

Second Sunday of Easter - Sunday of Divine Mercy



TOO MANY COOKS DO NOT SPOIL THE STEW:

We celebrated a fantastic Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday) last week. We had great numbers worshipping with us. I'm told that even the parking lot was fairly sane! We had many online visitors who viewed our liturgies via livestream, and several told us how wonderful and meaningful our celebrations were. One first-time viewer sent us a check for \$1000 in appreciation for what he experienced.

There is an old saying: Too many cooks spoil the stew. This idiom means that when too many people are involved in trying to do the same thing, the final result will not be good. While there may be truth to this idiom, nothing could be further from the truth when it came to the 200+ parishioners and employees who were intensely involved in the preparations for and the celebration of our recent Holy Week. It was precisely because we had 200+ parishioners and employees engaged in a labor of love for the Lord and our community that our metaphorical stew was magnificent. I've never experienced a parish with so many dedicated and competent parishioners and employees working together to create a seamless celebration of Holy Week.

Allow me to provide you with some factoids: Jim Wahl tells me that approximately 26 vocalists and 12 instrumentalists, some of the latter members of the NC Symphony, were involved. Our lectors likewise did yeoman's work in preparing, practicing, and proclaiming the Word of God for us, beginning with Palm Sunday. Video technicians were at their consoles televising and recording our major liturgies. Hospitality ministry, one of the ministries we are best known for, was impressive. Our Mass Coordinators, the people who prepare everything we use during Mass and organize the ministers who will serve, were phenomenal. Their attention to detail was incredible. Our environment team did an outstanding job as always. Theresa and Mark Baumgartner organized the many laborers involved in setting up and taking down, each day of Holy Week, the wide-ranging decorations needed to help us visualize the tone of each day's celebration. Kathy Sales, our new Director of Liturgy, had the overall responsibility of keeping all the balls in the air and did a masterful job for her first Holy Week in her position.

These are the people who had a visible role in the church but there were many others who likewise helped to make for a memorable Holy Week. I tip my hat to the parking lot attendants who were invaluable on Easter Sunday, ensuring the ebb and flow of traffic went as smooth as possible. Logistics doesn't get much attention because it occurs behind the scenes but, in many ways,

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April 6/7 - Curbside Care Ministry 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.

April 7 - Co-Ed Spring Youth Basketball Skills Clinic, 1:30-2:30pm. Clinic 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. \$20.00 each session or \$90.00 for all sessions [Click to register](#). Contact Mary Arleth, mary.arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 signup](#). Contact John Price, johnprice25@hotmail.com.

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Offertory Status

	Week 40	YTD Through Wk 40	YE Total	
2023-2024	\$53,723.20	\$3,155,116.01	\$4,196,509.05	Goal
2022-2023	\$41,851.70	\$3,100,858.27	\$4,036,294.79	Actual
Difference	\$11,871.50	\$54,257.74	\$160,214.26	
% Increase	28.4%	1.7%	4.0%	
Current Projected Shortfall:		\$89,588.58		

Interesting Financial Factoid: : It was brought to our attention that the above chart is a bit confusing to some people. Year-To-Date (YTD) we are currently \$54,257.74 ahead of last year's week 40 YTD total, a Year-to-Year (YTY) increase of 1.7%. Our 2024 budget was built upon an Offertory growth assumption of 4.0%. The Projected Shortfall was calculated assuming that we would finish the year no better than the current YTD increase percentage. In order to close the projected shortfall gap, the next 12 weekend collections must consistently exceed their last year counterparts.

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](#)

April 14 - Coffee and Donuts, 8:15am and 10:15am - See ad on next

April 14 - Always God's Children, 3:30-5:00pm. A confidential setting for those who identify as LGBTQ+, along with family and friends. Provides a safe place to pray together, share our experiences, and talk over our concerns. Contact Stacey Shine at stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

April 18 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections! 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](#).

April 20/21 - Migrant Ministry Clothing and Toiletry Drive
Our Migrant Ministry is collecting toiletries and clean men's clothing including long sleeve shirts, pants, hats, belts, men's boots and shoes sizes 8-11. Toiletries include toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, laundry detergent, bar soap, clean towels & washcloths. Learn more about Migrant Ministry and drop off in Welcome Center. Contact MaryLou Holloway, mlholly10@gmail.com.

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!
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.

Apr 21 - Volunteer at the Earth Day Celebration! 9:00am - 3:00pm.
Help run one of our Soil, Seed, or Water Stations at this year's Earth Day Celebration after the 9am or 11:45am Mass. There are two possible timeframes to assist us in Fellowship Hall and youth are welcome to volunteer as well. [All sign-ups are on St. Francis Serves!](#) Contact javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

April 21 - JustFaith: Sign-Ups Live Next Weekend! Join an upcoming JustFaith small group on: "Faith & Poverty: A Biblical Response". Groups meet weekly for 2 hours for 8 weeks (in-person or virtually), starting the week of May 6. Start/end times will vary depending on the group. Realm sign-ups available next weekend! [More information](#). Contact javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 28 - Volunteer Celebration, 10-11:30am.
For all you do throughout the year, It's time to tell you that we are so grateful that you're here. Join us after 9am Mass in Fellowship Hall to celebrate ALL of our Volunteers. All Are Welcome | No Registration Required. Contact: Stacey.Shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Through April 30 - DivorceCare Spring Series, 6:00-7:30pm.
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, 9:00-11:30am. 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.womensministry@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 1- July 28: Summer Men's 18+ Adult Basketball League
This is open to Men age 18 or older. Registration is TEAM BASED. Players will form their own teams and submit a team registration. There will also be the ability to register as a free agent. Games will be held on Saturdays and Sundays in June and July. [Info and registration](#). Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 3-July 25: Youth Volleyball League Registration.
Registration is open for Coed League for children of all skill levels - rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders. Teams have an hour practice on Mon. or Wed. Games are held on Thurs. nights. For more Information and to Register: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/>
Contact: Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 through 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


those involved with it are the unsung heroes of Holy Week. The extensive planning, ordering of materials, creating worship aids and printing them, setting up of two locations for worship and then dismantling the second site (i.e., Clare Hall), etc. ensured we all walked into worship without chaos and able to enter into each liturgy as fully as possible.

Hundreds of parishioners and employees served the Lord and all of us well last week. We can always use more, so I invite you to speak with one of our employees, especially Kathy Sales and Jim Wahl, respectively our Director of Liturgy and Director of Liturgical Music, or with one of our Mass Coordinators or Theresa Baumgartner, volunteers who are so generous with their time, talents, and service, if you would like to be involved in helping us next year or even now.

I am blessed to have had such a great team of people around me to make my last Triduum as your pastor the best one of my 44 years of priesthood. I also hope you have a deeper appreciation of how blessed we are as a community to have so many cooks who make the proverbial stew absolutely delicious!

-Fr. Michael


Coffee & Donuts



Sunday, April 14 @ 8am & 10am

Join us for Coffee and Donuts Sunday, April 14 following 7:15am and 9am Mass in Fellowship Hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

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. **All are welcome!**




Click to view




A St. Francis Minute
The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi
Topic: Holy Week and Easter


Click to watch video



Use the QR code to register



Click to watch video



Father and Son Retreat

Saturday, April 13 - St. Francis of Assisi Campus

12:15pm - 5:30pm.
[Click here to register.](#)



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/>



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

	2024 Campaign (4/4/24)		2023 Campaign (3/29/23)	
Goal:	\$473,612		\$473,565	
Pledge Total:	\$378,791	80.0%	\$342,556	72.3%
Received Total:	\$335,294	70.8%	\$286,896	60.6%
Participating Families:	857	15.9%	822	14.9%
Total Families:	5,400		5,500	
YTY, ahead by	\$36,235			



Bishop's Annual Appeal

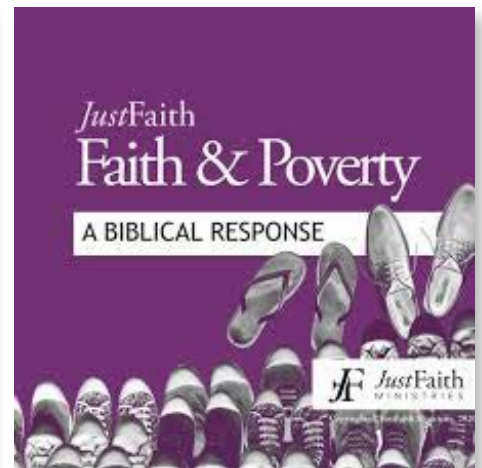
Join us in our Bishop's Annual Appeal campaign. Go to givetobaa.org and follow the prompts to make a one-time donation, set up a pledge or become a SUSTAINER with a recurring gift. Make sure to select Saint Francis of Assisi as your parish affiliation. [Click here to give](#). Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.



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](#)



April 21

JustFaith: Sign-Ups Live Next Weekend!

[More information.](#)

Contact javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

