

February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent



GETTING LENT RIGHT: There are many ways to view Lent and to live it. Little children learn to give something up like candy or a favorite TV show or video game as a form of sacrifice. Teens may view it as a time to show a deeper commitment to Christ by doing a service project that helps the poor. Adults may see this time as an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All of these are great. There is also something, or more particularly, someone that is central to the entire season: a deeper appreciation and appropriation of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (what we call "the Paschal Mystery" in Catholic language) and what that means for us and our world.

I read a reflection on this that was a timely reminder of the centrality of Jesus' paschal mystery. The author, a Jesuit priest, really brought home how important it is to ponder the cross as part of the Lenten journey. What follows is a blending of his insights and my own.

Crucifixion was the most horrifying form of execution by the Romans in its time, so horrible that the Romans forbade it as a form of execution for their own citizens. It was only permitted for revolutionaries, bandits, murderers, and slaves. They carried out crucifixions in highly visible places, near cities or along busy highways, as a powerful form of intimidation.

Jesus certainly passed by these dying criminals (and their corpses) during his journeys. It is easy to imagine him looking at the condemned and thinking, "That will be me someday." His ministry had already attracted controversy. He was increasingly identified and proclaimed as the God-anointed liberator of Israel, a mistaken impression but one that made sense in a pre-resurrection world. Jesus would be perceived by the Roman and Jewish authorities as a revolutionary and he likely knew what the outcome of that would mean: crucifixion. And yet, Jesus continues to follow the path laid out for him by his Father because the salvation of humanity was at stake. He was a revolutionary, a liberator, because of the incredible change he would bring to the world, just not in the political sense. The change he would bring is centered in the heart, the mind, and the way we care for one another.

Despite the deadly implications of remaining faithful to the will of his Father, Jesus would not give up his mission under any circumstance because proclaiming God's love for the entire human family was the purpose of his presence in the world. He trusted God's love to such a degree that he was confident that even death could not stop his mission. This is a critical insight in understanding Lent for us and our world. It is also a mission we are called to take up as his disciples.

Taking up the cross as Jesus did and in the context of Jesus' mission requires a single-mindedness that most of us find quite intimidating. So we start with the smaller ways of taking up the cross to gradually strengthen us to take up the cross in larger ways. Lent invites us to be intentional about "taking up our cross" so we may also become agents of resurrection, not only for the good of others, but also for ourselves.

-Fr. Michael

Lent at St. Francis including all Penance Services

[Click to see all Lenten Events](#)

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.

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The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi - 11401 Leesville Rd - NC 27613 - Tel: 919-847-8205

Feb 17/18 Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Drive

Donated items, and cash/checks (made out to Catholic Parish Outreach), will be this weekend (before/after Masses; Note: collections end at 6 pm Saturdays).

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.

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



CSA Program - Spring Sign-Up!

The Community Supported Agriculture Program once again invites you to purchase a Spring subscription! This Farm to Church program supports local BIPOC farmers and sustainable farming methods. Purchase a full or half share of items such as spinach, kale, lettuce, broccoli, eggs, and more! [Learn more here!](#) Contact Elizabeth Kearse, eskearse@gmail.com. [Register here.](#)

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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 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.

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. 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. 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.

February 25, March 3, March 17: Lenten Service Sundays

St. Francis of Assisi will host three Service Sundays in our Lenten Justice and Peace Series. All ages are invited to participate in fun and meaningful activities that answer our call to build a just society and live lives of holiness. Registration available on Realm.

Feb 28: 50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch, 11:30m.

Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall. If last names starts with, then bring A thru C = Dessert/ Bread, D thru L = Salad/Side Dish, M thru Z = Main Dish. Coffee, soda and water will be provided. Contact Pat Gerney, pgerney@gmail.com.

Mar 1 - Knights of Columbus Pizza Meatless Meal

Join your fellow parishioners for fellowship and a simple meatless meal immediately after Stations of the Cross in Fellowship Hall. Two slices of Cheese Pizza, Dessert, and a Drink (Lemonade or Iced Tea) for only \$5.00 [Please make your advance purchase by clicking here.](#) Contact Tony Rivezzo, ajrive@aol.com.

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 13 - Father Son Faith Retreat

12:20m. CALLING ALL DADS & SONS (5th Grade through 8th grade) Sign up NOW for a FREE, FUN, ENERGIZING, & MEMORY-MAKING Father & Son Faith Retreat! This FREE Retreat includes: FUN & energizing faith formation activities, service project, takeaway craft/gift, t-shirt, picture, pizza & drinks. Space limited to 100 total! [Click here to sign up.](#) Contact John Price, johnprice25@hotmail.com.

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/>

Through April 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.

June 17 - Mercy Camp (see ad on next page)

8:00am. Rising 6th – 9th graders! Come join us for Mercy Camp!

July 8 - Mission Mercy (see ad on next page)

8:30am. Rising 10th graders - College Freshmen!
Join us for Mission Mercy!

For more information and to register for Mercy Camp or Mission Mercy visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/>
Contact Becky Cawley, becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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

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.



sfawomensministry@gmail.com

[Registration](#)

Employment Opportunities:

Director of Liturgy/Sacraments

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

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

Greener Lent

COMMIT TO PRAYER

Participants commit to pray daily for the poor affected by the climate crisis and conversion of our hearts.

CHOOSE YOUR FAST

Choose from four fasts including one for vegetarians. Fasting can have a positive spiritual and environmental impact.

HELP OTHERS

Help bring clean water to 200 people as part of a much larger program in Africa.

JOIN A LAUDATO SI-FOCUSED LENT PROGRAM

Sign up anytime during Lent using the QR code or at greenerlent.org



ADULTS



FOLLOW THE LENTEN CALENDAR



KIDS



Mercy Camp June 17 - 21

Rising 6th - 9th graders! Come join us for Mercy Camp! In fun and meaningful ways, you'll do direct service to folks in need in our community and learn about our Christian call to loving service while making new friends! You won't want to miss it!

For more information and to register visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/>



Mission Mercy July 8 - 12

Rising 10th graders - College Freshmen! Join us for Mission Mercy! In fun and meaningful ways, you will assist in offering a summer camp for children in need during the day and gather in the evenings for deepening discussion, prayer and fun social events. You won't want to miss it!

For more information and to register visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/>

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



Lent with a "Greener" Focus

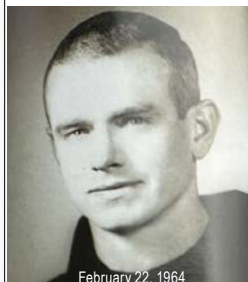
Traditionally, when Lent approaches, people ask themselves, "What should I give up for Lent this year?" In recent years, however, the idea has been to see what you can add to your life during Lent to make it a more positive experience. What if you could do both? [...more](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Bernie McShane

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.

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.

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, Feb. 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 to send your clip - it's a free service.

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



GETCONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities



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](#).