

Saint Francis Journal

March 2026

A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom



LENT



Embracing the Lenten Journey Together at St. Francis Episcopal Church

Continuing Our Spiritual Tradition in Community

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

This collect used on March 1 is fitting for the season. It's powerful and it truly speaks to me. It reminds me of how compassionate God is, always ready to welcome anyone who's lost their way. The prayer asks for kindness and encourages us to come back with honest hearts and strong faith, holding tight to what's unchanging and true. It also highlights how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are always with us, offering forgiveness and a fresh start whenever we need it. I need both of those things every day. And I know I receive it from that most loving God.

As the Lenten Season unfolds at St. Francis Episcopal Church, we are reminded of the timeless invitation to

reflect, renew, and reconnect with God and one another. Though we enter this season without a Rector, our parish community remains vibrant and engaged, continuing to honor the traditions and spiritual practices that make Lent meaningful.

We warmly invite everyone to participate in all the opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service that Lent brings. Our worship services, bible studies, book club, adult study, and outreach activities remain steadfast, offering spaces for prayer, meditation, and connection.

From Ash Wednesday through Holy Week, we encourage you to join us for Intercessory prayer after both Sunday services, Wednesday noon Eucharist and Lenten lunches, and all our efforts such as Church Under the Bridge and our food ministry that reflect the love and compassion at the heart of our faith and our church.

We are deeply grateful for the leadership and pastoral care of Fr. Robert Odom, Fr. Rob Jerger, Fr. Tim Kennedy and Deacon Sheila Thrash during this transitional time. Their guidance and presence have been a blessing to our congregation, helping us continue on our spiritual journey with hope and gratitude. We offer our heartfelt thanks and blessings to each member of our Search Committee, and we thank them for their

dedication and time in this process.

Let us remember that Lent is about more than individual reflection—it is a journey we take together. Even in the search process, St. Francis Episcopal Church remains a place where God's love is shared and experienced. We invite you to be part of all we can still do, to support one another, and to grow in faith as a community. May this Lent be a season of renewal, gratitude, and unity for us all.

For his sake



Jay DeOrnellas
Senior Warden



**Sunday
March 8th**

Prayer for a New Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer 13, BCP, pg. 818

Lent Healing Service

Weds at Noon

Feb 25th—Apr 1st

Fr. Rob Jerger

Followed by
Lenten Luncheon of
Soup & Bread
Sponsored by DOK

NO Wed Bible Study during Lent

Grief Support Group meets
Thursdays at 2p in Parish Hall

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday: April 2 at 6pm
Stations of the Cross: April 3 at noon
Good Friday: April 3 at 6pm

Easter Day

ONE SERVICE

April 5th * 10:45am

Sat. Feb. 28th

Breakfast for All

8:30am



*Men's Group * 9am *
Join us!

CUB Lunch Prep *10am*

*DOK Meeting *

*Sat. Mar 14 * 9am

All Women Welcome



**Thrive
20 & 30 Somethings**

* Connection * Growth *
* Belonging *

Sat. Mar 21 * 6 to 8 pm

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Tues. Mar 17th * 11:30am
Panera Bread



Book Club

1st & 3rd Mondays
6:30pm Parish Hall

Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspective

Visit Hwy 64 Islamic Center

Fri. March 13th

Meet at SFEC at 1p

Questions?

See Dominique Lucas

Serendipity Dinner

*Saturday March 14th *

6 to 8 pm * Parish Hall

Tacos

Hosted by Dan Amy

Sign up in hallway for

Appetizers * Sides * Desserts

Easter Egg Hunt & Booths

Sat. April 4 * 10am

Set up

Fri. April 3

Hide Eggs

Sat. April 4 * 8:30am

Sign up in the hallway

See Kathy Clark



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jay DeOrnellas (3/7)

John Glenn (3/8)

Wayne Yeargain (3/10)

Laurie Barham (3/14)

Nancy Earls (3/14)

Gay Barron (3/16)

Carol Ann Chidlaw (3/17)

Ginnie Boudreau (3/19)

Ann Bush (3/21)

Macy Cabell (3/22)

Claire Edwards (3/26)

Julian Tabri (3/28)

Todd Lestage (3/29)

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Derik & Courtney Gray (3/14)

Andy & Michelle Wells (3/16)

John Ryu & Yonjoo Cho (3/27)



Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspectives February Meeting

We were honored to host Greg Muckleroy at Conversations in February. Greg is the Texas African American Museum Advisory Committee Chair in Tyler. Next time you're taking the littles to the zoo, stop by the museum at 309 West Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard in Tyler. They are open Thursday 10-2, Friday 10-2 and Saturday 10-4. His program was about his great-grandmother, Charlott, who around 1775 was a Cherokee slave on a plantation in Georgia. After a tumultuous time and journey, those she worked for settled in Rusk County (Kilgore) and made their living in agriculture. Thanks to Greg for sharing his family with us.

Shrove Tuesday Community Pancake Supper 28 Community Members Joined Us!!



Daughters of the King Attend Spring Assembly in Bastrop *All About Gratitude*

Jay DeOrnellas
Gipsy Schneider
Cindy Meyer
Sandra Dugan
Reggie Carlyon



St. Francis Episcopal Church
 3232 Jan Avenue
 Tyler, TX 75701
 Telephone: 903-593-8459

Email: office@stfrancistylor.org
 Web site: www.stfrancistylor.org



www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler



WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR MARCH
The Rev. Robert Odom, Celebrant
Liturgy of the Word—March 1st & March 15th

- Sunday** **Nursery available on request**
- 8:30 am Rite I—No music
 - 9:30 am Adult Lectionary Discussion
 Children/Youth Sunday School * On Request *
 - 10:45 am Rite II—Traditional Music
 Live-Stream on FaceBook & YouTube
- Wednesday**
- Noon Lent Healing Service & Eucharist — Sanctuary
 - 12:30 pm Lenten Soup Luncheon — Parish Hall
 - 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
- Thursday**
- 2:00 pm Grief Support Group — Parish Hall
 - 5:30 pm Handbell Practice—Music Room

March Special Events

****Sat. February 28th****

Breakfast for All - 8:30am
 Men's Group Meeting - 9:00am
 Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep - 10:00am

Mon. March 2, 6:30pm
 Book Club - Parish Hall

Fri. March 13, 1:00pm

Conversations Exploring Cultural Perspectives
 Visit Hwy 64 Islamic Center
Meet at 1:00pm at SFEC to Carpool

Sat. March 14, 9:00am

DOK Meeting - 9:00am * All Women Welcome*

Sat. March 14, 6:00pm

Serendipity Dinner at Parish Hall

Mon. March 16, 6:30pm
 Book Club - Parish Hall

Tues. February 17, 11:30am
 Out-to-Lunch Bunch
 Panera Bread

Sat. March 21, 6:00pm

Thrive Meeting—Youth Basement

Wed. February 25th thru April 1st

Lent Healing Service & Eucharist—Noon
 Fr. Rob Jerger, Celebrant
 Followed by Lenten Soup Luncheon

Mission Statement

*Why do we exist?
 What is our purpose?*

St. Francis is a community of Christians whose mission is to love one another, serving God's kingdom on earth through

- Developing discipleship through worship, prayer, education, and fellowship,
- Ministering to one another
- Offering ourselves as servants in God's world.

Vision Statement

The parish we aim to become

The vision of St. Francis is to

- Promote spiritual growth through education and worship,
- Reach out in service to the community,
- Increase diverse music ministries to create a joyful sound in celebration,
- Provide vibrant children's, youth, and campus ministries,
- Create a variety of ministries and programs for everyone.

VESTRY

- Jay DeOrnellas
 Senior Warden (2026)
- In Transition
 Junior Warden
 Dan Amy (2026)
 Dominique Lucas (2027)
 Ann Bush (2028)
 Gay Barron (2028)
 Kathy Clark (2028)
 Sandra Dugan (2028)
 Connie Wilson (2028)
 Carol Lanthrum, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

- Rector, In Transition
 Dr. Cameron Rose
 Director of Music
 Carol Lanthrum
 Parish Administrator
 Susan Kohler
 Treasurer
 Alberto Cruz
 Sexton

We want to know!
 What are your concerns?
 We want to answer your questions, & hear your suggestions!

