



A Thanksgiving wish from Fr. Chris. [Click here to watch.](#)

This Weekend

ADVENT RETREAT
What am I
LONGING FOR?
Sunday, December 1
1:00 - 5:00 PM, Founders Room
Register in Realm

YOUNG ADULT
ADVENT
SMALL GROUPS
REGISTER HERE
STARTING DECEMBER 1ST
Contact Michelle at
mmk4894@yahoo.com
with questions or to
register

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 / Advertise in the Bulletin / Franciscan School / Preschool / All Ministries](#)

USE LEFTOVER WATER FOR YOUR OWN HOUSE PLANTS
CARE FOR CREATION CORNER
WE'VE SAVED **419K** PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES

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



Fr. Chris Koehn, Pastor



James Singarayar, HGN Parochial Vicar



Fr. Jim Sabak, O.F.M. In Residence



Fr. Joseph Ita-Sam, CM Parochial Vicar



Stephen Andrews Deacon In Residence

“The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.” – Henri Nouwen

December 1, Advent Retreat: What Am I Longing For?

Advent is a time to listen to the longings planted by God in our hearts, inspiring us to build the Reign of God today, preparing for the Second Coming of Christ. Join us for an Advent Retreat on Sunday, Dec. 1 (1-5PM, Founders Room) led by Jay Landry. [Register Here.](#)

December 1 - Young Adult Advent Small Groups

Join peers in diving deeper into the season of Advent. In small groups, we'll reflect upon God's presence coming to earth in Jesus' birth, as well as in our everyday lives. [Please register here at the provided link](#) or contact Michelle at mmk4894@yahoo.com by November 27th.

December 3 - Advent Penance Service

11:00am-12:30pm at St Francis of Assisi in the Church

December 4 - Lord of the Harvest Healing Ministry - Advent Potluck Dinner Party

6:30-8:30pm. Lord of the Harvest Healing Ministry - Advent Potluck Dinner Party 6:30 – 8:30. Join us for a night of friendship, music, food and fun. Bring a dish or non-alcoholic drink to share. All are welcome. RSVP Maureen Costello at sentout72@gmail.com.

December 5 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections!

9:40-10:30am Join us in Padua, Thursday, December 5th at 9:45am for Coffee after daily Mass. 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.

December 8 - Adult Listening Session

10:00am-11:10am. How is God calling you to hope in this Advent season? Join us on Sunday, December 8th at 10:15 am for a “Listening Session” in which we reflect on this question in light of the Gospel and listen to the Holy Spirit's voice through one another. [Register here.](#) Contact Jay Landry, jay.landry@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 8 - Always God's Children

3:30-5:00pm. 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, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 9 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the church - Holy day of obligation, 9:00am, 11:45am, 7:00pm, also streamed.

Employment Opportunities:

[Afterschool Staff](#)

See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

Now through Dec 10: Advent Giving Trees - see page 4

December 11 Women's Ministry Christmas Music BINGO

7:00-9:00pm. Celebrate the spirit of the season at the Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange and Social on 12/11, 7:00-9:00pm! Exchanging cookies is optional. Bring the number of cookies that you'd like to go home with (split into bags of 6). We will play Christmas Music BINGO, too! [Register via Realm.](#) Contact Jackie Schroeder, Schroederjackie@gmail.com.

December 11 - Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

Join us for a special evening in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Wednesday, December 11, at 9:00 PM in the Chapel. The Mass will be celebrated in Spanish (Misa en Español), followed by a warm gathering with coffee and Pan Dulce in Padua. All are welcome! Contact Person Esperanza Neri, esperanza.neri@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 12 - Career Networking Ministry: Careering Success Summit

8:30-11:30am. Join CNM for the most impactful career event of the year, designed to guide you on your career journey with faith, purpose, and actionable insights. This event is the Careering Success Summit features inspiring and informative keynotes, presentations, panel discussions, and more. Location: Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral Parish Center. [Register here.](#) Contact: Paul Dean vpauldean@gmail.com.

December 13 Crèches, Carols, Cookies Join us for a magical evening on Friday, December 13th, at 6:30 pm! Start in the Church with live music, then head to Fellowship Hall to see an extraordinary display of Fr. Jim Sabak's Crèches. This enchanting event is perfect for ALL ages and continues all weekend after each Mass. No registration needed—just bring your holiday spirit! Contact Email stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 13 - Christmas at Duke Children's Hospital!

8:30am-2:00pm. ELVES NEEDED! Join Mr. & Mrs. Claus at Duke Children's Hospital as they organize and provide gifts to youth patients! Help wrap presents, walk children to Santa, and help kids select a holiday gift! We will be located in the front lobby area of the hospital. Elf Costumes encouraged! Contact Email javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 19 - Coffee with Chris

Join us Thursday, for Coffee with Fr. Chris in Padua. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and Fr. Chris to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.





Fr. Chris Deacon Dave Wulff Fr. Ryan Elder Fr. Michael Burbeck.

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem celebrating Mass in the chapel on Monday 11/25.



The Synod with Flat Francis in Rome

Gubbio and Flat Francis traveled with Marisa Ferrara, our parish's Elementary Formation and First Sacraments Coordinator, and students from the University of Dayton in Ohio in mid-October to Italy. Flat Francis says, "We embarked on a pilgrimage to Rome, one that would bring us face-to-face with the heart of the Church's discussions on synodality. Alongside over 150 students, campus ministers, and educators from 15 U.S. Catholic universities, we joined the Catholic Education Network to Encounter Rome and Synodality (CENTERS) group to explore what it means to build a more inclusive and [More...](#)

Ministry Spotlight: EM to Senior Centers and the Homebound




The celebration and reception of the Eucharist are fundamental as a sacrament in the Catholic faith. We often take for granted the ability to attend Mass and receive the body and blood of Christ; some are less fortunate. That is why the Catholic Community of St. Francis has eucharistic ministers who tend to those unable to attend Mass regularly. Shannon Hoffman, coordinator of the homebound ministry, explains, "Our ministry to the homebound and senior community parishioners focuses on [More...](#)



Are you New to St. Francis? We warmly welcome you to our community! If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about how to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to [Stacey Shine](#). We look forward to connecting with you and helping you feel right at home."

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CRECHE





We are seeking volunteers to help with our Living Stations of the Creche, as part of the Creches, Carols and Cookies event on Friday, December 13, at 6:30 PM.

Click to register

Through-Dec 10: Advent Giving Trees



Share the spirit of the Christmas season with families in need by supporting the St. Francis of Assisi Advent Giving Tree. Our primary recipients are organizations in the community that work directly with people in need. There are 2 ways you can support the Advent Giving Tree.

1. Take a paper ornament from the trees located in the Community Center and the Welcome Center and follow the instructions on the ornament for when to return the gift. Return gift by the date on the tag (or if no date then please return by December 9th) to:

Community Center Lobby: Monday-Friday from 8am-2:30pm thru December 6th OR In the Welcome Center: Before or after Mass on the weekends and during the week from November 18-December 9.

Community organizations whose families are included on our tree this year include Catholic Parish Outreach, Hispanic Family Center, Duke Children's Hospital, Emily K Center, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Passage Home, St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. Parish ministries that benefit include Prayer Shawl, Feed the Need, St. Francis Brown Bag Ministry, and Oak City Cares.

2. Make a Financial donation thru Faith Direct.

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NC674/40890>

The following organizations will be beneficiaries of our financial donations this year: Helen Wright Center, Ronald McDonald House in Durham, Helene Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

Contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org

CENTENNIAL RAFFLE 100

Celebrate 100 Years and Win the Ultimate Deanery Experience!

JOIN THE CENTENNIAL RAFFLE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN EXCLUSIVE TRIPS FROM ACROSS OUR DIOCESE AND EXPERIENCE THE BEST EACH DEANERY HAS TO OFFER.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESRALEIGH.ORG/CENTENNIAL-SUNDAY-RAFFLE
FOR ALL 8 PRIZE DETAILS AND TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!

TICKET SALES WILL GO LIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2024.
\$10/TICKET OR 3 FOR \$20.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR ANY UPDATES!
WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN ON DECEMBER 12, 2024



St. Vincent dePaul [helps people in need](#). Hear about how volunteers prevent the loss of Section 8 vouchers that enable the working poor to afford their rent in these challenging times.

<https://youtu.be/HylogrIk5o> Visit the [SVdP website](#).

Contact Cathy Smith, smithctr@gmail.com.

Sign up to light
The Advent Wreath



IF YOUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH PRIOR TO MASS PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP. PLEASE ONLY SIGN UP FOR ONE MASS.

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

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Questions, contact Diogenes Ruiz,
diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Joy of the Season
December 10th, 2024 7:30pm
Meynandi Concert Hall



Martin Marietta
Center for the Performing Arts
north carolina MASTER CHORALE

BODYLASE
Luxury Med Spa in Raleigh and Cary

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- Laser Hair Removal
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