

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



A NEW STRATEGIC PARISH PASTORAL PLAN, PART II:

Last week, I offered an update on our current efforts to update our parish pastoral plan. I identified the members, described the principles and process we are using to develop the plan, and the most foundational parts of the plan: our purpose, vision, and mission statements.

This week I would like to describe the next two levels of development: our three priorities and seven goals. The priorities are our aspirational statements emerging from our purpose, vision, and mission statements and our goals sketch out in broad strokes the ways we would like to address our priorities. After several discussions, we identified the following as our proposed top three priorities and our seven overarching goals:

- 1) **Encounter Christ:** Like Christ, we create conditions for encounters of love by being vulnerable, authentic, open, and meeting people where they are so transformation may occur.
Goal 1: Develop the tools and initiatives to help people encounter Christ, especially through the discernment of charisms and how to use them
Goal 2: Develop ways to form our youth around Christ
- 2) **Community:** Because of who Christ is and what He has done for us, we are a joyful, listening, interdependent, Catholic community of faith that fully engages with one another in ways that are welcoming, inclusive, respectful, and co-responsible. We seek to help each other grow in the light and joy of Christ through shared responsibility, engagement, and solidarity.
Goal 1: Cultivate a climate of hospitality that permeates every facet of parish life and increase opportunities to build friendships and strengthen the bonds of community across generations.
Goal 2: Invite and involve parishioners in all aspects of parish life.
Goal 3: Develop organizational structures, systems, and processes that lead to smooth operations for the parish based on synodality, empowered volunteers, and small groups.
- 3) **Mission:** As Christians inspired to share the Good News, our love for the poor and each other, dignity for the marginalized, care for the human family and our planet, and love for salvation are our way of life. We do this because of Christ, thereby creating opportunities to inspire others to encounter Him with us.
Goal 1: Form a community where parishioners are spiritually awakened to live their faith lives and desire to answer the call to share the Good News with others.
Goal 2: Know, embrace, and live the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (i.e., human life and dignity, family, rights and responsibilities, option for the poor and vulnerable, dignity of work, solidarity, and care for God's creation).

All of this is in draft mode and will soon be reviewed for feedback and further recommendations by our collegial bodies, the representative bodies of parishioners who provide insight, wisdom, and counsel for the good of our church and school leaders and staff, as well as by our staff.

-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 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](#)

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 3-4: 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.

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.

Tuesdays Feb 6-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.

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. **Register in Realm | \$15 Fee includes lunch. Registration CLOSES Monday, Feb 5.** [Register Here.](#) Contact Stacey Shine, 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. [Volunteer for Donation Collection February 10/11 and 17/18](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Chuck and Donna Lally

Feb 11 - 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 Stacey Shine at stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Feb 11 - Fiat Franciscus Early Mardi Gras Celebration, 3:00pm.

Join other young adults in celebrating Mardi Gras on Sunday Feb 11th, 3-5 pm in the Cupertino Room at the Community Center. Attendees are welcome to bring their favorite baked goods to share. A presentation of the Greener Lent program will be given in preparation for Lent.

Contact Michelle Kaiser, mmk4894@yahoo.com

Feb 12 Girls High School Basketball League: We are gauging interest in a Girls High School League - looking into the possibility of starting a Girls High School League, open to Girl's 8th grade to 12th grade. We need a minimum of 24 girls. The Season would run late February-mid-May. This league is for girls in grades 8th-12th. Please complete the interest form : <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/> Contact Mary Arleth. Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org. Once we have reached 24, we will send out more information regarding registration.

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 14 – Ash Wednesday

Distribution of Ashes at ALL Services.

7:15am Liturgy of the Word (No Communion)

9:00am School Mass

11:45am Mass

5:30pm Liturgy of the Word (No Communion)

7:00pm Mass

Feb 17 - 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 learn more about CORRAL's mission and programs! Families welcome! Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com. [Registration](#)

Feb 18 - Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall following the 9:00 am Mass. 3 Pancakes, 3 Sausages, Donuts, Coffee, Juice etc. will be priced at \$6.00 per person and \$20.00 for a nuclear family of 4 or more. Net proceeds will be donated to local charities. Wes Evans, weforevergreen@gmail.com

Feb 19 and 21: Day or Evening Lenten Book Group Learn about Church teachings regarding the death penalty through prayerful reading of DIGNITY & THE DEATH PENALTY. Day (1:00PM) or evening (7:00PM) groups are being offered virtually, starting 2/19 & 2/21. Contact Nancy Jones catholicsforabolitionnc@gmail.com. Register on Realm [Mondays / Wednesdays](#)

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 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. 919-259-5205

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 with questions. See ad on page 4.

[Registration](#)

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.

Mar 9 - Living your Wildly Imperfect Life: A Sacred Journey,

10:00am: Join the Women's Ministry for a Lenten retreat celebrating our beautiful imperfections as women of God on Saturday, March 9th. The day includes presentations from women in the diocese, personal reflection time, and group interactions. Cost: \$30 dollars, includes brunch. Registration closes on 3/4. Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, czejkowskir@gmail.com with questions. [Registration link](#)

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.

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

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool is now enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year. <https://www.preschoolatstfrancis.com/> Contact Shelley Freeman, shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Employment Opportunities:



Director of Liturgy/Sacraments

See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

The Arm of
ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE
 is visiting the United States

Known as the *Apostle of the Impossible*, Saint Jude is revered for his unwavering dedication and steadfast faith. Millions have experienced his intercession in times of adversity and need.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2024	TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2024
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church 2718 Overbrook Dr. Raleigh, NC 27608	St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church 804 High House Rd. Cary, NC 27513
Veneration of Relic 2 pm - 10 pm	Veneration of Relic 1 pm - 10 pm
Mass Honoring St. Jude 7 pm	Mass Honoring St. Jude 7 pm

Please note: Veneration of the relic will be suspended during Mass.

For more information visit: www.apostleoftheimpossible.com

Retrouvaille: a Lifeline for Marriages
 since 1977

Wherever you are in your journey, our marriage help program can improve communication, increase connection and intimacy in your marriage. Thousands of couples have successfully transformed their marriages by attending our program.

It all starts by attending a Weekend!

HelpOurMarriage.org

March 8-10, 2024
 Raleigh, NC





800-470-2230

Registration Ends Monday!

“
 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

Click image to register





Matters of Faith

How can God love everyone and what does this mean?

Click to watch

GETCONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities




Photo from this year's First Responder Parade

Calling All Medical Professionals, First Responders and Crisis Managers

We are currently seeking trained professionals who may be interested in exploring how they can share their gifts and talents with our community during weekend Masses or at other gatherings as part of our new Safety and Security ministry. Volunteers should be current or retired medical professionals (physicians, nurses, paramedics/EMT's); law enforcement or fire service officers; crisis planners; or mental health/crisis intervention professionals. Your assistance and input will be appreciated in the planning of this ministry, assisting with training, or while being present and available to assist during Mass and other events. For additional information or to express your interest, please contact Marc.Kielty@stfrancisraleigh.org



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



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

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](#).

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.

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

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.

L'Arche Ministry - March 7

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.

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.](#)