



Third Anniversary: On September 1, I celebrated my third anniversary as your pastor. The life of our community continues its journey back to normal and we've seen some wonderful things happen in the past 12 months. Highlights include the dedication of an addition to our columbarium, the near completion of our Franciscan Garden art project, and the retirement of our remaining mortgage making us debt free. As of July 1, we have grown to 5,342 households (15,039 parishioners) and celebrated 186 baptisms and 182 first communions. On September 9, Bishop Luis will confirm 268 teens and adults. We've had over 70 adults and children of catechetical age participate in our RCIA process in the previous 12 months. Our schools are near capacity. I can easily say I'm never bored!

Offertory Appeal: Each year we take a couple of weekends to bring you up to date on how we stewarded your financial support to operate the parish and where we hope to grow financially in the coming year with your help to continue the mission of our faith community. On the weekend of September 9-10, I will address the community at all Masses to express my gratitude for your generosity and invite you to partner with us in this new fiscal year as we continue our mission to grow in holiness, offer hope to those who hunger for human dignity, and extend hospitality to all. On the weekend of September 16-17, Steve Vebber, chair of our parish's Finance Council, will provide you with a summary of how we used our financial resources in the fiscal year that ended June 30 and what we hope to accomplish in the current fiscal year.

Four-Part Series on the Mass: There have been many requests for an opportunity to learn more about the Mass, the center of our spiritual lives as a community of faith and the wellspring from which our service and ministries flow. Over four weekends, I will speak at all Masses going through it part by part. The series will run as follows:

- September 23-24: Introductory Rites of the Mass
- September 30-October 1: Liturgy of the Word
- October 14-15: Preparation of the Altar and the Eucharistic Prayer
- October 21-22: Communion Rite and Concluding Rites

I've done this before in two parishes and look forward to presenting it to you. I guarantee you will learn things about the Mass you never knew.

-Fr. Michael



Registration for the Diocese of Raleigh's Eucharistic Congress to be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Raleigh Convention Center is open. [Click here.](#) There is no charge to attend the Eucharistic Congress, but pre-registration is required. Please download the 2023 DOR Eucharistic Congress app from the App Store or Google Play Store. By signing up and logging into the mobile app, you are automatically registered for general event admission and can choose individual sessions.

Stephen Ministry - Experienced a recent loss or a life transition? Stephen Ministers are here for you. Ministers are volunteers who offer confidential Christian care. Contact Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x234.

Holy Land Pilgrimage - Information - Sep 8 and Sep 17
Contact Silvia Gambardella, gambardella.silvia@gmail.com
[Information and Register Here](#)

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



Sep 2/3 Franciscan Garden Campaign

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



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

Every Tuesday 9:45am in the Padua Rm. Angel Studios-THE CHOSEN is the first ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. Contact Tina Morgan, tandmmorgan@earthlink.net.

Through Sep 5 - Farm to Church CSA Sign Up (Fall Veggie Box)

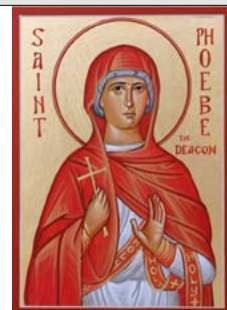
Support farmers of color and caring for the Earth. Enjoy the taste of local, organic, healthy fall produce and support social justice in our food system. Subscribers get local, fall veggies every week for 8 weeks to be picked up at St. Francis on Saturday mornings. Contact Elizabeth Kearse, eskearse@gmail.com, 919-270-3043 [Sign up here.](#)

Sep 10 - Why Faith? St Phoebe and the Synod.

10:15am in Founders. Join Gladys Whitehouse's talk on St. Phoebe and the Synod, sharing insights on St. Phoebe and how St. Paul identified her as a deacon of the church. She will also give an update on the Synod. Refreshments will be served. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Sep 10 - The Always God's Children

gathering will take place today from 3:30-5:00. Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Women in the Church: The Guidance of St. Phoebe

It was very early in Catholic Church history when deacons, bishops, and presbyters were understood to hold a special place in the community. According to the Archdiocese of Newark website's article on the diaconate in the early church, one of the earliest references to deacons occurs in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, in which he addresses...

[Read more](#)

Sep 9/10 Catholic Parish Outreach Food Drive and (Sept 16/17; Sept. 23/24) Pick up a donation bag after Mass the weekend of Sep 9/10. Bring donated items (no glass please!) to the CPO truck on the weekends of September 16/17 and 23/24. Collections occur before and after each Mass and end at 6pm. [List of needed items](#). Contact Mark or Theresa Baumgartner, markbaumga@gmail.com, or theresabaumgartner@nc.rr.com

Sep 12-Dec 12: DivorceCare Fall Series, 6:00pm. Don't go through the pain of separation or divorce alone. Join the DivorceCare group where you'll find caring people who understand and provide practical counsel. [Register here](#). Meets online weekly for group discussion and topical videos with experts. Contact Bill Morgan, dejanuts@yahoo.com

Sep 10 - Knights of Columbus Youth Soccer Challenge, 1:00pm
All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in this annual local penalty kick competition hosted by our Knights of Columbus Council 9709. On the TFS soccer field. Contact Will Austin, will.austin@gmail.com.

Through September 10 - Preschool-Aged Faith Formation (CROSS STEP) Registration Open for 2023-2024
(Preschool-Aged Faith Formation) Register via Realm through Sep 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

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 - Grief's Journey-Coping with Loss of a Loved One, 10:30am-12:00 every Tuesday in Anthony Conference Rm. An eight week series that offers hope following the loss of a loved one through death. [Register](#). A safe place to share your own journey with grief and to learn from others. Intended for those who are three months or more after the death of their loved one. Contact dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.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! Sr. Ilia Delio will be presenting at the the 3rd Annual Franciscan Spirit & Life Convocation on October 28. Registrations are open in Realm for three groups who will discuss Sr. Ilia's book, "The Hours of the Universe." Contact shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org

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](#)

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 marisa.ferrara@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, how can we learn to see ourselves and one another as God sees us? Small group discussions, personal reflection, and our keynote speaker, Casey Stanton. Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, czejkowskir@gmail.com [Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner](#)

9/17, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 10/29 Youth Bball Skills Clinics
This program is designed for campers to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph. Clinics will be taking place on Sunday afternoons for grades 1st-8th. Times: 1st to 4th graders 1:30 to 2:30. 5th to 8th graders 2:35 to 3:50.
Mary.Arleth@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 Tues. evening or Wed. morning. The Book of Isaiah gives witness to the story of God's judgment upon Israel and an enduring promise of divine redemption. No cost to register-purchase book from Liturgical Press or Amazon. Facilitators: Barbara Efrid, Cindy Cardello & Diane Rosendahl.
[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 1 - FrancisFest 2023 12:40pm. Mark your calendars!
Contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org

October 12 and 14 - Called & Gifted Spiritual Gifts Discernment
Oct 12, 6:30-8:30pm and Oct 14, 9am-4pm [Register \(updated link\)](#)
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!
Registration will open on Monday September 11 in Realm.
Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Formation, Administrative Assistant for Formation, Coordinator of Middle School, Formation, Director of Pastoral Care. See our website: See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org