

August 21, 2022

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



Last Chance!

Faith & Family Night at the DBAP
See page 5

Our Mission Statement

Inspired by our patron, Francis of Assisi, we seek to proclaim the reign of God by growing in Holiness through our experience of Christ in word, sacrament, and one another, offering Hope to those who hunger for human dignity, and extending Hospitality to all.



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-847-8205 www.stfrancisraleigh.org



How Do Catholics Understand the Word "Ministry?" PART III:

I have been asked by several parishioners about the academic paper I presented last June at the first session of a five-year series of international ecumenical meetings between the Catholic Church and the Disciples of Christ Church. Our topic for this phase of dialogue focuses on the role of the Holy Spirit in ministry. My task in this paper was to lay out the parameters of a Catholic understanding of the word "ministry" as well as a Catholic understanding of the ways the Holy Spirit is involved in ministry and those who serve as ministers in the Church. Part III in this series will present a synopsis of the importance and roles of ordained ministers as ordinary ministers in the Church and archetypes of all ministry. You may view the earlier parts of this series by going to the August 2 and 9 bulletins.

Very early in the Church's history it became important to identify permanent roles in the Church's life in response to its pastoral needs and to provide stability over the course of time. Ordination bestows that permanency and stability. During this time, the ordained ministries of bishop, priest, and deacon emerged as a guarantee of the continuation of Christ's ministry on earth. While the ministry of the bishop, priest, and deacon are not exclusive ways of carrying out Christ's ministry, they do serve as the ordinary way to provide at least a minimal guarantee that the essential pastoral functions they undertake in the Church will be stably and permanently provided.

They also serve as a representational expression of how the various ministries of the Church are to function. As we will see, the way a bishop governs is to serve as a reflection of how Christ governs and therefore how all who are given authority to govern in any type of ministry, ordained or not, are to govern. The way a priest sanctifies and teaches is to reflect how Christ sanctifies and teaches and therefore how all who share in the ministry of sanctifying and teaching, ordained or not, are to function. The way a deacon serves as the embodiment of Christ's way of serving is to inspire all in the ministry of service, ordained or not, to do so in the same way.

Fr. Michael

THROUGH BAPTISM MAY
SHE WALK ALWAYS AS A
CHILD OF THE LIGHT:

Natalie Bunye Griesedieck
Daughter of Nathan and
Sarah Griesedieck

Patrick Joseph McDonnell
Son of Shannon McDonnell

Emmett Mayer Wilson
Son of Matt and Meghan Wilson

Weekly Envelope Schedule

August 21 Weekly

August 28 Weekly

You can mail your contribution to us at:

St Francis Of Assisi
11401 Leesville Road
Raleigh, NC 27613

You can give online through:



<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-direct/>



Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199

Additional Online Giving Methods:
www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/

For a complete list of SFA contacts
Group Opportunities,
Volunteer Opportunities
and Ministries, click here.



God IS calling YOU.

"THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING, 'WHOM SHALL I SEND? AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?' AND I SAID, 'HERE AM I. SEND ME!'"
ISAIAH 6:8

God is calling YOU to become a Small Group Leader, (SGL) in Faith Formation. His invitation is to journey with either the middle school (Cross Train) or high school (Cross Road) programs. Your love of the Gospel message and in living a Christ centered life is who we need to become a SGL. We provide training and partner two SGLs per group. Discern YOUR calling to serve the youth of our parish. **Contact Jeanne M. Lewin**, Dir. of Formation, at Jeanne.Lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org to join the FF family. Training will take place in August. Formation begins Sunday, September 18th, 6:30pm-8:15 pm.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR AUGUST 20 TO AUGUST

28



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Aug 20, 2022
Saturday, 5:30
+Tom and +Julie Fraser
Requested by Roy and Marianne Norris
Wedding Anniversary of Deceased

Sunday Aug 21, 2022
Sunday, 7:15
+Edward Guenther
Requested by The Anderson Family

Sunday, 9:00
+Ryan Lynch
Requested by Stephanie Lynch

Sunday, 11:45
+Lucy Coleman
Requested by Lisa and Michael Austin

Sunday, 5:30
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

Monday Aug 22, 9AM
+Regina Hoskins
Requested by Charles and Alice Ward

Tuesday Aug 23, 9AM
+Mary Duyen Bui
Requested by Thanh Pham

Wednesday Aug 24, 9AM
+Joseph Arleth
Requested by Mary Arleth

Thursday Aug 25, 9AM
+Bach Mai Thi Le and (ill) Gary Boyar
Requested by Gary and Hanh Boyar, Hung
and Trinh Pham

Friday Aug 26, 9AM
+Frances Gingerella
Requested by Donna Gingerella

Saturday Aug 27, 2022
Saturday, 5:30
+Stephen Mack Sr.
Requested by David Mack

Sunday Aug 28, 2022
Sunday, 7:15
The Souls of Purgatory
Requested by Theresa Rakshys

Sunday, 9:00
+Vincent Robert Pribish
Requested by The Pribish Family

Sunday, 11:45
+Alex Biswas
Requested by Susan Rozario

Sunday, 5:30
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(ill) Clarence Dordulaw
Requested by Veneriches Dordulaw
Health & Wellness

+Josephine Morse
Requested by David Crout
Remembrance



Daily Mass at 9:00am is held in the chapel on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Wednesday Daily Mass is held in the church.



Weekly Reconciliation Services

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for individuals is celebrated most Saturdays of the year between 4:00-4:45pm in the main church. There are normally two priests present. We recommend that you arrive well before 4:45pm so we may accommodate you.

Mass Intentions

One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the living and the dead. Requesting a Mass is a most wonderful way to exercise this spiritual work of mercy. Our register for Mass intentions is open. You may make your request(s) by going to our website (<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/mass-intention-prayers/>) or by calling the parish office at 919-847-8205 during normal business hours M-F.

Upcoming At a Glance

This week's events are shown in red.

August 21

Cross Train and Cross Road

Small group leaders meet and greet and formation. 3-5pm in Fellowship Hall
jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org

August 23 - Last Chance!

Durham Bulls Faith & Family Night

Tickets are \$13.50 for St. Francis parish-ioners. <https://offer.fevo.com/nashville-sounds-th2avzo-58ef1ba?fevoUri=nashville-sounds-th2avzo-58ef1ba%2F>
Contact Hanna Gertz 919-687-6522.

August 24

The 50+ Adult Group

"Bring Your Own Lunch"

Wednesday at 11:30 in Clare Fellowship Hall. Coffee and water will be provided. Bring dessert items to share if you wish. Enjoy a meal and lively conversation with your friends from the 50+ Adult Group, many of whom you haven't seen for some time, and perhaps make new friends. Questions, contact Pat Gerney at pgerney@gmail.com or call 919-803-8276.

August 28

Community Center

Reopening Party 10-11:30am.

beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

August 31

Last day to register for Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation

jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org

August 31

Summer Youth Fest -

Praise, Worship, and S'Mores

with Jim Wahl

<https://onrealm.org/StFrancisRaleigh/PublicRegistrations/Event?link-String=M2MON2MOMDAfYzZhMy00YjU-4LWJjODktYWVjYTAxMDAyZTNi%20>

September 6: Divorce Care

The Next Series of Divorce Care will be Sep 6, 2022 – Dec 13, 2022, for more information please contact Bill Morgan at dejanuts@yahoo.com.

September 7

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Required for all Level C volunteers

[Wednesday, 9/7 at 9:30am](#)

[Tuesday, 9/20 at 7:00pm](#)

[Wednesday, 9/21 at 7:00pm \(In Spanish\)](#)

September 7

Creation Care

7pm – Virtual Discussion of Film *Kiss the Ground* - stfcreation@gmail.com

September 9

Women's Ministry

Bible Study Begins

Contact ccarlson210@gmail.com

[Order your book here.](#)

September 11

Coffee and Donuts

Following 9:00am Mass, in Clare Hall
beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

September 11

Creation Care

4:15p-5:15pm Reflective Tour of the Church Grounds
stfcreation@gmail.com

September 14

Monthly Grief Support Group

Good Grief

First meeting, 10:00am in Laverna
beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

September 15

Cancer Support Group

Meets virtually at 1:00pm
SuzanneSziemer.slp@gmail.com

September 15

Braver Angels Workshop

of "Families and Politics" 7pm – Addressing polarization and civil dialogue in our families – Sign-up: <http://bit.ly/depolarizeSFA2022a>

September 18

Small Group Leader Training

6:30-8:15pm, contact Jeanne Lewin at jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org

September 20 and 21

Letters from Prison

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study
\$25.00 covers cost of both books.
Questions? Contact Janie Hebert,
janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org.

<https://litpress.org/Products/6455/Letters-from-Prison-Part-One>

<https://litpress.org/Products/6454/Letters-from-Prison-Part-Two>

September 24

Be Still - Adoration and Breakfast

9:00-11:30. Contact beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

September 25

"Come and See" open house sponsored by the Padre Pio Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order on Sunday, September 22, 2022 from 2:30-4:30pm
Questions Questions ellenferrone@gmail.com, ofscentralnc@gmail.com or visit <https://ofscentralnc.org>.

September 27

Bereavement Series Begins

Grief's Journey

Tuesday's at 5:00pm in Laverna
beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

October 2

FrancisFest

Our annual parish wide celebration of our patron saint. Contact ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org if you are interested or want to learn more about this opportunity visit www.stfrancisraleigh.org/francisfest

October 8

Herencia Hispana Mass

11:00am Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral
Celebrated by Bishop Zarama.
Questions: 984-900-3182

October 15

Wedding Anniversary Mass

10:00am Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.
Celebrated by Bishop Zarama.
Questions: 984-900-3184
<https://raldioc.configio.com/wam2022>

Register for Cross Step



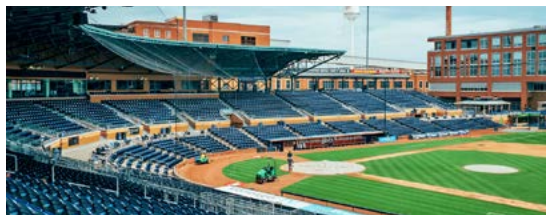
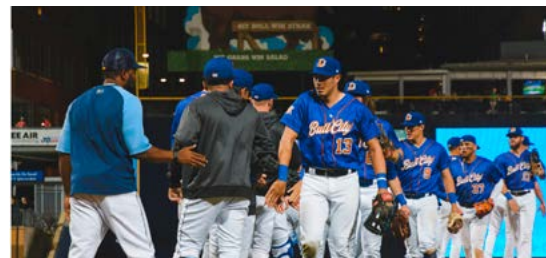
Cross Step (formerly known as Play N' Pray) is the newest addition to St. Francis' Crosses Faith Formation programs. Our mission is to the development of faith of children, ages one-and-walking through four. The children come to us in Clare Hall during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Using Pflaum Gospel Weeklie's SEEDS curriculum, the children learn about the weekly Gospel and participate in fun, interactive activities that focus on Catholic doctrine and traditions. Let us help your children to take their first STEPS on their walk with God!

Interested families can register their children for the 2022-2023 year in REALM. Please contact Andrea.Javier@stfrancis-raleigh.org for more information.

Interested in sharing your faith with young children in a fun-filled and loving environment?

The Cross Step program is currently seeking part-time employees to lead our Parish's preschool-aged faith formation classes for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. Our classes occur during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass and consist of playing, praying, sharing a short Gospel-based lesson that is provided in advance, and participating in a related arts-and-craft activity. No teaching experience is necessary, just the desire to have fun and share God's Word. Sharing a couple hours of your time on Sundays can forever transform a child's faith-journey!

Please contact Andrea.Javier@stfrancis-raleigh.org



FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT AT THE DBAP

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23RD - 6:35 PM

Last Chance

Join us Tuesday, August 23rd at 6:35pm for a fun filled night of baseball and faith based activities. The Durham Bulls will face the Nashville Sound at 6:35pm! This night will be dedicated to those of faith to come out and cheer on the Bulls!

We have blocked 300 seats for St Francis.

Questions contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Tickets are \$13.50 each and can ONLY be purchased using the FEVO link.

Scan this FEVO link to order [Durham Bulls Tickets](#)

If you need assistance ordering call Hannah Gertz at 919.687.6522



St. Francis cannot directly purchase tickets or process payments for tickets.

Laudato Si' - In action

"I ask you in the name of God, to defend Mother Earth"
Pope Francis

How do we respond to the call for Ecological Education?

Learn: Watch a movie!

Try: "My Octopus Teacher" – good for kids and adults.

Share: Invite some friends to watch with you . . . discuss!

stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation

To connect with us: stfccreation@gmail.com

Gathered Around the Piano

By James Wahl, Director of Music and Liturgy



I only met my grandma a few times, before I traveled to Flint, Michigan in 1980 for her funeral. Little did I know how important those days would be in my life. It was in Michigan that I first sat down at a piano. As I was playing around on the keys, my uncle, who was a Lutheran church musician, noticed that his young nephew had an affinity for music. He talked things over with my mom and dad, and within a few weeks, an upright piano was in our living room in Southern California. It was on that piano that I learned to play my first notes, wrote my first songs, and shared many evenings making music with my brothers and sisters. I remember having a jazz "jam session" in honor of my dad on the night of his own funeral, all of us grabbing different instruments, gathered around that piano. In much the same way, the piano has been an important part of our gatherings at St. Francis. From our weekly Eucharistic celebrations, funerals, weddings, and a host of other liturgies, we have praised the God from whom all blessings flow in song, often accompanied by the piano.

While my predecessors and I owe a great deal of gratitude to our current

instrument, it is well beyond its ability to support our prayer now and into the future. After several decades of use, including temperature and humidity changes in the church building, it has extensive damage to many internal parts. We are currently spending several hundred dollars per month simply trying to maintain it. We have chosen to replace the current piano with a Schimmel piano. This finely crafted, German instrument is shown in the attached picture. It is a 7-foot grand piano, perfect for the size of our church, and built to withstand environment changes, and maintain tone and tuning. The piano will cost about \$70,000, but will give us many years of support for our prayer in liturgy, the source and summit of our Catholic faith.

If you are interested in finding out more about the piano, please feel free to contact me at jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org, and if you would like to make a donation, please visit FaithDirect at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-direct/> and select the one time gift for the piano donation.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support as we continue to make music together.

share your opinion

Calling all Young Adults to share their opinion on what they are looking for in this ministry.

scan

YOUNG adult MINISTRY

Women's Ministry Bible Study

Friday Mornings at 9:30am in Padua
Starting September 9th

We are studying David the King from Bishop Barron.

Contact
Celesta.carlson210@gmail.com

Order your book [Here](#)

Bereavement Ministry

Bereavement Series: Grief's Journey

Tuesday's at 5:00pm in the LaVerna

September 27	October 25
October 4	November 1
October 11	November 8
October 18	November 15

Register for Grief's Journey Series

Monthly Grief Support Group: Good Grief

Second Wednesday of the Month at 10:00am in LaVerna

First Meeting 9/14 at 10:00am What is Grief?

Register for Good Grief Monthly Support Group

Contact beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

TAKE A *journey* TO DISCOVER HOW GOD HAS GIFTED YOU.



1 SIGN UP FOR SMALL GROUP AUGUST 15
TO SEPTEMBER 21

3 DISCOVER AND DISCERN
YOUR GIFTS

2 SMALL GROUPS MEET IN
PERSON OR ZOOM

4 DISCERN IN DEPTH WITH
FELLOW PARISHIONERS

Explore the charisms that you have been given to share with the world. Our small groups will work together to unlock and find the gifts you have been given. As you journey down this path you will then work with your facilitator one on one to explore these gifts. In the final phase you will learn how to bring your gifts to life.

**There are several small groups options to pick from. Both in person and Zoom available.
We are also offering a men's group and young adult group. All start week of September 25th.**

**Registration for The Spiritual Gifts Journey small groups open August 15th.
Register HERE through Realm - \$25 Registration Fee for materials and online access.**

SMALL GROUP OPTIONS

Sundays: 7pm with Rosemary Somich - Zoom

Monday Mornings: 10am with Ellen Ferrone - in-person Founders Room

Monday Evenings: 7pm *Men's Group* with Jacob House - Hybrid (in-person or zoom)

Tuesday Mornings: 10am with Gladys Whitehouse - Zoom

Tuesday Evenings: 7pm with Michael Somich - Zoom

Wednesdays: 12pm (Lunch hour) *Young Adult Group* with Beth Gaudette - Zoom

Thursdays: 9:30am with Mae Villanueva - in-person



Scan to Register

SMALL GROUP REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, AUGUST 15TH

Help change a child's ETERNITY by being a

Children's Catechumenate Family Sponsor

- intentional & faithful friend
- share your faith and pray with them
- accompany to Mass & family events
- be a witness at Liturgical Rites
- be a Catholic Christian role model

What is the
Children's Catechumenate
and what am I called to do?

A child's journey of
conversion into the mystery of Christ
through the Sacraments of Initiation

Along the journey, this child should be
accompanied by the entire Christian
community who act as witnesses of faith!

For more information on being a
Family Sponsor, email

Marisa.Ferrara@stfrancisraleigh.org

Cancer Support Group

Meets Virtually the
Third Thursday of the
Month at 1pm

Next Meeting 9/15 at 1pm

Contact: Suzanne
sziemer.slp@gmail.com

We are Stronger Together



Community Center Reopening Party

August 28th 10:00-11:30

Coffee and Donuts in the Café
Open Gym Basketball
Games in the labyrinth

Contact

beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org



BE STILL

Psalm 46:11

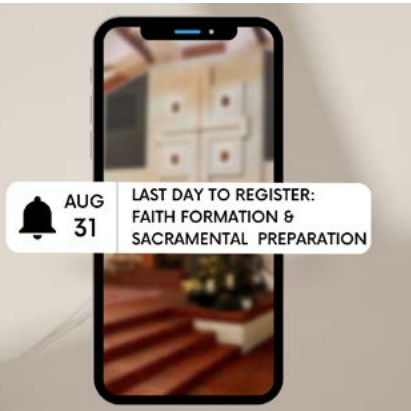
Women's Ministry Morning Retreat

September 24 9:00am-11:30am

Join us for moments of stillness, reflection, and
prayer. Take some time out from the hustle of daily
life to enjoy fellowship and peace.

Cost \$5

Register on Realm.
Questions contact
beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**Join us Every Tuesday at
6:30pm in Padua Room**

Directions: Driving down the main Church
driveway take the **first right** into the gym
parking lot. The Padua Room is in the
community center in the same building as
the gym

We will reflect on the upcoming Sunday
Gospels.

For questions or concerns please contact
beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

Always God's Children

The monthly Always God's Children
ministry meets in-person during the
summer months of June, July, August, and
September, on the second Sunday of the
month. You are welcome to join us from
3:30 to 5:00 pm. Please feel free to wear a
mask for protection - knowing that there
will be those present who will opt out of
wearing one. Contact Beth Gaudette,
Director of Parish Life, at
beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org if you
have any questions.



Sunday, September 11 @ 10:00

Join us for Coffee and Donuts **Sunday, September 11th** following 9:00am Mass from 10:00am-11:00am in Fellowship Hall hosted by the Justice and Peace.

It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. **All are welcome!**



Coffee and Donuts Sunday Schedule

Sunday, October 30th	Sunday, March 26, 2023
Sunday, November 13th	Sunday, April 2, 2023
Sunday, January 29, 2023	Sunday, May 7, 2023
Sunday, February 12, 2023	



Youth Basketball Season Registration is NOW OPEN

Join us for the 32nd season of the St. Francis Youth Basketball League. Participants shall have a spirit of loyalty to Catholic ideals, to parish, to coach, and to the team. The program enables the gifted to excel, the less gifted to participate and improve. This program is open to girls and boys grades 1st thru 8th, in 6 different divisions. Practices will be held once per weeknight and begin late October. Division 1 (grades 1 & 2) will practice before their games on Saturday and not during the week. Games will be on Saturday and Sunday. The season will run through Early February. For more information and to register visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/st-francis-youth-basketball-league-2/>



Ministry Leaders Needed

We are looking for Ministry Leaders for our open play Mens Group (age 30+) and our Women's Group (age 18+). Contact MaryArleth@stfrancisraleigh.org 919-847-8205x358



Francis Fest

FrancisFest Volunteers needed now. The event planning team is forming now to plan our annual parish wide celebration of our patron saint, St Francis of Assisi. This Event will take place October 2nd. Our whole parish community joins for an afternoon of Holiness, Hope, and Hospitality! Contact ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org if you are interested or want to learn more about this opportunity visit www.stfrancisraleigh.org/francisfest.

Assisi Café Volunteers Needed!

We're always in need of individuals to help us manage the day-to-day service of our coffee shop. It's a great way to meet new people, socialize with friends and make a gift of your time to the St. Francis community. You will work side-by-side with the renowned community center staff baristas who will show you the ropes and teach you the secrets of great coffee and the latest (and hippest) barista lingo and moves – an education you can get nowhere else.

This is a great opportunity for just about anyone that can give up 2 hours at a time maybe 2-4 times a month during the weekdays. We create a rotating calendar based on your availability.

If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering please email: Ashley.Watson@stfrancsir-aleigh.org

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Dawn Smith, Principal

Let the Wild Rumpus Begin



It is with great joy that we welcomed all our students and their families back to campus for the start of the 22-23 school year. As I observed families arriving on campus, I could not help, but think of the 1963 classic children's book written and illustrated by Maurice Sendak, *Where the Wild Things Are*. At the end of the first day, I could say that we had a joyous and calm start. It was the delight and wonder that I saw in our student's eyes that warmed my heart and made me ponder Max's adventures. In the book, after an argument with his mom, Max transforms into his wolf suit and enters the dream world. The power of art and imagination and the places it can take you are prevalent throughout the story. Max creates a new world in which he can control his own destiny and escape from reality. I hope that each day our students think of

their time at TFS as entering the land of creativity, imagination and wonder. It is our belief that we should challenge our students and assist in developing superior thinking skills and reaching academic goals. In addition, we are helping them to develop self-confidence and self-reliance. Curiosity and creativity are valued and individual differences are recognized and cherished. Middle school is especially a time for students to explore a passion or pursue an area that brings them joy.

Our mission is for all students to feel loved and look forward to returning home to continue being loved and nurtured. Max's dream ends when he wakes up in his bedroom and finds that his mom has left dinner for him. Many of us find peace by spending time with those who love us. I challenge each of you to find

what grounds you and celebrate it in your storytelling. I feel blessed to spend time each day learning and growing from the faculty and staff at TFS as they share their stories with our students. Next week, you will read more about how one of our alumnae followed her dreams and her passion.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

The Franciscan School wishes to partner with you to help you achieve the goals you have for your child and their educational experience in a Catholic faith environment. More information can be found on our website at www.franciscanschool.org/ or contact Principal Dawn Smith at dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director

Keep Going. Keep Growing.



This past week was amazing at pre-school! One of the 'reasons' our pre-school is the fantastic place that it is came back--our staff have returned! Our teachers, assistants, and before/after care staff are here! Everyone returned this past Monday and have been diligently working to prepare for the arrival of our students. It has been so fantastic to have them back in the buildings. Their enthusiasm carries throughout the hallways! They have been putting in long hours to get ready to welcome the students and their families. Their classrooms reflect the excitement they have in seeing their students; each one certainly radiates a warm welcome and lots of love. From the big tasks such as rearranging tables and chairs to decorating bulletin boards to creating spaces with soft touches and cozy feels, these ladies have tried to make sure that everything is warm and inviting for the children in their care. While perfection is certainly not expected, I can understand their need

to make sure that even the smallest details are not overlooked. When I used to prepare my own classroom for the new school year, I remember wanting to have everything as best as it could be so that my students felt welcomed and cherished, and looked forward to each day at school. In the long run, did it really matter if I chose bulletin board paper that was yellow versus blue? Of course not, but when a teacher is aiming to make her classroom feel like a home away from home where joyful play and creative learning occurs, then even tiny details take on a new level of importance.

Our staff, like at The Franciscan School, are deeply passionate about helping their students to "Keep Going" so that they can all "Keep Growing" in multiple ways. This theme for our new school year is reflected in all that they do. They take it to heart because they are so strongly committed to those entrusted to them.

Our students return on August 22nd and the staff will eagerly await their arrival! In your prayers, please ask God to continue to watch over, guide, and inspire our staff, the students, and their families as we come together to encourage each other to "Keep Going" and to "Keep Growing" in our knowledge and faith. May God grant our teachers serenity to appreciate the uniqueness of each child and wisdom to help each identify and embrace the gifts that they have been given. Let God provide our teachers with an abundance of patience, strength and perseverance. May God also help our teachers to continually inspire children to become faithful and loving members of His greater family.

To learn more about the wonderful opportunities that we provide, please visit our website at www.preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Back to School Supplies Drive



I remember as a child the excitement accompanying back to school shopping with my mom. Little me brimmed with joy at getting a new backpack and other supplies—I usually had my sights on everything dinosaurs. I am sure this was an exciting time for my mother as well, as she saw my joy as we weaved the store aisles checking off the supplies list (I am sure at least some of that joy had to do with the prospect of having us kids out of the house for a few more hours each day too).

Unfortunately, this story isn't true for so many children and parents for whom purchasing needed school supplies can be an insurmountable financial burden. But thanks to you and so many others at St. Francis who supported our Back to School Supplies Drive, this burden was lifted for numerous families. Together, we were able to pack over 175 backpacks full of school supplies and donate them to five different organizations. In addition to offering supplies to Our Lady of the Rosary, Passage Home, the Hispanic Family Center, and Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, we had so many supplies that we were able to donate to Welcome NC, an organization supporting refugees here in the US! In addition to the backpacks, we had large amounts of miscellaneous supplies and received over \$700 in donations. Thank you so much for your incredible generosity!

In Christ,

Tim Fasano—Coordinator of Justice and Peace

Ashley Watson—Coordinator of Community Programs



Caring Casseroles

There is no denying it, summer is a time to relax, take a break, and recharge ourselves, in body, mind and spirit. It's also the time of year when our Feed the Need and Caring Casserole volunteer cooks take a well-deserved break. Fortunately, due to the overwhelming generosity of our volunteers, in May our Caring Casserole freezer was quite full of frozen meals.

Those frozen meals were able to sustain our families all summer long with hot, nutritious meals. As summer draws to a close, we find our freezers very bare indeed. Can you help?

As we head back to school, work, sports and our regular routines, let's not forget about those in our community this ministry is reaching out to with hot meals, and a listening ear.

Can you take some time to cook a casserole to place in our freezer for future use? For more information about volunteering with Feed the Need/Caring Casseroles please visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/ministries-2-2/feed-the-need-2/> or contact beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org.

If you give some of your own food to feed those who are hungry and to satisfy the needs of those who are humble, then your light will rise in the dark. Isaiah 58:10



Parish Workshop on Families and Politics

Thursday, September 15, 7:00-9:15pm

"...be quick to listen, but slow to speak..." (James 1:19)

There are so many ways in which we find ourselves increasingly polarized – left versus right, neighbor against neighbor. It can be especially hard, though, when we encounter these divisions within our own family. When our strong political views differ from those closest to us, we simply can't wish away the problem and hope it will go away. Talking about the weather doesn't get us very far; the hurt and the wariness hover over us and drag us down.

Are you looking for more effective ways to address political differences with those you love? If so, please consider joining fellow parishioners and friends on Thursday, Sep 15, 2022, 7-9:15pm, Founders

Room in Anthony Hall for ["Families and Politics"](#), a workshop designed to help participants learn strategies and practice skills for addressing polarization within families. Register at bit.ly/depoliarizeSFA2022a. Expect an invitation to complete a short online mini-course to prepare for the workshop, then join us for a surprisingly light, fun evening of exercises and role-playing. Don't be surprised if you walk away with lessons that will serve you well even in conversations with those outside your family.

Skilled, experienced moderators from [Braver Angels](#) will lead this, our second parish workshop on depolarization. Braver Angels, a national organization with a

[strong presence](#) in the Triangle area and across North Carolina, exists to promote respect, civility, empathy, and goodwill in our interactions with those with whom we disagree politically.

If you'd like to receive occasional emails about this and other parish news and activities related to depolarization, consider joining the parish "Civil Discourse Allies" Realm group (login to Realm, then search for "civil"; or contact Trevor Thompson directly at Trevor.Thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org). You needn't worry about meetings or commitments; the allies group is nothing more than an email list that allows you to your finger on the pulse.

Have you wondered how interrupted learning during the pandemic affected school-age children?



It left a significant impact on their reading skills, according to the Wake County School System, and you can help students recover from this academic toll by volunteering as a tutor. By volunteering a short amount of your time, you could not only improve the remainder of a child's educational path, but also his or her entire life.

The school system has partnered with local agencies in an effort called Wake Together to help students in grades two through five improve their reading and advance their learning future.

The Education Issue Team at St. Francis of Assisi recommends volunteering for this program if you are seeking a way to help young students. The Education Is-

sue Team is part of the Office of Justice and Peace and operates on the premise that the right to a basic education is an integral part in the development of the dignity of the human person as outlined in Catholic Social Teaching.

Reading skills are integral because they affect children's abilities to learn in all the subject areas—math, science, history, music, and art.

What is required of a volunteer?

- Volunteers are needed during the school day, after school, or evenings at elementary schools or community sites.

- All volunteers will be screened, complete a background check, and participate in 3-4 hours of training prior to being paired with students.
- To provide consistency for students as well as fidelity to the implementation of the tutoring program, volunteers should be able to commit to 1-2 hours per week for at least a semester.

How do I sign up?

To learn more and to complete a volunteer application, please visit the [WakeTogether website](#).

Once you sign up, please email Pam Peroutky, SFA Education Committee chair, at pperoutky@gmail.com



The Burning Bush

Listen to the Voice of Creation

SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Flood waters swallow, intense droughts continue, and wildfires consume, and yet we find ourselves unable or unwilling to aggressively address the issues that affect our common home. Every year, churches across the world come together for the “Season of Creation,” from September 1st through October 4th, to raise our awareness, prayer, and action to address these issues and more related to a changing climate and our neglect of God’s creation.

Pope Francis wrote in his [2015 teaching document called Laudato Si’](#) that our earth is like our sister, “This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse . . . the earth herself . . . is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; . . . We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air, and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.”

This year’s Season of Creation theme is “Listen to the Voice of Creation.” There is a long-standing view within the Judeo-Christian tradition that God speaks to us through creation, that crea-

tures speak to us of the Creator’s goodness, truth, and beauty. With this theme, we are invited to ask ourselves: To what are we listening? Where does God speak to us in creation? Can we stop and listen deeply to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth? What is distracting us?

In this Season of Creation, our Care of Creation Ministry (stfccreation@gmail.com) is offering a number of opportunities to learn more about our earth, to experience it spiritually, to listen deeply, and to demonstrate our care for creation. We look forward to you joining us.

Celebrate the Season of Creation

Gather for a family movie night to view the film *Kiss the Ground* available via Netflix or check bit.ly/vwkgd. We then invite you to a virtual discussion on Wednesday, September 7 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The link is:

umssystem.zoom.us/j/5452370000?pwd=UUx6OG9wOWJiMEhjaTkrYWYwRlW5oQT09

Start reading the book *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation* and mark your calendar for an in-person book discussion on September

27th in Founder’s Room. You can find this book at your local library or purchase at your favorite book story/outlet. There is a lot of information in this book, so please start early! Read and mark the areas that interest you most to be ready for discussion on the book. Check here for more information; bit.ly/phregbk.

Join us for Reflective Tour of the St. Francis Church Grounds – “Through the Windows of St. Francis”: meet Sunday, September 11 from 4:15-5:15 pm in front of St. Mary of the Angels Chapel. Then join parishioner Michelle Kaiser for a short three-stop walking tour of our campus. Each will use a different spiritual tradition to guide us to a prayerful connection with creation. Or use the QR code below to do a self-guided tour during this Season of Creation.

More Season of Creation opportunities later in September. Details forthcoming!



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 21, 2022

Strengthen your drooping hands
and your weak knees.

Make straight paths for your feet,
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

— *Hebrews 12:12-13*



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