



*A Joyful Moment with  
Fr. Chris*

[Click to watch](#)

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

### The Season of Christmas Schedule

#### Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4pm Mass in Church, Children Focused (also Live-Streamed)

4pm Mass in Gym, Children Focused

4pm Mass in Fellowship Hall, Children Focused

10pm Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)

#### Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day

9am and 11:45am Mass in Church


**No Daily Masses for December 26, 27, and 30**

#### Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1st at 10am | Church

#### **Parish Offices Closed**

Tuesday, December 24 to Monday, January 1

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org).

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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

# 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.



## Fr. Jim's Creche Exhibition



Yes, that's right he is a terrific guy, a fantastic friar, and he also has one of the largest creche collections this side of Jerusalem. Fr. Jim invites you to come and enjoy his creche collection, this weekend after Mass.

Fr. Jim's collection is amazing in its diversity and beauty. Please feel free to look but do not touch them as they are very delicate.

Enjoy!

### 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](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### January 8 - Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group

1:00-3:00pm. Are you caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia? Join us for support, understanding, and shared resources at our next meeting on Wednesday January 8, at 1:00pm in Padua. Connect with others who understand your journey. All are welcome! Contact Kathleen Boate, [kboate@msn.com](mailto:kboate@msn.com).

### January 14 - March 12: Gospel of John, Part 1 Virtual Study

Join us for a virtual study of the Gospel of John, a testament to the divine nature of Jesus. Part One covers the prologue of John's Gospel and a significant portion of Jesus' ministry featuring miraculous signs that reveal Jesus' true nature and relationship with our Creator. Contact [barbaraefirdlpc@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraefirdlpc@gmail.com).  
[Tuesdays 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm](#) / [Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 am](#)

### Employment Opportunities:

#### Afterschool Staff

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

### January 11 - Women's Ministry Yoga and Breakfast

9:00-11:00am. Join Women's Ministry for a morning of stretching, prayer, breakfast and community! We will meet in Fellowship Hall for a 45 minute beginner yoga class followed by prayerful meditation, food and fellowship! Please bring your water bottle, yoga mat and your own coffee/tea cups. Questions? Contact [sarahparise20@gmail.com](mailto:sarahparise20@gmail.com). [Register in Realm](#).

### January 24-26 You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone?

Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage for over 40 years. For confidential information about, or, to register for the program beginning with a weekend on January 24-26 in the Charlotte area, contact Bill and Lyn Folsom at 727-343-6701 or email: [3062R@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3062R@helpourmarriage.org) or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org). Following weekend in NC will be on July 18-20, 2025 in Spanish at St Luke Catholic Church, Raleigh

### SCAM ALERT

Please be aware that a staff member of the parish, including the pastor, will never contact you via text message requesting assistance from you.

## Advent Penance Services 2024

All are bilingual (English and Spanish) unless noted

Servicios de Penitencia de Adviento 2024: todos son bilingües (inglés y español) a menos que se indique lo contrario

16 Dec/Dic, 7:00-9:00 PM at St Catherine

17 Dec/Dic, 7:00-9:00 PM, Holy Name of Jesus & St Joseph, St Mary, NCSU

18 Dec/Dic, 7:00-9:00 PM, St Raphael

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you know someone who needs a Prayer Shawl or Lap Robe? These are made with love, prayed over, cross sewn on, blessed by the group and wrapped with a note inserted. A child's blanket is also available. They are available for hospital, serious illness, etc. If they do not have one already, contact Cindy Cardello at 929-846-8825 or Diane Rotunno at 919-844-7153.

## Advent Giving Tree

All of our Advent Giving Tree Ornaments have been fulfilled. If you are still looking to support the Advent Giving Tree and some of the organizations that we support you can do so with making a financial donation through Faith Direct. Contact Ashley Watson [ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org). <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NC674/40890>



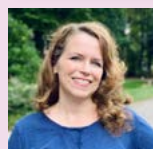
## Crèches, Carols, and Cookies: Something for Everyone!

Last year, we celebrated the 800th year of Saint Francis' use of a crèche, or nativity, to celebrate the birth of Christ. As you may recall from that story, before 1223, the faithful heard about the birth of Christ in Mass as described by the priest in Latin, which many may not have understood. St. Francis asked a friend to borrow his donkey and ox and set up a nativity scene in a cave just outside Greccio, with a costumed person playing Mary and Joseph and perhaps a wax figurine as Jesus. Last year at our parish... [More](#)



## Ministry Spotlight: EM to Rex

As with the EM Ministry to the Homebound, the celebration and reception of the Eucharist are fundamental as a sacrament in the Catholic faith. Sometimes, we can find ourselves unable to attend Mass and receive the body and blood of Christ due to illness or injury. In the spirit of Matthew's gospel where Jesus says, "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" the Catholic Community of St. Francis has... [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."

Women's Ministry *Yoga & Breakfast*

See page 2

**Saturday, January 11, 2025**  
**9 am to 11 am**

Cost is \$5, Register in Realm



**Please Pardon the Inconvenience**

For the next several weeks and throughout the Christmas holidays, work will be underway on the mechanical system which supplies heating and cooling to several buildings on campus. As a result, some parking spaces will be encumbered in front of the Community Center, and the main driveway may occasionally be narrowed down to one lane. However, outside of unforeseen circumstances, the driveway will not be affected during school carpool hours, or on weekends.



**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](mailto:smithctr@gmail.com).



**There are many ways to give to St. Francis.**

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.

To learn about all our giving options, [click here](#).

**Advertise in the Parish Bulletin**

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Questions, contact Diogenes Ruiz, [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL AND ELTON JOHN**

Romance in the Air  
 February 15, 2025  
 Rialto Theatre, 4:00pm

NC Master Chorale

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