

Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord



A MESSAGE OF HOPE:

We conclude Holy Week today, which started on Palm Sunday, with the greatest feast day in the Christian calendar: Easter. We gather this weekend to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and how that has changed everything in our world. It began last Sunday as a walk in faith, step by step, deeper and deeper, into our own commitment to share in the mystery of the cross in order to know the meaning of the resurrection. I pray that walk has been a helpful one for you.

It is a truism that to understand the resurrection we also have to understand Jesus' suffering and death and his humanity. Pope Francis offers some helpful thoughts on this. He says, "Jesus became one with each of us [in his humanity] in order to be completely and definitively one with us to the very end of time. He experienced [suffering and death] in order not to leave us prey to despair, but in order to stay at our side forever. . . Because of this, nothing is ever 'the end' for us, whether we feel pinned to the wall, lost in a blind alley, plunged into the abyss of abandonment, sucked into a whirlwind of so many 'whys' without an answer, because Jesus Christ was, is, and always will be there for us at our side. He endured the cross to take up in his love every possible distance that we can feel, be it our failings, desolation, betrayal or being betrayed, being cast aside by others, or being forsaken."

Having done this for us, God sent the Holy Spirit to raise Jesus from the dead so that Jesus Christ's solidarity with us in our sufferings and

deaths can, most importantly, bring us to new life. His bodily resurrection gives us a future, so we don't have to remain stuck in our present or past circumstances that we all experience, a future of hope, a new horizon, a better future. This is not only for us, but also for others with whom we are invited to share this good news so they too may have the experience we have.

Many, including Christians, are unaware of all we have been given in Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Despite this lack of awareness, there is something within that motivates many to be in a church on Easter even if we only come once or twice a year. Something inside of us wants this hope, this new horizon, this better future. For others, the issue isn't so much that we are unaware but that we suffer from amnesia. We forget what the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has given to us, free of charge, due to all that fills our proverbial plates to overflowing, both good and bad. Our Lenten and Holy Week journey has been an attempt to reawaken our spirits to this central belief of the Christian faith.

I pray you will take some time today to consider what the Lord has done for you and express gratitude to the One who loves us without measure and who always wants to be in union with us. Happy Easter!

-Fr. Michael

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS TIMES

March 30 – Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil • 8:00pm

March 31 – Easter Sunday
Church • 7:15am
Church and Fellowship • 9:00am
Church and Fellowship • 11:45am

April 1-5 - All Daily Masses
will be held in the church

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

REGISTRATION VIA REALM
OPENS WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Offertory Status

	Week 39	YTD Through Wk 39	YE Total	
2023-2024	\$101,775.39	\$3,097,532.81	\$4,196,509.05	Goal
2022-2023	\$84,901.02	\$3,059,006.57	\$4,036,294.79	Actual
Difference	\$16,874.37	\$38,526.24	\$160,214.26	
% Increase	19.9%	1.3%	4.0%	
Current Projected Shortfall:		\$109,379.70		

Interesting Financial Factoid: This week you will notice a significant jump in the week's collection. That is due to the receipt of collections via Faith Direct. About every other week, Faith Direct will transfer funds they have collected from our community. Transfers are made 5 working days after the 4th and 15th of the month.

Please note we have Text-To-Give and QR Code options for people who would like to make a one-time donation to the Church. Your support is very much appreciated by the ministries that serve our community. Thank You. [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

Text-to-Give: From your smartphone screen, create a new message. Click the "To:" field and enter 919-629-1199. Enter the dollar amount then tap the link to complete your gift. Register your credit/debit card.

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](#)

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. 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 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections! 9:45am. Join us Thursday, April 4 for Coffee after daily Mass in **Founders Room**. It will be a time to visit with 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.

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 Rappl, 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 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 18 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections! 9:50am. Join us Thursday, April 18 at 9:45am for Coffee after daily Mass in Padua. It will be a time to visit with 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

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 with bag distribution](#) at one of the weekends. [Click here to sign up to assist with food collection at the truck 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 11- Women's Ministry Nature Immersion and Hike, 9:00am.

Join Women's Ministry for a nature immersion experience, also known as an "awe walk," where we will connect with God through nature and one another. Participants are welcome to stay after for a hike and some fellowship. Register in Realm. Contact sfa.womens.ministry@gmail.com for more information. [Register here](#).

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.

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



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!

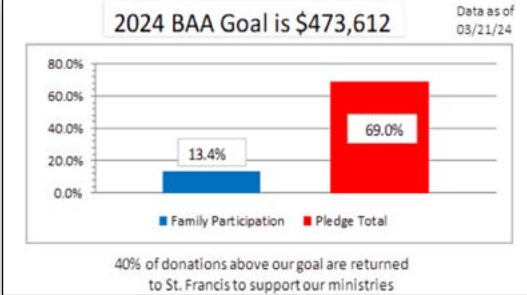
For more information and to register visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/>





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.](#)



St. Francis and the Stigmata

Many people are unfamiliar with "the stigmata." As Wikipedia says, "In Catholicism, stigmata are bodily wounds, scars and pain which appear in locations corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ: the hands, wrists, feet, near the heart (side), the head (from the crown of thorns), and back (from carrying the cross and scourging)." Part of this confusion comes from.... [more](#)

[Volunteer Spotlight: Liliana Palermo](#)

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!

[Click Here for Stories from the St. Vincent de Paul Society](#)
Contact Cathy Smith, smithtcr@gmail.com

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.

Gabrielle Holland - April 4th-1pm-church