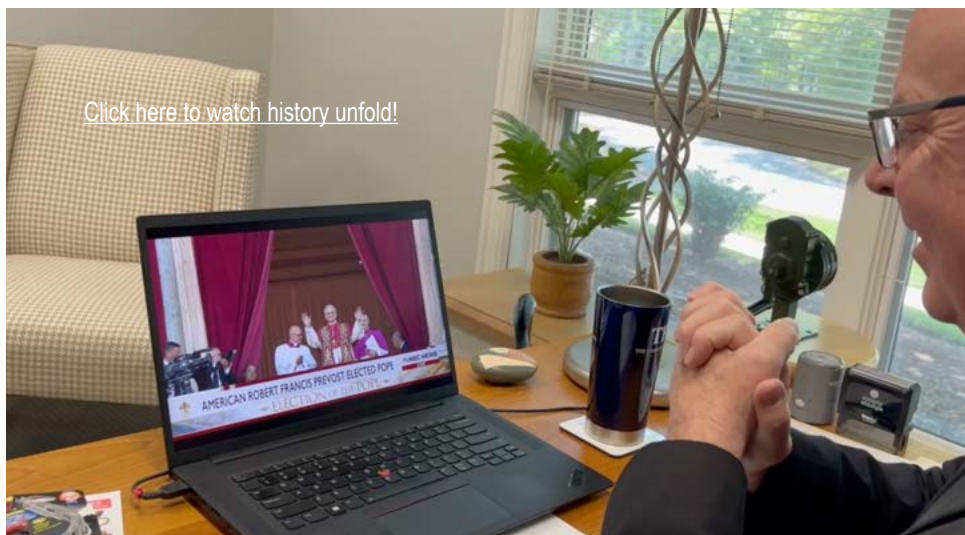


CELEBRATING OUR NEW POPE - POPE LEO XIV



[Click here to watch history unfold!](#)



Jim Wahl led the choir as they lifted us in joyful song at this very special Mass!



[Click here to listen to Fr. Chris' awesome homily at the celebration Mass on Wednesday, May 14 as we gave thanks for Pope Leo XIV](#)




Parishioners meet Leo the lion, Fr. Chris' newest animal buddy



Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

St. Francis parishioner, Will, attended Easter Mass at the Vatican with a group of students and teachers from Cardinal Gibbons High School. "We had the opportunity to be with Pope Francis on what was his final Papal Audience." - Will

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](#)
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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

**Deadline
May 30**



Please take a moment to participate in the parish survey. All St. Francis parishioners are invited to provide feedback so we can better plan and prioritize parish resources. Thank you for providing this valuable information.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8283808/SFA-Parishioner-Survey-2025>

May 18 - Always God's Children

3:30-5:00pm. A confidential setting for members of the LGBTQ+ Catholic community and their parents and grandparents. This meeting provides a safe place to pray and share our experiences together in relation to our faith. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.



May 22 - Music Ministry Concert

Thursday, at 6:30 pm.
End of season musical bonanza! - In the church.
Join fellow parishioners for an evening of beautiful music by our wonderful music ministry. There is no cost to attend.

May 24 - Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si Encyclical

Join us for the Saturday 5:30 - See page 4.

May 26 - Memorial Day Parish offices will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day (see page 4). The weekend Mass and reconciliation schedule remain the same. **Daily Mass on Memorial Day will be held in the church at 9:00am and will include a Memorial Day tribute.**

May 29 - Lord of the Harvest Healing Ministry

7:00-9:00pm. Facing problems? WE ENCOURAGE you to experience the healing love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. WE INSPIRE you to use your God-given authority. WE TEAM UP to strengthen each other. WE PRAY "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field." Contact Maureen Costello, sentout72@gmail.com. No registration is necessary. [Watch video](#).

June 1 and 3 - Eucharist Minister Training - See page 4

June 2-July 24 - Youth Summer Volleyball League Registration

Registration is open for Coed League for children of all skill levels - rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders. Teams have an hour practice on Mon. or Wed. Games are held on Thurs. nights. [Click here for more Information and to Register](#)

June 6-8 Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat June 6-8, in the Raleigh area. The weekend retreat is strictly confidential, for both women and men and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. For more information or to register for the retreat, contact Project Rachel at: project.rachel@raldi-oc.org or call (919) 852-1021. The website is: rachelnc.org. Cost is \$200 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. **Discount of \$50 if you register before May 9**, Spanish and English speakers are welcome. If there is a financial burden, assistance is always available.



June 8 - Baccalaureate Mass 5:30-6:30pm. All recent high school and college graduates are invited to participate in the Baccalaureate Mass on Sunday, June 8 at 5:30pm. Please gather in the gathering space prior to the service and come dressed in your cap and gown to join the procession and be honored for your achievement. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 12 - JCM Presents: Tell Me About a Time: Story telling in Interviews 8:30-10:30am. Join JobWorks Career Ministry as we welcome Stephanie Newstrom, Founder of Peak Potential Talent Solutions. Stephanie, a SHRM-CP and aPHR-certified HR leader with 20+ years of experience, will share how to craft stories that make you stand out in interviews. Register Via LinkedIn at: <https://tinyurl.com/3a8k5yfk> or email vpauldean@gmail.com.

June 16-20, June 23-27, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25 Camp Francis Explorers Counselors in Training

An opportunity for teens (rising 9th-12th grade) interested in developing leadership skills and working with children. They will work with other C.I.T.s and Camp Staff. They are to look at themselves as role models for the campers they will be working with. For information and to apply Contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 21 - Habitat for Humanity Beloved Build in Clayton, NC

8:10am-3:30pm. Can you join our team to build homes in the Habitat neighborhood of Stone Creek? No construction experience is necessary. Habitat has site supervisors skilled at teaching people how to build. You must be 16 years old to volunteer with Habitat. [Sign up](#). **Need 25-30 lunches.** Contact Will Connelly, st.francis.h4h@gmail.com.

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/>

Employment Opportunities:

Director of Justice and Peace, Full-time, immediate opening. Visit our website for more information: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>

ST. FRANCIS JUSTICE AND PEACE GRANT AWARDS CEREMONY



A special thanks to Bill Laxton, 20 year Grant Committee Chair, and Ann Lassiter, who will be taking over for Bill.

Each year, SFA awards grants to organizations that serve our community that actively apply Catholic Social Teaching and care for God's Creation. These grants are funded by the Justice & Peace Tithe which is 10% of the parish's annual offertory collection and supports our mission to proclaim the reign of God by offering hope to those who hunger for human dignity.

Last Monday, the St. Francis of Assisi Office of Justice and Peace and the J&P Grant Committee hosted this year's grant recipients to share our gratitude for the ways these organizations serve our neighbors through their commitment to the dignity of life and God's creation. The Committee awarded a total of \$78,000 to twenty-seven organizations with grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

Thank you to our community partners for doing God's good work in our community and for the parishioners of SFA that so generously make these grants possible.



Finding A Way Home

Passage Home is a non-profit organization in Wake County that assists youth, individuals, families, and veterans achieve self-sufficiency to break the multi-generational cycle of poverty. They offer housing and support services to include workforce development, specialized support for veterans, and specialized support for children within families experiencing homelessness through the nearly 100 units of affordable housing they own and manage throughout the county. Many people at St. Francis know and support Passage Home, including the families at Franciscan School, which holds a food drive every November to help families at Passage Home. Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi parish had a role in forming this charitable organization? [More](#)



Prison Pen Pal Ministry

"There are so many amazing, impactful, and important ministries at SFA, which make our catholic community unique. We all have different skills and charisms and are called in different ways to serve the Body of Christ. For me, after attending mass at St. Francis for the first time, I opened the bulletin, and 'boom' it just jumped out at me," says Vince Kavanagh. "God wasn't calling me to do all the ministries, just the one that serves the prisoner." [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."

LAUDATO SI' : PRAISE BE



May 24 - Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si' Encyclical

Join us for the Saturday 5:30 Mass honoring "Laudato Si' (Praised Be): On Care of Our Common Home." The title comes from Francis' "Canticle of the Creatures," which sums up the whole of Franciscan spirituality. Visit the Welcome Center to learn how our faith community embraces the call to action of Laudato Si'.

Eucharist Minister Training

Sunday, June 1st at 1pm in the Church
Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:30pm in the Church

If you're interested in attending this training, please sign up on Realm using this QR Code.



For more information contact
Shannon.Hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org



June-July Men's 18+ Summer Basketball League Registration

League play during June and July on weekends only. Teams will have no practice time. Registration is TEAM BASED only. Players will form their own teams and submit their registration and fee as a team. Each player must also complete an Individual Player Registration. Teams will provide their own jerseys. [Register here.](#)
Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org



St. Francis of Assisi
Raleigh, NC

Serving With Heart, Offering Hope

In a quiet corner of town, a simple act of compassion made all the difference for a 70-year-old woman.

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

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

ENCOUNTER
MINISTRIES

SCHOOL OF IDENTITY

2-DAY WEEKEND SCHOOL



JUNE 27-28

St. Michael the Archangel Parish Center
800 High House Rd | Cary, NC 27513



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.

Knights of Columbus Memorial Day Mass

The Knights of Columbus will be recognizing deceased family members of parishioners who served in the military. Please share the name of your loved ones who served our nation with the Knights before and after Mass the weekends of May 10th-11th and May 17th-18th.

Please contact Mike Wrzesien if you have any questions (wrzesien1963@gmail.com).



CEMETERY PROJECT

The project space is sandwiched in the property that is flanked by Crusader Drive to the North & East and then by Price Street on the West & South.



For those who may have interest in in-ground burial or for burial in a mausoleum crypt, which will also be available. FYI – we will also have a section in the cemetery for deceased bishops, priests and deacons, as well as a section for infants and for those most in need who otherwise could not afford a burial spot. Timing to begin construction is next winter (2025-2026), with about a nine-month build. We have been working with both Bryan Lee Funeral Home and Brown Wynn Funeral Home to assist with arrangements and they have both indicated that they could provide storage for a deceased should the individual die prior to completion of the project – as commonly done for a number of months when burials are to take place at Arlington National Cemetery. [Click here for more information.](#)

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

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- Skin Rejuvenation
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- Body Sculpting and more!



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MASTER CHORALE
RESIDENT CHORUS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

[Click here for ad rates and to advertise in the parish bulletin.](#)

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

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.