Palms, Prayer, and Procession: Celebrate Holy Week @ SFA

Sunday, March 28 / 1:30-3:30pm / SFA parking lots

Enter from St. Francis Dr.

Briefly visit with Msgr. Michael, Fr. Jairo, or Fr. Jim

Have your picture taken (in your car) with our Holy Week@SFA sign

Receive a bag with Blessed Palms, special prayer card and other goodies

See page 8

Please check the parish website www.stfrancisraleigh.org in the event of inclement weather.

Visit www.stfrancisraleigh.org/holyweek for the Holy Week schedule. HolyWeek@SFA

You are invited to bring a gift card for SFA ministries

(any amount appreciated):

Feed the Need (Food Lion/Walmart)

Migrant Ministry (Walmart Gift Card)

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Michael's/Joanns)

Curbside Care (Food Lion/Walmart)

Contact Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

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



PALMS, PRAYER, PROCESSION:
As many of you know, we have had two drive-thru opportunities during the pandemic, one for the feast of St. Francis last October and one during the season of Advent in December. These drive-thru opportunities

have made it possible for Fr. Jairo and me to meet various households in the parish (along with Fr. Jim) and to gift them with things to celebrate the feasts and seasons during which they took place. We will hold a third drive-thru on Palm Sunday (March 28) between 1:30-3:30pm. During this drive-thru, the three priests of the parish will again be out on the parking lot to distribute palm branches, prayer cards, etc. to help you celebrate Holy Week. We hope you will come by and use this event as a great way to begin the most important week in our liturgical year.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

A year ago, Holy Week was virtual for everyone in the parish. I watched the archived videos and they truly seemed surreal with no one in the church. This year, we will be able to welcome 250 parishioners to each of our Holy Week celebrations beginning Palm Sunday while also livestreaming them. Please go to our parish website and consult the bulletin for the schedule of liturgies and see which ones will be livestreamed. Note that on Easter Sunday we will have a Mass at 7:00am in the Memorial Garden (limited to 100 to maintain social distancing requirements of the CDC) and a 12:00noon Mass in the church in addition to our normal 9:30am Mass (which will be livestreamed). Registering for these Masses will remain in place. There will NOT BE a 5:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday after consultation with 50+ people who come to that Mass who unanimously indicated they would not be coming to Mass at that time on that day. I am told this is a long-standing practice for Easter Sunday.

REOPENING OF THE PARISH:

Over the past few weeks, it has been nice to meet more parishioners at Mass who are slowly returning after a one-year absence from the parish due to the pandemic. Newly vaccinated, their expressions of joy over being back in the worshipping community live and especially receiving Holy Communion, some for the first time in a year, is a wonder to behold. I am looking forward to more and more of you rejoining us for Mass as the weeks and months unfold.

We are starting to organize a plan for the reopening of the parish that will take shape over the next few months. Once it is ready, we will begin a progressive re-launching of parish life at SFA. While the crystal ball is still cloudy, I am hopeful by Labor Day that we will begin reflecting the normal life of community, in the church, the pre-school, and TFS. That is not a promise but it is a hope.

If you would like to be part of the planning for this reopening, please drop an email to Kathy Sales, the Director of Pastoral Ministries of the parish (Kathy.Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org).

Msgr. Clay

* Week 5: CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

READ ABOUT THE FOLLOWING

MINISTRIES & PICK ONE WAY

TO GET INVOLVED:

CARING CASSEROLES

PRISON PEN PAL

EMMAUS MINISTRY

BROWN BAG MINISTRY

EM TO THE HOMEBOUND

THROUGH MARRIAGE MAY THEIR LIVES ALWAYS BEAR WITNESS TO CHRIST'S LOVE:

Sara Eades, daughter of Bob and Barb Eades and **John McNair**, son of Parham and Emily McNair

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/

March Envelope Schedule

March 21 Weekly March 28 Weekly

March 28 Palm Śunday/Catholic Parish Outreach





Let's get connected.

Download our Connect app today.

- Update your personal information
- Engage with ministries that you're in
- Search for volunteer communities to join
- View giving history and print giving statements
- Register for parish events and programs

Let's be the church... together.



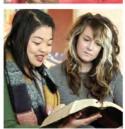
Realm® Connect © App Store Scoogle Play

















An invitation to join Realm was sent via email on March 5 to all registered adult parishioners. Please check your email (including your spam folder) for the invitation. If you didn't receive an email, or if you're having issues logging in, our support team has created a webpage full of resources to help. Visit www.stfrancisraleigh.org/realm. You can browse through FAQ's, view our Getting Started Guide or contact the support team about Realm issues you're having. Once logged in, you'll want to review your contact information, and update your privacy and notification settings.

Connect. Communicate. and Collaborate with Realm Groups

Realm allows you to connect, communicate, and collaborate with the people in ministry areas that you're in (called Groups). Once you're logged into Realm, you can view the Groups that you're a part of in the "Groups" tab on either the Realm Connect App or the web version of Realm. Visit https://player.vimeo.com/video/212612299 for an overview of Realm Groups.

Some of the benefits of Realm Groups include:

- View the other members of the Group that you're in (if they have set their preferences to)
- Communicate with your Group and stay connected. Through the Newsfeed (which is similar to Facebook), Email and a Chat function (Similar to Messenger), you can message certain individuals or the entire Group.
- Stay Organized since ministry leaders (called Group Leaders) can create meeting events, and upload resources, you'll be able to find Zoom links for upcoming meetings, meeting minutes and other helpful resources/documents for the ministry – all in one place.
- RSVP to upcoming meeting events and let ministry leaders know whether or not you will be attending.

Haven't received your invitation? **Need Help Logging into Realm?**

Visit the Realm Support page at https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/realm/. Contact us by completing a Realm Support request form. You can also download the Realm Connect app from this page.

Let's get connected.

Winners of the Franciscan Gifts for this Week:

Susan Vebber

Drew McKinney

Darren Harris Kathy Moore

Leon Cooke

Jeanne Mesiano

Astrid Flores

Edina Bagley

David Green

Megan Long



Holy Week Activities @ SFA

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 3/27 and 3/28

Saturday 5:30pm*, Sunday 9:30am#* & 5:30pm*

Palms, Prayer, Procession 3/28

1:30-3:30pm Enter by TFS[^]

Wednesday of Holy Week 3/31

Evening Prayer: Tenebrae 7pm #^

Holy Thursday 4/1

Morning Prayer 10am^
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm#*
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight in the Columbarium ^

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion 4/2

Morning Prayer 10am^
Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 3pm#* Outdoor Stations of the Cross 7pm^

Holy Saturday 4/3

Blessing of Food in Columbarium 9am^
Morning Prayer 10am^
At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter 8:15pm *#

Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord 4/4

Mass at the Columbarium 7am*
Mass in the Church 9:30am*#
Mass in the Church Noon *

*Signup available 3/24 at noon for up to 250 people #Livestreamed

^ No sign up required

LENT OFFERINGS

Connect With Our Elect

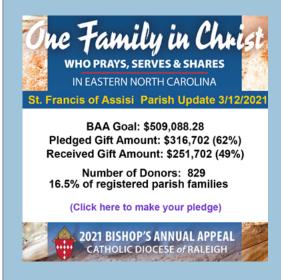


Lent is a time when our community accompanies those in the RCIA preparing to enter the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, on the final leg of their journey to full initiation at the Easter Vigil. As part of your Lenten observance, please consider sending a message of encouragement and love to each of our four Elect by using our simple online submission portal found here: https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia-elect/ Thank you for your prayers for and support of Lexi, Jason, Christine, and Dave! For questions or more information, please email Jennifer. Fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Are you considering becoming Catholic or completing your Catholic sacraments? The RCIA, or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a journey of faith through which those wishing to become Catholic prepare for full initiation into the church and the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. This journey is for those who are not baptized or for people who are baptized in other Christian faith traditions. In addition, we also walk with baptized Catholics who have not yet received First Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

Through the RCIA and Adult Sacramental Preparation process, you will have an opportunity to come together in a small group to understand how much God loves you and for what purpose you were made, to pray, to become a part of our community, and to learn more about the Catholic faith. You can join at any time.







Click image above to view episode



EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, Principal TFS



TFS Student Council Shapes Future Leaders

Each year, a couple of dozen middle school students at The Franciscan School put together thoughtful campaigns promising to make important contributions to the school community if they are elected members of the TFS Student Council.

For many, it is their first time taking a more formal leadership role. William Michel, an eighth-grader at TFS, currently serves as student council president. He has participated on the council since sixth grade and enjoys the opportunity to meet new people are serve his school.

This year, 26 TFS students serve as student council members, where they help with important tasks and service opportunities such as facilitating morning prayer, helping with passage home collections, and - one of the school's more popular tuitions - Dollar Dress-Out Day where students can pay one dollar and dress in dress-appropriate clothing that is not the standard school uniform. All money raised from Dollar Dress-Out Days goes to support local charities such as Our

Lady of the Rosary Parish, Catholic Parish Outreach and Passage Home.

Kristen Dellasega, a seventh-grade teacher at TFS, is currently in her fifth year serving as student council advisor - a position she loves. "I love getting to interact with middle schoolers in an area where they share an interest and passion, which you may not see while teaching a certain subject," Dellasega says.

While the students enjoy the fellowship and fun of serving on the council, Dellasega also hopes their time on the council enhances certain important character traits, such as leadership, service, responsibility, critical thinking and continued character development. Michel agrees, and comments on the amount of time and energy he puts into his morning prayer announcements at the school.

As it has in so many areas, COVID-19 has impacted the way the student council operates. For instance, in traditional years, TFS student council members spend a significant amount of time planning school dances - where they arrange

everything from announcements to decorations. "Unfortunately we can't do dances this year, and we aren't allowed to have our meetings in-person," Dellasega says. "Email has become our lifeline, but it's definitely had an impact on the fellowship aspect of our club."

However, like in many other areas of their life, the pandemic has taught the students to learn to embrace the moment and make the best of it. It is an important lesson that they will carry with them for a lifetime.

Do you want to learn more about how The Franciscan School prepares our students to live out their Catholic faith as part of their excellent educational experience? Join us for our next virtual information session on April 14 to learn more on how we can support your family's goals for your child through the guidance and support provided by our parish school. More information can be found on our website at www.franciscanschool.org or contact Principal Mike Watson at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool







This past week was unique in that we got to recognize the feast day of two saints. While there are many festivities in the U.S. surrounding St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph also deserves our special attention.

Some of our classes took the opportunity to mark March 19th, St. Joseph's feast day, by celebrating our fathers and those who are like fathers in our lives. Since school is not in session when Father's Day is typically celebrated and St. Joseph is recognized as the patron saint of fathers, a few of our classes used this past Friday to honor them. In doing so, they reminded our little ones of the members of Jesus' family on earth and how important St. Joseph was in the life of Jesus.

Learning about the life of St. Patrick, shamrocks, and all things green were part of the week as well. St. Patrick returned to Ireland, even after being a slave there, to teach the people about God. There are stories that the shamrock was used as a way to help the people understand that God was three persons in one. As you might imagine, the concept of one God being all three is difficult for

most preschoolers to understand so we are regularly searching for opportunities to teach it. I remember using the three colors in candy corn, a carton of Neapolitan ice cream, and the three sides of the triangle to help illustrate this with my class. All the individual parts come together to make one. One of our four-year old classes cut out a heart, a dove, and a cross, decorated them, and then glued them onto a shamrock. The items represented God as the Father, God in Jesus, the Son, and God in the Holy Spirit.

While we emphasize God throughout our days at preschool and often use the story behind holy days to further demonstrate His love for us, we also are sure to incorporate as much fun, creativity and imagination when we can. St. Patrick's Day offered us the perfect opportunity to stir up some giggles and surprises! After all, those sneaky leprechauns are quite mischievous! When I stopped by one of our 3-year classrooms, the students were thoroughly exasperated with the leprechaun and his shenanigans! He not only came in and turned chairs upside down, threw books on the floor, and put tape all over the tables, but also switched all of

the numbers around on the class calendar! One of our other classes managed to find some shiny gold coins and traces of green throughout their room. I was told on several occasions to be on the lookout for those leprechauns because they were small, tricky, and really fast! I even heard that if you forgot to wear green, they might try and pinch you! A few classes encouraged the children to use recyclables such as cereal boxes, egg cartons, and coffee cans to design and build an 'authentic' leprechaun trap; we certainly inspired some future architects and engineers!

No matter what the excitement or the learning that is happening in their daily play, our children are encouraged to recognize God's presence in everything. His love for us can be seen, felt, and heard from events of both the past and present. May our children be taught to never forget this!

A few spaces are still available for the 21-22 school year! To learn how to join our fantastic preschool, please visit our website at preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life



Palms, Prayer and Procession!

Everyone has a favorite time of day on campus at St. Francis. Over at TFS, Morning Prayer is a favorite. It's always a happy time at the Preschool seeing the kids come in all bright and energetic in the mornings – dancing to music, hopping on the dots on the sidewalk. For me, I love the Memorial Garden just before dusk when the lights come on... it's just the most peaceful spot to sit and reflect on the day. And who doesn't love coming in to whichever mass and seeing your friends and folks in ministry? We all have our favorite time to be on campus and this pandemic has really highlighted how much people enjoyed being on campus and how much they miss it!

Well, you're all invited to our Palms, Prayer and Procession! On Sunday, March 28, from 1:30-3:30, you are welcome to enter near the school on St. Francis Drive and have a Palm Sunday experience on campus! You'll be able to visit briefly with one of our priests, practice your almsgiving by donating a gift card to our outreach ministries, get a blessed palm and a gift bag full of prayers, information about what's going on during Holy Week, and other ways you and your family can get involved. You will also have an opportunity to drive your car to the main portico by the Memorial Garden and have your picture taken – inside your car with our beautiful Easter @ St. Francis banner. The photo will be given to you as a gift so you can have something to remember the day. There are no sign ups, but we do ask that you and all the folks in your car wear your masks.

We all look forward to when we can safely be together again on campus. Until that time, I hope you will join us at Palms, Prayer and Procession! If you have questions, you can call me at 919-847-8205, ext.241 or email me at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Divorce Care

Join us for our next session via Zoom on Tuesdays, through May 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Fee is \$20.00 per book. We do ask that everyone (new and past participants) register for this event. Each week is different, so you can join anytime. All are welcome! For more information, and to register, please visit: https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/divorce-care/.

St. Francis Men's Prayer Breakfast

The St. Francis Men's Prayer Breakfast meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 7:00 - 8:00am. Beginning Monday, March 1 we will be discussing Thomas Merton's *Traveling Your Road to Joy from the bridges to contemplative living series*. The meeting will be virtual, but is an opportunity to meet with men of all ages to consider where joy reaches you in your day to day life. And if you are wondering the last time joy found you, then this ministry is definitely for you!

Questions? Please contact Deacon Steve at (732) 213-0104 or email Steve Andrews at stephenwandrews@outlook.com. For more information, please visit our webpage https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/mensministry/



Employment Opportunity

Full time Maintenance Tech

www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs

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.

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace



Serving Homeless Families and Those in Need in Wider Community

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

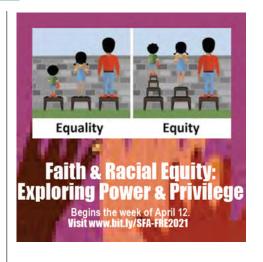
Also, for those of you who are healthy, vaccinated, and feeling called to serve the most vulnerable in our community, we have been tracking some agencies/ministries in our community who have communicated their need for help from volunteers. Check out https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/ to see a list of some organizations and parish ministry opportunities we would encourage you to reach out to.



Preventing an Eviction:

A neighbor went to visit his family in South America. While on the visit some of the family contracted Covid including his mother who died. His stay was subsequently extended. When he got back he had an eviction notice that he was going to be evicted if all his past rent wasn't paid by the end of March. With help from the Friendship Fund, Our Lady of Lourdes SVdP and St Francis SVdP he was able to pay the past rent and avoid eviction.

We are in need of assistance. All work with our neighbors is done virtually. If interested in helping contact Cathy Smith at smithter@gmail.com.



LAST CALL!! Course - Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege beginning the week of April 12

We are offering part 1 of JustFaith's 3-part series on racism again! It's called Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege. It is an eight week course. which begins with a small retreat, that will be offered via Zoom on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings beginning April 12/13. Rooted in faith, prayer and Scripture it awakens groups to the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. It introduces a framework for understanding and recognizing racial disparities in power and privilege and helps participants explore how faith should inform their response to learning, as well as discern action steps for working toward racial equity in their own communities.

Faith and Racial Equity is not for the faint of heart. It is designed for participants who are willing to wrestle with hard questions and take an honest look at their own attitudes, assumptions, and choices. However, through spiritual grounding and community-building, participants find support and belonging throughout their journey to personal transformation and social action. Sign up here if you are interested or would like to learn more: www.bit.ly/SFA-FRE2021



It's time to roll up your sleeve for our Spring Blood Drive on Saturday, March 27, 2021. Hosted by the American Red cross and our Knights of Columbus, this is one of the largest blood drives in the area. To sign up, visit https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=27613

Saturday, March 27
Click here for locations and times



Before the holidays, each family received a letter from Monsignor Clay requesting your support in 2021 through your time, talent, and/or treasure. Partnered with that letter was the 2021 *Stewardship Commitment Form. If you have not had the opportunity to discuss and pray about how Christ calls us to be disciples, please take a moment to do so now. It is so important to fill out the form and return it to the parish as soon as possible. As Monsignor Clay's letter articulates: "this is not a binding contract but a good faith pledge to do your best to support the parish in the way(s) that is/are possible for each member of your household." The *Stewardship Commitment Form provides a way to think about and then share how you will be a passionate steward here at St. Francis. If you prefer to complete the Stewardship Commitment Form online, you can do that now by clicking here. Thank you for supporting our parish home. On a personal note, I pray every day for our entire St. Francis family and I am so very grateful for your belief in Stewardship as a Way To Life. I hope that the new year brings much needed healing and peace to every member of this big beautiful St. Francis family.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me, <u>Deb.Royals-Mizerk@stfrancisraleigh.org</u> or by calling (919) 847-8205x222.

*The parish Stewardship Commitment form is not the form to use for the Franciscan School or the St. Francis of Assisi Preschool stewardship rate application process. That is a separate form and can be found on the school website.



Greener Lent is a beautiful way to expand your traditional days of abstinence and fasting during this holy season by giving up consumption of meat and becoming more aware of our eating habits as they relate to our care of the planet and the poor. There are many parishes in the Diocese of Raleigh participating in this Lent program as we seek to live out our call to care for God's creation, our "common home," as Pope Francis says. To find more info online about Greener Lent and to sign-up to participate during Lent, go directly to www.greenerlent.org. You can also contact our St. Francis Creation Care Ministry at stfccreation@gmail.com.



Seeing God in Your Cancer Journey is an opportunity for patients, survivors, and caregivers to explore what the scriptures say about your cancer journey. Discover the truths that Jesus wants to give you beyond peace. He wants to give you bottomless strength, unsurmountable courage, abundant guidance, abounding joy, thriving relationships and above all, hope. Contact kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or call 919-847-8205x241.



Clothing Children with Dignity and Love Volunteers needed to sort You will be trained, masked and socially distanced

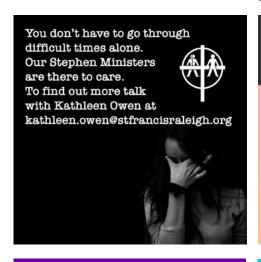
To volunteer: https://signup.com/go/wKTLsfa

Families/groups are welcome!

To register:

https://noteinthepocket.org/volunteer-reg-istration-form/
To volunteer:

https://signup.com/go/wKTLsfa





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.





ESacrament 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.



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.



Caring Casseroles & Feed the Need:

Caring Casseroles & Feed the Need is 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

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 ca ncelled. 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.

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, Itucker40@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 – 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 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@stfrancisraleighorg. **Job Connections:** We provide tools and advice on how to stay motivated and on target. To enroll, contact Mary Horner at sfa.jcm@gmail.com.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: first and third Monday of each month at 7:00am via Zoom. Contact is Deacon Steve Andrews at 732-213-0104 or stephenwandrews@outlook.com

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

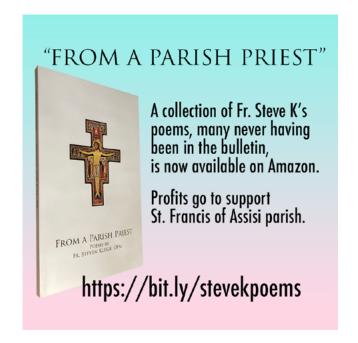
If you'd like to send or receive cards to/from fellow parishioners and establish a connection with other folks who are sheltering in place, or if you have kids who would love to send their artwork to brighten someone's day or if you'd like to receive some artwork, visit https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/

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.





The Meaning of the Gardens of Scripture

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Conca's Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, and you will be drawn across the space between the gaze of Jesus and the chalice the angel offers. Sebastiano understands the essence of the agony in the Garden—the loneliness of Jesus before the bitter cup the Father extends to him via the hands of an angel.

Jesus' attitude in receiving this passion is evident in his open arms. Like the posture he will assume when

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 21:31-34

Everyone...shall know me oracle of the LORD—for I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sin.

Hebrews 5:7-9

[Christ Jesus] offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears.

John 12:20-33

[Jesus said,] "Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour." nailed to the cross, he shows his humble acceptance and abandonment.

Gardens don't appear often in Scripture, but they are important. There is the Garden of Eden, the place of God's creative love and man's original sin. There is the garden in the Song of Songs—a garden of passion, possession, and life-giving union. Where is Jesus' tomb, and where does Mary Magdalene, the transformed lover, find Jesus on Easter morning? In the Scriptures, gardens are a place of new life, sin, and redemption. It's where lovers go; where love is declared and tested.

This is important in understanding the drama of our Lord's agony in the Garden. It is the drama inside of love. It is the drama of acceptance and abandonment, trust and generosity, life and death.

Jesus knows this and goes into the Garden to do what Adam failed to do in the first Garden. He goes to pay the price of love. He engenders new life by giving his own. He looks at the chalice, the price of our salvation, and with a heart full of generous, uncomplicated love, accepts the Father's invitation. "Not my will but yours be done." +

In the Scriptures, gardens are a place of new life, sin, and redemption.

It's where love is tested.

A Word from Pope Francis

By visiting the tombs of our loved ones we remember that we have a multitude of saints who before God intercede for our needs. Let us not forget, however, that so many deceased also await our spiritual support. Let us remember them in our prayers...asking that they be welcomed into the ranks of the elect in heaven.

-General Audience, October 31, 2018



REFLECTIONS QUESTIONS GRESTIONS

- How can I receive Jesus' selfgiving love for me more deeply?
- How should I imitate Jesus' selfgiving love in my relationships?



Catholic Charities - Virtual Toast to the Gala

Join Catholic Charities for our 2021 "Virtual Toast to the Gala" on Friday, April 23, 2021 at 7:00pm. This year, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Catholic Charities Gala will be reformatted into a virtual event, which not only allows for the health and safety of our guests, but also provides an opportunity for all members of the Diocese of Raleigh to learn about the impact of Catholic Charities.

The virtual event will be live streamed for all to enjoy. For more information, or to support this year's Gala, please visit www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/toast-gala, or email Katey Fithian, Director of Development, at Katey.Fithian@ccharitiesdor.org.

"You Visited Me"

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

y neighbor's son, Joe, didn't last one week. He was only out of prison for a few days when he knowingly broke his probation so he could go back. He couldn't find anything to hold onto on the outside. Joe felt the life waiting for him after prison was devoid of meaning. The unfortunate reality is, many find it difficult to reenter the "world" after spending time in prison. Critics are quick to say it's because prison is too comfortable. The inmates are treated too well. Many end up back in prison, not because they miss their cell or their high-school-equivalency classes or the predictability of it all, but because they miss their friends. They have no social network on the "outside." Though not the sole cause, loneliness and isolation contribute greatly to recidivism.

Pope Francis, during a visit to Philadelphia's Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility said:

This time in your life can only have one purpose: to give you a hand in getting back on the right road, to give you a hand to help you rejoin society. All of us are part of that effort, all of us are invited to encourage, help and enable your rehabilitation.

A rehabilitation, which everyone seeks and desires: inmates and their families, correctional authorities, social and educational programs. A rehabilitation, which benefits and elevates the morale of the entire community.



I was Sally's neighbor. I knew she had a son in prison. She shared his letters with me. She worried about what would happen when he got out. I tried to comfort and assure her that everything would be all right. I was Sally's pastor. It never occurred to me that I could be her son's pastor, too. If I had visited Joe, met him in prison, offered him the ministry and friendship of our parish while he was doing time, maybe he would have had something to come home to: a church, friends, the prospect of a new life.

In the inner-city parish where I was the pastor for six years, almost 50 percent of the parishioners knew someone in prison: a brother, mother, son, former classmate, or a neighbor. No one ever spoke about it. No one ever asked the priest to visit. No one ever had a Mass said on behalf of the imprisoned. Fear and shame made us think that we couldn't make a difference. What if our friendship and love could have made all the difference in the life of an ex-offender?

If you know someone in prison, if you know someone who knows someone in prison, write a letter, call, and visit. "I was in prison and you visited me" and gave me something to look forward to after prison: a new life (Matthew 25:36). +

We can make a difference in the life of someone in prison.



Lord, your love is written on my heart. May your love inspire and empower me to love people from all walks of life.

—From Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 22-27

Monday, Lenten Weekday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 / Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday, Lenten Weekday: Nm 21:4–9 / Jn 8:21–30

Wednesday, Lenten Weekday: Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95 / Jn 8:31–42 **Thursday,** The Annunciation of the Lord: Is 7:10–14, 8:10 / Heb 10:4–10 / Lk 1:26–38

Friday, Lenten Weekday: Jer 20:10–13 / Jn 10:31–42

Saturday, Lenten Weekday: Ez 37:21–28 / Jn 11:45–5



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Contact US! Parish Office: 919-847-8205 fax: 919-870-1790			Staff email: firstname.lastname@stfrancisraleigh.org			
Welcome			The Franciscan School			
New Parishioner Registration Becoming Catholic Get Involved! Priests and Deacon Pastor Parochial Vicar In Residence Deacon Director of Pastoral Ministries Sacraments Baptism First Reconciliation First Eucharist Confirmation Matrimony Holy Orders Anointing of the Sick Reconciliation Appointments RCIA Sacraments Administration Funeral Planning Columbarium Niches	Toni Hammes Jenn Fiduccia Deb Royals-Mizerk Msgr. Michael Clay Fr. Jairo Maldonado Rev. James Sabak, O.F.M. Stephen Andrews Kathy Sales Tim Hetzel Sarah Bowser Sarah Bowser Thomas Bulick Tim Hetzel Msgr. Michael Clay Kathleen Owen Jenn Fiduccia Martina Dumberger Kathleen Owen Trish Adamkowski	847-8205x224 847-8205x222 847-8205x222 847-8205x224 847-8205x226 919-832-6281 732-213-0104 847-8205x488 847-8205x496 847-8205x496 847-8205x239 847-8205x224 847-8205x224 847-8205x224 847-8205x224 847-8205x224 847-8205x224 847-8205x238 847-8205x249 847-8205x238	Principal Receptionist (Main Number) Assistant Principal, K-5 Assistant Principal 6-8 St. Francis Preschool Director Assistant to the Director Faith Formation Director Children's Faith Formation Coordinator of Youth Ministry Middle School Faith Formation Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery) Parish Operations Communications and Webmaster Director of Facilities Director of Finance Director of Stewardship Human Resources Parishioner Records Safe Environment Specialist	Mike Watson Katie Hall Dawn Smith Colette Dziadul Heidi Hobler Shelley Freeman Jenn Fiduccia Sarah Bowser Marisa Ferrara Thomas Bulick Tara Moore Diogenes Ruiz Marc Kielty Rob Neppel Deb Royals-Mizerk Trish Adamkowski Toni Hammes Trina Sugrue	919-534-4840 919-534-4837 847-8205x254 847-8205x2651 847-8205x262 847-8205x262 847-8205x262 847-8205x238 847-8205x233 847-8205x239 847-8205x271 847-8205x271 847-8205x227 847-8205x227 847-8205x224 847-8205x225 847-8205x225 847-8205x225 847-8205x225 847-8205x236 847-8205x245	
Care Home Eucharist Visits Feed the Need (meals) Medical Facility Visits Transportation to Mass Stephen Ministry St. Vincent de Paul Good Grief GriefShare	Kathleen Owen Kathleen Owen Kathleen Owen Kathleen Owen Kathleen Owen Kathleen Owen Leave Voicemail Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241 847-8205x241 847-8205x241 847-8205x241 847-8205x241 847-8205x241 919-534-4842 847-8205x241	Prayers Prayer Line Prayers Receive a Prayer Shawl Support Groups Divorce Care Job Connections Seeing God in your Cancer AA Daily Reprieve Group Al-Anon Alzheimer's Caregivers Support	Mary Arleth Kathleen Owen	vilsonpf99@gmail.com 847-8205x358 847-8205x241 dejanuts@yahoo.com 610-755-5392 847-8205x241 847-8205x241 919-923-1234 937-478-9537	
Worship Ministries Director of Liturgy and Music Coordinator of Liturgical Ministe Altar Servers & Thurifers Children's Liturgy of the Word Church Keeping Cross Bearers Joseph Randazz Deaf Ministry Environment & Art Eucharistic Ministers Funeral Ministers Hospitality Hands Lectors Master of Ceremonies Medical Presence at Mass Music Ministry Parking Ministry Ushers Weekend Receptionists Weekend Receptionists Weekend Welcome Hosts Wedding Directors Outreach Ministries Director of Justice and Peace St. Francis Feeds Brown Bag Ministry Oak City Cares Catholic Parish Outreach Panera Food Pick Up Ronald McDonald House Our Lady of Rosary Food Pantry Interfaith Food Shuttle	Joanie Madormo rmadormo Jackie Kelly Beverly Saunders josephjrandazzo1@gmail.cc Jean Cooke-Byrne Theresa Baumgartner Tim Hetzel Lisa Gianturco Deb Royals-Mizerk Mike Wrzesien Michael & Julie Ducatte Kathleen Owen Joyce Petzka jepet Steve Burdett Troy Chaput troycha Kathleen Owen Deb Royals-Mizerk Carol Ricotta Trevor Thompson Becky Cawley Mailbox stfrancist Becky Cawley Sue Hand Becky Cawley Mailbox stfrancisrmhmini	203-512-8807 919-846-5795 om 919-846-5795 om 919-848-3383 847-8205x224 919-624-1592 919-624-1592 919-622-8883 847-8205x241 zka@gmail.com 919-845-2714 sput@gmail.com 847-8205x222 919-554-8896 847-8205x270 847-8205x270 show and an analysis of the second show an analysis of the second show and an analysis of the second show	St Francis Serves Community Garden Curbside Care Duke Children's Hospital Family Promise Gabriel Project Migrant Ministry Prison Pen Pal R.A.R.E. Tom Zimmerman Red Cross Blood Drive Refugee Resettlement Habitat for Humanity St Vincent de Paul Ministers Support Circles Kat and Ferrel Guil St Francis on Mission International Mission Trips Sister Parish - Guatemala St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia St Francis Learns Care of Creation Engaging Spiritualty Just Faith Justice Theater Project Peace Pole Prayer Racial Justice	thomaspzimmerman@Bryan Kozak Aggie Dalton ag Trevor Thompson Cathy Smith roy ferro Trevor Thompson Liz Mosler li John Budway Stf Becky Cawley Trevor Thompson http://www.thejusticeth	910-728-9200 giedalton@gmail.com stfa.fp@gmail.com 419-348-8843 el.guillory@gmail.com 847-8205x270 izmosler4@gmail.com 305-205-5104 fccreation@gmail.com 847-8205x267 847-8205x270 eaterproject.org/ houseben5@gmail.com	

Caregivers Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241 Athletic Programs Mary Arleth 847-8205x241 Ashley Watson 847-820	Get Involved!	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222			
Weekday Volunteer Receptionists Social Groups AAMEN Ministry Always God's Children LGBTQ+ Ministry Men's Ministry Norm Tuomi Ralph Guenther R47-8205x265 Social Groups AAMEN Ministry Always God's Children RCIA Team & Sponsors Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery) Young Adults Bible Study Group Stewardship Ministries Director of Stewardship Deb Royals-Mizerk Norm Tomin Tuomi Ralph Guenther R47-820 S47-820 S47-	Director of Parish Life Pastoral Presence Ministries Caregivers Centering Prayer Emmaus Ministers EMs to Abbotswood EMs to the Homebound EMs to the Homebound EMs to the Meadows EMs to Rex Hospital EMs to Springmoor Prayer Line Ministers Prayer Shawl 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	Kathleen Owen Alice Stanford Kathleen Owen Anita Misko Melanie Fraites Jacob House Andrea McVerry Edward Gilmartined Janice Horner Pauk Wilson Cindy Cardello Dianne Rotunno Kathleen Owen Linda Tucker Kathleen Owen Mary Horner Sharon Holland Stephanie Smith Toni Hammes Leon Cooke Chuck Small Jane Paris Norm Tuomi Ralph Guenther fb.me/YoungAdultst Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241 919-781-5860 847-8205x241 630-699-0519 mjpfraites@gmail.com 919-449-7634 amcverry@yahoo.com dward.gilmartin@gmail.com 484-949-1417 wilsonpf99@gmail.com 919-846-8825 919-844-7153 847-8205x241 937-478-9537 847-8205x241 610-755-5392 hollandbozo@yahoo.com 919-302-0080 847-8205x265 919-740-7515 919-859-4889 919-847-7431 norman3722@att.net rguenther2@nc.rr.com ofStFrancis 847-8205x241	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, boy BSA Scouts:Troop 219 (6th-12th, girls BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th) membershippack352@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	Ashley Watson Mary Arleth Ashley Watson Ashley Watson Ashley Watson Ashley Watson Melissa O'Connor S) Robert Sadler scout S) Scott Cash scoutma Rebecca Brooks Bryan Kozak Ellen Ferrone Jenn Fiduccia Jenn Fiduccia Jenn Fiduccia Tim Hetzel Thomas Bulick Sarah Bowser Tim Hetzel Thomas Bulick Patti Panizza Marisa Ferrara Jenn Fiduccia Tara Moore Tim Hetzel Deb Royals-Mizerk Deb Royals-Mizerk	gk@kofc9709.org http://ofscentralnc.org 847-8205x238 847-8205x238 847-8205x244 847-8205x244 847-8205x249 847-8205x249 847-8205x249 847-8205x239 847-8205x239 847-8205x233 847-8205x234 847-8205x234 847-8205x234 847-8205x234