



Happy New Year!


Many blessings to you and your family. We need each family supporting the parish. Faith Direct is a safe, convenient and useful way to help us. If your family is among the majority that is already enrolled, please consider updating your giving. Our expenses would be met if all families contributed an average of \$100 per month. Giving more helps those who must give less. Together, we support the beacon of hope that St. Francis of Assisi is for the community.

With grateful love,
Fr. Chris

Celebrating the Birth of Our Lord

Thank you to all: Tim Moser and his crew for the beautiful tree, Theresa Baumgartner our esteemed decorator, and all the volunteers, staff, our amazing choirs, and our wonderful clergy who made this year's Christmas celebration truly special... and thank you to all who attended Mass in the gym and Fellowship Hall. We had a packed campus, all together worshipping and celebrating the birth of our Lord.



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](#)



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 4-5 Curbside Care Ministry Care Packages

Our Curbside Care Ministry provides care packages you can keep in your car to hand out when needed. Pickup from the Welcome Center the first full weekend each month. Donate supplies or volunteer with this ministry at St. Francis Serves. Contact Alyson Zwerneman, alysonzwerneman@gmail.com.

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 9 - Career Networking Ministry 8:30-10:00am

Skills Trends for 2025 and Beyond featuring Davids Mantica. CNM is a group of working professionals and job seekers committed to proactive career management through continuous learning and relationship building pursuant to the expansion of opportunities for immediate or future employment. Contact Paul Dean vpauldean@gmail.com. Location: St. Andrews the Apostle in Apex, Main Bldg. #8. [Register Here](#).

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 12 - 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.

January 12 - Young Adults Belated Christmas Party

3:00-5:00pm. Join your peers in their 20s-30s for an end-of-Christmas season potluck! Bring your favorite holiday dish and a donation to the NC Diaper Train! Contact Michelle Kaiser mmk4894@yahoo.com. Please see the RSVP link for event location details. [RSVP link](#)

January 13 - Prison Pen Pal Ministry will meet in Founders Hall, 7:00pm. Come learn about this rewarding corporal act of mercy, the recent historic announcement by Governor Cooper to grant clemency to 15 men on Death Row and how we serve the remaining 121. Contact Catherine, sfapenpal@gmail.com.

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.

Employment Opportunities:

[Afterschool Staff](#)

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

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

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 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.

January 18 - Host a book study for Lent. You select the book, date, time, in person or Zoom. The Open Door Ministry helps to start and supports new book, and scripture studies. We can help you to be successful. If interested contact Brooke Kingston at 919-790-1790 / brooke.kingston@stfrancisraleigh.org and join us on Sat 1/18 from 10 to 11:30 am in the Founders Room for a meeting of the Open Door Ministry with other leaders, to find out how we help, while enjoying Coffee, Bagels, Donuts and Fruit.

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.

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

Are you frustrated or angry with each other? The Retrouvaille program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information, or to register for, the September 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 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.

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.

February 2 or 4 - EM Training

For CURRENT EM's who would like a "refresher" AND for any one who would like to become an EM. *Must be 16 years of age, a member of St Francis, who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. SUNDAY, Feb 2 at 1:15pm OR TUESDAY, Feb 4 at 6:30 pm.

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.

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.



Building Community Through Sports

In 2010, the vision for the St. Francis of Assisi campus became a more tangible reality for the parish. When Father Mark Reamer became pastor at St. Francis, he focused on making our community more inclusive and expansive while bringing the whole community together. As it says on our parish website: "Reflecting upon his own goals for the parish, Father Mark sums it up in one word: unity. 'My goal is to continue to unite the parish so that we continue to be connected in the sense of community and reach out to those who hunger and thirst for human dignity.' He also focused on the needs beyond the parish boundaries, evaluating the community's needs and how ready the parish is to respond to..." [More](#)

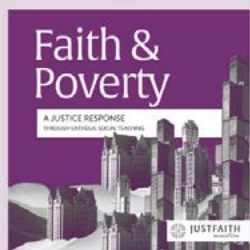


**Mass Coordinators:
Decorum, Order, and Devotion at Liturgies**

Michael and Julie Ducatte are Mass Coordinators (MCs) at St. Francis. Their ministry consists of those who assist the presiders to make sure the Masses have the decorum and elegance befitting the weekly celebration of the Eucharist. "First and foremost, we want to make masses as beautiful as possible," says Julie. "The liturgical ministries help everything flow smoothly. We want to serve because of our faith and enjoy being part of the Mass". Michael adds, "As Mass Coordinators, we also have [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."



**JUSTFAITH
BEGINS IN
FEBRUARY**

"Faith and Poverty: A Justice Response"

What are the systems and structures that perpetuate poverty?

How can we work for systemic justice on a local level to alleviate poverty?

**Small groups begin week of February 3.
Registration begins next week.**

Questions about registration? Give us call.
(919) 847-8205 ext 705
casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org

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

Women's
Ministry

Yoga & Breakfast

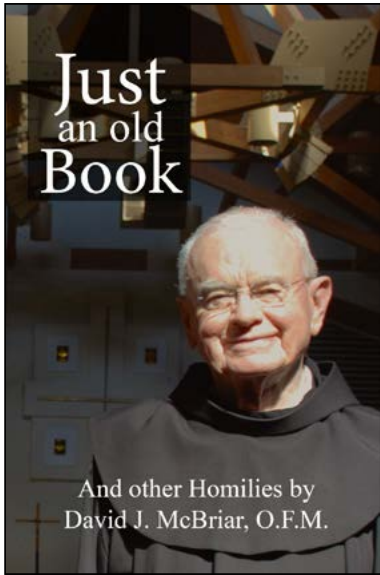


Saturday, January 11, 2025
9 am to 11 am

Cost is \$5, Register in Realm



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/HylogrLEk5o>
 Visit the **SVdP website**.
 Contact Cathy Smith, smithctr@gmail.com.



And other Homilies by
David J. McBriar, O.F.M.

St. Francis parishioners have been anticipating the republishing of Fr. David's three books. Each is a collection of his homilies.

Fr. David's first book, "Just an old Book" is now available. A limited quantity have been printed. If you would like to purchase a copy, please visit www.grateful-leper.com.

(After printing costs, proceeds from the sale of this book, as per Fr. David, go to St. Anthony Friary in Petersburg Florida.)



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](#).



Please Pardon the Inconvenience

Work is 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.



Our New Year's Mass Celebration featured our seminarian, Jason Guerrero who will be with us this year. He will be a guest on St. Francis TV in the near future, where we will learn more about him. Stay tuned!

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

 **GROUNDED in COMPASSION**
—online counseling—
Anna Broadwell, LCMHC, MDiv
Psychotherapist

(919) 205-8592
anna@groundedcompassion.org
GROUNDEDINCOMPASSION.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

\$100 OFF*
your first treatment

- Botox, Fillers & Injectables
- Skin Rejuvenation
- Laser Hair Removal
- Body Sculpting and more!



AMERICA'S BEST

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.