

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent



UPDATE ON COVID-19 PROTOCOLS: We are blessed to have been minimally impacted by the C-19 virus at St. Francis and I am grateful that it has been relegated by the CDC as a virus to be treated like any other respiratory illness. While we know some people are still adversely affected by this virus, some requiring hospitalization, we have made much progress for which we should be thankful.

Recently, the CDC issued new guidelines eliminating the five-day isolation period for C-19. We have been approached by parishioners and parents with children in our schools about our current five-day isolation protocol in light of this development. Because we are a community comprised of the church and two schools, our Covid Task Force, which has been so helpful throughout the pandemic in guiding us, was asked for their input on how we should proceed with this recent change. They recommended that our community incorporate the new guidelines into our protocols which guide us regarding health and safety.

Effective March 9, our schools and church will eliminate the five-day isolation period for C-19. We also ask that should someone develop a respiratory illness that they follow these protocols:

- Do not come to campus (either as an employee, student, volunteer, or church member) when experiencing a fever or symptoms associated with a respiratory illness.
- 24 hours after a fever has ended and symptoms have been improving, you may return to campus. We encourage you to follow best practices for five days to prevent exposing others: masking, physical distancing, and hand washing.

Thank you so much for the commitment and care you have shown others over these past four years since we first faced the pandemic. This time has been trying in many ways, but it has also shown us the reality that we are all connected as the Body of Christ, especially when we care for one another.

-Fr. Michael

The following are the BAA totals for our Parish as reported by the Diocese


	2024 Campaign (3/1/24)	2023 Campaign (3/2/23)
Goal:	\$473,612	\$473,565
Pledge Total:	\$209,494 44.2%	\$236,041 49.8%
Received Total:	\$175,212 37.0%	\$198,575 41.9%
Participating Families:	504 9.3%	558 10.1%
Total Families:	5,400	5,500
YTY, behind by	\$26,547	

Lent at St. Francis including all Penance Services

Click to see all Lenten Events



All are welcome to the Lenten Reconciliation on Thursday, March 14 at 7pm in the church. 12 priests will be available for individual confessions. (Joint Penance Services by St. Luke and St. Francis parishes)

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](#)

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

March 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.

March 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.

March 9/10 - CABC Postcard Signing -

Gov. Cooper. Catholics for Abolition in NC, a diocesan-wide group, works to educate Catholics on the death penalty while encouraging prayer and advocacy to abolish it in our state. In an effort to seek Governor Cooper's clemency, SFA representatives from the organization are at all Masses today, hosting a postcard writing event. Contact Nancy Jones, catholicforabolitionnc@gmail.com.

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.



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... [More](#)

[Volunteer Spotlight: Jeremy Roca](#)

March 16 - 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! [Register here](#). Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com.

March 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.

March 21 - Coffee with Clay | Daily Mass Coffee Connections!

9:45am. Join us Thursday, March 21 for Coffee with Clay after daily Mass in Padua. It will be a time to visit with Msgr. Clay and fellow parishioners 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.

March 31- CSA Program - Spring Sign-Up Deadline

The Community Supported Agriculture Program - see ad on page 4.

April 3 Introduction to the Bible, 7:30pm. What better way to respond to the love of God in the Easter Season than to learn how to delve more deeply into the Word? Facilitator Rich Zemonek, MPS will help you be comfortable with finding your way around the Bible. This course is for newcomers and experienced Bible students! [Click here to register](#). Contact Rich Zemonek, rzemonek@yahoo.com.

April 6 - CPO Pig Pickin', 3:30pm

Enjoy a meal, live bluegrass music, enjoy our bake sale and have a chance to win some great raffle prizes! Purchase tickets at catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/events/12th-annual-cpo-pig-pickin/ Contact Kelly Rappl, Program Direct, 919-873-0245x2300 or kelly.Rappl@charitiesdor.org.

April 9 - Holy Spirit and the Bible Virtual Study

Our next virtual Bible study will be The Holy Spirit in the Bible by Little Rock Scripture Study. This study unpacks key Scripture passages exploring the activity of the Spirit. Offered on Tuesdays, 7-8:30PM beginning 4/9 and also on Wednesday 10-11:30AM beginning 4/10.

[Register for Tuesdays](#) / [Register for Wednesdays](#)

Contact Barbara Efird, Cindy Cardello & Diane Rosendahl, barbaraefirdlpc@gmail.com

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/>

April 19 - Women's Ministry Line Dancing Social 7:00pm

Join Women's Ministry for low-key line dancing lesson, laughs, snacks, and fellowship. Barbara Iffland will teach us some fun dances with lots of time to practice and laugh. No experience or boots are required! Please bring something salty or sweet to share and your own water bottle. Questions? Contact sfawomensministry@gmail.com. [Click to Register](#).

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 (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.

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



MARCH 13 – 2ND SCRUTINY

9:00am, TFS Community Mass 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.



MARCH 14 – LENTEN RECONCILIATION

All are welcome to the Lenten Reconciliation on Thursday, March 14 at 7pm in the church. 12 priests will be available for individual confessions.



MARCH 15 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7:00pm led by the Men's Prayer Breakfast Ministry. 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 17 – SERVICE SUNDAY

Feeding our Sisters and Brothers: Rise Against Hunger is the third of three Service Sundays in our Lenten Justice and Peace Series geared towards all ages. In this third event, we invite you to respond to the Church's proclamation that every human person is sacred and the way we organize society, including our agricultural system, impacts human dignity. Please join us to learn about food insecurity in our area, meet our parish ministries that feed our community, and pack 10,000 meals for vulnerable children around the world to be distributed through Rise Against Hunger's network of emergency food centers. <https://onrealm.org/StFrancisRaleigh/Registrations/Info/?24fa34a-3491-4dfc-942f-b10f01175aea>



MARCH 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.



MARCH 17 – 3RD SCRUTINY

11:45am 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



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.](#)



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 Kears, eskearse@gmail.com. [Register 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/>

Matters of Faith (click photos to view video)



With all the terrible things happening in the world, where is God and how do we know he is really helping everyone?

Weekday Receptionist

Do you enjoy talking and meeting people? We are looking for weekday receptionists to help answer the phones and help people who stop by the church office. There are two shifts available- 9:30-12:00 or 12:30-4:00. We will provide one-on-one training. If interested please contact Dina, dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org.



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

Contact Cathy Smith, smithtcr@gmail.com

St. Vincent dePaul Assistance Cards

Cards are available for hand-out to those in need on our campus at the Church Reception Desk. We ask each parishioner to take one card, offering them only on our campus. Each card offers the SVdP intake-line phone number. Thank you for helping connect our community to needed resources!



Society of St. Vincent dePaul

In need of Assistance?

Call: (919) 534-4842

Leave a message and a Caller Intake Specialist will contact you shortly.

FATHER SON FAITH RETREAT

April 13

Use the QR code to register



Father and Son Retreat

Saturday, April 13 - St. Francis of Assisi Campus

[Click here to watch video.](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

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.



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.](#)

