

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

See page 5 for:

Greener+Lent

THE SFA LENTEN CHALLENGE

Register Today!

Following in the footsteps of CHRIST



See page 12 and 13 for highlights of Fr. Kluge's visit.

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 **Registration Closes February 13** | \$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 Closes Monday, February 13. Register on Realm



WE ARE MORTGAGE FREE! Last week, Rob Neppel, our director of finance and planning, informed me that we made the last payment on our final mortgage and are now debt free. To help you appreciate the significance of this, it would be helpful to know a bit about our mortgage history.

Rob did some research on our loan history but our in-house records only go back to 1995 when the present church was constructed. The diocese has archived our earlier mortgages which helped pay for, among other things, the construction of our original church (now Founder's Hall) in the 1980's. Since 1995, we have taken out over \$19M in diocesan-funded loans for various building programs and land purchases. This does not include the amount of money contributed by parishioners during capital campaigns for construction. When Rob took over his position in 2014, the chief financial officer of the diocese and a parishioner, Dr. Russ Elmayan, told Rob that St. Francis represented 6.6% of the diocese's revenue and 18.6% of its debt. Indeed, it was common knowledge that St. Francis had the largest amount of debt in the diocese due to all the construction and land purchases we made.

Since 1995 we have taken out seven diocesan loans, four for construction of new buildings (i.e., the Church (1995), TFS (1999), the Community Center, Chapel, and Elizabeth Hall (2010), and Siena Hall (2011). One loan was for the purchase of Bethany Hills Baptist Church (subsequently sold to Our Lady of LaVang Catholic Church) (2013) and two loans were for land purchases (i.e., land for TFS (1998) and the acquisition of the land and two houses on Leesville Road (San Damiano and Laverna) in 2005.

We will celebrate our new debt-free status the weekend of March 26-27. Fr. Mark Reamer, OFM, who served as pastor between 2004-2014 and was involved in several of our building and land acquisition projects, will be with us to celebrate a ceremonial burning of our final mortgage. Look for more details in the coming week.

I can never thank enough our benefactors for your deep financial commitment over several decades to the beautiful campus we enjoy today. What we have is a testimony of the faith, vision, dedication, hard work, and perseverance of thousands of parishioners. I look forward to celebrating our new debt-free status in late March and hope many of you who have been part of this journey will join us in our festivities.

As I mentioned in my address to the parish in late 2021, we are entering a phase of our community's life where our buildings and infrastructure are beginning to show their age and will require us to set aside between \$750K-\$1M annually to maintain our beautiful campus over the next 20 years. So while our annual \$1.1M mortgage payment to the diocese has ended, we will still need your financial support to fund our maintenance, repair, and replacement costs. The present mortgage envelope will change soon to a maintenance envelope and those using Faith Direct will also have a place to direct your support to maintain our beautiful campus.

I am grateful for your ongoing support and trust you agree that what we have achieved over the past 40 years is worth preserving in terms of our material resources as well as our spiritual, pastoral, and educational ministry.

Fr. Michael

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

+Ann Troiano

Mother of Donna D'Orazio
and Celeste Ryan

+Clifford Hegermiller

Father of Barbara Hegermiller Smith

+Edmund Gontram

Husband of Marie Gontram

+Bette Koon

Mother of Elizabeth Van De Carr

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 FEBRUARY 11 TO FEBRUARY 19



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday February 11, 2023, 5:30pm
+Albert and +Colleen Schanz
Requested by Steve and Nancy Schanz

Sunday February 12, 2023
Sunday, 7:15
+Bach Mai Thi Le
Requested by Hanh Boyar and Trinh Pham

Sunday, 9:00
+Genevieve Bourbina
Requested by Rick and Janie Bourbina

Sunday, 11:45
+Everett Johnson Jr.
Requested by Joan Crennan

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

Monday February 13, 9AM
+Fernando Bernal
Requested by Lucila Bernal

Tuesday February 14, 9AM
+Jane Steinhauer
Requested by Kathy Sales

Wednesday February 15, 9AM
+Molly Monaghan
Requested by Maureen O'Keeffe

Thursday February 16, 9AM
+Charlotte and +Leo Ratka
Requested by Suzanne and Dave Richmond

Friday February 17, 9AM
+Carol Ware
Requested by Jeff and Pat Rohman

Saturday February 18, 2023, 5:30pm
+Ellen Arbaugh
Requested by Kathy Duckworth

Sunday February 19, 2023
Sunday, 7:15
+Elizabeth Palacio
Requested by Emma Dempsey

Sunday, 9:00
+James Pietrzak Sr.
Requested by The Pietrzak Family

Sunday, 11:45
+Mimi and +Larry Craig
Requested by Ray and Mary Reisert

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

(iii) Mary Jane Krapausky
Requested by Patricia Henry
Health and Wellness

+Antonio Otaviano de Castro
Requested by Rafaela Castro Miranda Lunny
Remembrance

Recent Deaths
+Ann Troiano
Mother of Donna D'Orazio and Celeste Ryan
Remembrance

+Clifford Hegermiller
Father of Barbara Hegermiller Smith
Remembrance

+Edmund Gontram
Husband of Marie Gontram
Remembrance

+Bette Koon
Mother of Elizabeth Van De Carr

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 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 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 12

Always God's Children ministry meeting 3-4:30pm via Zoom. Contact beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 15

The 50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch

Clare Fellowship Hall, 11:30am
The Potluck Lunch is one week earlier due to Ash Wednesday. We will be collecting new and gently used children's books to be donated to CPO.

February 15

Sound Techie Training

7 pm in the Church - a new ministry to help monitor and mix the sound experience at Mass. Contact jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org

February 16

Women's Group Mardi Gras

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

February 18

Franciscan Brews-For Young Adults

7-9pm Manchester's Grill
Talk: "The Holy Spirit is Always Working, but Are We Always Listening."
Presenter: Chris Damico. Contact tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 19

Pancake Breakfast/Knights of Columbus 10:00am in Clare Fellowship Hall
\$5/person, \$18/family

February 26

Service Sunday -Sole Hope Shoes

Sign-up on [St. Francis Serves](#)

March 12

Service Sunday - Make Blankets

Sign-up on [St. Francis Serves](#)

March 26

Service Sunday - Pack Meals

Sign-up on [St. Francis Serves](#)



Calling all Techies!

We are beginning a new ministry to help monitor and mix the sound experience at Mass. Our initial meeting and training will be on Wednesday, February 15 at 7 pm in the Church. This ministry is for any adults and open to high school teens as well. Some experience with sound equipment and usage is preferred but not required... so long as you like buttons and knobs!

Contact Jim Wahl at jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org to inquire and sign up for the training.



The 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal funds many ministries that allow us to proclaim the Gospel and reach even the most remote areas of Eastern NC. Your support plays a critical role in funding ministries in the areas of evangelization, discipleship, worship, liturgy, sacramental preparation, and a slew of programs that pour forth God's grace, love, and mercy.

We are STRONGER TOGETHER.

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



Click image to watch video

Greener Lent

Consider signing-up for Greener Lent this Lenten season! Greener Lent is a Lenten program that prepares our hearts for Easter through prayer, fasting and almsgiving through the lens of *Laudato Si* (Pope Francis's encyclical on caring for our common home and the poor). In addition to the Church's prescribed days of fast and abstinence, Greener Lent participants increase the rigor of their fast by reducing their consumption of meat, especially beef and lamb, substituting food with significantly lower environmental impact. Participants are encouraged to formally commit to prayer for the conversion of hearts, donate to Catholic Relief Services, and pray for those whose livelihoods have been hurt or destroyed by the climate crisis. Each week Greener Lent participants will receive an email message indicating an estimate of the carbon equivalents saved by our parish and how much has been donated to the CRS/Greener Lent fund. Signing up is easy! Go to [Greener Lent](#) and sign up to fast with us any time before or during Lent!

Service Sundays in Lent

The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. Join us this Lent for "Service Sundays" where we will gather together to do service and almsgiving for the benefit of others in our community and beyond.

Sign-up now on [St. Francis Serves](#) for the Sundays of February 26, March 12, and March 26 at 4pm-5pm in Fellowship Clare Hall.

Solidarity with Sole Hope, Sunday, February 26

At this Lenten Service Sunday, we will work together to trace, cut, and organize denim shoe kits for vulnerable children in Uganda in partnership with Sole Hope.

Please donate a pair of used adult denim jeans, and we will help you turn these jeans into shoe parts to be shipped to Uganda. Donation can be dropped off in the Stewardship Center any time before the 26th.

Lenten Service Sunday: Blankets of Love for Kids, Sunday, March 12

At this Lenten Service Sunday, we will make simple handmade fleece blankets and write notes of prayer and compassion to children in need in partnership with Project Linus. These blankets will then be distributed across the Triangle to hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug.

Lenten Service Sunday: Packing Meals for Hunger, Sunday, March 26


At this Lenten Service Sunday, we will pack 10,000 meals for vulnerable children around the world to be distributed through our partnership with Rise Against Hunger and their network of emergency food centers.


St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church x


stfrancisraleigh.galaxydigital.com

Work 15 MIN MORNING... The Sunday Web Si... Warpwire - Sean Pa... Charisms CUA Recipes Catholic Social Teac... Other bookma

RETURN TO OUR WEBSITE SIGN UP LOGIN HELP CALENDAR


 GROWING IN HOLINESS
 OFFERING HOPE
 EXTENDING HOSPITALITY






Get Involved, Make a Difference.

VOLUNTEER NOW

Looking to get involved in service at our parish? Then check out **St. Francis Serves!** This is our one-stop-shop for all things service at St. Francis! We know how important it is to you, our parishioners, to engage in service, and so we have worked hard to make finding those opportunities easier. Simply follow this link, <https://stfrancisraleigh.galaxydigital.com/>, to be brought to one location where you can find all the opportunities to serve in our community. No longer will you need to scour our website to find opportunities that fit your schedule and interests. Now they will be brought right to you!

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE



Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – Distribution of Ashes at ALL Services

7am Liturgy of the Word (No Communion)	5:30pm Liturgy of the Word (No Communion)
9am School Mass	7pm Mass
11:45am Mass	

For Young Adults!

PRESENTED BY ST. FRANCIS

Estd 2023

FRANCISCAN BREWS

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE MEET

Come join the Young Adults of St. Francis of Assisi as we discern together what faith means for our lives here and now. Hear a talk, engage with peers, and share in fellowship.

Our first talk is:
 "The Holy Spirit is Always Working, but Are We Always Listening."
 Presented by our very own Chris Damico

When: February 18th from 7pm-9pm
 Where: Manchester's Grill
 9101 Leesville Rd # 153, Raleigh, NC 27613

Contact tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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



Helene Foundation



WAKE Up & Read

As part of our identity as Catholic educational institutions, both The Franciscan School (TFS) and St. Francis Preschool, practice forms of service throughout the year. This particularly occurs during Catholic Schools Week (CSW) when we have an opportunity to highlight putting our faith into action.

Educators at both schools will be some of the first to tell you about the importance of reading to a child. Starting this early helps to ensure their successful development in so many ways. While we recognize the necessity of books in a child's life, we also know that there are children in our own communities who do not have easy access to books. To help alleviate some of the need, the elementary grades at TFS collected books for Book Harvest while the preschool did the same for the Wake Up & Read program. This act of service for other children was made more meaningful to our students because most have an abundance of

books at their homes or can easily go and purchase one. They can tell you their favorite books and understand how happy it makes them to read them. By participating in these book collections, we are hopefully not only providing books, but also teaching our students the joy involved in sharing their favorites with others!


Also during CSW, the preschool and TFS participated in a project to benefit families involved with the Helene Foundation. This is a local organization that supports families in which the mother is undergoing cancer treatments. Middle school students at TFS collected board games and gift cards for pizza while students at preschool assembled hot cocoa gift bags. These even included Valentine notes and special tags which were decorated and bedazzled by our youngest students! Most of our children, both big and little, have enjoyed a treat of hot chocolate and many partake in family

time with some form of play and a meal. They now had the chance to give this opportunity to a family who was experiencing a challenging event for one of their caregivers.

In addition to the above service projects, the fourth grade collected dog supplies for Saving Grace, a local non-profit organization that promotes adoption and fosters lifelong connections between dogs and families. The second grade students in partnership with Catholic Parish Outreach assembled birthday bags. These bags will be distributed to families in need to provide needed supplies for birthday celebrations.

It is a blessing that these experiences during Catholic Schools Week gave our students opportunities to spread kindness in our community while also following in Jesus' footsteps by serving others. What opportunities can you find to help others?


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



**Knights of Columbus
Pancake Breakfast**

Join us for a delicious hot breakfast
Sunday, February 19th,
at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

Any proceeds from this event will be used
by the Knights to donate to community
charities.

Cost is: \$5 per person, \$18 per family.
This will be collected day of and can be
paid by cash or credit (preferred)

***Menu includes:
Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee or OJ, Donut or Fruit.***




Resolve to Have a Green 2023

Visit: www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation

Find: "52 Things to Change Our Planet" and
"Zero/Low Waste Shopping Recommendations"
and get started!


Or contact your Care for Creation team at
stfccreation@gmail.com

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>

DivorceCare



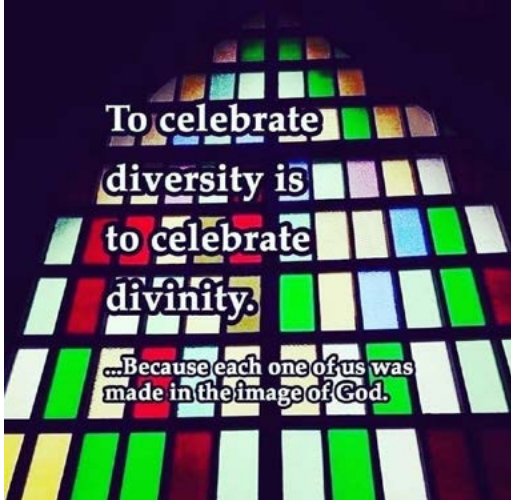
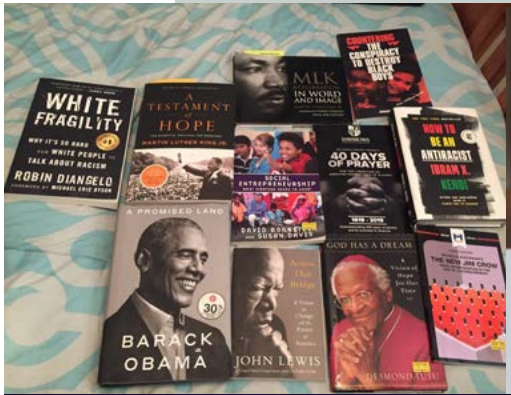
Ask Chris



Chris Damico

Director of Stewardship and Engagement

Who are we? What do we know? What do we do?



Who We Are
What We Know
What We Do



Upcoming Young Adult Events



50+ Adult Group

50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch

The 50+ Adult Group will have its "Potluck Lunch" on Wednesday, February 15 at 11:30 in Clare Fellowship Hall. Please note that the "Potluck Lunch" is one week earlier due to Ash Wednesday.

Come enjoy a meal and lively conversation with your friends from the 50+ Adult Group, many of whom you haven't seen for some time, and perhaps make new friends.

If last names starts with, then bring

A thru C = Salad/Side Dish

D thru J = Main Dish

K thru Z = Dessert/bread

Coffee, soda and water will be provided.

We will be collecting new and gently used children's books to be donated to CPO.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Gerney at pgerney@gmail.com or call 919-803-8276.

What?	When?	Where?
Sunday Socials	2nd & 4th Sundays after 9am Mass	Gathering-space Fireplace
Bible Study	February 15 at 7pm	Laverna

Questions contact
beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org



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 8-12 For questions contact: Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org. For more information and registration, please see: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/>

Envelope Schedule

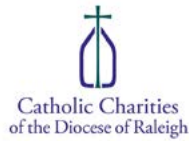
February 12 Weekly

February 19 Weekly

February 22 Ash Wednesday/

Church in Central and Eastern Europe

February 26 Weekly



Catholic Parish Outreach:

Bags will be passed out after Masses this weekend. 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.

You can also make a one time donation through Faith Direct at: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NC674/45913>

Volunteer with Family Promise of Wake County: Small Commitment. Big Impact..



Make a difference by helping support the lives of families experiencing temporary homelessness. Our program runs four times a year (one week each session) providing meals and groceries while families work towards permanent housing. Be part of our next hosting which runs February 26 - March 4. If you'd like more info or sign up to volunteer, contact Jim Packard at stfa.fp@gmail.com, 910-389-8936. Every family deserves a home.

Summer



at St. Francis

Looking for Summer Opportunities at St. Francis? St. Francis of Assisi has many activities for all age groups this summer. Look for the opportunity that meets your needs.

We offer a variety of summer camps with lots of different offerings in Camp Francis, faith based camps (Vacation Bible School, Mercy Camps, Mission Mercy), preschool aged camps in Summer Adventures, and drama camp with Justice Theater Project. For more information about planning your children's Summer at St. Francis visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camps/>



