

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



# Catholic Schools Week 2023 January 29–February 4

[www.NCEA.org/csw](http://www.NCEA.org/csw)  
#CSW23

See pages 2, 7, and 10



See page 4 and 11

## 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 5 and 6



**The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi**

11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-847-8205 [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org)



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:** We celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 29-February 4. We are blessed to have two schools on our campus, The Franciscan School (a.k.a. TFS) (K-8) and the St. Francis Pre-School (2-5 year olds). Both are outstanding schools with



great leadership and excellent faculty and staff. A Catholic School education is a big financial investment but so worth it. Our students receive an excellent intellectual formation and learn Catholic values that will last a lifetime, just to name two reasons to consider it. The commitment of our parents is incredible, among the most impressive I have experienced as a priest.

Each day this week, our TFS students will celebrate and give thanks for a variety of people. On Sunday, the focus will be on our church community. The students will be plentiful in number assisting us in a variety of ways at our Masses. On Monday, the focus will be on their families. Parents will be especially acknowledged on this day. On Tuesday, service will be the focus. Collecting books and board games to share with others will be featured. On Wednesday, the students will be praying for our nation, especially at the School Mass in the church at 9am. On Thursday, the focus will be on vocations. The children will spend the day learning about the variety of vocations to which God calls us. On Friday, the focus will be on thanking the school's faculty, staff, and volunteers who do extraordinary things to make the school such a wonderful place.

Our Pre-School will be following the same daily themes in a simpler but very appropriate and meaningful way for them.

There are almost 1.7 million U.S. Catholic school students celebrating Catholic Schools Week, a number that is on the increase nationally. Catholic schools graduate 99 percent of its high school seniors, continually outperform public schools and other religious and private schools on national assessment tests and foster social responsibility. Most importantly, Catholic schools teach values that reflect our faith and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I'm grateful to all of you who send your children to our two schools.

*Fr. Michael*



Catholic Charities  
of the Diocese of Raleigh

### **Catholic Parish Outreach:**

Bags will be passed out after Masses the weekend of Feb. 4/5. The CPO Truck will be on site the weekends of Feb. 11/12 and 18/19 to collect your filled grocery bags. Drop off times to the truck those 2 weekends are: Saturday 4:45-6:00pm and Sunday 6:45am-12:30pm and 4:45-6:00pm. To sign up to assist with passing out bags or working at the truck visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449afab2eabfd0-catholic#/>

Items Needed for the Drive (No glass please) Cans of vegetables, tuna, chicken, soup, spaghetti sauce, fruit; boxes of cereal, macaroni and cheese, pasta, hamburger/ chicken/tuna helper, crackers, instant dry milk; bags of rice and beans. Peanut butter, fruit juice, salad dressing, laundry detergent, bathroom tissue, soap, diapers size 4-6, baby wipes, milk-based infant formula, Stage 1, 2, 3 or graduates baby food.

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

**+Karen Kell**

Mother of Bob and Kathleen Kell

**+Deborah Quinn**

Daughter of Maureen McFadden

**+Edwin Eugene Gordon**

Husband of Clara Gordon

**+Maddalena Boyer**

Mother of Alex Boyer

**+ Bobbie McKenzie**

Mother of Jean Creede

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/)

### **Weekly Envelope Schedule**

January 29, Weekly

# PRAYER REQUESTS FOR JANUARY 28 TO FEBRUARY 5



## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday January 28, 2023, 5:30pm  
+Marianne DiTonno  
Requested by Anthony and Adena DiTonno

Sunday January 29, 2023  
Sunday, 7:15  
+Austin Lee Moore  
Requested by The Detterline Family

Sunday, 9:00  
Augustus Tomas Alcala Lopez  
Requested by Aracely and Antonio Alcala-Lopez  
1st Birthday

Sunday, 11:45  
Dailyn and her family in Guatemala  
Requested by Joan Crennan  
Special Intention

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

Monday January 30, 9AM  
+George K Freeman Jr.  
Requested by Mary Gail Freeman

Tuesday January 31, 9AM  
+Claude Lackey  
Requested by Diogenes and Karin Ruiz

Wednesday February 1, 9AM  
+Marion Chabot  
Requested by The Loeschorn Family

Thursday February 2, 9AM  
+Romualda Manalo-Guirriec  
Requested by Rolina and Julius Fajardo

Friday February 3, 9AM  
+Mary Immediata  
Requested by Tony and Mary Beth Immediata

Saturday February 4, 2023, 5:30pm  
+Douglas Warden  
Requested by Eleonora Cafalu

Sunday February 5, 2023  
Sunday, 7:15  
+Bob Kleps and +Sue Sonoloski  
Requested by Phillip Strand

Sunday, 9:00  
+Joseph Horner  
Requested by Janice and Mary Horner

Sunday, 11:45  
+Tom Hayden  
Requested By The Hayden and Dinin Family

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

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(iii) Martha DeCain  
Requested by Mark DeCain  
Health and Wellness

(iii) Tom Zhang  
Requested by Hui Chen  
Health and Wellness

+Gabriel Osorio  
Requested by Berenice Osorio  
Remembrance

+Eleanor Stachewicz  
Requested by Elizabeth Stachewicz  
Remembrance

Recent Death  
+Deborah Quinn  
Daughter of Maureen McFadden  
Remembrance

+Edwin Eugene Gordon  
Husband of Clara Gordon  
Remembrance

+Maddalena Boyer  
Mother of Alex Boyer  
Remembrance

+Bobbie McKenzie  
Mother of Jean Creede  
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.

## February 1

### In recognition of Catholic Schools Week

we welcome our parishioners to join our students on Wednesday, February 1: 9:00 am **Community Mass** with the students 10:00am **Coffee with Principal Smith** (Assisi Café) 11:00 am **Tour of The Franciscan School and St. Francis of Assisi Pre School**. We welcome you to join us and see the faith, love and learning in our schools. Please contact [dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org) if you would like to join us for any part of the morning.

## February 4/5

### Catholic Parish Outreach

Bags will be passed out after Masses. To sign up to assist with passing out bags or working at the truck visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449a-fab2eabfd0-catholic#/>

## February 6

### Mens Prayer Breakfast

We will be dialoguing on Richard Rohr's "The Universal Christ" in the Padua Room. Deacon Steve, 732-213-0104 or [stephenwandrews@outlook.com](mailto:stephenwandrews@outlook.com)

## February 9

### Coffee with Clay

Join Monsignor Clay for coffee and conversation from 9:30-10:30am in the Assisi Café after Daily Mass.

## February 11 (SOLD OUT)

### Day of Reflection with Steve Kluge

9:00am to 3:00pm.

## February 12

### Mass and Coffee and Donuts

Fr. Steve Kluge will preach at the 9:00am Mass. Join Fr. Steve for Coffee and Donuts after the 9:00am Mass.

## February 11/12

### Catholic Parish Outreach

Drop off times to the truck those 2 weekends are: Saturday 4:45-6:00pm and Sunday 6:45am-12:30pm and 4:45-6:00pm.

## February 16

### Women's Group Mardi Gras

Happy Hour 7-9pm, Bottle Mixx, 8111 Creedmoor Rd. Bring a friend and appetizer to share.

## February 18/19

### Catholic Parish Outreach

Drop off times to the truck are: Saturday 4:45-6:00pm and Sunday 6:45am-12:30pm and 4:45-6:00pm.


## March 4

### Habitat for Humanity


The following are our St. Francis Habitat Saturdays where we need volunteers: March 4, and April 22. [Catholic Coalition](#). To sign up for the Apostles Build on January 21, please go to the link at [Apostles Build](#).

## Envelope Update


We are aware that many of our parishioners have not yet received their January envelopes. We have contacted the third party vendor about the problem and they have assured us steps have been taken to ensure the delay does not occur again. When you do receive your January envelopes, they will also include the first two weeks of February in an effort to get back on track. Thank you for your patience and support.



# Stronger together | 2023



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH  
**BISHOP'S**  
ANNUAL APPEAL



ST. FRANCIS TV

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2023

## EPISODE 26

The 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal funds many ministries that allow us to serve our communities, not just our parish community, but our larger Catholic family. Half of Catholic Charities' operating budget comes directly from the Bishop's Annual Appeal. And that's only a sliver of the many ministries and programs provided by the Bishop's Annual Appeal that reach the underserved and disadvantaged in our own backyard.

[Click here to make your pledge to the BAA](#)



Click image to watch video

JOIN THE SFA LENTEN CHALLENGE

# Following in the footsteps of CHRIST

**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](#)



**Engaging Spirituality 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:** 7pm | Virtual  
**Tuesdays:** 9:30am | In-person      **Thursdays:** 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](#)



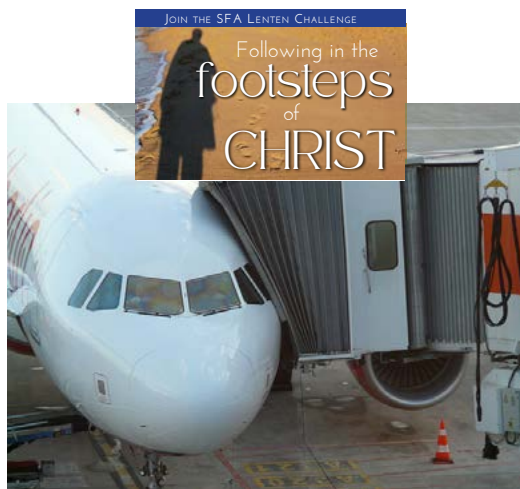
**Dads, Dudes and the Divine Small Group**  
Tim Hetzel on **Thursdays at 6:30pm**  
*Surprised by Joy* by C. S. Lewis  
[Click HERE to JOIN](#)



**LGBTQ+ Small Group**  
Chris O'Neill on **Fridays at 6:30pm**  
*Book TBD*  
[Click HERE to JOIN](#)

Registration Opens Friday, January 20th on Realm 5





## The Connection

I'm currently a participant in the Called & Gifted program and wanted to share a personal experience that I believe would not have happened without my participation in the program. The goal of the program is to actively discern our spiritual gifts in the service of others, develop awareness for opportunities to use them and to act.

After a long recent work trip to Europe, travel drama abounded on the return trip! After a 5+ hr delay, my flight was then cancelled, and I finally made it home 24 hours after my scheduled return.

I'm not even sure how it started, but the guy sitting right next to me and I had an extended conversation on the flight back (we had exchanged pleasantries throughout the previous day's delays). He felt comfortable opening up and shared some of the issues that he was facing with his father, the regrets that he had about his failed marriage, and his attempts to try to strengthen his relationships with his daughters. I listened with empathy and shared the strength that I have found by trying to put Christ in the center of my life. This led to a lengthy

dialogue and ultimately a conversation about spiritual gifts and the journey to direct those on the behalf of others which really struck a chord with him. I happened to have my Spiritual Gifts workbook in the pocket of my seat and let him borrow it. He then read my workbook with interest for a long time. He shared that he felt that the entire purpose of the flight delay was to allow him to have that interaction with me and to reset his connection to his faith and family.


He followed up later to share that he had a perfect and beautiful interaction with his daughter and was beyond grateful for that interaction. I was also very happy to hear that he also had a wonderful visit with his dad where I think he was able to find some peace.

I am grateful for the Spiritual Gifts program and for the increased awareness of the importance of discerning our gifts and developing higher awareness for opportunities to help others and the courage and boldness to act.

Regards,  
John

*Current St. Francis Called & Gifted Program Participant*


# Coffee & Donuts



**Sunday, February 12 @ 10:00**

Join us for Coffee and Donuts with Fr. Steve Kluge on Sunday, February 12th following 9:00am Mass from 10:00am-11:00am in Fellowship Hall.

It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and with Fr. Steve. He will also be preaching at the 9am Mass on February 12th. All are welcome!



*Coffee and Donuts Sunday Schedule*

Sunday, March 26, 2023      Sunday, April 2, 2023  
Sunday, May 7, 2023

WOMEN OF  
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI,  
JOIN IN A

## mardi gras

**HAPPY HOUR**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY  
16 7 TO 9 PM  
BOTTLE MIXX  
8111 CREEDMOOR RD

BRING A FRIEND  
& AN APPETIZER  
TO SHARE

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Dawn Smith, Principal of TFS and Heidi Hobler, Director of the St. Francis Preschool



Whether families are considering preschool or grades K-8 for their child, as educators, we recognize the importance of finding a school which supports academic excellence and fosters development of the whole child. We could easily share how both of our schools are committed to these ideals through our curriculums, standards, student achievements, and exemplary staff. Both of us can offer numerous examples of how our students have gone on to have highly successful futures. Our track records can speak for themselves.

While student success can be measured with grades, test scores, and class advancements each year, these alone do not make a child's

education complete. At both schools, we also foster a child's growth towards becoming a kind, caring, respectful, and compassionate individual. There is not a specific class that teachers have to teach students how to assist those who have less, how to advocate for those who are marginalized because of differences, or how to extend care to those who suffer. Rather, these are best taught when children are surrounded by adult/peer models as well as when they have opportunities to practice extending a helping hand. Each of our schools provide these in everything that we do, both in and out of the classroom. Being part of a Catholic community allows us to emphasize

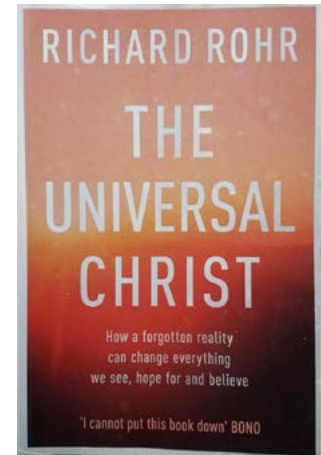
these core values through the lens of our faith. Practicing our faith means that we follow the example of Jesus. We not only care for each other as kind people, but we know that following Christ obligates us to do so. We are required to make sure that Jesus and His teachings are put first as well as incorporated into all that we do...not just when saying prayer before snack, sitting in religion class, or completing a one-time service project. Being a Catholic school means that loving our God and neighbor are exemplified and practiced throughout our days. They are intentionally interwoven into the fabric of our daily lives.

Christ is the foundation on which our schools rest. We work diligently to remain rooted in faith by instilling the Christian teachings and emphasizing the fellowship that comes from following Christ. We welcome you to consider a Catholic school education for your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of administration if you would like to learn more about either of our school communities.

Please keep the schools of the Catholic Community of St. Francis, [TFS](#) and [St. Francis Preschool](#), in your prayers especially during Catholic Schools Week as we celebrate and recognize all that an excellent Catholic education provides. We thank you for your prayers and support!



## Upcoming Young Adult Events



Drawing on Scripture, history and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. Jesus' life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separated from God. – except by its own negative choice.

Beginning of Monday Feb 6th from 8 to 9 am the Men's Prayer Breakfast will be dialoguing on The Universal Christ. We will be gathering in the Padua Room; Egg Burritos and Coffee will be served. If you are interested in joining the group or have questions contact Deacon Steve at 732-213-0104 or [stephenwandrews@outlook.com](mailto:stephenwandrews@outlook.com)

| What?          | When?  | Where?                       |
|----------------|--|------------------------------|
| Sunday Socials | 2nd & 4th Sundays<br>after 9am Mass          | Gathering-space<br>Fireplace |
| Bible Study    | January 25<br>February 1,8,<br>and 15 at 7pm | Laverna                      |

Questions contact  
[beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org)



## Happy Eco-New Year!

**Learn:** Check out Catholic teaching about the environment AND practical ways to practice it. [bit.ly/yearres](http://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](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation)

Lots more information here!

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

To connect with us: [stfccreation@gmail.com](mailto:stfccreation@gmail.com)





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

In the Gospel today Jesus gives us the Beatitudes, which embody a radically alternative vision of life, and we find that God, indeed, calls us to blessedness.

A blessedness is revealed in the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society where volunteers work to respond to the voices of those in need.

Take, for instance, a recent SVdP meeting when visitors discussed a neighbor who called for help with his water bill. He woke up one morning to find that his water service had been cut off. The neighbor, a military veteran, called the city and was told that they sent him a cut-off warning in late December. He never received the notice and didn't have the money needed to restore service.

Not only did SVdP members approve payment on his behalf, but they were also determined to expedite it so his water would be reconnected as soon as possible. "We'll get the paperwork done tonight and send it out to the appropriate department."

Neighbors are not only grateful for the financial help, but they also appreciate the attention they receive from the volunteers. "You called me back!" is the grateful response some volunteers receive from neighbors who have left a message on the helpline.

SVdP seeks to help people who face temporary financial setback because of an illness, a death in the family or other challenging life events.

Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need? Please leave a message at the SVdP helpline at 919-534-4842. When SVdP volunteers say they want to help, they mean it.

## What should we ask of Him?

Dear Jesus:

Fill my heart and spirit with thanksgiving, gratitude and a spirit of joy, for all that I am and all you have provided me. Lord, show me what you want me to see.

(DJ) Make me a vessel for faith, hope and love both for our Catholic Community of SFA and everyone I encounter.

Lord, show me what you want me to see.

(DJ) When I go sideways, and I know I will, give me the strength and the courage to both repent and reorient my life towards you, asking you for forgiveness.

Lord, show me what you want me to see.

(DJ) Show me how you want me to spend more time with you. Be it The Gospel, The Examen, Lexio Divina. Daily Mass.

Lord, show me you what you want me to see.

(DJ) Help me to continue to think about my vocation and how it serves me to be better and to do better...As a spouse, as a partner, as a parent, as a friend, as a child of God.

Lord, show me what you want me to see.

(DJ) Help me become a more vibrant witness in the world. Someone who recognizes all I am and all I have is a gift from you, a blessing and that I do not give to a need, but I feel the need to give as I both receive your gifts gracefully and I'm alive.

Lord, show me what you want me to see.

(DJ) Thank you for the gift of your son, the saints, the apostles and all the holy men and women that help us both live our lives as Catholic Christians and evangelize our faith to those who don't know you.

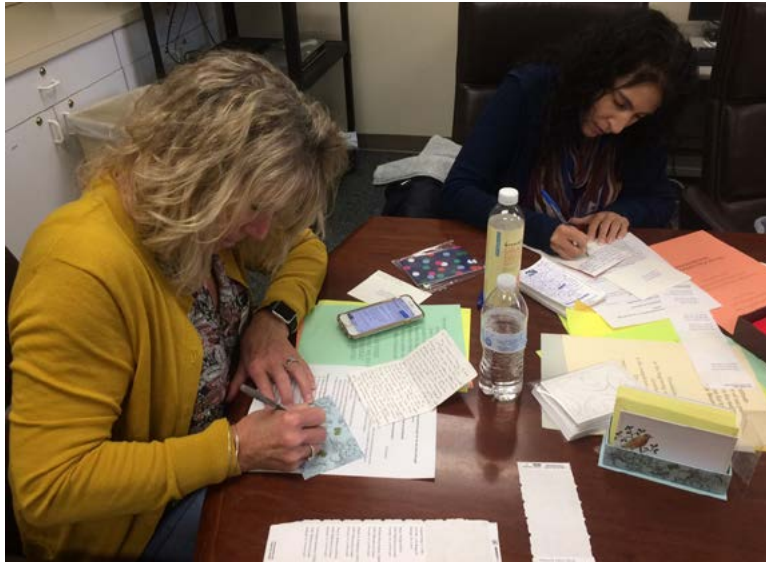
Lord, show me what you want me to see.

In your name we pray,

Amen.

*"May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."* 2 Thessalonians 3:16

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



## Prison Pen Pal Ministry Seeking New Pen Pals

"Remember those in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated since you also are in the Body."  
Hebrews 13:3.

The St. Francis Prison Pen Pal Ministry is in need of more pen pals who want to write to the men on Death Row, many of whom have no family or any connection to the outside world, yet often express hidden talents in art, crafts, poetry, prose and music. Many parishioners have been deeply touched by their pen pal relationships. We are looking for 4-6 new parishioners to step up. Training and ongoing mentorship are offered for pen pals. The ministry also gathers quarterly to discuss current events and issues within the prison, as well as encourage, support and share their experiences with other pen pals. This is a writing ministry that can be done on your own time and schedule, but it can also be so enriching in that it evolves into so much more.

One person in Central Prison who has a pen pal relationship with a parishioner named Chris wrote this New Year's prayer - "Gracious God, I know you have a unique plan for me, and I want you to fulfill it through me by your power the Holy Spirit. I yield my life to you and willingly submit to your plan and purpose for my life. Holy Spirit, please empower me for your service today. Thank you Lord, in the name of Jesus, Amen."

Please contact St. Francis Pen Pal Ministry [sfapenpal@gmail.com](mailto:sfapenpal@gmail.com) should you want to, as the song says, "Take your candle and go light the world" - our prisons are in need of your light.



## Registration Now Open 2023-2024 School Year



### Classes Offered

**\*NEW\*** Toddler Class (18 to 23 months)

Two Year Old

Three Year Old

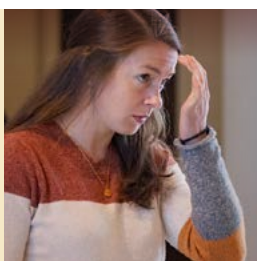
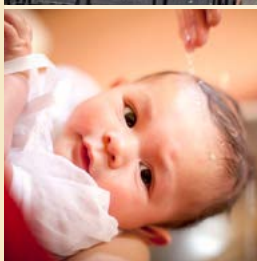
Four Year Old

Transitional Class

**Open House  
January 29th  
10:30-11:30**



# 2022 BAA Impact Report



## In 2022 **your donations** helped fund:



**1** ordination to  
the Transitional  
Diaconate  
Deacon Nicolas Rapkoch



**9,483**  
students  
in Catholic  
schools



**2** newly ordained  
priests  
Fr. John de Guzman  
and Fr. Erik Reyes



**871**  
teachers  
in Catholic  
schools

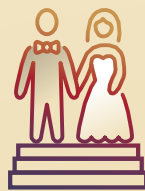


**15** seminarians  
prepare for  
ordination to  
the Priesthood

## In 2022, the Diocese **ministered** by way of:



**3,363**  
First  
Communions



**909**  
Marriages



**134,552**  
individuals  
that we  
provided food  
assistance to  
last year



**3,047**  
Confirmations



**4,580**  
Baptisms



### **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/>



### **Camp Francis Registration Opens Monday, January 30**

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. Check out our offerings: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/> For questions contact: [Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org)

## **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).

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: [tfresume@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:tfresume@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **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.





### **January Cross Step (Pre-K Faith Formation) At A Glance:**

Throughout the month of January, the Cross Step children have learned so much! They were educated about the Epiphany, which is when the Magi from the East travelled to Bethlehem to honor Jesus. We also discussed how John the Baptist, like the three Wise Men, anticipated the coming of a Messiah. The children read Jill Kemp's "John the Baptist" picture book about the baptism of the Lord. Upon becoming baptized, a dove appeared overhead, which was a sign that Jesus was chosen by his Father, along with the Holy Spirit, to share God's message of love and salvation. Both the visit of the Magi and Jesus' baptism reveal Jesus as the Son of God.

The children witnessed firsthand what being baptized looks like with our own baptism kits, which consisted of a baby doll and the elements of baptism, including "chrism oil," "holy water," a scalloped bowl that represented a seashell, and a baptismal "font." The children were taught that by participating in this first Sacrament, we not only make a promise to live in a way that is Christ-like, in addition to being forgiven for our sins, but we also become official members of the Catholic Church.

Afterwards, the children made paper baptism doves, complete with wings that could flap. This lesson was super informative and super fun!

Along with learning about Epiphany, the CS children also discovered later on in January that Jesus' first Apostles were fishermen. We read Jill Kemp's "Follow Me" picture book and discussed the importance of responding to God's call. When we are called to follow Jesus, this means that we stop thinking about ourselves; we trust that God will take care of us; and we follow Him.

Andrew, Simon Peter, James, and John believed in God, and they trusted that Jesus was the Son of God. Simon Peter believed in Jesus so much that he eventually became the first Pope, or leader of the Catholic Church. The CS children were taught that this tradition of having a Pope in the Catholic Church continues to this day, and we showed them a picture of Pope Francis so that they can begin associating a face with his name. Afterwards, the children got to pretend to be fishermen themselves— they went fishing for fish using magnetic fishing poles, and they even created their own "Fishers of Men" mobiles with "swimming fish" to proudly display in their windows at home.

Interested families can still register children ages one (and walking) to age four for the 2022-2023 Cross Step year in REALM.

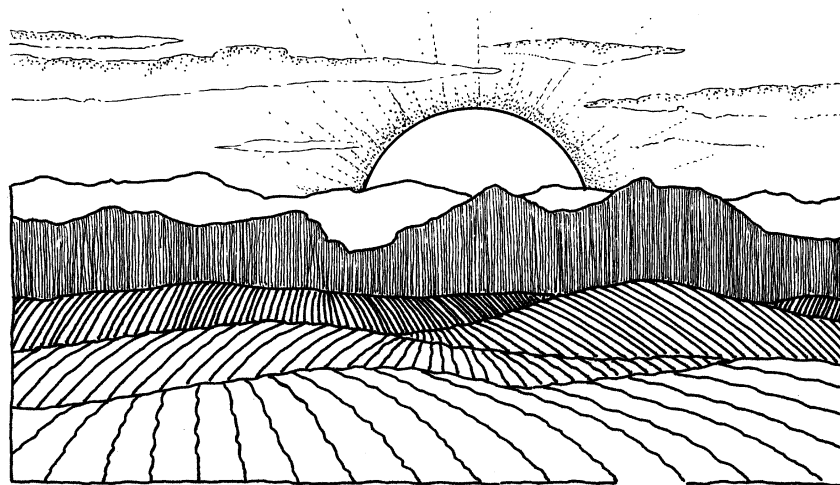
Please contact [Andrea.Javier@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Andrea.Javier@stfrancisraleigh.org) for more information.

# Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time






## January 29, 2023

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

— Matthew 5:3



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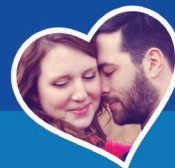
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