

October 22, 2023

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Things: Over the past few months, there have been some comments made to staff and occasionally to me about aspects of Sunday Masses that have been difficult for some to adjust to. They revolve primarily around Mass times and the “extras” that occur during Mass. This week I would like to review again why Mass times were adjusted. Next week I will address the reason for the “extras” as weekend Masses.

The most dangerous thing a pastor does is to change the Mass schedule, especially long-standing ones. This was not a decision I made lightly. If you have read my myriad columns about the precipice the Church is approaching with the massive departure of our young people and heard my vision about prioritizing ministry to your children, youth, and young adults in my annual offertory appeal, you will know that this is at the forefront of decisions I make as the pastor of St. Francis. The Mass schedule change is an example of this.

When I learned the amount of time our children actually had for faith formation on Sunday mornings, I became alarmed at the paucity of time our children had to be formed in their faith. It was about 2 hours a month over 9 months. 18-20 hours a year for faith formation is insufficient, compounded when a majority of those children are also not coming to Mass on a regular basis. Children preparing for first sacraments (i.e. Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation) have more time but outside of this, the exposure to our faith tradition strikes me as inadequate. Given the clear downward trends of our younger members remaining in the Catholic Church or simply drifting away, as the pastor of a community currently with a **LOT** of children and youth, this was something that I believe needed to be remediated.


In light of this and after consultation with the Pastoral Council and the staff, I decided to adjust the Sunday morning Mass schedule to create more time for faith formation. In addition, I wanted to start offering regular adult and parent formation during this time to help you/them also become better equipped in your/their Catholic faith to live out our tradition in your/their homes and in life. The other neuralgic issue that needed to be addressed was the parking lot and reducing a regular logjam that made people moody because there weren't spaces to park for incoming worshipers and/or because getting off the campus was onerous. These issues went into the adjustment of the Sunday morning Mass schedule. This went to my personal prayer for several weeks and with some fear and trepidation, I decided to adjust the Sunday morning Mass schedule for the sake of our children and adults, especially parents, so you/they might have a better grounding in your/their faith. This also accounts for the development of a 9:00am Mass adjusted to engage children at a deeper level on those Sundays when faith formation occurs.

I am aware that everyone has had to adjust to the new morning schedule. Later sunrises in the winter make the 7:15am Mass impossible for some because they don't drive in the dark. 9:00am makes everyone, especially families, get up 30 minutes earlier for this Mass. 11:45am makes for less time to enjoy the afternoon. I ask those who are unhappy about this to consider how this is helping our youngest members and their parents to become more engaged in faith formation and worship. They are our future and I worry a lot about what our legacy to them will be. “My” Mass is important to many of us and I realize there are many other factors in our collective lives that make this adjustment challenging. I ask you to consider how what we are doing is for the good of our children, youth, and young adults, the future present in our midst. If more children, youth, and their families become awakened in their faith because of this adjustment, I think we could all say this is worthwhile.

-Fr. Michael

Update from Preschool and TFS Please see the following attachment for information on a potential new shared position for the schools.

[Click here to view.](#)

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

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

November Preview



[Click here to watch.](#)

November 1 - The Month of November The Book of Remembrance

A Book of Remembrance will be displayed throughout the month of November near the sanctuary. The names of your loved ones can be added directly into the book. Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 1 - All Saints Day

All Saints Day Mass Schedule: Wednesday, November 1, Masses at 9 am (with school children), 11:45 am, and 7 pm. Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 2 - All Souls Day - Thursday, Masses

at 9am and 7:00pm – During this liturgy we honor all parishioners who have died during the past year with a reading of names. In addition, all parishioners are encouraged to bring photos (framed, maximum of 5X7) to the Welcome center in the church offices from October 15-29, to be displayed near the altar steps throughout this day and then displayed in the parish gathering space throughout the month of November. Please include your name and contact information on the back of the photos so you may pick them up when the month is completed. Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 4 - Memorial Garden Mass at 9:00

This liturgy celebrates the lives of those inurned in our Memorial Garden or buried in the St. Francis portion of the cemetery at Raleigh Memorial Park. All are welcome to attend. Mass is held outside in the Memorial Garden so please dress accordingly.

Feed the Need - Our Feed the Need ministry provides temporary meal assistance to members of our community who are facing life transitions including job loss, new baby, grief, hospitalizations, illness etc. If you (or someone you know) would benefit from meals made with love during a life transition complete the form, [click here](#), or email feedtheneedsfa@gmail.com and a ministry member will be in touch.



Walking With You On The Spiritual Journey

Faith formation can frequently be viewed as a program or class, often in a classroom or group setting, to learn about the faith. It can seem more of a way to learn about the faith and know our beliefs 'history, tenets, and background' than a personal experience. 'Spiritual Direction' is a different and more personal experience. This ministry is centuries old but became a 'formal' program at St. Francis when...

[Read more](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: [Peter and Darson Russo](#)

We need your feedback! Parish Communication Focus Groups, October 25, 10am (Anthony Hall) or 7pm (virtual) As we work to provide the most effective and comprehensive communications to the parish, our staff is working on gathering data and feedback for review. With the assistance of a team of marketing students from NC State University, we will be hosting two focus groups sessions for our community. The sessions will provide an opportunity for parishioners to provide feedback on current communications. After the focus group sessions and a parish survey, the students will provide a comprehensive set of recommendations for the parish to consider. Please consider participating by [registering for one of these two sessions here](#). We hope to see you at a session soon!

The Franciscan School - Faith - Academics - Service

With the foundation of faith, academics and service at its core, The Franciscan School prepares confident, academically ready students who go out into the world ready for its challenges and always equipped to serve those in need! To learn more about The Franciscan School, [click here](#).

10/22, 10/29 Youth Bball Skills Clinics [Registration is Open](#) Designed for campers to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph. Clinics will take 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.

October 22 Why Faith? Q&A on the Mass. Part 3 and Part 4

Why Faith? Adult Formation on Sunday, October 22, 10:15am in Founders. Join Jim Wahl on a Q&A session on the Mass. Refreshments will be served. Contact Kathy.Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org. No registration required.

October 22 Family Life Formation - Woman Franciscan Saints on Campus:

Join Gladys Whitehouse, MaryLou Holloway, Marianne Norris, and Ellen Ferrone for a presentation on the four Woman Franciscan Saints on our Campus in Fellowship Hall at 10:15am. Refreshments will be served. Contact Kathy.Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 23 - 3rd Annual ICCT Prayer Chain for the Earth

Join the Third Annual ICCT Prayer Chain for the Earth on Monday, October 23, 2023 any time between 5:00 to 6:30 pm on the sidewalks at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh, 3313 Wade Ave. Our ministry "Care for Creation" will be attending and inviting others to join. Contact patkelly@2626@gmail.com. [Register](#)

Oct 24-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.

Oct 25 - 50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch, 11:30am, in Clare Fellowship Hall. If last names starts with, then bring A thru C = Dessert/bread; D thru L = Salad/Side Dish; M thru Z = Main Dish. Coffee, soda and water will be provided. Contact Pat Gerney, pgerney@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/>

October 29 - 2023 CROP Hunger Walk, 3:00-5:00pm

The annual CROP Hunger Walk raises awareness of issues of hunger and food insecurity in our local and international communities. Register today to join our parish team! Opportunities exist to walk, donate, or both! [Registration](#) Learn more about the cause: <https://trianglencrop.org/> Contact javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org

Nov 1 - Fall Parent Child Classes, 9:30am. Music is a fun way to connect with your child. Join us for these fun, low pressure, hands on parent/child music courses for our youngest music lovers (0-5 years of age). Join us on Wednesdays for Making Music Praying Twice and/or Sing and Sign at the Community Center. [Register](#). Contact Jess Kelly, info@signsoflearning.com.

Nov 4 - Habitat for Humanity - Fall Apostles Build, 8:10am
St. Francis is sponsoring this build. We need at least 15 volunteers and to provide lunch for 25-30 people. Come swing a hammer and help build a house for a family in need. [Register here](#).

November 6 - Women's Ministry Craft Night, 6:30pm
Join the Women's Ministry for a craft/potluck event on 11/6 from 6:30-8:30pm. We'll be creating Blessing Bracelets. Make one for yourself and one to share as a gift to give to someone for whom you are grateful. Please bring a small appetizer or sweet treat to share. Cost: \$20. Contact Jess Kelly, sfawomensministry@gmail.com
[Parishioner Registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner Registration](#)

November 10 - Calling all Veterans!

We proudly celebrate all those who have served or are currently serving our country - Friday during Morning Prayer, at 8:05am in the school courtyard, reception to follow in Jacoba.

New this year, we are looking for 30-35 veterans to speak from 9:00-9:55 am to two different classes. [Please click here to sign up](#). In the comment section, please put the grade, or specific classroom you would be comfortable speaking. Contact grace.gates@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 11 - Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, 9:00am

St. Francis' Knights of Columbus is hosting a breakfast at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish for all Veterans and their family members to recognize them for their service. The program will include a guest speaker from the US Military. There is no charge for this event. [Click here](#) to respond by November 6. Contact Mike Wrzesien, wrzesien1963@gmail.com.

November 11/12: Fair Trade Market - Our annual Fair Trade and Alternative Gift Market is back! This event provides an opportunity to purchase fair trade and alternative gifts from a variety of vendors that ensure fair wages and dignity for vulnerable people around the world. This year we will have 9 different vendors!! [Discover how you can get involved!](#)
Contact [Javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org).

Through 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

Employment Opportunities: Coordinator of Justice and Peace, Director of Formation, Coordinator of Middle School Formation, Director of Pastoral Care, Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments. See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org