

We celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Gracious God, Open our hearts and minds to your truth and renew our commitment to justice and peace, pursued through cooperation and love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we might realize and accept that we are all members of the same human family, created in your image and likeness.

© 2025 Bon Secours. All Rights Reserved

The Parish office will be closed on Monday, January 20th, to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It will reopen on Tuesday, January 21st, under normal hours.



Fr. Chris Koehn

Russ Elmayan

Msgr. Michael Clay


Conference on Technology and AI

Our priests, and others from our diocese, attended a conference on technology and AI this past week - a topic that plays an increasingly important role now and in the future for our Church. As the rate of technological change advances, our diocese is doing its best to keep our priest informed as we look ahead at areas where input from Catholic leaders may serve to guide AI development in a direction that incorporates Catholic teaching into it's repository of information.



Communion Service

A special thank you to Gladys Whitehouse for leading the communion service while our priests were away.

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 20 - MISSION POSSIBLE: Protecting Freedom, Justice and Democracy! 12:00-1:30pm. You are invited to the diocesan celebration of the annual Mass commemorating the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., promoting justice for social issues at Holy Name Cathedral. Open to the public. Please bring to the celebration disposable diapers, in unopened packaging to benefit Catholic Charities. [Event link click here.](#) [For flyer, click here.](#) Contact Casey Slock, casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 21, 27 - Preschool 2025-2026 Registration
7:00am - [Registration link](#).

January 21, 2025 - Alumni, TFS siblings, Parishioners

January 27, 2025 - Open to the Community

Contact Shellery Freeman, shelley.freeman@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.

January 22 - 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.

January 23 - Coffee with Chris 9:40-10:30 am

Join us Thursday, January 23 at 9:45am 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, stacey.shine@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.

Employment Opportunities:

[Afterschool Staff](#)

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

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

January 26 - Coffee and Donuts - Catholic Schools Week

10:00am. Join us for coffee and donuts in Fellowship Hall after the 9am 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. TFS students will be hosting this event. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

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.

January 29 - Faith Formation Summer Camps Registration

Kickoff 12:00pm. Interested in having your child participate in Faith Formation's summer camp offerings? Registration for Vacation Bible School, Mercy Camp and Mission Mercy kicks off at noon on 1/29/2025. [Find more information about our camps here!](#) Registration links will go live on 1/29. Contact Brooke Kingston, brooke.kingston@stfrancisraleigh.org. See page 4.

February 5 - 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, February 5, at 1:00pm in Padua. Connect with others who understand your journey. All are welcome! Contact Kathleen Boate, kboate@msn.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 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.

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.

Feb. 8/9, 15/16 & 22/23 Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Drive Volunteers Needed

Two ways to help (1) distribute bags after mass on weekend of February 8/9 or (2) Collect donated items/load truck (1.25 hr. shifts) weekends of Sept Feb. 15/16 & 22/23. See links for details. [Bag Distribution Volunteer Sign-Up](#) / [Donation Collection Volunteer Sign-Up](#). Contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 5 - Wine & Will Event! See page 4

Every Tues 2/11-3/25 - Grief's Journey-Coping with loss of a loved one

10:30am-12:00pm. A seven week series that offers hope following the loss of a loved one through death. (Anthony Conference Room). The group offers a safe place to share your own journey with grief and to learn from others. Intended for those who are three months or more after the death of their loved one. [Click here to register in Realm](#). Contact Dina DaRe, dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 15/16 & 22/23 Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Drive Donations Needed

Bring nonperishable food items, or a monetary donation, to the Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) truck. Collections: before and after weekend morning Masses and only before 5:30 pm masses (note: collections end at 6 pm Sat/Sun). Contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@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.

March 1, Women's Ministry Retreat: Encountering Jesus

9:00am-2:30pm. Join Women's Ministry for a retreat: Encountering Jesus this Lent on March 1, 9am-2:30pm. Hear stories of women who experienced the Paschal mystery through their encounter with Christ, the cycle of living, dying, and rising. The retreat includes presentations, reflection time, group interactions and lunch. Child-care available. Register in Realm. [Retreat registration click here](#). / [Childcare registration click here](#). Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, czejkowskir@gmail.com.



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/HylogrEK5o>

Visit the [SVdP website](#).

Contact Cathy Smith, smithcr@gmail.com.



GROUP ONLINE PURCHASES TO AVOID EXTRA BOXES

CARE FOR CREATION CORNER

WE'VE MADE
281
LBS
OF
COMPOST



Celebrating Catholic Schools

As The Franciscan School (TFS) celebrates its 25th anniversary, we join with the other schools in the Diocese of Raleigh and all Catholic schools across the country next week to celebrate all that Catholic education provides to students and families. "Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week," says the National Catholic Educational Association, or NCEA. This year, it runs from January 26th through February 1st. [More](#)



Hospitality Ministers

For anyone who grew up in the Catholic Church, you knew about the 'ushers.' The ushers were usually a group of older dads and other men who pointed out seats to those attending Mass and gathered up the collection at the offertory. It was often an 'exclusive group' whose culture and bylaws were shrouded in 'mystery.' The 'ushers' ministry at St. Francis transformed a while ago; it has been known as the 'Hospitality Ministry' for years! [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."



Cyberbullying occurs when a person is harassed, threatened, humiliated, or otherwise targeted through interactive technology. Cyberbullying is worse than traditional bullying because it follows a person home and can occur any time, day or night.

You are not able to control the content of interactive technology. You are able to place boundaries on access to interactive technologies in your home and in your daily routine.

Plan times to be "unplugged" with your family and friends. Talk about it!

Some helpful resources:

<https://dioceseofraleigh.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Cyberbullying.pdf>

<https://www.preventchildabusenc.org/>

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



*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 revising 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 by February 3rd.

[Click here to register](#)

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



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
marriages@stfrancisraleigh.org
pre-marriage preparation.

**FORMATION
SUMMER
CAMPS**

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 29
12 O'CLOCK NOON VIA REALM
Make sure you have access to Realm!

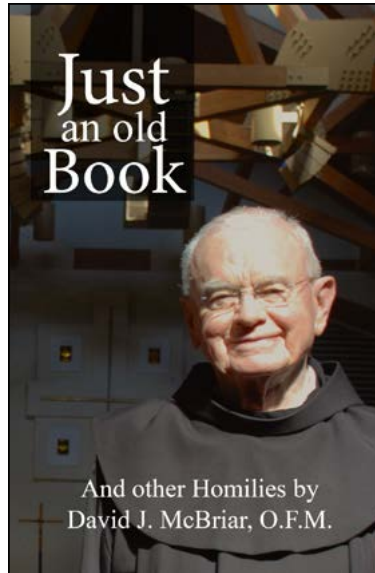


Scan the QR code to give

There are many ways to give to St. Francis.

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](#).



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. **(20 books remain)** 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.)



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.

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin



GROUNDING in COMPASSION
—online counseling—

Anna Broadwell, LCMHC, MDiv
Psychotherapist

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



No cooking.
No meal planning.
No stress. No mess.



SIERRA SOCKS
Change Your Socks, Change Your World

&

WEAR SIERRA
Fashion and Accessories



JUICE THAT BRAND

Powerful Promotions



[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
Rialto Theatre, 4:00pm

NC Master Chorale



BODYLASE
Laser Hair Removal in Raleigh and Cary

\$100 OFF*
your first treatment

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

Rated the 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.