

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent



A TRANSITION: As some of you know, my mother lives in New Bern, our family home since the early 60's. She will be 93 in June and is beginning to show significant signs of decline. With the death of my brother, his wife, and all five members of their immediate family in 2020, I am the only remaining family member residing in North Carolina. I have found it increasingly necessary to be with my mother to handle more and more of her day-to-day life. We have discussed the idea of her moving to Raleigh to be closer to me, but this prospect is untenable for several reasons. Between the distance, the commute, and the growing need to be on site to help her while managing my responsibilities at St. Francis, I have come to the conclusion that it is incumbent upon me to make an adjustment to make her final years of life as comfortable as possible.

It is with heavy heart but also a sense of peace that I have decided, after 44 years of service to the Church as a priest, to take a slightly early retirement from full-time ministry this June when the normal transfers of clergy take place and will conclude my service to you as your pastor at St. Francis effective June 25.

Bishop Luis has chosen Fr. Chris Koehn, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene in Apex, as your new pastor. Fr. Chris is a very capable man, a proven effective leader, and a genuinely wonderful and joyful person. He also has a keen interest in Catholic education. His bio is below. You will learn more about him in the near future. His most important sentiment to me about coming is that he intends to "stay the course" in terms of our identity and mission. I have also been informed that a third priest will be assigned to our parish later this summer in response to our need for three priests in parish ministry here.

I want you to know that my greatest hesitations in this discernment process have been the potential impact of another leadership change so soon after the departure of the Franciscan friars and my true affection for you. As I have taken these concerns and others about our journey together and our plans for the near future to prayer, I have come to a sense of peace that all will be well, for you and for me, despite having to go through the process of change.

I will have further information to share with you in the coming weeks so stay tuned.

-Fr. Michael



Fr. Chris Koehn (pronounced Kō-en)

Fr. Chris is from a military family, born in England and raised in Virginia, the youngest of four brothers. He earned a B.B.A. in Accounting with a minor in History from James Madison University. Fr. Chris had a full career as a project manager and took an early retirement from Chesapeake Hospitality before receiving a Master of Divinity degree from Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Massachusetts. Since his ordination in 2018, he has served as parochial vicar at St. Thomas More Church in Chapel Hill and, since 2020, as administrator and pastor of St. Mary Magdalene, in Apex.

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS TIMES

March 28 – Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper • 7pm
Reposition in Fellowship until midnight
Night Prayer • 11:45pm

March 29 – Good Friday

Morning Prayer • 9am
Passion of the Lord • 3pm
Outside Stations of the Cross • 7pm

March 30 – Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer • 9am
Easter Food Blessing • 10:00am
Easter Vigil • 8:00pm

March 31 – Easter Sunday

Church • 7:15am
Church and Fellowship • 9:00am
Church and Fellowship • 11:45am

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.

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



Easter Blessings

Traditionally, new Catholics are received into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass by celebrating the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The ritual that brings individuals into the Catholic church is known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. As the name denotes, typically, this rite is designed for... [more](#)

[Volunteer Spotlight: David Payne](#)

March 23- American Red Cross Spring 2024 Blood Drive

Please sign up for one of the 90+ appointments still available. This drive is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Join us 8am-2pm in Clare Fellowship Hall. To SCHEDULE an APPOINTMENT: Please sign up on line at www.redcrossblood.org. Search by Zip code 27613 for events on 3/23/24. Contact Bryan Kozak, bryan.c.kozak@gmail.com.

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 7 - Co-Ed Spring Youth Basketball Skills Clinic, 1:30 pm.

This clinic is designed for players to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph Sunday: 4/7, 4/14, 5/5, 5/12, 6/2 - 1st GRADE - 6th GRADE 1:30 PM to 2:30pm. Cost \$20.00 each session or \$90.00 for all sessions [Click to register](#). Contact Mary Arleth, mary.arleth@stfrancisraleigh.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 Ifland 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.

May 17 - Altar Server Celebration, 5:30pm.

Join us as we celebrate our current Amazing Altar Servers with an evening of fun games, awards, pizza, prizes and ICE CREAM!! We will also invite this amazing group of youth to explore other service opportunities within our Faith Community. [Register here](#). Contact John Price, johnprice25@hotmail.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@stfranciscisraleigh.org Contact Phone 919-847-8205 ext. 444 Registration Link: <https://www.stfranciscisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

June 17 - Mercy Camp

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

July 8 - Mission Mercy

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.stfranciscisraleigh.org/service-camps/>
Contact Becky Cawley, becky.cawley@stfranciscisraleigh.org.

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:

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 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/f24fa94a-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.



MARCH 22 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7:00pm in the Church, led by the Secular Franciscans. 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. They will be led by the Secular Franciscans.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES



Tuesday, March 19: Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral 7:00PM

Wednesday, March 20: St. Raphael (Raleigh) 7:00PM

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

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.](#)

[Click to view](#)

A St. Francis Minute

The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

Topic: Catholic Social Teaching



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.](#)

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PK-12 FAITH FORMATION 2024-2025



REGISTRATION VIA REALM
OPENS WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

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

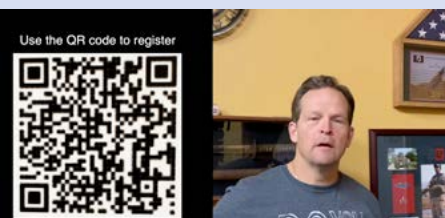
Leave a message and a Caller Intake Specialist will contact you shortly.

Matters of Faith (click photos to view video)



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

FATHER SON FAITH RETREAT April 13



Father and Son Retreat

Saturday, April 13 - St. Francis of Assisi Campus

[Click here to watch video.](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

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.

Funerals at St. Francis

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.

Stephen Schanz- March 22nd- 11AM-Church



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.](#)

