

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT
MARCH 11, 2023

BE ROOTED & RENEWED

[Parishioners: Click here to register.](#)

[Non-Parishioners: Click here to register.](#)



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



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 COMPLEXITIES OF FORGIVENESS:

Lent is a season that invites Christians to renew, re-center, and/or reawaken ourselves around the significance of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection (also referred to as the Paschal Mystery) for us and the whole world. It leads to the short season known as the Triduum (the Three Days) when we will celebrate

the Paschal Mystery in the fullest way possible with the liturgies Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday.

It is a season when opportunities will increase for Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation through parish Penance Services. There will be 15 of these services in our deanery alone (Wake and Franklin Counties). As you know, this is one of the four sacraments of forgiveness in the Catholic tradition (Baptism, Eucharist, and Anointing of the Sick are the other three) and the forgiveness of sins is a feature of the Lenten season.

Forgiveness is a very complex process. I thought it would be good to present a series on forgiveness in this column during the Lenten season so we might have a better appreciation and experience of forgiveness both for ourselves and others during Lent and beyond. I will explore four essentials: what forgiveness is and is not, what makes it difficult, why it is so important, and what strategies can help us to forgive in a healthy and holy way.

The social sciences view forgiveness this way: a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness. The Christian faith views it this way: the act of pardoning an offender. In the Christian Testament, the Greek word translated into English as "forgiveness" literally means "to let go," as when a person does not demand payment for a debt. As we can see, there's much in common with both descriptions. And as all of us know, forgiveness is easier said than done. I'll discuss the challenges to forgive in the second part of this series but I think these definitions give us a good base for describing what forgiveness is.

There can be misunderstandings about forgiveness that will benefit from being brought to light. Here are some of the common ones I have encountered over my four decades of priesthood: 1) includes forgetting the unkind, hurtful, or selfish behavior of another, 2) always should result in reconciliation, 3) is something you

Continue on page 7

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

Sean Lawrence Dailey

Son of Mike and Mary Dailey

Julian Diodonet

Son of Jennifer Diodonet

Cecilia Constance Espinoza

Daughter of Jorge and Chelsea Espinoza

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

+Michelle Haran

Wife of Marty Haran and
Mother of Cassie West and Joel Haran

+Beatrice Bonasera

Mother of Debbie Powell,
Diane Saurer, and Donna Harvey

+Guido Innacelli

Husband of Rosalie Innacelli

+Andrew Cox

Father of Lachlan Cox



Second Collection This 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. This 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FEBRUARY 25 TO MARCH 5



MASS INTENTIONS

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

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

Monday February 27, 9AM
+George K Freeman III
Requested by Mary Gail Freeman

Tuesday February 28, 9AM
+Ken Kowalski
Requested by Kathy and Doug Sales

Wednesday March 1, 9AM
+Thomas and +Rosemarie Gambini
Requested by The Gayle Family

Thursday March 2, 9AM
+Robert Manning
Requested by Maureen O'Keeffe

Friday March 3, 9AM
+Jane Lassiter Freeman
Requested by Mary Gail Freeman

Saturday March 4, 2023, 5:30pm
+Laurie Whipple
Requested by The Snyder Family

Sunday March 5, 2023
Sunday, 7:15
+Timothy Donahue
Requested by Maureen and Tom Lindgren

Sunday, 9:00
+Leonides Estoista
Requested by The Palomar Family

Sunday, 11:45
+Rocco Luat-Nguyen
Requested by Anh Nguyen

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

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

+Cleta Nicholas
Requested by Maria and Steve Nicholas
Remembrance

+Virgina McGuinness
Requested by Richard McGuinness
Remembrance

+Efrain Anglero
Requested by Karyn Anglero
Remembrance

Recent Deaths
+Michelle Haran
Wife of Marty Haran and
Mother of Cassie West and Joel Haran
Remembrance

+Beatrice Bonasera
Mother of Debbie Powell, Diane Saurer, and Donna
Harvey
Remembrance

+Guido Innacelli
Husband of Rosalie Innacelli
Remembrance

+Andrew Cox
Father of Lachlan Cox
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 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](#)

March 1

Social Justice Race Relations Tour

Visit racerelationstours.org

Friday, March 3,

Stations of the Cross, 7:00pm

March 5

A church that can and can not

change: a discussion about the church teachings. 10:15-11:15am in Founders Rm / Refreshments. Presented by Fr. Michael.

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: czejkowskir@gmail.com

March 12

Service Sunday - Make Blankets

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

March 15

RCIA Sponsor Workshop

Presented by Fr. Michael

Contact: jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org for details.

March 16

ONE Wake Listening Session

7:00pm-9:00pm, Baptist Grove Church, 7109 Leesville Rd, Raleigh NC. 27613

Visit www.ONEWake.org to register.

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

March 31

Veggie Box Registration Deadline

[For more information, click here.](#)

[To register, click here.](#)

Envelope Schedule

February 26 Weekly and
Second collection for Disaster Relief



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!



Click image above to view Episode 28

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.

THIS SUNDAY - 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.

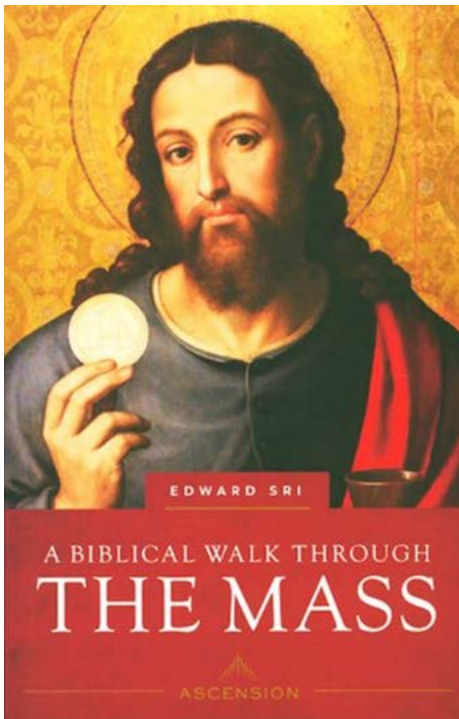
Please donate a pair of used adult denim jeans, and we will help you turn these jeans into shoe parts to be shipped to Uganda. Donation can be dropped off in the Stewardship Center any time before the 26th.

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 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.

should automatically do because you are a Christian, and 4) never has to include justice or responsibility on the part of the offender. A few words about each.

Some people mistakenly believe that we should be able to forget harmful behavior once we forgive (e.g., "Get over it!"). While there are some cases where this happens, harmful behavior leaves a footprint on our hearts, minds, souls, and sometimes our bodies. We remember pain as a survival instinct. Forgetting the hurt we experience is a fairly extraordinary occurrence, not normative. Some people mistakenly think that forgiveness should result in reconciliation. These are two distinct processes and sometimes circumstances are such that repeated suffering from an offender makes reconciliation not only impossible but also foolhardy.

Some people mistakenly think that if someone offends them they should automatically forgive the offender because it's the "Christian" thing to do. Authentic forgiveness is rarely automatic and for it to have lasting effects requires several steps. Finally, some people conclude that forgiveness does not have consequences like restoration, compensation, or at least an apology. Nothing could be further from the truth.

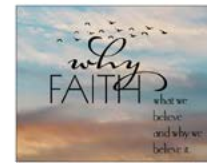
Fr. Michael

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH



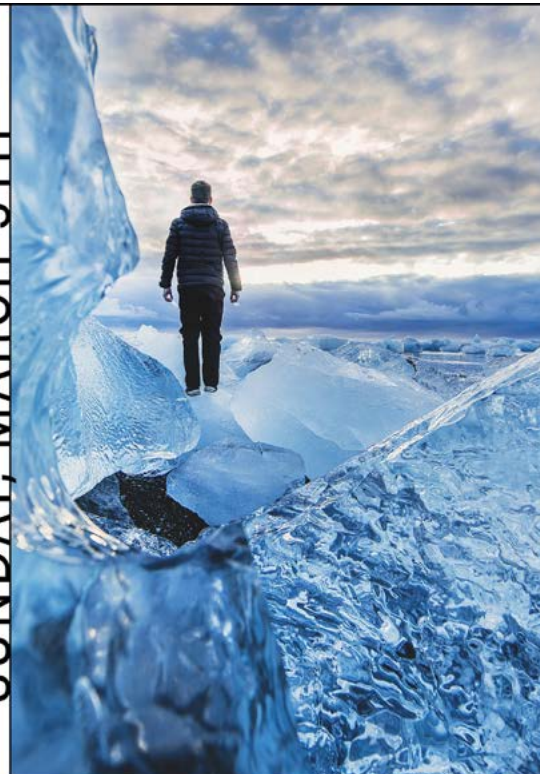
“Why do people Suffer?”

presented by Jim Wahl



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

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH



“A Church that can and can not Change:”

A discussion about the church teachings.

presented by Msgr. Michael Clay



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

Next session: March 12th presented by Tim Hetzel

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



This is the second part of a four part series about a recent effort to improve our communication processes (bulletin, website, social media) while not losing sight of meeting the needs of our community. If you missed the first part, please [click here](#).

Evangelization was named as a high parish priority by parishioners who participated in the Fall 2019 Parish Leadership Summit and remains so by Fr. Michael. Our website, social media presence, and our bulletin all play a role in sharing the Good News of the Lord and, hopefully, attracting more people to the Lord and our community of faith. Key to this goal, according to Pope Francis, is seeing communications not simply as an exchange of information but, first and foremost, a sharing in our humanity. It is fundamentally about establishing relationships and not just simply sharing facts and information. This priority and the Holy Father's insight have motivated us to review our various communication platforms.

In late 2022, we contracted with Creative Will Consulting, a parishioner owned company, to assist us in rethinking and reshaping our digital presence. In this work, we looked at how people (of all ages) are consuming information and where they are going to consume it. Some of the data that we found through this process was not only eye opening but it also helped shape our content and design strategy for the redesigned website and social media platforms. Here are a few points that you may find interesting:

- 82% of the public uses some type of social media
- On average, Americans tend to spend less than 4 seconds on any piece of content on a social media platform and about 52 seconds on a website page
- When asked which of these platforms adults prefer to get news on, about half of Americans say they prefer a digital device (53%), more than say they prefer TV (33%). Even fewer Americans prefer radio (7%) or print (5%)

* All data provided by the Pew Research Center

After months of development work, our new website was launched to create windows of opportunity for evangelization and relationship building. Our two social media accounts, Facebook and Instagram, share the same goal while using pictures and videos. Our hope is that our revised platforms will be more appealing to our parishioners and that they will now be able to more easily stay connected and informed on the faith and life of our community.

Next week, we will look at how the website, social media platforms, and the bulletin will work together towards a new communication strategy in our pursuit of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

"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

February Cross Step (Pre-K Faith Formation) at a Glance:



For the month of February, the Cross Step children have delved deeply into the Beatitudes, which are the sayings of Jesus and the eight blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. The word “beatitudes” has two parts to it: “be” and “attitude,” so the children were taught that the Beatitudes are ways that we can be and attitudes that we can have. We emphasized the importance of being kind to others by playing several classroom games, and we also read Jill Kemp’s “Golden Rules to Live By” picture book. Afterwards, the children finger painted bumble bees onto pictures of beehives since our entire lesson was about the BEE-ATTITUDES. It was pretty funny stuff!

In addition to learning about the Golden Rule, during the following week, we talked about how Jesus said that we need to be the salt and light of the Earth. The children were shown pictures of their favorite salty snacks, and they were educated that the reason why these foods taste so delicious is because they are

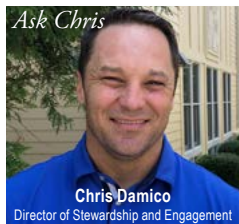
seasoned with salt. Without salt, these foods would not be as nearly delectable tasting. Being the “salt of the Earth” is a similar concept, where we are not good as Christians by ourselves, but with the help of Jesus, He makes our lives richer and more meaningful. Jesus also emphasized that he wants us all to be light. Using flashlights and blankets, we showed the children how we cannot see when we are immersed in total darkness, but we can see when there is light. Just like light needs to be seen, we [Catholics] also need to live so that everyone can see the light of Christ in us. Part of how we can shine our light is to emulate the way that Angels and Saints behaved.

To conclude the month of February, the children learned about Jesus’ Law of Love, or this idea that we should love one another. We discussed how people need rules to follow, such as the Ten Commandments or even classroom rules, but it is not enough to just blindly follow directions; our actions should be guided from love rather than restraint. We further

emphasized how the Catholic Church has a Holy Book called the Bible, which teaches us how to behave and live in a way that is Christ-like. God loves everyone, and His magnanimous, unending, and unconditional love was reflected in His son, Jesus, who embraced the most downtrodden and socially outcast members of society, so we should strive to love and treat others the way Jesus did. Afterwards, the children colored “Love Your Neighbor as Yourself” paper plates, which contained hearts with the names and drawings of important loved ones in the children’s lives. It was a super sweet memento that the Cross Step kiddos took home, just in time for Valentine’s Day.

Interested in having your child join our very special program? 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@stfrancis-raleigh.org for more information.



Reflect. Repent. Restore.

On the start of our Lenten journey, Ash Wednesday, we wear ashes. A sign that we are made of dust and to dust we shall return.

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and more intentional sharing.

This Lent, I will spend more time in prayer, meditation and writing down my thoughts that will help me draw closer to God, to you, to our world.

Let us also continue to pray for peace in our world, for stillness, for love, for learning.

Because our world can change a lot in 40 days.



Sign-Up Now for the Spring St. Francis "Veggie Box"

Ready to put words into action? Sign up today and join fellow parishioners in supporting farmers of color and caring for the Earth. Get ready to bite into some local, tasty, healthy spring produce and support social justice in our food system by joining the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) at St. Francis. The CSA at St. Francis is in partnership with RAFI. RAFI-USA "challenges the root causes of unjust food systems, supporting and advocating for economically, racially, and ecologically just farm communities". Currently, St. Francis of Assisi is being served by Brown Family Farms, in Henderson, NC.

By joining the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) you will support local farmers of color and sustainable and/or organic farming methods. By subscribing to a CSA, you share in both the risks and rewards of a farmer and their farm produce. The subscription fee is paid up front to the farmer. Subscribers share the risks of the farming and the rewards of receiving a weekly box of sustainably and organically grown produce for 8 weeks during the Spring season.

Please consider joining me in subscribing to this effort, to provide fresh, healthy produce to our families while supporting farmers of color, caring for Earth, our common home, and taking a step to add more justice to our food system.

The deadline to sign up is March 31st. The first week of delivery will be April 22nd. You will receive a box of fresh, delicious produce, every Saturday, for 8 weeks. The price of a full share is \$250, a half share is \$125. You will need to come to St. Francis on Saturday mornings (9am - 10am) to pick up your produce.

Here is the link to sign up:

<https://forms.gle/uQ98UaovTCFb7Q7U8>

Here is an article about the program: <https://indyweek.com/food-and-drink/features/rafi-faith-and-farms-partnership-project/>

Baptist Grove Church – Raleigh, NC
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church – Raleigh, NC
present a

"Social Justice Race Relations Tour"
Save the Dates: March 1-5, 2023



Civil Rights Site Visits in
Atlanta, GA | Montgomery, AL | Selma, AL | Birmingham, AL

Martin Luther King Center
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and The Legacy Museum
Freedom Rides Museum * Dexter Avenue Church * Rosa Parks Museum
Alabama State University * Edmund Pettus Bridge
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute * 16th Street Baptist Church
Talladega College

register online @
www.racerelationstours.org

Make plans to join us for this ground-breaking, enlivening five-day, four-night journey!

travel by luxury coach – meals – lodging – educational materials & souvenirs included in tour fees
tour fees: \$750.00 per person – includes non-refundable \$75.00 security deposit
Installment payment plan available: \$375.00 - Dec 30th | \$375.00 - Jan 30th

Sponsors, Donors, Contributors, and for further information,
contact the tour coordinator, Keith Shannon – text (919)453-3831 | info@racerelationstours.org



Honoring our Black Catholic History

Sister Thea Bowman was born in Mississippi in 1937. She grew up in the midst of racism, segregation, and inequality. Her deep love for her African-American culture and spirituality contributed to her life's mission and work.

Inspired by the love and care she experienced from her Catholic teachers, she became Catholic at age 9. She later joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration where she was the only African-American in the Community. Sister Thea, empowered by her culture's rich traditions and spirituality, lived a life on fire with love for Christ. She was a teacher, preacher, lover of the Eucharist and the poor, and imitator of St. Francis. She died on March 30th, 1990.

Thea Hall is named in honor of Sister Thea, highlighting her remarkable vocation as a teacher.

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@stfrancisraleigh.org



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

Today the Gospel shows us how Jesus overcame the temptations of pride, power and prestige. He wanted to serve God and save people. He showed us how to humbly serve God and our neighbor.

Visitors from the St. Vincent de Paul Society tirelessly work on the parish's behalf to serve our neighbors in need. Visitors provide a listening ear as they gather the information needed to provide short-term help for families in the area. Most of the cases involve the working poor who can pay their bills until they get an unexpected situation—a funeral out of town, a car needing service, an extended sickness. Then they need help in making their rent and/or utility payments that month.

Often SVdP will team with another local church or agency to help a neighbor meet expenses. The assistance helps the neighbor get back on the road to a sustainable budget.

Some recent cases include:

- A senior citizen who fell and broke five ribs and was unable to work and requested help with her electric bill.
- A single mom of two daughters with autism. Her husband left two years ago. Although she and the older daughter work long hours, they fell behind in rent when they had to purchase a car to replace a broken-down vehicle. By partnering with Doorway to Hope and Crosspoint Church, SVdP was able to help the family catch up on its expenses.
- A mother who was temporarily unemployed after surgery and needed help with rent and a past due electric bill.

SVdP also voted to donate to a new SVdP conference operating at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Edenton which is pastored by Fr. Jairo, Maldonado-Pacheco, who previously served at St. Francis of Assisi. This small church serves a five-county area in eastern North Carolina. If you would like to help, you can make out a check to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and send it in care of Fr. Jairo at P.O. Box 422, Edenton, NC. 27932.



Join us for A Listening Session with Community Partner ONE Wake

We are a founding congregation of a non-partisan, multi-racial, multi-issue community organizing effort in Wake County called ONE Wake. This organization has brought together 46 faith congregations and non-profits in Wake County to work together on addressing some of the most pressing needs of vulnerable people in our communities. In 2020, ONE Wake publicly launched and since then has been working diligently around 3 issues: affordable housing, education, and employment/wages.

Over the last 3 years, ONE Wake members, including St. Francis parishioners, have met with elected officials, attended press conferences, stood in solidarity with Latino neighbors, advocated for new affordable housing initiatives, organized residents in rapidly gentrifying areas, canvassed for non-partisan local elections...This is good work and it's God's Work!

Over the next couple months, ONE Wake is inviting participating faith congregations and community groups to undertake a series of listening sessions to evaluate the current challenges facing families in our communities. This will set the agenda of ONE Wake for the next few years. This feels very much like the global synodal process of the Catholic Church. Speaking our concerns and engaging in deep listening are important ways the Spirit moves us to discern and take loving action.

Please join us on March 16 at Baptist Grove Church where we are co-hosting a Community Listening Session. This will be a wonderful opportunity to join our neighbors and express concerns that confront you and the ministry(s) you serve.

ONE Wake Listening Session

March 16, 2023 7:00pm-9:00pm

Baptist Grove Church, 7109 Leesville Rd, Raleigh NC. 27613

Please register today:

www.ONEWake.org

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/>



Youth Basketball Skills Clinic

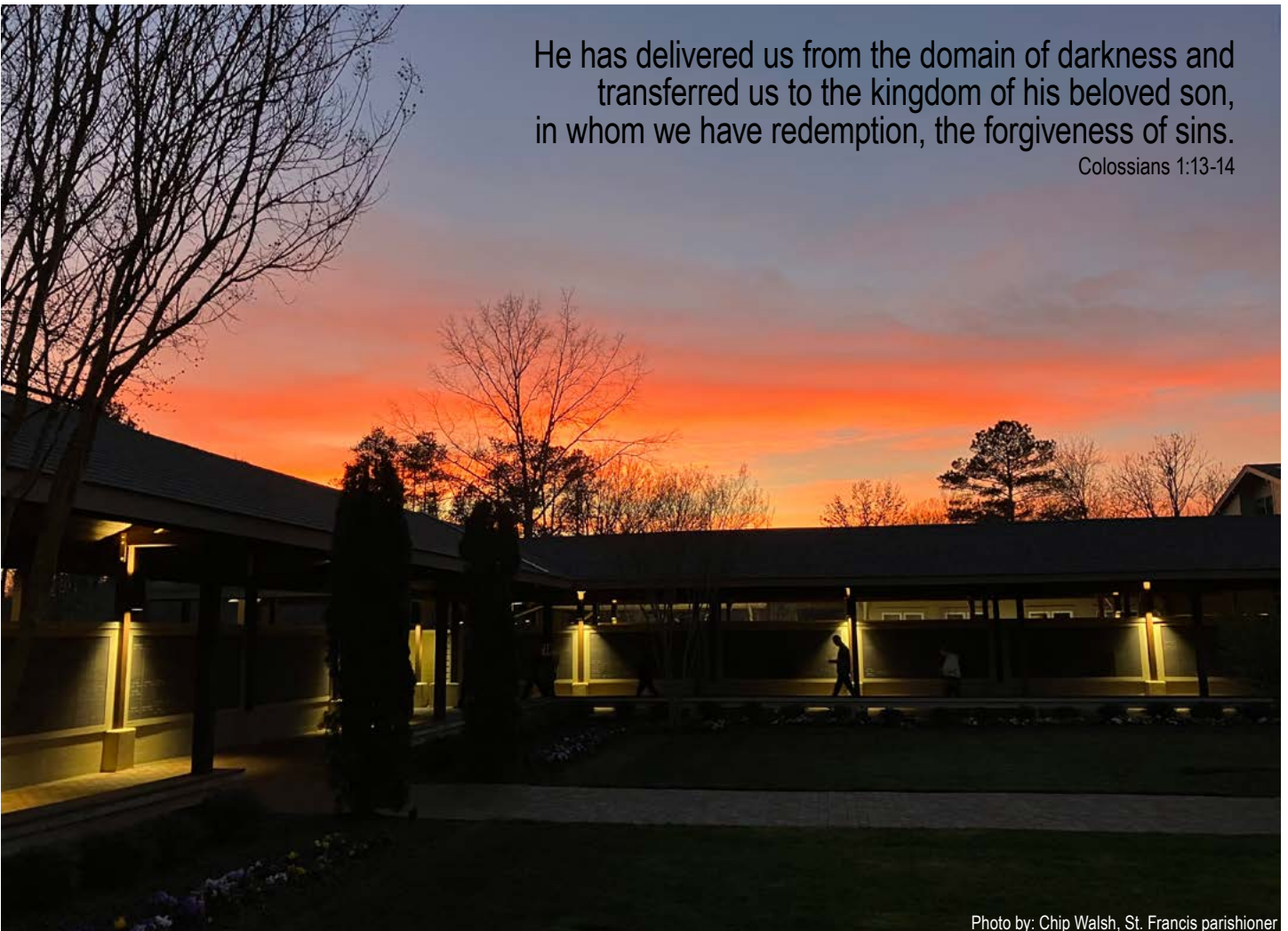
Registration is NOW OPEN! Are you looking to improve your game? We are offering skills clinics for Youth Basketball players. This program is designed for campers to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph. Spring 2023 Sessions will take place on the following Monday Nights: 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22
Session Times are:
6-7pm for 1st-4th graders
7:05-8:20 for 5th-8th graders.

For More information and how to register Visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/>



St. Francis 50+ Group

The St. Francis 50+ group meets monthly for potluck and for game day. For the February potluck the group decided to collect children's books to donate to Urban Ministry and Catholic Parish Outreach. They were very excited to be able to collect over 223 books to give to the ministries. If you are interested in joining the group or learning more about them please contact Pat Gerney at pgerney@gmail.com.



He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

Photo by: Chip Walsh, St. Francis parishioner

Ash Wednesday Evening at St. Francis