

November 19, 2023

## Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



**FINANCE COUNCIL APPEAL:** I have worked with many Finance Councils over my 43 years as a priest, but the one at St. Francis is by far the best. I have been consistently impressed by the expertise the members bring to the table, their dedication to our wonderful community, and their passion to keep us on solid ground in terms of our financial and material resources. Not too long ago, I discovered that we needed some type of mechanism to allow members to gracefully conclude their service and new members to share their expertise with us. What brought this into clear relief was the discovery that some of our members have been on this council for 30+ years (their place in heaven is assured!!).

In light of this, we have now established a structure for members to serve for terms and have a rotation schedule in place that allow current members to conclude their service and new members to join the council. We are beginning to implement this structure and will need new members in the near future.

If this is something you might be interested in, allow me to lay out some qualifications we would be looking for in consideration of an appointment to the council. First, we are looking for someone who is active in the life of the parish, someone who worships with us regularly, financially supports us, and volunteers in some part of our community's life. We would also look for someone who has specific professional experience in financial, facility, or organizational management. Does this prospective member have a passion for our community and its values and priorities and desires to see these continue thriving? Lastly, we would look for someone who is willing to serve on an oversight committee that is connected to the church, one of the schools, the columbarium, maintenance, endowments, or justice and peace.

The council meets 6-7 times a year for approximately 2 hours per meeting and a term is for four years, renewable upon agreement by the pastor and councilor for an additional term.

If you think the Holy Spirit may be inviting you to share your passion, talents, skills, and knowledge with the parish in this way, please contact Rob Neppel, Director of Finance and Planning, at [Rob.Neppel@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Rob.Neppel@stfrancisraleigh.org) or by calling the parish.


-Fr. Michael

**Black Catholic History Month** is celebrated every November, highlighting the contributions of Black Catholics in society throughout history. This year, may we reflect on six Black historical figures on the road to sainthood! [View their stories here](#) and join in prayer for their canonization as Catholic saints.

**Become a part of the TFS School Community:** As you explore school options for your child's education next year, we welcome you to become a part of The Franciscan School. More information regarding our school and the admissions timeline can be found on our website at [www.franciscanschool.org/](http://www.franciscanschool.org/) or contact Principal Dawn Smith at [dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### FRAUD ALERT:

SFA employees, including our priests, only communicate with parishioners using our [stfrancisraleigh.org](http://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](http://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

### Thanksgiving Week Hours

#### Monday, 11/20 – Sunday, 11/26

Clare Hall will be closed all week for carpet maintenance. The business offices will be accessible Monday – Wednesday through the entrance from the Memorial Garden. All other entrances will be closed and there will be no donation drop-offs or pick-ups.

#### Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be celebrated in the church at 9:00 am. All other buildings will be closed.

#### Friday, 11/24

The campus will be closed and there will not be a Daily Mass.

#### Saturday, 11/25 and Sunday, 11/26

Regular Reconciliation and Mass schedule. All other buildings will be closed.

\*EMs to the homebound may pick up the Holy Eucharist from the Church between 7:30 -11:30am each day and after 2:00pm on Saturday.



### SFA Snippet: Turkey Drive 2023

Thank you to all who donated turkeys during the St. Francis of Assisi Turkey Drive. We collected a total of 201 turkeys thanks to your generosity.

A special thanks to our turkey ladies: Shannon, Ashley, and Mary! [Click here to watch.](#)



### Continuing Education: Adult Formation

As Catholics, formation in the faith is not just for the 'pre-confirmation' crowd of children, those being formed at home, in Catholic schools, in faith/youth formation, and adults in RCIA. Our faith is a continual process of building understanding and deepening those beliefs. Monsignor Clay points out...

[Read more](#)

**Volunteer Spotlight:** [Lauren Berry](#)

[Click to enlarge](#)

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, 2023

**Reconciliation Service**  
Wednesday, December 6 at 7pm at St. Francis  
Tuesday, December 19th at 11am at St. Luke's

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Friday, December 8th at 9 am (with TFS), 11:45 am, & 7 pm

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
Monday, December 11th at 9:00 pm **Misa en Español** | Chapel

**Living Stations of the Creche** | Celebrating 800 years  
of the Nativity in Greccio  
Friday, December 15th at 6:30pm | Begin outside of Chapel

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Sunday, December 24th at 7:15am and 9am

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

**The Season of Christmas Schedule**

**Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve**  
4 pm Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)  
4 pm Mass in Gym  
4 pm Mass in Fellowship Hall  
10 pm Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)

**Monday, December 25th Christmas Day**  
9 am and 11:45 am Mass in Church

**No Daily Masses for December 26 and 27**

**Sunday, December 31st Feast of the Holy Family**  
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

**Monday, January 1st at 9am in Chapel**  
NOT a Holy Day of Obligation



### Nov 18-Dec 10: Advent Giving Trees

Share the spirit of the Christmas season with families in need by supporting the St. Francis of Assisi Advent Giving Tree. Our primary recipients are organizations in the community that work directly with people in need. There are 2 ways you can support the Advent Giving Tree.

1) Take a paper ornament from the trees located in the Community Center and Stewardship Center and follow the instructions on the ornament for when to return the gift.

Return gift by the date on the tag to: Community Center Lobby: Monday-Friday from 8am-2:30pm starting November 20-December 10 OR In the Stewardship Center: Before or after Mass on the weekends and during the week from November 20-December 10.

Community organizations whose families are included on our tree this year include Catholic Parish Outreach, Hispanic Family Center, Duke Children's Hospital, Emily K Center, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Passage Home, St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. Parish ministries that benefit include Prayer Shawl, Feed the Need, St. Francis Brown Bag Ministry, and Oak City Cares.

2) Make a Financial donation thru Faith Direct.

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NC674/40890>

The following organizations will be beneficiaries of our financial donations this year: Helen Wright Center, Ronald McDonald House in Durham, Helene Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

Contact [Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### 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 18-19 - Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

Pick up a bag for the Our Lady of Rosary (OLR) food drive. We will be collecting your food donations the weekend of Sat. November 18 and Sun. November 19. Contact [tessferrer89@yahoo.com](mailto:tessferrer89@yahoo.com)

### Nov 19 - Discovering Advent Family event + Coffee and Donuts

- Please join us after the 9:00am Mass in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts. All families are encouraged to join and stop by for Faith Formation with special thanks to our LGBTQ+ ministry who will be providing hospitality. Questions, email Maggie Vladyka at [maggie.vladyka@](mailto:maggie.vladyka@)

### Nov. 19 - Cross Road Youth Ministry - CANCELED.

Cross Road Youth Ministry on November 19 has been canceled. We'll see you again on December 3rd. Have a good Thanksgiving!  
[tim.hetzel@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:tim.hetzel@stfrancisraleigh.org)

### Dec 7 - Women's Ministry December Cookie Exchange and

**Social**, 6:30pm. Celebrate the spirit of the season at the Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange and Social on 12/7, 6:30-8:30pm. Exchanging cookies is optional! Bring the number of cookies that you'd like to go home with (split into bags of 6). We'll be collecting diapers for the January service opportunity. Register via Realm. Contact Jackie Schroeder, [schroederjackie@gmail.com](mailto:schroederjackie@gmail.com) [Parishioner Registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner](#)

### 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).

### 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, [Click here for video](#). We are in need of signups for each of the stations. [Click here to sign up](#). Contact [jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### 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](#).

**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.

**Stephen Ministry** - The upcoming holidays can be filled with stress and anxiety. Stephen Ministers offer prayerful and emotional support by listening with their ears and hearts to your concerns. Email [stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org) or call 919-847-8205 x234 and leave a message. Contact Kathy Sales, [kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### Employment Opportunities:

Director of Formation, Director of Engagement and Development, Campus Director of Safety and Security, Director of Liturgy/Sacraments. See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>  
Contact Trish Adamkowski, [trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org)

If you can't access information through the hyperlink because you do not use the internet, please call the office to get information. (919) 847-8205