November 20, 2022

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



Join us on Thursday, November 24th at 9:00am in the Church for a Thanksgiving Day Mass.



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



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

Departures from Catholicism in the U.S. are outpacing arrivals at an estimated 6-to-1 ratio. This is the fifth in a multipart series describing some of the major factors contributing to this phenomenon, and what are some positive steps we as a community of faith can take to remediate this departure, especially among our youth and young adults. If you are just joining this series, please refer to my Pastor's Comments in the previous four bulletins for more background

> Click here for part 1 Click here for part 2 Click here for part 3 Click here for part 4

This week I will look at the world of adolescents who are bearing a heavy weight living in the perfect storm of a culture and a Church that are not helping them. I should note that these observations are generalizations distilled from several scholars who have been studying adolescents for over 20 years but who, in my opinion, accurately describe what is going on in the lives of many of our American youth today.

I made the case in Part III of this series that the cultures of modernism, post-modernism, and consumerism are not very helpful to today's youth. I made the case in Parts II and IV that the Church has also been increasingly ineffective in helping today's youth. Adolescence has always been a strange and mysterious experience. One goes through it in order to leave childhood behind and enter an adult world. While I enjoyed some of the thresholds I experienced as a teen and am forever grateful to the adults who mentored me, I'm also happy that it is behind me. Today's youth face challenges that go far beyond what most earlier generations of adolescents have faced. They live in the crosshairs of a world that is increasingly detrimental to their well-being and a Church that is not helping. As a result, many have a lot

of fears, experience deep loneliness, are insecure, frequently have shallow friendships, and are influenced to believe that performance, achievement, and image are the name of the game. What is perhaps most painful to me is that they generally feel abandoned by adults and the Church, people who are essential to their successful transition from childhood to adulthood.

Youth tell us that, generally speaking, they want their parents and other adults to be more present to them, more involved in their lives, and to guide them. They also show us that when this doesn't happen, they increasingly turn to their peers who do not possess the maturity and experience they need to help them negotiate the challenges of adolescence. They also turn to the culture that surrounds them with its "promise" of happiness in materialistic consumerism, pleasure without consequences, and the freedom to be the final arbiters of their own choices. Based on the studies that tell us that our youth are facing unprecedented challenges, we shouldn't be surprised that they find themselves really struggling.

Sadly, the Church is ill-equipped to help given its own lack of credibility. Two major issues among several that contribute to this lack of credibility are the untold damage of the clergy sex abuse crisis and the resistance by the institutional Church to engage in meaningful consideration of the role of women in leadership.

We are also largely a Church that still struggles to help its members of all ages develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a relationship that is of critical importance to our youth as they negotiate their way through the turmoil of adolescence into adulthood and their parents who are so critical during this time in their children's lives.

THROUGH BAPTISM MAY THEY WALK ALWAYS AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT:

Genevieve Carol Kirstein Daughter of David and Kaylie Kirstein

Mary Susan Miller Daughter of Emory and Jamie Miller

Amelia Ferrer Portillo

Daughter of Anthony and Fraulien Portillo

Sadie Wrenn Sancineto

Daughter of Frank and Amanda Sancineto

Marlee Belle Smith Daughter of Byron and Aria Smith

Margaret Elisabeth Steddum Daughter of Chris and Lauren Steddum

MAY THEY REST IN Peace and perpetual light shine upon them:

+Dmytro Socko Father of Ken Socko

+Mercy John Mother of Reji John

<u>Click here</u> to view the St. Francis of Assisi Annual Report

If our youth are looking for meaningful relationships with adults, it is imperative that we equip those adults, especially parents and mentors, with the tools they need to foster those relationships. Catholicism has a lot to offer our young people but we have to do a better job of helping them develop that critical relationship with the Lord and showing them by our example and integrity and with skills and credibility that we are invested in their well-being and want to equip them so they may live well in the challenging world of adulthood.

Next week I will begin to lay out what might be some paths forward in helping our youth and young adults become and remain Catholics and be instrumental in leading us forward.

Prayer Requests for November 19 to November 27



Mass Intentions

Saturday November 19, 2022 Saturday, 5:30 +Lawerence A Gianni Requested by Dennis and Kathy McKinley

> Sunday November 20, 2022 Sunday, 7:15 +Paulette Jo Frederick Requested by Connie Gibbons

Sunday, 9:00 +Michael & Mary Vincitorio Requested by Michael Vincitorio

Sunday, 11:45 +Eugene Francis Alexandre Requested by The Givens Family

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

Monday November 21, 9am +Fernando Bernal Requested by Lucila Bernal

Tuesday November 22, 9am McKenna Vladyka Requested by Maggie Vladyka Birthday

Wednesday November 23, 9am +Éd Marshall Requested by Juanita Marshall

Thursday November 24, 9am +Richard Hale Requested by The Kielty Family

Friday November 25, 9am No Morning Mass

Saturday, November 26, 2022 Saturday, 5:30pm +Virginia and +Dominick Orband Requested by Lisa Miller

Sunday November 27, 2022 Sunday, 7:15 (ill) James Rakshys Requested by Theresa Rakshys

Sunday, 9:00 +Susan Cogut Mankad Requested by Nancy and Peter Sorge

> Sunday, 11:45 +James Kielty Requested by Marc Kielty

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

+Roy Roberts Requested by Lisa Roberts Remembrance

+Marie Pasquale Requested by Al Pasquale Remembrance

+Patricia Pagnani Requested by Bruno Pagnani Remembrance

(ill) Pat Mullen Requested by Kathryn Noblitt Health & Wellness

> Recent Deaths +Dmytro Socko Father of Ken Socko Remembrance

+Mercy John Mother of Reji John 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.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.

December 1 Coffee with Clay 9:30-10:30am in the Assisi Cafe

November 19/20

November 24

November 27

ber27-2022

ber252022

Oak City Cares

Drop off your food donations

Thanksgiving Day Mass

https://bit.ly/3fCMrgIOCCNovem-

https://bit.ly/BreakfastatOCCDecem-

9:00am in the church

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

6:45pm or Sunday, November 20 from

7:00am - 1:15pm or 5:15pm - 6:45pm.

Saturday, November 19 from 5:15 -

December 2 Reconciliation Service 11:00am in the church

December 4 Why Faith Silent No More, Women and Their Role in the Church 10:15-11:15am in Founders

December 6 Reconciliation Service 7:00pm in the church December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 9:00am, 11:45am, and 7:00pm

December 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 7:00pm Misa en Español in the church

December 15 Coffee with Clay 9:30-10:30am in the Assisi Cafe

December 22 Lessons and Carols 7:00pm in the church

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



Msgr. Michael Celebrates 42 Years of Service by Celebrating Mass in the Holy Land



Visited Bethlehem today (Tuesday, Nov. 15). Went to the Church of the Nativity and got to preside for Mass on my 42nd anniversary and to touch the place where Jesus was born.



We entered through the Door of Humility where everyone must bend over to enter as an act of humility in honor of Jesus who humbled himself to come among us. Bethlehem is in the Palestinian Territories and we saw the wall Israel has built around the Palestinians. Had to go through a checkpoint to enter Bethlehem. The unemployment on the Palestinian side is 65% and the Christians are leaving in droves. Israel in now less than 1% Christian. No solution seems possible at this time and the anger is growing at an alarming rate in the Palestinian territories. A powder keg with a shorter and shorter fuse. A most interesting trip. *Fr. Michael*





Women and their Role in the Church

presented by Gladys Whitehouse



10:15AM -11:15AM | FOUNDERS RM | REFRESHMENTS

"Why Faith: what we believe and why we believe it." Next session: January 8th.



At Thanksgiving, we at Feed the Need are most thankful for the St. Francis community. For nearly 10 years, this community has always stepped up and supported us with their graciousness and generosity. Feed the Need is an important ministry offfering hope and hospitality for parish families in times of need.

Let us count the ways that we are grateful:

- we are thankful for your continued support of the Giving Tree to provide gift cards to help us service our families.
- we are thankful for the cooks who use their time, talent, and treasure to prepare Caring Casseroles and the homemade meals for our families.
- we are thankful for the Caring Connections drivers who faithfully deliver meals to those who cannot drive.

If you know of a parishioner who may need some help or if you would like to become involved in this ministry, please contact Beth Gaudette, Coordinator of Care and Wellness at 919-764-4815.

Thank You







The St. Francis turkey drive was a huge success on Thursday. We received 217 turkey donations. We brought them to Passage Home to pass on to families in need this holiday. Thank you to everyone who supported this drive; we couldn't have done it without you.



Wedding Coordinator Ministry!

The good news: weddings at St. Francis have picked up!

We need more volunteers to help with weddings! If you are interested in assisting the bride and groom at their rehearsal and on their special day, please reach out to Tim Hetzel to learn more: <u>tim.hetzel@stfrancisraleigh.org</u>.



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 919-847-8205x236 or trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Always God's Children: The monthly AGC 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 <u>beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org</u> if you have any questions and also to request the Zoom link.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Dawn Smith, Principal

Hispanic Countries Art Fair Students in kindergarten through eighth grade created authentic art from three different Hispanic Countries representing culture and traditions.



EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director

Happy Thanksgiving from the Preschool!



Our 4 and 5-year old students gathered together for a community feast just as the Pilgrims and Native Americans did at the first Thanksgiving. Each class worked collaboratively, as was done at the first feast, and all brought an item to share with others. What a wonderful example of fostering fellowship cooperation, and friendship amongst our young children!

Some of our classes practiced being helpful "elves" by hanging ornaments on our parish Advent Giving Trees. They listened as Mr. Trevor explained to them how they were offering kindness and care by preparing the trees so that others might not have to go without, particularly at Christmas. The children took their job seriously and made sure that the trees were filled with tags. Several stretched on tiptoes to ensure that even higher branches were not forgotten! A few went deep into the bottom branches so not a bare space was left!





Who Are We Thankful For?

Recently, I was connecting with a parishioner who was asking me if there was someone in my life who I would identify as my unsung hero? As I am preparing both my heart and stomach for this season of gratitude, I will share with you both what I'm grateful for and those unsung heroes.

I'm grateful for the gift of Mass and receiving the Eucharist. So many people are involved in putting on each of our 5 weekend Masses and daily Masses. Everyone from our priests (Thank you Msgr Clay/Fr Alex/Fr Jim) to our lectors, altar servers, cross bearers, eucharistic ministers, choir and of course Jim Wahl and Tim Hetzel who ensure everyone is where they are supposed to be/doing what they are supposed to do. Thank you! Thank you for time, energy, and spirit to create the environment to help us encounter Jesus. I was in a lector training recently, where Tim and Jim shared that the formula for good liturgy (church) is love, beauty and tactics, in that order. Our Mass has an abundance of all three, and I'm especially appreciative of the love and beauty, in each Mass, because of both our volunteers and our staff.

I'm grateful for the relationships/community I have formed here on campus, especially as part of some of our small Christian communities. KBL, Called and Gifted, Just Faith and several bible study groups (to name a few) have been so instrumental for me over the years to both learn, listen, lean in and draw closer to Jesus while getting to know fellow parishioners in a more intimate setting. Thank you to our volunteer facilitators who spend countless hours both before and after the actual sessions, in addition to the sessions themselves, ensuring participants have the opportunity for a rich and wonderful experience. Thank you!

I'm grateful for Mariana who is always there, every time I turn around, worshipping alongside me. I'm grateful for Thanh who has such a vibrant spirit, is always smiling and lending a hand. I'm grateful for everyone involved in our preschool/TFS and the impact they are making on our children. I'm grateful for our young adults, for both inspiring and challenging who we are and who we are called to be. I'm grateful for everyone I work with across parish life, some of the most kind-hearted, generous, funny and loving individuals I have ever met. I'm grateful for the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi. I'm grateful for you, those I know and those I have yet to meet.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and hearty Thanksgiving and to spend some time reflecting on both for whom and what you are grateful.



Sign up for a Parishioner Tour of Saint Francis

New to the parish or just want to know your way around SFA? Signup for a tour. Connect with:

Colette Dziadul colette.dziadul@stfrancisraleigh.org

Chris Damico chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org

Heidi Hobler heidi.hobler@stfrancisraleigh.org

Weekly Envelope Schedule

November 20 Weekly November 20 Catholic Campaign for Human Development Thanksgiving/Food for the Poor November 27 Weekly

Some Stories From Oak City Cares



Dear friends of Oak City Cares,

Do you ever wonder if your service, be it cooking eggs, donating food, or serving guests at Oak City Cares makes a difference? The answer is a resounding YES!

Over the past six months or so, the number of guests we've been serving has increased. Most are men, but women and children come too. As staff from Oak City Cares tell us, the number of guests is increasing, and our help really goes a long way.

As we spend time with OCC guests, we learn of their stories and serve Christ:

After waiting to see if seconds were available for over an hour, one guest said, "Thank you so much. I didn't eat yesterday, so I appreciate it."

A young man with a beautiful toddler girl, came for breakfast. He looked like he had the weight of the world on his shoulders, but when offered help managing getting food and everything that goes along with getting her settled to eat, he said in a very dignified voice that he was good. Then we watched as his face was transformed into a huge smile when his darling daughter ate her biscuit.

These are just two of the many people you've helped through your generosity. THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generous and kind spirit to help God's children in need. Please keep those who are homeless in your powerful prayers. Christ's peace be with you!

Ann, Diana, and Codi Oak City Cares Ministry Leaders

Looking to help during the holiday season? Check out these opportunities at Oak City Cares in November and December.

https://bit.ly/3fCMrqIOCCNovember27-2022

https://bit.ly/BreakfastatOCCDecember252022_

Advent Giving Tree



Every year, we provide a parish wide opportunity to share the spirit of the Christmas season with families in need through our Advent Giving Trees. There are several St. Francis families and individuals who are recipients of gifts from our Giving Tree, but our primary partners are organizations in the community that work directly with people in need.

There are 2 ways this year that you can support the Advent Giving Tree.

1. Take a paper ornament from the trees in the stewardship center starting on Saturday, November 19th. Then you can bring the gift back to us according to the instructions on the ornament.

Returns Gift by the date on the tag to: Community Center Lobby: Monday-Friday from 8am-2:30pm starting November 8th-December 12th OR In the Stewardship Center: Before or after Mass on the weekends and during the week from November 21st-December 12th

Community organizations whose families are included on our tree this year include Catholic Parish Outreach, Hispanic Family Center, Emily K Center, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Passage Home, St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. Parish ministries that benefit include Prayer Shawl, Feed the Need, St. Francis Brown Bag Ministry, and Oak City Cares.

2. You can make a financial donation through Faith Direct to the Advent Giving Tree! (<u>https://membership.faithdirect.net/</u>givenow/NC674/40890)

The following organizations will be beneficiaries of our financial donations this year: Duke Children's Hospital, Helen Wright Center, Ronald McDonald House in Durham, Helene Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry and Support Circle Families.

To learn more about how to donate/support visit our website: <u>https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/adventgivingtree-3/</u>.

We at St. Francis of Assisi want to thank you on behalf of all our community organizations and ministry groups for helping make someone else's Christmas a little more special. Please don't hesitate to email us if you have any questions: <u>Donation</u>. 12



communion | participation | mission

<u>Click image above to view the Synod Summary</u> <u>Report: Parish Level Takeaways</u> <u>The Catholic 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>

Where your treasure is there your heart will be also



Pam Peroutky St. Francis Parishioner

Hi, I'm Pam Peroutky. I've been asked to share some of my experiences here at St Francis of Assisi Catholic community.

Deciding which parish to join when moving to a new community is very important to me because I'm picking my faith family. What that family considers important life issues matters to me. Does it have a Catholic school? How welcoming are the parishioners at Sunday liturgy? What organizations does the parish have in which I may become involved?

My daughter, her family and I joined St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community the summer of 2019. The very first Mass I attended was in the spring of that year while house-hunting.

That first Mass was, "love at first sight". In all my years I have NEVER seen and heard such participation in the liturgy as we have here at St. Francis. If 35% of the people at a Mass respond and/or sing in most Catholic churches I've attended that is quite an accomplishment. Here almost everyone participates in word and song. This told me that this faith community is alive, joy-filled, and active. It's not just the priest and ministers who present the liturgy. When you check out the bulletin, you Matthew 6:21.

quickly see how involved and committed everyone is to this faith family as well as the community in which we live.

In the spring of 2020 the pandemic arrived, and I began to see first-hand how committed this parish family was to keep our outreach activities alive and operating even in the face of this deadly disease. A Multi-Agency Urgent Needs Donation Drive was held the last weekend of May. Over 40 of our partner agencies in the community were contacted to see how we could help them. On May 30th and 31st , hundreds of parishioners drove through the parish parking lot dropping off items or checks for Catholic Parish Outreach, Brown Bag Ministry, Oak City Cares, to name just a few of them.

Currently, our faith family through the Office of Justice and Peace donates annually around \$170,000 to nearly 50 charities and mission-based organizations in our community that serve the needy and marginalized of our state.

Last March I met with the director of the Dorcas Ministry Crisis Center in Cary. We were discussing how their job skills improvement program was designed to see if this might be something SFA could offer for people in our part of Raleigh. The director stressed how this required a lot of volunteers to be successfully executed. I asked her if she was familiar with St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and she said she was not really familiar with the Catholic church in general. I then explained to her that this is no ordinary Catholic Church. First, it has more than 5,000 families and over 15,000 members. The skills and talents of these people are so varied, we basically had our own CDC to guide us through the pandemic deciding when we could safely return to the church and how we would do that to assure that everyone would stay safe and healthy.

As I said to her, this is not your ordinary Catholic Church, and we truly do extraordinary things! Three Raleigh-based non-profits were birthed by SFA parishioners and parish support. They are: Passage Home, Justice Theater Project, and Witness for Peace Southeast.

St. Theresa of Avila wrote "Christ has no body now, but yours." A verse in "The Servant Song" is "We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road; we are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.

The people of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community are living these words. Many of you here tonight are already involved but if perchance you are new or just haven't paused to think about how you could share your time and talent, I urge you to check out ALL the ministries in the bulletin or on our webpage and find one that speaks to your soul. And if nothing matches your passion but you know of a need. I encourage you to reach out to Trevor Thompson, the director of the Office of Justice and Peace and see if that need is already being addressed in one of our current ministries or if you could help organize or spearhead a new outreach.

I end with a quote from our patron saint:

"Start by doing what is necessary Then do what is possible And suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Thank you for listening and welcoming me and my family so warmly to this beautiful Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi.



Today as we celebrate Christ the King, may we open the door of our heart so wide that we may listen to the voice of Jesus calling us to help build his kingdom here on earth. St. Vincent often asked this simple question: "What would Jesus Christ do, if he were in my place now?" Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society often pause to ponder the same question as they meet with visitors and listen to their needs.

St. Vincent de Paul at St. Francis of Assisi provides hope, compassion, referrals, and short-term financial help for families in the area. Most of the cases are the working poor—families who can pay their bills until they get an unexpected situation—a funeral, a car needing service, a sickness. Any of those situations could make them need help with rent or utilities.

In addition, SVdP Conference members from St Francis have helped Fr. Jairo's Parish, form a St Vincent de Paul Conference in Edenton, NC. If you would like to wish Fr. Jairo well on this new ministry for his parish you can send a note to:

Rev. Jairo Alberto Maldonado Pacheco St Anne's Parish PO Box 422 Edenton, NC 27932

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive (OLR)

Please drop off your bag on Saturday, November 19 from 5:15 - 6:45pm or Sunday, November 20 from 7:00am – 1:15pm or 5:15pm – 6:45pm. For more information, the list of foods needed or to volunteer, please visit <u>https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/our-lady-of-the-rosary</u>. Thank you for your generosity!



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 Our preschoolers and their families have been busy disguising turkeys to avoid having them land on the Thanksgiving dinner table.

Which turkey has the best chance of NOT being eaten as a result of the their costume disguise?





Join your fellow young adults for Holiday Snacks, Drinks, & Cheer!

For Questions, Directions, and to RSVP contact: gus.franceschi@stfrancisraleigh.org



006792 St Francis of Assisi Church (C)

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