



THE COMPLEXITIES OF FORGIVENESS, PART III:

I have been asked many times to accompany people who have difficulty forgiving or have encountered people who have erroneous understandings of Christian forgiveness. I thought it would be good to present a series on forgiveness in this column during the Lenten season. I looked at what forgiveness is and is not two weeks ago and last week began an overview of some reasons why forgiveness can be difficult.

[See Part 1](#)

[See Part 2](#)

This week I will complete my overview of some reasons why forgiveness can be difficult and suggest some ways forward recommended from the social sciences.

Anger is an appropriate response when a personal boundary has been breached, when we may be in danger, or if we have been mistreated. The difficulty sometimes is letting the anger go. We all have experiences where anger is an appropriate initial response. But holding on to it long-term actually becomes toxic to our system, even when it is initially the correct response to something wrong that happened to us. This toxicity can actually make it increasingly difficult to forgive if it continues to fester.

We all experience painful events in life that we feel very personally. If we focus exclusively on our personal feelings, we can end up stuck there. Hurt is a fairly common and universal experience. An intentional decision by someone to hurt us is not always their motive so learning not to take every offense personally is important. For example: A colleague at work is blunt in conversations and can come across to others as disrespectful, unfeeling, and/or crass. The colleague may have grown up in a family where their parents were blunt and is unconsciously mirroring what the colleague experienced during their formative years. There is no intentional desire to hurt. It's just the way the person is.

It is also important to know how to move from being a victim of hurt to becoming a hero. Social science experts in the field of forgiveness suggest that we look at how we tell our stories of hurt, how frequently we tell them, and how repetitive they are to determine if we are moving from victim to hero. It is perfectly understandable and real to be the victim of someone's offense and to share that hurt with others. The challenge is not to become stuck there. Sadly, some people remain stuck in the role of victim and cannot move forward with life.

Lastly, be careful you do not become stuck trying to enforce unenforceable rules (e.g., my spouse must not lie to me; I should not suffer; people should be nice to me; I have to be loved; my child should have cleaned the bathroom exactly as I told my child, etc.) Keeping a rule in the realm of a desire rather than a demand, when possible, is important. Enforcing only those things you can control will help your life go more smoothly and reduce the degree to which you find yourself seeking forgiveness from another or worse, getting stuck in the realm of unforgiveness.

Next week we will explore why forgiveness is so important for us.

Fr. Michael

THROUGH MARRIAGE MAY
THEIR LIVES ALWAYS BEAR
WITNESS TO CHRIST'S LOVE

Nicole Terez Bakken, Daughter of
Theresa Nemeth and Paul Bakken
Mathew Litchfield, son of Mark and
Wendy Litchfield

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

+Bernadette Taylor
Mother of Caroline Urben and
Lillian Searing

+Joyce Thompson
Grandmother of Trevor Thompson

Envelope Schedule

March 12 Easter Flowers
March 19 Weekly
March 19 Catholic Relief Services
March 26 Weekly

Did You Know?

You can make direct donations to the Church and charities directly from your IRA when you are being forced to take Required Mandatory Distributions (RMD's) by making it a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you direct your distributions to a charitable organization, you avoid the taxes on the withdrawn funds.

Here is a link to a reference on this subject:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/seniors-can-reduce-their-tax-burden-by-donating-to-charity-through-their-ira>

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MARCH 11 TO MARCH 19



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 11, 2023, 5:30pm
+Peter Xin
Requested by Anh Nguyen

Sunday March 12, 2023
Sunday, 7:15
+Richard Rossi
Requested by The Fleischmann Family

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

Sunday, 11:45
+Jean Cawley
Requested by Patricia O'Sullivan

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

Monday March 13, 9AM
(ill) Tom Zhang
Requested by Hui Chen

Tuesday March 14, 9AM
+Darla Cruz
Requested by Blossom Ann and Fred Coutinho

Wednesday March 15, 9AM
+Pamela Smith Cummings
Requested by The Neal Family

Thursday March 16, 9AM
+Albina Gwisdala
Requested by Marge Smith

Friday March 17, 9AM
+Deborah Quinn
Requested by Richard and Alma Hammer

Saturday March 18, 2023, 5:30pm
+Lolita Brojan
Requested by The Palomar Family

Sunday March 19, 2023
Sunday, 7:15
+Martha Ann Berheide
Requested by Joan Cavanaugh

Sunday, 9:00
Oneal and Dinnah Palomar
Requested by Dinnah Palomar
15th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday, 11:45
+Anthony and +Lucy DiMaggio
Requested by Marianne and Grant Heston

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

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

(ill) Veronica Gilmartin
Requested by Ed Gilmartin
Health and Wellness

(ill) Lois Andrews
Requested by Stephen Andrews
Health and Wellness

(ill) Gary Boyar
Requested by Hanh Boyar
Health and Wellness

(ill) Marie Leone
Requested by The Leone Family
Health and Wellness

+Alinho Souza Eremita
Requested by Maria and Steve Nicholas
Remembrance

+Missie Kiely
Requested by Marc Kiely
Remembrance

+Helen Rohman
Requested by Jeff and Pat Rohman
Remembrance

+Patricia Subasic
Requested by Shawn Subasic
Remembrance

Recent Deaths
+Bernadette Taylor
Mother of Caroline Urben and Lillian Searing
Remembrance

+Joyce Thompson
Grandmother of Trevor Thompson
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.

March 12

Service Sunday - Make Blankets

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

March 12

**Remembering Who We Are
Recognizing Sin in Our Lives**

10:15-11:15am in Founders Rm / Refreshments. Presented by Tim Hetzel

March 14

**Director of Justice and Peace
Listening Session**

Choose one session
1. 11am-12pm in Founder's Hall
2. (virtual): 7pm-8pm.
Meeting Link: [Click here](#)
Meeting ID: 292 180 927 083
Passcode: fwjFk5

March 15

RCIA Sponsor Workshop

Presented by Fr. Michael, 6.30-8pm
Contact: jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org
[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.

March 16

Cancer Support Group (Virtual)

1:00pm-2:00pm. Contact Suzanne at
Suzanne.ziemer@stfrancisraleigh.org

March 16

**Joint Notre Dame Vocal Choir
Concert – University of Notre Dame
Glee Club + St. Mary's Choir**

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, 715
Nazareth St., Raleigh, NC. 7:30PM
Free admission

March 18 (Young Adults)

Spirits with the Spirit

5:30pm in the Assisi Cafe
youngadults@stfrancisraleigh.org

March 19

Coffee and Donuts in the Cafe

chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org

March 19 (Young Adult)

Kickball Game

4:30pm at the St. Francis baseball field.
youngadults@stfrancisraleigh.org

March 22

The 50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch

11:30 in Claire Fellowship Hall. Contact
Pat Gerney at pgerney@gmail.com or
call 919-803-8276.

Friday, March 24,

Stations of the Cross , 7:00pm

March 25

Spring 2023 Blood Drive

Please sign up on line at www.redcross-blood.org. Contact: Bryan Kozak at:
bryan.c.kozak@gmail.com

March 26

Service Sunday - Pack Meals

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

Friday, March 31,

Stations of the Cross , 7:00pm



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

As of Wednesday, the following are the BAA totals for our Parish as reported by the Diocese:

	2023 Campaign	2022 Campaign (3/3/22)
Goal:	\$473,565	\$509,088
Pledge Total:	\$243,886. 51.5%	\$196,247. 38.5%
Received Total:	\$205,748. 43.4%	\$169,939. 32.2%
Participating Families:	600. 10.9%	496. 9.7%
Total Families:	5,500	5,100

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 Sunday March 26 at 4pm-5pm in Fellowship Clare Hall.

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

ONLY 11 SPOTS REMAINING

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.

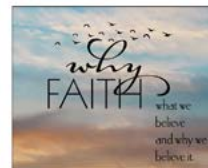
This Weekend!

SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH



“Remembering
Who we are.
Recognizing
Sin in our lives.”

presented by Tim Hetzel



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

Next session: April 23rd presented by Trevor Thompson

Lenten Penance Services

- 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.

Joint Notre Dame Vocal Choir Concert – University of Notre Dame Glee Club + St. Mary's Choir

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, 715 Nazareth St., Raleigh, NC. 7:30PM, Thursday, March 16, 2023

For the first time in history, the Notre Dame Glee Club will perform at our local Cathedral on March 16, 2023! Also, for what we believe is the first time in history, this will be a joint concert with the St. Mary's Choir. Due to the generosity of a handful of private donors from our club, the fee for the concert has already been addressed, so admission is free. Please mark your calendar and schedule time with your family to enjoy an evening of great choral music on March 16 at Raleigh's Cathedral.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

SPIRITS WITH THE SPIRIT

For those in their 20s and 30s, join the Young Adult Ministry for Wine and Snacks after Saturday 5:30 pm Mass on the First Saturday of the Month in the Assisi Café.

Upcoming Dates: 4/1

QUESTIONS CONTACT:
YOUNG.ADULTS@STFRANCISRALEIGH.ORG



Now Available on St Francis Serves!!



Brown Bag Ministry

Get involved with our most popular ministry for families!!
Opportunities available for:

- April 15th
- May 20th
- May 27th




YOUNG ADULT KICKBALL GAME


March 19th at 4:30pm

For those in their 20s and 30s, join the Young Adult Ministry for a Kickball Game at the St. Francis baseball field.

Questions: young.adults@stfrancisraleigh.org



by stfrancisserves



Discover new ways
to make a difference

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

Kathy Sales, Director of Pastoral Ministries



This is the last part of a four part series about recent efforts to improve our communication processes (bulletin, website, social media) while not losing sight of meeting the needs of our community. If you missed the earlier parts, please use

these links to access the [first](#), [second](#), or [third](#) part, please click the corresponding links in this sentence.

Our newly formatted bulletin launch is two weeks away after months of preparation. In this article, I would like to introduce you to the different sections of the bulletin.

The front page will feature:

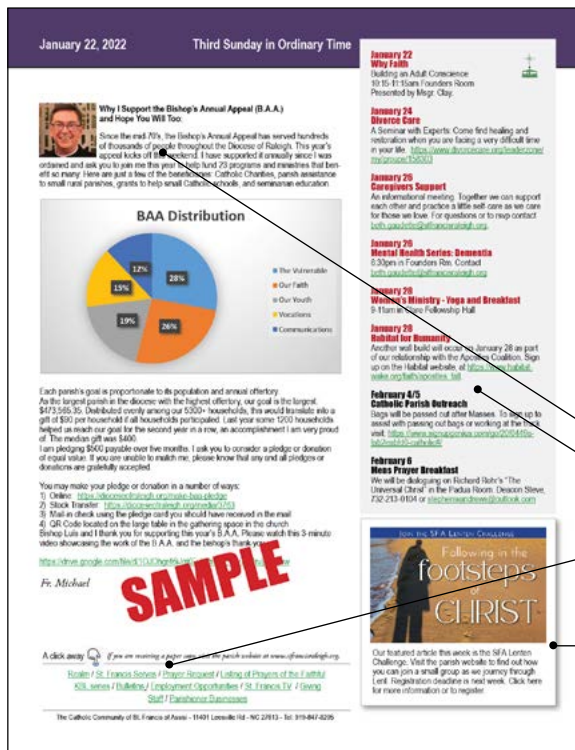
- Pastor's Column
- A highlight of the week's upcoming events
- Frequently used links to the parish website (St. Francis Serves, Prayers of the Faithful, Staff names)
- A highlight of a ministry/event/special Mass schedule, etc

The back page will feature:

- Upcoming events, features, speakers, parish employment opportunities, or volunteer opportunities with live links to sign-up/register or ministry contact information for questions

Since March 2020, if a parishioner did not have a computer or smartphone to view the electronic bulletin, we were unable to provide a print copy of it for a variety of reasons. With a more condensed version of the bulletin, we can now provide a print copy for those who need it. We also have a copy to give visitors to our parish to evangelize about the many ways we live out the Gospel.

For the next two weeks, please register your name after Mass with the volunteer receptionist in the Church office area if you need a paper version of the bulletin so we can ensure we have the correct number of copies. As a parish dedicated to caring for God's creation and a concern with protecting our environment, we ask that you only request a print bulletin if you have no other option for receiving it. With a fresh approach to communications via a new website, a newly formatted bulletin, and an engaging social media presence, St. Francis is continuing to live out our mission and vision to offer hope, holiness and hospitality to all.



Front Page



Back Page

The Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative

Our church is one of 13 congregations participating in the Collegeville Institute's Communities of Calling Initiative. This project is one of 13 hubs in the US and Canada working with about 350 congregations in the Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative.

The Initiative leaders are inviting us to participate in their evaluation and research of the entire Initiative. You can help! Please complete this 20-30 minute online survey by March 31, 2023. The Initiative and hub leaders will share the results from our congregation with us.

Help us learn about how our members understand and live out their callings and its role in a life of meaning and purpose.

Your survey responses will be anonymous. We will only know that they are connected to an attendee at St. Francis of Assisi. Nobody affiliated with your church will see your actual survey responses, and only the researchers will have access to the data.

Questions? Please contact Jane Patterson, Project Director of the Communities of Calling, at jpatterso001@csbsju.edu or Kathleen Cahalan, project director for the Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative at kcahalan@csbsju.edu.

Attendee survey: https://samford.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_af-awzEsaYRUOHou



The Cancer Support Group

Here there is hope. Here there is deep understanding. Here there is camaraderie. We are a group touched by cancer and we gather monthly to listen and offer support to each other.

No matter where you are on your journey; newly diagnosed, long hauler, or in survivorship, come gather with us. Here is where we laugh, cry and pray with each other as we journey with cancer. Our next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday March 16 from 1:00pm-2:00pm. For questions or to learn more about this ministry contact Suzanne at Suzanne.ziemer@stfrancisraleigh.org



American Red Cross Spring 2023 Blood Drive

Help us help the American Red Cross and sign up for one of the 80+ appointments still available for the American Red Cross blood drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Saturday March 25th from 8am-2pm in Clare Fellowship Hall.

To SCHEDULE an APPOINTMENT:
Please sign up on line at www.redcrossblood.org
Search by Zip code 27613 for events on 3/25/23

More information, contact SFA Coordinator: Bryan Kozak at: bryan.c.kozak@gmail.com

Community Center Open House

March 19th 10-11:30am

**Coffee and Donuts in the Café
Open Gym Basketball**

Contact:

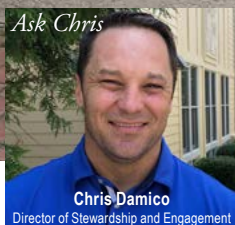
Chris.Damico@stfrancisraleigh.org



Social Justice Race Relations Tour

THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

The Beloved Community is a realistic vision of an achievable society one in which problems and conflict exist but are resolved peacefully and without bitterness. In the Beloved Community caring and compassion drive political policies that support the worldwide elimination of poverty and hunger and all forms of bigotry and violence. The Beloved Community is a state of heart and mind a spirit of hope and goodwill that transcends all boundaries and barriers and embraces all creation. At its core, the Beloved Community is an engine of reconciliation. This way of living seems a long way from the kind of world we have now but I do believe it is a goal that can be accomplished through courage and determination and through education and training, if enough people are willing to make the necessary commitment.



When this week's bulletin comes out, 34 other people and I will have been physically back in the Raleigh area for almost a week.

However, I am still there.

I'm still mentally, spiritually, and emotionally in Atlanta, in Birmingham, in Montgomery, in Selma. Both with my 34 friends as well as with the millions of people that have lost their lives, been treated unfairly and experienced any and all abuse because of the color of their skin. When I physically left, the morning of Wednesday, March 1st, I had a lot of

book knowledge on systemic racism, having taken several Just Faith courses through our church as well as Our Stories on Race. www.ourstoriesonrace.org (highly recommend both)

After 5 days traveling on a bus, sharing stories with some people that were strangers and are now brothers and sisters in Christ and witnessing the vitriol, hatred and visceral non-Christ like words/attitudes and behaviors that have existed for over 400 years and continues, based on the color of one's skin, in addition to my book knowledge, I have HEART knowledge.

I have love for anyone and everyone that bleeds red.

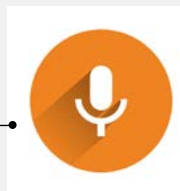
While I may be back in Raleigh, a part of me will always be elsewhere.

I do not know what to do with what I have learned. I cannot fix your pain. And I cannot take it away. But I can see it and I can work for the rest of my life to make sure your children don't have to experience the pain of racism. Doing nothing is no longer an option for me.



Click the image to watch the video

Click icon to listen to the Podcast



Walking in the Spirit

March 15, 6:30-8:00pm



in Founders Room

**Is God Calling you to become
An RCIA Sponsor?**

Who is eligible to be a Sponsor?

Answer: Confirmed Adults,
Young Adults and Youth!

Contact:

jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org



50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch

The 50+ Adult Group will have its "Potluck Lunch" on Wednesday, March 22 at 11:30 in Clare Fellowship Hall.

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 = Dessert/bread

D thru J = Salad/Side Dish

K thru Z = Main Dish

Coffee, soda and water will be provided.

At the Potluck, we will be holding a book exchange where members are encouraged to bring both fiction and non-fiction (both hardcover and paperback) books to share.

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



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/>

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

Employment Opportunity Director of Justice and Peace

St. Francis of Assisi Parish has a longstanding commitment to social outreach, advocacy for human dignity, forming consciences for faithful citizenship, and solidarity with those most vulnerable. We are seeking a Director of Justice and Peace to provide oversight of our ministries in the areas of justice formation, service and mission in the wider community, and advocacy. Through these ministries, the Director of Justice and Peace, in collaboration with the pastoral staff, fosters the social mission of the Church, raises awareness of social issues, and promotes an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching.

If you are an active, fully initiated, practicing Catholic dedicated to collaborative ministry and the advancement of the vision of the Church, as promoted by the Second Vatican Council, this position may be right for you.

Applicants should submit a résumé with a cover letter to: search.committee@stfrancisraleigh.org

Applications accepted through March 22, 2023.

For more information, [visit our website](#).

Employment Opportunities

Work someplace where you can make a difference in so many people's lives. [Visit our website](#) to view information about the following full time career opportunities on our campus:

Administrative Assistant, Pastoral Ministries

Social Studies Teacher, Grade 6 (beginning August 2023)

Teacher, Grade 4 - math concentration (beginning August 2023)

Instructional Teaching Assistant



All are welcome to attend one of two listening sessions to offer input and insights regarding the Director of Justice and Peace position to aid in discernment in filling this important role.

When:

Tuesday, March 14th
(choose one session)

Session One:

11am-12pm in Founder's Hall

Session Two (virtual): 7pm-8pm.

Teams link:

Meeting ID: 292 180 927 083

Passcode: fwjFk5

Meeting Link: [Click here](#)

Get Involved with our Refugee Resettlement Ministry



Many have expressed an interest in our ministry work with resettling refugees. We have two meaningful avenues to volunteer.

One is through the “Welcome Home Project,” which includes preparing and decorating an apartment for families upon arrival to Raleigh. This weekend, for example, we are working on an apartment for a family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Volunteers cleaned and set up the apartment with donated household items. The group also prepared the family’s first meal and filled their pantry and fridge. These opportunities through the Welcome Home Project

are periodic service weekends for people who can offer a few hours of cleaning, manual work, interior decoration, and food prep.

The second avenue to minister with refugee families is through a deeper relationship-building opportunity called “Refugee Support Circle.” With this opportunity, we are looking for a group of 8-10 parishioners to form a team that would accompany a family. Responsibilities would include: welcoming the family at the airport and bringing them to their apartment, helping with transportation, securing food assistance, assisting families with paperwork, working on financial literacy, and being on call for other

support and assistance. These responsibilities would only require a few hours monthly from each group member for four months with the option to continue the informal friendship/connection. Two 90-minute in person training sessions plus ample support from social workers in the Raleigh office of a refugee resettlement agency and St. Francis staff will be provided. If this sounds interesting to you, we are hosting an information session on Wednesday, March 29th, 7pm in the Padua Room of the Community Center. You can sign-up to attend the info session and find out about future opportunities to serve refugees at the ministry’s page on St. Francis Serves.



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

Third Sunday of Lent:

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work." Volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul help do the work of Our Lord by providing hope, compassion, referrals and short-term financial help for families.

One neighbor who reached out to SVdP is a 30-year-old woman who recently became the legal guardian of her four-year-old niece who is severely disabled. The woman had to quit her job to take care of her niece and used up all of her savings in her 401k to pay for rent. She is waiting to hear about some jobs that will enable her to work while caring for her niece. Meanwhile, she was served an eviction notice.

Volunteers are providing moral support and helping her seek assistance.

SVdP is a lay Catholic organization that aspires to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 919-534-484...we want to help!

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: 3/13, 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/>



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



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MARCH 14, 2023

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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PARKING: ATC SOUTH 705 Willard St. Durham, NC 27701