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### Reconciliation Service

Friday, December 2nd at 11 am  
Tuesday, December 6th at 7 pm

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

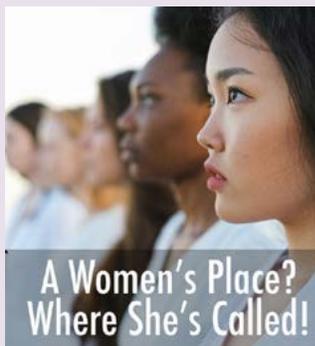
Thursday, December 8th at 9 am, 11:45 am, & 7 pm

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

Monday, December 12th at 7:00 pm **Misa en Español**

### Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 22nd at 7:00 pm



See page 5

### Our Mission Statement

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





## GOING, GOING, GONE: THE GREAT DEPARTURE FROM CATHOLICISM, PART VI:

Departures from Catholicism in the U.S. are outpacing arrivals at an estimated 6-to-1 ratio. How do we stop the bleed, especially with regard to our youth and young adults? This is the sixth in a multi-part 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. If you are just joining this series, please refer to my Pastor's Comments in the previous five bulletins for more background.

- [Click here for part 1](#)
- [Click here for part 2](#)
- [Click here for part 3](#)
- [Click here for part 4](#)
- [Click here for part 5](#)

This week I will begin to lay out some things we may find helpful in attracting and retaining our youth and young adults.

The good news for our community is that we are growing and have much that makes us attractive, including our youth and young adults. I will explore this in greater detail in a future column in this series. Today I would like to pass on an important insight from two national studies of teens and emerging adults that may help us do a better job of forming them into a stronger relationship with the Lord and a faith community.

One of the major conclusions from a multi-year national sociological study of Catholic youth is that having at least one Catholic parent who goes to Mass regularly with their child/ren is far more likely to result in those children continuing to be active in the practice of their faith when

they become adults. This is not a failsafe solution, but interviewing thousands of youth indicate this is something to pay attention to. This study also revealed that the home and parents are the most effective means of initiation into the Christian faith, while many other costly things, like Catholic schools and mission trips, seem to have little impact on the future faith life of a young person.

The second national study reached a similar conclusion. It also found that the home and parents have the greatest influence on faith, belief, and practice. This stands to reason. The home is one of the few places of long-term, consistent involvement. We change schools, churches, cities, but one's membership in a family usually does not change. It is in the context of the home and family that we become habituated to many things that stay with us for life, for better and for worse.

This raises the question about how parents are themselves equipped in the realm of faith, belief, and practice. One of my responses is, "How can we, as a faith community, better equip our parents as spiritual and faith role models for their children?" One of those opportunities is connected to evangelization, that is, developing a personal relationship with the Lord and becoming awakened to the truth that they themselves are infinitely loved and personally known by the Lord and that the Lord is waiting for them to open their hearts to Him so they may become aware of how much better their lives will be with the Lord than without the Lord.

It is in this vein that we launched the KBL (To Know, To Believe, To Live) series on our parish website. This is why we have started an adult formation program on select Sunday mornings throughout the school year to address topics of importance in an adult context. This is why we offer opportunities to learn about our Catholic faith through educational programs like Just Faith. This is why we are starting an annual parish mission and will continue offering an annual convocation day to grow in an adult understanding of our faith. There are other things we can do, but these are starting places. One challenge is convincing parents that these opportunities are critical, not only for their lives, but ultimately for their children's lives as well. In a crazy-busy culture like ours, prioritizing adult faith formation can be a real challenge for parents, but the benefits are well worth the investment for them and, in turn, their children.

The U.S. bishops noted over 20 years ago that the ongoing formation of adults, especially parents, needs to be a high priority in parishes. We are embarking on a journey to provide opportunities to grow in faith, belief, and practice. In the next column, I will address how we can do this in the midst of a post-modern secular culture that heavily influences our youth, young adults, and parents.

*Fr. Michael*

[Click here to view the St. Francis of Assisi Annual Report](#)

The parish offices will be closed from November 24 through November 28 and from December 24, 2022 through January 3, 2023

**Weekly Envelope Schedule**  
November 27 Weekly

# PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NOVEMBER 26 TO DECEMBER 4



## MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday November 28, 9am  
+Patrick Magee  
Requested by Katherine Magee

Tuesday November 29, 9am  
Tony Schmidt  
Requested by The Bjerke Family  
Birthday

Wednesday ,November 30 9am  
+Joseph Nguyen  
Requested by Nghia Nguyen

Thursday December 1, 9am  
+Thomas English  
Requested by Maggie Vladyka

Friday December 2, 9am  
+Mercy John  
Requested by Kathy Sales

Saturday December 3, 2022  
Saturday, 5:30  
+Celesta Miceli  
Requested by Anne Martin & Anne Harvey

Sunday December 4, 2022  
Sunday, 7:15  
+Paulette Jo Frederick  
Requested by Connie Gibbons

Sunday, 9:00  
+Tom Dzialakiewicz  
Requested by Janet and Charles Gerard

Sunday, 11:45  
+Joseph Eck  
Requested by Thomas, Karen, and Sara Eck

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

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

+Florence Pirog  
Requested by Walter Erazmus  
Remembrance

+Vincent Nicholas  
Requested by Maria and Steve Nicholas  
Remembrance

+Donald Will  
Requested by Nan Yandle  
Remembrance

Recent Deaths  
+Milo Brunick Sr.  
Father of Milo Brunick Jr.  
Remembrance

+Al Tadych  
Husband of Mary Tadych  
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.

**November 27**

**Oak City Cares**

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

**December 1**

**Coffee with Clay**

9:30-10:30am in the Assisi Cafe

**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

**December 25**

**Christmas**

**December 25**

**Oak City Cares**

Help during the holiday season.

<https://bit.ly/BreakfastatOCCDecember252022>

**January 17**

**Book Group Opportunity**

Dignity and the Death Penalty: Evolution of Catholic Teaching (Alice Hugh Brown, author) We will meet online Tuesday evenings, January 17 through February 21, from 7pm to 8pm.

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

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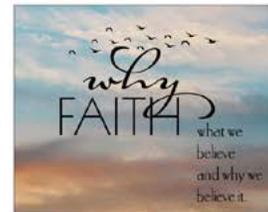
SUNDAY, DEC. 4TH



# A Women's Place? Where She's Called!

## “Silent No More: 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.



THANK YOU!

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 offering 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.

*“It’s in pardoning  
that we are pardoned”*

*St. Francis of Assisi*



**Reconciliation is God’s gift to us.** It is the Sacrament of healing. It not only frees us from our sins but it challenges us to have the same kind of compassion and forgiveness for those who have sinned against us.

**Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
on Friday, December 2nd at 11 am or  
Tuesday, December 6th at 7pm.

## **Young Adult Ministry**

**Invites you to celebrate our #first:**

- \*Year together again
- \*Week of Advent
- \*Tacky Sweater Party!



**Thursday, Dec 1st @ 7 to 9 PM**  
at the Community Center

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

For Questions, Directions, and to RSVP contact:  
[gus.franceschi@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:gus.franceschi@stfrancisraleigh.org)

# Our Lady of the Rosary Food Pantry Thanks you!



We would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to all those who volunteered their time, donated items and money to the Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive. Due to your generosity we were able to donate well over 6,000lbs of food and raised \$2700! The pantry volunteers were blown away at the number of donations and ran out of space to handle it all thanks to the generous donations from all of you.

A special thank you to Tess Ferrer-Turner who coordinated this Event and scheduled our many volunteers. We would also like to thank the Knights of Columbus; Deputy Grand Knight David Payne, and Mark Baumgartner for their time assisting with the delivery of items.



## 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: [tim.hetzel@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:tim.hetzel@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 919-847-8205x236 or [trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org) [trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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 [beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org) if you have any questions and also to request the Zoom link.

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Dawn Smith, Principal

On Tuesday, November 22 all TFS students participated in Catholic Social Teaching activities involving the Principle of Dignity of Work. These activities reminded us all that we contribute to the larger community in many ways and that we should value all work. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation.



# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director



Daniel and his Darth Vader turkey - voted most likely to not get eaten!



Last week Ms. Nicole and Ms. Maxine's Precious Puppies 3-year-olds class disguised their turkeys to see which would have the greatest chance to NOT get eaten on Thanksgiving. After tallying over 140 votes, here are the results.

1. Darth Vaber
2. Gobble Gobble
3. Captain America

In a more recent development, the three turkeys got together and freed the remaining turkeys and they all survived Thanksgiving. The group of turkeys is now vacationing in Turkey.



Emmy and her Gobble Gobble turkey - voted 2nd most likely to not get eaten.



Matthew and his Captain America turkey voted 3rd most likely to not get eaten. 9



## Endings and Beginnings

After celebrating last weekend, the Feast of Christ the King, reminding us that God, via his death and resurrection, is the only one that has an absolute claim on our lives, Saturday, November 26th marks the end of the liturgical year, the end of year C and the end of ordinary time and green vestments.

Sunday, November 27th, marks the start of a new year, year A in the liturgical calendar, violet vestments and the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Advent, from the latin word, adventus, (coming) is known as the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. While we celebrate the four weeks of Advent (hope/preparation/joy/love) with our wreaths/candles, Advent focuses on expectation and hope. While we know what happens at Christmas and many of us also get excited about Santa Claus, many of us also can get stressed out with all the expectations of the season. I'm looking and talking directly to myself. What if the real gift is the opportunity to spend Advent to make ready for Christ to live with us and within us?

Wishing you all a wonderful 1st week of Advent and the intentional time/space to set aside for Christ as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Lord.



### Youth Basketball Referees Needed!

We are looking for volunteer Referees for our younger age groups in our Youth Basketball League. Games take place on Saturdays and all training will be provided to you. You must be in high school or older to volunteer. Please contact [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org) for more information and to sign up.

### Youth Basketball Scorekeepers and Time Clock Volunteers

We are looking for volunteer score and time clock keepers for our younger age groups in our Youth Basketball League. Games take place on Saturdays and all training will be provided to you. You must be in 7th Grade or older to volunteer. Please contact [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org) for more information and to sign up.

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/](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/)

# Book Group Opportunity on Catholic Teaching and Death Penalty

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace

Starting in January, the St. Francis Office of Justice and Peace is beginning a 6-week virtual study group that turns a spotlight on the death penalty in order to appreciate the evolution of Catholic teaching on this topic.

Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, once wrote, "If we believe that murder is wrong and not admissible in our society, then it has to be wrong for everyone, not just individuals but governments as well." *Dignity and the Death Penalty: Evolution of Catholic Teaching* (Alice Hugh Brown, author) is a 2021 publication based on decades of experience and insights from Sister Helen. This slim volume, heralded by the Catholic Mobilizing Network, is an excellent means of bringing to light the evolution of Church teaching and to illuminate Pope Francis's 2018 statement, "The death penalty is inadmissible, and Catholics should work for its abolition."

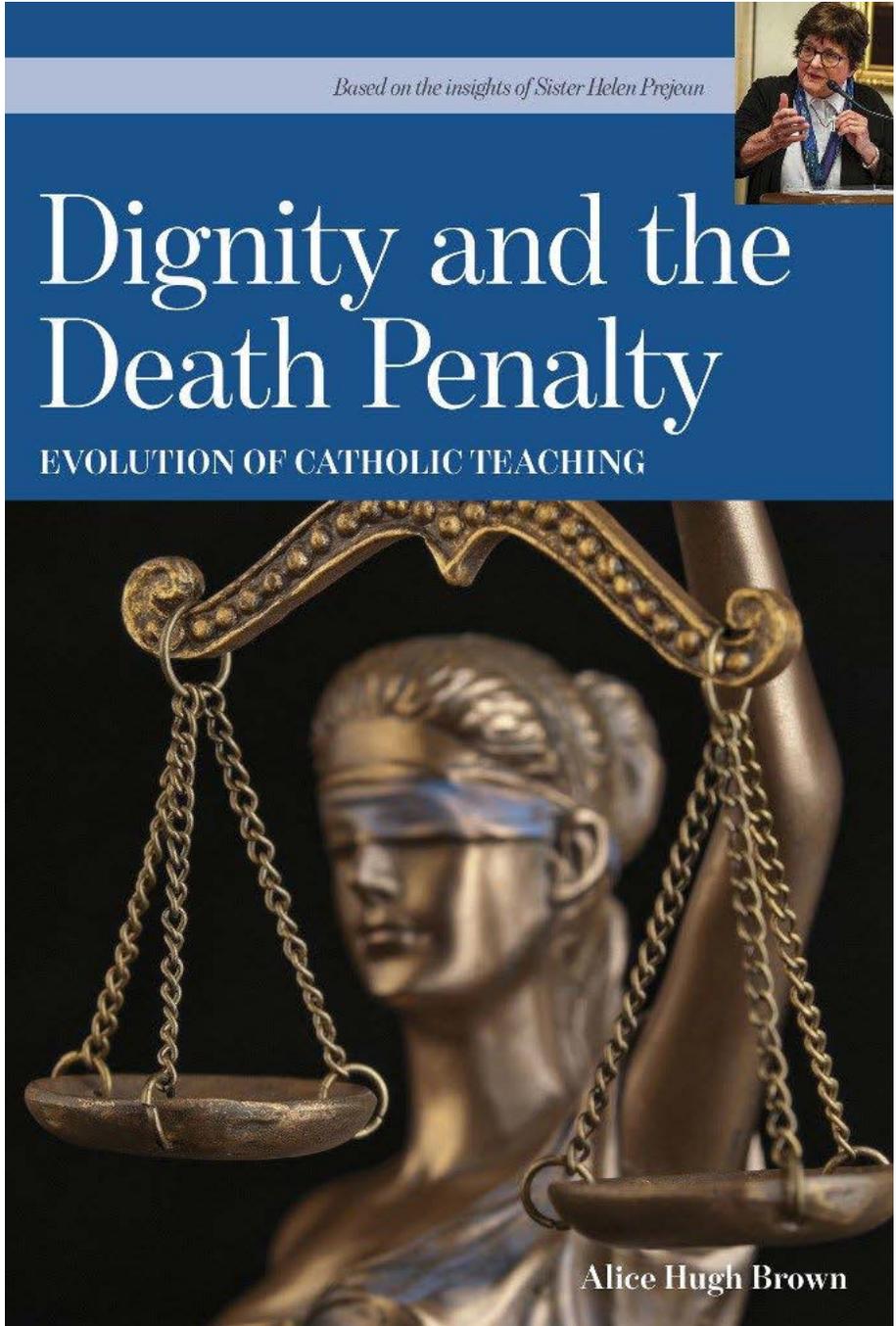
Join a parish-wide book group for information and dialogue on this very current topic. We will meet online Tuesday evenings, January 17 through February 21, from 7pm to 8pm. This book study will be facilitated by: Marianne Norris and Ellen Zaytoun, St. Francis parishioners and members of the Raleigh Diocese's Catholics for Abolition in North Carolina.

For more information or to register:  
[Complete this short Google Form.](#)

\*Registration is required.

To acquire the book, you can go to [this webpage](#) and order.

This book and its subject promise participants a prayerful and perceptive six weeks together!



# 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 the Community Center Lobby: Monday-Friday from 8:00am-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 21-December 12.

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! (<https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NC674/40890>)

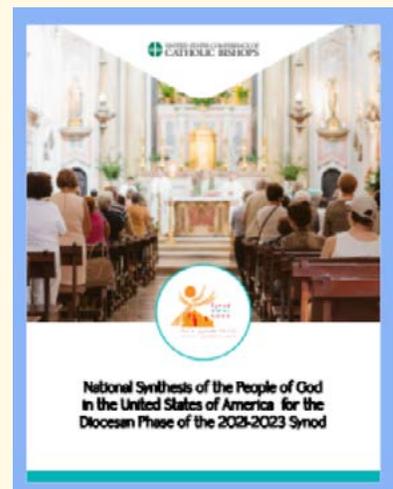
The following organizations will be beneficiaries of our financial donations this year: Duke Children's Hospital, Helen Wright Center, Ronald McDonald House in Durham, Helene Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry and Support Circle Families.

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

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: [Donation](#).



[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

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond us for we long for the coming of the Lord.

As we await the Lord's coming, the St. Vincent DePaul Society continues to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas as they help those who are suffering and faced with financial obstacles.

SVdP helps people who are experiencing temporary financial setbacks because of illness, death, or other unexpected challenges. Sometimes neighbors are repeatedly challenged.

Take, for instance, a widow with five children. She worked a temporary job as an administrative assistant at a local state agency but was released from the position after 11 months because the job was classified as temporary. She was hired to assume a permanent position within the same agency because of the excellent recommendations she received, but there was almost a month-long gap in paychecks. She needed to bridge family expenses between the layoff and the new job, which promises more money than she has ever made plus benefits.

SVdP was able to contribute toward the water and electric bill to help the family stay within its budget until the December paycheck arrives. This neighbor had received help in the past from SVdP because the mother sometimes had to take off work to tend to a child with special needs. "Should we help her?" one of the visitors asked Cathy Smith, SVdP acting president.

"Yes, let's help one more time," Cathy replied.

"Kudos to Cathy," was the reaction of the SVdP team when they voted to assist the mother and heard of her success with a new job.

"Sometimes we all need that one more time," Cathy said.

### Connect with Creation

Hear the story of the farmer that YOU can buy vegetables from through a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

[bit.ly/csafarmer](https://bit.ly/csafarmer)

(12 minutes)

*Local produce*

*Organic*

*Fresh*

*Supporting diversity*

*So much for us all to be thankful for!*

For more information on this and other Care for Creation activities visit:

[stfrancisraleigh.org/care\\_for\\_creation](https://stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation)

Or to connect with us go to: [stfcreation@gmail.com](mailto:stfcreation@gmail.com)

## Register for Cross Step



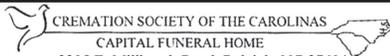
Cross Step (formerly known as Play N' Pray) is the newest addition to St. Francis' Crosses Faith Formation programs. Our mission is to the development of faith of children, ages one-and-walking through four. The children come to us in Clare Hall during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Using Pflaum Gospel Weeklie's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

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

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

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

Please contact [Andrea.Javier@stfrancis-raleigh.org](mailto:Andrea.Javier@stfrancis-raleigh.org)



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# DAUNTLESS

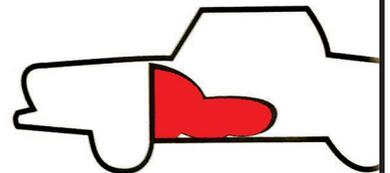
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[www.apexfuneral.com](http://www.apexfuneral.com)

**Brown-Wynne Funeral Homes and Crematory**  
200 SE Maynard Rd., Cary, NC 919-467-8108  
300 Saint Mary's St., Raleigh, NC 919-828-4311  
1701 E. Millbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC 919-876-6900  
[www.brownwynne.com](http://www.brownwynne.com)

**Mitchell Funeral Home at Raleigh Memorial Park**  
7209 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 919-783-7128  
[www.mitchellatrpm.com](http://www.mitchellatrpm.com)

**Raleigh Memorial Park and Mausoleums**  
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[www.raleighmemorialpark.com](http://www.raleighmemorialpark.com)

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