

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent



This weekend

**why
FAITH**

what we
believe
and why we
believe it.

Join us
Sunday, December 5th
at 10:20 to 11:20 am
for the Third discussion
on Baptism.

IN PERSON
Fellowship Hall
starting
Sunday Dec. 5th

UPCOMING TOPICS
Dec. 5th Baptism: Becoming Prophets
Dec. 12th Baptism: Becoming Royalty

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES*
Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 7:15am, 9:00am (also livestreamed), 11:45am, 5:30pm

WEEKDAY MASS*
9:00am

*Masks are required for ALL over the age of 4, regardless of your vaccination status, in all public areas of our campus.



Our Mission Statement

Inspired by our patron, Francis of Assisi, we seek to proclaim the reign of God by growing in Holiness through our experience of Christ in word, sacrament, and one another, offering Hope to those who hunger for human dignity, and extending Hospitality to all.



**ADVENT
&
CHRISTMAS
SCHEDULES**

See page 3



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-847-8205 www.stfrancisraleigh.org

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES:**

As we celebrate the Advent season, a time to prepare ourselves spiritually for the upcoming Christmas season celebrations, I'm happy to inform you that we will resume our seasonal

Penance Services. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, also called "the sacrament of honesty," is a great way to clear out the things that hold us back from being the person God has called us to be. Given the challenges we have faced for the past 18 months with Covid-19 and our nation and church, I think many of us have found ourselves struggling to be the person God has called us to be. I know I have.

We will have two services in the church, each with 12 priests present, this week. The services dates/times are:

Thursday, December 9, 7:00pm

Friday, December 10, 11:00am

There are other Penance Services available in our deanery if these dates/times do not work for you. Please check the bulletin or website for these dates/times/locations. We also celebrate this sacrament each Saturday afternoon between 4:00-5:00pm in the church.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF

MARY: This Wednesday, December 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, our national patronal feast day. There will be three Masses at St. Francis: 9:00am (School Mass), 11:45am, and 7:00pm. You are welcome to the school Mass if that is the best schedule for you.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:

In light of further discussion, the date/time for the Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the traditional Las Mañanitas has been changed to Saturday, December 11, at 7:30pm in the church. The Mass and Las Mañanitas will be celebrated in Spanish. All are welcome.

Para honrar a nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, celebraremos una Misa y las Mañanitas en español en el sábado, once de diciembre, a las siete y media de la noche en el templo. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

Fr. Michael

THROUGH BAPTISM MAY THEY WALK ALWAYS AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT:

Ikechi Liam Asiabaka

Son of Chigozie and Linda Asiabaka

Dana Dominguez

Daughter of Cesar and Mai Dominguez

Arlo Alessia Guzman

Daughter of Silfo and Kristen Guzman

Reece Michael Hampton

Son of Michael and Sarah Hampton

Jacob Thomas Hunckler

Son of Nicholas and Karmina Hunckler

Carter James Lyzen

Son of Frank and Jen Lyzen

Luke Francis Riddle

Son of Jason and Caroline Riddle

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE AND PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM:

+George Edward Marshall

Husband of Juanita Marshall

+Margaret Hughes

Mother of Jayne Martin

+Nancy Ward

Sister of Cathy Hicks

+Alex Thompson

Requested by Jackie Adamo

+Arnold Hopf

Father of Andreas Hopf

Weekly Envelope Schedule

December 5 Weekly

December 5 Mortgage Sunday

December 8 Immaculate Conception

December 12 Weekly

December 12 Retirement for Relig/

Aging with Grace

December 19 Weekly

December 25 Christmas

December 25 Diocesan Priest Retirement

December 26 Weekly

January 1 New Year's Day/

Mary Mother of God



Advent begins on Sunday, November 28, 2021

Reconciliation Service

Thursday, December 9th at 7 pm

Friday, December 10th at 11 am

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 8th at 9 am, 11:45 am, & 7 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 11th at 7:30 pm **Misa en Español**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

The Season of Christmas Schedule

Friday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4 pm Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)

4 pm Mass in Gym

4 pm Mass in Fellowship Hall

7:30 pm **Misa en Español** in Church

10 pm Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)

Saturday, December 25th Christmas Day

9 am and 11:45 am Mass in Church

No Saturday evening Mass

Sunday, December 26th: 7:15 am, 9 am, 11:45 am, 5:30 pm

Daily Masses for December 27 - 31: Wednesday only at 9 am

Mary, Mother of God

Friday, December 31st Mass at 5:30 pm

Saturday, January 1st Mass at 9 am

Epiphany

No Saturday evening Mass

Sunday, January 2nd: 7:15 am, 9 am, 11:45 am, 5:30 pm

KBL2 Episodes and Release Dates



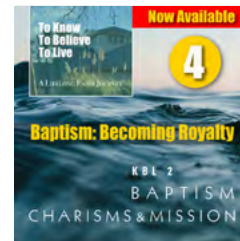
October 4
Baptism:
Fundamentals



October 18
Baptism:
Becoming Priests



November 1
Baptism:
Becoming Prophets



November 15
Baptism:
Becoming Royalty



January 10



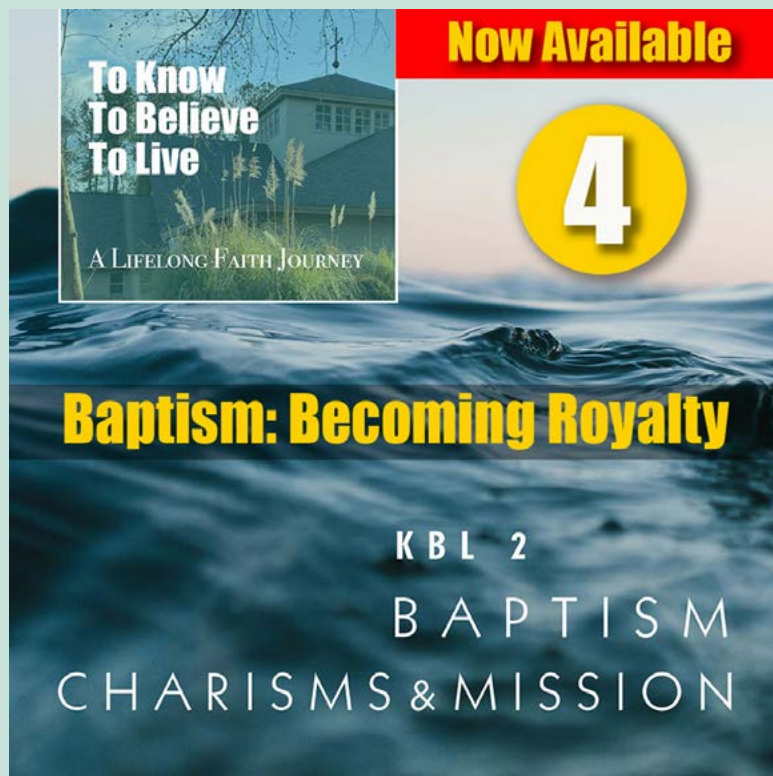
January 24



February 7



February 21



Watching Msgr. Clay's To Know, To Believe, To Live series but are not part of a small group?

If you are planning to participate in the Know, Believe, Live series, but are not in a small group, we invite you to join a Realm Group so you can receive updates and communications about the series as they occur.

Please note: you do not have to join the Realm Group to view the series which will be posted twice a month at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/know-believe-live/>

To join the Group:

- 1.) Login to Realm on the web <https://onrealm.org/StFrancisRaleigh> or on the Realm Connect app.
- 2.) Select "Groups" (or "More" and then "Groups" if you're using the App)
- 3.) Select "Find Groups"
- 4.) Select "Formation & Education"
- 5.) Look for the Group "KBL – Participants Not in a Small Group"
- 6.) Click the "Request to Join" button and a staff member will add you to the Group!

Please contact Stacey.Shine@stfrancisraleigh.org or Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org with questions about joining the Realm group for non-small group KBL participants.

If you have questions about KBL, please contact Kathy Sales at kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR DECEMBER 4 TO DECEMBER 12



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 4, 2021
Saturday, 5:30
Italo & Isabella Rastelli
Requested by Lucille Buffalino
63rd Anniversary

Sunday December 5, 2021
Sunday, 7:15
+Frances Mary Slobodzian
Requested by Veronica Slobodzian

Sunday, 9:00
+Peter Paul Sammut
Requested by Evelyn Hawthorne

Sunday, 11:45
+Rudy Sagers
Requested by Maria Sackett

Sunday, 5:30
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

Monday December 6, 9am
+Pauline Nader
Requested by Peggy Weavil

Tuesday December 7, 9am
+Garland Hall
Requested by The Flanagan Family

Wednesday December 8, 9am
+Brian Hoey
Requested by Ann Litts

Wednesday, 7:00PM
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

Thursday December 9, 9am
+Conor Farrell
Requested by Rose Marie Surath

Friday December 10, 9am
+Emilia de Jesús Jiménez de Pacheco
Requested by Fr. Jairo Maldonado-Pacheco

Saturday December 11, 2021
Saturday, 5:30
+Walter Canina
The Whitehouse Family

Sunday December 12, 2021
Sunday, 7:15
+Dennis Lashock
Requested by Virginia Berendes

Sunday, 9:00
+Jeanne & +Vincent Imbruce
+Josephine & +Paul Theuer
Requested by Carol Theuer

Sunday, 11:45 am
+Lucia Bartesaghi Bartolini
Requested by Mary Bartolini

Sunday, 5:30
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(ill) Daniel Maldonado
Requested by Msgr. Clay
Health & Wellness

(ill) Clarence Dordulaw
Requested by Veneriches Dordulaw
Health & Wellness

+George Edward Marshall
Husband of Juanita Marshall
Remembrance

+Margaret Hughes
Mother of Jayne Martin
Remembrance

+Nancy Ward
Sister of Cathy Hicks
Remembrance

(ill) Jim Buckley
Requested by Kerry Regan
Health & Wellness

(ill) Margaret Thompson
Requested by Jackie Adamo
Health & Wellness

+Alex Thompson
Requested by Jackie Adamo
Remembrance

+Arnold Hopf
Father of Andreas Hopf
Remembrance

**You don't have to go through
difficult times alone.
Our Stephen Ministers
are there to care.
To find out more talk
with Kathleen Owen at
kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org**





Advent Penance Service Schedule in Raleigh Deanery

Tuesday, December 7: 11:00am-12:30pm: Our Lady of Lourdes (Raleigh)

Thursday, December 9: 11:00am-12:30pm: St. Michael (Cary)

Thursday, December 9: 7:00-8:30pm: St. Francis of Assisi (Raleigh)

Friday, December 10: 11:00am-12:30pm: St. Francis of Assisi (Raleigh)

Friday, December 10: 7:00-8:30pm: St. Eugene (Wendell)

Tuesday, December 14: 7:00-8:30pm: Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral (Raleigh)

Wednesday, December 15: 10:00-11:30am: St. Catherine of Siena (Wake Forest)

Wednesday, December 15: 7:00-8:30pm: St. Bernadette (Fuquay-Varina)

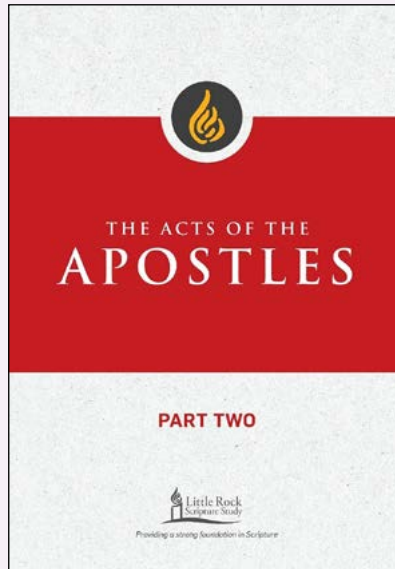
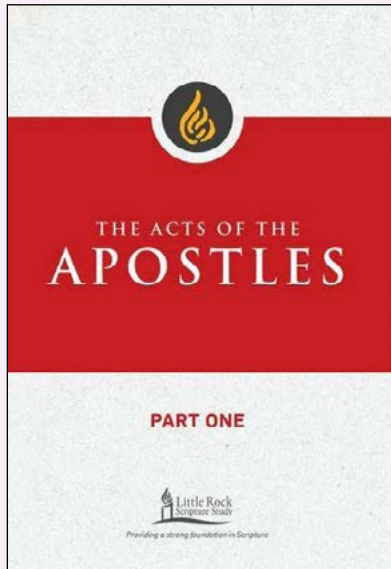
Friday, December 17: 7:00-8:30pm: St. Michael (Cary)

Tuesday, December 21: 11:00am-12:30pm: St. Bernadette (Fuquay-Varina)

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES



Coming Soon! Adult Bible Study: Acts Of The Apostles, Part I & II Registration Opens Via Realm On December 12, 2021



This is an "in-person" Bible Study, which will meet for a total of 10 sessions on Wednesday mornings from January 26 through April 6, 2022, from 10:00-11:30am. (There is no class on March 2 in honor of Ash Wednesday). Registrants will meet in the Padua Room (in the Community Center) beginning at 9:30 AM for light refreshments and coffee and class will begin promptly at 10:00 AM. Masks are required. (If deemed necessary, this study may convert to Zoom format.) Study, reflection questions, prayers, and access to online resources are included.

Cost is \$30.00 per person. Books will be available at the first meeting.

Registration limited to first 20 registrants.

Acts tells the story of how the Gospel was spread and explains the Church's growth from its beginning at the time of Jesus' ascension at Pentecost. Acts describes the Holy Spirit's empowerment of Peter, Paul and other disciples' preaching, and details how they brought the Faith from Jerusalem, Judea, throughout Samaria and, ultimately, to the ends of the earth. Acts records the conversion of Paul and the momentous decision of the Church to welcome Gentiles as well as Jews into the Church. Acts is the second volume of literary work begun in the Gospel According to Luke.

Facilitator: Cindy Cardello

It doesn't take long to get behind in rent when you are on a tight budget, your school-age son contracts COVID, and you must stay home with him for two weeks.

That's what happened to one neighbor that SVdP was able to help with November rent. The mother works at a local large discount retailer and is back to work now. SVdP, in collaboration with the Friendship Fund at First Presbyterian Church, was able to help. The parent is back to work now at her hourly wage job and is grateful for the assistance that helped her stay on track.

Another neighbor got behind in her rent because she used some of her budgeted money to help her disabled mother. She normally manages well financially, according to her landlord who refunded the late fee when she was able to pay her rent with the help of SVdP. The neighbor left a message for the SVdP volunteer on the help line, "Please call me back so I can express my gratitude."

If you need help, call SVdP at 919-534-4842.

If you would like to help and have some time, SVdP needs a back-up secretary. Now that people are back to traveling for work, the organization needs someone to attend meetings and take minutes when the secretary is away.

SVdP keeps an updated list of resources for food, financial and legal help, and other related services. They could use another person to make phone calls and look up websites to keep information current.

If interested in helping, contact Ann Bingham at stfrancisvdp4444@gmail.com.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Running Into Advent at The Franciscan School

By Father Jim Sabak, O.F.M.



At any one moment during our school day, you'll find a group of our students running. Our students run from their cars at morning drop-off to join with their friends and classmates elated at being together for another day of learning. At the conclusion of our day, our students run to their parents eager to tell them of all that happened in their classes and all the wonders our faculty and aides opened to them. We run at recess all over the field or on the blacktop. We run to lunch, we run to gym-class, and running is at the heart and soul of our team sports programs.

We run to the courtyard to join one another in Morning Prayer. We run to join with each other in investigating the secrets of our world; and we run to celebrate our achievements with one another. We run to help one another, to help those most in need, to help make this world more a sign of God's reign revealed in our midst. You can say that running is one of the dynamic characteristics that make The Franciscan School, The Franciscan School.

And yet, we do not run aimlessly, frantically, or without purpose. We run at The Franciscan School with a sense of joyful anticipation of what we can discover, can explore, can accomplish day after day. It is with this type of restless desire for the more that education can offer our students that they open themselves to the knowledge of God's wisdom everywhere around us. You can say, then, that at the heart of The Franciscan School lies the restless desire of the Advent Season. Advent is the season that beckons us year after year to run, run quickly, to make haste, to let nothing hold us back from the great encounter with Christ who comes that the truth of who we are and who we are meant to become is announced to and affirmed in us.

We dedicate our mission at The Franciscan School to daily open for our students the truth of what it means to run together toward the fulfillment of God's promises to us. We teach our students that running for ourselves alone will only frustrate us in the end, but that running together — encouraging one another when we think we cannot run any further

or cannot run at all — has the potential to unlock knowledge and courage to heal our weary and burdened world. It is with this purpose that The Franciscan School opens and closes each day. The joyful anticipation fostered in all we undertake, and in all we accomplish, we teach our students finds its source in a God who equally finds joy in what our students come to recognize about their own goodness and promise. It is why God comes to share life with us, and how we come to find joy in sharing life with each other.

As you explore school options for your children's education next year, please consider The Franciscan School. [Visit our website](#) for more information, to sign up for a Virtual Information Session here, or schedule a tour. Please contact Principal Mike Watson by email at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org or reach out to our admissions team at Admissions@stfrancisraleigh.org if you have specific questions. The faculty, parents, and students of TFS look forward to welcoming you to The Franciscan School community!

Mittens for a Baby Snake



“Every good and perfect gift comes from above.....” James 1:17

I still find it hard to believe that somehow we are already at the second week of Advent! Our teachers and preschoolers returned from Thanksgiving break and immediately dove into Christmas preparations as there are only a few weeks before the holiday will be upon us. As I wrote previously, it seems like every year there is a bit of a rush and hurriedness to the season. I think that most of us probably would benefit from some gentle reminders to stop and take time to enjoy the beauty and holiness of the season, much like our young children do.

Recently, we all had a chance one day to stop what we were doing and take a moment to watch, discuss, wonder about, and enjoy an unexpected ‘visitor’ to preschool. Upon walking down one of the hallways at preschool, I happened upon a baby snake. Generally, I don’t have any major problems with snakes, but I do when they decide to come into preschool! Needless to say, it was the harmless variety and one of our brave facility team members scooped it into a container. Because the container was clear it was easy to peer inside and see our slithery

friend. I then took him to the classrooms for a brief introduction. The teachers, in recognizing this unique learning opportunity, stopped what they were doing and began posing some critical thinking questions to the children. One of these was, “Where does a snake usually live? Does a snake hibernate? Why do you think the snake came inside?” In a couple of the 4-year old classes, some students reasoned correctly that the snake was in our building because the weather was very cold that day. I immediately remarked to the children that the snake needed a hat, mittens, and a scarf to get warm. While I meant it to be a humorous suggestion, I’d like to share with you, and hopefully bring a smile to your face about how two different students reacted. In one of the classes, a young boy ran to his backpack and immediately brought his mittens for the snake. In another class, a student also went and got one of his mittens saying that the snake could easily crawl into it for a bit. While we had follow up discussions about why a snake couldn’t wear mittens, the underlying message brought a happiness to my heart! Both of these

students offered their mittens with the purest of intentions, namely to help one of God’s creatures. They didn’t even hesitate to share what they had. In addition, no one in either of these classes made a comment of how silly or absurd their gift was. My heart overflowed with joy!

Although this is one example of how honest and genuine our preschoolers can be, the teachers and I are fortunate to witness times like these on a regular basis. Not only do we get a smile from moments like these, but it also forces us to stop, slow down, and reflect on pure and simple goodness. How wonderful that God gives us these opportunities! While you are in the midst of numerous holiday preparations and lots of hustle and bustle this Advent, may you also find countless moments of simple goodness along the way!

To learn more about the wonderful opportunities that we provide, please visit our website at: preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Standing Vigil for Justice

by St. Francis parishioner Paul Williams



Since September 22nd, Rev. Anthony Spearman, president of the NC NAACP and a minister with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church denomination, has been holding a vigil in front of the Governor's Mansion at N. Blount St. in Raleigh. He has been there to encourage Governor Roy Cooper to issue pardons for Dontae Sharpe, Glen Edward Chapman, Michael Parker, and Howard Dudley. All of these men were exonerated for the crimes they were convicted for. A pardon is not automatic after an exoneration. It has to be issued separately by the governor. Mr Sharpe spent over 26 years in prison. Mr Chapman spent 14 years on death row. Mr Parker spent 20 years in prison. Mr Dudley spent 24 years in prison. These men have been waiting for many years for a pardon from

the governor. A pardon would remove the felony conviction from their record, allowing them to get a job, have access to housing, and many other services.

Every Friday at 5pm, a Freedom Friday event is held on the sidewalk. Many supporters, people of faith, gather to pray and march around the Governor's Mansion demanding pardons for these men. A few folks from St. Francis have been there. On Friday, November 12, Governor Cooper issued a pardon for Dontae Sharpe. It was a joyous day for Mr Sharpe and his family. But there are three more men waiting for their complete freedom.

There is a group of 8 people who share the load of keeping the vigil going 24/7. I have been taking a couple of shifts each week. Being there alone is very uplifting.

In the beginning, I felt vulnerable and nervous. But I found a lot of support from the people driving and walking by. The study groups offered by our parish Office of Justice and Peace called "Just Faith" and "Faith and Racial Justice" have helped to give me the faith that I could not turn away from this invitation to serve. The vigil is bringing an injustice to the light and inviting our legislators to do the just thing.. Reverend Spearman is an inspiration. He is tireless and courageous. I am grateful that our paths have crossed. The vigil will continue until Mr Parker, Mr Chapman, and Mr Dudley are pardoned.

If you are interested in joining me at these vigils and/or learning more about the study groups I participated in, contact me at paul.williams3rd@gmail.com.

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



Our annual St. Francis Advent Giving Tree has begun!

This is a special time of the year when we are able to share our blessings with others.

There are still a number of opportunities to give to individuals and families in need from one of our partner organizations.

St. Francis is always so generous!

Go to our parish website to learn about all the ways to give - through the purchase of a gift or through the donation of money:
www.stfrancisraleigh.org/adventgivingtree-3.

You can also go directly to our sign-up to select individuals and families in need from one of our partner organizations.

Community partner organizations whose families are included on our virtual and in-person tree this year include Catholic Parish Outreach, Duke Children's Hospital, Birth Choice, Helen Wright Center, Hispanic Family Center, Emily K Center, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Passage Home, Ronald McDonald House in Durham, Helene Foundation, and St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. Parish ministries that also benefit from our Giving Tree include Support Circle families, Prayer Shawl, Feed the Need, St. Francis Brown Bag Ministry, Oak City Cares and our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

Again, thank you for your generosity!

Serving Homeless Families and Those in Need in Wider Community

By Trevor Thompson, Director of Office of Justice and Peace

St. Francis will be providing meals to homeless families who are in the Wake County program of Family Promise. Normally these families would be sleeping on our campus and having meals the week of Christmas. Currently, however, because of COVID-19, they are being temporarily housed in an apartment close to the NC State Campus. Thus, our ministry will only be providing supplies and preparing and delivering meals during the week. Meals will be dropped off for delivery at the parish. If you are willing to help with this, you can contact our ministry leader directly at stfa.fp@gmail.com to secure the link for the on-line sign-up.

Brainstorming Session: Advocating for Our Migrant Neighbors

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice." (Matt 5:6)

The parish immigration issue team invites you to join us for a virtual meeting Mon, Dec 13, 7-8:30pm to help brainstorm ways the parish might establish a more robust immigration advocacy program: needs, opportunities, challenges, and strategies. No registration required. For the Zoom link, sign up as an immigration ally on Realm (go to "Groups | Find Groups", then search for "immigration"), or contact Trevor Thompson directly (Trevor.Thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org).

Our parish has a long history of reaching out in direct service to vulnerable populations (e.g. "feeding the hungry" by welcoming those who are new to our community or guests among us). The immigration issue team, along with other parish issue teams targeting a host of social justice issues, seeks to broaden this work by focusing on formation and advocacy. Formation in this context is the quest to better understand the circumstances of those in need. Advocacy, the primary focus of this brainstorming session and the third pillar of our ministry, complements direct service and formation by targeting the root causes of suffering, inequality, and need. Advocates seek changes in attitudes, laws, and institutions that will lead to a more just society. We are committed to this comprehensive approach to addressing social issues with charity and justice.

We hope you'll join us to share your thoughts. If ready, you might also consider joining the cause as we begin to move forward. In the words of the Marty Haugen hymn, may we work together toward a world in which "all are welcome in this place".



Historia:

El 9 de diciembre de 1531 María (en la advocación de Guadalupe) se le apareció a San Juan Diego, solicitando que se construyera un santuario en el lugar donde ella apareció. El obispo exigió una señal antes de aprobar la construcción de la iglesia. El 12 de diciembre, María se le apareció nuevamente a Juan Diego y le ordenó que recogiera rosas en la cima del cerro del Tepeyac. Cuando Juan Diego fue nuevamente a ver al obispo, el abrió su manto y decenas de rosas cayeron al suelo dejando al descubierto la imagen de María impresa en el interior del manto. Esta imagen se venera hoy en día en la Basílica de Guadalupe en la ciudad de México.

El papel de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la historia de México y el continente Americano no se limita a los asuntos religiosos. Su importancia continua como símbolo religioso y nacional, atestiguada por los cientos de miles de peregrinos que visitan su santuario cada año.



Week 1

Give experiences instead of material things: tickets to the movies, theater, zoo or membership to a museum, reusable items like water bottles, homemade gifts, electronic reading like e-books and magazines

Call companies and ask to be removed from holiday mail.

For resources: stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation
Connect with us: stfcreation@gmail.com

Community Supported Agriculture



Early this summer the Care of Creation team piloted a CSA project with RAFI (Rural Advancement Foundation International) and Black farmers. The CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) supports local Black farmers who grow their crops through sustainable farming methods. The initial sign up was 18 subscriptions. With only word-of-mouth advertising, (and visions of beautiful fruits and veggies!) the second subscription period had 49 participants. We feel there is enough interest to further expand this program but we can only do so with additional volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering OR signing up for a CSA subscription for the Spring of 2022, please contact us at stfcreation@gmail.com. Sign ups for the Spring will begin in early January.

Responsible Shopping at our On-line Fair Trade & Alternative Gift Market Continues



Click on image to shop

Group Opportunities

Due to the changing nature of reopening our doors, please check the group opportunity to confirm whether it is held in a virtual format or in-person.

AA Meeting: For our Alcoholics Anonymous friends whose meetings have been cancelled. The Internet is full of online recovery resources. Online meetings like this one - you can belong to more than one, or two, or three. AA.ORG main website has a list. There are private Facebook groups, endless websites, and speaker tapes. It's all there.

Al-Anon Meetings: Sun. 7:00pm, LaVerna, lower level.

Always God's Children: Always God's Children: Meets on the second Sunday of the month. A support group for LGBTQ+ people and family and friends. To receive an invite to the online meeting, contact Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241.

Adult Open Play Nights: Assisi Community Center Gym. Visit <http://stfrancisraleigh.org/adult-open-play> to contact the ministry leaders for each of our adult open play nights.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group:

The first Wednesday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm and the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-9:00pm, in the Padua Room of Assisi Community Center. Linda Tucker, ltucker40@nc.rr.com, 937-478-9537. Centering Prayer: Thursdays, 9:35am or 7:30pm in Laverna.

Community Center Classes: Regular exercise classes and parent/child classes run weekly, September-May. www.stfrancisraleigh.org/programs-and-classes.

Community Garden: Saturday mornings, 10:00am.

Call Pat or Paul Kelly at 919-413-8833, email mpmkelly@hotmail.com, or just drop by.

Divorce Care: Divorce Care – Our next session will begin meeting from September 7-December 14, 2021 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. For more information contact Bill Morgan at dejanuts@yahoo.com or visit <https://www.divorcecare.org/about>.

Grief Support Group: Contact Marsha Riely at marshariely@mac.com or Marlys Varga at marlysvarga@hotmail.com.

GriefShare: Contact Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Job Connections: We provide tools and advice on how to stay motivated and on target. To enroll, contact Mary Horner at sfa.jcm@gmail.com.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: We will resume sessions on Monday September 20. The ministry meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 7 to 8 am via Zoom. Contact Deacon Steve Andrews at 732-213-0104 or stephenwandrews@outlook.com.

Padre Pio Secular Franciscans: Learn more about living Franciscan spirituality in the secular world. Monthly Gatherings the 4th Sunday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm Founders Room. Contact: Ellen Ferrone - ellen.ferrone@gmail.com.

Peace Pole Prayer: Join us after the 9:00am Mass on Sundays to pray for peace in the world and our country. Meet in front of Clare Hall for a few minutes of prayer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Contact Cindy Cardello, 919-846-8825 or Diane Rotunno, 919-844-7153 for details.

Rosary Ministry: Mondays, 7:30 - 8:30pm, St. Mary of the Angels Chapel, Marian Monti, ianmar94@aol.com.

50+ Adults Group: Monthly potluck luncheons throughout the year and monthly game days, September through May in Clare Fellowship Hall. Pat Gerney, 919-803-8276.

Women's Ministry:

- Friday Morning with Celesta Carlson – ccarlson210@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

To all our volunteers:

Here are a few ways you could help members of our parish:

Caring Connections

We are looking for a volunteer ministry coordinator for Caring Connections. The duties would be to add/edit/delete tasks in our lotsahelping-hands.com app, create announcements to the ministry, monitor that tasks are being picked up, and if not, notify me. Training is provided. Total weekly time commitments – 1 hour. If you're interested, contact Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241.

FaceTime and Zoom

If you'd like to learn how to use FaceTime or Zoom or be connected to watch our daily and Sunday programs, or if you'd like to teach someone over the phone, please visit our <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>.

Cards and Artwork

If you'd like to send or receive cards to/from fellow parishioners and establish a connection with other folks who are sheltering in place, or if you have kids who would love to send their artwork to brighten someone's day, or if you'd like to receive some artwork, visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>.

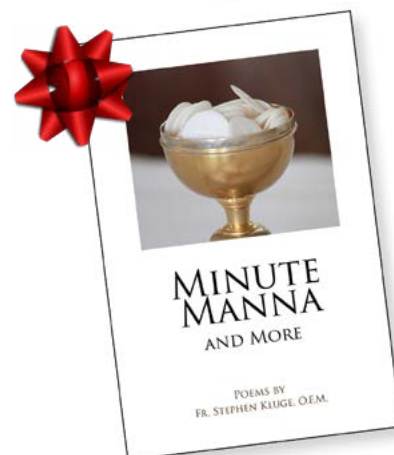
Make a Meal and Deliver Groceries

If you would like to make a meal or help deliver groceries to those in need, please visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>.

Thank you!

All of our Parish Life Ministries and the Community Center would like to thank you for serving the St. Francis Community. Please check your weekly bulletin for updates. Stay well.

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www.grateful-leper.com

Contact Us! Parish Office: 919-847-8205 fax: 919-870-1790

Welcome		
New Parishioner Registration	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265
Becoming Catholic	Jonathan Vanegas-Calderon	847-8205x238
Priests and Deacon		
Pastor	Msgr. Michael Clay	847-8205x224
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Jairo Maldonado-Pacheco	847-8205x226
In Residence	Rev. James Sabak, O.F.M.	919-832-6281
Deacon	Stephen Andrews	732-213-0104
Director of Pastoral Ministries	Kathy Sales	847-8205x488
Administrative Assistant	Stacey Shine	847-8205x249
Sacraments		
Baptism	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
First Reconciliation	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x223
First Eucharist	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x223
Confirmation	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Matrimony	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Holy Orders	Msgr. Michael Clay	847-8205x224
Anointing of the Sick	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Reconciliation Appointments		919-847-8205
RCIA	Jonathan Vanegas-Calderon	847-8205x238
Sacraments Administration	Martina Dumberger	847-8205x264
Funeral Planning	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Columbarium Niches	Trish Adamkowski	847-8205x236

Staff email: firstname.lastname@stfrancisraleigh.org

The Franciscan School		
Principal	Mike Watson	919-534-4840
Receptionist (Main Number)	Katie Hall	919-534-4837
Assistant Principal, K-5	Dawn Smith	847-8205x254
Assistant Principal 6-8	Colette Dziadul	847-8205x651
St. Francis Preschool		
Director	Heidi Hobler	847-8205x240
Assistant to the Director	Shelley Freeman	847-8205x262
Faith Formation		
Director of Faith Formation	Jonathan Vanegas-Calderon	847-8205x238
Administrative Assistant	Janie Hebert	847-8205x237
Coordinator of Elementary		
Formation and First Sacraments	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x223
Coordinator of Youth Ministry		847-8205x496
Middle School Faith Formation	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)	Andrea Javier	847-8205x489
Parish Operations		
Director of Facilities	Marc Kielty	847-8205x227
Director of Finance	Rob Neppel	847-8205x243
Human Resources	Trish Adamkowski	847-8205x236
Parishioner Records	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265
Safe Environment Specialist	Trish Adamkowski	847-8205x236
Communications and Webmaster	Diogenes Ruiz	847-8205x271

Get Care!

Care	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Home Eucharist Visits	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Feed the Need (meals)	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Medical Facility Visits	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Transportation to Mass	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Stephen Ministry	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
St. Vincent de Paul	Leave Voicemail	919-534-4842
Good Grief		
GriefShare	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241

Prayers

Prayer Line	Paul Wilson	wilsonpf99@gmail.com
Mass Requests and POTF	Stacey Shine	847-8205x249
Receive a Prayer Shawl	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Support Groups		
Divorce Care	Bill Morgan	dejanuts@yahoo.com
Job Connections	Mary Horner	610-755-5392
Seeing God in your Cancer	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
AA Daily Reprieve Group	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Al-Anon	Madeline Horrigan	919-923-1234
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support	Linda Tucker	937-478-9537

Get Involved!

Worship Ministries

Director of Liturgy and Music	Jim Wahl	847-8205x230
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministers	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Altar Servers & Thurifers	Joanie Madormo rmadormo@sbcglobal.net	
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Jackie Kelly	203-512-8807
Church Keeping	Beverly Saunders	919-846-5795
Cross Bearers Joseph Randazzo	josephjrando1@gmail.com	
Deaf Ministry	Jean Cooke-Byrne	919-412-8365
Environment & Art	Theresa Baumgartner	919-848-3383
Eucharistic Ministers	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Funeral Ministers	Lisa Gianturco	919-845-9718
Hospitality Hands	Deb Royals-Mizerk debaroyals@gmail.com	
Lectors	Mike Wrzesien	919-624-1592
Master of Ceremonies	Michael & Julie Ducatte	919-622-8883
Medical Presence at Mass	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Music Ministry	Joyce Petzka jepetzka@gmail.com	
Parking Ministry	Steve Burdett	919-845-2714
Ushers	Troy Chaput troychaput@gmail.com	
Weekend Receptionists	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Wedding Directors	Carol Ricotta	919-554-8896

Outreach Ministries

Director of Justice and Peace	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
St. Francis Feeds	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
Brown Bag Ministry	Mailbox stfrancisbbm@gmail.com	
Oak City Cares	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
Catholic Parish Outreach	Sue Hand	919-846-7954
Panera Food Pick Up	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
Ronald McDonald House	Mailbox stfrancismhministry@gmail.com	
Our Lady of Rosary Food Pantry	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
Interfaith Food Shuttle	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267

St Francis Serves		
Community Garden	Pat & Paul Kelly	919-413-8833
Curbside Care	Lori Piraino	lpiraino7@gmail.com
Duke Children's Hospital	Joe and Geanie Slifer	919-870-6993
Family Promise	Ron Smith	919-455-7786
Gabriel Project	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Migrant Ministry	Bruce Cartier	bcartier7@gmail.com
Prison Pen Pal		sfapenpal@gmail.com
R.A.R.E. Tom Zimmerman	thomaspzimmerman@bellsouth.net	
Red Cross Blood Drive	Bryan Kozak	910-728-9200
Refugee Resettlement	Aggie Dalton	aggiedalton@gmail.com
Habitat for Humanity	Trevor Thompson	stfa.fp@gmail.com
St Vincent de Paul Ministers	Ann Binghamstfrancisvdp4444@gmail.com	
Support Circles Kat and Ferrel Guilroy	ferrel.guillory@gmail.com	
St Francis on Mission		
International Mission Trips	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Sister Parish - Guatemala	Liz Mosler	lizmosler4@gmail.com
St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia	John Budway	305-205-5104
St Francis Learns		
Care of Creation		stfccreation@gmail.com
Engaging Spirituality	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
Just Faith	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Justice Theater Project	http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/	
Peace Pole Prayer	Ben Whitehouse whitehouseben5@gmail.com	
Racial Justice	Becky Cawley	becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org

Get Involved!

Parish Life Ministries	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	St. Francis of Assisi Community Center		
Director of Parish Life			Coordinator of Community Center	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
Pastoral Presence Ministries			Athletic Programs	Mary Arleth	847-8205x358
Caregivers	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Assisi Café	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
Centering Prayer	Kathleen Owen	919-781-5860	Parish Events (FrancisFest)	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
Emmaus Ministers	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Summer Camps (Camp Francis)	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
EMs to Abbotswood	Anita Misko	630-699-0519	Community Organizations		
EMs to the Homebound	Melanie Fraites	mjpfraites@gmail.com	Girl Scouts of USA	Melissa O'Connor	847-8205x296
EMs to the Magnolia Glen	Jacob House	919-449-7634	BSA Scouts: Troop 352 (6th-12th, boys)	Robert Sadler	scoutmaster352@gmail.com
EMs to the Meadows	Andrea McVerry	amcverry@yahoo.com	BSA Scouts: Troop 219 (6th-12th, girls)	Scott Cash	scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com
EMs to Rex Hospital	Edward Gilmartinedward.gilmartin@gmail.com		BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th)	Rebecca Brooks	
EMs to Springmoor	Janice Horner	484-949-1417	membershipack352@yahoo.com		
Prayer Line Ministers	Pauk Wilson	wilsonpf99@gmail.com	Knights of Columbus	Steve Becker	gk@kofc9709.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Cindy Cardello	919-846-8825	Secular Franciscan Order	Ellen Ferrone	http://ofscentralinc.org
	Dianne Rotunno	919-844-7153	Faith Formation Ministries		
Rosary Ministry	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Baptism Ministry	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
			Marriage Ministry	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Ministries of Support & Care			Confirmation Sponsors	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers	Linda Tucker	937-478-9537	Children's Formation Group Leader	Tara Moore	847-8205x489
Caring Casseroles Cooks	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Family & Marriage Enrichment Team	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Feed the Need Cooks	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Middle School Formation Group	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Job Connections Mentors	Mary Horner	610-755-5392	Youth Ministry Group Leader	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x223
Medical Facility Visitors	Sharon Holland	hollandbozo@yahoo.com	RCIA Team & Sponsors	Jonathan Vanegas-Calderon	847-8205x238
Transportation to Mass Drivers	Stephanie Smith	919-302-0080	Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)	Tara Moore	847-8205x489
Weekday Volunteer Receptionists	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265	Young Adults Bible Study Group	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Social Groups					
AAMEN Ministry	Leon Cooke	919-740-7515			
Always God's Children	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241			
LGBTQ+ Ministry	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241			
Men's Ministry	Norm Tuomi	norman3722@att.net			
	Ralph Guenther	rguenther2@nc.rr.com			
Young Adults	fb.me/YoungAdultsofStFrancis				
Women's Ministry	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241			
50+ Adults Group	Pat Gerney	919-803-8276			

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES*

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 7:15am, 9:00am (also livestreamed), 11:45am, 5:30pm

WEEKDAY MASS*

9:00am

***Masks are required for ALL over the age of 4, regardless of your vaccination status, in all public areas of our campus.**



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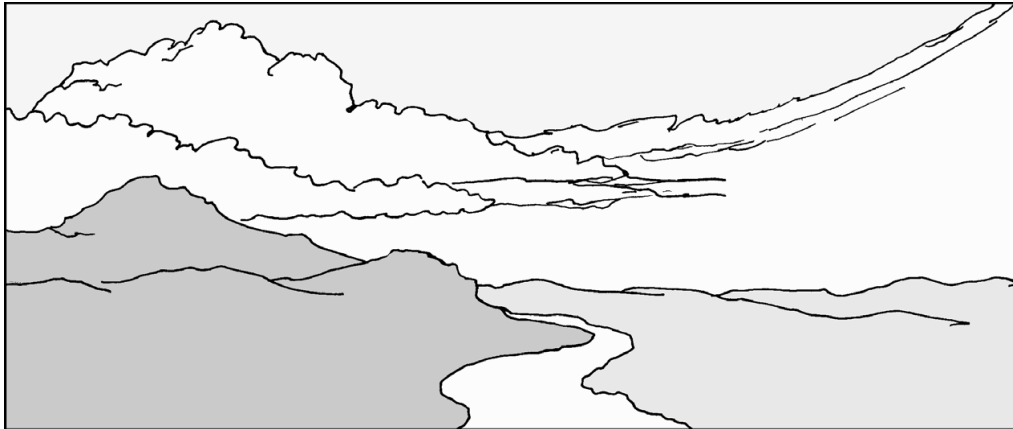
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Second Sunday of Advent December 5, 2021

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.

— Baruch 5:7



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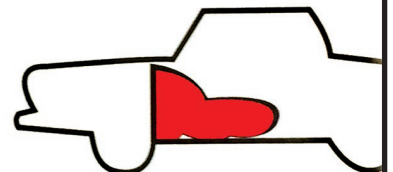
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