

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Living the Interrelationship of the Three Priesthoods in the Catholic Tradition at St. Francis: Last Monday we officially concluded the liturgical season of Christmas with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. I'm always disappointed when the way the calendar falls results in this feast being moved off a weekend. When this occurs, it removes a wonderful opportunity to explore the importance and meaning of our baptism, a sacrament that can often be left unpacked for its profound importance and meaning as we move through the life and the other sacraments. Allow me to share one thought with you this weekend.

There was a radical shift at Vatican II (1962-1965) in the way we understand how we exist and are to function as a Church that still has a long way to go. It is tied to baptism. Allow me to illustrate one primary insight around this. If we heard the word 'priest' in 1960, we would have thought immediately of an ordained priest, someone like me. Vatican II retrieved a much broader understanding of priesthood from the early centuries of the Church so that now we are taught explicitly to understand the word 'priest' in three ways and in this order of priority: Christ the high priest from whom all other priesthoods flow, the priesthood received by all at baptism, and the ordained priesthood. This teaching, not breaking new doctrinal ground but refocusing the Church on our fullest understanding of priesthood, has been, at best, haphazard in its reception over the past 60 years. Where it has been embraced and incarnated, a beautiful interrelationship of baptismal and ordained priesthoods built on Christ himself has resulted in flourishing communities of servant-disciples who embrace the call to witness the Good News of God to others through evangelization and work together in promoting the Reign of God through the ministry of justice and service to others in our world.

A committee representing the diversity of our parish has been convened to update our pastoral plan, last updated several years ago. Details will slowly begin to emerge soon, but one of the joys I am experiencing as I watch this process unfold after a lot of meetings, listening to one another, and the vast amount of information gathered from a variety of conversations that occurred leading up to the initiation of this process, is how these three understandings of priesthood are front and center of everything being discussed without being expressly articulated around these three understandings of priesthood by anyone. It has been a marvelous unfolding that gives me such pride in who we are as a community of faith and hope for our life as a community over the next five years when the plan will serve as a reference for all we are and do.

Fr. Michael

Explore all the volunteer opportunities at St. Francis through St. Francis Serves




[Click here for a walkthrough on how to use our website for volunteer ministry and service, St. Francis Serves.](#)
Click here for [mobile training](#) on St. Francis Serves. Contact Dina DaRe at dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org.



A Dragon's Tale

Did you ever wonder what happened to the old preschool playground equipment and the iconic green dragon? The stalwart equipment and the grounds that had served St. Francis so well needed renewal. [more...](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Emma Dempsey

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](#) / [Franciscan School](#) / [Preschool](#) / [All Ministries](#)

Jan 14 - Pax Christi - Learn & Discern, 1:00pm.

A [Pax Christi USA](#) chapter is being launched in our parish! Join our "Learn & Discern" event on January 14th, in Founders Room, to hear more about our mission to reject violence, racism, and war through peace and justice efforts. Email Nancy Jones if you plan to attend! Contact: Nancy Jones, prayerfulheart3@gmail.com

Jan 14 - 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 talk over our concerns. Contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Jan 14 - Fiat Franciscus Official Launch and Discussion! 3:00pm.

Join the Young Adult Ministry (on January 14th, 3-5pm in Founders Room) for the official launch of our new ministry name Fiat Franciscus. We'll learn about St. Francis' life and ministry! Refreshments will be provided. All persons in their 20s and 30s (as well as young family members) are welcome! Contact Brian Herhold, Brian.Herhold@gmail.com.

Tuesdays Jan 16-March 12 "THE CHOSEN" 9:45am

The weekly viewing of The Chosen in the Padua Room will resume on Tuesday January 9th with Season 3. Angel Studios: "The Chosen is the first ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. It's the free show that tens of millions of people won't stop talking about." Contact Tina Morgan, tandmmorgan@earthlink.net.

Jan 19 Regular Registration Deadline: 2024 High School Basketball Season

We are now accepting registrations for the 2024 St. Francis Boy's High School Basketball League. The league runs from February-May. The league is opened to High School Boys in grades 9-12. Regular Registration runs until Jan. 19 and then late registration runs until Feb. 8. For More Information including registration: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/> Contact Mary.Arlath@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Jan 20 and 21 Get Connected: Understanding Realm, St. Francis Serves, and Faith Direct

Join us after each Mass in the Stewardship Center. Staff will be on hand to go over the multiple uses of Realm, St. Francis Serves, and Faith Direct. They can help set up your account login and navigate sign-ups and registration. Contact JaVon Hansknecht and Ashley Watson javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org

Diaper Collection Through Jan 20 - Did you know that 1 in every 3 families in the country struggle to afford diapers? The Women's Ministry is collecting Diapers (Size 5) for the Diaper Bank of NC. Please drop off diapers in the bins in the Stewardship Center before January 20. Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com, or Anne Martin ajmartin929@gmail.com with questions.

Jan 20 - Women's Ministry - Diaper Bank of NC Wrapping Event
Join us January 20 to learn about the Diaper Bank of NC and wrap collected diapers! Refreshments will be available at 9:30am, speaker and wrapping start at 10:00am in Clare Fellowship Hall. Register via Realm. Contact Donna Schwede or Anne Martin, donna.schwede@gmail.com.
[Parishioner Registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner Registration](#)

Jan 23 - Mar 13 Adult Virtual Bible Study - Isaiah Part 2, 10:00am.
Join us for our next VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY- ISAIAH PART 2- as we continue to reflect on the majesty of God and the divine plan for Israel's restoration. Part Two of our study covers Isaiah 40-66, emphasizing the majesty of God and the divine plan for Israel's restoration. [Information link](#). Registration: [Tues PM Virtual](#) / [Wed, AM Virtual](#) Contact Barbara Efird, Cindy Cardello and Diane Rosendahl, Sunshine27915@gmail.com

Jan 24 - 50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch, 11:30am. Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall. Contact [Pat Gerney](#). 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.

Jan 25 - Coffee with Clay, 9:40am, Padua Room. Contact Shannon Hoffman shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org 919-847-8205x296

Jan 28 - Coffee and Donuts - Catholic Schools Week
10:00am. Join us for Coffee and Donuts Sunday, January 28th following 9am Mass in Fellowship Hall hosted by TFS and the Preschool. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. ALL are welcome! Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Feb 1 - The NC Opportunity Scholarship has expanded
A loving, Christ-centered education just became more affordable for all families. Families can apply now at any income level to receive awards varying in amounts from \$3,000 to \$7,000 to use towards tuition in our Catholic schools. Registration will be open February 1 through February 28. <https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/opportunity/>. Contact Dawn Smith, dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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/>

Feb 10 - Charged with Joy! Franciscan Day of Reflection
Join us on Saturday, February 10, 9:00am-3:00pm for "Charged with Joy!" A Day of Reflection with Archbishop Joseph Marino. He will speak on Pope Francis' Vision for the 21st Century Church: A Charge to the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi. **Registration will open on Tuesday, January 16 in Realm | \$15 Fee includes lunch.** [Register Here](#). Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Feb 13 - Mar 26: Grief's Journey-Coping with Loss of a Loved One. 10:30am-12:00 every Tuesday in Anthony Conference Room.
A seven week series offering hope following the loss of a loved one through death. A safe place to share your journey and to learn from others. Intended for those who are three months or more after the death of their loved one. [Register Here](#). Contact dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org

April 1-5 St. Francis Inn
Consider joining our April 1-5 trip to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia for a mission of solidarity, hospitality, and compassion to the poor and hungry of Philadelphia. There is no cost for attending this trip. Contact John Budway, budwayjj@bellsouth.net.

Stephen Ministry - 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. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

Preschool 2024/2025 Registration
Saint Francis of Assisi Preschool will begin enrollment for the 2024/2025 school year on January 16 for preschool alumni, The Franciscan School siblings and parish; January 22 for the community. More information can be found on our website. <https://www.preschoolatstfrancis.com/> Contact Shelley Freeman, shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Nursing room available during Mass. A space has been created in Anthony hall, room 401 (down the hall from the bathrooms) for nursing mothers to have privacy while they feed their babies. The room has been equipped with a rocking chair and changing table for this purpose. Please feel free to use this during Mass!

Employment Opportunities:
Director of Liturgy/Sacraments, Director of Formation-Full Time, Administrative Assistant for Pastoral Ministries (Full time- 40 hours), Fourth Grade Instructional Teaching Assistant-Full Time. See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>

“

The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. - Pope Francis

”

CHARGED WITH JOY!

Saturday, February 10th 9am to 3pm

Join us for a **Franciscan Day of Reflection** with Archbishop Joseph Marino. He will speak on **"Pope Francis' Vision for the 21st Century Church: A Charge to the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi."**

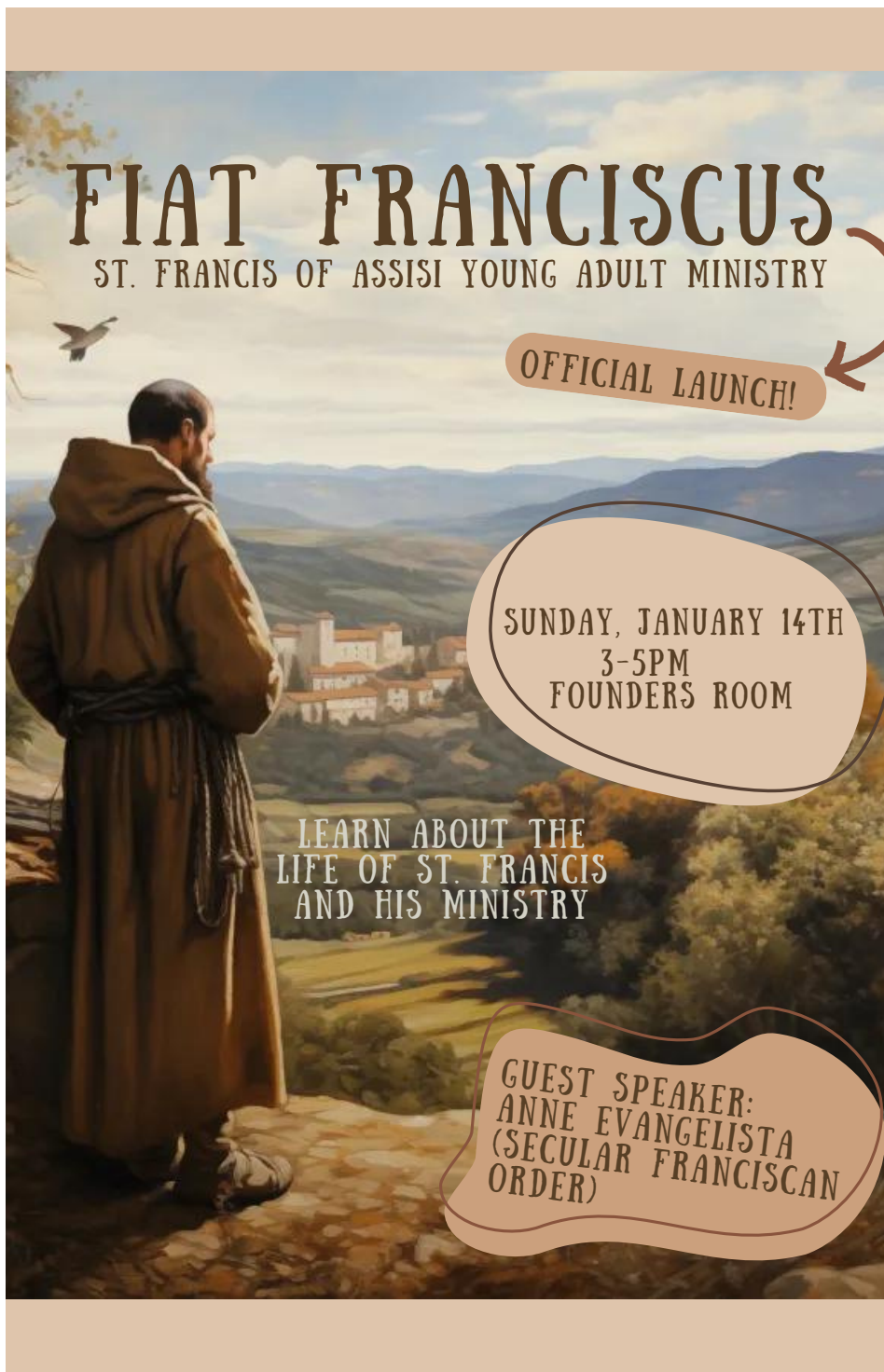
Registration **OPENS** Tuesday, January 16th on Realm | \$15 Registration Fee | Lunch Included



Team Rosa Get-Together

St. Francis parishioners (Team Rosa) were able to get together this week to celebrate the wonderful volunteer work done to repair Rosa's trailer, where she lives with her three children - "a beautiful interrelationship of baptismal and ordained priesthoods", as Fr. Michael mentions in his column - "built on Christ himself" resulting in this "flourishing community of servant-disciples who embrace the call to witness the Good News of God to others through evangelization and work together in promoting the Reign of God through the ministry of justice and service to others in our world." In this particular case, Rosa and her family.

[Explore all ministry volunteer opportunities.](#)
[Visit St. Francis Serves - click here.](#)



Laudato Si -Response to the Cry of the Earth

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/laudato-si-goals/>

See our Zero Waste Shopping Sheet at

stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/

Contact Pam James stfccreation@gmail.com



There are many ways to give to St. Francis.

Use the QR code for e-giving made simple through Faith Direct.

To learn about all our giving options, [click here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Eucharist Ministers

We need Eucharist Ministers to join our EM to the Homebound Ministry. If you are an EM and would like to volunteer to bring communion to Homebound Parishioners or would like to find out more about this ministry please contact Shannon Hoffman.

shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Funeral Mass Coordinators Needed

We are in great need of additional Mass Coordinators for funerals. The commitment is 1-2 times a month for approximately 2 hours to set up and assist during and after funerals. This is a daytime commitment that volunteers can do according to the needs of their schedules or calendars. All volunteers must be trained Eucharistic Ministers. No mass coordination experience is necessary, and 1-2 training sessions are provided. For more information contact Dina DaRe at

dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org

or 919-847-8205 ext. 242.

Join Brown Bag Ministry!

Join in creating and distributing brown bag lunches every Saturday morning to a low-income senior citizen apartment community in Durham! New opportunities for 2024 now available. Volunteers prepare 50 lunches. Family and group participation is welcome! [Register here](#). Contact [Pam Peroutky](#).

Prayer Shawl Ministry Do you know that the Prayer Shawl Ministry is here for you and our Church Community. If you know of someone who is ill, in the hospital, homebound or nursing home, he or she is entitled to receive a shawl or lap robe. These are made with love by the members, a cross sewn on and Blessed. Please call Cindy Cardello at 919-846-8825 or Diane Rotunno at 919-844-7153.

Contact Cynthia Cardello, cjcardello@yahoo.com

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.

[Explore all ministry volunteer opportunities.](#)
[Visit St. Francis Serves - click here.](#)