

November 15, 2020

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Virtual - Fair Trade and Alternative Gift Market

Friday Nov 13 – Friday Dec 4

www.bit.ly/SFA-FTM2020



Purchase beautiful and thoughtful gifts for those you love while standing in solidarity with our vulnerable brothers and sisters around the world working to provide a dignified life for their families.

***Free package pickup at St. Francis through Dec 4th. After Dec 4, shipping rates apply. See link for details.**

Remembrance

Please visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/remembrance-form/> and complete the form to include your loved ones name in these remembrances. Please complete a new form for each name.

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.



Weekend Masses

Up to 200 people are welcome to attend the Sat. 5:30pm, Sun. 9:30am, and Sun. 5:30pm Masses. To sign up, visit our website at 12 noon the Wednesday prior.



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

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



The pandemic became very real to me on Monday, November 9, when my sister-in-law, Wendi Clay, died from complications of the COVID-19 virus. She was 61. She was spending some extended time in the NC mountains where my recently deceased brother and she would go for several weeks each fall to enjoy the fall foliage. A niece of hers was visiting for a few days and tells me they went to a crafts fair and that there were times when my sister-in-law was not wearing a mask. It was soon after returning from this event that she fell ill. While we don't know for sure if that was ground zero for her contracting the virus, all signs point to this as the most likely place where it happened.

COVID-19 requires us to be vigilant. All evidence tells us that being scrupulous about wearing a clean mask and maintaining social distancing outside our bubble is the most effective way to keep this virus from visiting us. We are endeavoring to follow this policy at St. Francis to keep you healthy and prevent the spread of this virus. Thanks for your cooperation both on our campus and everywhere else. Thanks too for your prayers for my sister-in-law, her family, and mine.

As we continue our slog through this pandemic, one of the initiatives begun while Fr. Steve was pastor and endorsed by me is the Pastor's Parishioner Outreach Project. Its goal is to contact every registered SFA household with a personal phone call. I'm told that nearly 3000 households have been contacted so far. Our goal is to reach everyone on our rolls. One of the most critical elements of a parish's life is building community and relationships, a challenge for a parish our size. It is our hope that this initiative will help us grow as a faith community, with other parishioners, and with the Lord. Thanks to those who have welcomed our calls and to those who will be invited into a conversation in the coming months. Our goal is to contact every registered household by Ash Wednesday (February 17).

Growing up in NC when the Catholic population of the state was less than 1% and in a family where marriages were almost always between a Catholic and someone who was not, ecumenism has always been a part of my life. Some of my closest friends growing up were Protestants and I maintain friendships with several of them to this day. Last week, I received a letter from Cardinal Kurt Koch, prefect of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity at the Vatican, inviting me to accept a five-year appointment on an international dialogue team between the Catholic Church and the Disciples of Christ Church. Bishop Zarama has endorsed this so I have accepted this appointment. I was a member of the seven-person international Catholic team for the previous phase of dialogue and look forward to the next set of meetings as we work toward the ultimate goal of unity between our two churches.

Msgr. Clay

MAY HE REST
IN PEACE AND
PERPETUAL LIGHT
SHINE UPON HIM:

+ Paul "Joe" Merriman
Husband of Cheryl Merriman and
father of Sarah & Chris Merriman

You can mail your contribution to us at:

St Francis Of Assisi
11401 Leesville Road
Raleigh, NC 27613

You give can Online through:



Faith Direct:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-direct/>



Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199

Additional Online Giving Methods:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/>

Daily Mass 10am

**Daily Mass is held
Mon., Tues., Thur., and Fri.
in the church.**

Wednesdays are reserved
for TFS and Preschool Mass.

All pandemic protocols are followed.
No signups are required.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Celebrate the Sacrament of
Reconciliation from 4:00 to 4:45pm
on Saturdays in the church.**

**All health and safety protocols will be
followed but we will NOT be
recording names of those who join.**

November Envelope Schedule

November 15 Weekly
November 15 Christmas Flowers
November 22 Weekly
November 22 Human Development
and Human Dignity
Undated Thanksgiving/Food
for the Poor
November 29 Weekly

Thankful for?

*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.* Psalm 9:1

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, especially in the midst of all that has affected so many this year, in the middle of a pandemic, let us take this opportunity to acknowledge that for which we can be thankful.

Send us a photo, a drawing, or words that express what you are thankful for this year. We will compile as many submissions as we can and post them on the parish website as a way to give thanks to the Lord as a parish community.

Please email your materials to Deb Royals-Mizerk, our Director of Stewardship at deb.royals-mizerk@stfrancisraleigh.org. Submissions must be received by noon on Friday, November 20.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:15-17

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI - RALEIGH
YOUNG ADULTS

TUESDAYS 8:00 PM
NOVEMBER 2 & 17
DECEMBER 1 & 15

Contact Marisa Ferrara at
marisa.ferrara@stfrancisraleigh.org

RCIA

Continuing your faith journey in our community
Contact Jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org

Racial Equity Movie Night

"12 Years A Slave" and/or "The Best of Enemies"

December 2 at 7:00pm, via Zoom

Watch one or both movies in advance and come prepared to share and reflect.

RSVP here and a Zoom link will be sent to you:
www.bit.ly/REIT-movie2020

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRIEF SHARE

November 15, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Virtual Event

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/5538>

St. Francis of Assisi
Preschool

Accepting Applications
ages 2 - 5 years

A FAITH FILLED
ENVIRONMENT WHICH
NURTURES KINDNESS
COMPASSION, AND
CREATIVITY FOR OUR
FUTURE GENERATIONS

www.preschoolatstfrancis.com

VIRTUAL EVENING PRAYER

Monday through Thursday
7:00pm

FACEBOOK LIVE - STFRANCISRALEIGH

Join us for our upcoming virtual
information session
December 8, 12:00pm

TFS

THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL
— FAITH — ACADEMICS — SERVICE —
www.franciscanschool.org



Support the Virtual 2020 Benefit for Life Gala – “Life Can’t Wait”

Traditionally, every year in October, the Benefit for Life Gala brings together pro-life leaders and benefactors from around Raleigh for a dinner and an appeal to attendees to support the local pro-life medical center called Birthchoice and other pro-life ministries in the area. Birthchoice provides support and alternatives to abortion for girls and women facing unplanned pregnancies through offerings of pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, and information from patient advocates. Because of COVID-19, this year the 2020 Gala has gone virtual through the creation of a special video presentation. This beautiful video invites viewers on a tour of the Birthchoice facilities, interviews with staff, board members, and volunteers, and a special witness

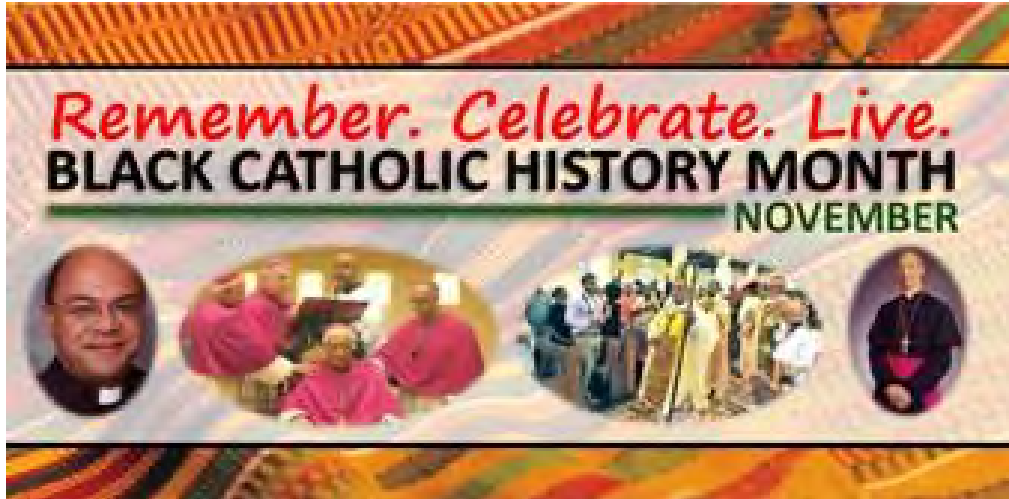
of some individuals who have benefited from Birthchoice’s services. We encourage you to view this inspiring video at <http://www.supportbirthchoice.org/bfl.html> and make a donation to support their mission. The Benefit for Life Gala is the chief source of annual financial support for Birthchoice, and so it is extra important that we include them in our charitable giving. The St. Francis of Assisi parish made a \$5,000 donation through the Justice and Peace Tithe to support this ministry of accompaniment and empowerment that helps women and men make informed decisions that respect the dignity and integrity of every human life. Support Birthchoice now by participating in the virtual 2020 Gala! As this year’s Gala theme suggests, “Life Can’t Wait.”

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Black Catholic History Month:

Profiling the First African-American Cardinal

By St. Francis parishioner Leon Cooke and Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace



Continuing our reflections in celebration of Black Catholic History Month, we wanted to highlight a decision Pope Francis made a few weeks ago in announcing that Wilton Gregory, the archbishop of Washington, D.C., will be among the newest set of clerics elevated to the rank of cardinal in a November 28th ceremony. Archbishop Gregory will be the first African-American cardinal of the church.

Who is Archbishop Gregory? He was raised in a working-class family in Chicago. Neither of his parents were Catholic. His mother and grandmother enrolled him in a parochial school when he entered the sixth grade. Within six weeks, he decided he was going to become a priest and converted to Catholicism. He was ordained as a priest in Chicago in 1973, when he was in his mid-20s, under the mentorship of the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago. In 1993, Archbishop Gregory was appointed as the bishop of Belleville, Ill., outside St. Louis. In 2001, Archbishop Gregory was elected president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), becoming the first Black cleric to lead it. In 2004, he was named

Archbishop of Atlanta where he served for fifteen years until 2019 when Pope Francis named him the new Archbishop of Washington, D.C.

Some might remember Archbishop Gregory for his leadership as president of the USCCB when he presided over the adoption of a zero-tolerance policy toward priests guilty of sexual abuse. In recent months, as a new bishop of D.C. and in light of current events, Archbishop Gregory has been a prominent voice within the Catholic church encouraging Catholics to work on nurturing better race relations and getting engaged in the work of racial justice. "We are at a pivotal juncture in our country's struggle for racial justice and national harmony," he said at a Mass in August commemorating the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington. He has also spoken about the importance of lifting up black Catholic history within our Catholic schools and formation programs, noting especially how important it is that young black Catholics see church leaders and saints who look like them. During his tenure as Archbishop of Atlanta, he was a leader in the implementation of creation care

measures across the diocese in light of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'*. Lastly, inspired by the model of Jesus and Pope Francis' call to go beyond the walls of the church, Archbishop Gregory has been committed to providing pastoral leadership to men and women who find themselves outside of the religious and cultural norms of their times, including LGBT Catholics.

Cardinals are the most senior clergymen in the Roman Catholic Church below the pontiff, and one of their main roles includes electing the next pope. Pope Francis has made it a priority during his pontificate to name cardinals from all around the world, especially conferring the honor on men from less prominent corners of the Catholic world. This is an important reality check for us Catholics who might have a very narrow and homogenous view of the Church. It is vital for us to understand that we are a diverse church. Naming Archbishop Gregory a cardinal is one step forward in making the leadership of our Catholic institutions reflect this diverse reality. How appropriate this happens during Black Catholic History Month.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life



Last March, when we first closed the church offices, a team of employees started reaching out to parishioners. We wanted to check in, to see if people needed anything and to see if we could help. It felt good to connect with folks, to remember that we were part of a larger community and that we weren't alone.

And it's amazing what we've learned. Some folks have moved away, some folks have gotten divorced, remarried, or have new babies. We get questions about how to get offertory envelopes, how to get babies baptized, how to preplan a funeral, and where to donate all the things you've cleaned out of the closet and what are the plans for our Christmas celebration. Some questions we can answer immediately – some questions we have to refer to someone else, but we do get the questions answered.

Msgr. Clay has embraced this project and asked us to complete our first round of calls by February 17, which is the beginning of Lent. And that timing is perfect because we have big plans for 2021 and we want to make sure we can send you a personal invitation to each of these events. Here's a quick preview of what's in store:

- Christianity 101 – a virtual series by Msgr. Clay on claiming our baptismal call
- Realm – we're rolling out a new way for the parish to communicate with each other and within ministries. As they say, there's an app for that!
- Called & Gifted – this was offered many years ago, but it's a wonderful series that helps you discern your special gift from God and how He is calling you to use this gift in His plan, so we need your help. We can't do this alone!
- If you would like to help us call the remaining parishioners on our list, please get in touch with me. We will offer you training and resources and best of all, you'll be calling folks who could be your neighbors. Kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241.
- If you think you're a parishioner, but you're not sure, please reach out to me or to Deb Royals-Mizerk at Deb.Royals-Mizerk@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x222.
- If you'd like to help us stay in touch with parishioners who have asked for a periodic call, please sign up for our Caring Connections Ministry at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/> These volunteers can sign up to make friendly calls to parishioners, deliver Feed the Need meals, send birthday cards and kids artwork to parishioners, and print and mail bulletins to those who don't have access to the internet.

St. Francis is a wonderful, welcoming, sprawling community but without seeing each other every week at mass, we forget that feeling of inclusion and belonging. Can you help us stay connected and extend that same welcome to others?

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Using Technology to Continue Academic Excellence

By Julie Sperrazza, 1st Grade



As we navigate through these unprecedented times, The Franciscan School is committed to its mission of providing a high quality Catholic education to its students. Our talented teachers and staff have worked together to find technology and programs to meet the needs of students on campus as well as those students who remain online. We are proud to share with you some of the programs we are using to meet the needs of all our students.

TFS has purchased a subscription for Math and Language Arts this year with IXL. The kids LOVE working on this platform. We love it because all skills are based on the NC Standards! So, we can pick skills to work on based on what we are teaching. With the app, students can access the program at school or at home. IXL is a complement to our teaching standards and is unique to the needs of each student.

We are also thrilled to be able to use Guided Readers this year to provide our K-3 students with hundreds of engaging books from DRA Levels A-P, differentiated activities and a Digital Interactive Reader. Guided Readers ensures that not only our on campus students have access to books, but our online learners have the opportunity to participate in daily reading activities. Guided Readers has been an incredible addition to the K-3 reading program.

Raz Kids is another subscription that TFS provides to its students. Raz is a motivating digital platform that kids can access at school or at home. The cornerstone of our reading program is independent reading. With Raz Kids, we can ensure that all students have access to books and can be practicing reading skills daily. Teachers can monitor progress and track assignments online. It's just another way we are ensuring all students have access to books!

While this school year is not a typical one, the dedication of our faculty and staff have allowed us to pivot and continue to support our individualized reading program to ensure all students continue to grow as lifetime readers.

The Franciscan School wants to partner with you to achieve the goals you have for your child and their educational experience. Join us for one of our upcoming virtual information sessions, more information here, to learn more on how we can do this. Our Principal Mike Watson will lead each of the sessions and faculty and parents will join the session as well to help answer any questions you may have about The Franciscan School.

More information can be found on our website at www.franciscanschool.org or contact Principal Mike Watson at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Practicing Good Citizenship



During these past couple of weeks, we, as adults, have had many opportunities to practice good citizenship in our communities. Not only has this included responsibly exercising our right to vote, but also taking time to honor all of the men and women who have and continue to serve our nation. Although voting and celebrating Veterans Day are not in the typical educational repertoire of a preschooler, there are still many valuable messages that can come from bringing them into the preschool classroom albeit in a modified way.

Several of our classes practice voting in some kind of way during the year whether it's expressing your preference for

red or green apples, answering whether you'd rather have a dog or a cat as a pet, or casting your ballot in a homemade voting booth for Farmer Brown versus Duck after hearing the beloved story of "Duck for President". Not only are educational moments provided in how to vote (ie. only vote one time, an equal number means a tie, or remembering that votes can't be changed once made), but also in other ways, particularly relating to the development of social emotional skills. Allowing children to express their preferences and make choices helps them to feel empowered and valued. Learning to recognize that it's acceptable to like something different from a friend or that it's important to hear everyone's ideas are skills that equip a child for immediate and future success. Being disappointed in the outcome of a vote or being unsure of what choice to make are good social-emotional skills to practice early as we certainly know how often we face them as adults!

By taking a moment to recognize our nation's veterans as heroes and people who try to help and look out for their neighbor, we are not only planting more seeds of positive citizenship, but also reiterating some of the messages found in our faith, particularly love of neighbor. Some of our preschoolers learned about the veterans or "superheroes" in their own families.



Several of them decorated banners, posters, and hearts in the colors of our flag. Many classroom prayers were offered and some cards were created for the people who have and are still protecting our nation. We had a wonderful opportunity to recognize one of our own preschool teachers as a veteran. It was a special treat to see Ms. Karla don her US Air Force uniform and boots! We all had a chance to practice kindness and appreciation in thanking her for the work that she has done in helping to keep everyone safe!

As we reflect on these past couple of weeks in our nation, no matter what vote we cast or how we feel about the election outcome, I believe it's important to keep in the forefront some of the lessons that our children learned: respecting others choices/ideas, service to others, and helping our neighbors. May our prayer be that we remain mindful of these lessons in our daily lives, especially as we seek to reflect the love and grace given to us by our Lord.

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



This Week and Next

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

Twice a year we help to fill the pantry at OLR, which serves the poor and rural communities, where approximately 24% live below the poverty line. This year, due to the Covid crisis, the need is even greater. Please consider filling a bag! Bags will be distributed after mass on November 14/15. You may also pick up a bag in the Community Center Cupertino Room Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm on November 16-20. A complete list of foods needed will be attached to your bag. Bag drop off will be the weekend of November 21/22, times to follow. Check the bulletin for more information.

St Vincent de Paul

Do you want to become a member of our St Vincent de Paul Conference while working from home? We are in need of volunteers who from their own home, retrieve messages that have been left on the St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) hotline. The information is entered on an intake form which is then forwarded to the person who coordinates the visitors. The volunteer usually needs to contact the neighbor (the person seeking assistance) by phone to get additional information. Also if the neighbor is not in the area SVdP covers, the volunteer will provide the neighbor with a list of resources for possible assistance. All volunteers will receive extensive training and specify their availability. All work with our neighbors is done virtually. If interested in helping contact Cathy Smith at smithtcr@gmail.com

The Faith and Science Forum

This group meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 1:00 to 2:30pm via Zoom to share information by discussing books, to ask questions, and to support one another in our mutual discovery and appreciation of our common home where Spirit illumines all things. Please contact Ron Monti at (919) 841-0807, montiron@aol.com or Tracy Hurley at 828-773-3152, danandtracy@hotmail.com.

Contemplative Spirituality Solace of Fierce Landscapes

We continue to meet virtually every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 1 to 2:30pm to dialogue on *Solace of Fierce Landscapes* by Belden C. Lane, where the author explores why so many in history were drawn to the hazardous terrain of deserts and mountains in search of Christian spirituality. Those reading the book have found it to be truly captivating due to its many unique insights into our Spirituality. If you have questions or are interested in joining the sessions contact Tracy Hurley at danandtracy@hotmail.com, 828-773-3152 or Deacon Steve at stephenwandrews@outlook.com, 732-213-0104.

Contemplative Spirituality Thomas Merton's Bridges Series

Did you know that when John Robert Lewis crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965, he knew that he was going to be arrested and he had two books with him that he was going to read while he was in jail. One was his bible and the other was a book by Thomas Merton. Why would a 23 year old Baptist have a book to read written by the Catholic Monk? Experience Why. Join us virtually, on Fridays from 1 to 2:30pm. We will dialogue on book from Merton's *Bridges to Contemplative Living Series*. Contact Tracy Hurley at danandtracy@hotmail.com, 828-773-3152 or Deacon Steve at stephenwandrews@outlook.com, 732-213-0104.

Men's Prayer Breakfast – The ministry meets virtually every 1st and 3rd Mondays from 7 to 8 am. The meetings provide a way for men to come together in prayer and fellowship. For discussions, we select a book that deals with faith and life issues. The Men's Ministry provides a safe haven for men to meet other Christian men for friendship and the sharing of our journey through life. If interested contact Norm Tuomi at norman3722@att.net or Ralph Guenther at rguenther2@nc.rr.com

Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles have moved to the Community Center



Bring all meals to the center door
9am-4pm, Monday-Friday

Caring Casseroles & Feed the Need:

Caring Casseroles & Feed the Need have moved! Our refrigerator is now located in Cupertino in the Community Center. Please note the following when dropping off your meal.

- Both Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles should be dropped off at the Community Center – specifically the middle door which opens into Cupertino Room. The middle door will be unlocked between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday.
- The doors to the rest of the Community Center will remain locked.
- There will be one refrigerator for Feed the Need and one refrigerator for Caring Casseroles. They will be labelled accordingly.
- Please do not put anything in the freezer. We will be using both freezers for short term storage of meals for families.
- Please remember to put a label on each meal including the ingredients. We have some families with food allergies and you can help us keep them safe by just including the ingredients for each meal for both Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles.
- If you have any questions or would like to join this wonderful ministry, contact me at 919-847-8205x241 or email me at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org

Thank you so much for continuing to cook delicious, nutritious meals that benefit members of our St. Francis community who are in need.

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: The monthly support group meeting for LGBTQ+ people and family and friends. To receive an invite to the online meeting, email Chuck Small at chuck.smallsfa@gmail.com. Next meeting, December 6.

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 St. Mary of the Angels Chapel.

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: sessions resumed virtually Tuesday September 1, 6:00 – 8:00pm in the Padua Room of the Assisi Community Center. 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 Ministry: Breakfast, Padua Room of the Assisi Community Center. Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/mensministry/> for details.

Padre Pio Secular Franciscans: Learn more about living Franciscan spirituality in the secular world. Monthly Gatherings the 4th Sunday of the month, 1-3 Founders Room.

Contact: Ellen Ferrone - ellen.ferrone@gmail.com.

Peace Pole Prayer: Join us after the 9:30am 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. Contact Angela Azzopardi, 919-848-1347.

Women's Ministry:

- Tue Evenings with Anna Fowler – annafowler@nc.rr.com
- 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:

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. At this time all other volunteer opportunities are suspended until it is safe for us to come together again. Please check your weekly bulletin for updates. Stay well.





Bringing Home the Word

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
November 15, 2020

What's Our ROI?

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Gospel today encourages good investments. Jesus heaps praise on the good servants who were faithful in small matters and rewarded with the joy of the master. The servant who gets called wicked and lazy is punished, not because he miscalculated a risk but because he feared his master and took no risk at all. He was frozen by the thought that he could lose everything, so he buries the talent and anxiously awaits the master's return. He is wicked, not for investing poorly, but for not investing at all.

Sunday Readings

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; / the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. / Acclaim her for the work of her hands.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–6

You yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night.

**Matthew 25:14–30
or 25:14–15, 19–21**

[Jesus said,] "It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them."

God has given us all so many talents, and he does so for us to enjoy a grand return on investment (ROI). He wants us to use our talents, work them, develop them, and—at the end of our lives—enjoy showing him the way they have multiplied. Like a loving parent, he knows that much of our happiness is in developing and growing those talents with his grace. Those talents are a sign of his call and an invitation to step out in faith.

Parents, your job is to help your children develop their talents and dreams. A confident, enthusiastic, and risk-taking child is a sign of parents who know the balance of loving discipline, positive motivation, and a healthy distance. Children who feel secure in the love of their parents are willing to venture out and invest their talents, for they know someone will always be there to accompany them and catch them if they fall.

Our loving God is the first to know this and so invites us with this parable to trust, invest, and enjoy the returns. +

*Parents, your job is to
help your children develop
their talents and dreams.*

A Word from Pope Francis

From our own death and from our gift, the life and health of others, sick and suffering, may spring forth, helping to reinforce a culture of help, of giving, of hope, and of life. In the face of the threats against life...society needs these concrete gestures of solidarity and generous love.

—Address to Italian Association for the Donation of Organs, Tissues, and Cells, April 13, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What are the most important talents I have? Think of virtues, abilities, qualities, time.
- Which talent should I invest in more so I can enjoy the return God wants?



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH Office of Communications
7200 Stonewall Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27613 919-821-9730 www.dioceseofraleigh.org

Praying Through Infertility

Online Advent Retreat, Dec. 4- 6: Praying Through Infertility - For those struggling with infertility, the time spent preparing for and celebrating Christmas can be bittersweet. But the Lord offers us great hope! Springs in the Desert invites those carrying the burden of infertility and loss to a FREE virtual mini-prayer retreat. Discover ways to connect more deeply to God and your spouse through prayer; contemplate the Lord's closeness in your suffering; and learn ways to surrender your sorrows to God, and invite Him to guide you and strengthen your marriage. Retreat ends with a Facebook Live event on Dec. 6 at 2pm EST.

This retreat is promoted by the Diocese of Raleigh. For more information: <https://springsinthedesert.org/>

Auditing Racism

By Most Reverend Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

The company that manages our electrical service called our parish one day. The agent said the company would do a free energy audit. The audit would produce a report detailing the ways we could save energy and lower our bill. The company also offered us energy-saving light bulbs, free.

We've been audited many times. Every three to five years diocesan auditors visit for two or three days to review the parish finances to make sure everything adds up. We've been through compliance audits for ethical ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. We've had rain, runoff, and wastewater audits. One time, everyone who served at the parish did a time audit. We looked at our daily activities to better understand our priorities and effectiveness in ministry.

An audit is an examination of conscience or review of life. Time is set aside for reflection on a specific area of living. Deep analysis, reflection, and evaluation can bring new insight. In the end, we can accentuate the positives and hopefully address the negatives. A goal is attitudinal and/or behavioral change for the better.

Audits or examinations of conscience are regular parts of Catholic life. So why not a racism audit? Would you or your church community do a racism audit every few years? How do you think you'd do? Right away you might feel defensive and set up obstacles to such a review with statements like: "We've done this,"



"I'm not racist," "It's not a problem here," "That's politics," "The Church apologized for that long ago," and more.

I respectfully wave off all obstacle-creating excuses. For an audit to measure an organization's tolerance for and acceptance of diversity and inclusion, two areas of inquiry are required: individual, and organizational. The audit focuses on the individual or personal because an institution is the sum of its parts, and it also focuses on the organization, because structures and systems—like people—hold and transmit beliefs and values.

Employing the audit does not reveal if a person is or is not racist. You don't pass or fail an audit result. The goal is to measure inclusion—that is, the levels of inclusivity at work in a person or

organization. Inclusion can be measured in a number of areas: values and attitudes, skills and abilities, occupation, and personal features or personality.

A level of bias, inclusivity, and/or exclusivity is at work in all of us whether we are aware of it or not. Bias is often unconscious or automatic. Our willingness to examine our own possible biases is an important step in understanding the roots of stereotypes and prejudice in our Church and in society.

How might the Church change if dioceses and parishes—like many corporations and businesses—hired inclusion officers to perform regular audits of parishes and ministries? Racism, prejudice, and bias in our country aren't going away. Maybe we should add one more audit to the annual list. +

***Bias is often unconscious.
Our willingness to examine
our own possible biases
is an important step
in understanding the roots
of prejudice.***



Lord, I am grateful for all your blessings. Help me to use your gifts of love and compassion to rebuild people's lives.

—From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 16–21

Monday, Weekday:

Rv 1:1–4; 2:1–5 / Lk 18:35–43

Tuesday, St. Elizabeth of Hungary:

Rv 3:1–6, 14–22 / Lk 19:1–10

Wednesday, Weekday:

Rv 4:1–11 / Lk 19:11–28

Thursday, Weekday:

Rv 5:1–10 / Lk 19:41–44

Friday, Weekday:

Rv 10:8–11 / Lk 19:45–48

Saturday, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Rv 11:4–12 / Lk 20:27–40

Bringing Home
the Word 
November 15, 2020

© 2020 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2020 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.

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

Welcome

New Parishioner Registration	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265
Becoming Catholic	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x238
Get Involved!	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222

Priests and Deacon

Pastor	Msgr. Michael Clay	847-8205x224
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Jairo Maldonado	847-8205x226
In Residence	Rev. James Sabak, O.F.M.	919-832-6281
Deacon	Stephen Andrews	732-213-0104

Sacraments

Baptism	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
First Reconciliation	Sarah Bowser	847-8205x496
First Eucharist	Sarah Bowser	847-8205x496
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		847-8205x249
RCIA	Jenn Fiduccia	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	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x238
Children's Faith Formation	Sarah Bowser	847-8205x496
Coordinator of Youth Ministry	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x223
Middle School Faith Formation	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)	Tara Moore	847-8205x489

Parish Operations

Communications and Webmaster	Diogenes Ruiz	847-8205x271
Director of Facilities	Marc Kieley	847-8205x227
Director of Finance	Rob Neppel	847-8205x243
Director of Stewardship	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222
Human Resources	Trish Adamkowski	847-8205x236
Parishioner Records	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265
Safe Environment Specialist	Trina Sugrue	847-8205x245

Get Care!

Care

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
Prayers	Jackie Adamo	847-8205x268
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	847-8205x222
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	troy.chaput@gmail.com
Weekend Receptionists	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Weekend Welcome Hosts	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222
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
Jobs for Life Dinners	Ellen Ferrone	ellen.ferrone@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 / WHIN Hosts	Ron Smith	919-455-7786
Gabriel Project	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Migrant Ministry	Bruce Cartier	bcartier7@gmail.com

Prison Pen Pal

R.A.R.E. Tom Zimmerman	thomaszpimmerman@bellsouth.net	
Red Cross Blood Drive	Bryan Kozak	910-728-9200
Refugee Resettlement	Aggie Dalton	aggiedalton@gmail.com
St Francis Builds / Habitat	Diane & Bob Steinbeiser	919-846-8026
St Vincent de Paul Ministers	Cathy Smith	419-348-8843
Support Circles Kat and Ferrel Guilroy		ferrel.guilroy@gmail.com
Whitaker House	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270

St Francis on Mission

International Mission Trips	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Sister Parish - Guatemala	Carie Gunnells	carie.gunnells@gmail.com
St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia	John Budway	305-205-5104

St Francis Learns

Catholic Social Teaching	http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/	
Care for Creation	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Community Conversations	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
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
Study Circles	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270

Get Involved!

Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

Parish Life Ministries

Director of Parish Life

Pastoral Presence Ministries

Caregivers

Centering Prayer

Emmaus Ministers

EMs to Abbotswood

EMs to the Homebound

EMs to the Magnolia Glen

EMs to the Meadows

EMs to Rex Hospital

EMs to Springmoor

Prayer Line Ministers

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Rosary Ministry

Ministries of Support & Care

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers

Caring Casseroles Cooks

Feed the Need Cooks

Job Connections Mentors

Medical Facility Visitors

Transportation to Mass Drivers

Weekday Volunteer Receptionists

Social Groups

AAMEN Ministry

Always God's Children

LGBTQ+ Ministry

Men's Ministry

Young Adults

Women's Ministry

50+ Adults Group

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Alice Stanford

919-781-5860

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Anita Misko

630-699-0519

Pat Spencer

704-608-1678

Jacob House

919-449-7634

Andrea McVerry

amcverry@yahoo.com

Edward Gilmartinedward.gilmartin@gmail.com

Janice Horner

484-949-1417

Pauk Wilson

wilsonpf99@gmail.com

Cindy Cardello

919-846-8825

Dianne Rotunno

919-844-7153

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Linda Tucker

937-478-9537

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Mary Horner

610-755-5392

Sharon Holland

hollandbozo@yahoo.com

Stephanie Smith

919-302-0080

Toni Hammes

847-8205x265

Leon Cooke

919-740-7515

Chuck Small

984-204-0012

Jane Paris

919-847-7431

Norm Tuomi

norman3722@att.net

Ralph Guenther

rguenther2@nc.rr.com

fb.me/YoungAdultsofStFrancis

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Angela Azzopardi

919-848-1347

St. Francis of Assisi Community Center

Coordinator of Community Center

Athletic Programs

Assisi Café

Parish Events (FrancisFest)

Summer Camps (Camp Francis)

Community Organizations

Girl Scouts of USA

BSA Scouts:Troop 352 (6th-12th, boys) Mark Priest scoutmaster352@gmail.com

BSA Scouts:Troop 219 (6th-12th, girls) Scott Cash scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com

BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th) Rebecca Brooks

membershipack352@yahoo.com

Knights of Columbus

Secular Franciscan Order

Faith Formation Ministries

Director of Faith Formation

Assisi Scripture Study

Baptism Ministry

Marriage Ministry

Confirmation Sponsors

Children's Formation Group Leader

Family & Marriage Enrichment Team

Middle School Formation Group

Faith Formation Regist. & Events

Youth Ministry Group Leader

RCIA Team & Sponsors

Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)

Young Adults Bible Study Group

Stewardship Ministries

Director of Stewardship

Stewardship Committee

Way of Francis Ben Whitehouse whitehouseben5@gmail.com

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Mary Arleth

847-8205x358

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Melissa O'Connor

847-8205x296

Mark Priest scoutmaster352@gmail.com

Scott Cash scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com

Rebecca Brooks

Bryan Kozak

gk@kofc9709.org

Ellen Ferrone

http://ofscentralinc.org

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Thomas Bulick

847-8205x239

Sarah Bowser

847-8205x496

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Thomas Bulick

847-8205x239

Patti Panizza

847-8205x237

Marisa Ferrara

847-8205x223

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Tara Moore

847-8205x489

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

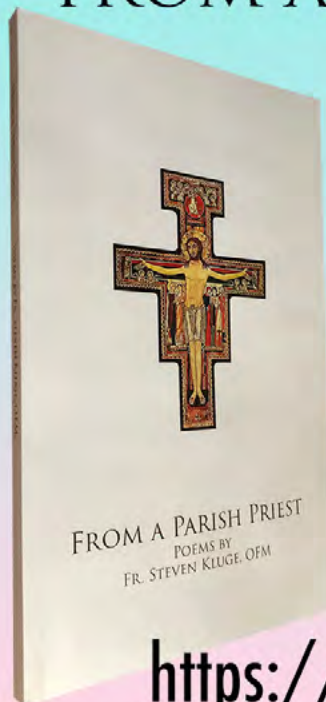
Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

"FROM A PARISH PRIEST"



A collection of Fr. Steve K's poems, many never having been in the bulletin, is now available on Amazon.

Profits go to support St. Francis of Assisi parish.

<https://bit.ly/stevekpoeams>