

January 28, 2024

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



### A NEW STRATEGIC PARISH PASTORAL PLAN:

One of the signs of a healthy parish community is having an established vision and actual benchmarks to validate the vision. A pastoral plan lays out the vision and the subsequent benchmarks. We've had a couple of them over the life of the parish. It was discerned last year by the Pastoral Council that we were ready to undertake an update. This process began officially last April with preliminary meetings to discuss hopes and dreams, process, and timelines. A committee consisting of representatives of the parish was selected and has been meeting regularly since July 2023. The members are Jacob House, Eyrar Klu, John Price, Kate Shiring, Mae Villanueva, Melissa Yeazel, Micah Slusser, Peter Russo, Mike McGrail, and Shawn Tenace with Kathy Sales and Diogenes Ruiz serving as ex-officio staff members. I'm also on the committee. Our goal is to have a five-year plan in place by June 30, 2024.

Using the principles of synodality, we processed a lot of data available to us from previous planning efforts as well as input from our parish Synod listening sessions in our initial meetings. After prayer consideration, we drafted a Purpose, a Vision, and a Mission statement (see below) as well as a set of Priorities (see next week's Comments). We are currently wrapping up work on a realistic, actionable, and most importantly, Spirit-inspired set of Goals and Objectives. We plan to share these with the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Youth Advisory Council, both School Councils, staff, and the rest of the community by mid-March, at which time we will shift to detailed implementation planning. The following words were prayerfully discerned by the entire committee. It is my pleasure to share them with you now.

**Purpose Statement:** We exist as a faith community to discover and celebrate Jesus Christ so we may joyfully serve Him by authentically encountering, sharing, and building the reign of God.

**Vision Statement:** Our vision is to awaken in every heart the desire for the Lord and the care of all God's creation in community formed by the Word of God, sacraments, and one another.

**Mission Statement:** Engage with a faith community that supports you. Encounter the God who loves you. Serve and transform the world that needs you.

-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](mailto:dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org).

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

### Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Are you exhausted and mentally drained? You are NOT alone! We are a group of caregivers on the same journey at different levels. Our meetings are a safe place to cry, laugh and to support each other. We meet the first Wed of every month at 1:00pm in the Padua Room. Contact Kathleen Boate, [kboate@msn.com](mailto:kboate@msn.com).

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

### 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](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### Tuesdays Jan 30-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](mailto:tandmmorgan@earthlink.net).

### 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](mailto:dejanuts@yahoo.com)



### Catholic Schools Week: United in Faith and Community

"The faculty and staff of our two schools are making a big difference in the lives of their students. They do a great job instilling the relationships and beliefs important to us as Catholic Christians," says Michael Clay, pastor of St. Francis. National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is celebrated this year from Sunday, January 28th through Saturday, February 3rd. It is an annual recognition traditionally held the last week in January. The theme for this 50th anniversary year to celebrate CSW is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." [...more](#)

**Volunteer Spotlight: Chuck and Donna Lally**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**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](mailto:markbaumga@gmail.com).  
[Volunteer for Donation Collection February 10/11 and 17/18](#)

**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/>

**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](mailto:dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**Feb 24 - Women's Ministry Yoga and Breakfast, 9:00am**

Join the Women's Ministry for a morning of yoga, breakfast and community! We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall for a 45 minute beginner yoga class followed by a prayerful meditation, food and fellowship! Please bring your water bottle, yoga mat and your own coffee/tea cups. Contact [sfawomensministry@gmail.com](mailto:sfawomensministry@gmail.com) with questions. See ad on page 4.  
[Registration](#)

**Feb 24 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest, 9:00am**

Boys and Girls ages 9-14 are invited to compete in this annual event to demonstrate skill at basketball free throws and will compete in their respective age divisions. Winners may progress through district and state-level contests. Join us in the Assisi Community Center in the Gym.  
[Click here for information and registration.](#)  
Contact Will Austin, [will.austin@gmail.com](mailto:will.austin@gmail.com). 919-259-5205

**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](mailto: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, [budwayji@bellsouth.net](mailto:budwayji@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/](http://www.franciscanschool.org/) or contact Principal Dawn Smith at [dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**Preschool 2024/2025 Registration**

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool is now enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year. Open House for prospective families will take place on 1/28/24 from 10:30-11:30 am. <https://www.preschoolatstfrancis.com/>  
Contact [Shelley Freeman](#).

**Employment Opportunities:**

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





**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 Connolly  
[st.francis.h4h@gmail.com](mailto:st.francis.h4h@gmail.com).

“

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**



Click image to register





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



[sfawomensministry@gmail.com](mailto:sfawomensministry@gmail.com)

[Registration](#)



**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 - February 1st

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 [larche-enc.org](http://larche-enc.org) for more information.

[Register here](#). Contact Gladys Whitehouse, [gladys.whitehouse@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org) or call 919-847-8205 x234. Contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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.](#)