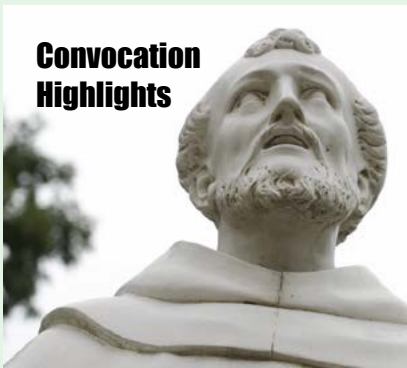


November: A Month of Remembrance



See page 5

Convocation Highlights



See page 17 and 18

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.



See page 6



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

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



GOING, GOING, GONE: THE GREAT DEPARTURE FROM CATHOLICISM, PART II:

If you read [my column last week](#), you saw some startling statistics around the declining numbers of Catholics celebrating sacraments over the past 50 years. Over the next few weeks, I will delve into the main issues that are contributing to this decline, especially among our youth and young adults who are increasingly leaving the Church earlier in their lives than previous generations or simply not becoming baptized Catholics at all despite the fact that at least one of their parents is a baptized Catholic.

This week I want to focus on one major issue contributing to this phenomenon that is internal to Catholicism in the U.S. according to several major studies. It is by no means the only major issue, but it is one with a lot of data to support it. The issue may be described this way: lack of a personal relationship with God and Jesus; not aware that God and Jesus are personally invested in my life and long to have a relationship with me. The expression we use to describe this is a lack of initial or basic evangelization. Interestingly, this is not the situation in the developing world. Catholicism there is growing rapidly, especially among the young, and some preliminary studies indicate that one of the major factors contributing to this is that youth and young adults have a personal relationship with God and Jesus. They live in cultures where there is still an inherent belief that the spiritual world is an intrinsic part of life and therefore belief in and a relationship with divinity is commonplace. I will address how secularism, a strong feature of American culture, is influencing people away from the spiritual world, in a future column.

In the U.S., our Church and our parents have a generally good reputation about two things with our children: preparing for/receiving first sacraments and

religious education. We have lived for generations in the U.S. as a Church that could depend on parents baptizing their children and integrating them into a Catholic world through the sacraments and education. We have a long history of doing a good job of sacramentalizing our children, preparing them for and celebrating the sacraments, but studies tell us we don't do such a great job of evangelizing them, namely, helping them to develop an explicit, personal attachment to God and Jesus. Our Catholic educational structures around religion skew significantly in the direction of providing religious instruction but more often than not do not also invite children into an explicit, personal encounter with God and Jesus.

While both sacraments and religious education are good and important, there is a growing need to introduce our children to a relationship with God and Jesus during their formative years. Without this relationship, more of our children go through the motions and their parents check the box indicating this task is done. The sacraments and religious education in these situations become milestones rather than thresholds to the ongoing grace God wants to share with them over a lifetime.

Exacerbating the problem is that more than a few of those who are forming these children (e.g., their parents, teachers, catechists) do not have a personal relationship with God and Jesus themselves. As the saying goes, "You can't give what you don't possess." If those responsible for forming our children are not evangelized, it becomes difficult for our youth to be evangelized. If our children are not developing an explicit, personal relationship with God and Jesus, then the sacraments have a greater tendency to be viewed as commodities, something to "acquire," a benchmark or milestone, rather than as a source of regular, con-

THROUGH MARRIAGE
MAY THEIR LIVES
ALWAYS BEAR WITNESS
TO CHRIST'S LOVE

Breanne Moreau

Daughter of Joe and Brooke Moreau
and **Fenton Deskus** Son of Chris and
Janice Deskus

MAY THEY REST IN
PEACE AND PERPETUAL
LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM:

+Ken Vanous

Husband of Pat Vanous

+Marlene Bissette

Wife of Greg Bissette

+Joan McCourt

Mother of Brian McCourt

tinual, lifelong grace meant to help them deepen their relationship with God and Jesus and sustain them in an increasingly difficult world over a lifetime.

As an example: 160 children celebrated their First Communion last spring at St. Francis. I don't see many of them on the weekend at Mass, the normal time we come together as a faith community and as families to celebrate the Eucharist. I realize life is busy and complicated, but I wonder to what extent lack of a personal relationship with God and Jesus is also a factor. There are indications that this is increasingly the case.

We have much work to do at St. Francis to help our parishioners of all ages develop an explicit, personal relationship with God and Jesus. The good news is that we have parishioners for whom this relationship is real. Those falling into this category will become critical to our efforts to spread the good news of God and Jesus to those who have yet to meet them. I'm counting on them for their help.

Fr. Michael

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 6



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday October 29, 2022

Saturday, 5:30

+Martha Johnson

Requested by David Mack

Sunday October 30, 2022

Sunday, 7:15

+Betty Costello

Requested by Vanessa and Randy Fleischmann

Sunday, 9:00

+Terto and +Evelina Lustria Doming
and +Fernanda Nonato

Requested by The Lustria and Nonato Families

Sunday, 11:45

+Jeanne Luther

Requested by The Austin Family

Sunday, 5:30

For the Parishioners of St. Francis

Monday October 31, 9am

+Marie Clark

Requested by Sandy Mills

Tuesday November 1, 9am

+Fernando Bernal

Requested by Lucila Bernal

Tuesday November 1, 11:45am

+Geneive Bourbina

Requested by Susan and Jim Goethals

Tuesday November 1, 7pm

For the Parishioners of St. Francis

Wednesday November 2, 9am and 7pm

In Commemoration of All Our Beloved Dead

Thursday November 3, 9am

+Rosie Ocampo

Requested by Emma Dempsey

Friday, November 4, 9am

+Rita McCartney

Requested by Maureen and Tom Lindgren

Saturday November 5, 2022

Saturday, 5:30

+Rachael Cerretani

Requested by Lisa Miller

Sunday November 6, 2022

Sunday, 7:15

+Marie Clark

Requested by Tom and Maeve Byrnes

Sunday, 9:00

+Jeanne Imbruce, +Vincent Imbruce,

+Josephine Theuer, & +Paul Theuer

Requested by Carol Ann Theuer

Sunday, 11:45

+James Kielty

Requested by Marc Kielty

Sunday, 5:30

For the Parishioners of St. Francis

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

+Eileen Roth

Requested by Mia Batz

Remembrance

+Ruthie Pappas

Requested by Rick Pappas

Remembrance

+Zoe Hernandez

Requested by Karyn Anglero

Remembrance

(ill) Dan Shanahan

Requested by Msgr. Michael Clay

Health and Wellness

(ill) Mary Lee Kearney

Requested by Mary Arleth

Health and Wellness

(ill) Tere Burke

Requested by Msgr. Michael Clay

Health and Wellness

Recent Deaths

+Ken Vanous

Husband of Pat Vanous

Remembrance

+Marlene Bissette

Wife of Greg Bissette

Remembrance

+Joan McCourt

Mother of Brian McCourt

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

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.stfrancisleigh.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 30

Crop Hunger Walk

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

November 1

All Saints Day

Tuesday, Masses at 9:00am (with school children), 11:45am, and 7:00pm.

November 2

All Souls Day

Wednesday, Masses at 9:00am and 7:00pm

November 2

Parent Child Classes

In the Cupertino Room of the Assisi Community Center.

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parent-child-classes-2/>

November 3

Coffee with Clay

In the Assisi Cafe' after daily Mass.

November 5

Memorial Garden Mass

Saturday, at 10:00am

November 6

Harvest Moon Festival

1:00-3:00pm Preschool Fundraiser

shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org

November 6

Food Drive Basketball Clinic

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f-0c44aeae28a1fa7-food>

November 7 at 8:30am

November 9 at 1:30pm

TFS Campus Tour

November 10

Young Adult Trivia Night

7:00pm in the Community Center

gus.franceschi@stfrancisraleigh.org

November 11,12,13

Annual Fair Trade and Alternative Gift Market

In Clare Fellowship Hall

Friday Nov. 11, 8:15 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday Nov. 12, 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Sunday Nov. 13, 8:15 am – 2:00 pm

Sunday Nov. 13, 6:15 pm – 8:00 pm

November 12

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

9:00am Please sign up at this LINK to permit proper preparations for the event: bit.ly/2022vetbreakfast. A ceremony will follow breakfast and start at about 10:15 am in Founders Room.

November 12/13

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive (OLR) Volunteer Sign-up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e-0d44aeae23a5fc1-november>

November 17

Create Advent Art with Women's Ministry

6:00-8:00pm

[Click here to register](#)

November 19/20

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

Drop off your food donations



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!

Weekly Envelope Schedule

October 30 Weekly

November 1 All Saints Day

November 2 All Souls Day

[For a complete list of SFA contacts Group Opportunities, Volunteer Opportunities and Ministries, click here.](#)

Click to watch

ST. FRANCIS TV

FRANCISCAN FRIARS VISIT

EPISODE 22



November: A Month of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance

A Book of Remembrance, with the names of loved ones of blessed memory, will be displayed throughout the month near the sanctuary. Names may be written directly into the book by parishioners, or will be recorded into the book from the names printed on All Souls Day envelopes. In addition, these envelopes will be placed on the altar throughout the month. The book will be available in the gathering space for parishioners to add names starting this weekend.

All Saints Day - Tuesday, November 1, Masses at 9 am (with school children), 11:45 am, and 7 pm.

All Souls Day - Wednesday November 2, Masses at 9 am and 7:00 pm

During these liturgies we will lift up all those who have gone before us as we pray that "with the mortality of this life overcome, they may gaze eternally on [God], their Creator and Redeemer" (Collect from November 2 in the Roman Missal).

We will specifically honor all parishioners who have died during the past year with a reading of names.

In addition, all parishioners are encouraged to bring photos (framed, maximum of 5X7) to the parish offices prior to Monday, October 31, to be displayed on the altar steps throughout this day and then displayed in the parish gathering space throughout the month of November. Please include your name and contact information on the back of the photos so you may pick them up when the month is completed.

Memorial Garden Mass – Saturday, November 5 at 10:00am

This beautiful memorial Mass is to celebrate the life and faith of all those inurned or memorialized in the St. Francis Memorial Garden as well as those buried in the St. Francis portion of the cemetery at Raleigh Memorial Park. All are welcome to attend.

Mass is held outside in the Memorial Garden so please dress accordingly.



2022 Fair Trade Market: Mark Your Calendars and Lend a Hand

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Fair Trade and Alternative Gift Market is coming soon! This year we will hold the market from Friday Nov 11 - Sunday Nov 13 in Fellowship Hall (see hours below). Get ready to purchase beautiful and meaningful gifts for you and your loved ones! Stop by Clare Fellowship Hall during these hours:

Friday Nov. 11, 8:15 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday Nov. 12, 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Sunday Nov. 13, 8:15 am – 2:00 pm

Sunday Nov. 13, 6:15 pm – 8:00 pm

We are closed during Mass.

What is Fair Trade? Check out this short video to learn. With Fairtrade you change the world a little bit every day. You ensure children get an education not a paycheck. You promote entire communities not just individuals. You stand in solidarity with these communities and respect their right to dignified work to lift themselves out of poverty. Please visit our webpage to learn more about the vendors who will be present.

But in order to make this all happen, we need your help! Whether it is offering a gift of your time, cooking skills, or even donating some supplies, we are counting on you to help make this market great.

You can see the many ways you can help below:

Click here to offer the gift of your time: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d45a9a-c2aaaf58-20221>

Click here for donation, food prep, and other opportunities: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d45a9ac2aaaf58-2022>

Thank you so much for any help you can provide! Please contact me at tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org if you have any questions.

WEDNESDAYS NOV. 2ND – DEC. 14TH FROM 9:30AM–10:30AM

MAKING MUSIC PRAYING TWICE

Music is a fun way to connect with your child. Join us for this fun, low-pressure, hands-on parent/child music course for our youngest parishioners (0-5 years of age). Children and parents use instruments, toys, and scarves to dance, chant, sing, play games, and pray together. The curriculum is carefully chosen to enhance music aptitude and attitude in growing brains, while remaining sensitive to maturing souls.

Limited to 12 children per class. (Minimum 5 students)
For more information and questions Contact Jessica Kelly at: info@signsoflearning.com

Parent Child Classes

Registration is now open for our second session of Fall classes! Are you looking for a fun filled activity to do with your young child? Want to learn sign language to better communicate with your infant or toddler? Want to connect with your toddler or preschooler with music? Check out Community Life's Parent Child Classes. All Parent/Child Classes are located in the Cupertino Room of the Assisi Community Center. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parent-child-classes-2/>. This session of classes starts November 2 and runs until December 14 (with no classes on November 23)

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

The Saint Francis Assisi Assembly of the Knights of Columbus invites all Veterans and their families to a Veterans Day observance and breakfast on Saturday, November 12 starting at 9:00am. The Assembly is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus Councils at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Luke's, St. Raphael's, St. Bernadette's and St. Sharbel parishes, and this invitation is extended to Veterans and families from those parishes.

The Knights would like to honor the men and women of our community, and their family members, for their military service. A full breakfast of eggs, sausage, pancakes, fruit, and beverages will be served by the Knights. Please sign up at this LINK to permit proper preparations for the event: bit.ly/2022vetbreakfast

A ceremony will follow breakfast and start at about 10:15 am. Please join fellow Veterans for this event at no charge to those attending. It will be held in the Founders Room.

CREATE ADVENT ART

WITH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

November 17, 6 pm to 8pm

*Padua Room
in the Community Center*

REGISTER on Realm
by November 2

Bring a treat or
snack to share



**YOUNG ADULT
TRIVIA &
FAIR TRADE
NIGHT**

Nov 10 at 7pm
Location: Community Center
Hosted by Trivia Master
Thomas Bulick
Prizes for the winning
team!

For Questions contact
gus.franceschi@stfrancisraleigh.org



Corporal Works of Mercy "Bury the Dead"

Outside Volunteer Opportunity

The columbarium attendant offers quiet, behind the scenes assistance for parishioners being laid to rest in our columbarium. The attendant prepares the columbarium niche to receive cremated remains after a funeral liturgy. 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 ½ hours of time. Columbarium attendants serve as their schedule allows. To learn more or volunteer, please contact Trish Adamkowski 919-847-8205 x 236 or trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Inside the Classroom: Jamie Kirchhoff

Dawn Smith, Principal



For the last 17 years, Jamie Kirchhoff has poured her heart into the students at The Franciscan School. As a first grade teacher, Kirchhoff loves when her students' faces light up as they start reading, or when a concept clicks for them. "I absolutely love first grade," says Kirchhoff. "They really enjoy reading, have sweet, pure hearts, and they start to become independent." Kirchhoff says those "aha" moments are what continue to motivate her year after year.

Kirchhoff grew up going to church here at St. Francis of Assisi. After she graduated from high school, she attended University of North Carolina Wilmington where she felt compelled to switch degrees and major in elementary education. But she didn't just want to teach at any elementary school. She specifically wanted to teach at a Catholic school. "At first, I thought I wanted to be a nurse, but while I was in college, I felt that God was calling me to be a teacher, and more definitively, a Catholic teacher."

After her first few years at TFS, Kirchhoff noticed a need in the school community for more specialization in learning challenges, so she obtained a Master's Degree in Learning Disabilities from N.C. State University. But Kirchhoff hasn't stopped learning and trying to help her school community. She is currently pursuing a WRS Level I Certification. This

certification helps students with reading, as well as those with dyslexia.

In the classroom, Kirchhoff's teaching style is very hands-on. She believes that students at this age learn best when they get to experience what they have heard in a lesson through activity and movement. She typically provides a short lesson for the students, and then allows them to engage in that teaching with a hands-on center, reading groups, discussions, and more. "After each lesson, I like for the students to be able to get up, move around, change seats, work on the floor, sit at a different table, etc.," says Kirchhoff. "It allows them some independence and gets them to learn in a fun way."

While some technology is used, Kirchhoff believes that at this age, the activities she does to engage social skills, creativity, problem-solving, and fine motor skills can't be replaced. She also loves to teach literature and read books with the children using a variety of voices that helps keep them engaged. Many students really start to read in first grade and develop a love of reading, which she believes helps them become lifelong learners.

This year, things have come full circle. Kirchhoff's daughter is now in first grade at TFS. "Choosing to send our daughter to TFS was a no-brainer for us," says

Kirchhoff. "I get to see the "inside" of the school, and I know it is a special place for kids to feel safe and thrive. The teachers love the kids so much." While Kirchhoff doesn't teach her daughter, she gets to see her experience all the joys that come out of learning new things in first grade.

Because of Kirchhoff's length of time at TFS, and her infectious love for the school community, she's often been known to take new teachers under her wing and help them feel welcome. Many middle school students and TFS alumni still talk about the impact she made on them in first grade. Kirchhoff loves that the school continues to get better, and that the teachers are constantly learning best practices and engaging in ways that challenge themselves. For Kirchhoff, TFS has been a special place where "the love of community has never changed, and we are always there for each other."

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 a virtual information session on Wednesday, November 30th. You may register on our website. More information regarding our school and the admissions timeline can be found on our website at www.franciscanschool.org/ or contact Principal Dawn Smith at dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Do you have a rising 6th 7th or 8th grader?

The Franciscan School meets the academic, social, and emotional needs of students as they prepare to be citizens of the world in a faith-based environment

Upcoming Campus Tours & Information Sessions

November 7th at 8:30 AM

November 9th at 1:30 PM

Admissions and financial aid support available

Contact Principal Dawn Smith for more details at
Dawn.Smith@stfrancisraleigh.org



TFS and the Preschool welcome all parishioners for a tour to witness Love and Learning at our Preschool and The Franciscan School. Signup for parishioner tour and for more information, please connect with Colette Dziadul, colette.dziadul@stfrancisraleigh.org
Chris Damico, chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org
Heidi Hobler, heidi.hobler@stfrancisraleigh.org

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC PRESCHOOL

2022 HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 6TH 1-3PM

FOOD, GAMES, RAFFLE, AUCTION & FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

BASKET RAFFLE

\$2 per entry

Raffle tickets can be purchased before and after school the week leading up to the festival. Take a look the baskets on display at the school office and decide which one to try your luck on! Winners drawn at the end of the festival.



ONLINE AUCTION

Bidding opens on October 30th!

A variety of exciting items are available to bid on - including local goodies, amazing experiences, class parties and more!

Scan this QR Code
to go directly to the
auction site and bid!

go.rallyup.com/
harvest-moon-sfa-2022



The SFA Library

Come to the Stewardship Center and check out a book from our library cart. Our parish librarians have pulled books on care for creation and on St. Francis to focus on this quarter.



TFS

THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL

Do you know TFS alumni doing great things? Click [here](#) to nominate them to be featured in a story for the school website and social media!

Where your treasure is there your heart will be also

Matthew 6:21.



Janelle Obaydi

St. Francis Parishioner

My name is Janelle Obaydi and my family and I have been Parishioners here at St. Francis since 2016. I am honored to have been asked to share my story of what drew me to St. Francis and what this community means to me and my family.

We moved to Raleigh in April of 2014 from Fort Lauderdale, FL looking for a more wholesome, family-oriented city that would provide our kids an environment that would nurture them through community, opportunity and diversity. And let's face it...as native New Yorkers, we missed the change of seasons. We first stumbled upon St. Francis when we were looking at preschools for our then 4-year-old to attend. It is no surprise it was love at first sight. A play-based program of learning in a faith filled environment was exactly what we were looking for. Soon after enrolling in the preschool, we began attending events at the Parish and going to mass regularly. At first it felt a little strange not being Catholic, yet be-

ing so present in our new community, but the warmth and spirit of the friars and the parishioners made it feel like home. With a husband that traveled for work quite frequently St. Francis became the sense of family and home we were looking for. The familiarity of the same people in the pews next to us every Sunday and the same faces we would walk into and out of school with everyday was everything we were hoping to find.

It was early in 2016 when I began to feel a calling. A calling to deepen my faith. A calling to become part of something much bigger than just being present in my new community. A calling to become Catholic. In August of 2016 I began my RCIA journey and what it would lead to is beyond my wildest dreams. RCIA isn't just for those that are looking to convert to Catholicism. It is for anyone and everyone that is looking to deepen their faith or even just rediscover their why. Why do I come to church? Why do I preach the gospel? Why do I make sure my kids celebrate their sacraments? Not only did RCIA provide me with a foundation of the Catholic Church and its teachings but the connection, guidance, communion and relationships that would come from the experience would change my life forever.

I quickly learned the importance of the gift of time. Time that we share with ourselves, our St. Francis community and our community at large. Watching the sponsors and the RCIA team members show up week after week, month after month for almost a year to help people they never met before grow in faith was incredible to me. Meeting people like Joan Monti and Ellen Ferrone that literally volunteer in every ministry share their experiences will light a fire inside of anyone to want to do the same. Meeting people like Jenn Fiduccia that has a full-time job, a husband and 4 kids still find

the time to tirelessly give her time to her Church community through her musical talents, leadership and vast knowledge of Catholicism was and is inspiring. There's no lack of people within this community that inspire so many of us to give our time. And with that said I struggled with the "but I feel like I have no time. My husband always travels and I am constantly on the go. How do I squeeze one more thing in?" For starters, make it a priority. Don't just talk about it. Act. Find a friend or another family to share your time with. Look for the ministries that fit your stage of life. After I made my sacraments through RCIA I was so in love with the experience I became a sponsor and then later an RCIA team member. I continued to arrange childcare every Wednesday night to give my time to this group and yet selfishly continued to gain so much more myself. When my kids got older it made more sense for me to become a Core Team Member with CrossWalk. Being an active participant in their personal faith journey...what could be better than that? The list of ministries to volunteer with can be overwhelming but that is a great problem to have. It is also important for our family to make time to attend as many CrossWalk and Parish wide family events as possible. The goal for us to raise not just cultural Catholics but children that will make Jesus Christ a part of their daily lives.

Part of finding where to give your time is to know your God given gifts or talents. For me, my talents lie in seeing a need and finding a solution without being asked, organizing and administrative work, sharing stories and finding connections. Knitting...not my strong suit so you won't find me involved in the prayer shawl ministry. But you will see me or have seen me at, of course, RCIA

Continue on page 12

as a sponsor and small group leader, CrossWalk Core Team member, in the Preschool office helping with administrative tasks, Substitute teaching and with caring connections sending birthday cards. There is something for everyone here and we need you. Lean into whatever discomfort is holding you back and you will find your experience rewarding beyond measure.

Giving of our treasure is important too. It's a nice way of saying your money. No one wants to talk about it but we need it to operate and provide the Parish with even the most basic needs. Every family is different but since we are talking about me and my family today, we find Faith Direct to work best. At the beginning of every year, we go through and budget

what we will donate to each offering throughout the year. Everything from our monthly offertory, Easter flowers, Feast of Assumption, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving/Food for the Poor CPO, Christmas, Etc. It is withdrawn each month and it takes the guess work out of trying to remember all of the extra offertories we want to provide. It makes it easy during tax season to print out our Year-to-Date gifts as well. We also find calculating the percent increase the parish recommends for the new year is simplified using Faith Direct. When assigning contributions at the beginning of the year we reflect on our excess spending. Do we really need that daily pumpkin spice latte? Imagine what that extra \$150 a month could provide St. Francis. Just a suggestion. The needs

of the Parish will not stop growing and our needs are ever changing. Msgr. Clay's homily last weekend really struck a chord with me as the decline in youth presence and participation in our very own community is evident. I fully support and encourage the financial focus on finding intentional ways to support these initiatives. I hope you will too.

In conclusion, I hope you all feel inspired on some level to evaluate what you are already doing, sharing and financially contributing to our Parish. We all have God's gifts to make the world, and if nothing else, our community a better place. Thank you for your time, talent and treasure. You are all truly Saints of God.



"Coffee with Clay"
in the Assisi Café



Join Monsignor Clay for
coffee and conversation from
9:30-10:30am, after Daily Mass.

November 3rd
December 1st
December 15th

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:



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

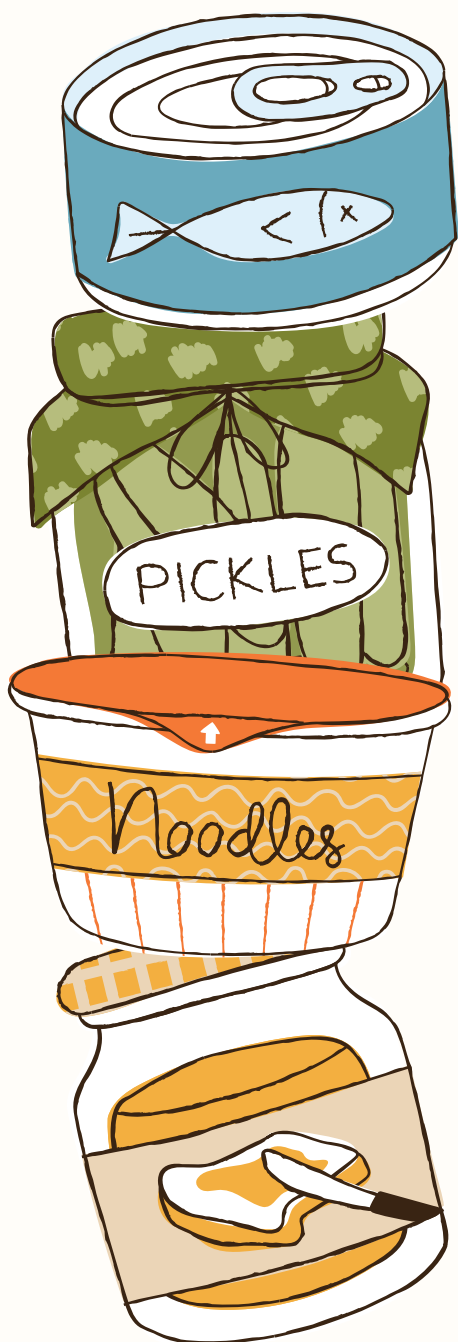


Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199

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

Food Drive Basketball Clinic

Sunday, November 6th 2022



1:00pm - 2:25pm

Girls & Boys
1st & 2nd Grade

2:35pm - 4:00pm

Girls 3, 4 & 5 Grade
Boys 3 & 4 Grade

4:05 pm - 5:20pm

Girls 6, 7, & 8 Grade
Boys 5, 6, 7, & 8 Grade

Donation of 5 or more cans for food per participants.
All food will be donated to Our Lady of the Rosary
Parish in Louisburg NC

Canned tomatoes/Vegetables
Canned fruit (no fruit cocktail)
Macaroni & cheese
Canned meats
Peanut butter & jelly
Dry soup packages
Oatmeal or dry cereal

Space is limited!
Sign Up by Thursday, November 3rd.

Please sign up at this link:
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c44aeae28
alfa7-food](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c44aeae28alfa7-food)

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive (OLR) Volunteer Sign-up

We are seeking volunteers (families, adults and youth) before and after each Mass on the weekend of Sat. November 12th & 13th to handout bags with the Our Lady of The Rosary food donation. The request list is attached to the bag. All you'll have to do is report to the Stewardship Center at your allotted time, pick up a stack of grocery bags and stand either at the Stewardship Center or the main church entrance near the breezeway to hand them out to interested parishioners. Additionally, we need volunteers (families, adults & youth) to collect and/or load a truck with the Our Lady of The Rosary food donations before and after each Mass on the weekend of Sat., November 19th and Sun. November 20th. Five (5) people are needed but if you want to bring more family/friends, you are welcome to do that. It is requested that all volunteers report to the truck in our parking lot at your allotted time, and kindly receive grocery bags from parishioners, and place them in the bins located in the truck. Thank you for any help you can provide! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d44aeae23a5fc1-november>

Adult Open Play

Monday-Thursday Evenings in the gym we have Adult Open Play with a different group each night from 8:45-10:30pm.

Mondays- Co-ed Volleyball 18+

Tuesdays- Women's Basketball 18+

Wednesdays– Men's Basketball 30+

Thursdays- Men's Basketball 40+

Please contact the appropriate ministry leader prior to attending Open Play to check on availability for that evening. All attendees will be required to fill out and sign a Code of Conduct form at their first visit. Each participant will need to pay \$5 each evening they attend (this can be paid via cash or credit card).

For More Information and the ministry Contacts visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/community-life-adult-open-play/>

Always God's Children: The monthly Always God's Children ministry meets via Zoom in October through April on the second Sunday of the month. You are welcome to join us online from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. Contact Beth Gaudette, Director of Parish Life, at beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org if you have any questions and also to request the Zoom link.



[Click image above to view the Synod Summary Report: Parish Level Takeaways](#)
[The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi](#)



[Click here to view the National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America for the Diocesan Phase of the 2021-2023 Synod](#)



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, Zacchaeus accepts our Lord joyfully; and the sign of his acceptance is his open house and his resolution to give half of his goods to the poor.

Our gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul also show our acceptance of our Lord by joyfully sharing goods with our neighbors who are hungry, hopeless, alone and frightened.

One such case brought the SVdP members to tears. A single mother had gotten behind on rent and utilities because she had taken off time from work to care for a child recovering from surgery. St. Francis of Assisi pledged to help her, but she still had a way to go to come up with the total amount of back rent.

While she was waiting to hear from the organizations, SVdP sent her two gift cards donated by parishioners to help with food and gasoline.

"I got the mail and saw the envelope from St. Francis. I opened it and I think I stared at the gift cards for 30 minutes. I felt like God was really trying to help me. Those gift cards were such a big help," the neighbor told the SVdP volunteer.

Soon after, other churches including Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral and local Presbyterian and Baptist churches contributed to her aid. She was able to avoid eviction. Another SVdP referral to a county agency helped reduce her overdue utility bill.

Volunteers at SVdP work tirelessly to provide hope, compassion, referrals and short-term financial help for families. Most of the cases are the working poor—families who are paying their bills until they get an unexpected situation—an illness, a car needing service, a funeral.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Cathy Smith at smithctcr@gmail.com.



Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a solicitation email from staff, our pastor, or bishop asking for "a favor", or for emergency help in the form of money. Please do not open or click on them - simply trash them.

Care for Creation

"Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him." St. Francis of Assisi

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"Society . . . must put pressure on governments to develop more rigorous regulations, procedures, and controls."

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* On Care for Our Common Home, Chapter I

Check interfaithcreationcare.org for local issues and **VOTE!**

For more eco info: stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation

To connect with us: stfccreation@gmail.com

Employment Opportunities

THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL

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 tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org or contract Trish.Adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org 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, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Hurricane Ian Disaster Relief

As we have all seen in the news, the impact of the storm has been devastating. Communities were destroyed, families lost everything, and the loss of human life was heart breaking. This is one of those situations where the generosity of our community is needed the most. While it may take years for the area to recover, the storm victims need our help now just to meet their basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing. Please use the QR code or log into to your [FaithDirect](#) account to make a donation.



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@stfrancisraleigh.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@stfrancisraleigh.org

Convocation Highlights



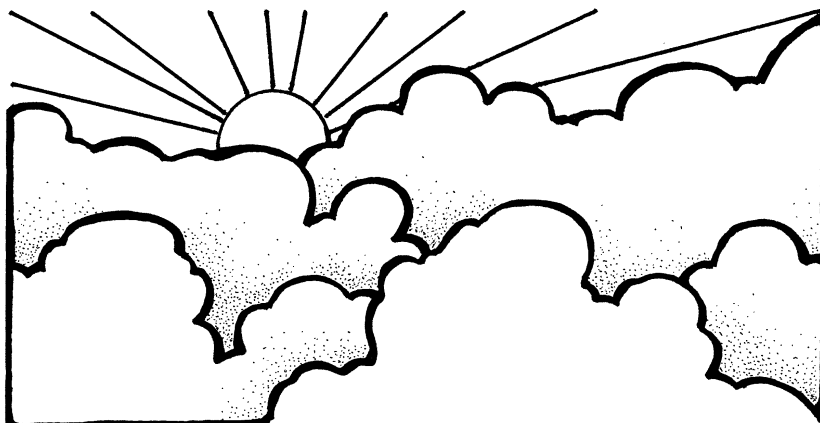


Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 30, 2022

The LORD lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

— Psalm 145:14



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