

January 21, 2024

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: Each year, between January 18-25, the Catholic Church joins many other Christian denominations to pray for an end to the divisions between Christians. The week was established in 1908 by a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement and since Vatican II (1962-1965) has been co-organized by the World Council of Churches, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Vatican's Dicastery (Department) for Promoting Christian Unity.

The week focuses not only on praying for the end of the scandal of division within the Christian faith, but also invites all Christians to join their voices in praying together for a variety of issues that plague our world. Bishop Joseph Bambera of Scranton, PA and chair of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs notes that "given the paralyzing nature of polarization and tragedy of war that have spread throughout our world today, the importance of living the love of Christ in our own circumstances cannot be overemphasized. May Christians throughout our country come together across denominational lines to pray for peace in our world and an end to the sad divisions that prevent us from fully loving each other as Christ loves us all."

Each weekend we lift up petitions in the Prayer of the Faithful for peace in our world and parishioners gather at the Peace Pole each Sunday after the 9:00am Mass to pray for peace. I invite those who are reading this column to consider lifting up prayers daily for peace and inviting those you know from other Christian denominations to join you in this prayer, at least through January 25, and to join others at the Peace Pole after the 9am Mass on Sunday. I also invite you to pray for Christian unity. Imagine the impact 2.4 billion Christians could have in the world if the scandal of division ceased. While that might seem like a pipe dream, it will never inch toward reality if we resign ourselves to a sense of indifference because unity is such a daunting goal.

As someone who is involved in ecumenical dialogue at the international level, I tell you that progress toward unity is taking place. It's hard work, but guided by the Holy Spirit, we will get there one day.

-Fr. Michael

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



[Click here for volunteer ministry and service, St. Francis Serves.](#)

Contact Dina Dare at dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org.

[Need help getting started? Click here.](#)



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 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

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

Tuesdays Jan 23-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 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.

Jan 30-DivorceCare Spring 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. <https://www.divorcecare.org/groups/178060>
Contact Bill Morgan, dejanuts@yahoo.com

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.

Feb 3 - Habitat for Humanity Catholic Coalition Site Build

see next page

February 3/4 - Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Drive - Donation Bag Distribution

- Donation bags will be distributed after Masses February 3 and 4. Contact Mark Baumgartner, markbaumga@gmail.com.
[Volunteer for Bag Distribution February 3/4](#)

Feb 4 - Why Faith? Adult and Family Formation

Why Faith? Adult and Family Formation Join us on Sunday, February 4 at 10:15am in Founders Room. Charlee Halpin and Lauren Berry will present Baptism Part 1: Most Important Essentials Everyone Should Know. Refreshments will be served. NO Registration required. Contact Kathy Sales, Kathy.Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Feb 8 - Late Registration Deadline: 2024 High School Basketball League (8th-12th graders)

We are 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 8-12. For More Information including registration: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/> Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

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/>

February 10/11 and 17/18 Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Drive - Donations and Collection Volunteers Needed

Donated items, and cash/checks (made out to Catholic Parish Outreach), will be collected on weekends of February 10/11 and 17/18 (before/after Masses; Note: collections end at 6 pm Saturdays). Volunteers needed to distribute bags and collect donations. Contact Mark Baumgartner, markbaumga@gmail.com.
[Volunteer for Donation Collection February 10/11 and 17/18](#)

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

Feb 25 - Why Faith? Adult and Family Formation

Why Faith? Adult and Family Formation Join us on Sunday, February 25 at 10:15am in Founders Room. Msgr. Michael Clay will present Baptism Part 2: You Became a Priest: What Does That Mean? Refreshments will be served. NO Registration required. Contact Kathy Sales, Kathy.Sales@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.

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 on January 22 for the community. More information can be found on our website. <https://www.preschoolatstfrancis.com/> Contact Shelley Freeman, shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Employment Opportunities:

Director of Liturgy/Sacraments, Director of Formation-Full Time, See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

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

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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



Feb 3 - Habitat for Humanity Catholic Coalition Site Build, 8:10am

Join our ministry team as we continue working on our Catholic Coalition house at H4H's Flower Place development. We are sponsoring this event and need food provided for 25-30 volunteers and workers. Come swing a hammer and help build a house for a family in need. <https://habitatwake.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/catholiccoalition/> Contact Will Connelly st.francis.h4h@gmail.com.



For individual camp information: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camps/>



Last Friday, January 12, parishioners had the opportunity to spend time in adoration of our Eucharistic Lord as we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of our Diocese.

Laudato Si -Response to the Cry of the Earth

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

Have a plastic free shower! Use bar bath soap, shampoo and rinse and avoid plastic bottles. See our Zero Waste Shopping Sheet at

stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/



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

L'Arche Ministry - Every 1st Thursday 2:00pm. Join us on a Thursday afternoon for a L'Arche NC "cooking event" where people with and without intellectual disabilities come together and form friendships that transform society, where people can live and flourish together. Contact Gladys and visit larchenc.org for more information. [Register here](#). Contact Gladys Whitehouse, gladys.whitehouse@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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!

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