

## February 25, 2024 Second Sunday of Lent



### THE CHALLENGING DILEMMA OF WEEKEND VISITORS IN NEED:

Our community has an enviable reputation of caring for those who live on the margins. Our Justice and Peace Office and the hundreds of parishioners involved in their ministry do an outstanding job of keeping us invested in this world and rightfully so. We are also blessed to have a St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter on our campus. They work with those in need and are especially trained to help others get stabilized so they can move out of their crisis into a better way of life. We have Curbside Ministry, an outreach group that prepares small care packages that are available for any parishioner to take and share with those we meet on street corners. These ministries, and others, are beneficiaries of our tithe (10%) we take from our offertory.

We occasionally have visitors on our campus, especially when we are gathered for worship on the weekend, who make a direct appeal to us for money, usually when people are headed to their cars after Mass or are in the queue to exit the campus onto roads leading away from the parish. There has been an uptick in these visitors over the past few weeks.

The Franciscan friars, in conjunction with our Justice and Peace Office, established a policy several years ago that we decline requests for money, gift cards, etc. to those who come onto our campus asking for such things on the weekend. When I arrived in 2020, I was asked about this policy and it seemed one worth retaining.

We are always happy to help someone when there is a legitimate need. When I encounter such a visitor, I ask them to return to our campus or call us during the week and we will do what we can to assist them but then ask them to leave the campus. Our Justice and Peace Office staff are ready to assist those who contact us and our St. Vincent de Paul chapter is also ready to assist whenever possible.

If you are approached by those in need when you are on our campus, I ask you to be polite, let them know we stand ready to help, decline their requests for financial assistance, and invite them to return to our campus or call us on Monday so someone may actually assist them.

By giving them money, you may unintentionally create a bigger issue for us. Sadly, some of our visitors are not what they seem but are professionals who earn their income by soliciting money directly from passersby or are con artists. They play on our sympathy as good people who want to help others in need. Some endanger themselves and you by standing along the driveways leading off campus and going from car to car.

We have the presence of law enforcement on most Sunday mornings. I have asked them to approach our visitors and ask them to return or call during the week so we may actually assist them.

I realize this may seem unkind to some and not in keeping with the Gospel. If you hold this position, I remind you that we do a robust job of helping those in need, probably the best among congregations in our area. I also want to avoid a situation where someone may be hurt, either a visitor or a parishioner, because of unknown dynamics that are always in play in these types of encounters.

If you have questions about this, please feel free to contact JaVon or Casey in our Justice and Peace Office. JaVon has extensive experience working in this environment and has been most helpful in clarifying the best way for us to help those in need.

If you would like to become part of our outreach ministry as a volunteer or a financial supporter, please contact our Justice and Peace Office.

-Fr. Michael

## Lent at St. Francis including all Penance Services

Click to see all Lenten Events

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

### 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).

### Feb 25 - Service Sunday - "Dear Sisters & Brothers"

1:00pm. Join the first of our three Service Sundays this weekend in Fellowship Hall! Share your love for the community members our ministries serve through a written letter (or colored picture for younger ages). Sample letters and all materials are provided. There will be light refreshments. [Register here](#). Contact JaVon Hansknecht, [javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org).



### 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](mailto:eskearse@gmail.com). [Register here](#).



### 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).

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ajrive@aol.com).

**March 2 - No disposable water bottle pledge**

Free stickers for personal water bottles for those who sign a pledge to eliminate disposable water bottles. Contact Pam James, [stfccreation@gmail.com](mailto:stfccreation@gmail.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](mailto: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](mailto:johnprice25@hotmail.com).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](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).

**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).

**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/>

**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



# This Week in Lent at St. Francis

Service

*Sunday*

Dear Sisters and Brothers

## FEBRUARY 25 – SERVICE SUNDAY

**Dear Sisters and Brothers** is the first of three Service Sundays in our Lenten Justice and Peace Series geared towards all ages. In this first event, we invite the parish to respond to Pope Francis's Encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti* On Fraternity and Social Friendship in a fun, informative, and meaningful manner. Share your love for the community members our ministries serve through a written letter (or colored picture for younger ages). All materials are provided. –

<https://ontrealm.org/StFrancisRaleigh/Registrations/info/b0b880d4-1831-4f93-ba77-b10f00ec14e6>



## MARCH 1 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

5:30 pm in the Church – Stations for families with young children.

Come after the 5:30 stations or before the 7:00pm stations there will be fellowship and a simple meatless meal offered by the Knights of Columbus in the Fellowship Hall. Two slices of Cheese Pizza, Dessert, and a Drink (Lemonade or Iced Tea) for only \$5.00. Please make your advance purchase via this link: <https://protect-usb.mimecast.com/s/dUzZCm7WRzTR9qWfGr4v57domain=knightsofcolumbus-102.square.site>

7:00pm in the Church – Stations of the Cross sponsored by the Youth Advisory Council



## MARCH 2 – 1ST SCRUTINY

5:30pm in the Church. On the third, fourth, and fifth weeks of Lent, the newly named "Elect" (those to be baptized on the Easter Vigil) will participate in three successive rites called "the Scrutinies." These rites, with roots dating back to the early Church each thematically linked to the Gospel reading for that Mass and also offer an opportunity for the parish community to pray for our Elect.

## LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Tuesday, February 27: St. Catherine of Siena (Wake Forest) 10:00AM

Wednesday, February 28: Our Lady of Lourdes (Raleigh) 11:00AM

Wednesday, February 28: St. Teresa of Calcutta (Cary) 6:00PM

Thursday, February 29: St. Bernadette (Fuquay-Varina) 7:00PM

Friday, March 1: St. Michael (Cary) 10:00AM



## 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](http://greenerlent.org)



ADULTS



FOLLOW THE LENTEN CALENDAR



KIDS



### 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](#)

### 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



## Volunteer Opportunities

### 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.Kiely@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Marc.Kiely@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](http://larchenc.org) for more information.

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

### 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@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### 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).

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



## 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](#).