



The Church Library: Last weekend's announcement that the parish library would be closing has generated several comments, some inferring startling motives. I would like to explain how this decision was made and offer some suggestions for processing a response to a situation that one finds initially upsetting.

The library opened 16 years ago from books donated by parishioners. Today the collection is about 2000 books. Between 2018-2023, less than 50 books were checked out of the library according to our records. We do not know how many books were borrowed during that time without being checked out but it was likely few in number as well. In Summer 2022, our I.T. administrator attempted to update the library desktop which had stopped working. He discovered that the link to the online system was corrupted and the software no longer worked and could not be repaired. An investigation began to see if the online library catalogue used by TFS might be able to accommodate our parish library holdings. We learned that this was not possible and that any new software would require the entire collection to be manually re-entered into a database. We were unable to find an online library system that fit our budget, especially when measured against the low volume of books being borrowed.

An experiment was undertaken to see if generating interest in the library might increase the number of books being checked out. Between September-December 2022 and intermittently between January-May, 2023, books in a library cart were placed in the Stewardship Center and announcements were made in the bulletin and from the pulpit inviting people to visit the cart. 14 books were borrowed.

After analyzing the merits of the ongoing expense to electronically maintain the library, the upgrades required to purchase and maintain the system, and the complete re-entering of our holdings into a new system in comparison to the number of books actually borrowed, and taking into account how commonplace it is now for people to read material online, including books, I made the decision to close the library and invited parishioners to take books from the library over several weeks so that books they may find valuable could be claimed.

I am a voracious reader and a lover of books and still a professor of theology at The Catholic University of America who directs doctoral dissertations that require extensive use of written resources. With few exceptions, their bibliographies are sourced to URLs or DOIs or are downloaded electronically from a library database that provides digitalized books. I cherish a library but know the reading world has changed dramatically in the past 10 years.

There will be occasions when I make a decision for change that parishioners will disagree with. I respectfully ask that should you find yourself in this situation that you presume a decision was made after serious consideration of the facts and the attachments parishioners have to something that might change, and that a charitable inquiry and response to me or staff is more in keeping with our values than accusations of darker motivations. I am not a perfect pastor as I noted in my inaugural homily in September 2020, but believe I have proven myself to be someone who works from the best of intentions and interests of our community. I won't always bat a thousand, but do take careful consideration of as much data and pastoral impact as I can assess when making a decision that will impact our community.

Fr. Michael

June 3-July 30 - Summer Men's 18+ Adult Basketball League

This program is open to men who are age 18 or older. Registration is TEAM BASED only. Players will form their own teams and submit their registration as a team (max 15 players). Games will be held on Saturdays and Sundays in June and July.

Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org
919-847-8205x358 Register <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/>

June 5 - Parish Library Closure

For many years, we have been blessed to have a wonderful adult library under the excellent and faithful leadership of Joann Briggs. As time has passed, reading has shifted significantly to online platforms and digital resources. One of the consequences of this shift is that books in our library are rarely, if ever, used. In response to this change, it has been decided that the library will be closed, effective Monday, June 5. If there are any books you would like to permanently own, please visit the library in Anthony Hall before or after any weekend Mass through June 4. We will recycle any books left after June 5. Contact kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org

June 6 or 7 - Marriage Mentor Couples Needed!


Info Meeting for those who feel this ministry might fit their gifts on June 6 [via zoom](#) at 7:00pm or June 7 in-person. Mentor couples can be interfaith or ecumenical but must be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church. Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, czejkowskir@gmail.com. Mentor couples meet with each couple 2-3 times before their wedding to facilitate deeper communication around the results of a marriage prep survey. We provide 2-3 training sessions and ongoing support for all mentors. Mentors are matched with 2-3 couples per year and work around their families' schedule.

Celebrating Fr. Alex! Save the Date! June 11 -

10:00am We will celebrate and thank Fr. Alex after 9am Mass for the gifts he has shared with our parish community during the past year. Please join us in Fellowship Hall as we offer gratitude to him.

Contact: chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org

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.

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

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The Confluence of Social Teachings in Migrant Ministry

[Click here to read story](#)

Camp Francis Explorers Counselors in Training

June 12-16, June 19-23, July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28
Our Program is designed for mature and enthusiastic teens who are interested in developing leadership skills and working with children. C.I.T.s are expected to willingly and fully participate in camp programs while working with other C.I.T.s and Camp Staff. They are to look at themselves as role models for the campers they will be working with. Applicants that are ages 14-16 (by August 31, 2023) that are interested in volunteering for at least 2 weeks of the Camp Francis Explorers program. Contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x444.

June 11 - Baccalaureate Mass Class of 2023, 5:30 PM

Save the date! Join us at the 5:30 pm Mass on June 11 to celebrate the graduating class of 2023 for high school and college graduates. You are welcome to wear your cap and gown.

Camp Francis

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

Camp Francis has opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts and enrichment areas! Half-day or full-day camps based on age for the 2023-2024 school year. (Rising K-Rising 12th grade)

Contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org 919-847-8205x444
Registration <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

June 22 - Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of John: A Case of Textual Suppression?

Cost-\$10.00/person incl. Wine and Charcuterie. All are welcome! Dr. Elizabeth Schrader Polczer shares research on manuscripts from the Gospel of John, and possible efforts to diminish Mary Magdalene's significance as a disciple. Contact: Janie.Hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org for scholarship or registration assistance. [Parishioner registration.](#) For more information and [non-parishioner registration, click here.](#)

June 26-30 - Mission Mercy, High School Youth Summer Service Opportunity 9:00am-6:00pm

High School Youth are invited to a week-long mission experience, serving families in need right here in Raleigh. Youth will serve as camp counselors for this camp, as well as have time for unpacking their experience, fellowship with other youth, and worship opportunities after the camp concludes for the day. Contact Tim Hetzel: tim.hetzel@stfrancisraleigh.org Register through Realm. Register through [Realm](#).

July 27-30 Recovering Our Soul Connections

A retreat for women who have been sexually abused.
Contact: soulconnection366@gmail.com

2023-2024 Cross Step (Preschool-Aged Faith Formation) Registration Open in Realm

Cross Step provides weekly liturgical lessons for preschool-aged children, ages one (and walking) through age five, who are not enrolled in kindergarten. [Info](#) Contact andrea.javier@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205X489 [Register here](#)

Knights of Columbus Memorial Day Mass Honorees Sign up

The Knights of Columbus will be recognizing deceased family members of parishioners who served in the military. Please share the name of your loved ones who served our nation to have their names read at the Memorial Day Mass. Sign up after Masses.
Contact Mike Wrzesien, wrzesien1963@gmail.com

Francis Fest Event Staff Volunteers

FrancisFest volunteers needed now.
Contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x444



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/>

Employment Opportunities

The Franciscan School for the 2023-2024 Academic Year: Teacher (Gr. 4), Instructional Teaching Assistants. The Church has immediate openings for: Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments, Coordinator Middle School Formation, and Director, Pastoral Care. See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org