October 2, 2022

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

A WEEKEND CELEBRATION OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 @ 1:00PM FRONT OF CHAPEL Blessing of the Animals: Saturday, October 1, 1:00pm in front of the Chapel. Bring your pets to be blessed by Fr. Jim and Fr. Alex! Join us rain or shine!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 @ 9:00AM CHURCH

Blessing of the Processional Cross and Artist Presentation: Sunday, Oct 2, 9:00am. Join us as our new Processional Cross is blessed at the 9am mass. Artist Ann Chapin will present the meaning and history of the San Damiano Cross on Sunday, Oct 9th after the 9am mass.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 @ 12:45PM - 4:30PM

Francis Fest: Sunday, Oct 2, 12:45pm-4:30pm. Our parish community celebrates together with activities for all ages! **Join us rain or shine!**



MONDAY, OCTOBER 3 @ 7PM CHAPEL

Transitus: Monday, Oct 3, 7pm in the Chapel. Celebrate in prayer, light, music and word the passing of St. Francis from this life to our heavenly home (his "transitus") on the anniversary of the vigil of his death.





UPDATE ON SHIFTS IN CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:

There have been several questions arise about changes with our Confirmation program this year. Allow me to answer two of the more important ones we have received.

<u>Change in Which Grades Prepare for Confirmation:</u> Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation for youth baptized as Catholics earlier in their lives has been a two-year process for decades in our diocese. For many years, it was left to each parish to decide when the two-year formation program occurred. The result was a wide range of ages being confirmed, some as early as age 9 and others as late as ages 16-17. Last May, Bishop Luís established the 10th grade as the grade in which all Catholic youth would be confirmed and asked pastors to adjust their formation programs accordingly beginning this fall.

The timing of this announcement created some chaos for our formation program because of an adjustment we made to the program only one year ago (Murphy's Law?). We decided to lower the grades for preparation from 8th-9th to 7th-8th in light of input from parents and students who found the process more challenging to complete once a student reached high school. Keeping formation within the middle school years seemed to work better for our families. With the recent decision by Bishop Luís, we pivoted back to the former protocol (8th-9th grade preparation) last month to bring our program into sync with the Bishop's new policy. Next September, Bishop Luís will confirm approximately 300 St. Francis youth.

<u>Sunday Evening Formation for TFS Students:</u> Each parish is responsible for designing how the two-year process will unfold following guidelines from the diocese. One of our diocese's priorities embedded in these guidelines is evangelization. The Bishop has made this a priority because, for too many youth, Confirmation is the sacrament of graduation (the end) rather than the sacrament of commencement (the beginning) and one of the reasons for this, based on many national studies, is inadequate evangelization of our youth. He has asked parishes to explore ways to do a better job of evangelizing these youth.

There are three levels of evangelization for Catholic youth in the Confirmation program: 1) coming to an awareness of and beginning to have an initial personal relationship with the Lord and knowing the most essential and foundational beliefs of all Catholics, 2) coming to a greater awareness and understanding of the meaning of one's baptism and confirmation and the importance and priority of the Holy Eucharist in one's life, and, 3) becoming better grounded in some essential beliefs of the Church (e.g., other sacraments, social teaching of the church, etc.). We have adjusted the formation process to accommodate these levels. We began to experiment with the first level of evangelization last year but have become more intentional about it this year because it is a critical foundation on which everything else is built in our faith.

We have asked all students in the Confirmation formation program this year to participate in this level one series on Sunday evenings, including TFS students. The inclusion of TFS students this year will only occur this year. We are in the process of setting up the first level of evangelization program as an integral component of the religion classes at TFS but it will not be ready for implementation until 2023. We do not anticipate TFS students beginning their first year of Confirmation formation in fall 2023 will be required to attend the Sunday evening formation sessions.

Fr. Michael

Weekly Envelope Schedule

October 2 Weekly October 2 Mortgage Sunday October 9 Weekly October 16 Weekly October 23 Weekly October 23 Propagation of the Faith October 30 Weekly November 1 All Saints Day November 2 All Souls Day

Through Faith Direct you can support our parish using an electronic funds transfer from either a bank account or credit/debit card. To access, start here:



You can mail your contribution to us at:

St Francis Of Assisi 11401 Leesville Road Raleigh, NC 27613

You can give online through:

FAITH DIRECT

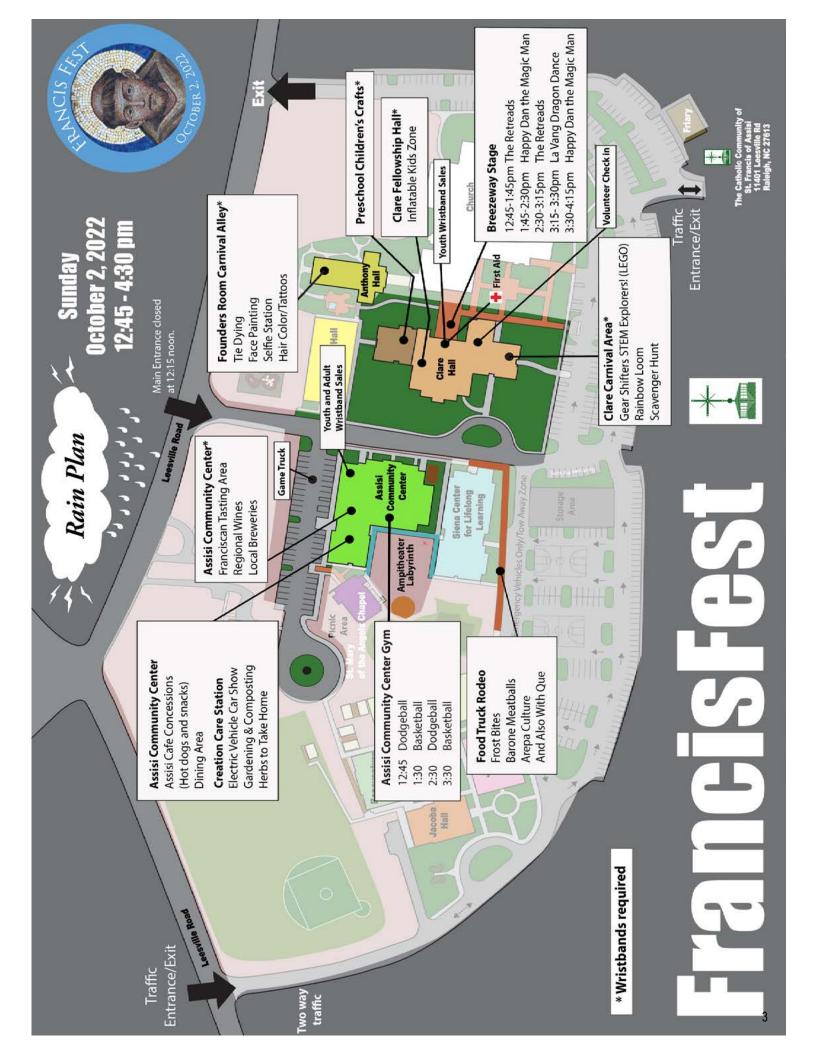
https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-direct/



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.



Prayer Requests for October 1 to Octo



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday October 1, 2022 Saturday, 5:30 +Kathryn Cuseo Requested by Stephanie Smith

Sunday October 2, 2022 Sunday, 7:15 +George Apuzzi Requested by Carmela and George Brocco

Sunday, 9:00 +Barbara and +Patrick Curran Requested by Janet and Charles Gerard

Sunday, 11:45 +Virginia McGuinness Requested by Richard McGuinness

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

Monday October 3, 9am +Guillermo Beniamin Requested by Rolando and Gisela Diez

Tuesday October 4. 9am +Mike McGrail Jr. Requested by All the Parishioners at Capital Oaks

> Wednesday October 5, 9am +Joseph Kolbet Requested by Joann Throndson

Thursday October 6. 9am +Dolores Horner Requested by Janice and Mary Horner

> Friday October 7, 9am Norma Auld Requested by Mary O'Neil Special Intention

Saturday October 8, 2022 Saturday, 5:30 +Frances Mary Slobodzian Requested by Stephanie Slobodzian

Sunday October 9, 2022 Sunday, 7:15 +Jackson Eck Requested by Thomas, Karen, and Sara Eck

> Sunday, 9:00 +Kyrie Jespersen Requested By Michael Kozak

Sunday, 11:45 +Frances Gingerella Requested by Donna Gingerella

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

+Saviour Nicholas Requested by Maria and Steve Nicholas Remembrance

> +Charles Bryant Requested by Margaret Bryant Remembrance

+Frank Labianca Requested by Rosa D'Arduini Remembrance

(ill) Anne Kowal Requestéd by Jackie Adamo Health and Wellness



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

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 for 2023 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.

At a Glance

This week's events are shown in red.

October 2 FrancisFest

Our annual parish wide celebration of our patron saint. 12:45-4:30pm. Contact ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org or visit www.stfrancisraleigh.org/francisfest

October 3 Praver Chain for the Earth

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh 5:00pm - To register, go to this link.

October 7

Contemplative Spirituality – Friday: from 1 to 2:30 pm, via Zoom continue discussing Robin Wall Kimmerer's Book 'Braiding Sweetgrass', contact Richard Szulewski (919) 349-7422 / richszul@ gmail.com or Deacon Steve at (732) 213-0104 / stephenwandrews@outlook.com

October 8 Young Adult Social

After 5:30 Mass, in the Assisi Cafe gus.franceschi@stfrancisraleigh.org

October 8 Herencia Hispana Mass

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

October 8 Oak City Cares

Donate food, dropping it off at the parish, or join us in serving the meal at Oak City Cares in downtown Raleigh https://bit.ly/breakfastatOCCOctober8-2022

October 13 Documentary – The Gathering

Viewing & Discussion A Prelude to October 23 Death Row Exonoree Tells His Story https://bit.ly/WitnesstoInnocenceSFA

October 15 Yoga and Breakfast

9:00-11:00am in Clare Fellowship Hall Women's Ministry - Contact beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

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

October 16 Why Faith

Election 2022 What does the Catholic Church say about voting and citizenship 10:15-11:15am or 6:45-7:45pm in Founders Rm.

October 18 Solarize

A Triangle webinar, 7:00- 8:00. An opportunity to learn about multiple incentives now available for the installation of rooftop solar. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-H1mA_Vnvq0d4nEKBvQqoqBc-JwzW6uV41zZ4w2CMjgw/edit#mpmkelly

October 22 Franciscan Spirit and Life: **Repairing and Reforming the Church Convocation**

Saturday, Oct 22, 8:30am to 1:30pm More information to come. Registration opens on September 16 via Realm. Questions. contact Kathy. Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org

October 23 Coffee and Donuts with the Friars

Following 9:00am Mass. From 10:00-11:00am in Clare Fellowship Hall

October 23 Death Row Exonoree Tells His Story

The 100th exonoree from Arizona's death row to bring his story to St. Francis of Assisi via a live Zoom event on Sunday. October 23rd, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. https://bit.ly/WitnesstoInnocenceSFA. Questions: prayerfulheart3@gmail.com.

October 30 **Crop Hunger Walk**

https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/ team/st-francis-of-assisi-catholic-church



The Assisi Café is now open in the Community Center, Monday-Friday 8:30am-10:30am!

Come grab a hot cup of coffee and a delicious muffin after Mass. This is a great opportunity to socialize with fellow parishioners. We hope to see you there!

Register Today on Realm. Only 100 spots Left!

"Help Me Rebuild and Reform our Church!"



October 22nd

a Franciscan Convocation from **8:30am to 1:30pm.** Keynote Speaker, Dr. Joshua Benson, *"Repairing the Church with Letter and Spirit."*

Registration Fee: \$10 | Click Here to Register

Session 1

1. Helping Children to Find Their Place in the Sun:

Promoting Strong Social and Emotional Development in Children *with Laureen Wacenske*

2. Go Tell It on a Mountain: The Liturgical Year According to Matthew's Gospel *with Jim Wahl*

3. "Praise be You, My Lord:" A Franciscan Spirituality for Living in Relationship with God's Creation *with Trevor Thompson*

- 4. The House of God: A Church Tour with Chuck Small
- 5. How to Pray with your Kids and Family with Jeanne Lewin

6. Can a 12th Century Mystic Still be Relevant Today? *with Gladys Whitehouse*

Session 2

1. The Laity: Ordinary Circumstances, Extraordinary Mission *with Jennifer Fiduccia*

2. Go In Peace, Glorifying the Lord by Your Life: How the Eucharist Leads to Service and Advocacy *with Becky Cawley*

3. Eucharistic Theology through a Franciscan Lens: *with Fr. Jim Sabak*

4. The House of God: A Church Tour *with Chuck Small*5. The Mindful Catholic: Finding God One Moment at a Time

with Kathleen Owen

6. Prayer in the Franciscan Tradition with Tim Fasano



The convocation will conclude with lunch with the Friars (for registered participants only)

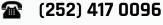
THINKING **ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD?**

Discernment is a process of drawing closer to Jesus, learning about the priesthood, and praying intensely about the Lord's will for your life.

The monthly priesthood discernment group meeting is a great opportunity to

meet other guys who are in discernment and learn about the process. The meetings are led by Father Jim Magee on the 2nd Saturday of each

month from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Catholic Center at 7200 Stonehenge Dr. Raleigh, NC 27613. To learn more visit ncpriest.org or contact Father Jim at:



 \times





you know what to do :-)



Corporal Works of Mercy "Burv the Dead" **Outside Volunteer Opportunity**

Funerals provide an opportunity to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Perhaps one of our lesser-known ministries at St. Francis is serving as a columbarium attendant. The columbarium attendant offers quiet, behind the scenes assistance by preparing the columbarium niche to receive cremated remains after a funeral liturgy. This includes setting up, opening and cleaning the niche, respectfully standing watch during the time the niche is open, and replacing the niche cover after the service. Those who serve must be physically able to remove, lift, and replace the granite niche cover, which weighs approximately 60 pounds.

Services are typically Tuesday thru Saturday and take approximately 1 to 1 1/2 hours of time. Columbarium attendants can serve as their schedule allows. For more information, please contact Trish Adamkowski 919-847-8205 x 236 or trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org.

A New JustFaith Program: Faith and Immigration Justice



Love the stranger then, for you were once strangers in Egypt. (Deut 10:19)

Would you like to join a JustFaith virtual There's no registration fee; the cost of study group focused on immigration?

We at St. Francis are one of the first communities to offer this new "Faith and Immigration Justice" program. It's an opportunity for our parish to build on the three spectacularly successful racial justice programs in which more than a hundred parishioners participated over the past three years. It also seems a fitting way to reflect on the challenge of "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees", the theme of National Migration Week (Sep 20-25, 2022) sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, and the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (Sep 25, 2022), sponsored by the Holy See.

Depending on interest, we expect to organize one or more groups that meet online Wednesday evenings at 7pm (beginning Oct 26), and one or more that meet online Thursday afternoons at 3pm (beginning Oct 27). The groups will meet for eight weeks, with a break scheduled for Thanksgiving week. Sign up at bit.ly/ImmigrationSFA2022a.

books is about \$28/person.

The Faith and Immigration Justice program, like other JustFaith initiatives, aims to encourage healthy conversation; equip participants to advocate for just, effective, and compassionate policies; and prepare participants to extend hospitality toward their neighbors. Its immigration-specific goals include discerning "how our faith calls us to respond to the immigration debate," and examining the nuances of immigration policy and the citizenship process in this country.

If you'd like to receive occasional emails about this and other parish news and activities related to immigration, consider joining the parish "Immigration Allies" Realm group (login to Realm, then search for "immigration"; 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 keep your finger on the pulse.



Women's Ministry Yoga & Breakfast



Join the Women's Ministry for a beginners Yoga class followed by breakfast October 15 from 9:00am to 11:00am in Fellowship Hall

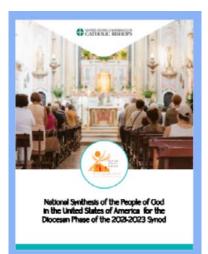
Register on <u>Realm</u> Cost is \$3 for breakfast and teacher stipend Contact: beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org





For a synodal Church communion | participation | mission

<u>Click here to view the Synod</u> <u>Summary Report for The Catholic</u> <u>Community of St. Francis of Assisi</u>



<u>Click here to view the National</u> <u>Synthesis of the People of God in</u> <u>the United States of America for the</u> <u>Diocesan Phase of the 2021-2023</u> <u>Synod</u>

9



Solarize a Triangle webinar October 18, 7:00- 8:00. This meet-up is an opportunity for individuals, as well as our faith community, to learn about multiple incentives now available for the installation of rooftop solar. Duke's energy costs are scheduled to rise in December, and can be expected to rise again in the future. This webinar is an opportunity for SFA staff and parishioners to consider how to care for creation while exercising good financial stewardship.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-H1mA Vnvq0d4nEKBvQqoqBcJwzW6uV41zZ4w2CMjqw/ edit#mpmkelly

Families Looking for Adventure. Fun and Leadership Development in the outdoors? Join Scouts BSA!

St. Francis has multiple options for children interested in Scouting:

Pack 352 – Boys and Girls ages K-5th

Troop 352 - Boys ages 11+ (or 10 and in 5th grade)

Troop 219 - Girls ages 11+ (or 10 and in 5th grade)

Venture Crew 722 - Boys or Girls ages 14+ focused on high adventure activities like rock climbing, whitewater rafting, hiking, etc.

You do not have to be a member of the church to join! Please contact the following individuals if interested:

Cub Scouts Pack 352 Luis Suau – ljsuau@gmail.com

Boys Troop 352 Rob Sadler - rsadlernc@gmail.com

Girls Troop 219 Christina Cash gatorcash96@gmail.com

Venture Crew 722 Jim Erlinger - jimerlinger@gmail.com

October 8th Young Adult Social

After the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass in the Assisi Cafe

> Games Snacks Adult and

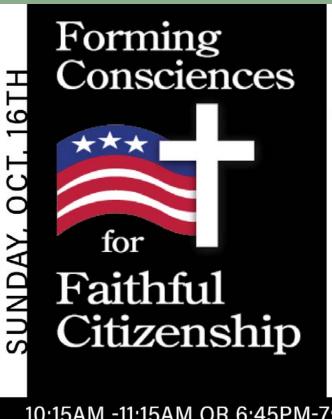
No RSVP, just come over after Mass

Normal Beverages (Provided and BYO)

Contact for Questions gus.franceschi@stfrancisraleigh.org

"Coffee with Clay in the Assisi Café



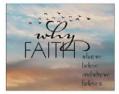


Election 2022:

What does the Catholic Church

voting and Citizenship?*

presented by Trevor Thompson and Tim Fasano



10:15AM -11:15AM OR 6:45PM-7:45PM | FOUNDERS RM

"Why Faith: what we believe and why we believe it." Next session: December 4th.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OPEN PLAY

TUESDAY NIGHTS 8:00PM-10:30PM IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER \$5 PER PLAYER

THE MINISTRY LEADER WILL BE JESSICA DOUGHERTY.

DOUGHERTY_JESS@YAHOO.COM



Youth Basketball Season

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/

Strength and Yoga

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am-9:00am DVD Guided Classes Classes run from mid-September through May in the Cupertino Room at the Community Center. For more Information please visit: https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/fitness-class-

es-and-programs-2/ or contact Ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.



The Return of Children's Liturgy of the Word!

Children's Liturgy of the Word, or CLOW, is an opportunity for children, ages 5 to 7, kindergarten to the date of their First Eucharist, to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in an age appropriate way. We celebrate CLOW at the 9:00am Mass on weeks that we do not have Crosswalk Faith Formation. Children will be invited to process out after the opening prayer, and will return to their families before the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This program will kick off on October 9th at the 9:00am Mass.



Advocating our Values for Local Elections

On Nov 8, there is an important election for both statewide and local elected officials. Next month, there are two public assemblies organized by ONE Wake that invite your voice to share our concerns and values with the candidates running for city council and senate. Please join us!

These assemblies are wonderful opportunity to exercise our faithful citizenship in the political process through our partnership with ONE Wake, a community organizing group that has gathered nearly 50 congregations together in Wake County to advocate for the needs of vulnerable people in our community and for policies that uphold the dignity of all. The Church does not tell us who to vote for, but the Church is adamant that it is our responsibility to be politically and prayerfully engaged so we make prudent choices that reflect our moral values as Christians.

ONE Wake is strictly non-partisan and does not promote specific candidates. However, given the values of the participating congregations, ONE Wake does encourage candidates to endorse fair and equitable policy for affordable housing, education, job opportunities for all of God's children. At the recent ONE Wake clergy meeting, St Francis committed that 50 parishioners would register to attend each of the following events (in-person or virtually).

Please join us!

Raleigh City Council Local Candidate Assembly

October 6 at 7:30pm

Register your attendance here.

US Senate Candidate Assembly

October 16 at 3:00pm

Register your attendance here.

All you have to do is show-up to the assembly and show your support! Nothing more. We need you! There is power in numbers.

If you want more information about these events and our community organizing in Wake County, contact Nancy Dilger, <u>ndilger3@gmail.com</u>.

Whether you've been a parishioner for 40 years or 40 days, thank you for your care & compassion for all of our neighbors!





Do you know TFS alumni doing great things? Click <u>here</u> to nominate them to be featured in a story for the school website and social media!

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Dawn Smith, Principal

The Foundation of our School Community



At the heart of The Franciscan School lies the families that make up our community. Each year, our dedicated parents volunteer their time and talents to be a part of the TFS Home School Association (HSA). The HSA's mission is to support the spiritual and educational objectives of TFS in the spirit of Christian friendship and appreciation of Catholic education. The HSA impacts every aspect of the school by supporting teachers, distributing grants, raising funds for the school, and contributing to the positive environment that embodies TFS. And the most exciting aspect is that every parent, guardian, and teacher at TFS is an active member of the HSA.

The HSA holds three general meetings during the year that are open to all those engaged at TFS. A guest speaker

is brought in to present a topic that is relevant to the TFS community, such as mental health, internet safety, how to prepare for success in college, and other topics that help parents and students find success both at home and at school. HSA President Melissa Yeazel shares that, "I am an educator by background and know from my own experience how rare it is to find the type of community we have at TFS. As a parent, HSA has been a terrific place for me to tangibly support the school."

One of the landmark opportunities provided by the HSA is The Franciscan Experience. The Franciscan Experience is the school's primary annual fundraiser and online silent auction. This year, the Franciscan Experience will be held September 30-October 7. In addition to raising funds for the school, this experience allows the school to put on other events and activities that bring the community together and give opportunities for parents and guardians to get involved. The more funds raised, the more the school is able to give back through teacher and innovation grants and enhancements.

"The Franciscan Experience is always a fun way to kick off the year," says TFS Principal Dawn Smith. "It helps us to celebrate our school spirit and come together as a community by funding a ton of fun, long-standing activities throughout the year." During the event, there are numerous experiences for all ages and interests up for bid or purchase, along with tickets to activities like Trunk or Treat, the Father-Daughter Dance, Principal for a Day, popsicle parties, an art project with the art teachers, and class movie afternoons. The HSA also provides opportunities for the students to receive mid-month snacks during lunch each month, as well as additional hot lunch options. Tickets for these experiences and treats can only be purchased during The Franciscan Experience.

The silent auction includes a wide variety of items, including reserved parking spots, dress out passes, locker reservations, tickets to sporting events, vacation rentals, and sports memorabilia. TFS is fortunate and grateful to receive support from our families and local businesses.

All proceeds from the Franciscan Experience help fund HSA-sponsored activities throughout the school year, as well as teacher grants, innovation grants, and various school enhancements and improvements. Some examples of these HSA-funded activities include Field Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, grants for programs like "One Book, One School," initiation of a middle school library, new

Continue on page 17

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director

Cupcake Chronicles: Part 4



It seems fitting that on this weekend when we celebrate the feast day of our patron saint, Francis of Assisi, who continually demonstrated his love for all of God's creation, including animals, we have another installation of the Cupcake Chronicles.

You may remember that last school year, I wrote a few times about the preschool's resident squirrel. One of our 3-year old classes continues to have a classroom job dedicated to feeding a squirrel on campus who was given the name of "Cupcake" by previous students. Although Cupcake has had to adjust to new landscaping and construction around preschool this year, he has adjusted well enough to still get to his food dish each day! Even if he couldn't, however, these 3-year olds would be ready to help!

As I was on my way into preschool one morning, I happened upon Cupcake while he was in the process of burying a large nut. I believe that it was a black walnut as it was very big and had a bright green covering. If you looked quickly, you might actually think that it was a tennis ball; it was so bright and big! Since the squirrel didn't immediately run off, I was able to watch for a minute as his little paws went to work securing that nut in the ground for winter storage. It truly was neat to see! Later that morning, the aforementioned class prepared to go on a nature walk outside. They were on their way to gather acorns for the preschool's annual service project in which we collect "treats" (aka- acorns) for the pigs at Saving Grace, a local animal rescue. I stopped the class and explained what I had seen Cupcake doing earlier that morning. We all walked over to the area where I had seen Cupcake bury the nut. I attempted to find it again so that I could show them, but I was unsuccessful. Afterwards. I posed the following questions to them: "What would happen if Cupcake forgot where he buried that nut? How would he find it again?"

After some careful pondering and a bit of discussion, it was decided that the class would make small signs and post them around the place where the nut was buried. In this way, they would be making a map for Cupcake to find his lost nut. They would be helping their furry friend. The teachers in the class continued the conversation with the students by reminding them of how St. Francis often cared for animals, including the mean wolf of Gubbio. They were also able to incorporate a lesson on how God asks us to show kindness and compassion to all people and animals. This small event that occurred turned into a grand

teachable moment on providing care & kindness, and lending an extra hand to someone (or some animal) in need. In addition, this teachable moment could also be easily expanded to include a science lesson on how things grow from seeds. The nut that Cupcake buried could potentially grow into another tree which would add to the beauty surrounding our school. Since preschool teachers are constantly on the lookout for chances to "sneak" learning into a child's day with engaging and exciting activities, this was a wonderful opportunity on many levels.

It goes without saying that any opportunity to practice kindness is something we never want to let pass by. Our children are curious and highly motivated to participate in things to which they can easily connect. Whether Cupcake realizes it or not, he has helped these 3-year olds obtain more insight into living a life which reflects some of Francis' own. May we continue to recognize opportunities that arise throughout our days which help us to move one step closer towards living the life that God has envisioned for all.

To learn more about our preschool, please visit our website at <u>www.pre-schoolatstfrancis.org</u>.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH: WITNESS TO INNOCENCE A Death Row Exonoree Tells His Story

Nancy J Jones, Parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi



Every October, the Catholic Church puts a spotlight on all the ways human life is neglected and threatened and our call to celebrate and respect the dignity of all. In light of this, the Office of Justice and Peace, in partnership with national organization Witness to Innocence, will host a unique event where we will have the opportunity to hear the story from an individual who was an exonoree from Arizona's death row.

There are a number of reasons why some Catholics have come to the conclusion that capital punishment - taking a life to punish someone for taking another's life - is no longer a viable solution to the problem of murder in our state. Some of these rational reasons include the cost of incarcerating someone on death row far exceeds the cost of someone living in the general population of a prison; the inherent evil of willfully ending another person's life while others sit by to witness it; capital punishment is not a deterrent to any crime; we now have maximum-security prisons that will safely keep away from society those who committed the worst of crimes; and some wonder

how many put to death may have been innocent.

As of August 2022, there are now 190 men and women exonerated from death rows around our nation. They all have stories to tell, and some have been written down and published (The Sun Does Shine and Just Mercy to name two) or made into films and documentaries. And yet some exonorees are willing to relive the horrors – of being innocent while arrested, charged, tried, and then sentenced to death – by telling their stories orally.

In this latter way, we are blessed to have the 100th exonoree from Arizona's death row to bring his story to us at St. Francis of Assisi via a live Zoom event on Sunday, October 23rd, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. If you would like to hear his life-changing story and what he's also been doing since released from prison, sign-up here: https://bit.ly/WitnesstoInnocenceSFA. If you have any questions, send them to me at prayerfulheart3@gmail.com. Please note that this event will not be recorded.



A Prelude to this Event: October 13 Documentary – The Gathering Viewing & Discussion

As a prelude to our October 23rd event, we will host a viewing and discussion of the documentary called The Gathering that tells briefly the story of Witness to Innocence, the largest organization of death row exonorees in the United States. The documentary is the filming of their annual meeting of exonorees; watch as 16 men and women share what their lives used to be prior to wrongful conviction and incarceration and how their struggles, of a different kind, continue after their release from death row. You'll see them pull strength from one another's experiences.

This virtual event will be on Oct. 13, from 7 to 8 pm on Zoom as we watch the 20-minute film and then spend some time reflecting on what we learned and what we already may or may not know about the death penalty. The hope is to prepare you to hear more fully our exonoree's story on October 23rd and to have time to formulate the questions that you'll want to ask him at the end of his presentation on the 23rd. If you have any questions, send them to Nancy Jones at <u>prayerfulheart3@gmail.com</u>. Please use the same sign-up <u>https://bit.ly/Witness-</u>toInnocenceSFA for this event as well.



Season of Creation Join Us for a Prayer Chain for the Earth

Join fellow members of St. Francis and others in the Triangle for the 2nd Annual Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle Prayer Chain for the Earth on October 3 at 5pm. Triangle people of faith and people of conscience will find our so-

cially distanced places on the sidewalks near the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh (UUFR) on Wade Ave. At 6:00 PM a brief, outdoor clergy-led prayer vigil with music will follow at UUFR. Parking is available at UUFR, CUCC, and on the side streets. To register, <u>go to this link</u>.

Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner



The Spaghetti Dinner on September 16th hosted by the Knights of Columbus was a huge success! This family fun event fulfilled its purpose with 185 guests enjoying the evening in Jacoba Hall. The feedback was very positive with comments such as, "best meat sauce ever" and " can you do this every Friday?" The Knights are looking to sponsoring another fun event in the near future.

Men's Praver Breakfast - The Men's Praver Breakfast is set to resume meeting on every 1st and 3rd Mondays from 7 to 8 am beginning on 9/19. We plan to meet in the Padua Room and we will resume serving Breakfast Burritos and Coffee for \$2.50. We will be discussing the final book from the Bridges Series by Thomas Merton. If you never read Thomas Merton don't be intimidated. Each chapter we discuss is only 4 pages and it is easy reading but insightful. It is Book # 8 in the series "Bridges for contemplative living with Thomas Merton". The book is titled "Seeing That Paradise Begins Now" and is available from Amazon for \$5.95. If interested please respond to Richard Szulewski (919) 349-7422 / richszul@ gmail.com or Deacon Steve at (732) 213-0104 / stephenwandrews@outlook.com.

Contemplative Spirituality – Friday: On Friday 10/7 from 1 to 2:30 pm, via Zoom we will continue discussing Robin Wall Kimmerer's Book 'Braiding Sweetgrass', a National Best Seller. In it she examines native peoples mystical and real connection with creation. As a botanist. Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on "a journey that is every bit as mythical as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise".

If you are interested contact Tracy Hurley at (828) 773-3152 / <u>danandtracy@</u> <u>hotmail.com</u> or Deacon Steve at (732) 213-0104 / <u>stephenwandrtews@outlook.</u> <u>com</u>. We will be meeting every 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.

Oak City Cares



Homelessness and hunger continue to be experienced by a growing number of people in the Raleigh area. Oak City Cares is a multi-services center working against this issue by connecting members of our community to the resources they most need (such as housing, food, etc.) St. Francis has the honor of providing a simple breakfast to the guests of Oak City Cares on the 2nd Saturday of every other month, and the 4th Sunday of each month. As the issue of homelessness continues to affect more individuals, we've grown from feeding 100 to 150 at each meal. Our presence is needed now more than ever!

Won't you help us alleviate their hunger? There are two easy ways. You can donate food, dropping it off at the parish, or join us in serving the meal at Oak City Cares in downtown Raleigh. Just click on the links to sign up!

https://bit.ly/breakfastatOCCOctober8-2022

https://bit.ly/breakfastatOCCOctober23-2022

Questions? Contact Ann Lassiter at <u>aclassiter@sbcglobal.net</u> or 501-258-4607

Thank you for any help you can provide!

The Foundation of our School Community

water fountains, updates to the library, playground improvements, security features to the school and fields, the iPad and Chromebook program, new seating in the cafeteria, and updates to the teachers' lounge.

In addition to all of these activities and programs, the HSA facilitates the Passage Home food drive, the annual art show, parents' night trivia, the staff holiday cookie exchange, the 8th grade graduation reception, pizza bingo nights, and Catholic Schools Week.

Melanie Elliott, past HSA president, has tirelessly served our community for many years. "I have had the privilege of sitting on our HSA Board for the past 5 years and it has been an honor to work with our faculty, staff and school community in supporting the mission of The Franciscan School." Together, with current HSA president Melissa Yeazel, they encourage parents to get involved: "It takes all of us working together to build something special and support the work of the school. HSA is a marvelous way for parents to become involved in that work."

We hope to see you at our HSA events soon!

As you explore school options for your child's education next year, I welcome you to become a part of The Franciscan School. We have several virtual information sessions coming up in the next few months. More information regarding our school and the admissions timeline can be found on our website at <u>www.franciscanschool.org/</u> or contact Principal Dawn Smith at <u>dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org</u>.



Celebrate the Season of Creation

"Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society." Poor Francis-Laudato Si

Faith life: Learn what our Franciscan brothers are doing. franciscanaction.org/issues/care-for-creation

> Daily Life: Monitor your own energy usage. duke-energy.com/home/products/power-manager

Lots more information here! stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation To connect with us: stfccreation@gmail.com

Employment Opportunities

The Franciscan School

Social Studies Teacher – Full Time (See more here)

The Franciscan School is seeking a qualified and passionate history/ social studies teacher to join our middle school faculty. Preferred candidates will have previous experience teaching middle school social studies in an innovate way utilizing a variety of classroom technology. If you are interested in joining a dynamic educational environment working with dedicated professionals to provide an academically challenging experience for our students, please send a cover letter, that includes your educational philosophy, and resume to: tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Part-time Music Teacher (16 Hours – T, W, Th)

The Franciscan School is seeking an energetic individual to share a love of music teaching our students in grades 3, 4 and 5. If you are interested in joining a dynamic educational environment working with dedicated professionals to provide an academically challenging and faith-filled experience for our students, please send a cover letter and resume to: tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Afterschool Program Staff – Part Time

The Franciscan School is seeking energetic candidates with a positive attitude and love of children to work in our Bridges Afterschool Program. Hours and days of the week are flexible, Monday thru Friday 3pm – 6pm. Bridges staff are responsible for the supervision and well-being of students in our program. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and successfully complete the Diocesan background check. To apply, please send resume and cover letter to <u>tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org</u> or contract <u>Trish.Adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org</u> to obtain an application.

St. Francis Parish

Part-time Community Center Staff (Evenings and Weekends)

Our community center offers programs and events that strengthen the communal aspects of our parish in light of our mission to be "one family living in community". These part time evening and weekend positions support operations by ensuring a safe, clean, controlled environment for participants. A high school diploma or equivalent is required and the applicant must possess, or be able to obtain, Red Cross or American Heart Association CPR Certification with First Aid training, and Diocese of Raleigh Safe Child training. For a complete job description, questions, or to submit a resume, please email Ashley Watson, <u>Ashley.Watson@</u> stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 <u>Andrea.Javier@stfrancis-</u> <u>raleigh.org</u> 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 <u>Andrea.Javier@stfrancis-</u> raleigh.org

CREMATION SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS CAPITAL FUNERAL HOME 2205 E. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27604 Serving the Triangle area for burials and cremations since 1974. Visit our websites: www.CremationSocietyNC.com • www.CapitalFuneralHomeNC.com Phone: (919) 571-3300 • Fax: (919) 877-0207				
	DAUNTLESS Transmissions.com 8809-8 Gulf Court • Raleigh. NC 27617 Gil Gutierrez (919) 786-0230 gil@dauntlesstransmissions.com • www.dauntlesstransmissions.com			
Charter Autorize BEALER TV INTERNET VOICE Call To Establish New Service			Crow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish! Common Community With OneParish! Common Community Common Co	
844-648-7796 ^{©2016} Charter Communications Cobalt Communications is an authorized Charter Retailer Service not available in all areas			https://www.oneparish.com	

006792 St Francis of Assisi Church (C)





006792 St Francis of Assisi Church (A)