

June 4, 2023 The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



Priesthood Anniversaries and the Need for More Ministerial Priests:

On May 15, Fr. Jim celebrated his 24th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, on June 1, Fr. Alex celebrated his 21st anniversary, and on June 5, Fr. Jairo will celebrate his third anniversary. God willing, Deacon Cong Le will be ordained to the priesthood next June. This is the high season for priesthood ordinations. About half of the priests (60) serving in the diocese will celebrate their ordination anniversary in June. As we congratulate those who are celebrating anniversaries around this time of the year, the reality is also that we are not maintaining the numbers required to provide for the needs of the Church only the ordained can provide. This was one factor in the decision of the Franciscan friars to withdraw from leadership of our parish.

We are blessed to have a wonderful pastoral staff and a large number of volunteers, both of whom have responded to the call to exercise their baptismal priesthood for the good of our community and beyond, and Deacon Steve, all who make it possible for two ministerial priests to serve a community of more than 15,000. We are also increasingly dependent on priests from other parts of the world to come to our aid in order to have what is required. Frs. Jairo and Alex are from Colombia and Fr. James, who arrives at the end of June to replace Fr. Alex, is from India.

The reality of priesthood in this country is very complex and solutions to the growing crisis will take time to emerge. We are well aware of the manifold discussions about priesthood today, from the abuse crisis to how the priesthood might be extended beyond celibate men in lifelong vows or promises.

In the meantime, what can we be doing to promote vocations to the priesthood, be it as a diocesan priest or one who serves within a religious order such as the Franciscans? I ask you to consider two things. First, pray for vocations to the priesthood, especially from among our own parishioners. When was the last time you prayed for vocations to the priesthood? Perhaps you could make this a part of your regular prayer. Second, encourage a young man whom you think has the qualities for being a good priest to consider it. The number one reason seminarians tell us why they stepped forward to explore a vocation to the priesthood was because someone asked them to consider it and told them why they might be a good one.


I am confident there are young men in our community being called to the priesthood. If one of them is reading this article, I invite him to seek out Frs. Jim, Alex, or me for a confidential conversation about the priesthood. Studies of priests tell us that we are pretty happy in our vocation despite its challenges and the cloud under which we exist in modern times. I love being a priest and know Frs. Jim and Alex do too. We need more to come forward. Please pray for your priests and for the future ordained leaders our Church needs and deserves.

Fr. Michael

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, June 1, as reported by the Diocese:

	2023 Campaign (6/1/23)		2022 Campaign (6/2/22)	
Goal:	\$473,565		\$509,088	
Pledge Total:	\$440,547	93.0%	\$449,948	88.4%
Received Total:	\$399,743	84.4%	\$425,136	83.5%
Participating Families:	1083	19.7%	1063	20.8%
Total Families:	5,500		5,100	
To-Go:	\$33,018			

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

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The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi - 11401 Leesville Rd - NC 27613 - Tel: 919-847-8205

June 3/4 - Curbside Care Package Handout

Available in the Stewardship Center after all Masses this weekend. [Click here](#) for more information. Contact tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org

June 5 - Parish Library Closure

After June 5, we will recycle any books not taken.

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.

June 8 - One Wake Assembly 7:00pm

ONE Wake is a community organizing group of 46 religious congregations and nonprofits, all working together for the common good of Wake County with membership totaling 50,000+. The Catholic Community of St Francis of Assisi is a founding member of ONE Wake, doing God's work through non-partisan, multi-racial, multi-issue advocacy.

Contact Nancy Dilger, ndilger3@gmail.com.

Register at <https://www.onewake.org/>

June 11 - 10:00am Celebrating Fr. Alex!

Save the Date! 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. Also there is a St. Francis book and journal in the stewardship center for Fr. Alex. After leaving mass, please consider writing in the journal or the book (where there are marked tabs) to share your appreciation for Fr. Alex. 2023-2024 Cross Step (Preschool-Aged Faith Formation) Registration Open in Realm

June 11 - Always God's Children

Join us Sunday, June 11th, from 3:30 to 5pm for the monthly gathering of Always God's Children. Contact Kathy Sales at kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org for more information and location.



The Confluence of Social Teachings in Migrant Ministry

[Click here to read story](#)

Congratulations to our TFS 8th grade grads!



June 11 - Baccalaureate Mass Class of 2023,

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 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.

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](#)

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

Please join us as Dr. Elizabeth Schrader Polczer shares her research on the earliest manuscripts of the Gospel of John, illuminating possible efforts to diminish Mary Magdalene's significance as a disciple of Jesus. Wine and charcuterie will be served. Cost: \$10.00
Register through Realm or non-parishioners [register here](#):
Contact: Janie.Hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x237

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/>

Bringing some sunshine in the midst of the rain

Check out this post from our Moments of Grace Blog to read a parishioner's reflection on Memorial Day Weekend service at Oak City Cares. [Click here](#). Contact tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 through September 10
Cross Step provides weekly liturgical lessons during the 9:00am Mass for preschool-aged children, ages one (and walking) through age five, who are not enrolled in kindergarten. [More information](#)
Contact andrea.javier@stfrancisraleigh.org [Registration Link](#)

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