



Meet JaVon Hansknecht, Our New Director of Justice and Peace:

I asked JaVon to offer a brief biography to introduce himself to you. Here is what he would like to tell you about himself.

I grew up on St. Francis Street in Farmington Hills, Michigan as the oldest of 6 kids. Three brothers and two sisters. Three of my siblings were adopted into my family - my youngest sister from India, and the next two youngest, a brother and sister, from Haiti. My entire family was raised Catholic, went through Catholic school as kids, and were all very involved in youth groups growing up, getting the opportunity of faith formation and a passion for serving others from a young age. I remember spending almost every weekend at the Church or out at locations such as Gleaner's Food Bank in downtown Detroit, or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

For college, I went to the University of Dayton in Ohio where I received a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies and a minor in Human Rights. I focused on learning as much as I could about other world religions, cultures, and traditions - even getting the opportunity to travel to and around India for five weeks through an Immersion Trip. After college, I joined the Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps where I both was placed in DC to serve the non-profit organization SOME,

(So Others Might Eat), and through which I met my incredible wife, Amanda. SOME is an interfaith organization that works to combat poverty and homelessness in the District in a holistic fashion, operating a number of continuums aimed to promote hope and dignity. At SOME, I worked many jobs and through constant networking, I was able to be a strong resource guide for our hundreds of daily guests. I concluded my time there as the Director of In-Kind Services, overseeing our Volunteer Services and Non-Monetary Donations departments, as well as our Volunteer Corps and Client Mail programs.

A focus centered around social justice education and advocacy became a growing passion of mine during my time in DC. My previous supervisor and I held countless Social Justice Reflections with groups ranging from 4th graders to grad students, congregations to businesses, educating others about the deeper issues of the area and options for us to take action. Having the opportunity to continue this path forward here at St. Francis is both a wonderful and outstanding opportunity. I very much look forward to serving this parish, and I hope my wife and I, along with our two daughters, will meet you all soon.

The pronunciation of my name sometimes throws people. Here's an easy way to remember it: Ja-Vón Hands-Connect.

Fr. Michael



July 29/30 Franciscan Garden Campaign

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



July 30: Back-to-School Supplies Drive:

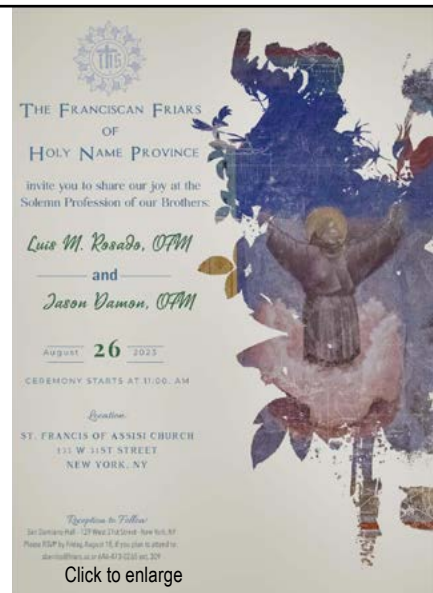
Please drop your supplies in the bins in the Stewardship Center in the church. For more information on how to volunteer, donate financially, or to view the supply list visit [click here](#).

August 7 - Middle School Monday Night At The Movies

All middle school youth are invited to join us in Fellowship on Monday, Aug. 7th for Disney's Mulan and popcorn! Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend and serve as chaperones or just to share fun and fellowship! [Register here via Realm](#). Contact jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org.

August 11 - SFA Women's Ministry's Durham Rescue Mission Back to School Service Event,

9:45am, The SFA Women's Ministry invites you to join them at Durham Rescue Mission's Back To School Event. We'll be handing out backpacks and/or serving lunch from 9:45am-1:00pm. Bring a lunch if you'd like to join us on SFA's campus after we return. [Parishioner Registration](#). [Non-Parishioner Registration](#). Contact Anne Martin: ajmartin929@gmail.com.



Change is the Only Constant

As we enter summer at St. Francis, it isn't just a change of season but a change in our pastoral presence. We bid Father Alex a fond farewell and much good fortune as he leaves to become pastor at Holy Family Parish in Elizabeth City, his 5th time in that pastoral role. As Father Alex leaves, we welcome Father James Singarayar to St. Francis as parochial vicar. [Read more](#)

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

[Website](#) / [Realm](#) / [St. Francis Serves](#) / [Prayer Request](#) / [Listing of Prayers of the Faithful](#) / [KBL series](#) / [Bulletins](#) / [Employment Opportunities](#) / [St. Francis TV](#) / [Giving Staff](#) / [Parishioner Business Ads](#) / [Ask Chris](#) / [Franciscan School](#) / [Preschool](#) /

Register for Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation

Deadline is August 1, 2023

Are you ready to register? Your next steps are:

- 1) Make sure you are a registered parishioner. If you aren't, you can [register here](#).
- 2) Once you are a registered parishioner, you will be sent an invitation via email to REALM, our parish software.
- 3) Once you have a REALM login setup, you can register via REALM for:

[Cross Step \(Pre-K\)](#)

[Cross Walk \(by grade\)](#)

[Cross Train \(by grade\)](#)

[Cross Road \(by grade\)](#)

[First Sacraments 2023-2025](#)

[Confirmation 2023-2025](#)

Questions contact Jeanne Lewin, Director of Faith Formation
jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org



The parish Strategic Planning Committee met last Thursday night to begin the process of developing a five-year strategic plan for our faith community. We will share more about the developments of this effort as the process unfolds.

Committee members are:

Fr. Michael, Eyrarn Klu, Jacob House, John Price, Kate Shiring, Mae Villanueva, Melissa Yeazel, Micah Slusser, Mike McGrail, Pete Russo, and Shawn Tenace.

Ex officio members are: Kathy Sales and Diogenes Ruiz

August 16 - Support our Ronald McDonald House Ministry (Third Wednesday of every month)

Each month when St. Francis arrives at the "House," we are told of the excitement around our cooking. This never gets old! Being able to give one guest a moment to rest from their day's weariness is as much a gift to us as it is to them. [Register here](#).

Contact michelle.harris95@gmail.com

Pre-K Aged Faith Formation (CROSS STEP) Registration Open for 2023-2024

Cross Step (Preschool-Aged Faith Formation) Registration Open in Realm through September 10. Cross Step is a ten-month program that provides weekly liturgical lessons during the 9:00 am Mass for children, ages one (and walking) through age five, who are not enrolled in kindergarten. [Register here](#). [Click here for more information](#).

August 23 - RCIA Inquiry Session, Founders Rm., 6:30pm-8:30pm

Interested in exploring a possible call to be a Catholic or seeking adult Confirmation? Consider joining our no-obligation Inquiry Sessions held in Anthony Hall Founders Room, located down the hall from the church restrooms. For more information contact Jeanne M. Lewin,

jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org

Link: www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia

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.

August 27 - Is God Calling You to Join the RCIA Team? 10:20am

We are seeking more parishioners to assist with our [RCIA ministry](#). We are hosting a no-obligations information session on Sunday, August 27 immediately following the 9:00am Mass in Founders, facilitated by Msgr. Clay and the RCIA Team. Questions? Contact Jeanne Lewin at

jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org

Sharing graces from our Migrant Ministry

Migrant Ministry celebrated our first fiesta of the summer! Check out our [ministry blog](#) for more pictures, reflections, and to learn about how you can continue to support this amazing ministry!

Contact MaryLou Holloway, mlholly10@gmail.com

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

TFS Administrative Assistant/Front Office (full time), 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

If you can't access information through the hyperlink because you do not use the internet, please call the office to get information. (919) 847-8205