

October 29, 2023

## Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Mass Things, Part II:** 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 revised Mass times and the “extras” that occur during Mass. Last week I reviewed again why Mass times were adjusted. This week I will address the reason for the “extras” at weekend Masses.

Prior to Vatican II (1962-1965), when a baby was baptized or someone came into the Church, it was done privately. Since then, the Church has asked that these rites be celebrated publicly with a congregation as a sign of welcome and support. In the previous fiscal year that ended on June 30, 167 infants and small children were baptized at St. Francis. 16 adults were also baptized and 10 adults baptized in other Christian traditions were received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. That’s almost 200 people who became members of our Church!

To accommodate the large number of infants and small children being baptized, we celebrate baptisms twice each month except during Lent, once on a Sunday afternoon and once at a weekend Mass. We rotate the weekend Mass schedule around the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm and the Sunday morning Masses at 9:00am and 11:45am. This means that at four Masses each year, children will be baptized at one of these Mass times. Parents have the right to decide whether they prefer their children to be baptized at Mass or at a monthly communal service on Sunday afternoon.

The RCIA also involves public rituals and is more complex as it involves the unbaptized, baptized non-Catholics, and baptized Catholics who are completing their sacraments of initiation. They may be adults or older children. Several rituals mark their progress towards the initiation sacraments and are public rites of the Church. As such, they are normally celebrated during Mass. These rites serve as milestones for them and are important threshold rites. Celebrating them in the midst of our community is very important for them as it marks their progress and shows the support of our community for what they are doing. They are important for us as a sign that we are attracting new members to our faith and because they sometimes motivate someone at that Mass to consider taking a step forward to pursue the RCIA for themselves.

We dismiss our youngest children at the 9am Sunday Mass when faith formation is not scheduled during the school year so they may have a meaningful experience with the Word of God appropriate to their age. We also dismiss those in the RCIA who are not yet eligible to receive the Holy Eucharist with us at the same Mass most Sundays of the year so they too may continue their formation around the scriptures and homily they just heard with us.

Mass is important to all of us and I realize there are many other factors in our collective lives that make adding these “extras” challenging. I ask you to consider how what we are doing is for the good of our children, youth, and adults and the importance of their witness to us and our witness to them. There are many places in the U.S. where parishes are dying because no newcomers are joining. I can’t help but think how blessed we are that nearly 200 newcomers became Catholics at St. Francis in the previous fiscal year.

-Fr. Michael

### Mark Your Calendars

**December 15 - Living Stations of the Creche**, 6:30pm

Come experience the living Stations of the Creche, Friday, December 15, 2023 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Celebrating the 800th year of St. Francis’ living nativity of Jesus’ birth. Contact James Wahl, [jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org).

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://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



[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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Please [click here](#) to complete the form, or email [feedtheneedsfa@gmail.com](mailto: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 Darsan Russo](#)

### **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](#).

**10/29 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](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **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](mailto:javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org)

### **Oct 31-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](mailto:tandmmorgan@earthlink.net).

**Nov 1 - Fall Parent Child Classes** - 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](mailto: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 4 - Youth Basketball Food Drive Clinic**

Please bring a donation of 10+ canned goods per participant. All donations will be donated to OLR Pantry in Louisburg, NC. 1:00pm to 2:35 pm Co-ed 1st & 2nd Grade. 2:35pm to 4:00pm Co-ed 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade. Space is limited sign up by Thursday, November 2nd. Contact Mary Arleth, [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **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](mailto:sfawomensministry@gmail.com)  
[Parishioner Registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner Registration](#)

### **Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page**

Support our local parishioner-owned businesses  
To advertise email: [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>

### **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](mailto:grace.gates@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **November 11-12, 18-19 - Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive**

We are seeking volunteers after each Mass on Sat. Nov 11 and Sun. Nov 12 to handout bags for the Our Lady of Rosary (OLR) food drive, and on the weekend of Sat. November 18 and Sun. November 19 to collect donation bags with the OLR food donation. [Register](#). Contact [tessferrer89@yahoo.com](mailto:tessferrer89@yahoo.com)

### **Nov 11- Habitat for Humanity - Catholic Coalition Day 1 Build**,

8:10am. Day 1 Wall Build! Join us and other parishes in our diocese in building walls at the H4H warehouse. We will bless the walls and deliver them to the construction site. Come swing a hammer and help build a house for a family in need. [Register here](#). Contact Will Connelly, [willbconnelly@gmail.com](mailto:willbconnelly@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto: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).

### **November 15 - Young Adult Ministry Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner and Discussion**

Come join other young adults on November 15th, 6-8pm, for our Thanksgiving potluck dinner; where we will enjoy wonderful food and great company! We will examine prayers and expressions of Thanksgiving from our faith as well as other cultures. Please sign up for a dish by [clicking here!](#) Contact [Brian.Herhold@gmail.com](mailto:Brian.Herhold@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org)