



## Greetings!

This is a great time of year to extend to your families, friends, and neighbors an invitation to join us for Mass. Please let the hospitality ministers know so we may welcome your guests. Introduce your visitors to us your priests as well. We are certain that Jesus is happy when we properly embrace visitors and encourage them in the blessings of faith. A life lived in community with Jesus Christ is a blessing, Please be bold in sharing this great gift.

With love,  
*Fr. Chris*



*Catholic Schools Week (CSW) will take place from January 26–February 1 but we just couldn't wait to share this news.*

*Congratulations to our Preschool!  
And The Franciscan School*



Congratulations! to Our Preschool, awarded the prestigious "BEST PRESCHOOL AWARD" in a tie with another school, and TFS, named runner up in the BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL category. We are proud of the work our teachers do every day with the children and their families. We are thankful for their hard work and dedication in providing an exceptional Catholic education.



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 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.

This meeting will be virtual. Please contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org). for the information for the Zoom link.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ashley.watson@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](mailto: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](mailto:barbaraefirdlpc@gmail.com).

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

### January 21 - 50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch

11:30am. Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall. If last names start with, then bring: A thru C = Salad/Side Dish, D thru L = Main Dish, M thru Z = Dessert/Bread. Coffee, soda and water will be provided.

There will be a silent auction at this Potluck.

Contact Pat Spencer, [spencer1334@bellsouth.net](mailto:spencer1334@bellsouth.net).

### 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 in Spanish at St Luke Catholic Church, Raleigh.

### 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 three week session of fit 4 mom Strides 360 Class. [For more click here.](#) Contact Ashley Watson, [ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### 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.

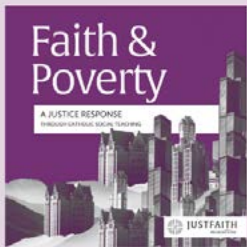
### February 5 Faith and Poverty: A Justice Response

**Join a Faith and Poverty:** A Justice Response small group beginning February 5th (virtual or in-person). This eight-week program introduces us to the systems and structures that perpetuate poverty in our community and engages us in prayer and reflection. Register for either group in Realm. Contact Casey Slock, [casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org).



## 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](#)



## 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](mailto:casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org)

### 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](mailto: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.



## 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."



## JUST ENGAGED?

### LET'S PLAN YOUR WEDDING!

Congratulations to all newly engaged couples!  
Start your journey together with a beautiful wedding at  
St. Francis of Assisi.

Contact [Martina.Dumberger@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Martina.Dumberger@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
[marriages@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:marriages@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
pre-marriage preparation.

Enroll your child in  
our Award Winning  
Preschool!  
Voted  
BEST PRESCHOOL

### Registration Information 2025-2026 School Year



January 13th - Current Students/Siblings /Staff  
January 21st - Alumni/TFS Siblings/Parish  
January 27th - Community

## Tap to Give



We've recently installed a "Tap to Give" system at St. Francis for those who like the convenience of using their credit card to give to the Offertory. It's easy - just tap your credit card on the amount you would like to give. You can "tap to give" anytime not just after Mass.



Join Us  
for an  
Exclusive  
Wine  
&  
Will Event!

Plan Your Legacy Over a Glass of Fine Wine  
Whether you need to create or revise your will,  
please join us for our Wine and Wills event hosted  
by the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese  
of Raleigh on Wednesday, February 5th from  
6:30- 8:00pm in Founders Room.

Come join us and enjoy a great evening of wine,  
conversation, and planning for the future.

The Seminar will be led by a local Estate Planning  
Attorney, providing an excellent opportunity for  
parishioners to learn more about creating or re-  
vising your will. Seminar topics include legal steps  
required in personal planning, understanding wills  
and trusts, Beneficiary Designations, Power of  
Attorney, Advance Directive- Living Will and other  
important information.

Don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity to  
take control of your future, protect your family and  
ensure your legacy for generations to come.

Thoughtful planning now will help those we love  
live peacefully in the future.

To reserve your spot, contact Stacey Shine at [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org) by February 3rd.

[Click here to register](#)

Please note that this is a free Seminar, and no  
solicitations will be made.

Women's  
Ministry  
*Yoga &  
Breakfast*



**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

**9 am to 11 am**

Cost is \$5, Register in Realm

MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE 58<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY OF PEACE

1 January  
2025

*“Forgive us our trespasses:  
grant us your peace”*



**Peace should concern all of us!**

In everyday life and according to one's own ability, everyone can perform merciful and charitable acts aimed at breaking up the chains of injustice.



**Pope Francis shows us the way:**

**Act:**

- **It is necessary** a cultural and structural change for peace to be real and long-lasting.
- **To raise up** those who have fallen, bind up the broken-hearted, and deliver them from any type of slavery ...
- **It only takes** “a smile, a friendly gesture, a fraternal gaze, a sincere listening ear, a free service” ...



**Reflect on:**

**Jesus' teaching:** with the “Our Father” He invites us to pray “forgive us our trespasses”.

**God's mercy:** every time He forgives our sins and gives us salvation.

**A jubilee year:** The Heart of the Redeemer brings us the light of hope and peace.



**Understand that:**

1. We are called to **listen** and voice out the cry of humanity and of Creation.
2. By acknowledging ourselves as debtors, we will realize that **we all need one another**.
3. Only a **disarmed heart** can yield peace and hope for the future.

**By opening our disarmed hearts to our brothers and sisters, we will restore God's justice on earth and we will move forward to achieve the goal of peace.**




[www.humandevopment.va](http://www.humandevopment.va)

INTEGRAL  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT



Forgive us our trespasses:  
grant us your peace  
WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2025

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

GET CONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities