



Weekend Tabernacle:

We have a beautiful Blessed Sacrament Chapel in our church. It was designed as a place where people could spend time privately before the Lord present in the tabernacle and where Communion Ministers who bring the Eucharist to those who cannot come to Mass can acquire consecrated hosts and offer them to those who cannot join us for

worship. I often see people in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel praying over the course of the week when I'm in the church. I stop by there frequently myself for a brief visit with the Lord. Although in the back of the church, an uncommon location in Catholic churches in the United States, its location outside the sanctuary is not unusual globally speaking.

One of the practical challenges of the tabernacle's location is that we need to bring the ciborium quite a distance to the altar before Holy Communion and return it to the tabernacle after the reception of Holy Communion. This vessel, which contains the consecrated hosts that remain after Holy Communion from previous Masses, has to be kept in a locked tabernacle because the Lord is present in those hosts until they are consumed whereupon he becomes one with us.

I find the procession of the ciborium to the altar while we're praying the Lord's Prayer and exchanging the Sign of Peace to be less reverent than it should be and the procession with the consecrated hosts back to the tabernacle after Holy Communion to take too long.

In light of this, I have decided to place a weekend tabernacle up on the baptistry side of the church behind the white brick column. It will not be visible to the people and people will not be required to genuflect when they come into and leave the church for weekend Masses. It will also be away from the foot traffic of those going into and out of the sacristy so that those using that space will not need to genuflect as they pass by the tabernacle, the customary practice when in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharist will still be present in the main tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at all times so people may continue to visit and pray before the Eucharistic Lord.

A ciborium with consecrated hosts will be placed in the weekend tabernacle on Saturday before the 5:30pm Mass and will be returned to the main tabernacle after the Sunday 5:30pm Mass. We are currently training our Mass Coordinators on this adjustment since they will remain responsible for bringing and returning the Holy Eucharist to and from the altar for each of our weekend Masses. As soon as we have trained everyone, we will begin to use this weekend tabernacle.


Fr. Michael

Bearing One Another

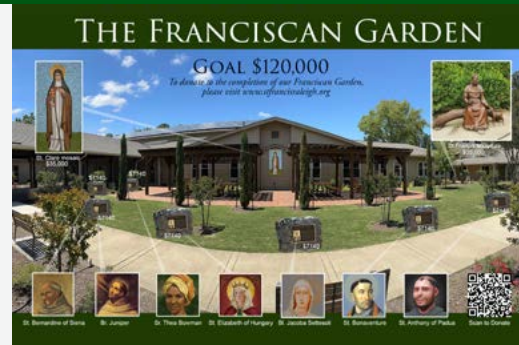
God doesn't want us to be alone in the good times, and certainly not alone in the bad times. We have parishioners who called to walk with those of us who are burdened called Stephen Ministers. They are trained to be able to listen openly, to be non-judgmental about what they hear, and to ask probing questions to help their care receiver process their situation a bit deeper each time they meet.

A Stephen Minister will meet with their care receiver each week for one hour where they can be heard, affirmed, and can feel safe to share their story. The minister helps them come to terms with their emotions, their confusion, their fears, and their scars.

If you feel you're feeling confused or experiencing difficulty in a relationship or in life and feel that you would benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact Kathleen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or call 919-847-8205, ext. 234 so you're not lifting your burdens alone.

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

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July 1/2 Franciscan Garden Campaign

Click here for a special video message from Fr. Michael about our Franciscan Garden. [\(Click here to donate\)](#)



July 8 - August 26 St. Francis Summer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Veggie Box

Sign up by July 2nd! Support local farmers of color and the environment by subscribing to the summer CSA. Receive fresh veggies and/or eggs every Saturday for 8 weeks. For the summer season, Rick plans to provide: pole beans, okra, kale, cantaloupe, watermelon, tomatoes, sweet corn, butterbeans, lettuce, and cabbage. Contact Elizabeth Kearse, eskearse@gmail.com, 919-270-3043. [Register here.](#)

Camp Francis

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](#)

TFS Parking Lot Closed

Please be advised that the TFS parking lot will be closed for maintenance. Access to the campus can be made by using the main driveway, or the entrance off Cape Charles Drive near the rectory.



A Franciscan Story Continues

St. Francis of Assisi's founding was parishioner-driven, and even though our first pastor was a Jesuit, St. Francis and the Franciscan Mission have been the moving forces in our parish since its inception. Even the naming of the parish seemed to be a divine event.

[Read more](#)



Pope: The Holy Spirit is our guide on the path to Christian Unity

(Click image to read article)

July 16 - Welcoming Fr. James Singarayar, HGN

We will welcome our new priest Fr. James after 9 am Mass. Please join us in Clare Fellowship Hall and welcome/introduce yourself to Fr. James and enjoy some coffee and donuts. Contact Chris Damico, chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org

July 27-30 Recovering Our Soul Connections

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

July 19 - RCIA Inquiry Session, Founders Room, 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

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](#)

October 28 - The Heart of Matter: Encountering Christ in all Creation | 2023 Convocation, 8:30am

Save the Date! Join us on Saturday, October 28, 2023 for the 3rd annual Franciscan Spirit and Life Convocation "The Heart of Matter: Encountering Christ in all Creation". Sister Ilia Delio will be joining us as our keynote speaker for the day. Registration will open on Realm in September. Contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

See what your generosity is doing at Oak City Cares

Discover the impact your St. Francis community is having at Oak City Cares: "Your engagement with the guests gives us all the ability to see each other as humans, each of us walking our own path."
[More information](#) Contact tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205 [Click here to get involved.](#)

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), Preschool Lead Teacher (2yo), Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments, Coordinator of Middle School Formation, Director of Pastoral Care. Substitute Teachers for the 23-24 school year.
See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org