

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



RAISING FINANCIAL AWARENESS:

As all adults know, managing money is very important. Having a stable source of income, creating a budget, and living within one's means are critical to financial health. The same is true for the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi (hereafter called "Parish"). The two schools, the columbarium, and the church operate on four budgets. Rob Neppel, our Director of Finance and Planning, provides oversight for all these budgets to ensure we operate in a fiscally responsible way with the monetary donations, tuitions, and columbarium niche purchases you entrust to us. He does a great job.

I have noticed that many parishioners have a limited understanding of the financial realities on the church side of our Parish, driven primarily by your financial support through the Offertory, and are largely unaware that for nine months out of the year, for many years, we actually operate in the red. To increase your awareness of our financial profile, we are introducing a new section in the bulletin dedicated to providing you with ongoing information about our current Offertory collection status and how your Offertory donations are applied in support of the Parish. The Offertory serves as the primary revenue source for most of our ministry areas and is the only source of income dedicated to supporting the general expenses of the church. It covers staffing, utilities, ministry mission critical supplies, maintenance, and upkeep. The church also has, for many years, committed a 10% tithe from our annual Offertory to support tuition assistance for our schools and an additional 10% tithe to support our Justice and Peace initiatives in the larger community.

Offertory comes to the church in several ways, and we are always grateful for your generosity. The most visible form of support is through the passing of the basket during Mass. As a result of the COVID pandemic, donations have shifted significantly to giving through Faith Direct or mail-in donations. Another shift is now occurring as more of our senior members switch to using their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRA's and/or retirement accounts for their Offertory support. Regular donations (e.g., weekly or monthly) are helpful to handle our ongoing cash flow required to keep everyone paid and our church operational. Although once- or twice-a-year donations are a bit more challenging when trying to handle cash flow, they are always a godsend when they arrive.

We are currently running behind where we need to be as we approach the end of our ninth month in this current fiscal year. Without a substantial increase in giving, we could end the year in the red by over \$100K. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a generous gift to the parish in the coming weeks to help us close this gap, especially if your donations to the church have been minimal this current fiscal year.

We have a fantastic faith community and a beautiful campus. Your support is needed to help us maintain your church at the level we have all come to appreciate and expect. Thanks for your support and be on the lookout for our weekly Offertory report. Please make it one of your must-see sections of the weekly bulletin.

-Fr. Michael

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

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

REGISTRATION VIA REALM
OPENS WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Offertory Status

	Week 38	YTD Through Wk 38	YE Total	
2023-2024	\$30,797.00	\$2,999,551.20	\$4,196,509.05	Goal
2022-2023	\$58,281.50	\$2,974,105.55	\$4,036,294.79	Actual
Difference	(\$27,484.50)	\$25,445.65	\$160,214.26	
% Increase	-47.2%	0.9%	4.0%	
Current Projected Shortfall:		\$125,680.80		

St. Francis runs on a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year. We just completed week 38 and are currently projected to fall short of our budget target. Offertory is the primary funding source for most of our ministry areas. This is how your Offertory dollars are applied:

[Please Click Here to Give](#)

Ministry Areas

Operations, Finance, Facilities, Maintenance	27%
Assessments	14%
Pastoral Ministries	11%
Liturgy	9%
Tithe to Education	10%
Tithe to Justice & Peace	10%
Faith Formation	7%
Parish Life & Community Center	3%
Maintenance Reserve	10%

Note: Allocations include personnel expenses



Scan the QR code to give

A click away If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org

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[KBL series](#) / [Bulletins](#) / [Employment Opportunities](#) / [St. Francis TV](#) / [Giving](#) / [Feed the Need](#)
[Staff](#) / [Parishioner Business Ads](#) / [Franciscan School](#) / [Preschool](#) / [All Ministries](#)

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 4 - Join L'Arche "Cooking Together," 2:00pm. Join us 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. We will be making Peach Cobbler! All ingredients will be supplied. [Register here.](#) Contact Gladys Whitehouse, gladys.whitehouse@gmail.com.

April 6 - CPO Pig Pickin', 3:30 - 7:00pm
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 Rapp, Program Direct, 919-873-0245x2300 or kelly.Rappl@charitiesdor.org.

April 7 - Co-Ed Spring Youth Basketball Skills Clinic, 1:30-2:30pm.
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 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 12:15pm - 5:30pm.
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.

April 19 - Women's Ministry Line Dancing Social 7:00-9:00pm
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.](#)

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 20/21 & 27/28 Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

On April 20/21 weekend we need volunteers (families, adults & youth) after each Mass to handout bags with the Our Lady of the Rosary food donation list. On April 27/28 weekend we need volunteers (families, adults, youth) to collect and load a truck with the OLR food donations. Please bring your filled bags with you to mass on the weekend of April 27/28. [Click here](#) to sign up to assist at one of the weekends and to see the list of food needs for OLR Food Drive.
Contact Mark Baumgartner, markbaumga@gmail.com.

April 21 - Earth Day Celebration! 10:15am.

Join us in Fellowship Hall for our Earth Day Celebration after the 9am and 11:45am Masses. Show your care for our common home and learn methods to take an ecological approach at home. Stop by various topic tables and plant your own pollinator-friendly native plants. Volunteers are also needed! [Register here.](#) Contact JaVon Hansknecht, javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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, 5:30-8:00pm.

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@stfrancisraleigh.org Contact Phone 919-847-8205 ext. 444 Registration Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

June 17 - 21 Mercy Camp
8:00am 3:00pm . Rising 6th – 9th graders! Come join us for Mercy

July 8 - 12 Mission Mercy
8:30am-9:00pm. 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.

Pop Tabs for RMHC

Collect tabs from aluminum beverage or food cans to support ill children and their families staying at Ronald McDonald Houses! Their pop tab recycling program is one way to help fund their program! Donate tabs in the RMH bin at the Donation Table in Clare Hall. Takes place all year!
[More information.](#) Contact Michelle Harris, michelle.harris95@gmail.com.

Employment Opportunities:

See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org



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!

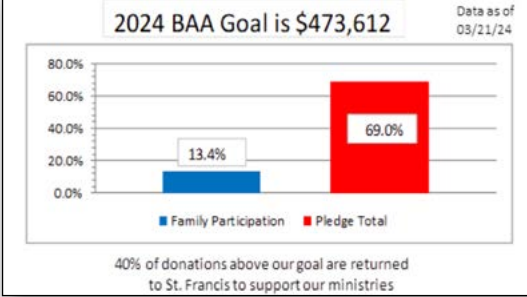
For more information and to register visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/>





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

	2024 Campaign (3/21/24)		2023 Campaign (3/22/23)	
Goal:	\$473,612		\$473,565	
Pledge Total:	\$326,757	69.0%	\$301,661	63.7%
Received Total:	\$280,350	59.2%	\$255,654	54.0%
Participating Families:	723	13.4%	719	13.1%
Total Families:	5,400		5,500	
YTY, ahead by	\$25,096			



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.



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 Kearsse, eskearse@gmail.com. [Register here](#).

[Click here to watch video.](#)

Father and Son Retreat
Saturday, April 13 - St. Francis of Assisi Campus

[Click here to register.](#)

Use the QR code to register

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

Society of St. Vincent dePaul

In need of Assistance?
Call: (919) 554-4842
Leave a message and a Caller Intake Specialist will contact you shortly.

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!

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.](#)

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.