

## February 11, 2024

# Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



### AN EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS PLAN FOR ST. FRANCIS:

There has been much discussion around the parish over the past 18 months about how best to communicate in effective ways with our seven generations of parishioners as well as those who might be searching for a faith community or simply wishing to know more about us. In all honesty, this is an enormously wide range of people with enormously diverse ways of communicating.

Dr. Tom Byrnes, a parishioner and professor at NCSU, approached us last summer with an offer to use some student interns to examine our communication methods and determine engagement levels with our current and new parishioners. Between August-December, these interns did the following:

- Research best communication practices of various faith communities
- Conduct 4 parishioner focus groups to receive input on a draft survey
- Conduct a survey of parishioners via email/paper in November
- Make recommendations to the staff and our Communications Committee

The ±800 responses to the November survey were reviewed by the NCSU interns and shared with a staff liaison team in December. The most significant statistics gleaned from the survey data were:

- Most respondents were ages 65+; very few were between ages 18-35
- 76% of respondents rated the electronic bulletin to be satisfactory or better
- The respondents preferred communication methods were the electronic bulletin (54%), the website (12%), and parish emails sent via Constant Contact (12%).
- The respondents preferred bulletin format was digital (74%)
- Highest requests for improvements were more diverse digital content (photos, graphics, volunteer opportunities) and stories about our parish ministries.

There were several takeaways from the collected data:

- Form a multigenerational communications committee of experts in the fields of graphic design, communications, marketing, and writing to develop a parish communication strategy in collaboration with staff
- Use the expertise of this committee to reach the 18-35 age group so the data are more inclusive of the entire community
- Examine each parish communication method/platform and recommend strategies to reach our multigenerational community more effectively.

Some recommendations to the survey data were discerned to be immediately implementable. The following actions have taken place:

- Expand the bulletin to 4 pages to include photos, ministry highlights, volunteer opportunities, and stories.
- Establish a monthly "Get Connected" Sunday to help people learn how to use various electronic platforms (e.g., Realm, St. Francis Serves) while on campus
- Distribute a monthly "Get Connected" notice to all parishioners with upcoming volunteer opportunities in both digital and print format
- Make minor adjustments to the parish social media accounts
- Merge the blogs on St. Francis Serves and the website to improve accessibility to ministry stories
- Create short instructional videos and place them on the website on how to use Realm and St. Francis Serves
- Add an "All Ministries" list to the drop down menu on the website Ministries tab

This is just the beginning of our efforts to improve communications with our widely diverse faith community and those who look us up on the internet. The Communications Committee will continue to develop and refine our efforts to make who we are and what we do as relevant and accessible as possible.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey and supported this intern project. Your input is greatly appreciated.

-Fr. Michael

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://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 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](#)

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

### Feb 11 - Coffee and Donuts 10:10am

Join us for Coffee and Donuts Sunday, February 11th following 9am Mass in Fellowship Hall hosted by YAC Faith Formation. 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).

### Feb 11 - Fiat Franciscus Mardi Gras and Greener Lent Social 3:00pm.

Join the Fiat Franciscus Young Adult members on Feb 11, 3-5pm in the Cupertino Room (Community Center). Bring your favorite baked good. We will begin with a social hour (food and drinks) followed by a Greener Lent discussion and presentation put on by Rosemary Herhold. Contact Brian Herhold, [Brian.Herhold@gmail.com](mailto:Brian.Herhold@gmail.com).

### Feb 12 Girls High School Basketball League:

We are gauging interest in a Girls High School League - with the possibility of starting a Girls High School League, open to Girl's grades 8-12. We need a minimum of 24 girls. The Season would run late February-mid-May. Please complete the interest form, <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/>. Contact Mary Arleth, [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org). Once we have 24, we will send out registration information.



### Through April 7 - Bishop's Annual Appeal

Join us as we launch our Bishop's Annual Appeal campaign for this year. Go to [givetobaa.org](http://givetobaa.org) and follow the prompts to make a one-time donation, set up a pledge or become a SUSTAINER with a recurring gift. Make sure to select Saint Francis of Assisi as your parish affiliation. [Click here to give](#). Contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 15 Tiempo de Revivir!** - Unete a nosotros esta Cuaresma, los Jueves a partir del 15 de Febrero a las 6:30pm a 8:00pm en el Salón Pardia del Community Center (enfrente de la Capilla) a el grupo Tiempo de Revivir, en donde analizaremos los evangelios de los Domingo de una forma dinámica y divertida. Para cualquier duda o pregunta comunícate con Esperanza al siguiente correo electrónico: [Esperanza.Neri@StFrancisRaleigh.org](mailto:Esperanza.Neri@StFrancisRaleigh.org) Te esperamos!!

**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](mailto:donna.schwede@gmail.com). [Registration](#)

**Feb 18 - Eucharistic Ministry Formation, 1:00pm**

If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister, have recently been trained, or are just wanting to explore the gift of the Eucharist, please join us in the church for this formation session. We will conclude no later than 2:30 pm. Contact James Wahl, [jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org)

Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>

**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 [stfawomensministry@gmail.com](mailto:stfawomensministry@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).

**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](mailto:czejkowskir@gmail.com) with questions. [Registration link](#)

**Spring Parent Child Classes**

**Music & Sing and Sign** are fun ways to connect with your child. Join us for these fun, low pressure, hands on classes (0-5 years of age). Join us Wednesdays for Making Music Praying Twice and/ or Sing & Sign at the Community Center. For more Information and to register! For more Information and to register: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/classes-and-programs/> Contact Jess Kelly, [info@signsoflearning.com](mailto:info@signsoflearning.com)

**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](mailto: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/](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. <https://www.preschoolatstfrancis.com/> Contact Shelley Freeman, [shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org)

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





### Planning for Success: The Strategic Plan Process For St. Francis

Strategic planning is the art and science of formulating, implementing, and evaluating the priorities for an organization where it can have the most impact based on its vision and mission. "When doing this process for a Catholic parish," as Jacob House, a member of the Pastoral Council and Strategic Planning Committee, says, [...more](#)

[Volunteer Spotlight: Marianne Norris](#)

### 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



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](mailto:Marc.Kielty@stfrancisraleigh.org)



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



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

### Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers offer prayerful and emotional support by listening with their ears and hearts to your concerns. If you are in need of a Stephen Minister email [stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org) or call 919-847-8205 x234 or contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

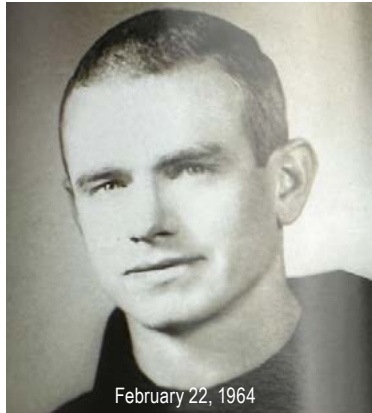




# Congratulations

## Fr. David McBriar on Your 60th Jubilee!

Fr. David McBriar, O.F.M., second pastor of our parish and first Franciscan pastor is celebrating his 60th Jubilee on February 22, 2024. He was ordained on February 22, 1964.



February 22, 1964



Photo taken several years ago.

You may submit your good wishes to Fr. David one of two ways:

- 1) **Via electronic note.** Please send your note to [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org). All notes will be compiled into a single file and sent to Fr. David on February 22.
- 2) **Via video,** not to exceed 15 seconds, which you can shoot on your mobile phone. Send your video to [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org). All videos will be combined into one video appearing in the order they are received.

**Notes and videos must be received no later than Monday, February 19 by 5:00pm** to be included.

Please put "Fr. David 60th" in your subject line.

If your video is too large to send via email,

use [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com) to send your clip - it's a free service.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:feedtheneedsfa@gmail.com) and a ministry member will be in touch.

### 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](http://larchenc.org) for more information.

[Register here.](#) Contact Gladys Whitehouse, [gladys.whitehouse@gmail.com](mailto: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.](#)

## 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

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church  
2718 Overbrook Dr. Raleigh, NC 27608  
Veneration of Relic | 2 pm - 10 pm  
Mass Honoring St. Jude | 7 pm

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 13, 2024

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church  
804 High House Rd. Cary, NC 27513  
Veneration of Relic | 1 pm - 10 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](http://www.apostleoftheimpossible.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](#).

### 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/](http://stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/)  
Contact Pam James [stfccreation@gmail.com](mailto:stfccreation@gmail.com)