



Saint Francis Journal

February 2024



A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
John 3:16-17 NRSV

“We’ve got this, with God’s help.” – St. Francis Episcopal Church, most Sundays, and other days

The season of Lent stirs up feelings in me that I find it hard to explain sometimes. I get a little sad for some reason. Maybe it is my Roman Catholic upbringing where we are to be sad for the sins we committed, and during this season of Lent, especially so. Because it was for these sins that we sacrifice something during Lent to suffer alongside our Christ. That these forty days of no Alleluias, dark vestments, and somber music, are for nothing more than a painful reflection that we as humans fail a lot. That is enough to make anyone feel a little melancholy during these long, dark, dusty, repentant, forty days.

And if that is not enough, I am reminded that this year Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day are on the same day. Again. Which may also explain my melancholy

state. It was Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday when I saw an image that will forever be burned into my mind. It was a woman, and mom, in tears holding another mom, also in tears. The one holding the other mom had a big heart shaped piece of jewelry hanging around her neck and a black cross smudged on her forehead. It was Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day in 2018. That day many children lost their lives due to a school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Sad days like that can take the joy out of life. It makes faith seem fragile, hope elusive, and love difficult if not all but impossible. Some days, “we don’t got this.”

There is another feeling that Lent stirs up in me as well. One that makes faith solid, hope present, and love easy. This feeling of joyful expectation comes from the knowledge that in forty days we celebrate something completely AMAZING! This feeling comes from the unconditional love of God!

Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, God made flesh, was sent not to condemn but to save. After the resurrection, the work had been done. We could not do it on our own.

Here is the deal: this thing that happened, the Resurrection, this wonderful event does not take away the pain when terrible things happen. We might hurt deeply sometimes. What it does do is remind us that when all is said and done, when Jesus comes again, is that we will never feel such pain again. We will know only love. And only ‘with God’s help’.

God’s Peace,
Mitch+



VESTRY

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

Doug Clark (2024)
Nancy Earls (2024)
Claire Hodges (2025)
Gipsy Schneider (2025)
Dan Amy (2026)
Jay DeOrnellas (2026)
Andy Wells (2026)
Jane Johnson, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

The Very Rev. Mitch Tollett, Rector
Dr. Cameron Rose, Director of Music
Hailey Matthews, Children/Youth Director
Carol Lanthrum, Parish Administrator
Susan Kohler, Treasurer
Alberto Cruz, Sexton



St. Francis will be holding a silent auction and bake sale to raise funds for the purchase of at least one automated external defibrillator (AED). AEDs shock the heart to restore a normal rhythm when the heart stops beating or is in ventricular fibrillation (bottom of the heart is out of sync). Technology has improved to the point that AEDs assess the rhythm of the heart and will not apply a shock when not required. AEDs tell you what to do and when to do it. The cost for a new AED system is approximately \$1,500.

The folks of St. Francis are donating time, treasure, and talent for the auction. Father Mitch and Camille are offering a spaghetti dinner with dessert and wine for eight to be hosted in their elegant home. A donated basket contains assorted wines and a \$75 gift card for Nourish ETX, a new restaurant and gourmet market in Bergfeld Center. Beautiful original paintings and handcrafted items will be available. Uncle John John's Cakes will be providing delicious baked goods. You will even have the opportunity to purchase St. Francis shirts and swag. Items will be up for auction before and after both services on February 4th and 11th. The auction will end at 6:45pm on February 13th, during the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Please have a heart and help us with this important purchase.

[https://www.osha.gov/aed#:~:text=An%20automated%20external%20defibrillator%20\(AED,responsible%20for%20sudden%20cardiac%20arrest.](https://www.osha.gov/aed#:~:text=An%20automated%20external%20defibrillator%20(AED,responsible%20for%20sudden%20cardiac%20arrest.)



Auction items still being accepted. Contact Lisa Kraus at 903-920-3880 or cabell.family@yahoo.com

Souper Bowl Sunday

St. Francis will once again participate in the Tackle Hunger Souper Bowl of Caring. Brad Smith, a Presbyterian seminary intern, delivered the following prayer to his youth group in 1990, "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This small prayer led to a huge movement to address hunger. Organizations throughout the country collect contributions on Super Bowl Sunday to support local charities that feed those in need. We are collecting for the Church under a Bridge fund, which pays for sack lunches for 125 Tyler residents the first Sunday of each month. <https://tacklehunger.org/about-us/our-history>

Look for our adorable youth in the narthex holding pots to collect loose change, bills, and checks on February 11th



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lara Tabri (2/2)

Janice Teasdale (2/3)

Dave Meyer (2/6)

Michelle Wells (2/11)

Freddy Hodges (2/15)

Carol Lee (2/15)

Pat Sarubbi (2/21)

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Royal & Joyce Daniels (2/24)

Charlie & Dotty Hillis (2/28)

Young-at-Heart Food Deliveries

Still collecting shelf-stable food. Place in container in Narthex.

- Mac & cheese with cheese in pouches
- Canned vegetables, especially beans, as they are high-protein sources
- Canned soups and fruit
- Canned or pouched meats; canned pasta
- Shelf-stable milk is especially helpful to put on cereal
- Small containers of instant coffee; tea bags; hot cocoa mixes



****Church Under a Bridge still collecting packing blankets through the winter****
 Get them at Harbor Freight for about \$10

Sat. Feb. 3rd
***Breakfast for All * 8:30a**
Parish Hall
 DOK Meeting * 9a
 Adult Ed Rm
 *CUB Lunch Prep *
 * 10a * Ed Bldg*

'Gal'entine Dessert Party
 Sat. Feb 3rd * 2:30p to 4p *
 Parish Hall 
 All women welcome*Bring a friend
 Call 936-366-5506 if you need a ride

Free Pancake Dinner
February 13, 2024
6 pm - 7 pm
in Parish Hall

ST. FRANCIS
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 TYLER, TEXAS



McAlister's
 Christmas Card

Ash Wednesday * February 14th
Ashes-to-Go 7:30-8:30am
Ash Wed Services
Noon & 6pm

Lenten Healing Services
Begin February 21st at noon
Followed by Lenten Lunches



At the movie
 "The Case for Love"



All Church Photo * January 14, 2024

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facebook

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WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday

- 8:30 am Nursery available from 8:00 am—12:00 pm
Rite I—No music
- 9:30 am Episcopal 101
Adult Gospel Lectionary Discussion
Children/Youth Sunday School
- 10:45 am Rite II—Traditional Music
Live-Stream on FaceBook & YouTube
- 6:00 pm Yoga—Children's Ed Room

Wednesday

- Noon **Ash Wed February 14th—Lent Begins**
Rite II Eucharist Service—Feb 7th only
Healing Service/Lenten Lunch—Feb. 21st & 28th
- 12:30pm Bible Study—Parish Hall—Feb 7th & 14th
- 1:00pm Bible Study begins at 1p on Feb. 21st & 28th
- 2:00 pm Grief Support Group—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm God's Grace—St. Clare's
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Thursday

- 5:00 pm Handbell Practice—Music Room

Conversation on Race

Several members of St. Francis are attending the 11am service at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday, Feb 4th in recognition of Black History Month. Fr. Rob Jerger will celebrate. St. John's is a historically black church and is located at 514 W. Vance in Tyler. Join us!

Conversation on Race will meet in the Adult Ed Room on Sunday Feb. 11th right after the 10:45 am service. Lunch is provided. This month, Alberto is making pozole for us! Our speaker will Greg Muckleroy, board member on the Tyler African American Museum and he will speak on Black history in East Texas. Join us!

The MLK March and our January meeting were cancelled due to the bad weather. We ate the beans and rice anyway—cleaned the pot! Hope you got some.

Got questions? See Roy Barron

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
 - Matthew 6:21 NRSV

When it comes to stewardship we all pledge the time, talent, and treasure that we know we can give. For what you and I pledge to support the ministries of St. Francis, we are thankful.

Please continue to give an extra \$5-\$10-\$20 in the offering plate for I do believe it has been an integral part of sharing out of our abundance.

So bring a friend: George, Abraham, Alexander, Andrew, Harriet, and some of their friends. Together we can continue to fully support the ministries of St. Francis!

Peace,
 Mitch+

February Special Events

Sat. February 3, 8:30am
 Breakfast for All

Sat. February 3, 9:00am
 DOK Meeting

Sat. February 3, 10:00am
 Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep

Sat. February 3, 2:30-4:00pm
 "Gal"entine's Dessert Party

Sun. February 4, 8:00am-Noon
 AED Silent Auction begins

Fri/Sat. February 9 & 10
 Diocesan Council in Waco

Sun. February 11, 12:00pm
 Conversation on Race
 (AED Silent Auction continues all am)

Tues. February 13, 6:00-7:00pm
 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 AED Silent Auction concludes

Wed. February 14
 Ashes-to-Go 7:30-8:30am
 Ash Wednesday Services
 Noon & 6:00pm

Fri/Sat. February 16 & 17
 Vestry Retreat

Tues. February 20, 11:30am
 Out-to-Lunch Bunch at Bruno's

Wed. February 21, 12:00pm
 Healing Service & Lenten Lunches Begin