



## *Mass Intentions and Prayer Requests*

See page 3

### **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](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org)



As we move back into our normal parish rhythms (as least normal in pandemic times) beginning Monday, January 4, I want

to express my gratitude to all who made our liturgical celebrations of the Nativity of Our Lord (a.k.a., Christmas) and Mary, Mother of God (a.k.a., New Year's Day) so glorious. Here is a list of the major sources of my gratitude:

- The Moser family who provided our awesome Christmas tree and garland decorations.
- Theresa Baumgartner and those who worked with her beautifully decorating our church.
- Our music ministers who helped us celebrate this season with joy-filled (and bell-ringing) music.
- The volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make it possible for us to gather safely in the church and who provided us with liturgical ministry, some coming more than once for a feastday.
- Those who were patient with us at the church doors as we worked through the glitches experienced registering for one of the holiday Masses so they could worship with us.
- The children who provided our virtual Christmas pageant this year.
- The technicians who provided numerous livestreams so that more and more people could participate virtually in our Masses.
- The communications team who developed our holiday website and links.
- Those who continue to support our

parish through their financial donations as well as the gifts of their time and talents.

- Our staff and school faculty and administrators who continue to provide exemplary leadership and heroism in our attempt to keep church and schools "in session" despite the challenges facing them each and every day.

Beginning Monday, January 4, we will launch an adjusted format for setting up requests to remember family, friends, fellow parishioners, and others in our weekend Prayers of the Faithful. We will mention only the individuals you request to be named in these petitions. We will create a new place on our website where the names of those we are praying for and those affiliated with our parish most closely related to them will appear, provided those parishioners request that of us. Please see our parish website for directions on how to make these requests beginning January 4.

As part of our transition from Franciscan to diocesan clergy leadership, we will also inaugurate a formal Mass Intention process on the same day. Requesting Masses, our highest form of prayer, specifically for someone living or deceased is a venerable and longstanding tradition and an exercise of your baptismal priesthood, something you received at your baptism, that calls you to pray and interceded on behalf of others to the Lord. Please see our parish website for directions on how to make these requests beginning January 4.

*Msgr. Clay*

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

+ **David Fuller**  
Father of Jason Taylor

+ **Florine Beidl**  
Wife of John Beidl and Mother of  
Jacqueline Beidl, Wendy Goodwin,  
Paula Schelling

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:**  
[www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/)



The Pastor's Parishioner Outreach Project is reaching out to parishioners to make sure we have your current contact information. We're looking for volunteers to help reach out to parishioners. If you would like to make phone calls or send cards to help update parishioner contact info, please contact [kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org)

### January Envelope Schedule

January 3, 2021 Weekly  
January 3, 2021 Mortgage Sunday  
January 10, 2021 Weekly  
January 17, 2021 Weekly  
January 24, 2021 Latino Ministries/  
Latin America  
January 24, 2021 Weekly  
January 31, 2021 Weekly



# Mass Intentions and Prayer Requests

As mentioned in Msgr. Clay's column, we are adjusting our processes related to requesting Mass intentions and placing names in the weekend Prayers of the Faithful. **Beginning January 4**, we will begin accepting a Mass intention for most Masses. Some of the changes will be as follows:

## Mass Intentions:

- You will be able to request Mass intentions for each parish Mass with the exception of the 5:30pm Mass on Sunday. This Mass will always be pro populo or 'for the people of St. Francis parish' as required by Canon Law.
- A maximum of six (6) intentions per year from any one individual may be scheduled at the parish with no more than two (2) scheduled for a weekend Mass. All other requests will be scheduled for the parish daily Masses.
- A maximum of six (6) Masses per year may be scheduled at the parish for any one intention in consideration to others who wish to request a Mass intention. Additional Masses may be requested; however, these will be reviewed by the pastor for a final decision.
- A Mass intention may be requested for: a deceased loved one, a living person who is sick or suffering, a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment in their life, in thanksgiving to God (including the Lord Jesus or the Holy Spirit), in thanksgiving for a favor received through the intercession of a Blessed or a Saint, or for a personal prayer intention (so long as the intention does not contradict Church teaching).
- Requests will be honored on a first-come-first-served basis in the order in which the request is received at the Parish Office.
- A minimum \$10 stipend, as determined by diocesan policy, is to accompany each Mass request. Intentions will not be recorded until the stipend is received. Canon Law requires that all Mass Intentions be celebrated for the intention as designated when accompanied by a stipend.
- Mass requests will be granted as close to the requested date and time as possible. If it is not possible to comply with the primary request, the next closest date and time will be scheduled.

## Prayers of the Faithful:

- Beginning January 4, 2021, family connections (e.g., mother of Mary Jones, etc.) to our recently deceased parishioners will no longer be read as part of the Prayer of the Faithful petition, only the name(s) of the deceased. However, the names of the immediate family members who are parishioners will be listed with the name of the deceased on our website.
- We will no longer offer cards for Prayer of the Faithful requests. Cards will now only be available when requesting a Mass Intention.
- Prayer requests will be accepted up to 1:00pm on Thursday for the upcoming weekend Masses. We cannot guarantee names will be recorded/logged for requests received after 1:00pm on Thursday for the upcoming weekend liturgies. These requests will be listed the following weekend.

To request either a Mass intention or a Prayer of The Faithful, visit the parish website. Under the "Mass" pulldown menu, select "Mass Intentions and Prayer Requests"



# PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

## Everyday



Last week I was listening to a gentleman describe his grief journey. He said that although his son had been killed several years ago, for him, his son died every day. His words were so powerful and so true. When you experience a loss, whether through death or even divorce, you do experience aspects of that loss each day and it can seem that the loss happens every day.

If you're experiencing the loss of a loved one or loss of a marriage, there are two opportunities at St. Francis to receive support.

Seasons of Hope – Journal 2-Each year, many families face the loss of loved ones who are members of the parish. Our Catholic tradition provides funeral support and now Seasons of Hope can carry that caring spirit into the difficult period that follows when grief can overwhelm. It also serves those who mourn loved ones from outside our parish community. They too may feel isolated, empty, and broken-hearted. For those searching for hope, a Seasons of Hope group is a nurturing link to the Church, the Almighty, and other people of faith who are also mourning. Come and be comforted.

Seasons of Hope meets for six consecutive weeks. Any parishioner who is mourning the loss of a loved one is encouraged to attend and invited to bring a guest. Please join us on Tuesday mornings at 10am, starting on January 12 via Zoom. The program offers four separate six-week series. Each series is a standalone program. To register, visit <https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/5908>



DivorceCare New Version! - Divorce is one of the most painful experiences you can face. So many emotions. So many challenges. You don't have to go through it alone. DivorceCare offers support, answers, and practical tools to help you manage the many stresses of separation and divorce and find healing.

DivorceCare is a 13-week support group that helps you heal from the pain of separation or divorce. The experience involves three main components designed to help in that healing.

### Video seminar

- 30-minute video
- Practical advice and insights from divorce recovery experts
- Real-life stories from people who have been where you are
- Focused support group

### Discussing what you learned from the video

- Talking about how to apply it
- Sharing how each group member is doing (only if you want to share)

### Participant guide

- Exercises and articles for recovery and personal growth
- Parenting tips
- Practical tools to help you heal

To register, visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/divorce-care/>



If you're more of a one on one person, we also offer Stephen Ministry. After being matched with a Stephen Minister, your minister will meet with you on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the need for care exists. If this sounds helpful, contact Kathleen Owen at 919-847-8205x241 or [kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org). Take good care of yourself!

# JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Ben and Gladys Whitehouse, O.F.S.

## A Path to Peace



Like so many activities that we used to participate in before the pandemic, praying for peace every Sunday after the 9:30 Mass at the Peace pole has become a distant memory. It served as a weekly reminder that God has called each of us to be God's instrument of peace. We miss the sense of community as we gathered together to pray for victims of violence and yearn for the peace that passes all understanding. Given all that has happened this past year amidst the pandemic and the toll it has taken throughout the world, the uprise of racial tensions, terrorism and violence makes peace seem like an unattainable goal. However, in the Gospel, we have been promised peace by the Risen Christ and cannot lose sight of that hope. It is more crucial now, more than ever for us to pray for peace and not allow our hope to diminish.

But how do we find hope and trust in the peace Christ promised us? How do we make peace a reality in our lives? Pope Francis has chosen the title of this year's message on Peace Day, A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace. He explains that a culture of care is the way each of us can be a peacemaker. It is not an easy path. He outlines in this message how we are called to make this culture of care a reality in the world – care for creation and one another, working for the common good, striving for solidarity, promoting the dignity and rights of every human person. And so, we ask ourselves, how do we make this happen in this time of pandemic when we are no longer able to be out in the world as we once were?

Prayer has become even more vital and an increased priority in our lives. Although we can't meet on Sundays

at the Peace Pole, our Small Christian Community has gathered virtually these past 9 months to share and pray together. We have become more active in promoting social justice and raising awareness of the racial disparity that exists. Although we are no longer doing interviews at Catholic Parish Outreach, we are trying to be more generous with our financial contributions and looking for opportunities to reach out to individuals who are alone and isolated during these times. We have become more aware of the many ways we waste food and the natural resources that so many others lack. At times, these things seem like a small drop in the bucket, not making much of an impact. However, we have learned to trust that God is calling each of us to walk this path and do what we can- no matter how small or insignificant it may seem.

We invite you to pray and reflect on how God is calling you to take this path in creating a culture of peace in our world. 5







## EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, Principal TFS

# Happy New Year from The Franciscan School



As we all happily look forward to a brand new year, especially after this past year, we do so with the sense of hope and expectation inherent in our faith. We are a people of optimism and the confidence that comes from having a grounding in the selflessness of a God who sends his only Son to redeem us. Our faith is constant and a foundation in all that we do each and every year at The Franciscan School. As we begin the new calendar year with expectation, we are also looking forward to the 2021-22 school year with anticipation and hope. We are now beginning our admissions process for next year, and we humbly ask you to consider your parish school as an option for the academic, spiritual, and social success of your child. Deciding where to send your child to school can be a difficult decision. With so many options and programs to choose from in the Raleigh area, making the right decision for your child can seem overwhelming. As you consider your options here are three reasons The Franciscan School could very well be the place for your child:

### **Small class size**

Our class sizes for grades K-8 are intentionally small. We feel giving your child the opportunity for more one on one time with their teacher is a way to develop individual needs while still learning in a classroom environment. Experiential learning is a way our teachers embed the concepts being taught in the classroom, and we find ways to accomplish that even in this school year! Teachers often find ways to explore how concepts and ideas are brought to life so children have real and tangible takeaways with each lesson.

### **Community and Service Values**

In the spirit of the Franciscan mission, students are introduced early to the concept of community and service. Each day begins with Morning Prayer in the courtyard in which the entire school gathers to pray and give thanks for the day ahead. Each month students and staff participate in service projects that benefit those in the Raleigh and surrounding areas. Learn more about how our students make a difference.

### **Faith based education**

Our students are nurtured in a prayerful environment with catholic traditions and Franciscan values. The school works closely with parents, their children's first teachers, to prepare each child with a foundation of faith and values that will serve them far beyond their time at the school.

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.

January 13, 9:00am

February 18, 7:00pm

March 16, 12:00pm

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 at [www.franciscanschool.org](http://www.franciscanschool.org) or contact Principal Mike Watson at [michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org).

Have a great start to 2021 and we wish you much success, prosperity and good health!

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool



*"Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."* Matthew 2:11

## Simple Gifts

One of my first jobs while in high school was working at my parish office as an evening secretary. I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent there and treasure the memories. One that I remember very clearly was how the nativity was displayed on the welcome counter. I vividly recall being a bit perplexed as to why the Wise Men were not set out too. Despite my 9 years of Catholic school at that time, I had never really thought much about how they technically don't have a place in the nativity scene until after Christmas when we celebrate Epiphany. Now, many years later, when I put out our family nativity or the one at preschool, I try to strategically place the Magi at a notable distance from the manger. This simple gesture also helps remind me that the Christmas season doesn't really end on the morning of December 26th. It actually continues on to the celebration of the Epiphany.

As Catholic educators, parents, grandparents, and family friends, it's important for us to pass on to our children not only the importance of the birth of the baby Jesus, but all the other significant parts of this special time in our liturgical year

such as the Feast of the Holy Family, the Solemnity of Mary, and the Epiphany. When our students return from the holiday break, it will almost be the feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. Many activities, songs, and art projects will be dedicated to making gifts to "bring" to Baby Jesus. Several classes will likely pretend to be the Three Kings by "following" handmade stars and wearing crowns as they walk to the playground. Some will wrap a small box to bring as a present to the Christ Child in the church nativity. The stars will most likely have lots of sparkle and the boxes often contain something specific to each child. Sometimes, there are hearts decorated with stickers or markers, handprint cut-outs, or other special things chosen by the student. In previous years, you may have noticed the tiny presents stacked around the nativity in the church. It is a sweet sight because, although simple, the "gifts" are made with sincerity and genuine care. The teachers emphasize with the children that Jesus doesn't need expensive or fancy gifts (although some often have ideas of giving Him a new pet or an electronic device). At other times when asked what they would give Baby

Jesus, the answer involves a blanket, stuffed animal, or a jar of baby food. No matter what the answer, the children are earnest and wholehearted with their ideas. To me, their responses are humbling and wonderful reminders that God truly just asks for our love and to be faithful to His message.

The next time you have the opportunity to speak with a young child consider asking what he/she would bring as a gift to Mary's baby. The answer will likely provide you with a smile and gentle reminder that God doesn't ask for complicated things. As long as we give of our heart and try to live as He asks of us, that is enough. During the celebration of the Epiphany and in this new year ahead, may God help us to remember this and to recognize all that He provides.

On behalf of the preschool, may 2021 bring you many blessings including peace, renewed hope, and a deepening awareness of God's presence!

Registration for the 21-22 school year will open soon! To learn how to join our amazing preschool, please visit our website at: [preschoolatstfrancis.com](http://preschoolatstfrancis.com) or contact Shelley Freeman at [shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org)

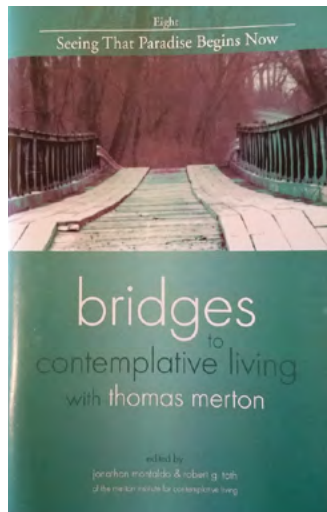


## Caring Casseroles and Feed the Need:

Caring Casseroles and Feed the Need are back! 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 9:00am and 4:00pm 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](mailto: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.



## Contemplative Spirituality

On Jan 8 and for 8 consecutive Fridays from 1:00 to 2:30pm, we will be beginning the New Year by dialoging on Thomas Merton's insights with Book # 8, on "Seeing that Paradise Begins Now". If you have questions or are interested in joining, contact Tracy Hurley at [danandtracy@hotmail.com](mailto:danandtracy@hotmail.com) / (828-773-3152) or Deacon Steve at [stephenwandrews@outlook.com](mailto:stephenwandrews@outlook.com) / (732-213-0104).



## 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.

## Accepting Applications



**TFS**

THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL  
— FAITH — ACADEMICS — SERVICE —

Virtual Information Session  
January 13th  
9am  
[www.franciscanschool.org](http://www.franciscanschool.org)

## RCIA

Continuing your faith journey in our community  
Contact [Jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org)



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](mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org)



## SCAM ALERT

Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a solicitation email from our pastor or bishop asking for "a favor", or for emergency help in the form of money. Please do not open or click on them. Simply trash them. They could cause havoc on your computer and your pocket book.

## 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.smallsa@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.smallsa@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mpmkelly@hotmail.com), or just drop by.

**Divorce Care:** Divorce Care – Our next session will begin meeting virtually via zoom from February 2 to May 11 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. For more information contact Bill Morgan at [dejanuts@yahoo.com](mailto:dejanuts@yahoo.com) or visit <https://www.divorcecare.org/about>.

### Grief Support Group

Contact Marsha Riely at [marshariely@mac.com](mailto:marshariely@mac.com) or Marlys Varga at [marlysvarga@hotmail.com](mailto:marlysvarga@hotmail.com).

### GriefShare

Contact Kathleen Owen at [kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:annafowler@nc.rr.com)
- Friday Morning with Celesta Carlson – [ccarlson210@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Employment Opportunities at TFS

Part time Music Teacher

Full time Teacher Assistant

Full time Maintenance Tech

[www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs)



THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL  
— FAITH — ACADEMICS — SERVICE —  
[www.franciscanschool.org](http://www.franciscanschool.org)





# Bringing Home the Word

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)  
January 3, 2021

## Reaching Far and Wide

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In Vincent Malo's painting, *The Adoration of the Magi*, a mysterious scene barely comes to light before us. Are we inside or outside of a Roman portico? What is going on in the background? The central scene clearly shows the Child Jesus perched in the Virgin's arms and surrounded by swaddling clothes. A glow emanates from the Child that enlightens the three Wise Men processing toward Jesus. Their whole caravan chaotically crowds around and strains to see the king they have come to worship.

A dalmatian wanders behind while a camel appears in the backlighting with a knowing smirk. The Ethiopian

sage sympathetically stares out from the center of the painting and seemingly asks us if we understand the significance of their travels.

The arrival of these astronomers from the East sends a very important message for all of us at Mass today. Jesus is the light of the whole world, and all peoples—no matter how far or how lost—are invited by his attractive and saving light. This light came to the Chosen People and will be fully consumed in Jerusalem as Isaiah prophesies. Yet he will proclaim that all peoples are invited to be members of the same family and coheirs to the treasures of God's love and mercy. Faith in him and acceptance of his gospel truth is all he asks. So, no matter how far you or anyone you know seems from Jesus and his truth, he loves them and wants them around his table to experience his love. +

### Sunday Readings

#### Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

#### Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

#### Matthew 2:1–12

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Jesus is the light of the whole world, and to all peoples—no matter how far away or how lost.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship.... For worship involves making an exodus from the greatest form of bondage: slavery to oneself. Worship means putting the Lord at the center, not ourselves.

—Epiphany Homily, January 6, 2020



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

#### ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Do you trust that Jesus wants to and can reach any soul, no matter how far away?
- Will you renew your prayer and gentle testimony to invite those who are still searching?



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH Office of Communications  
7200 Stonewall Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27613 919-821-9730 [www.dioceseofraleigh.org](http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org)

**Project Rachel Support Group** - Abortion is experienced by millions of women, many of whom are Catholic. The Project Rachel ministry assists women and who have been wounded by abortion to find healing and peace. There is a support group beginning in the Triangle area in January 2021. If you have experienced an abortion and would like (confidential) information about the support group, contact Project Rachel at (919) 852-1021, or email: [project.rachel@raldioc.org](mailto:project.rachel@raldioc.org) or the website: <http://projectrachelinc.org/>. Calls and appointments are kept strictly confidential.

# Resolutions of Faith

By Kathleen M. Basi

**I**t's a new year. What will you do to live your faith in 2021?

New Year's seems tailor-made for changing for the better. Sometimes it's weight loss or exercise; at other times, we look to our spiritual life, vowing to set aside daily prayer time or regularly go to reconciliation. But goals are fleeting; as motivation falters, good intentions fall by the wayside. Some people have become so jaded they don't even bother anymore.

Resolutions require us to abandon old patterns and institute new ones—to turn our backs on our former ways and seek renewal. If that sounds like spiritual exercise, that's because it is. Actions become habits for a reason. To undo them requires ongoing sacrifice, and for that we need God's help. But it seems so trivial to call in God to help us lose weight. Diet and exercise have nothing to do with faith, right?

Not so fast. The central truth behind St. John Paul II's theology of the body is that as beings with both a body and a soul, our divine purpose is to reflect God's love for the world in the way we use our bodies. In our work, in the way we treat our bodies, even in our most intimate relationships, we are called to love as God loves—fully and sacrificially. Otherwise, we're not really living our faith. We're just playing pretend.

To go to daily Mass is good; to take what we learn there and do something with it is better. To read Scripture every



morning is good; to allow the word to burrow down and needle our souls until we have to get up and act on it is better. Even a diet can be a spiritual exercise, if it's undertaken out of respect for the gift of the body we've been given.

None of us can change for the better on the strength of our own will. We need God walking hand in hand with us, holding us accountable and reminding us why it matters. When we're used to turning to God again and again throughout the day—even for something as trivial as a diet—it bleeds into other areas of our life too. The sacred fuses with the secular, and we truly become beings who (as the *Baltimore Catechism*

said) show God's goodness by knowing, loving, and serving him in this world.

It's a new year. What will you do to live your faith? +

*To read Scripture every morning is good; to allow the word to burrow down and needle our souls until we have to get up and act on it is better.*



*Lord, your light gives us strength and shows us the way to God. Remove my blindness that I may see the light of goodness, peace, and love within myself and others.*

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 4–9

**Monday**, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:  
1 Jn 3:22–4:6 / Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

**Tuesday**, St. John Neumann:  
1 Jn 4:7–10 / Mk 6:34–44

**Wednesday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 4:11–18 / Mk 6:45–52

**Thursday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 4:19–5:4 / Lk 4:14–22

**Friday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 5:5–13 / Lk 5:12–16

**Saturday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 5:14–21 / Jn 3:22–30

Bringing Home  
the Word   
January 3, 2021

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## 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

Director of Pastoral Ministries	Kathy Sales	847-8205x488
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### 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:wilsonpf99@gmail.com">wilsonpf99@gmail.com</a>
Prayers	Jackie Adamo	847-8205x268
Receive a Prayer Shawl	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241

### Support Groups

Divorce Care	Bill Morgan	<a href="mailto:dejanuts@yahoo.com">dejanuts@yahoo.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:rmadormo@sbcglobal.net">rmadormo@sbcglobal.net</a>
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Jackie Kelly	203-512-8807
Church Keeping	Beverly Saunders	919-846-5795
Cross Bearers Joseph Randazzo	<a href="mailto:josephjrando1@gmail.com">josephjrando1@gmail.com</a>	
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	<a href="mailto:jepetzka@gmail.com">jepetzka@gmail.com</a>
Parking Ministry	Steve Burdett	919-845-2714
Ushers	Troy Chaput	<a href="mailto:troy.chaput@gmail.com">troy.chaput@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:stfrancisbbm@gmail.com">stfrancisbbm@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:stfrancisrmhministry@gmail.com">stfrancisrmhministry@gmail.com</a>
Jobs for Life Dinners	Ellen Ferrone	<a href="mailto:ellen.ferrone@gmail.com">ellen.ferrone@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:lpiraino7@gmail.com">lpiraino7@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:bcartier7@gmail.com">bcartier7@gmail.com</a>
Prison Pen Pal		<a href="mailto:sfapenpal@gmail.com">sfapenpal@gmail.com</a>
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Red Cross Blood Drive	Bryan Kozak	910-728-9200
Refugee Resettlement	Aggie Dalton	<a href="mailto:aggiedalton@gmail.com">aggiedalton@gmail.com</a>
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		<a href="mailto:ferrel.guilroy@gmail.com">ferrel.guilroy@gmail.com</a>
Whitaker House	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270

### St Francis on Mission

International Mission Trips	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Sister Parish - Guatemala	Carie Gunnells	<a href="mailto:carie.gunnells@gmail.com">carie.gunnells@gmail.com</a>
St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia	John Budway	305-205-5104

### St Francis Learns

Catholic Social Teaching	<a href="http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/">http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/</a>	
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	<a href="http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/">http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/</a>	
Peace Pole Prayer	Ben Whitehouse	<a href="mailto:whitehouseben5@gmail.com">whitehouseben5@gmail.com</a>
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

Kathleen Owen

Alice Stanford

Kathleen Owen

Anita Misko

Melanie Fraites

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### 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

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Mary Arleth

Ashley Watson

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Ashley Watson

Melissa O'Connor

Mark Priest scoutmaster352@gmail.com

Scott Cash scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com

Rebecca Brooks

Bryan Kozak

Ellen Ferrone

Jenn Fiduccia

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Tim Hetzel

Tim Hetzel

Thomas Bulick

Sarah Bowser

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Marisa Ferrara

Jenn Fiduccia

Tara Moore

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