



Let the Blessings Begin! I want to thank all of you who have supported the Franciscan Garden art project so far. Because of your generosity, we have been able to acquire the two largest pieces of art and commission the first plaque. The bronze sitting St. Francis statue and the St. Clare mosaic have arrived and site work is being completed this week for their placement in the garden. Through a generous gift from Fr. Mark Reamer, OFM, vice president for mission at Siena College in New York and a former pastor of St. Francis, the St. Bernardine of Siena plaque has been commissioned. The plaque will be placed in the garden upon completion.

To celebrate the arrival of the two large works of art, I invite you to join me in the Franciscan Garden after the 9:00am Mass on Sunday, August 20, for the formal blessing of the St. Francis statue and the St. Clare mosaic. It is appropriate that St. Clare's image will be attached to the outside wall of Clare Hall. It will be located between the two pergolas. The sitting St. Francis bronze statue will be placed outside the doors of Elizabeth Hall, the location of our pre-school. The statue will be "user friendly," meaning that those who would like to sit next to St. Francis may do so. I'm imagining our younger members will especially enjoy being so close to our patron saint and perhaps getting a photo with him as well.

The fundraiser will continue until we have commissioned the remaining plaques honoring the Franciscans whose names adorn our building and rooms but we have art that is ready to be placed, hence the first round of blessings for them. I invite you to make a gift in support of this project if you haven't done so already. This will be a great way to educate our parishioners and others about the important legacy these Franciscan men and women have left us by the witness of their lives and serve as another concrete way we are endeavoring to maintain our Franciscan identity.

Fr. Michael

THE FRANCISCAN GARDEN



August 12/13 Franciscan Garden Campaign

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



August 13 - The Always God's Children

gathering will take place today from 3:30-5:00. For more information, please contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

August 14 - Middle School Cornhole & Pizza Extravaganza

6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. All Middle School Youth & families are invited to attend. Parent chaperones are needed and welcome to join in the fun! Additional games will be available. Register through Realm here. Contact Janie Hebert for more information janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org. or Jeanne Lewin, jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org.

August 15 - Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses are at 9:00 am, 11:45 am, and 7:00 pm in the Church.

August 26/27 - Parish Ministry Fair

Embark on a journey of discovery at our Parish-wide Ministry Fair. Learn about the countless opportunities to get involved in our community and how you are being called to share your gifts. This will take place in Clare Hall after every Mass the weekend of August 26/27. Learn more here! Contact JaVon Hansknecht, Javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org. Click here for more information.

ONE THING

The theme of this year's fair will be to challenge ourselves to commit to one ministry for at least three months of the year, gathering information throughout the fair to help discern our choice. Youth at the fair will be able to decorate their own Tao Cross for St. Francis to collect after each fair. Staff will then put these small crosses together in a collage to form one giant Tao Cross to be displayed on a larger banner of the image above in the Stewardship Center.



Click the image to watch the latest episode of St. Francis TV featuring JaVon Hansknecht, Director of Justice and Peace, with the latest news about the upcoming ministry fair.

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 /



At St. Francis, we all have heard of and perhaps participated in the listening sessions associated with the upcoming Synod in the Church. The 'Synod on Synodality' is a three-year process of listening and dialogue that officially began with a solemn opening in Rome on October 9-10, 2021, focused on getting the entire Church, both laity and clergy, into active conversation and discernment as a way of life so they may together make the Church more meaningful and relevant to those both inside and outside the Church. The Synod, which will continue with...

Read more

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

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 Lewin,

jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org

Link: https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/becoming_catholic/

August 26/27 - Parish Ministry Fair - See page 1

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

Through September 10 - Preschool-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. [More information](#) [Register](#)

Contact Andrea Javier, andrea.javier@stfrancisraleigh.org 910-352-6845

September 11 - "Creation at the Crossroads" Weekly Book

Webinar Every Monday, 7:00pm, 9/11/23 until 11/27/23. Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral's Laudato Si' Circle and NCCCCH is offering a Monday night webinar series for the entire diocese covering the book, "[Creation at the Crossroads](#)", by Monsignor Edward Ciuba, responding together to the cries of the earth and the poor. Parishioners must purchase book themselves. Register now by emailing socialconcern@hnojnc.org.

Sep 13-Oct 25: Sr. Ilia Delio Book Discussion Groups

Registrations Open Now! Sr. Ilia Delio will be presenting at the the 3rd Annual Franciscan Spirit & Life Convocation on October 28. If you're interested in [learning more](#) about Sr. Ilia's teachings, registrations are open now in Realm for three groups who will discuss Sr. Ilia's book, "The Hours of the Universe."

Tuesday Sep 12 (7:00 pm) to Tuesday Oct 24 (8:30 pm)

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

Wednesday Sep 13 (1:00 pm) to Wednesday Oct 25 (2:30 pm)

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

Wednesday Sep 13 (7:00 pm) to Wednesday Oct 25 (8:30 pm)

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

Contact janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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/>

Sep 13, 2023 - May 1, 2024: Women's Ministry

Bible Study - Walking With Purpose: Opening Your Heart

"Opening Your Heart," a Women's Catholic Bible Study, will help us transform our lives by bringing us closer to the heart of God and the love of Christ. Come, share your faith journey with other women and experience God's plan for us during this year-long study.

Contact Janie Hebert, janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org.

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

September 16 Women's Ministry Retreat; Be Inspired: Believe in your Giftedness as Women, 9:00-11:30am

As women, we receive so many messages that can cause us to question the contributions we can make. How can we learn to see ourselves and one another as God sees us? This retreat will include time for small group discussions, personal reflection time and our keynote speaker, Casey Stanton. Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, czejkowskir@gmail.com

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

Sep 17- Now Offering Sunday Morning Option for Middle School Cross Train

In response to parent feedback, middle school Cross Train program has added a Sunday morning session corresponding with Cross Walk. Sunday evening session is also available. Register through Realm by August 18 and select AM or PM session. Sessions begin on Sunday, September 17. Contact Jeanne Lewin, jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Sep 19-Oct 31 & Sep 20-Nov 1 - Adult Virtual Bible Study - Isaiah Part 1 - Tue PM or Wed AM Sessions

Registration is open on Realm for adult bible studies on either Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning. The Book of Isaiah gives witness to the story of God's judgment against Israel and an enduring promise of divine redemption. No cost to register-purchase book from Liturgical Press or Amazon. Facilitators: Barbara Eford, Cindy Cardello & Diane Rosendahl. Contact janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org.

[Register for Tuesdays](#) / [Register for Wednesdays](#)

Oct 16-20: St. Francis Inn

Looking for an opportunity to do something new and meaningful? Consider joining our October 16-20 trip to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia for a mission of solidarity, hospitality, and compassion to the poor and hungry of Philadelphia. There is no cost for attending this trip. Contact John Budway, budwayjj@bellsouth.net, (305) 205-5104. [Information](#)

Nov-Feb: Youth Basketball League

Join us for the 33rd season of the St. Francis Youth Basketball League. This program is open to girls and boys grades 1st thru 8th, in 6 different divisions. [Registration](#) is NOW open! Regular registration ends Sept. 19 and late registration runs thru October 3. Contact Mary Arleth,

Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x358

Back to School Drive Thank You!

Together we partnered with four local non-profits to provide over 160 kids and teens with backpacks fully loaded with school supplies.

Thank you, St. Francis, for doing so much for your community!

Contact Timothy Fasano, tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Employment Opportunities

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