



# Saint Francis Journal

## March, 2022



**A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom**



**Ash Wednesday**  
— Lent Begins

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord!

Disintegration. Microsoft Word offers these synonyms for disintegration: Dissolution, collapse, fragmentation, breakdown, breakup. Disintegration assumes that there was once a period of integration – a period of wholeness. Microsoft Word offers these synonyms for integration: assimilation, addition, incorporation, combination, amalgamation.

I often find myself asked what is it that defines the Church and more specifically the Episcopal Church. The short answer is the Holy Bible, as it is our integrating source; for we believe all things necessary for salvation are found in that wonderful and challenging text. With the Bible as our source, we believe the way we pray shapes our Episcopal belief and how we pray is reflected in the Book of Common Prayer, the BCP. The binding statement of faith for Christianity is the Apostles' Creed, from which we get the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed being the creed that has more language about the Trinity and who Jesus is. The Nicene Creed re-integrating a disintegrating Church at the time. (325 CE) Many other things are held in tension between members of the Christian Faith. Subjects like divorce, open communion, wine or grape juice, same-sex-marriage, and even all the differing atonement theories, among others, cause much tension within the Christian community. When we draw lines, we are disintegrating our relationships with one another.

These opposing or simply nuanced

difference create tension within this Christian community. I used to believe that the tension comes from people being pulled apart from each other in light of the differing views. The true tension, if we are to be honest with ourselves, comes from the center of our beliefs. It comes from Jesus pulling us all back to the center – all back to himself. We seek disintegration and Jesus seeks re-integration for us all.

It is belief in Jesus that anchors our re-integration as Christians. That belief moves beyond disintegrating ideas like - self-interest above whole, self-importance over others, self-preservation over saying something, mercy for only those we deem worthy, keeping people's past offenses as a reason for not connecting, Jesus not being worth our extravagance, and shunning people that aren't living up to our codes. That belief moves towards reintegration like - selfless service for the whole, serving not either them or me but both-and, upholding the others' dignity, extending mercy to others as extended to us by God, believing all are doing the best they can, loving those who Jesus loved extravagantly, and, living and loving together in acceptance and grace.

Now if re-integration was easy there would have been no reason for Jesus to come and bring us together. The hard part is that disintegration is by far easier than re-integration, especially if we find ourselves to be self-righteous. When we find ourselves disintegrating, then let's move our gaze towards Jesus and pray for re-integration as only Jesus can do. Because we cannot do it alone.

Re-integration is something we can work

towards during the season of Lent. A time for reflection on things we have done in the past causing disintegration and turning around and accepting Jesus' call to come back together in re-integration. We've got this, with God's help.

God's Peace,  
Mitch+



<sup>1</sup>(Disintegration and Re-integration ideas from Lisa Cressman's "For God's Sake: A Lenten Sermon Series" for 2022

### CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Mitch Tollett, Rector**

**The Rev. Joel McAlister, Curate**

**Dr. Cameron Rose, Director of Music**

**Sheila Thrash, Children/Youth Director**

**Carol Lanthrum, Parish Administrator**

**Susan Kohler, Treasurer**

**Alberto Cruz, Sexton**

### VESTRY

**Pat Sarubbi, Senior Warden (2022)**

**Sheila Thrash, Junior Warden (2022)**

**Marley Johnson (2022)**

**Sara Back (2023)**

**Todd Lestage (2023)**

**Paul Streufert (2023)**

**Doug Clark (2024)**

**Nancy Earls (2024)**

**Lisa Kraus (2024)**

**Kathy Dunn, Clerk**

# A Word from Joel...

## Discomfort Can Clarify and Fortify



The season of Lent is upon us. A tradition that I have always known to be associated with Lent is the tradition of giving something up. This tradition is meant to help us identify with Jesus' experience in the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days after his baptism and before his temptation by Satan. The purpose that fasting served Jesus in this moment was to clarify for him the reality that he relies solely on the Father for everything, and to help fortify him for what was next.

The practice of giving up something during Lent helps us to achieve the same purpose. When we choose to give something up, we are choosing to be uncomfortable for a time. This discomfort should then help us to see more clearly that we do not need to rely on the things of this world for our preservation or happiness. Instead, through the clarity that this discomfort produces, we are reminded that we are very much reliant on the love and grace that comes from God for every little thing in our lives. As the reality of our reliance on God becomes clearer to us through spiritual practices like this, we will be fortified for whatever comes next in our lives, either good or bad, just as Jesus was fortified to withstand the temptations to rely on his own power or the things of this world for his own preservation and happiness.

Blessings, Joel+

Church Under a Bridge Prep

Saturday, March 5th at 10am

Thanks to the Youth  
and Everyone who Supported  
"Souper Bowl" Sunday

\*\*\$480\*\*

Serendipity Dinner

March 18th 6p to 8p

Gagliano's — 1379 Luann Lane  
Chicken Poblano Casserole



DOK Meeting

Sat. March 5th 9 am

in the Parish Hall

National Guide

Study 5



Adult— Children—Youth Education—God's Grace

Yoga—Bible Characters—CUB—Young at Heart

Worship Ministry—Choir—Handbells

Vestry—Altar Guild—Videographer—Social Media

Adult Education

Living Well thru Lent

begins March 6th

between services

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Lee Barnes (3/2)

Laurie Barham (3/14)

Ginnie Boudreau (3/19)

Macy Cabell (3/22)

Julian Tabri (3/28)

Jacquelynne DeOrnellas (3/7)

Nancy Earls (3/14)

Ann Bush (3/21)

Patti Pinkerton (3/26)

Todd Lestage (3/29)

John Glenn (3/8)

Gay Barron (3/16)

Frank Barat (3/21)

Betty Holmes (3/28)

Judy Kovic (3/29)

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Derik & Courtney Gray (3/14)



*Blessings on Your Ministry*

## Reception for Fr. Joel January 23, 2022



*First Celebration as a Priest*



*LEM Kit given by  
St. Francis*

**\*\*The Bishop is Coming May 8th\*\***

**Do you want to officially be a part of the Episcopal Church?**

The Bishop will **Baptize** you if you have never been baptized before, or **Confirm** if you have never had a Bishop lay hands on you, or **Receive** you if you have been confirmed in another faith tradition.

There will be a **four-week class** offered between services **9:45-10:30 am** on the following **Sundays: April 3rd, 10th, 24th, and May 1st**. **Attendance is strongly encouraged**, but due to the pandemic it may not be feasible so if you cannot make all the classes there will be an online offering.

I am looking forward to this course and the conversations to be had about God and our faith. This course is not only for those desiring Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception, but also for those that desire to be refreshed, formed, and informed in their journeys as Christians. Specifically, as we are the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.

Peace,  
Fr. Mitch+

### Young at Heart is Celebrating a Milestone!



Young at Heart will celebrate our one-year anniversary of delivering food for the East Texas Cares Resource Center on March 25<sup>th</sup>. To date, we have made over **240 deliveries** and **visited 35 homes**. It has been a pleasure to get to know the folks we serve and to bless them with gifts donated by our generous St. Francis members. Young at Heart will host a celebratory lunch at noon on March 25<sup>th</sup> to honor our volunteers and to welcome those interested in volunteering. Please look for the signup sheet in the narthex.



Lisa Kraus



### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**\*March 1st \* 6 – 8 pm\***

**Yes, There Will Be Bacon !!**



**\*Craft table** for the kids

**\*Balloon Artist** twisting up all sorts of animal creations for kids to fancy hats for adults

**\*Lots and lots of Mardi Gras beads**

**\*Photo/Selfie Backdrop**

### Ash Wednesday

**7am – Ashes To Go**  
**Noon – Ashes/Eucharist**  
**6 pm – Ashes/Eucharist**

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**March 9th – April 6th**

**Wednesday Noon Services**  
**Lenten Eucharist**

**Light Lunch Follows**  
**Provided by DOK**

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Web site: [www.stfrancist Tyler.org](http://www.stfrancist Tyler.org)

**facebook**

[www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler](http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler)



**March 13th**

**Set your clocks 1 hour ahead  
Or you'll miss church**

**\*\*Change those smoke detector batteries\*\***

### WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS for March

**\*Subject to change due to COVID restrictions\***

#### Sunday

**Nursery available from 8:00 am—1:00 pm**

- 8:30 am: Rite I—Intinction only—No music—Masks Required
- 9:30 am: Adult—Gospel Reading Discussion—Adult Ed Room  
Children—Sunday School—Children Ed Room
- 10:45 am: Rite II—Intinction Only—Traditional Music  
Masks Required — **Broadcast Live on Facebook**
- 6:00 pm: Yoga—Children's Ed Room

#### Tuesday

- 7:00 pm: Contemplative Prayer—Parish Hall

#### Wednesday

- 2:00 pm: Widows Support Group—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: God's Grace—St. Clare's
- 7:00 pm: Choir Practice—Sanctuary

#### Thursday

- 5:00 pm: Handbell Practice—Music Room
- 6:45 pm: Bible Characters—Parish Hall