




"We'd like all our families to participate. We know it's a sacrifice, but it's a sacrifice that's making the church stronger - to be a place of goodness and light throughout North Carolina, and we offer our thanks and appreciation for your participation in it." - Fr. Chris

Click Here to Make Your Pledge
Select St. Francis of Assisi Parish Raleigh
Week 2 of 8



Fr. Chris, Fr. James, Fr. Fraser, Monsignor Staib, Monsignor Wall celebrate Fr. James' 16th Anniversary of Priesthood

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at 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



Fr. 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

Immigration Assistance Available

If you know families in eastern North Carolina—from Alamance County to the Outer Banks—who need support with immigration matters, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services is here to help. They provide guidance and assistance with completing and submitting various immigration-related processes. For more information or assistance, please encourage them to reach out to Catholic Charities. [Click here for more information: https://www.catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/immigration/](https://www.catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/immigration/)

February 1 & 2 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.

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 has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. SUNDAY, Feb 2 at 1:15pm OR TUESDAY, Feb 4 at 6:30 pm.

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 5 - Wine & Will Event! See page 4

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.

February 8 - Corral Riding Academy Saturday on the Farm

1:00 - 3:30pm. CORRAL Riding Academy is a faith-motivated nonprofit that serves adolescent girls in high-risk situations through a long-term, holistic program of equine therapy and education. Join us for hands-on projects to support the NEUSE RIVER (Raleigh) campus and learn about CORRAL's mission and programs! [Registration link](#). Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com. Families welcome!

February 8 - Women's Ministry Yoga and Breakfast

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.

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.

Employment Opportunities:

[Afterschool Staff](#)

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

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

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 9 - Always God's Children

3:00-4:30pm. 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 for the information for the Zoom link.

February 6 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections!

9:40am-10:30am. Join us Thursday, February 6 at 9:45am for Coffee after daily Mass in Padua. Visit with fellow parishioners 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.

February 8, Saturday - Wedding Anniversary Mass

10:00am - 12:30pm Registration Link: <https://raldioc.configio.com/wam2025> The 2025 Wedding Anniversary Mass is scheduled for Saturday, February 8th, 2025 at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. Bishop Zarama will be the celebrant for this Mass which gives special recognition to married couples. The new date aligns with National Catholic Marriage week.

February 10 - Saint Francis Preschool Summer Camp

7:00am. Saint Francis of Assisi Preschool is excited to offer 4 weeks of summer camp for ages 3, 4 and 5. [Click here to register](#). Contact Shelley Freeman shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 13 - Career Networking Ministry 8:30 -10:30am.

CNM Presents: Unlocking Growth and Resilience through the Power of P.L.A.Y with Joy Carter at St. Andrews Church. 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. [Register Here](#).

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.

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 16 Knights of Columbus President's Day Weekend Pancake Breakfast

10:00am. Join us after the 9:00am mass in the Fellowship Hall. 3 Pancakes, 3 Sausages, Donuts, Coffee, Juice etc. will be priced at \$7.00 per person and \$24.00 for a nuclear family of 4 or more. Net proceeds will support Fathers James' and Joseph's seminaries. Contact Nick Renga, nrenga@msn.com.

February 20 - Coffee with Chris

Join us Thursday, February 20th 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.

February 22 - 2025 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

9:00-11:00am. The Knights of Columbus Council 9709 will host the annual Basketball Free Throw Championship on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9am-11am in the Assisi Community Center Gym. Please register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48A9A92BA2FE3-54496752-2025>. Contact Will Austin, will.austin@gmail.com.

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

Fearless & Free 10:00am-12:00pm. Join us for a Women's Ministry 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. 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. Childcare available. Register in Realm. [Retreat registration click here](#). / [Childcare registration click here](#). Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, czejkowskir@gmail.com.

Catholic Parish Outreach Donation Drives Coordinator Needed

We are looking for a couple or 2 individuals to take over the volunteer role for coordinating the CPO food drives that are held twice a year. You would help coordinate volunteers, bags, and truck logistics alongside the parish staff. If you are interested and want to learn more, contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Now through Easter - Greener Lent

Greener Lent is Lenten fasting, prayer and almsgiving through the lens of Laudato Si. Last year we saved 60,000 lbs of CO2e going into the atmosphere and provided over 500 people in Catholic parishes in subsaharan Africa potable water, changing many lives. Many GL participants committed to daily prayer. Information. Sign up at the Greener Lent website <https://greenerlent.org/index.html> [Click here for the Lenten Sacrifice Flyer](#) Contact Rosemary Herhold, rosemaryherhold@greenerlent.org.

Camp Francis - Registration is Open via Realm

June 16-20, June 23-27, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25
Our popular summer camp, has lots of cool opportunities in athletics, science, arts and various enrichment areas! Camps are half-day or full-day based on age for the 2025-2026 school year. (Rising K-Rising 6th grade) Registration Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>



Meet The Parish Councils

Every organization, whether a Fortune 500 company, a small LLC, or a Catholic parish, needs advisory and administrative structure to accomplish its objectives. St. Francis of Assisi is blessed to have several Councils that offer advice and guidance on the well-being and growth of the faith community. These councils focus on the schools, our parish youth, the parish's 'Justice and Peace' goals, the parish financial administration, and general parish governance. [More](#)



Phoebe Circle

The Phoebe Circle is a ministry formed about two years ago in collaboration with the 'Discerning Deacons Project,' whose role is advocating for the reinstatement of the women's diaconate during the Pope's call for a worldwide synod, including representation from the laity and clergy. Phoebe represents this effort because, as explained in a story on our website on 'Women in the Church,' "when Saint Paul wrote his Letter to the Romans, Phoebe, a saint in the Roman Martyrology, has become... [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."



Preschoolers enjoyed participating in Mr. Jim's sing-along as they sang and danced to some of Mr. Jim's greatest hits.



*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.



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.

**PLANT A TREE! AIM
TO SHADE EAST/WEST
HOME WINDOWS**

CARE FOR CREATION CORNER

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Preparation of the gifts at last Wednesday's Catholic Schools Week community Mass

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 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



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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.