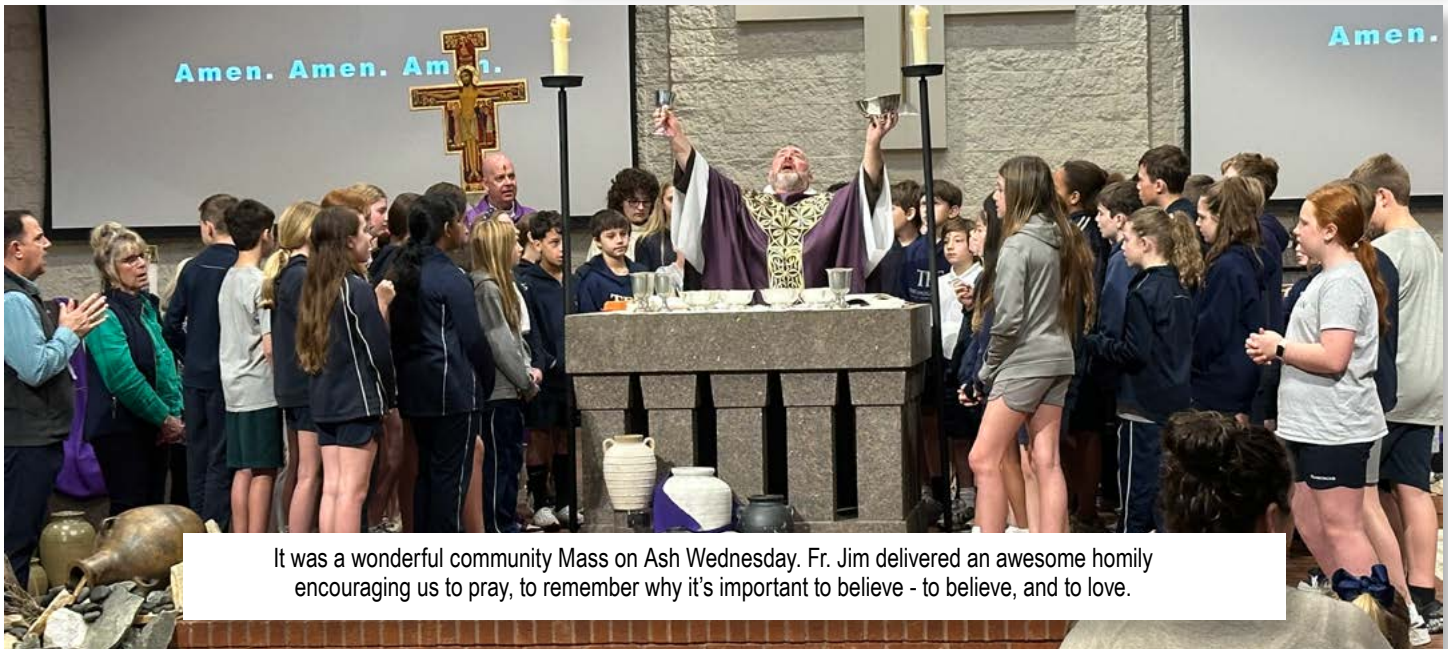




Click Here to Make Your Pledge
 Select St. Francis of Assisi Parish Raleigh
 Week 7 of 8

BAA Status	2025	2024
Goal:	\$522,280	\$473,612
Pledge Total:	\$273,655 52.4%	\$209,494 44.2%
Received Total:	\$222,708 42.6%	\$175,212 37.0%
Participating Families:	656 12.1%	504 9.3%
Total Families:	5,400	5,400



It was a wonderful community Mass on Ash Wednesday. Fr. Jim delivered an awesome homily encouraging us to pray, to remember why it's important to believe - to believe, and to love.



A Joyful Moment with Fr. Chris

Looking ahead to Easter!
 Click here to view Fr. Chris' message.

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



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



[Click here to visit the parish website for all Lent activities](https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/lent-2025/)

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/lent-2025/>

March 8-9 Migrant Ministry Clothing and Toiletry Drive

Our Migrant Ministry is collecting toiletries and clean men's clothing including long sleeve shirts, pants, hats, belts, men's boots and shoes sizes 8-11. Toiletries include toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, laundry detergent, bar soap, clean towels and wash-cloths. To learn more, contact Tom Carlson, tcarlson28@gmail.com.

March 9 - Always God's Children 3:00-4:30pm. Parents and grandparents of LGBTQ+ children or grandchildren: Looking for a safe place to gather and feel welcome? Consider this meeting of Always God's Children (AGC). This is a confidential gathering where we discuss our roles as families with LGBTQ+ people in relation to our Catholic faith. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

March 9 - Book Study: No Greater Love 4:00-5:00pm. Join us for a virtual book study of No Greater Love by Edward Sri. This biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love as you draw closer to Jesus than you ever have before. [Register here](#). Contact Anna Fowler, annafowler@nc.rr.com.

March 9 - Solidarity Sunday

10:15am in Clare Fellowship Hall. See page 4.

March 16, March 23, April 6, April 13 - Co-Ed Spring Youth Basketball Skills Clinic

This clinic is designed for players to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph 1st Grade-4th Grade 1:15-2:15pm / 5th-8th Grade: 2:30-3:30pm Each Session is \$20 or \$75.00 for all 4 sessions. [Info/Register Here](#). Contact Mary Arleth, mary.arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

March 13 - Career Networking Ministry

8:30am-10:30am. CNM Presents: How to Apply: "The Student of the Game Mindset" with Sean Mitton. 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. We will meet at St. Francis of Assis in the Founders Rm. Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxt8e6p>. Contact Paul Dean, vpauldean@gmail.com.

March 16 - Come and See: An Invitation to Spiritual Direction

1:00-2:00pm. Every spiritual journey is sacred and unique. At times, we may seek a companion to help us listen more deeply to God's presence in our lives. Spiritual Direction is an ancient Christian tradition of holy listening, where a trained director journeys with you as you reflect on your faith, vocation, and relationships. Join us for a Come and See session to learn more about this meaningful practice and how it might support your spiritual growth. All are welcome! Contact Nancy Jones, prayerful-heart3@gmail.com.

March 19-May 7: Spring 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 Sign Language at the Community Center. [Click here for more Information and to register](#). Contact Jess Kelly, info@signsoflearning.com.

March 23 - Solidarity Sunday: Sole Hope 10:10-11:30pm. Together we will trace, cut and organize denim kits to be made into shoes for our brothers and sisters in Christ being treated for jiggers, a debilitating parasite. Sole Hope's mission is "equipping the vulnerable to walk in freedom from life-threatening diseases and exploitation; through education, empowerment, and medical relief." [Information and Registration](#). Contact Casey Slock casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

March 26 - American Red Cross Spring 2025 Blood Drive

8:00am-2:00pm. This drive is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall. There will be drinks, snacks & lunch (after 11:30 am) after you give blood. Please sign up for an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. Search by Zip code 27613 for events on 3/29/25. Contact Bryan Kozak, bryan.c.kozak@gmail.com.

March 29/30 & April 5/6 - Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive Volunteers

On March 29/30 weekend we need volunteers (families, adults & youth) after each Mass to handout bags with the Our Lady of the Rosary food donation list. On April 5/6 weekend we need volunteers (families, adults, youth) to collect and load a truck with the OLR food donations.

Please bring your filled bags with you to mass on the weekend of April 5/6. [Click here to sign up](#) to assist at one of the weekends and to see the list of food needs for OLR Food Drive. Contact Tess Ferrer-Turner, tessferrer89@yahoo.com.

April 1 - June 15 - Recovering Our Soul Connections: A Retreat for Women Who Have Been Sexually Abused

Begins online April 1, 2025, and culminates in an in-person retreat June 12-15, 2025 at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, Stoneville, NC. Applications accepted until March 1. Email soulconnection366@gmail.com. [Click here for the flyer](#).

April 5-6 Join Us for Our Volunteer Celebration!

We are incredibly grateful for our dedicated volunteers and want to celebrate all that you do! Join us on Saturday, April 5, at 6:30 PM, or on Sunday, April 6, 8:00-9:00 AM or 10:00-11:45 AM These gatherings provide a wonderful opportunity to express our appreciation and celebrate together after Mass. We look forward to honoring you! In Fellowship Hall. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.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/>

Catholic Parish Outreach Thanks you!

Thank you all for your generous donations during the CPO Food Drive. The response from our parish was wonderful, with a donation of 7,164 pounds of food and \$4,800+. These donations help CPO support the many families in need in Wake County!
Contact ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Stop by the Welcome Center and take a note from one of the three crosses for activities during Lent: Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving.

Raleigh Deanery 2025 Lenten Penance Services

Tues. March 11	11:00am – 12:30pm	St. Bernadette Catholic Parish
Wed. March 12	6:30 – 8:30pm	Our Lady of the Rosary
Thur. March 13	11:00am – 12:30pm 7:00– 9:00pm	St. Luke The Evangelist St. Andrew & St. Mary Magdalene (At St. Mary Magdalene)
Wed. March 19	7:00– 9:00pm	St. Francis Catholic Church
Thur. March 20	7:00– 9:00pm	St. Bernadette Catholic Parish
Mon. March 24	7:00– 9:00pm	St. Eugene
Wed. March 26	11:00am – 12:00pm 7:00– 9:00pm	St. Catherine of Siena St. Michael the Archangel and Mother Teresa (At St. Michael)
Thur., March 27	11:00am – 12:30pm 6:30– 8:30pm	St. Mary Magdalene Our Lady of La Vang
Tue. April 1	11:00am – 12:00pm 7:00– 9:00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes St. Catherine of Siena
Wed. April 2	7:00– 9:00pm	St. Raphael the Archangel
Fri. April 4	10:00– 11:30am	St. Michael the Archangel
Tue. April 8	7:00 – 9:00pm	Holy Name of Jesus, St. Joe, St. Mary and NC State (At HNOJ Cathedral)

Dates for Lent Dinners, Stations and Evening Prayer.

Lenten Potluck Dinners - Fellowship Hall - 6:30pm - Friday nights
April 11 - 6:30pm after stations. [Register in Realm.](#)

Stations of the Cross - Church 6:00pm - Friday nights
March 14
March 21
March 28
April 4
April 11

Evening Prayer - Church - 6:30pm Wednesday nights
March 12
March 19
March 26
April 2
April 9



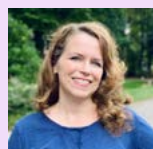
Dust to Dust: What about Ash Wednesday?

As the Church prepares to enter Lent, Ash Wednesday arrives in Western Christian Churches this week. Some of us start a little earlier by celebrating Mardi Gras to have that “last blowout” before the repentance and reflection of the weeks before Good Friday and Easter. But what does Ash Wednesday mean, and how do ashes link us to the Lenten Season and the forgiveness of our sins through Jesus’s sacrifice on the Cross? [More](#)



Community Center

Many people know the excellent facilities we have at St. Francis Parish. Outside of Sundays in the Church and when the schools are in session, the Community Center is the focus of the community here. Through the various programs under Ashley Watson, the Coordinator of Community Life, the Parish draws in people daily. Father Mark Reamer, pastor during the construction of the Community Center and The Siena Center for Lifelong Learning, called the Church the front door of the parish and the Community Center the back door. He envisioned [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.”



Introducing Tap-to-Give

The weekend of March 15-16 we will be introducing a convenient option for those who prefer to use a credit card for contributing to offertory as the basket is passed around during Mass. [Click here for learn more.](#)



Monica and Alex Blankenship celebrate their wedding Saturday at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.

SOLIDARITY SUNDAY

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE
 Are you conflicted about the violence in Israel and Palestine? How can we pursue peace while also advocating for justice? **Reg. In Realm**

MARCH 9 2025

10:15 AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Calling all cooks!

The Feed the Need ministry of St. Francis provides temporary meal assistance to members of our community who are facing life transitions including job loss, new baby, grief, hospitalizations, illness etc.

[Click here](#) to see immediate opportunities to help.

Not able to provide a full meal? You can still help! Our Caring Cuisine refrigerator is nearly empty and desperately in need of side dishes, (rice, potato, vegetable) and main dishes (meatloaf, soups, pastas) gluten free options are particularly needed. [Click here](#) for more information and recipe ideas.

If you (or someone you know) would benefit from meals made with love during a life transition email feedtheneedsfa@gmail.com and a ministry member will be in touch.

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.

The St. Francis Prison Pen Pal Ministry

has a long legacy of writing, sharing and praying with the men on NC's Death Row and practicing this important corporal act of mercy. The friendships that have resulted are spiritually enriching and life changing, but we still have several inmate requests for pen pals unfilled. If interested, please email Catherine at sfapenpal@gmail.com and [click here to read our story](#).



St. Francis of Assisi
Raleigh, NC

Serving With Heart, Offering Hope

A single mother of two ran into trouble when she thought she had signed up for automatic payment on her utility bill...

[Click here](#) to read more or visit <https://stfrancissvp.org/blog/>

Serve

Learn

Donate

If you need help, please call our helpline at (919) 534-4842

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/)

World News

Who's St. Francis, whose love for the poor, creation, and peace inspires Pope Francis?

ASSISI, Italy (AP) — As Pope Francis entered his third week in a hospital battling pneumonia, hundreds of pilgrims continued to make their way to this hilltop town to pray at the tomb of St. Francis, the hometown medieval saint whom the pontiff chose as his papal name. [Click here to read the full article.](#)



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Questions, contact Diogenes Ruiz, diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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