark (2024)
Nancy Earls (2024)
Claire Hodges (2025)
Gipsy Schneider (2025)
Kathy Dunn, Clerk

A Word from Joel...



Lenten Change

Lent is a time when we choose to be changed. The focus is often on what we decide to give up or take up for the 40 days leading up to Easter. But often the purpose of that sacrifice is overlooked. Why do we give up sweets, alcohol, or limit our time on social media? The purpose is to make room in our lives to be changed somehow. What kind of change are we hoping for? That we'll have more time to do the things we like? That our bodies will feel better? It could also be a change in our awareness. We may find that we don't have to lean on the things of this world as much as we thought we did. And we might find that ultimately our lives depend on the grace and love that God is pouring forth into our lives on continuous, eternal basis. It was just our perspective that needed a little adjusting to see that beautiful reality coming into view.

Lenten Blessings,
Fr. Joel+



March 12th

Set your clocks 1 hour ahead OR you'll miss church!!



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, Mar. 4th, at **8:30am**
Parish Hall
Sign up in Hallway

Church Under a Bridge Prep
Saturday, Mar. 4th, at 10am



Education Building
Still need sleeping bags, blankets, tents, gloves

DOK Meeting
Saturday, Mar 4th, 9am
Adult Ed Room



Spiritual Gifts <https://spiritualgiftquiz.org/>

Conversation on Race
Sunday, Mar. 12th, Noon
Adult Ed Rm * Lunch Provided



New Mower is Here!

Alberto looks sharp on St. Francis' new John Deere Z-turn mower.

Widows Group Now Grief Group

Anyone who is dealing with grief can come, share, and receive comfort from people who understand.

Wednesdays * 2pm * Parish Hall

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Katherine Chapman (3/6)

Jacquelynn DeOrnellas (3/7)

John Glenn (3/8)

Wayne Yeargain (3/10)

Nancy Earls (3/14)

Laurie Barham (3/14)

Gay Barron (3/16)

Ginnie Boudreau (3/19)

Frank Barat (3/21)

Ann Bush (3/21)

Macy Cabell (3/22)

Patti Pinkerton (3/26)

Julian Tabri (3/28)

Todd Lestage (3/29)

Judy Kovic (3/29)

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Derik & Courtney Gray (3/14)

Andy & Michelle Wells (3/16)



Living Well Through Lent 2023

Practicing Compassion with All Your
Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind

Sundays, between services, through Palm Sunday, in the Library
Facilitated by Sandra Dugan and Ann Bush

Booklets available for home devotion in the Narthex

“Lent is a time for introspection and self-reflection, a time to reflect on the core of what it means to live a Christian life in the midst of great change and uncertainty. When facing change and uncertainty, practicing compassion becomes more central to that life so we are freer to both receive and share the healing love of God.”

Introduction; p.10; *Living Well Through Lent 2023*

The Bishop is Coming!

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, Bishop of the Diocese of Texas

Sunday, March 19th, 10:45am Service

Confirmation Sunday

No 8:30am Service

He will also perform any baptisms, receptions and reaffirmations and visit with the vestry.

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Taking the Blessed Sacrament to those who are sick or homebound is a sacred duty. The Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) assists in this central act of the Christian liturgy, feeding the faithful with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, this ministry is not to be taken lightly but is to be understood as a sacred trust. LEM also allows those people who cannot attend feel a part of the congregation. If you feel called to do this work, contact Fr. Joel and let him know. He is revitalizing this ministry that was interrupted by Covid-19 shutdown. He will be setting up training and a distribution schedule.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Jordan & Katherine Chapman Baby Shower & Joey (Josephine) Born Jan 26th



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Web site: www.stfrancist Tyler.org

facebook

www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler



March Special Events

Sat. March 4, 8:30am

Men's Sponsored Breakfast

Sat. March 4, 9:00am

DOK Meeting

Sat. March 4, 10:00am

Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep

Sat. March 4, 6:00pm

Ladies Night Out at Pinot's Palette

Sun. March 12, noon

Conversation on Race

Sun. March 19, 10:45am

Confirmations—Bs. Doyle Visitation

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR MARCH

Subject to change due to COVID restrictions
Nursery available from 8:00 am—1:00 pm

Sunday

- 8:30 am: Rite I—No music
- 9:30 am: Adult—Embracing Evangelism—Adult Ed Rm
Adult—Living Well thru Lent—Library
Confirmation Class—Office A
Children—Sunday School—Children Ed Room
- 10:45 am: Rite II—Traditional Music
Live-Stream on YouTube
- 6:00 pm: Yoga—Children's Ed Room

Wednesday

- Noon: Healing Eucharist
- 12:30pm: Embracing Evangelism—Parish Hall
Lenten Luncheon provided by DOK—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: Grief Support Group—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: God's Grace—St. Clare's
- 6:00pm: Embracing Evangelism—Parish Hall
- 7:00 pm: Choir Practice—Sanctuary

Thursday

- 5:00 pm: Handbell Practice—Music Room