

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent



WHAT IS A SCRUTINY RITE? Our community is blessed to have had over 70 adults and children involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) over the past 12 months. This is a formation process for those who are 1) unbaptized, 2) baptized in another Christian tradition and seeking full communion with the Catholic Church, or 3) baptized Catholics who are seeking to complete the sacraments of initiation (i.e., Confirmation and/or Eucharist). We presently have six children in elementary and middle school who will soon be ready to be baptized, confirmed, and receive the Holy Eucharist. They are called the "elect," having been designated so by our bishop on the First Sunday of Lent at a ritual called the Rite of Election at our cathedral where hundreds joined them in reaching this status on February 18. These six and their parents have been in formation for many months under the excellent direction of Marisa Ferrara, our Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation, and her team. Four of them will celebrate these sacraments at the Easter Vigil on March 30 and the other two on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

Since 1972, the R.C.I.A. (a.k.a. the catechumenate) has been the normative way we form children and adults seeking to become members of our Church who are not infants. Prior to this, it was common for those on this journey to participate in instruction classes in our faith tradition and privately celebrate their initiation into the Catholic Church. Vatican II (1962-1965) called for a complete renewal of the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. Liturgical scholars had been at work for decades prior to the Council learning how the ancient catechumenate might again be a model primarily for the initiation of unbaptized people. This retrieval has had a significant impact on global Catholicism. In some countries like ours, thousands of adults and children will be baptized at the Easter Vigil this year.

The final phase of preparation for those to be baptized occurs during the Lenten season. During this time, they celebrate the Rite of Scrutiny. This rite is celebrated three times as a kind of extended examination of conscience in the midst of a praying community. Each celebration focuses on a different dimension of sin/evil and the grace that awaits the elect in their baptism. As in the ancient Church, these rites are celebrated publicly so our elect may know of the prayerful support of our community as they approach their initiation, and we may also reflect on the reality of sin and the importance of God's grace we too seek during the Lenten season.

The First Scrutiny takes place at the 5:30pm Mass this weekend, the Second Scrutiny at the TFS weekly Mass on Wednesday, March 13 (all six are TFS students), and the Third Scrutiny at the 11:45am Mass on March 17. The Gospels proclaimed in the ancient catechumenate are proclaimed, so the readings of these Masses will be from Year "A," the place in our three-year cycle of Sunday readings where the Gospels associated with this rite are enshrined to this day.


The focus of the three scrutiny rites with their Gospel are as follows. First Scrutiny: the Samaritan woman who encounters Jesus at a well. The focus is on personal sin and the grace of forgiveness. Second Scrutiny: the healing by Jesus of a man born blind. The focus is on social sin, the type of sin we collectively participate in, and the grace of healing. Third Scrutiny: the raising of Lazarus from the dead by Jesus. The focus is on cosmic evil we experience, such as death, and the grace of liberation Jesus provides.

Please pray for our six elect and their families in these coming weeks as they prepare to be initiated into the Catholic Church.

-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.

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

March 3 - Why Faith? Adult and Family Formation

Join us at 10:15am in Founders Room. Charlee Halpin will present Baptism Part 3: You Become a Prophet: What Does That Mean? Refreshments will be served. NO Registration required. Contact Kathy Sales, Kathy.Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

March 3 - Service Sunday - "Growing (Herbs) as Sisters & Brothers" 1:00pm.

Join us in Fellowship Hall for our second Service Sunday! Answer our call to Care for God's Creation by beginning a home herb garden to share with your neighbors, connecting us with the earth and celebrating new life. Planting cups will be provided or bring your own small container! [Register here](#). Contact javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.



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.



Summer Service through Mercy Camp and Mission Mercy

Mercy Camp has been a summer fixture at St. Francis for two decades, and Mission Mercy is approaching a decade of summer service! Each summer, these camps offer the youth at St. Francis the opportunity to learn about their faith through service. As Tim Hetzel, the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Francis Parish, says... [More](#)

[Volunteer Spotlight: Jeremy Roca](#)

Mar 3 - 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.

March 7 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections! 10:00am. Join us the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month after daily Mass for coffee in Padua. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@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](#)

Mar 10 - Fiat Franciscus Game Day, 3:00pm. Join other young adults for a time of fun and games from 3-5 pm, March 10. We will meet at Brightleaf Club, south of Durham, for a pickleball game, weather permitting. Rainy Day plan is fellowship and board games inside. See contact for location details. Contact Michelle Kaiser, mmk4894@yahoo.com.

Mar 10 - 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

Mar 17 - Why Faith? Adult and Family Formation
Join us on Sunday, March 17th at 10:15am in Founders Room. Lauren Berry will present Baptism Part 4: You Become Royalty: What Does That Mean? Refreshments will be served. NO Registration required. Contact Kathy Sales, Kathy.Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Mar 21 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections! 10:00am. Join us the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month after daily Mass for coffee in Padua. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 10-14, June 17-21, July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26 Camp Francis is our popular summer camp, and has lots of cool opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts and various enrichment areas! Camps are half day or full day based on age for the 2024-2025 school year. (Rising K-Rising 8th grade) Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org Contact Phone 919-847-8205 ext. 444 Registration Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

June 17 - Mercy Camp 8:00am. 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 all about our Christian call to loving service all while making new friends! You won't want to miss it! Click here for more information and to register: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/> Contact Becky Cawley, becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org.

July 8 - Mission Mercy, 8:30am. 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 each evening for deepening discussion, prayer and fun social events. You won't want to miss it! Click here for more information and to register: <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.

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 or call 919-847-8205 x234 or contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Employment Opportunities:
Director of Pastoral Ministries – Full Time
See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, 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

Growing (Herbs) as Sisters and Brothers

MARCH 3 – SERVICE SUNDAY

Growing (Herbs) as Sisters and Brothers is the second of three Service Sundays in our Lenten Justice and Peace Series geared towards all ages. In this second event, we invite you to answer the call to Care for God's Creation by planting herbs to grow and share with your neighbors. Bring your own small container for planting such as a coffee mug or recycled individual yogurt container to plant your herbs inside. Containers will be provided for those without one.

<https://onrealm.org/StFrancisRaleigh/Registrations/Info/c5f3c5c1-a68d-46e5-9car-b10f01125508>



MARCH 3 – WHY FAITH? ADULT AND FAMILY FORMATION

Join us on Sunday, March 3rd at 10:15am in Founders Room. Charlee Halpin will present Baptism Part 3: You Become a Prophet: What Does That Mean Refreshments will be served. NO Registration required.
Contact Kathy Sales, Kathy.Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.



MARCH 7 - 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 Padua 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 Te esperamos!!!



MARCH 8 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7:00pm in the Church led by The Journeymen group. The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, commemorate Jesus's passion and death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict a moment on his journey to Calvary, using sacred art, prayers, music, and reflections.



MARCH 9 – WOMEN'S RETREAT

9:00am Mass in the Chapel

10:00am Retreat begins in Fellowship Hall

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 with questions.

Realm link: <https://onrealm.org/StFrancisRaleigh/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZjU4ODUxMTItOTY0OGE1LWJjMzctYjEwMjAwZmUzMmMmQw>

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Wednesday, March 6:	St. Michael (Cary)	7:00PM
Monday, March 11:	St. Eugene (Wendell)	7:00PM
Tuesday, March 12:	St. Luke (Raleigh)	11:00AM (joint Penance Services by St. Luke and St. Francis parishes)
Wednesday, March 13:	St. Catherine of Siena (Wake Forest)	7:00PM
Thursday, March 14:	St. Francis of Assisi (Raleigh)	7:00PM (joint Penance Services by St. Luke and St. Francis parishes)



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.](#)



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/>

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



March 3 - No disposable water bottle pledge FREE water bottle stickers for anyone pledging to give up disposable water bottles! Contact Pam James, stfccreation@gmail.com.

FATHER SON FAITH RETREAT April 13



Click picture for more information or to register.

[Click here to watch video.](#)

Funerals at St. Francis

Last year, 59 funeral liturgies were held at St. Francis. When a death occurs, family members often find it challenging to notify all of their loved one's friends and acquaintances. Unfortunately, some people learn of the death only after the funeral has taken place. Would you like to be notified in advance of upcoming funerals at St. Francis? If so, please contact Joan Port, joankport@gmail.com and include "Funeral Notices" in the subject line.

Kathleen Pias-March 5, 10am-Church
Jean Hobb-March 7, 11am-Church

Catholic Parish Outreach

Thank you all for your generous donations during the CPO Food Drive. The response from our parish was wonderful, with a donation of 7,949 pounds of food and \$7,500+. These donations help CPO support the many families in need in Wake County! ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Apr 6 - 12th Annual Pig Pickin & Open House! 3:30 pm until 7pm (or until the pig runs out). To purchase tickets: catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/events/12th-annualcpo-pig-pickin/ Contact Kelly Rappl, Kelly.Rappl@ccharitiesdor.org.



[Click Here for Stories from the St. Vincent de Paul Society](#)

Contact Cathy Smith, smithtcr@gmail.com

Water Quality

Check out Raleigh and Durham water quality. Please link "Raleigh" to <https://raleighnc.gov/water-and-sewer/services/raleigh-water-reports> and "Durham" to <https://www.durhamnc.gov/3183/Water-Quality-Report>



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](#).

