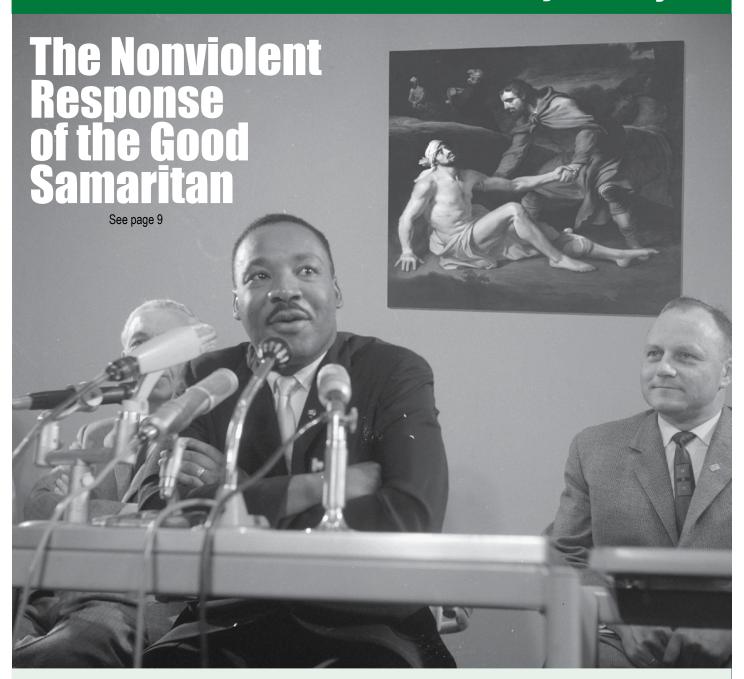
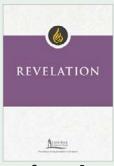
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

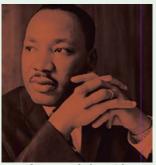




See page 5

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.



See page 2, 6, and 8





Why I Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: It is a sad fact that, despite all that makes us a great nation, racism is one blemish we have yet to deal with effectively. This is a very complex issue, one I have spent years studying and teaching on as part of a doctoral

course on ministry in a multicultural church. We see

racism in the growing violence against our Jewish brothers and sisters praying at synagogues. We see it in the rise of movements that extol white supremacy and advocate for violence against people of other races. We see it in violence at a grocery store in an African-American neighborhood where people are simply doing a normal thing: buying food. These are blatant examples of racism and ones I imagine all of us lament.

Each year we set aside a day to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His work for racial equality is the gold standard for us as a nation. He accomplished many important things during his life and he and his efforts are worth reminding ourselves of this each year as we still have a way to go in achieving racial equality in our nation.

How might we grow personally in this area? I find it's normally in the small ways we manage our interactions with people of other races. Here's a short examination of conscience I have found helpful to reflect upon that I share with you. Perhaps you may reflect on this when you celebrate the life and ministry of Dr. King on Monday.

Have I ever said, "I don't see color?" The reality is that humans are biased for a number of reasons, some influences cultural and others biological. We see color. This is a fact. The invitation is to acknowledge this as a reality and not be afraid of it. Our diversity is a strength, not a weakness.

Have I ever said or thought to myself, "But I have black friends," as a reaction to someone or a situation where the question of racism has been raised. While this may be true, it is important to remember that racism is something we are connected with both personally and societally. While I may indeed have black friends, I also enjoy a certain systemic advantage as a member of the dominant race/culture in the U.S. that others do not enjoy because of their race.

I'm always happy to speak with others about this important topic and am proud of the work we have been doing at St. Francis for several years to help us grow in our awareness of racism and how we can have a positive impact on reducing it in our lives, our church, and our nation.

Fr. Michael

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

- +Michael McMahon
 Husband of Sheila McMahon
- **+Michelle (Mimi) Miller-Higgins** Wife of Noel Higgins
- **+Lois LeBlanc**Mother of Theresa LeBlanc
- **+Michael Fuchs**Husband of Peg Fuchs

Weekly Envelope Schedule

January 15,Weekly January 22, Weekly January 22, Church in Latin America January 29, Weekly

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/

Prayer Requests for January 14 to January 22



Mass Intentions

Saturday January 14, 2023, 5:30pm +Suzan Mehalko Requested by Roy and Marianne Norris

Sunday January 15, 2023 Sunday, 7:15 +Thomas Casey Requested by The Fleischmann Family

> Sunday, 9:00 +Ann Mintel Requested by Celesta Carlson

Sunday, 11:45 +Elenea Siegfried Requested by Judy Kundrick

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

Monday January 16, 9AM +Bach Mai Thi LE Requested by Hanh Boyar and Trinh Pham

> Tuesday January 17, 9AM +Dr. Florian Mikulski Requested by The Weavil Family

Wednesday January 18, 9AM +Erlinda G Saballa Requested by Julita Lacuesta Thursday January 19, 9AM +Henry and +Mary Margaret Johnston Requested by Mary Beth and Tony Immediata

Friday January 20, 9AM +Charlotte Ratka Requested by Suzanne and Dave Richmond

> Saturday January 21, 2023, 5:30pm +Carey Yates Tilson Requested by Elizabeth Neal

Sunday January 22, 2023 Sunday, 7:15 +June M. Manfredi Requested by Meg Quinn and Mike Lewis

Sunday, 9:00 +Mary Jo Stapelton Requested by Michele Forde Hertel

Sunday, 11:45 +Therese McSween Requested by May Raymond

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(ill) Bobbie McKenzie Requested by Jean Creede Health Wellness

(ill) Martha DeCain Requested by Mark DeCain Health Wellness

(ill) Barry Hedden Requested by Vicki Hedden Health Wellness

Recent Death +Michael McMahon Husband of Sheila McMahon Remembrance

+Michelle (Mimi) Miller-Higgins Wife of Noel Higgins Remembrance

+Lois LeBlanc Mother of Theresa LeBlanc Remembrance

+Michael Fuchs Husband of Peg Fuchs Remembrance

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.



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.

At a Glance

This week's events are shown in red.

January 15 Columbarium and Franciscan Garden Blessing: Bishop Luís will

bless after the 9:00am Mass

January 17 Anointing of the Sick Mass

9:00am in the church

January 16 Mass celebrating the legacy of

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday at 12:00pm at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.

January 17 Book Group Opportunity

Dignity and the Death Penalty: Evolution of Catholic Teaching (Alice Hugh Brown, author) Meets online Tuesday evenings, January 17 through February 21, from 7pm to 8pm. For more information or to register: Complete this short Google Form. Registration is required.

January 18

The 50+ Adult Group invites you to our monthly luncheon in Claire Fellowship Hall for "Potluck Lunch" on Wednesday, at 11:30.

January 21 Habitat for Humanity

The following are our St. Francis Habitat Saturdays where we need volunteers: January 21 (a wall build), March 4, and April 22. <u>Catholic Coalition</u>. To sign up for the Apostles Build on January 21, please go to the link at <u>Apostles Build</u>.

January 22 Why Faith

Building an Adult Conscience 10:15-11:15am Founders Room Presented by Msgr. Clay.

January 26

Mental Health Series: Dementia

6:30pm in Founders Rm. Contact beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org

January 28 Women's Ministry - Yoga and Breakfast

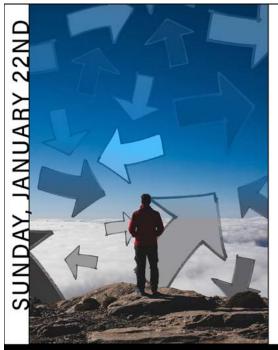
9-11am in Clare Fellowship Hall

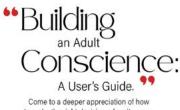
February 11 Day of Reflection with Steve Kluge

9:00am to 3:00pm. Registration is open on Tuesday, January 17 via Realm

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







to make the right decision when it comes to moral and doctrinal matters by equipping yourself with the right information and tools.

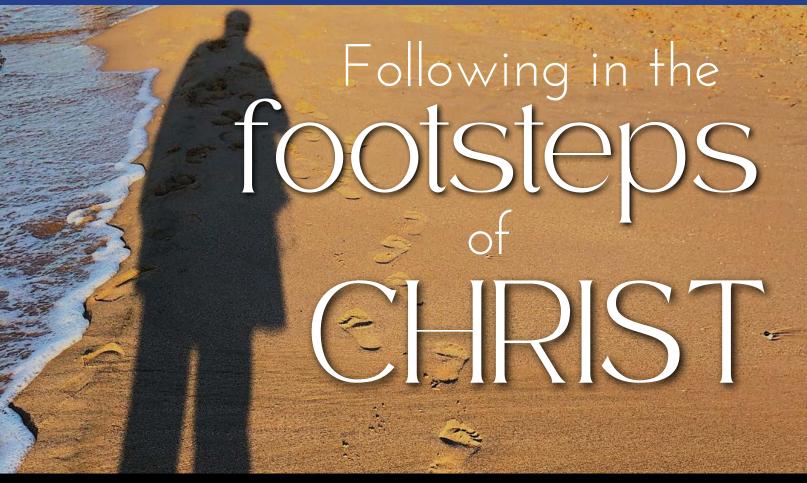
presented by Msgr. Michael Clay



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

Next session: February 26th with Jim Wahl.

Join the SFA Lenten Challenge



Challenge yourself by prioritizing your faith journey with Jesus and walk with him this Lent. Join one of our small groups this Lent season.

Register on Realm | Registration OPENS Friday, January 20th. | \$10 Registration Fee



Spiritual Gifts Small Groups will explore the charisms that you have been given to share with the world. Our small groups will work together to unlock and find the gifts you have been given.

Sundays: 7pm | Zoom **Tuesdays:** 10am | In-Person **Mondays:** 10am | In-Person **Tuesdays:** 7pm | Zoom

Mondays: 7pm | Men's Group | Hybrid

Click HERE to JOIN



EngagingSpirituality Small Groups guides individuals in developing spiritual practices to ground their faith lives and to have honest conversations about the joys and struggles in our lives and world.

Mondays: 9:30am | In-person
Tuesdays: 9:30am | In-person
Tuesdays: 3pm | Virtual
Tuesdays: 3pm | Virtual
Thursdays: 3pm | In-person

Click HERE to JOIN



Young Adult Small Group
Beth Gaudette on Wednesdays at 7pm
Tattoos on the Heart by Gregory Boyle
Click HERE to JOIN



Dads, Dudes and the Divine Small Group
Tim Hetzel on Thursdays at 6:30pm
Surprised by Joy by C. S. Lewis
Click HERE to JOIN

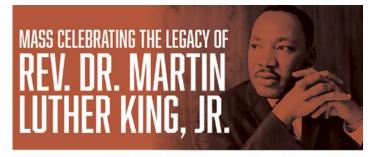


LGBTQ+ Small Group
Chris O'Neill on Fridays at 6:30pm
Book TBD
Click HERE to JOIN

New Service Opportunity **Dinner at Helen Wright Center!**



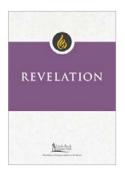
Our breakfast ministry at the Helen Wright Center, a shelter serving women experiencing homelessness, has now shifted to serving dinners on the first Saturday of each month from 6-8pm. Serving and donation needs can be found HERE. Please email Angela James at 2angelajames@gmail.com with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!



MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023 | 12:00 PM

HOLY NAME OF JESUS CATHEDRAL | 715 NAZARETH STREET, RALEIGH, NC 27606

There is a Mass celebrating the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday January 16, 2023 at 12:00pm at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. The main celebrant is Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama and the homilist is Rev. Carl Gales, SVD, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The intention of this Mass will be for the promotion of justice for social issues. Please bring disposable diapers, in the original, unopened packaging for the service project benefitting Catholic Charities.



Registration Extended Revelation

by Little Rock Scripture Study

Choose Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning sessions. Sessions limited to 20 participants

Tuesday Evening: 7:00-8:30 PM - January 24 through March 21, 2023

Wednesday Morning: 10:00-11:30 AM – January 25 through March 22, 2023

Cost: \$15.00 (cost of book) – Pick up books in parish reception area beginning January 20, 2023.

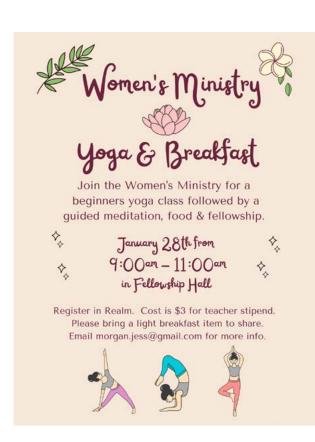
Facilitated by: Barbara Efird, Cindy Cardello and Diane Rosendahl

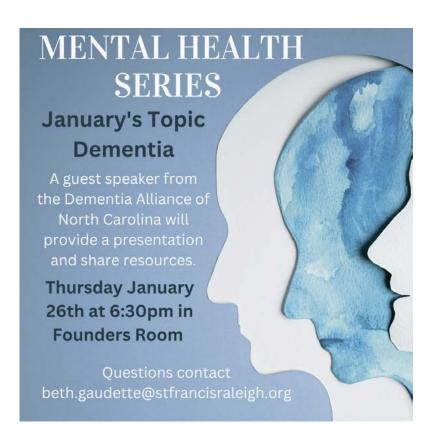
NOTE: We will not meet on February 23rd or 24th in honor of Ash Wednesday.

https://litpress.org/Products/6709/Revelation

Come, break open this ancient text with us and discover its ongoing relevance for us today. Studies conducted virtually via Zoom. A link will be sent to participants prior to the first session. Questions? Contact Janie Hebert, janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org.



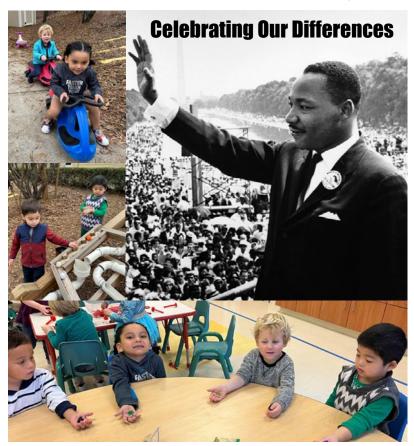






EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director



Our nation will soon honor the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by setting aside a day to recognize everything that he tried to accomplish to encourage dignity for all human beings. Celebrating this holiday also reminds me how fortunate I am to be able to work in a place that supports, embraces, and respects all differences. At preschool, we not only get to interweave our faith into all that we do with the children but we also get to support teachings of our faith by emphasizing that we all are different in some way yet all part of a class family, a school family and ultimately God's family. It doesn't matter if we have black hair, wear pink glasses, are tall, can kick a ball far, or like spinach for dinner, our differences make us special and allow us to learn from each other. God made each of us unique and gave us different gifts to share with those around us. As we focus on Dr. King's efforts to ensure equality for everyone, no matter our differences, let us remember that we all were made by God, in His image. Let us also remember something I once read: "God doesn't make junk!"

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is OPEN! Visit our preschool website for more information or to complete an application.

www.preschoolatstfrancis.com

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Dawn Smith, Principal







A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows. -St. Francis of Assisi









The Nonviolent Response of the Good Samaritan

Carolyn D. Townes, OFS
National Animator, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

U.S. Secular Franciscan Order

Although living a nonviolent life is a decision one needs to make each and every day, it is still a decision that eludes us. We live in a society that is inundated with violence, anger, hatred and war. These are the words and images we are faced with on a daily basis. Truly it can be difficult to act counter to the culture. Yet, during his life, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made nonviolence a way of life. Dr. King thought about nonviolent living every day as he worked towards racial equality and economic justice for all people.

King would also raise questions about being nonviolent in his sermons. In particular, he pondered the parable of the good Samaritan found in the Gospel of Luke. King thought about the questions in the minds of those who had the power to assist the man beaten and robbed and left on the side of the road. "The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"

Living a nonviolent life not only means being nonviolent in your own life but doing what you can to help those who are met with violence along the side of the road. Are you willing to stop and give aid to the stranger or are you going to pass on by for fear of your own safety? Yes, the priest and the Levite had to look out for their own wellbeing, but what made the Samaritan stop and lend a hand, going the extra mile? Are you willing to go the extra mile? As Dr. King pondered these questions, ask yourself this: "What if I were the person beaten, robbed and left for dead on the side of the road? What is my response to people in need of safety from violence and brutality? What is mine to do?"

Register for Cross Step



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

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



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

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

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



St. Francis Habitat for Humanity Ministry Begins Building New Homes in Wake County

On Saturday January 7 our team from St. Francis, along with other members from the Catholic Coalition, came together to build wall frames for the first home to be constructed at Old Poole Place! It was a great morning, and our own Monsignor Clay topped it off by blessing the walls that we had built.

Another wall build will occur on January 28 as part of our relationship with the Apostles Coalition. Sign up on the Habitat website, at https://www.habitatwake.org/faith/apostles_fall. In addition, we anticipate sign up links for our site

builds on March 4 (Catholic Coalition), and April 22 (Apostles Coalition) to be posted shortly on the Habitat website.

If you have not done so already, please join the St. Francis Habitat for Humanity Ministry Group on the Realm App, using the Find Groups feature so you can receive communications about our ministry activities.

Thank you again for your continued support of this wonderful ministry. Please call or text Keith Mason, 412-965-6592, if you have any questions.



Fun on the Farm!

Join us at Corral Riding Academy for an awesome workday on the farm. The day runs from 9:30am to 12pm on Saturday, January 21. Learn more and signup here!

Congratulations



On Sunday afternoon the Knights of Columbus held their annual Free Throw Contest. They had 18 contestants covering age groups

from 9-14 both boys and girls. All received participant certificates and, additionally, the winners received Champion Certificates. The winners are eligible to compete in the Knights of Columbus State-wide Competition in Burlington on March 11th. Congratulations to all who competed this year!



The last couple of weeks, I have shared thoughts about both the little things and family. This week, I wanted to include an experience that combines both, written by my friend and colleague, Diogenes Ruiz, and inspired by my pride and joy and 6 year old daughter, Kallie Mae Damico.

A Little Trust?

Sometimes God blesses us in ways we don't expect, underserving as we may be.

I had the pleasure of walking with Chris and his 6-year-old daughter, Kallie Mae, who I had recently met. The destination is unimportant – the journey was pretty special.

As we walked, Chris and I talked about the area and how he remembered living in this particular development for a few years. We proceeded to walk toward our destination breathing the cool air as squirrels ran among the trees.

All of a sudden, I felt a little hand take mine. What? This child hardly knows me, I thought to myself. I was in what I can best describe as mild heavenly shock. I held her little hand as we walked. Why is this child holding my hand? Isn't that a huge sign of trust?... to a relative stranger no less! A little while later as we continued to walk hand-in-hand, Chris looked over at us and smiled.

A short walk, a small gesture of trust, an unsolicited blessing that I will always cherish - a blessing that you cannot put a price on. I did not win the billion dollar mega-millions jackpot last weekend, but I received something much more valuable, I was touched by an angel.

D. Ruiz





Divorce Care Spring Series

January 24-May 2:A Seminar with Experts During the first 30-40 minutes of the meeting, the Divorce Care group watches a video seminar featuring top experts on divorce and recovery subjects. These videos are produced in an interesting-to-watch television magazine format featuring expert interviews, real-life case studies and on-location video. You will hear experts discuss topics like loneliness, anger, depression, financial changes in divorce, and you will hear how others coped with feelings like these and found recovery and healing. A Support Group with Focus After viewing the video, Divorce Care participants spend time as a support group discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in the lives of members. Come find healing and restoration when you are facing a very difficult time in your life. https://www. divorcecare.org/leaderzone/my/groups/158303



High School Basketball:

The Parish High School Boy's Basketball league registration is OPEN! This parish league is open to both parishioners and non-parishioners of the community. The boys league is for grades 9-12 For questions contact: Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh. org. For more information and registration, please see: http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/high-school-basketball-leagues-2/



We have lots of really cool opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts, and various enrichment areas! Kids can join us for half day or full day. All camps have min and max number of students so camp availability is based on enrollment. Registration and more information will be available late January. For questions contact: Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org



Caregivers Support Group Info

Session January 26 at 2:00pm in the Padua Room: As a caregiver for my husband. I live my life just trying to make it from Sunday to Sunday. Each day is a new day in which my prayer is for the strength to make it through another day. The purpose of this group is to provide support to caregivers who are struggling to make it "from Sunday to Sunday." Please join us on January 26th at for an informational meeting. Together we can support each other and practice a little self-care as we care for those we love. For questions or to rsvp contact beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org.



The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Francis of Assisi

In the Gospel after Jesus was baptized, John testified saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove...and remain upon him."

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Francis of Assisi is a sign of God's spirit of love to those who are suffering in our community. Every two weeks members meet to pray and converse about those in need. Most neighbors who call for help are the working poor, individuals and families suffering a temporary financial setback because of illness, death, or other challenges.

A bout of long Covid and weeks off work caused one neighbor to get behind in rent and utility bills. A working mother with pre-eclampsia was forced to take off work until her newborn arrived. Bills accumulated quickly, and eviction notices arrived.

Cases are not resolved by simply writing a check. SVdP limits how much it can provide each neighbor, and often additional sources of funding are needed.

Through the help of conscientious volunteers, SVdP maintains an extensive file of referral agencies so that it can match each neighbor with the help he or she requires, whether it is legal, financial, or governmental.

This means hours of listening and research for the visitor who then brings the case to the meeting. Sometimes eviction is imminent, and emergency funding is approved between meetings.

SVdP is our connection to those in financial need in the community. A team of caring, well-trained visitors meet our neighbors in need and provide them not only with financial help but also with a listening heart. If you would like to know more about SVdP at St. Francis, contact Cathy Smith at smithtcr@gmail.com

Employment Opportunities

The Franciscan School announces the following positions for the 2023-24 School Year

School Counselor – Middle School

The School Counselor works with students, teachers, colleagues and parents individually and in groups to support academic, personal, and social growth of our students. The ideal candidate will have 3-5 years experiences in middle school counseling, hold a Master's Degree and be licensed by NCDPI as a school counselor (or be eligible for licensing).

Religion Teacher - Middle School

The ideal candidate will embrace the Franciscan charisms and be able to deliver an engaging religious formation curriculum, hold or be willing to obtain basic catechist certification for catholic schools teachers and have prior classroom experience.

If you are interested in joining a dynamic educational environment working with dedicated professionals to provide an academically challenging experience for our students, please send a cover letter, that includes your educational philosophy, the position in which you have interest, and resume to: tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Coordinator of High School and Young Adult Formation

We are seeking a passionate, dynamic individual to be a part of our pastoral staff as the Coordinator of High School and Young Adult Formation. In collaboration with the formation team and a large volunteer group, this position oversees a comprehensive formation program serving youth in grades 9 through 12, and leads the efforts to grow our young adult formation into a vibrant ministry. The coordinator will develop and implement programs using contemporary Catholic evangelization and catechetical approaches.

The successful applicant will have a bachelor's degree with strong relational, communication, organizational, and leadership skills. We strongly desire someone with understanding in the fields of evangelization and contemporary approaches to catechesis, as well as experience with youth/young adult ministry.

If you are an active, fully initiated Catholic, who desires to be a part of a truly collaborative and innovative team, please email a cover letter and resume to Search.Committee@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Learn: Check out Catholic teaching about the environment AND practical ways to practice it. bit.ly/yearres

Act: Check out a year long plan to up your eco-practices at "52 Things to Change Our Planet" and much, much more! www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care for creation

Lots more information here!

stfrancisraleigh.org/care for creation

To connect with us: stfccreation@gmail.com

Parish will be Mortgage Free by March!

We are delighted to share with the Parish Community that we are on track to be Mortgage Free by March. Our last payment will be February. As a result, we will be transitioning the Mortgage Sunday giving option, via envelopes and Faith Direct, to becoming the Maintenance Reserve Sunday. As we have shared with you, the cost of maintaining our beautiful campus is increasing as our facilities age. A recent asset and reserve study projected over the next 20 years it will cost \$18 million dollars to maintain the campus.

For those of you who have been making Mortgage Sunday contributions, those envelopes will be replaced by Maintenance Reserve Sunday envelopes in March. We hope that you consider continuing your donations as we shift our focus to Maintenance. If you currently donate toward the Mortgage using Faith Direct, those donations will be transitioned to Maintenance Reserve donation for you. Thank you for your continued support as we reach this significant milestone.

Registration Opening Soon 2023-2024 School Year



January 12th - Alumni/TFS Siblings/Parish

January 19th - Community

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Mitchell Funeral Home at Raleigh Memorial Park

7209 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 919-783-7128 www.mitchellatrmp.com

Raleigh Memorial Park and Mausoleums

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www.raleighmemorialpark.com

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GREAT COVERAGE - 97% of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.

GREAT VALUE - 70% of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.

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