

Franciscan a monthly publication of St. Francis Episcopal Church



THE PILGRIM PRIEST PONDERES: BUILDING EACH OTHER UP

“...encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing”. [I Thessalonians 5:11]

Fellow ambassadors of Christ,

A passage from the Book of Exodus has captivated me over the last several weeks.

Right before this passage, we read that the children of Israel were being led by Moses out of Egypt to Mount Sinai, to receive the Ten Commandments from God. Along this journey, the Israelites meet fierce resistance from the Amalekites, who are old enemies of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To proceed further, the Israelites must battle the Amalekites. We pick up the story in Exodus 17:8-13:

⁸Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. ⁹Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some men for us and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” ¹⁰So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹²But Moses’ hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. ¹³And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.

The story relates how Moses, that mighty man of God, *needed the assistance of two others (Aaron and Hur) to defeat the Amalekites*. The Israelites would not have won the battle (and subsequently carried out their mission from God) unless Aaron and Hur had been by Moses’ side to hold up his arms.

We read other stories in the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) of how leaders chosen by God require the assistance of others to carry out their mission. These “others” may be leaders themselves, or maybe little-known people, but their ministry of holding up the leader’s arms (literally and figuratively) is critical to the success of God’s mission.

This is as true today as it was in Biblical times.

As you and I begin a new ministry together on Shrove Tuesday (March 1), I know that my arms will often falter, and I will need those of you around me to hold up my arms (at least figuratively) so that I can do my part in carrying out God’s mission for Saint Francis.

In turn, I pledge to you my support in holding up your arms so that each of you can carry out your part of the mission of Saint Francis. Together we will seek God’s will and pray for God’s strength as we labor together in this part of God’s vineyard.

Your brother in Christ, David+

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

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 St. David's Day Fat Tuesday/ Mardi Gras Get-Together 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	2 Bible Study 10:30 am Ash Wednesday Services 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm	3 Alanon 7:30 pm	4 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	5
6 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	7 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	8 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	9 <u>NO</u> Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	10 Alanon 7:30 pm	11 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	12 Stations of the Cross 9:30 am
13 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	14 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	15 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	16 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	17 Alanon 7:30 pm	18 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	19 Stations of the Cross 9:30 am
20 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	21 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	22 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	23 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	24 Alanon 7:30 pm	25 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	26 Stations of the Cross 9:30 am
27 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	28 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	29 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	30 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	31 Alanon 7:30 pm		

PRIEST IN CHARGE

St. Francis would like to celebrate the wonderful news that the Rev. Dr. David Bailey will be rejoining us as our new Priest-in-Charge starting on Ash Wednesday, March 2. His first Sunday will be on March 6 to kick off the Lenten Season.

Please come out and welcome him in person as he celebrates the liturgy with us. We would like to give him a warm welcome!



March Birthdays

Elizabeth Hoobler on March 7

Kimberly Patti on March 17

Jacqui Parker on March 18

Teena Baldrige on March 23

Mavis Wilmarth on March 24

Diana Graham on March 30



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



Fr. David will be restarting the Sunday Salon Series. We will meet at 9:00 am in the Library each Sunday.

The Salon Series for Lent is:

WHY did Jesus die and
WHY is it important to us?

No preparation is required, although it will be beneficial to bring your Bible to the Salon Series. Hope to see you there!



ADOPT -A- BILLS

are available for support of various ministries and events here at St. Francis. Please place your check along with the adopt-a-bill slip in the offering.



**Daylight Savings Time
begins
Sunday, March 13.**

**Don't forget to set your
clocks forward.**



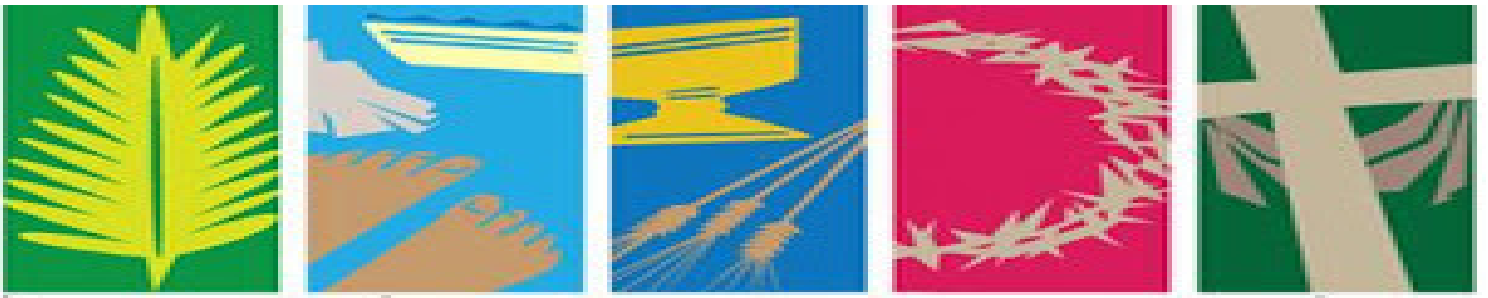
STATIONS *of the* CROSS

St. Francis will be hosting Stations of the Cross every Saturday for the season of Lent at 9:30 am. The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ and the day of His crucifixion.

Stations of the Cross, also called Way of the Cross, are a series of 14 pictures or carvings portraying events in the Passion of Christ, from his condemnation by Pontius Pilate to his entombment.

The series of stations is as follows:

- (1) Jesus is condemned to death,
- (2) he is made to bear his cross,
- (3) he falls the first time,
- (4) he meets his mother,
- (5) Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross,
- (6) Veronica wipes Jesus' face,
- (7) he falls the second time,
- (8) the women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus,
- (9) he falls the third time,
- (10) he is stripped of his garments,
- (11) he is nailed to the cross,
- (12) he dies on the cross,
- (13) he is taken down from the cross, and
- (14) he is placed in the sepulchre. The images are usually mounted on the inside walls of a church or chapel but may also be erected in such places as cemeteries, corridors of hospitals and religious houses, or on mountainsides.



Welcome
Holy Week & Easter
April 10 - April 17, 2022

Palm Sunday
April 10 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 14 at 6:30 pm

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

Good Friday
April 15 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
April 17 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Easter Day Festival, Holy Eucharist Rite, II with music at both services



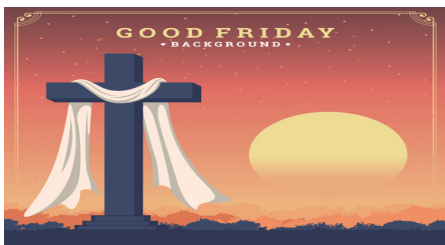
The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday is on Sunday, **April 10** and will begin outdoors (weather permitting) with *The Liturgy of the Palms*; after which we will process to the nave to celebrate Holy Eucharist, Rite II. St. Francis is in need of Readers for The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Palm 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. Dr. 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 14**.



Maundy Thursday service will be held on Thursday, **April 14** at **6:30 pm**. The service includes Holy Eucharist, Rite II and the Stripping of the Altar.

St. Francis will be apart of the **Good Friday Crosswalk with Springboro Area Churches** on **Friday, April 15** 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 15** 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 17** and will be celebrated with a Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music at **9:00 am** and **11:00 am**. All are invited for this festive day!



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.



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
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In Honor	In Memory	In Thanksgiving
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In Honor	In Memory	In Thanksgiving
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The Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Palm Sunday

St. Francis is in need of Readers for The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Palm Sunday.

If you are interested, please see the sign up sheet on the table in the Foyer to choose who you want to be.



The Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Good Friday

St. Francis is in need of Readers for The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Good Friday.

If you are interested, please see Fr. David.
Thank you!

Outreach Ministry Program

Each month for Ingathering Sunday, there will be certain items that need to be collected. For the month of March please collect any items for the Food Pantry and place them in the Ingathering baskets in the Foyer.

Outreach Ministry Jars

Please look for jars around the church to throw your loose change in. They will be located on the table in the Foyer, near the coffee pots in the kitchen, and on the table during coffee hour. The donations for March will help to pay for the cookies that Jeff Baldrige donates each month to the local prison ministry.



LA COMEDIA DINNER THEATER



Winning five Tony Awards, including Best Musical, *The Music Man*, premiered on Broadway in 1957. This delightful American musical will be presented at La Comedia Dinner Theater in spring.

If enough people sign up, Saint Francis Episcopal Church can attend on the evening of Thursday, May 5th at a discount of about 30%. Tickets for dinner and the play will be \$49 each for adults and \$40 for children. We need at least 20 people, and can add more if seats continue to be available.

Sign up with Ginny Culp as soon as you can—(937) 409-2893 or vculp@sprynet.com, and then make payment to Saint Francis Episcopal church by Sunday, March 27.

How About Helping with Church Maintenance?

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 if you are interested.

FOYER GROUPS

Get to know other parishioners better and enjoy the company of a dinner companions by signing up for a Foyer Group that will meet a few times in the spring.

Sign up with Ginny Culp—(937) 409-2893 or vculp@sprynet.com.



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

Lent in the Time of the Pandemic **A message from Bishop Smith**

When I was a young priest and living in Western Michigan, I was no stranger to the monks at St. Gregory’s Abbey, near the town of Three Rivers and about an hour away from where I lived. The community became a frequent source of refuge and retreat for me. I happened to have been there during Lent one year, and one of the monks remarked that not a lot changes during Lent at the monastery in terms of “giving up.” The monks, he said, already live a life of restraint and modesty all the time, and there is much to cut back for the sake of one season. The observance of a good and holy Lent has to take on other aspects in that setting.

The Diocese of Missouri had a long-standing partnership with a diocese in South Sudan, where the people’s livelihood depends almost entirely on subsistence farming. The clergy themselves farm in order to make a living, and that living is always contingent on timely rains and good growing conditions. The cash economy is negligible; people grow their food, or they starve. I remember one old and venerable priest who was cutting back on the amount of food that she ate, and for a long time, so her granddaughter would have adequate nourishment to nurse her baby. So close to the margins was life in South Sudan’s region of Equatoria. Lent necessarily looks different in such a setting.

Most of us are neither monastics (though I do see you, dear sisters of the Community of the Transfiguration) nor subsistence farmers in a marginal land. But the whole Church has something to learn from witnesses like these. This spring marks the third Lent during the time of the pandemic. Most people whom I know fluctuate from weariness, to fear, to being on edge. Perhaps there are practices of a good and holy Lent which might help us find some relief from these very things which ail us. Perhaps the usual practices of privation are out of place this year, given the situation.

The pandemic wears on most of us. I know that such is the case for clergy. I know because as bishop, I talk with clergy a lot. But I know well that clergy are not the only ones. Parents, children, teachers, students, first responders, people in health care, retail workers, cooks and wait staff, drivers, workers in construction, the unemployed—these come to mind easily to begin a list of all the people affected. Almost everyone feels the weight that the pandemic has imposed.

Strenuous giving-up for Lent strikes me as out of place in a time like ours. A good Lent this year may require greater attention to other graces which God sets all around us, to claim them and to practice them. The simple grace of rest, for example, may be just the Lenten balm for us all. A respite from all the urgencies demanding attention may prove elusive, nigh impossible for many of us. So, rest may appear impractical and difficult. Yet for a weary people, respite may be the only thing, that pearl of great price. The practice of sabbath rest might appear foolish, but it may be a crucial act of faith in our time.

The practice of prayer as “wasting time in God’s presence,” as someone as described it. Attention to eating meals together with the whole household. Joy in the small things and moments of the day. Solidarity with the dispossessed as a gospel value. Facing into sin—yes sin—as that which separates us from God and the people. It needs attention, and Lent begs for this attention. Sin which we have committed, but also that sin for which we are the beneficiaries. Our perverse avoidance of the fullness of life which God intends and has secured in Jesus Christ. The dignity and responsibility which God has bestowed upon us in baptism. These graces may be the right ones.

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

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM - BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER FOR MARCH

DEAR FATHER IN HEAVEN, WE COME TO YOU. FOR AGAIN AND AGAIN YOU HAVE HELPED US. YOU HAVE LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE OUT ON US SO THAT WE COULD BE GLAD AND KNOW THAT OUR LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS. PROTECT US ON THIS EARTH. PROTECT US, THAT THE LIGHT OF TRUE LIFE MAY SHINE MORE BRIGHTLY AND WE MAY PRAISE YOUR NAME WITH OUR WHOLE HEART. BE WITH US THIS NIGHT, O GOD, AND TOUCH OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR SPIRIT. AMEN.

STAFF

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

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

Senior Warden - Stephan Graham

Junior Warden - David Culp

Vestry Clerk - Virginia Culp

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyler

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School Director - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Stephan Graham, David Culp, Jenny Catalan, Barb Roy, Chuck Oduah, Mary Harris, Kimmie Patti, Virginia Culp, Tom Phillips, and Toni Patti.

