

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent



OF ADVENT AND NATIVITY SCENES: Advent begins this weekend, a season in which we ponder the importance of the Lord's continual coming into our lives and our world, both of which may seem difficult to perceive as we survey the many conflicts around us and within so many today. Remember that we have been in this place many, many times over the 2000 years of Christianity. This is the shortest of Advent seasons (three weeks) because of the way the liturgical calendar works. We focus in the first days of this liturgical season on the Second Coming of Christ and, as the season prepares us for the celebration of Christmas, the importance of the Lord's first coming as an infant in Bethlehem.

But there is also a third coming of the Lord, the one that occurs each day of our lives. I encourage each household of the parish to make time each day to pray with the Word of God, especially the scriptures given to us by the Church for each day of Advent in the lectionary, to spend some time in prayerful reflection, and to make a larger place available in your hearts for the Lord who is always waiting at your door to enter. There are many spiritual resources available on the web to assist you on this journey.

One of the common sights this month is the nativity scene. Most will be in our homes but some will be outdoors. This year marks the 800th anniversary of the first living Nativity, introduced by our patron saint, Francis of Assisi, in Greccio Italy. We will honor this anniversary with our own living Nativity on Friday, December 15, 6:30pm. Many have been planning for this special event and I invite you to come for this celebration and, if possible, also participate in one of our 11 nativity scenes that will be visited as we walk step by step through the story of the birth of Jesus. We could use lots of people to help us celebrate by taking on one of the characters at one of these 11 stops. If you'd like to volunteer, please see someone after Mass in the Stewardship Center to sign up. In addition, Fr. Jim will offer a presentation on this historic event and what it means for us today between 10:15-11:15am this Sunday in Fellowship Hall. You may sign up there as well. Refreshments will be served.

-Fr. Michael



St. Francis TV Episode 35 - Advent 2023

Jim Wahl talks about the many celebrations happening at St. Francis during this Advent season. [Click here to watch.](#)



[Fr. Jim Invites You](#)
[Click to watch](#)



Care for Creation: Steve Andrew's homily on Global Warming can be found [here](#).

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/ or contact Principal Dawn Smith at dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

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

Dec 3 - Fr. Jim Sabak - 800 years of Greccio

Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall after 9:00am Mass as Fr. Jim Sabak Explains the history and significance of the first live Nativity scene (creche) started by St. Francis 800 years ago in Greccio, Italy. This presentation is part of the "Why Faith" adult and family formation series. Coffee and donuts will be served. No registration required.

Dec 3 - Curbside Care Ministry Care Packages

Our Curbside Care Ministry provides Care packages you can keep in your car to hand out when needed. Pickup from the Stewardship Center the first full weekend each month. Donate supplies to this ministry at St. Francis serves. Contact Alyson Zwerneman, alysonzwerneman@gmail.com.

Dec 6 - Reconciliation Service at St. Francis 7:00pm

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
[Parishioner Registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner](#)

Dec 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9 am (with TFS), 11:45 am, and 7 pm

Dec 9 - Posada, 6:30pm. We are honored to invite you to join us. The event will include Pastorela, food, music and good time for all. Join us after the 5:30 mass in Fellowship Hall. Please purchase tickets for each member of your family based on their age. Contact Person Alberto Lopez, albertolopezsr@gmail.com. Registration: [Parishioner](#) / [Non-Parishioner](#)

Dec 10- Fiat Franciscus (Young Adult Ministry)

3:30pm. Come join other young adults on December 10 from 3-5pm in Founders Room (Anthony Hall) for fellowship and a white elephant gift exchange! Please sign up to bring an appetizer and a gift. Everyone in their 20s and 30s as well as young family members are welcome! Contact Brian Herhold, Brian.Herhold@gmail.com
[Registration Link](#).



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

[Click to enlarge](#)

ADVENT 2023 PENANCE SERVICES
RALEIGH DEANERY

DECEMBER 04: ST. EUGENE (WENDELL) AT 7PM

DECEMBER 05: ST. BERNADETTE (FUQUAY-VARINA) AT 7PM

DECEMBER 06: ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA (WAKE FOREST) AT 10AM

DECEMBER 06: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (RALEIGH) AT 7PM

DECEMBER 07: ST. BERNADETTE (FUQUAY-VARINA) AT 11AM

DECEMBER 07: ST. ANDREW (APEX) AT 7PM

DECEMBER 13: OUR LADY OF LOURDES (RALEIGH) AT 11AM

DECEMBER 13: ST. MICHAEL (CARY) AT 7PM

DECEMBER 15: ST. MICHAEL (CARY) AT 11AM

DECEMBER 18: HOLY ROSARY (LOUISBURG) AT 6:30PM

DECEMBER 19: ST. LUKE (RALEIGH) AT 11AM

DECEMBER 19: HOLY NAME OF JESUS CATHEDRAL (RALEIGH) AT 7PM

DECEMBER 20: ST. RAPHAEL (RALEIGH) AT 7PM



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. 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 through December 10 OR In the Stewardship Center: Before or after Mass on the weekends and during the week through December 10.

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.

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.

Dec 16 - Corral Riding Academy Saturday on the Farm, 9:30am

CORRAL Riding Academy is a faith-motivated nonprofit that serves adolescent girls in high-risk situations through a long-term, holistic program of equine therapy and education. Join us as we do hands-on projects to support the Kildaire campus and have the opportunity to learn more about CORRAL's mission and programs! Families welcome! [Registration link](#). Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com.

Dec 19 - Reconciliation Service at St. Luke's Tuesday, 11:00am

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 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 or call 919-847-8205 x234 and leave a message. Contact Kathy Sales, 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

Dec 10 - Always God's Children, 3:30pm. A confidential setting for those who identify as LGBTQ+, along with family and friends. This gathering provides a safe place to pray together, share our experiences and our concerns. Contact kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org

Dec 11 - Our Lady of Guadalupe, 9:00 pm Misa en Español | Chapel

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/>

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