



**WHY ARE WE STILL PRAYING THE SYNOD PRAYER?**

Pope Francis has asked churches throughout the world to pray for the success of the upcoming Synod that will take place in Rome in October 2023 and 2024. Why? Because this Synod, in comparison to the other 25 that have taken place since Vatican II ended in 1965, will be dramatically different and has the potential to move the Church forward in a very important way.

Some have said this Synod will be Pope Francis' most important initiative and legacy as the leader of the Catholic Church. But what is a synod and why is this one so important?

A synod is a gathering of representatives of the Catholic Church throughout the world who meet, discuss, and make recommendations on a topic of importance identified by the Pope. Bishops were the only voting members of all previous synods. This year's Synod will include 70 lay people, half of whom will be women, who will have full voting rights, an historic first in the Church. The Pope's thinking is tied to Vatican II where co-responsibility between the laity (baptismal priests) and clergy (ministerial priests) was envisioned as a normative way of discerning the direction of the Holy Spirit in the Church. In Francis' view, the synod operates on the principle that laity and clergy together both listen and learn. For a church known for its hierarchical structure where traditionally the clergy speak and teach and the laity listen and learn, an approach to being Church that is collaborative and dialogical has the potential to renew and invigorate it, something sorely needed as we enter the 21st century.

Someone has correctly said this Synod will not be a panacea to solve all our problems but will hopefully offer us a blueprint for how we can move the Church forward. Those who are issue driven will likely be disappointed in the Synod because its goal is not to resolve specific issues. Its goal is to embrace listening, collegiality, and co-responsibility as a way of life for the Church by practicing listening, collegiality, and co-responsibility. It is to "build and strengthen our communion with Christ and each other by listening patiently, by going to the margins to let the poor teach us, creating ongoing formation in both synodality and discernment, and engaging charitably the tensions that exist within the Church." I pray I live long enough to see the fruit of this Synod. This is one reason I gladly pray the Synod Prayer each week, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us forward.

*Fr. Michael*




**High School Basketball League Champions**

Congratulations to the Gargoyles, the winners of 2023 Saint Francis High School Basketball League Tournament. Thank you to all the coaches for volunteering. Also, a big Thank You to the League Volunteer Ministry Leader, Tim Burns. Contact [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@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.

**BAA totals for our Parish as of Thursday May 18 as reported by the Diocese:**

	2023 Campaign (5/18/23)	2022 Campaign (4/21/22)
Goal:	\$473,565	\$509,088
Pledge Total:	\$424,322 89.6%	\$437,550 85.9%
Received Total:	\$382,003 80.7%	\$405,083 79.6%
Participating Families:	1031 18.7%	1017 19.9%
Total Families:	5,500	5,100
To-Go:	\$49,243	

A click away  *If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org)*

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**May 21 - Why Faith? Founders Room**, 10:15am  
 Join members of the synod committee on Sunday, May 21 at 10:15am. Refreshments will be served. Come and See How Our Seeds Have Grown: Update on the Synodal Listening.

**May 21 - Community Showing of "The Letter" in Founders Room**, 7:00pm. Learn the story behind Pope Francis' 2015 letter, Laudato Si. Contact [pam72j@gmail.com](mailto:pam72j@gmail.com) [More info and Register](#)

**May 23,24 - Adult Bible Study - The Eucharist In Scripture (Virtual)**  
 by Little Rock Bible Study  
 2 sessions: [Tues. PM](#) 6:30-8:pm, May 23-June 27 (or) [Wed. 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 Efird, Cindy Cardello and Diane Rosendahl, Co-Facilitators  
 Contact Person: Janie Hebert at 919-847-8205X237 <https://e.onrealm.org/events> Email: [janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**May 25 - Music Ministry Concert - in the church**, 7:00pm. Join the choirs and ensembles of our Music Ministry at St. Francis as we sing music that has been part of our liturgical life this past year.  
 Contact: [jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-847-8205

**May 25 - A peaceful, sidewalk witness commemorating the death of George Floyd**, 4:00pm [Info and signup here](#) Contact: Paul Williams 919-306-6844 [paul.williams3rd@gmail.com](mailto:paul.williams3rd@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org)



**Mortgage Free in 2023**  
[Click here to read story](#)

**May 25 - Franciscan Brews**, 7:00-9:00pm

Manchester's Grill 9101 Leesville Rd # 153, Raleigh, NC 27613. Come join the Young Adults of St. Francis of Assisi as we discern together what faith means for our lives here and now. Hear a talk, engage with peers, and share in fellowship. Presented by our pastor, Msgr. Michael Clay. Contact Tim Fasano at [young.adults@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:young.adults@stfrancisraleigh.org) with questions.

**May 26 - TFS Odyssey of the Mind**

One of the TFS Odyssey of the Mind teams is competing in the World Finals at the Michigan State University next weekend.  
Contact: [dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-534-4840

**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](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
919-847-8205x358 Register <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/>

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**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.

**Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page**

Support our local parishioner-owned businesses

To advertise email: [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org)

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

**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](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org) 919-847-8205x444

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wrzesien1963@gmail.com)

**Francis Fest Event Staff Volunteers**

FrancisFest volunteers needed now.

Contact [Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-847-8205x444

**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](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org)