



“Do this in memory of me.” This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. We take time this weekend to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist and how it helps us in the present and prepares us for our future. I would like to reflect on a sentence we hear at every Mass at the conclusion of the consecration of the wine. “Do this in memory of me.”

Memory is important for us. I am helping my mother go through things in her home to help her begin to downsize. Among the things we have been going through are photos. One box was marked, “Mike,” containing photos my mother has collected, with me in them, over many years. Looking at those photos brought back memories for me. We came upon the official photo that was taken when I was named a monsignor in 2006 (I had a mustache!). Two others were also of special interest, both taken in Rome at the canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton as the first American-born saint on September 14, 1975. I hadn’t seen them in many years. One photo showed me singing in front of St. Peter’s Basilica with the American Choir during the Canonization Mass and the other showed me serving as the cantor for the Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Paul’s Outside the Walls Basilica in Rome the next day. Quite an honor for someone in Rome less than two weeks as a first year theology seminarian.

Memory. Jesus said at the Last Supper after he had blessed the cup of wine, “Do this in memory of me.” What does this mean and why is it important? First, what does this mean? The definition of “memory” used by Jesus is a little different than our contemporary understanding of the word, “memory.” Here’s the difference. When we look at photos and remember the event connected with it, that event still remains in the past. The Canonization Mass in Rome will never become present in 2023. However, when the priest says Jesus’ words, “Do this in memory of me,” a past event is becoming present. During the Eucharistic Prayer, the graces of Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection, a death that forgives sins and redeems us, becomes present and available in the here and now in the consecrated bread and wine. This is very important for us.

The most important event in the history of the world becomes present on every altar during the Eucharistic Prayer and will be offered to us in Holy Communion so that we might always benefit from this great gift. This meaning of “memory” means something in the past becomes actually present in the present.

Jesus says that it’s very important to remember this saving event, so important that he makes the saving grace of his passion, death, and resurrection, something that occurred in the past, available to us in the present. We believe that it’s important to participate in this saving event at least once a week for the rest of our lives because what it offers us.

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

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.

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.



June 11 - Baccalaureate Mass Class of 2023,

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. Counselors in Training (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 17, 24, 26, 27 - TFS Parking Lot Closed

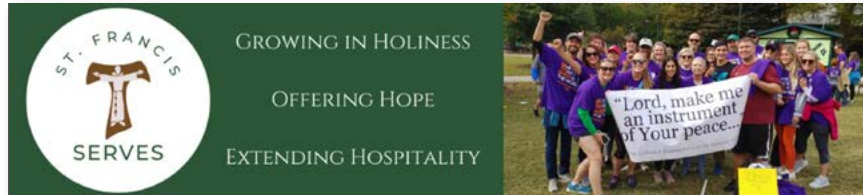
The TFS parking lot will be closed and inaccessible on Saturdays, June 17 and 24, and on Monday June 26 and Tuesday, June 27.



Remembrance and Witness

Honoring struggle and progress is essential, lest we forget. This is one reason we invoke the phrase “Never forget” concerning the horror of the Holocaust. This belief is one of the inspirations that led to a pilgrimage in March 2023. Trever Thompson, former Director of the St. Francis Office of Justice and Peace, shared, “We had 35 people on the bus, members of St. Francis of Assisi, the Baptist Grove Baptist Church, and Lincoln Park Holiness Church, the latter two churches are black congregations we’ve partnered with for many years.” But where were they headed? To the heart of the Civil Rights movement.

[Read more](#)



[Click here for a walkthrough on how to use our new service site, St. Francis Serves.](#)

[Click here for mobile training on St Francis Serves](#)
Contact Tim Fasano at tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 22 - Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of John: A Case of Textual Suppression? Founders Room, 7:00pm

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

Non-parishioners [register here](#) / **Parishioners** register through [Realm](#).
Contact: Janie.Hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x237
For more information, [click here](#).

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](#)

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](#).

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