

December 22, 2024 - The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi
Fourth Sunday of Advent

(The next bulletin will be the January 5th bulletin. Parish offices are closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 1)

Daily Mass M-F: 9:00am in the Chapel
Weekend Mass Times: Saturday | 5:30pm
Sunday | 7:15 am, 9:00 am (also live streamed),
11:45 am, and 5:30 pm



WE REMEMBER
MONSIGNOR LEWIS



Before presiding at the Saturday 5:30pm Mass on August 31, 2024, Fr Chris, Msgr. Wall and Msgr. Lewis sat down for Episode 42 of St. Francis TV and talked about the early days and formation of the St. Francis of Assisi parish among other priestly things. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

Monsignor Gerald Lawrence Lewis, a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh for 63 years, died Monday, Dec. 16, 2024 at his home in Raleigh. He was 92. His funeral was held on Friday at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral. [Click here to read about Msgr. Lewis on the Diocese website.](#)

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.

[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](#)
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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

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.

January 13, 21, 27 - Preschool 2025-2026 Registration

7:00am - [Registration link](#).

January 13, 2025 - Current students, Siblings of current students, School and Parish Staff

January 21, 2025 - Alumni, TFS siblings, Parishioners

January 27, 2025 - Open to the Community

Contact Shellery Freeman, shelley.freeman@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. [Register in Realm](#).

January 13 - Mom's Strides 360 Trial Session. 9:30-10:30am

Join us in the Assisi Community Center in the Cupertino Room for a free trial session of fit 4 mom Strides 360 Class. [For more click here](#). Contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

[Tuesdays 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm](#) / [Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 am](#)

January 15 - February 19: Winter Parent Child Classes

These classes are a fun ways to connect with your child. Join us for these fun, low pressure, hands on classes (0-5 years of age). Join us Wednesdays for Making Music Praying Twice and/ or Sing & Sign at the Community Center. [Click here for more Information and to register](#). Contact Jess Kelly, info@signsoflearning.com.

Employment Opportunities:

[Afterschool Staff](#)

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

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

January 21- 2025 High School Basketball

We are now accepting registrations for the 2025 St. Francis Boy's High School Basketball League. The league runs from February-May. The league is opened to boys in grades 8 -12. Regular Registration runs until Jan. 21 and then late registration runs until Feb. 6. [Click here for more information including registration](#). Contact Mary Arleth, Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 22 - Save the Date - Franciscan Day of Reflection

9:00am - 3:00pm. Join us for the Franciscan Day of Reflection on Saturday, February 22, 2025. We are honored to welcome Fr. Bill McConville, OFM, as our keynote speaker for this special day of prayer, inspiration, and community. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details— we look forward to seeing you there! Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.org. Following weekend in NC will be on July 18-20, 2025 in Spanish at St Luke Catholic Church, Raleigh

February 26- April 2: Women's Ministry Bible Study:

Fearless & Free 10:00am-12:00pm. Join us for a Women's Ministry Bible for a Bible study based on the book of Ephesians. Sessions are on Wednesdays for 6 weeks. This study is ideal for those of us who long for wholeness of heart and are in need of freedom from past wounds. [Register here](#). Contact Eva Socko, esocko44@gmail.com.

January 27-February 10 - Mom's Strides 360 Session I

9:30-10:30am. Join us in the Assisi Community Center in the Cupertino Room for a free trial session of fit 4 mom Strides 360 Class. [For more click here](#). Contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 28 - DivorceCare Spring Series

6:00-7:30pm. You don't need to go through the pain of separation or divorce alone. With DivorceCare you'll find caring and supportive people who understand the emotional turmoil and pain. Meets weekly in the Padua Room of the Gym/Community Center. [Register here](#). Contact Bill Morgan, dejanuts@yahoo.com.

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.



2024 Advent Giving Tree Thank you!

The Advent Giving Tree was once again a huge success. All of the ornaments were taken from the trees! We collected 1,200+ gifts, 140+ gift cards totaling \$4400, and over \$1800 in financial donations to support 15+ organizations that are part of our Annual Giving Tree. On behalf of the organizations and individuals who benefited from our Advent Giving Tree this year, thank you once again St. Francis of Assisi Community for all your love and support for our greater Community. It's because of all of your generosity that so many people have the opportunity to experience a little bit of Joy this Christmas.

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.



Growing in 'Welcome' at St. Francis

St. Francis Parish has been lauded for its welcoming atmosphere, and we strive to enhance further that experience for all who come to our campus. You may have noticed some improvements to the facilities at St. Francis in the past few months, but you may have yet to see all of them. The Welcome Center, located to the right of the sanctuary as you walk in from the side parking, the outdoor spaces between the Church and Fellowship Hall and the St. Francis Preschool, and the new video screens in the Church are more apparent improvements.

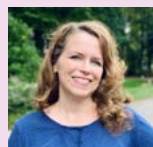
Stacey Shine, the parish's Director of Engagement and Development, points out, "As we continue to grow and evolve as a parish, we must provide a warm and welcoming environment for both our longtime parishioners and those new to our community." With that in mind... [More](#)



Ministry Spotlight

The Helen Wright Center for Women

The Helen Wright Center for Women has provided food, genuine care, and safe shelter to women without children for years. Through intensive case management services, the Center offers its guests an opportunity to break the cycle of homelessness and achieve self-sufficiency. Ashan James is coordinating the St. Francis ministry associated with the Saturday night dinner at the Center after taking over that responsibility from his brother, Akash, this past summer. St Francis also participates... [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."

St. Francis Summer Camps Save the Date

- Camp Francis:** 6/16, 6/23, 7/11, 7/14, 7/21
- Preschool Camps:** 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 7/7
- Mercy Camp:** 6/16
- Mission Mercy:** 7/21
- VBS:** July 14

Registration Information Coming in January 2025

A Wonderful Advent Celebration



Last weekend's "Creche, Cookies, and Coco" was a huge hit! Thank you to all who helped make the Nativity Pageant and Fr. Jim's amazing creche exhibit such a wonderful success. To all the families who participated, thank you for coming out and helping make this such a great community gathering. It was a special evening indeed as we celebrated the coming of our Saviour's birth. May you and our entire St. Francis of Assisi family have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

- The St. Francis Staff



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/HylogrIEk5o>

Visit the [SVdP website](#).

Contact Cathy Smith, smithtcr@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](#).



*Rudolph with your nose so bright,
won't you guide my tap-to-give to the offertory tonight?*

Follow Rudolph's example and look for the "tap to give" kiosk in the gathering space and tap with your credit to give to the offertory.

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

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anna@groundedcompassion.org
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**Click here for ad rates and to
advertise in the parish bulletin.**

Questions, contact Diogenes Ruiz,
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

BODYLASE
Luxury Med Spa in Raleigh and Cary

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- Skin Rejuvenation
- Laser Hair Removal
- Body Sculpting and more!



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Take advantage of this opportunity to showcase your business in front of our many parishioners and thank you for helping to support our parish through the bulletin ad program.