

APRIL 2023

Franciscan
a monthly publication of
St. Francis Episcopal Church



**THE PILGRIM PRIEST PONDERES
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection from the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, the Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testify of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. [I Corinthians 15:12-16]

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach the Sunday of the Resurrection, it is imperative that we grasp all that this fundamental belief means. Christ was raised bodily from the dead. A new imperishable body, which is both continuous with - and discontinuous with - the body that was placed in the tomb. The empty tomb was no metaphor – he who was buried in the tomb rose to new and everlasting life by the power of God. This is fundamental to our belief as Christians.

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“A Publication of St. Francis Episcopal Church—“Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed.”

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But what about the rest of us? What happens to us when we die? For many (if not most) Christians in Western society, we die, we leave our bodies to return to the earth, and our souls ascend to be united to Christ in heaven forever.

At best, this is a very incomplete understanding of what happens when we die. At its worst, it is a repeat ancient heresy. As Bishop N.T. Wright reminds us, heaven is simply a way station, a temporary stop, between our former lives on this earth and our new lives (in resurrected bodies) on a new earth.

How does this happen? The answer is clearly beyond my pay grade! But that is why we call this the "Mystery of Faith". Somehow what remains of our body after we die (be it a complete body or cremains) becomes the seed for our new bodies. Yes, we will be with Christ forever, but not as disembodied spirits (much less as angels) but as new bodies in a new creation.

I'll be thinking about this as I bring the cremains of my brother Burt back to Cincinnati to be buried next to my adoptive parents. By the grace and mercy of God, I will be "planting" the seed of Burt's body to be raised in a new, immortal body, along with my birth parents, my adoptive parents and all others who have put their trust in Christ.

In this summer's Salon Series we will be discussing the question "What Happens When I Die?" from both a theological and a practical view. Come with questions, and together we will look at the answers in Scripture, in the Book of Common Prayer, and in the laws of the State of Ohio.

Besides Burt, I just learned that the former husband of my dear cousin Beth has died. Please keep Tom Faris and his family in your prayers.....

.....and hope for the New Creation!

Your brother in Christ,
David+

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Stations of the Cross
2 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	3 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	4 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	5 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	6 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Alanon 7:30 pm	7 Crosswalk 11:45 am Good Friday 6:30 pm	8
9 Resurrection Sunday Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt	10 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	11 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	12 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	13 Alanon 7:30 pm	14 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	15 Vestry Retreat
16 Morning Prayer 10:30 am	17 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	18 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	19 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	20 Alanon 7:30 pm	21 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	22
23 Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	24 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	25 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	26 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	27 Alanon 7:30 pm	28 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	29
30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am						

April Birthdays



Patricia Prendergast on April 2

Ebelechukwu Oduah on April 25

Mary Harris on April 27



If your name does not appear on our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.



The Salon Series will continue to meet in the library, starting at 9:00 am and ending at 10:00 am SHARP.

No previous knowledge of the Gospel is necessary, but it will be helpful to bring your Bible to our discussions.

The Salon Series will be on hiatus starting Easter Sunday (April 9) through Pentecost Sunday (May 28). We will resume on Trinity Sunday (June 4) and meet through the summer.

Any questions, contact Fr. David.



Welcome Holy Week & Easter

April 2 - April 9, 2023

Palm Sunday

April 2 at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion

The Liturgy of the Palms will begin outdoors, with procession to the Nave and celebration of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Maundy Thursday

April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, Foot Washing, and the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Crosswalk with Springboro Churches at 11:45 a.m.

Good Friday Service with music and Communion from Reserved Sacrament

Easter Sunday

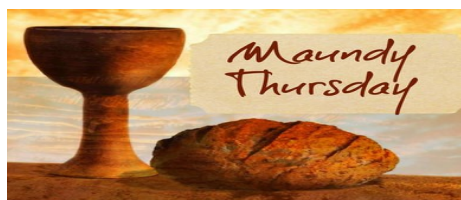
Resurrection Sunday

April 9 at 10:30 a.m. *with music*



The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday is on Sunday, **April 2** and will begin outdoors (weather permitting) with *The Liturgy of the Palms*; after which we will process to the nave to celebrate Holy Eucharist, Rite II. St. Francis needs Readers for The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Palm Sunday. If you are interested, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Foyer to choose who you want to be. Or speak to Fr. David Bailey.

If you would like to memorialize a loved one, or express thanksgiving for God's many blessings through your donation of **Easter Flowers**, please fill out the needed information on the form found on the Foyer table. Mark checks payable to St. Francis and mark the memo "Easter Flowers". Please submit the forms to the office by Wednesday, **April 5**.



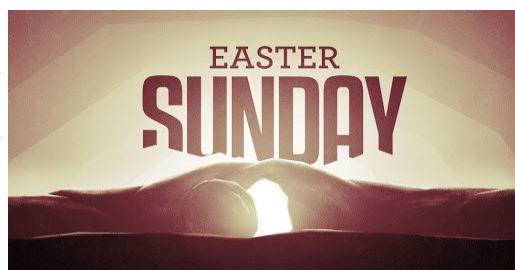
Maundy Thursday service will be held on Thursday, **April 6** at **6:30 pm**. The service includes Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, and the Stripping of the Altar.

St. Francis will be apart of the **Good Friday Cross Walk with Springboro Area Churches** on Friday, **April 7** starting at **11:45 am**. Beginning at Covenant Presbyterian (415 N. Main St.) and ending at United Church of Christ (5 W. Mill St.).



Good Friday service will be Friday, **April 7** at **6:30 pm**, using the traditional *Good Friday Liturgy*. This Holy Week service is an important preparation for the Sunday of Resurrection. Communion will be shared from the reserved sacrament.

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day will occur on Sunday, **April 9** and will be celebrated with a Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music at **10:30 am**. All are invited for this festive day!





St. Francis will be having our Easter egg hunt again this year. We need help filling eggs. If you are able, please pick up some plastic eggs after church on Sunday, fill them with candy or small toys, and bring them back by Palm Sunday.

Thanks in advance for your help! The annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. Francis will take place immediately following the service on Easter Sunday, April 9. All children are invited!

A decorative border of green and white floral and leaf patterns surrounds the text.

ProcterCenter
reflect learn grow

APRIL 29, 10AM-2PM

OPEN HOUSE
& SPRING CRAFT SHOW

CAMP REG. HELP, FOOD TRUCKS,
RAFFLES, SITE TOURS,

A circular logo with the text "ACCREDITED" and "CAMP" inside.

The Episcopal Diocese
of Southern Ohio

How About Helping with Church Maintenance?

Maintenance days will be back in April!

David Culp is inviting people to come and help out around the church building. Maintenance days will be on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to Noon.

There are several projects that need to be updated around the church, and any help would be very much appreciated.

Please contact David Culp if you are interested.



Easter Flowers

If you would like to memorialize a loved one or friend, or express thanksgiving for God's many blessings through your donation of Easter Flowers, please fill in the needed information and place this form with your check in the offering plate.

Please make your check payable to **Saint Francis** and mark the memo notate "Easter Flowers".

Thank you.



Please use this form if you would like to donate names for St. Francis' Easter Lilies.

Mark your checks payable to St. Francis and in the memo put "Easter Flowers". Place them in the alms or mail them to 225 N. Main Street, Springboro, OH 45066.

Get them into the office by April 5th!

Your name

(as you wish it listed in the bulletin)

Please list name(s) as you wish it (them) printed in the bulletin and circle the appropriate designation.

In Honor

In Memory

In Thanksgiving

In Honor

In Memory

In Thanksgiving

In Honor

In Memory

In Thanksgiving

“It’s our connection to God and each other that gives meaning to our lives.”



From the Standing Committee: Bishop Compensation News

MARCH 21, 2023

Feast of Thomas Ken

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our work continues at a brisk pace. We are especially focused on supporting a healthy transition process leading to the election and ordination of our next diocesan bishop.

We are grateful to the Nominating Committee for its excellent work to date. The Transition Committee is off to a fast start. Bishop Smith is ably leading our diocese in this transitional time, and we know he is supported by our hard-working diocesan staff.

In this letter, we wanted to share some news about the compensation of our next bishop. Until Bishop Breidenthal’s time, the compensation of the Bishop of Southern Ohio was shrouded in secrecy. Bishop Breidenthal pulled back the curtain so that the diocese could see the amount of money the bishop receives and know where that money comes from.

Transparency in finances is essential in a healthy system. Our diocese’s treasurers, finance committee, and trustees have made great strides toward greater transparency over the last few years. Diocesan budgets and financial reports are now readily available. This is as it should be.

As shown in publicly available financial reports, Bishop Breidenthal received an annual cash compensation of \$322,000 in his last year with us. This amount was funded by a draw from the Charlotte E. Procter Fund, which is managed by diocesan Trustees.

Working with us on the Standing Committee, the Trustees looked at the policies and procedures by which the amount of compensation for the bishop is set. As part of that work, we looked at the compensation of bishops in other dioceses similar to our size and complexity. Our hope was to set a compensation rate for our bishop that was based not on an arbitrary amount from a particular fund, but rather on the prevailing compensation for other leaders.

This change began with Bishop Smith. When he came to our diocese, his compensation was set at \$200,000 plus a small amount for housing from another fund, about \$9,000.

This was by mutual agreement of Bishop Smith and the Standing Committee, with the concurrence of the Trustees. Bishop Smith has been an important conversation partner, helping us to rethink our bishop’s compensation and how we set it.

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The work of the Trustees and Standing Committee has continued during Bishop Smith's time. We have crafted new policies. We believe it is important for members of the Diocese of Southern Ohio and those discerning a potential call as our bishop to know what the next bishop will be paid and where the money will come from.

As we have posted in the public listing inviting nominations for our next bishop, the bishop will receive annual initial cash compensation of \$220,000, plus the income from a housing fund, which is about \$9,000 annually at present. The cash compensation will be subject to cost-of-living increases, as set by the Standing Committee and Trustees.

In addition, the bishop's health care, dental insurance and pension will be covered. Under the new terms by which the Charlotte E. Procter Fund is managed, health care and dental benefits will be funded by the C. E. Procter fund rather than by the diocesan convention budget. This reduces the pressure on the portion of our budget that is funded by congregational assessments.

These changes and new policies accomplish three things:

1. First, we are using diocesan resources entrusted to us in a way that is more financially sustainable for the coming decades and centuries.
2. Second, we are setting the bishop's compensation so that it is comparable to other dioceses, yet still generous. The compensation is "rationalized" in that we are making a conscious choice based on peer compensation, rather than drawing an arbitrary amount from a particular fund.
3. Third, we are seeking to model the transparency that we hope to see throughout our diocese. The details of the bishop's compensation are available for all to see. Rather than suspecting a "smoky back room," everyone will know that it is the Trustees and Standing Committee who work together to set the compensation based on data available from the Church Pension Fund. The compensation details will be shared in the diocesan budget, and all of us on the Standing Committee are available to hear questions and concerns.

We hope this news is encouraging, because we believe it is an important sea change in how our diocese has been led and managed. To be clear, we are building on good work that was begun decades ago. Still, we see this new way of compensating our bishop as a significant milestone not only in the transition process, but also in the overall health of our diocese.

During this time of transition in our diocese, we urge you to pray for the Nominating Committee and the Transition Committee, for the Bishop, for all those exploring a call to become our next bishop, and for the Standing Committee.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with *thy* most gracious favor, and further us with *thy* continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in *thee*, we may glorify *thy* holy Name, and finally, by *thy* mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

As always, please write to standingcommittee@diosohio.org if you have questions, comments, or concerns. We wish you every blessing in this Lenten season. We are,

Yours faithfully,
Dr. James Allsop, President
Dr. Elizabeth Barker
The Rev. Jed Dearing, Secretary
Mr. Barry Feist
The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn
The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, Vice President



Christ Church Cathedral is located at 318 E. 4th Street in downtown Cincinnati
www.cincinnatiacathedral.com

Passion and Resurrection
Sunday, April 2
3:00 p.m.

Coro Volante, Cincinnati's professional vocal ensemble specializing in music by living composers, presents Ivan Moody's *Passion and Resurrection* under the direction of Brett Scott. Drawn from the Orthodox Holy Week liturgy, the work takes the audience on a journey from the Incarnation through the Resurrection. Ticket information: 513.578.0421 or online.

Last Words of Christ: Immersive Sound Liturgy
Saturday, April 8
6:00 p.m.

In honor of Holy Saturday, artists from our cathedral community and beyond will reflect on the seven last words of Christ.

Alleluia!
Sunday, April 16
3:00 p.m.

Members of **Collegium Cincinnati** led by Associate Artistic Director Manami White will perform a program in celebration of the Easter season: J. S. Bach's Keyboard Concerto No. 7, Antonio Vivaldi's *Longe mala, umbrae, terrores*, and W. A. Mozart's *Exsultate, jubilate*.
Tickets and more info at *cincinnatiacathedral.com/events/*

Music Live at Lunch

Music Live at Lunch is a free, weekly concert series held on Tuesdays, September through May, at 12:10 p.m.

Upcoming performers:

- April 4:** Heri et Hodie – Women's vocal ensemble presenting Lenten music
- April 11:** The Faux Frenchmen – Hot Club-driven jazz
- April 18:** Kirsten Homdrom (piano)
- April 25:** Moyen Age - Medieval music

Saint Francis Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in Springboro
225 N. Main Street, Springboro, OH 45066
(937) 748-2592 www.saintfran.org

Gathering Times

Sundays at 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Wednesdays at 10:30 am - Bible Study

Prayer April

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation; Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Staff

Priest-in-Charge - The Rev. Dr. David Bailey

fr.david@saintfran.org - (513) 310-0127

Senior Warden - Tom Phillips

Junior Warden - Jacqui Parker

Vestry Clerk - Allison Ferriell

Treasurer - Tom Phillips

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyler

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School Director - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Tom Phillips, Jacqui Parker, Allison Ferriell, Beth Phillips, Virginia Culp, and Diana Ledford.

