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 wil Msgr. Michael Fr. Jairo, or Fr. Jim

Palms, Prayer, Procession is cancelled due to the storms and high winds forecast for this afternoon. As much as we'd love to see everyone, we want to keep you and our volunteers safe. If you want to pick up your palms and a bag of goodies, drop by the Memorial Garden after 9:30 Mass until 1pm today. Additionally, you can pick up a bag and your palms during daily Mass and at Cupertino Room. Thank you for your understanding and stay safe!

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



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi has a long tradition of inclusivity, a reflection of Jesus himself who came to break down barriers and divisions among peoples of every nation and way of life. For many years, we have been the only parish in the diocese

to openly welcome and include our LGBTQ brothers and sisters not only by their presence, but in ministry and leadership as well. Our LGBTQ ministry has been a source of great comfort and support to countless others who have looked to them for direction and hope, indeed a life-saving ministry for some. Our parish is enriched by their presence and they are a blessing to us.

As the pastor of this faith community, I stand in solidarity with them, as Jesus would, and empathize with their pain, and that of their families, friends, and members of our parish resulting from the recent statement from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) on blessing same-sex unions.

In the midst of this pain, our parish remains steadfast in lifting up our LGBTQ brothers and sisters who are loved by God no less than anyone else and who are made in the image and likeness of God like everyone else. In these ways, God blesses each of them and all of us every day.

I was asked last week for my reaction to this CDF statement. As a priest of 40 years, I have learned to take the long view of things. Nothing is perfect on earth and the Church is no exception. 100 years ago we were a Catholic Church guite different than we are today. I have no doubt that we will look different in another 100 years. In what ways remains to be seen.

I say this not to belittle the real pain and disappointment the CDF statement has caused many people nor to dismiss longstanding doctrinal traditions of the Church. I say this simply to note that we are a Church that has changed, in little and large ways over the centuries, and will likely continue to do so. As examples, the Church has changed its doctrinal teaching on freedom of conscience, slavery, usury (lending money for a profit), and divorce. Some of us remember the changes brought by Vatican II wherein abstaining from meat every Friday under penalty of committing serious sin was changed and shifting the liturgy back into the languages of the people was approved, things that would have been unimaginable 100 years ago. There is currently a commission of scholars appointed by Pope Francis exploring the possibility of ordaining women to the diaconate, something that would have been inconceivable back when I was ordained a deacon.

In the meantime, we continue to worship, pray, learn, serve, gather as community, and do what we can at the parish level to promote the values of the Gospel and the one who taught them to us, Jesus Christ. With him as our rock, we need never lose hope.

Msgr. Clay

Week 6: GIVING OF OUR TIME FILL A GARBAGE BAG WITH TRASH FOUND IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD JOIN US MARCH 28 FOR PALMS, PRAYER AND PROCESSION EVENT LEAVE A NOTE FOR ONE OF OUR RCIA ELECT ON THE PARISH WEBSITE JOIN IN OUR HOLY WEEK LITURGIES EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA STREAM WATCH OUR PASTOR'S "TO KNOW, TO BELIEVE, TO LIVE" VIDEO ON WEBSITE

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

Olivia Bogdan, daughter of Mary Lou and Joseph Bogdan and Adam Seitz, son of Mary and Paul Seitz

> 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/

Except for Monday, March 29, Daily Mass will not be held this week.

Holy Week Activities @ SFA



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

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



Wednesday of Holy Week 3/31

Evening Prayer: Tenebrae 7:00pm #^

Holy Thursday 4/1

Morning Prayer 10:00am^
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm#*
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight in the Columbarium ^

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion 4/2

Morning Prayer 10:00am^
Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 3:00pm#* Outdoor Stations of the Cross 7:00pm^

Holy Saturday 4/3

Blessing of Food in Columbarium 9:00am^ Morning Prayer 10:00am^ 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 7:00am* 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



Security and Privacy in Realm

How secure and private is my family's information in Realm?

Realm is safe, private, and secure. Realm uses a combination of advanced hardware and software firewalls from leading network security providers. These firewalls secure your data from multiple threats and Realm staff continuously monitor logs and data points to ensure the integrity of systems.

Realm puts you in control of how much or how little information about you and your family you share. Realm is made up of the parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi only - it's not like a social network that's open to everyone.

More information about privacy and security are available in this brief video: https://player.vimeo.com/video/176604542

How do I update my Privacy Settings?

Although only church members are in Realm, you may want to update your settings so that only Leaders and/or members of the Groups that you are in can see your contact information. The choices are: Anyone, Leaders and group volunteer team members, Leaders and Users with permission only (certain staff members).

We recommend:

- Setting your contact information to "Leaders and group volunteer team members"
- Setting your personal information to "Users with permission only" (parish staff).

To update your Privacy settings:

- Locate the dropdown menu next to your name in the top right corner and select "Manage Privacy".
- Click on the "Custom Privacy" button. Using the dropdown menus, choose different privacy levels for each contact field (address, phone, email) and personal information.
- Click" Save"

When you update your privacy settings, you'll receive an email notification of the changes you made. You can also update the privacy for other members of your family.

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.

Winners:

Moira Conolly Robin Machado Marianne Norris Tom Connelly Mike Mira Angie Maher Dan Newton



Connect With Our Elect

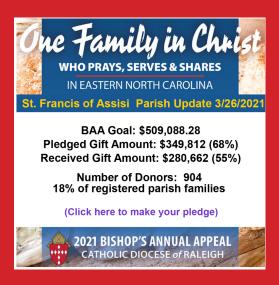


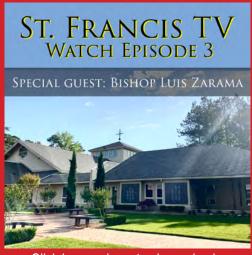
Lent is a time when our community accompanies those in the RCIA preparing to enter the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, on the final leg of their journey to full initiation at the Easter Vigil. As part of your Lenten observance, please consider sending a message 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

The Franciscan School Has Innovative Curriculum for your Student



Finding the ideal Catholic school for your child can be an extensive process. Does the coursework provide your child with a faith-filled education while challenging them academically? Will they receive the foundation in the Catholic faith parents are looking for?

Will they learn how to implement their faith in the world while being prepared and confident in their future educational success?

At TFS, our curriculum combines the traditional religion course learnings with the application of appropriate current technology, engaging extracurricular education, and professional academic support while maintaining a focus on being able to apply what they have learned in the world. Your child will participate in integrated Information and Technology in their classes to provide opportunities for students to apply what they've learned in our digital world, and ensures awareness of the ethical and societal issues involved with technology. Our middle school students also have the opportunity to participate in the TFS and NC Regional science fairs, STEM electives, and the Student Technology Ambassador and Mentor Program (STAMP). The students utilize technology to connect learning

points and develop the skills needed to complete their assignments. From Kindergarten through 8th grade, students have access to classroom devices to practice their skills. For instance, students in grades K-2 have iPads, and our grades 3-8 receive 1:1 Chromebooks.

In response to growing trends, some schools and districts have opted to restructure their budgets and curriculum to meet the growing demand for academic classes. Unfortunately, many elective programs have been cut and are at risk of being pushed out completely; at times, this prevents the education of the whole child and takes away from having a rich educational experience. However, at The Franciscan School, we understand the short and long-term benefits of extracurricular learning. For instance, art, music, and physical education electives improve student attendance, and one study even found that students who took four years of art scored 91 points better on the SAT exams. We strive to provide our students with a holistic learning experience. All students at TFS participate in art, music, and physical education classes, as well as media and, in grades 3-8th, drama, that improve their motor, spatial, and language skills and encourage teamwork and community involvement.

The Franciscan School is committed to the success of all our students. We know that appropriate academic challenge is vital in each student's individual success. and we are prepared to find the correct path for each of our students. Our Learning Specialists are available for students who have diagnosed learning needs. Your child will receive remediation and curriculum assistance in one-on-one and small group settings, in addition to testing and other accommodations as needed. We also are committed to academically challenging all of our students so they can achieve the full breadth of their God-given gifts. Ultimately, we partner with you to create a plan of action that prepares your student for success.

The Franciscan School's curriculum is the foundation on which we have built over twenty years of educational excellence. To find out more about The Franciscan School, please do not hesitate to come to our Virtual Information Session on April 14, more information to be found on our website. You can also contact Principal Mike Watson at michael. watson@stfrancisraleigh.org or reach out to our admissions team at admissions@franciscanschool.org.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

Happy Palm Sunday!



"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna!" John 12:13

Happy Palm Sunday! I read a note from Laura Gale once that said, "Palm Sunday is like a glimpse of Easter; it's a bit joyful after being somber during Lent." This past week, as I watched the classes learning about Palm Sunday, I definitely felt that this was true.

Several opportunities last week provided some insight into this joy. One day, I caught a glimpse of one of our 3-year old classes as they were dismissing to carpool. While walking, they were practicing their procession to simulate what Jesus would have experienced. They had their palms to wave and rode their pretend "donkeys". As you might suspect, they were quite excited about their whole procession!

Several teachers incorporated their spiritual lessons about this holy season while also having their students engage other skills. For example, there was a lot of fine

motor work being practiced by using scissors, crayons, and glue! Our two- year old classes engaged individual creativity by each decorating his/her own palm branch, but at the same time, they discovered what it was like to design with a friend. Each class had the students work together to paint a giant piece of bulletin board paper. When it was dry, a large cross was cut from it and displayed in the hallway. By doing this, the students got to not only use their imaginations to design an individual piece of Lenten art, but also to practice some important social skills in a different way. Sharing materials, making space for someone else to have room to paint next to you, and beginning to understand the power of teamwork were just a few of the lessons learned. When I visited one of our 4's classes, they too were talking about Jesus traveling to Jerusalem. I was greeted at the door with a student waving a flower and shouting

"Jesus". I am certain that her enthusiasm had even God smiling down from heaven at her!

While we still have several days remaining in our Lenten journey before the celebration of Easter is upon us, I think that these little moments at preschool help to highlight some of the joy behind Palm Sunday. They bring a little bit of light during the somber times of Lent. During this Palm Sunday, may we all remember that Easter will soon be upon us, bringing with it the knowledge of how much we are loved by our Lord!

Only a few spots for the 21-22 school year remain! To learn how to join our amazing 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! Today, 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 Holy Week @ 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 919-847-8205x241 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 steve-ndrews 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

March Envelope Schedule

March 28 Weekly March 28 Palm Sunday/Catholic Parish Outreach

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



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.



"During this Lent this year, I was blessed with the opportunity to witness almsgiving in a quiet and powerful way when I attended a recent meeting of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVdP). I joined a Zoom call with a number of parishioners who lead this important ministry for our neighbors. These are ordinary neighbors in most ways - indi-

viduals all who are created in the image and likeness of God, and have a higher than average knowledge when it comes to housing, the spending of money, and finances. In some ways, these neighbors of ours are extraordinary. I heard stories of neighbors who are facing some of the most scary, sad, painful, and desperate circumstances I can imagine.

A single grandmother, confined to a wheelchair, takes care of her daughter and young grandson. In January, she was evicted from her apartment and has been living out of her van since then, which has past due payments. A single man with HIV struggled with side effects from his medications, which caused daily challenges that prevented him from working and he lost his job. He has since adjusted his medication plan and is now seeking a new job, but is currently at risk of eviction due to several months worth of late rent payments.

There were many more cases like these that our SVdP volunteers prayerfully discerned how best to serve. They don't simply throw money at the problems - they evaluate the need, talk to the neighbors, help to connect them with community resources that can help address the underlying problems they face. Most importantly, they give these neighbors hope and a practical path out of despair. The gift of a fraction of our money when we tithe can change and save lives. If it wasn't for our generosity, these people may be homeless. That is why it is so important that we continue to donate all we can to the Church.

As I witnessed this quiet ministry of mercy, I couldn't help but think of how beautifully and thoroughly Gospel-based it all is. In this ministry, our parishioners are washing the feet of our neighbors who are in very poor situations - hungering and thirsting for food, shelter, safety, and hope. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that not only should we help these neighbors, but when we help them, we are helping Jesus himself and that helping them is the way to eternal life. In the Beatitudes, we are taught that these neighbors will have the Kingdom of Heaven. In the Our Father, we pray for God's Kingdom to come now on earth.

I am thankful for the SVdP ministry and its volunteers who live out our prayer and the Gospel in such an impactful way."

Julia House

If interested in helping, contact Cathy Smith at smithter@gmail.com.

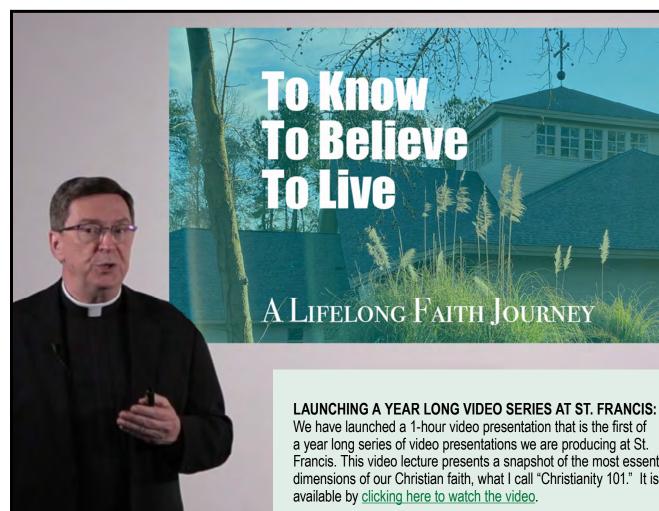


Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4:00 to 4:45pm on Saturdays in the church.

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







a year long series of video presentations we are producing at St. Francis. This video lecture presents a snapshot of the most essential dimensions of our Christian faith, what I call "Christianity 101." It is

The video is meant to be viewed privately in your home. If others live with you, you may want to view it as a household. A handout outlining the content of this video is available for printing and is available by clicking the handout box above. I also encourage you to take the short survey after you have watched the presentation. This will be of great help to us as we plan and produce the rest of the series.

Msgr. Michael Clay







St. Francis of Assisi 2021 Family Stewardship Commitment Form

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.

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 <u>dejanuts@yahoo.com</u> 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.icm@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, janmar94@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.



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.



Acceptance of the Passion

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

There is a sharp contrast between Jesus' and Peter's acceptance of Christ's passion. Both are afraid, but while Jesus faces and embraces, Peter hides and denies.

We understand Peter's gloomy darkness and identify with the confusion and weakness leading to his failure. Like us, he tries to follow Jesus, but at a safe distance. He wants to be close, but not too close. He wants to feel he hasn't abandoned him, to be there—but remains on the fringe.

Sunday Readings

Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11

Rather, he emptied himself... becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." But following Jesus always leads to moments of truth. Jesus and life have a way of bringing us full circle to face our true selves. Are we in or out? How deep is our love? This time, Peter's love for Jesus fails. But like us, Jesus looks at him with understanding and gives him a chance to be honest, repent, and follow him once again.

Jesus' acceptance of his passion is our example. First, he suffers freely. He's not being forced into a fate he cannot escape. As a result, he is calm, self-possessed, in control of his heart, and patient. Second, he suffers peacefully without resentment. He isn't constantly recriminating against Judas, Peter, or John during his trial or flagellation. He doesn't seek blame or payback.

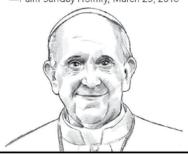
Not only is he not bitter or resentful, but he is full of compassion and focused on others: on the elderly women, his Mother, John the Apostle, forgiving his tormenters, and leading the good thief to heaven. Let's enter this holiest week following our Redeemer and imitating his example. +

Not only is Jesus not bitter or resentful, but he is full of compassion and focused on others.

A Word from Pope Francis

This celebration seems to combine stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples. It somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love...but also the ability to "wash our hands" at the right moment.

—Palm Sunday Homily, March 25, 2018



QUESTIONS ONESTIONS MEETIONS

 Do I value the infinite mercy of Jesus, who forgives me whenever I turn to him sincerely?



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.

Journey to Joy

By Kathleen M. Basi

I first noticed it at 'Thanksgiving several years ago when everyone was posting what-I'm-thankful-for lists. Counting my blessings only seemed to underscore the sadness I was feeling on behalf of the multitudes whose lives consisted of suffering: refugees, sick children, communities torn apart by racism, and worlds blown apart by gunfire and suicide bombs. I felt powerless—and at the same time deeply aware that I really wasn't trying very hard to make a difference, especially considering how much I have been given.

Opening ourselves to joy also sensitizes us to sorrow—and vice versa. The two go hand in hand.

Holy Week illustrates this in a profound way. In a handful of days, we travel from the bleakest stage of the Christian journey to its most glorious. In fact, the power of the latter depends upon the apparent hopelessness of the former.

If we want to live the joy of the resurrection to its fullest, we have to be willing to shine a light on the dark underbelly of our own lives and clean up our acts. To recognize the ways in which our actions—or lack thereof—contribute to the pain of the world. We need to be willing to acknowledge that, all too often, we're part of the problem.



But wait—didn't we just spend all of Lent doing exactly that? It's Easter now. Isn't it time to move beyond penance and focus on, you know...joy?

The potential for great good and for great evil resides within every heart, and the opportunity to choose comes to us every day, regardless of the season. Jesus didn't endure the Way of the Cross to give us a fifty-day vacation from examining our consciences. He went through it to show us that the pathway to the fullness of life passes through pain: through dying to our sins, our selfishness, the grudges we hold, and the

preconceived lenses through which we view the world and the people in it.

To grieve for the suffering of others and acknowledge the ways in which our own failure to act can contribute to that suffering joins us to the heart of God. When we unite ourselves to the heart of God, we feel compelled to change—to act as God's hands and feet in the world. And it is through this action that we discover the full joy of the resurrection. +

With all the bleakness, how do we get to the feast of joy that is the resurrection?



Lord, you empty yourself out in loving service to all people. Give me a selfless spirit that I may be of service to others.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 29-April 3

Monday of Holy Week: Is 42:1–7 / Jn 12:1–11

Tuesday of Holy Week: Is 49:1–6 / Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

Wednesday of Holy Week: Is 50:4–9a / Mt 26:14–25

Holy Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 / 1 Cor 11:23-26 / Jn 13:1-15

Good Friday: ls 52:13—53:12 / Heb 4:14–16, 5:7–9 / Jn 18:1—19:42

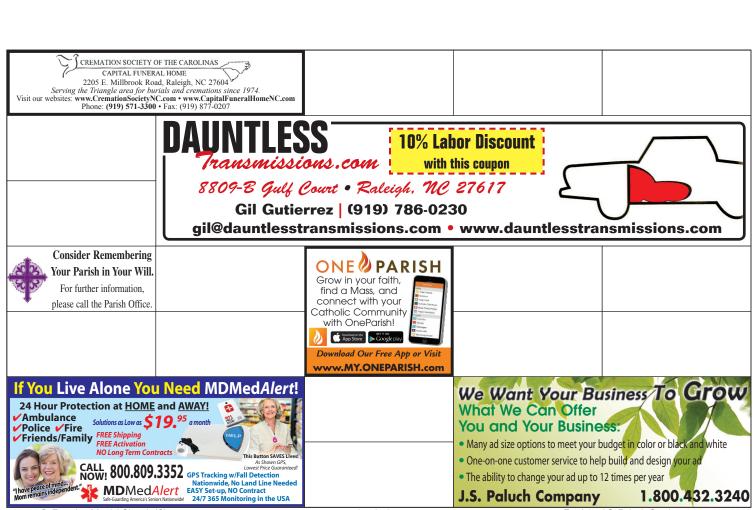
Holy Saturday: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a / Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 / Ex 14:15—15:1 / Is 54:5–14 / Is 55:1–11 / Bar 3:9–15, 32—4:4 / Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28 / Rom 6:3–11 / Mk 16:1–7



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