

September 17, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Why the Mass Is Such a Big Deal in the Catholic Church: A Series of Homilies on the Mass: Everyone has a spirituality, even people who don't believe in God or religion. Two examples: *Franciscan spirituality* is lived out by people who admire and want to follow the example and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi and his experiences of God and life. *New Age spirituality*, described as reaching one's full potential through an eclectic mixture of concepts and practices drawn from Eastern mysticism, Hinduism, Buddhism, metaphysics, naturalism, astrology, occultism, and science fiction, is lived out by people who prefer determining their own pathway in life outside of belief in divinity and/or organized religion.

For Catholic Christians, the Mass is a significant way in which we live out spirituality, called liturgical spirituality. This spirituality offers us a way of looking at all of creation, at all the events of our lives, and at all of humanity through the lens of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection, the central belief of our Christian faith. It is meant to impact how one prays, reflects, and acts each day. Two major challenges to this spirituality is understanding 1) how the celebration of the Mass puts us in contact with the presence of God revealed in Christ and 2) how it orients us in the ways we relate to one another and to all of creation now graced by Christ.

Our relationship with God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, all people who share this world with us, indeed, all of creation are of paramount importance. The Mass, an expression of liturgical spirituality, is considered the center of Catholic life because it helps and orients us in all these relationships. To help our faith family at St. Francis understand this better, I will be offering a four-part series on the Mass at every weekend Mass beginning the weekend of September 23-24.

Here is the schedule and where the homily will occur:

September 23-24: Introductory Rites of the Mass

-Homily: Immediately after we make the opening Sign of the Cross

September 30-October 1: Liturgy of the Word

-Homily: Immediately before the first Scripture reading

October 7-8: No presentation as I will away this weekend

October 14-15: Preparation of the Altar and Eucharistic Prayer

-Homily: Immediately after the Prayers of the Faithful

October 21-22: Communion Rite and Concluding Rites

-Homily: Immediately before the Lord's Prayer

If you are away from the parish on one of these weekends, you will be able to view the archived homily on our website. I look forward to offering these presentations.

-Fr. Michael



October 1 - FrancisFest 2023, 12:40pm. Our annual parish wide celebration of our patron Saint. A day of fun with Live Music and Entertainment, Game Truck, Crafts/Games, Inflatable Zone, Food Truck Rodeo, and Franciscan Tasting Room (Local & regional beers and wine). Sign up for one of our many volunteer Slots! Purchase Adult and Youth Wristbands! Visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/francis-fest/> Contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org

Sep 16/17 Franciscan Garden Campaign [Click here](#) for a special video message from Fr. Michael about our Franciscan Garden. [\(Click here to donate\)](#)

Catholic Parish Outreach Food Drive The Catholic Parish Outreach Food Drive will occur on the weekends of Sept. 16/17 and Sept. 23/24. Bring donated items (no glass please!) to the CPO truck on these weekends before or after Mass. Note collections end at 6pm on Saturday and Sunday. See the following links for a list of needed items and volunteer opportunities for helping with donation collection: [Donation collection](#) (Sept. 16, 17, 23 and 24).

September 16 - Our Lady of La Vang Moon Festival 5:00pm at Our Lady of La Vang. The Moon Festival will cover the Vietnamese culture including traditional music, dance, and food. Admittance is free.

Sep 17 - Why Faith? Does Divorce Change my Relationship with the Church? Why Faith? Adult Formation on Sunday, Sept 17, 10:15am in Founders. Join Fr. Tom Duggan, JCL's talk on "Does Divorce Change My Relationship with the Church?" Refreshments will be served. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Sep 17 - Cross Road High School Youth Ministry Kick Off, 6:30pm. This weekend is our Cross Road Youth Ministry Kick Off: OPENING NIGHT! All youth are invited to walk the red carpet and join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 5:30pm Mass on Sunday. Ends at 8:15pm. Contact tim.hetzel@stfrancisraleigh.org.

2022-2023 Annual Financial Report


[Click here to view a copy of the 2022-2023 Annual Financial Report](#)

Season of Creation. I pledge to pray, live, and advocate Laudato Si"

"God created the world. We have the responsibility to care for it." Laudato Si -2015
Do your part! Decide on a NEW habit. Write the number on a leaf. Hang your leaf on the tree in the stewardship center. Contact Pam James, sfcreation@gmail.com.

FRAUD ALERT:

SFA employees, including our priests, only communicate with parishioners using our stfrancisraleigh.org domain. If you see anything other than this, please delete the email.

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 Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi - 11401 Leesville Rd - NC 27613 - Tel: 919-847-8205



There's Something About Mary

Mary has a special place in the life of the Church. Yet, her role can seem confusing to both members of the Catholic Church and those who are Christians of other traditions or unfamiliar with Christianity. As we recently celebrated the Feast of the Assumption, we certainly remember Mary and the role she embraced in salvation history as the Mother of God. While the Virgin Mary has a privileged position...

[Read more](#)

Sep 18 - "Creation at the Crossroads" Weekly Book Webinar

Every Monday, 7:00pm, 9/18/23 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 18 - ONE Wake Cary Town Council Candidate Assembly,

7:00pm ONE Wake and Cary neighborhoods are meeting with Cary Town Council candidates. Candidates will hear from ONE Wake leaders about the pressures facing their families and neighborhoods, and community-driven solutions they can support, if elected. [Register](#) to join the goal of 350 people in-person. Contact Nancy Dilger, ndilger3@gmail.com

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 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 Efirid, Cindy Cardello & Diane Rosendahl. [Register-Tuesdays](#) / [Register-Wednesdays](#)

Sep 19-Nov 21: 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.

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

Sep 20-Oct 25: Fall Parent Child Classes

Anyone with little ones birth-5 years who are interested in some fun community building experiences and making new friends. Join us for Making Music Praying Twice classes and/or Sign Language at the Community Center. [Click here for info](#). Contact Jess Kelly, info@signsoflearning.com

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 23 - Young Adult CATHOLICPALOOZA 4:00-8:30pm. Celebrate our shared Catholic faith in fun and worship. Ages 18-35 College students, High School Seniors, All Young Adults are welcome! Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. 4:00-6:30pm - Fun & Food (weather permitting), 7:00pm - Mass with Bishop Luis (rain or shine) Contact ya.catholic.palooza@gmail.com.

Sep 23 - St. Francis Semi-Annual Blood Drive 8:00am. The need is always and now so even more than ever as the Red Cross has declared a National Blood Shortage. Anyone over 16 that meets basic medical requirements is eligible to donate. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Contact Bryan Kozak, Bryan.c.kozak@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/>

Sep 24 - Why Faith? Facts & Myths about Annulment

Why Faith? Adult formation on Sunday, Sept 24, 10:15am in Founders. Join Vikki Newell's talk on Facts and Myths about Annulment. Refreshments will be served. Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Sep 24 - Family Life Formation | The Domestic Church: Living God's Plan as a Family Family Life Formation begins on Sunday, Sept 24, 10:15 am in Fellowship Hall. Join Gladys Whitehouse's talk on The Domestic Church: Living God's Plan as a Family. Refreshments will be served. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Sep 27 - 50+ Adult Group September Potluck Lunch in Clare Fellowship Hall. If last names starts with, then bring: A thru C = Salad/Side Dish, D thru L = Main Dish, M thru Z = Dessert/bread. Coffee, soda and water will be provided. Contact Pat Gerney, pgerney@gmail.com

October 6 - High School Priesthood Discernment Group: High School Juniors and Seniors who might be thinking about a possible call to the priesthood are invited to a no-commitment discernment meeting in the Raleigh area. Please [Click here](#) for information. .

October 7 - Saturday Prayer Service and Mass Join us for the First Saturday Rosary Prayer Service by Ignited By Truth. We will begin with Mass in the Chapel at 9am. The prayer service will include the Rosary, The Divine Mercy chaplet and other prayers and last 90 minutes. Mass in Chapel at 9am, Rosary at 10am. Contact, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

October 13 - Volunteer at the State Fair Peace Booth, 9:00am The Peace Booth at the NC State Fair needs you! Volunteers needed to run three 2-hour shifts from 9am-3pm, sharing faith statements on peace and more! Individuals, families & groups allowed. Volunteers will receive a free entry-ticket to the State Fair! [Register](#). Contact JaVon Hansknecht, javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 16-20: St. Francis Inn Join 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. 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! 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 Iliia Delio will be joining us as our keynote speaker for the day. Registration will open on Monday September 11 in Realm. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Nov 11/12 - Fair Trade Market

Mark your calendar for our annual Fair Trade and Alternative Gifts Market taking place November 10-12 at St. Francis. Check out our event page to learn more about our vendors and to [discover how you can get involved!](#) Contact javon.hansknecht@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