

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE



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

7am Liturgy of the Word (No Communion)

9am School Mass

11:45am Mass

5:30pm Liturgy of the Word (No Communion)

7pm Mass



Fr. Jairo and the BAA see page 4

**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.

Greener  Lent

See page 5

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

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





### LENT: A TIME OF RENEWAL:

Occasionally we feature a lengthier article on some important feature of our community life on our website. We just published one with insights from Trevor Thompson, Fr. Jim Sabak, and me (<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/a-meaningful-lent/>). In that article, I mentioned how we undertake the disciplines of Lent through the lens of our identity as people made in the image and likeness of God (in Latin: *Imago Dei*). I encourage you to read the entire article.

As we embark on our 40-day journey to Easter beginning this Wednesday, I ask you to consider how you might embrace prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in light of who you are as *imago Dei*. What does that look like? Prayer re-centers us to the Lord by acknowledging that we are the created, not the creator, that we are image of God but not God. Prayer builds a relationship with the One who has made us in the divine image, so we have a deeper awareness of and insights about who we are and how we are to live as *imago Dei*. Fasting serves the purpose of emptying ourselves. It is a discipline that makes us consciously aware of things that pull us away from the Lord, allowing us to wean ourselves from affections that lead us astray. Finally, almsgiving places us in solidarity with others and honors them by restoring their hope and dignity as *imago Dei*.

At St. Francis, there are numerous opportunities as families, households, groups, and individuals to pray, fast, and give alms. Allow me to highlight just a few. There will be Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7pm in the church. Our Women's Ministry is holding a retreat day for the women of our parish on March 11. Fr. Jairo makes a compelling case for supporting this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal by making us aware of how our financial support will be of inestimable value to his parish which depends on the B.A.A. as one of the smallest parishes in the least Catholic part of our diocese (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmYxPGNKECE>). We are asked by the bishop to help with earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria through a gift to Catholic Relief Services. In our own parish, we can embrace Greener Lent (<https://greenerlent.org/index.html>) as a wonderful way to experience Lent in light of the principles of *Laudato Si*. There are three Service Sundays set up for families and individuals to perform works of charity and an opportunity to help the homeless through Family Promise of Wake County. You may find details for all these and other Lenten opportunities in our bulletin (<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/bulletins/>).

*Fr. Michael*

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

**Jackson Charles Becherer**  
Son of Nick and Carla Becherer

**Wesley Plemons McElvaney**  
Son of Ethan and Vanessa McElvaney

**Nayeli Anne Medrano**  
Daughter of Noel and  
Courtney Medrano

**Liliana Rose Stai**  
Daughter of Christopher  
and Jennifer Stai

**Gracyn Lauren Stai**  
Daughter of Christopher  
and Jennifer Stai

**Natalie Sophia Stephenson**  
Daughter of Justin and  
Laura Stephenson

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

**+Brian Kielty**  
Brother of Marc Kielty



### Second Collection Next Weekend to Support Disaster Relief in Turkey and Syria

A major earthquake hit Turkey and Syria this month causing extensive damage, injury, and loss of life. Catholic Relief Services is supporting local partners in Turkey and Syria in their efforts to provide urgent relief and assistance for long-term recovery. Next weekend, we will have a second collection at all Masses for disaster relief which will be forwarded to support the work of Catholic Relief Services and local partners. You can also contribute via Faith Direct by choosing the option "Disaster Relief" or mail in donations to the church which will be forwarded to CRS. Please keep Turkey and Syria in your prayers.

# PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FEBRUARY 18 TO FEBRUARY 26



## MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday February 20, 9AM  
+Joseph Horner  
Requested by Janice and Mary Horner

Tuesday February 21, 9AM  
+James Pietrzak Sr.  
Requested by The Pietrzak Family

Wednesday February 22, 9AM  
+Frank Becallo  
Requested by Maria Becallo

Wednesday February 22, 11:45AM  
+Jay Ruffin  
Requested by Bonnie and Tom Wolf

Wednesday February 22, 7pm  
+Richard G Berry, Sr  
Requested by Tracey McCartney

Thursday February 23, 9AM  
+Kevin Aspell  
Requested by Tom and Maureen Lindgren

Friday February 24, 9AM  
+Alfred V. Pasquale Jr.  
Requested by Al Pasquale

Saturday February 25, 2023, 5:30pm  
Deceased members of the Misko Family  
Requested by Mike and Anita Misko

Sunday February 26, 2023  
Sunday, 7:15  
+Paul Galkowski  
Requested by Tom and Maureen Lindgren

Sunday, 9:00  
+Adam and +Frances Seibert  
Requested by Caroline Goray

Sunday, 11:45  
+Milo Brunick Sr.  
Requested by The Brunick Family

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

+Iris Torres  
Requested by Karyn Anglero  
Remembrance

+Raymond Stachewicz  
Requested by Elizabeth Stachewicz  
Remembrance

Recent Death  
+Brian Kielty  
Brother of Marc Kielty  
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 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](mailto:tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**February 19**

**Pancake Breakfast**

Knights of Columbus

10:00am in Clare Fellowship Hall

\$5/person, \$18/family

**February 22**

**Ash Wednesday**

Distribution of ashes at ALL services.

**Friday, February 24**

**Stations of the Cross, 7:00pm**

**February 26**

**Why Faith: Why Do People Suffer?**

10:15-11:15am in Founders Rm / Refreshments. Presented by Jim Wahl

**February 26**

**Service Sunday -Sole Hope Shoes**

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

**Friday, March 3,**

**Stations of the Cross , 7:00pm**

**March 9**

**A Biblical Walk Through The Mass**

Adult Bible Study: 6:30-8:00pm

Cost: \$20.00 (Cost of book). Thursday evenings – 6:30-8:00pm. There will be no session during Holy Week. Facilitator: Rich Zemonek. [Click here to register.](#)

**March 9**

**Coffee with Clay in the Assisi Café**

Join Monsignor Clay for coffee and conversation from 9:30-10:30am, after Daily Mass.

**Friday, March 10,**

**Stations of the Cross , 7:00pm**

**March 11**

**Women's Retreat**

9:00am – 3:30pm – Reflect on our rootedness in Christ while seeking renewal in our community of women. To register, click: [Parishioner Registration](#)

[Non-Parishioner Registration](#)

Questions: [czejkowski@gmail.com](mailto:czejkowski@gmail.com)

**March 12**

**Service Sunday - Make Blankets**

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

**Friday, March 24,**

**Stations of the Cross , 7:00pm**

**March 26**

**Service Sunday - Pack Meals**

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

**Friday, March 31,**

**Stations of the Cross , 7:00pm**

## Envelope Schedule

February 19 Weekly

February 22 Ash Wednesday/  
Church in Central and  
Eastern Europe

February 26 Weekly



Scan QR code above to give

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.

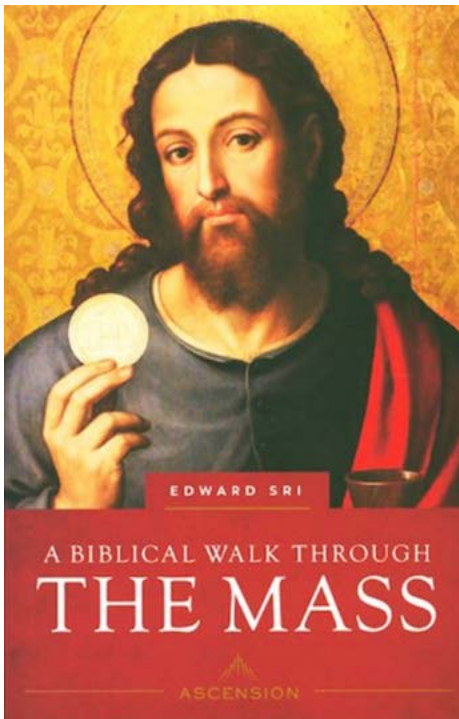
Please donate a pair of used adult denim jeans, and we will help you turn these jeans into shoe parts to be shipped to Uganda. Donation can be dropped off in the Stewardship Center any time before the 26th.

### **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.



## Adult Bible Study Opportunity - Registration Open Now!

Whether you prefer meeting In-Person or via Zoom, come, join us for *A Biblical Walk Through The Mass* by Dr. Edward Sri.

The words, the gestures and the rituals of the Mass are rich in meaning. A Biblical Walk Through the Mass explores the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Filmed at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, this 10th Anniversary edition of A Biblical Walk Through the Mass is newly revised and updated.

Cost: \$20.00 (Cost of book)

Dates: March 9, 16, 23, & 30. April 6 & April 20.

Time: Thursday evening - 6:30-8:00pm

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no session during Holy Week.

Facilitator: Rich Zemonek

In-Person sessions will be held in the Cupertino Room (Community Center). Virtual participants will receive a Zoom link prior to the first session. Books will be available for pick-up in the parish office during the weekend of March 4 and 5.

## Lenten Penance Services

February 23: St. Bernadette, Fuquay-Varina, 6:30pm

February 28: St. Bernadette, Fuquay-Varina, 10:30am

March 2: St. Eugene, Wendell, 6:45pm

March 8: St. Raphael, Raleigh, 7:00pm

March 9: St. Mary Magdalene, Apex, 7:00pm

March 14: St. Teresa of Calcutta, Cary, 6:30pm

March 16: St. Francis of Assisi, Raleigh, 7:00pm

March 17: St. Michael, Cary, 11:00am

March 21: Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh, 7:00pm

March 22: St. Catherine, Wake Forest, 10:00am

March 23: Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh, 11:00am

March 24: Our Lady of the Rosary, Louisburg, 7:00pm

March 28: St. Michael, Cary, 7:00pm

March 29: St. Catherine, 6:30pm

March 30: St. Luke, Raleigh, 11:00am

We have weekly celebrations of the Rite of Reconciliation each Saturday, 4-5pm, in the church. Note: NO CONFESSIONS ON HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8.

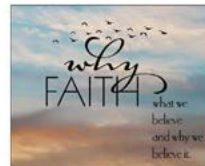


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH



# “Why do people Suffer?”

presented by Jim Wahl



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

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT  
MARCH 11, 2023

## BE ROOTED & RENEWED



Join the Women's Ministry for a day of R & R (Be Rooted and Renewed), Reflecting on our Rootedness in Christ while providing an opportunity for Renewal in our community of women as we pray, worship, and connect.

March 11th from 9am-3:30pm at St Francis

Register in Realm

Questions? Please contact Rosemary  
at 919-632-7553 or [czejkowskir@gmail.com](mailto:czejkowskir@gmail.com)

[Non-Parishioner: Register here.](#)

[Parishioner: Register here.](#)

## INSIDE THE CLASSROOM



**Barb Dobner**  
Kindergarten

Click the image above to read the article.

## Sharing the Good News of the Lord and Our Community: An Updated Approach

Kathy Sales, Director of Pastoral Ministries



Communications is undergoing a revolution. Pope Francis has repeatedly said that it is an increasingly important way to evangelize the young, especially those who are on the margins of faith. We too are increasingly concerned about how to engage and retain our young people while serving, as best we can, other parish demographics who are active and involved. The pandemic created an opportunity for us to examine how we communicate and to explore current best practices with our communication platforms (i.e., website, bulletin, and social media) so their appeal and impact can be greater. This is consistent with our parish's commitment to respond to the signs of the times (*Gaudium et spes*, §4) in keeping with the vision of the Second Vatican Council.

This will be the first of four articles laying out what we have been doing in the area of communications and what we are about to launch in response to our research and labor. We begin this week by looking at the bulletin.

In March 2020, Covid forced our parish communications to move exclusively to a digital or virtual format, chief among them being our printed bulletin. It was temporarily discontinued for several reasons: 1) people couldn't come to Mass to pick one up, 2) the initial fear of contagion from multiple people handling bulletins was real, and 3) the costs of mailing it to all households was unrealistic. We also needed to address the hundreds of leftover bulletins discarded each week, an environmental concern.

During the parish listening sessions in 2022 in preparation for the upcoming 2023 Synod in Rome, the bulletin was among the areas of interest noted for attention at the parish level. To gauge the concerns connected with the bulletin, a survey was sent to all parish households asking for feedback. We received approximately 1000 responses.

The data revealed some fascinating information. Three issues stood out significantly. Approximately 73% of the respondents said they skimmed the bulletin rather than read it from cover to cover. 72% ranked a printed bulletin as "Unimportant/Neutral." Only 13% said it was "Very Important." When asked to select the bulletin sections people looked at most closely, the overwhelming majority of respondents selected 1) Pastor's Comments, 2) Week-at-a-Glance Schedule, and 3) publicity for upcoming events.

With this data, a committee of parishioners established to investigate the future of the bulletin concluded that the bulletin needed to be reimagined and began the process of figuring out what it might look like in response to the data.

Next week we will look at how the reimagined bulletin is being conceived in light of the survey data and other current communication methods that are influencing the way people consume information, especially our younger people.

## "Coffee with Clay" in the Assisi Café



Join Monsignor Clay for  
coffee and conversation from  
9:30-10:30am, after Daily Mass.



Thursday, March 9th



# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director

## Love is in the Air



This past week we had so much fun much sharing our love for  
our friends, school, and families!





# Party Crashers?



Soon after George Floyd was murdered, I participated in a group called, Our Stories On Race. (<https://ourstoriesonrace.org/>) Through being a participant and then facilitating the course several times, I heard someone (who has now become a friend/mentor) say something that has fundamentally challenged and changed me. "Chris, I believe you have a gift for moving community forward." -Katie Gailles, Cofounder of Our Stories on Race.

There are so many people I have looked up to over the 12 years as a parishioner of St. Francis. Now, I celebrate 6 months of having the privilege to serve as your Director of Stewardship and Engagement working with friends and colleagues, serving this wonderful community.

Recently, some of my teammates and I got together for dinner at a local restau-

rant. The large group at the adjacent table began singing Happy Birthday to a man named Lou. We didn't know Lou but we joined in anyway. They did not seem to mind that we invited ourselves to sing along.

Shortly afterwards, we discovered that the group was from Reconciliation Church in Raleigh. The pastor and his wife were among them and we inquired about each other's church. Their denomination didn't matter. The Holy Spirit was present in the fellowship of our two groups. As they were leaving, the pastor commented, "You guys brought it! St. Francis brought it tonight!"

No one expected the evening to turn out the way it did, meeting a bunch of faith filled people at a complete stranger's birthday. It made me think about the feast to which we are all invited and how blessed

we are to be able to live our faith as staff, as parishioners, and as friends.

We celebrated the impromptu gathering by having one of the wait staff take a group picture. I'm sure Lou, the one wearing the colorful neckwear that I had just purchased for my daughter Kallie Mae, will not forget this birthday - when a bunch of crazy Christians crashed his party. Actually, it was the Holy Spirit who crashed the party and we are so grateful for its constant presence among us.

May the Holy Spirit make its presence felt in your life as we prepare to celebrate the season of Lent.

To our brothers and sisters at Reconciliation Church, thank you for the fellowship and the unexpected joyful celebration we all shared.



# Youth Basketball



As we wrap up our 32nd Season of Youth Basketball at St. Francis, my staff and I are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for with all the volunteer support given to this league. These include volunteering for an hour in the Café to help run concessions, running the clock, or keeping score during the game, organizing the team as the Team Parent, Volunteer Refereeing, or helping Coach our youth as they learn and grow their basketball skills. Each and every one of these volunteer roles plays a special part in helping this league run successfully. Also, a big Thank You to Rich Wesel the Volunteer League Ministry Leader for the 17th year now. Congrats to our Playoff Winners in Division 3 (Dukes), Division 4 (Pirates) and Division 6 (Flyers).

## Employment Opportunity Director of Parish Life

We have an immediate opening for a Director of Parish Life. We are seeking a caring and compassionate individual to oversee volunteer ministries dedicated to the physical and spiritual care of our parish community. The director supervises and collaborates with a team in establishing goals and implementing programs in pastoral support and care to our parishioners.

The successful applicant will have a 4-year degree in Religious Studies, sociology, pastoral ministry or a related field. Two years of supervisory experience is required along with skills in handling situations with compassion and mercy, having difficult conversations with those who are in crisis or mourning, and using excellent listening skills while encouraging and connecting others to God's love. The director collaborates with the leadership team in building on the parish's longstanding history of bringing baptismal and ministerial priesthood together in the collaborative vision of Vatican II.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, résumé, and salary requirements to: [Search.Committee@stfrancis-raleigh.org](mailto:Search.Committee@stfrancis-raleigh.org)



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

Lent is a call to "give alms for the poor." Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they are encouraged to call the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

These are people like a neighbor who fell behind on her bills while in the hospital being treated for bone cancer. A pledge from SVdP brought her electric bill up-to-date.

SVdP focuses on providing short term help for families in the area. Most of our cases are the working poor, families who can pay their bills until they get an unexpected situation – a funeral out of town, a car needing service, a sickness.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please encourage them to call the SVdP at 919-534-4842 so that together we can help.



### Catholic Parish Outreach:

Bags will be passed out after Masses this weekend. The CPO Truck will be on site this weekend to collect your filled grocery bags. Drop off times to the truck: Saturday 4:45-6:00pm and Sunday 6:45am-12:30pm and 4:45-6:00pm. To sign up to assist with 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](mailto:stfa.fp@gmail.com), 910-389-8936. Every family deserves a home.



Last Saturday, in celebrating Fr. Steve (what a great event!) and having the opportunity to serve so many of you, Sassool for lunch (yum), I saw Pre-school Principal and friend, Ms. Heidi, grab a trash can and start walking around. She asked me to join her and you can probably tell no other two people could have that much fun picking up trash, right?!

While I'm still learning what it means to 'move community forward', I know being in the right community (Our Stories On Race, meeting new friends, Our Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi) is so important. As Ms. Heidi says, "you know I always say that it's a gift to be able to do what you love, work with people whom you love and have your faith thrown in too!"

## 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/>