



A Pastoral Plan for Our Community: One of the signs of a healthy community is an effective vision that gets implemented. In 2019, our parish family began to develop a strategic plan. Unfortunately, it was never completed or implemented due to several factors, chief among them the announcement of the departure of the Franciscans from the parish and the arrival of COVID-19 in early 2020. In 2021, Pope Francis announced a synod and invited participation from the grassroots level. Our Pastoral Council led a process of intentional listening, which included many in-person and virtual listening sessions as well as surveys of our young people. In 2022, the Pastoral Council Synod Team published summaries of the key takeaways for the global synod as well as for our own community.

In early 2023, it was decided that the time had come for our community to return to the drawing board and to develop and implement a five-year pastoral plan using the wealth of data collected in 2019 and 2022 as a base. Ten people were identified who represent the diversity of the parish and two people were invited from the staff to serve *ex officio* on the planning committee. A steering committee met last spring to organize a process and the planning committee held its first meetings on July 27 and August 17.

A webpage has been created to keep the community informed about its progress (<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/strategic-plan/>).

I am excited by the plan's potential to synergize our community's life and to make us even more effective as a faith community. Stay tuned for regular updates as the committee begins its work and please pray for the success of this process.

Fr. Michael

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.](#)



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](#) / [Feed the Need Staff](#) / [Parishioner Business Ads](#) / [Ask Chris](#) / [Franciscan School](#) / [Preschool](#) /

THE FRANCISCAN GARDEN



August 19/20 Franciscan Garden Campaign

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



August 20 - Blessing of the St. Francis Statue and St. Clare Mosaic

Join Fr. Michael in the Franciscan Garden after the 9:00am Mass on Sunday, for the formal blessing of the St. Francis statue and the St. Clare mosaic.

August 23 - 50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch,

11:30am. If last names starts with, then bring: A thru C = Main Dish / D thru J = Dessert/bread / K thru Z = Salad/Side Dish Coffee, soda and water will be provided. Contact Pat Gerney, pgerney@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 https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/becoming_catholic/.

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.



Every summer, parents search for ways to get their children some experiences during their summer break that are engaging and interesting. What is more interesting than our faith and more engaging than the chance to put that faith into action? At St. Francis of Assisi, there are...

[Read more](#)

Aug 31 - ONE Wake Internal Assembly, 7:00pm. [More Info](#)

Listen for God's invitation to advocate for the common good of all: Affordable Housing, Transportation, Mental Health. Register today for in-person or virtual participation. [Register](#) Contact Nancy Dilger, ndilger3@gmail.com, 919-608-2636

Sep 5- Nov 14: Season 2 of "THE CHOSEN" at St Francis of Assisi

Every Tuesday 9:45am in the Padua room. Thanks to everyone who joined us to watch season 1. Angel Studios- THE CHOSEN is the first ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. Contact Tina Morgan, tandmmorgan@earthlink.net

Sep 10 - Why Faith Adult Formation Celebrating St. Phoebe,

10:15am. Why Faith adult formation begins on Sunday, Sep 10, 10:15am in Founders. Join us as Gladys Whitehouse shares insight into the life of St. Phoebe. St. Paul commends Phoebe to the church in Rome, introduces her as a deacon of the church to "receive her in the Lord" (Romans 16:1-2a). Contact Jeanne Lewin, 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

Sep 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 12, 10:00-11:30am and Sep 21, 7:00-8:00pm Estate Planning Seminar.

In Founders Room. Offered free by the Diocese. Topics include legal steps required in personal planning, understanding wills and trusts, Catholic Advance Medical Directives, and beneficiary designations. To register email chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.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](#)

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

As women, do we 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, and our keynote speaker, Casey Stanton. Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, czejkowskir@gmail.com [Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner](#)

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 Efirid, Cindy Cardello & Diane Rosendahl.

Contact janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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

Sep 19 Registration Ends for 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 1 thru 8, in 6 different divisions. [Registration](#) is open! Regular registration ends Sep 19 and late registration runs thru Oct 3. Contact Mary Arleth,

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

October 12 and 14 - Called & Gifted Spiritual Gifts Discernment

Oct 12, 6:30-8:30pm and Oct 14, 9am-4pm [Register](#) Discern the presence of charisms in your life. Charisms are abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit to be God's goodness for people.

Contact chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-870-8205X222.

Oct 16-20: St. Francis Inn

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](#)

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

Contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@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