



A MESSAGE OF HOPE: We conclude Holy Week today, which started on Palm Sunday, with the greatest feast day in the Christian calendar: Easter. We gather this weekend to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and how that has changed everything in our world. It began last Sunday as a walk in faith, step by step, deeper and deeper, into our own commitment to share in the mystery of the cross in order to know the meaning of the resurrection. I pray that walk has been a helpful one for you.

It is a truism that to understand the resurrection we also have to understand Jesus' suffering and death and his humanity. Pope Francis offers some helpful thoughts on this. He says, "Jesus became one with each of us [in his humanity] in order to be completely and definitively one with us to the very end of time. He experienced [suffering and death] in order not to leave us prey to despair, but in order to stay at our side forever. . . . Because of this, nothing is ever 'the end' for us, whether we feel pinned to the wall, lost in a blind alley, plunged into the abyss of abandonment, sucked into a whirlwind of so many 'why's' without an answer, because Jesus Christ was, is, and always will be there for us at our side. He endured the cross to take up in his love every possible distance that we can feel, be it our failings, desolation, betrayal or being betrayed, being cast aside by others, or being forsaken."

Having done this for us, God sent the Holy Spirit to raise Jesus from the dead so that Jesus Christ's solidarity with us in our sufferings and deaths can, most importantly, bring us to new life. His bodily resurrection gives us a future so we don't have to remain stuck in our present or past circumstances that we all experience, a future of hope, a new horizon, a better future. This is not only for us, but also for others we will be moved to share this good news with so they too may have the experience we have.

Many, including Christians, are unaware of all we have been given in Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Despite this lack of awareness, there is something within that motivates many to be in a church on Easter even if we only come once or twice a year. Something inside of us wants this hope, this new horizon, this better future. For others, the issue isn't so much that we are unaware but that we suffer from amnesia. We forget what the suffering, death, and resurrection have given to us free of charge due to all that fills our proverbial plates to overflowing, both good and bad. Our Lenten and Holy Week journey has been an attempt to reawaken our spirits to this central belief of the Christian faith.

I pray you will take some time today to consider what the Lord has done for you and express gratitude to the One who loves us without measure and who always wants to be in union with us. Happy Easter!

Fr. Michael

**April 11
"THE CHOSEN" Resumes**

In Padua Room. Every Tuesday thru May 30, 9:45am - 10:30am Contact Person: Tina Morgan
Email: tandmmorgan@earthlink.net



**April 15
Cong Le's Ordination to the
Transitional Diaconate**

Register: <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/ordinations>

**April 15/16
Migrant Ministry Donation Drive**

After all Masses / Contact Person: Tim Fasano
Email: tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org
Link: <https://stfrancisraleigh.galaxydigital.com/ministries/migrant-ministry-collection-drive/>

**April 19
RCIA Inquiry Session**

Wednesday, April 19, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Contact Jeanne M. Lewin
jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org
Visit www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia

**April 22
Catholic Parish Outreach 11th Annual Pig
Pickin & Open House**

Register at www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/cpo-pig-pickin. Contact Kelly Rappl, Program Director, at Kelly.Rappl@ccharitiesdor.org.

**April 28-29
Ignited By Truth Catholic Conference**
[Click here for details](#)

Need for Volunteer Weekend Receptionists

All dates, all Masses - After training, a weekend receptionist will stand at the door of the church office. They will answer questions, give directions, register people and be a welcoming presence. Our volunteer schedule is active on St Francis Serves. Contact Person: MaryLou Holloway
Email: mlholly10@gmail.com

The parish offices will be closed Good Friday through Easter Monday. Morning Mass on April 10 will be held in the church. Parking lot maintenance will be ongoing all week. Please follow posted directions. Any unattended cars or cars parked in restricted areas during this time will be subject to towing.




Love Through Advocacy
[Click here to read story](#)

Bishop's Annual Appeal: [Click on the link](#) to strengthen the vulnerable, our faith, our youth, our vocations and HIS Presence. Thank you for your generosity.

Employment Opportunities

The Franciscan School for the 2023-2024 Academic Year: Language Arts Teacher (Gr.6), Social Studies Teacher (Gr. 6), Teacher (Gr. 2), Teacher (Gr. 4), Instructional Teaching Assistants. The Church has immediate openings for: Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments, Coordinator Middle School Formation, and Director, Justice and Peace. Please see our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Person Trish Adamkowski
Contact Email trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

A click away  *If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org.*

[Website](#) / [Realm](#) / [St. Francis Serves](#) / [Prayer Request](#) / [Listing of Prayers of the Faithful](#)
[KBL series](#) / [Bulletins](#) / [Employment Opportunities](#) / [St. Francis TV](#) / [Giving](#)
[Staff](#) / [Parishioner Business Ads](#) / [Questions? Ask Chris](#) / [Franciscan School](#) / [Preschool](#) /

Young Adult Kickball

May 16, 4:30 pm

Join the Young Adult Ministry for a Kickball game on the baseball field on Sunday, April 16, at 4:30pm. Anyone in their 20s and 30s is welcome; feel free to bring a friend! For questions, contact

young.adults@stfrancisraleigh.org.

50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch

April 26, 11:30am

If last names starts with, then bring: A thru C = Main Dish / D thru J = Dessert/bread / K thru Z = Salad/Side Dish
Coffee, soda and water will be provided.

Contact Pat Gerney, pgerney@gmail.com, 919-803-8276

0416, 0423

Youth Volleyball League Registration

June 5-July 28

The League is coed for children of all skill levels that are rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders. Teams will have an hour practice on either Monday or Wednesday. Games will be held on Thursday nights.

Contact Mary Arleth, Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org

Contact Phone 919-847-8205 ext 358

Registration Link <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/>

0514

Camp Francis

June 12-16, June 19-23, July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28

Camp Francis is our popular summer camp, and has lots of cool opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts and various enrichment areas! Camps are half day or full day based on age for the 2023-2024 school year. (Rising K-Rising 12th grade)

Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org

Contact Phone 919-847-8205 ext. 444

Registration Link <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

Women's Ministry Caring Casseroles

April 20, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, in Clare Fellowship Hall

Women's Ministry members will bring ingredients and will gather in Fellowship Hall from 7pm-9pm to prepare a couple casseroles together as a group to fill the freezers for Feed the Need. A St Francis Serves link will go out before the event to sign up for specific ingredients and supplies.

Contact Jessica Kelly, sfawomensministry@gmail.com [Register Here](#)

Coffee with Clay in the Assisi Cafe

Event Date April 20, 9:40am

Join Monsignor Clay for coffee and conversation after Daily Mass in the Community Center at the Assisi Cafe.

0409, 0416

Adult Bible Study -

The Eucharist In Scripture (Virtual) by *Little Rock Bible Study*

2 sessions: **Tuesdays PM:** 6:30-8:00pm, May 23-June 27 (or)

Wednesdays AM: 10:00-11:30am May 24-June 28

Biblical theme of meals being shared in relationship with God. Register through Realm-no fee. Purchase books once registered. Barbara Efirid, Cindy Cardello & Diane Rosendahl, Co-Facilitators

Contact Person: Janie Hebert at 919-847-8205X237

Email: janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org

Mercy Camp – Middle School and 9th Graders

June 12-16, 8:30am-3:00pm

Teens gain an understanding, appreciation, and hands-on opportunity to perform many of the Corporal Works of Mercy throughout the community. Join us in making a difference in the lives of the vulnerable.

Contact Person: Becky Cawley

Email: becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org / Register through [Realm](#)

Women's Bible Study - Fearless and Free

Thursdays, April 20 - June 8, 7:00pm - 8:30pm in Founders Room.

Come as you are...you are welcome here! Sign up on Realm to reserve your seat for an 8-week Catholic Bible Study on the Book of Ephesians for Women by "Walking with a Purpose."

Contact Diane Clinton drclinton76@gmail.com

[Click here for parishioner registration.](#)

[Click here for non-parishioner registration](#)

Mission Mercy

June 26-30, 9:00am-6:00pm

Relational ministry experience for teens serving as camp counselors for Pequeños Gigantes at the Hispanic Family Center that helps low-income Hispanic families integrate and flourish in the community. In the evening the youth return to campus for prayer, spiritual experience, and fun social events. Contact Becky Cawley

Email: becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org / Register through [Realm](#)

St. Francis Inn

June 19-23, 9:00am-5:00pm

St. Francis Inn, in the inner city of Philadelphia, is a soup kitchen and thrift store for those who find themselves poor, alienated, food insecure and homeless. Youth and chaperones are transformed through the Franciscan spirit of service.

Contact Person: Becky Cawley

Email: becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org / Register through [Realm](#)

RCIA Inquiry Session

Wednesday, April 19, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Interested in Exploring a Possible Call to be a Catholic?

Consider Joining our Inquiry Sessions held in Anthony Hall Founders Room. Begin your faith journey in our community.

Contact Jeanne M. Lewin, jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org

Link: www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia

Spirits with the Spirit

May 6, 6:30pm

Join the young adult ministry for a happy hour following Saturday 5:30pm Mass on the first Saturday of the month. Individuals in their 20's and 30s are welcome to gather at the Assisi Café for wine, snacks, and fellowship. Questions, contact young.adults@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Email young.adults@stfrancisraleigh.org

0423, 0430

Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page

Support our local parishioner-owned businesses

To advertise email: diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org

Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>