

April 4, 2021

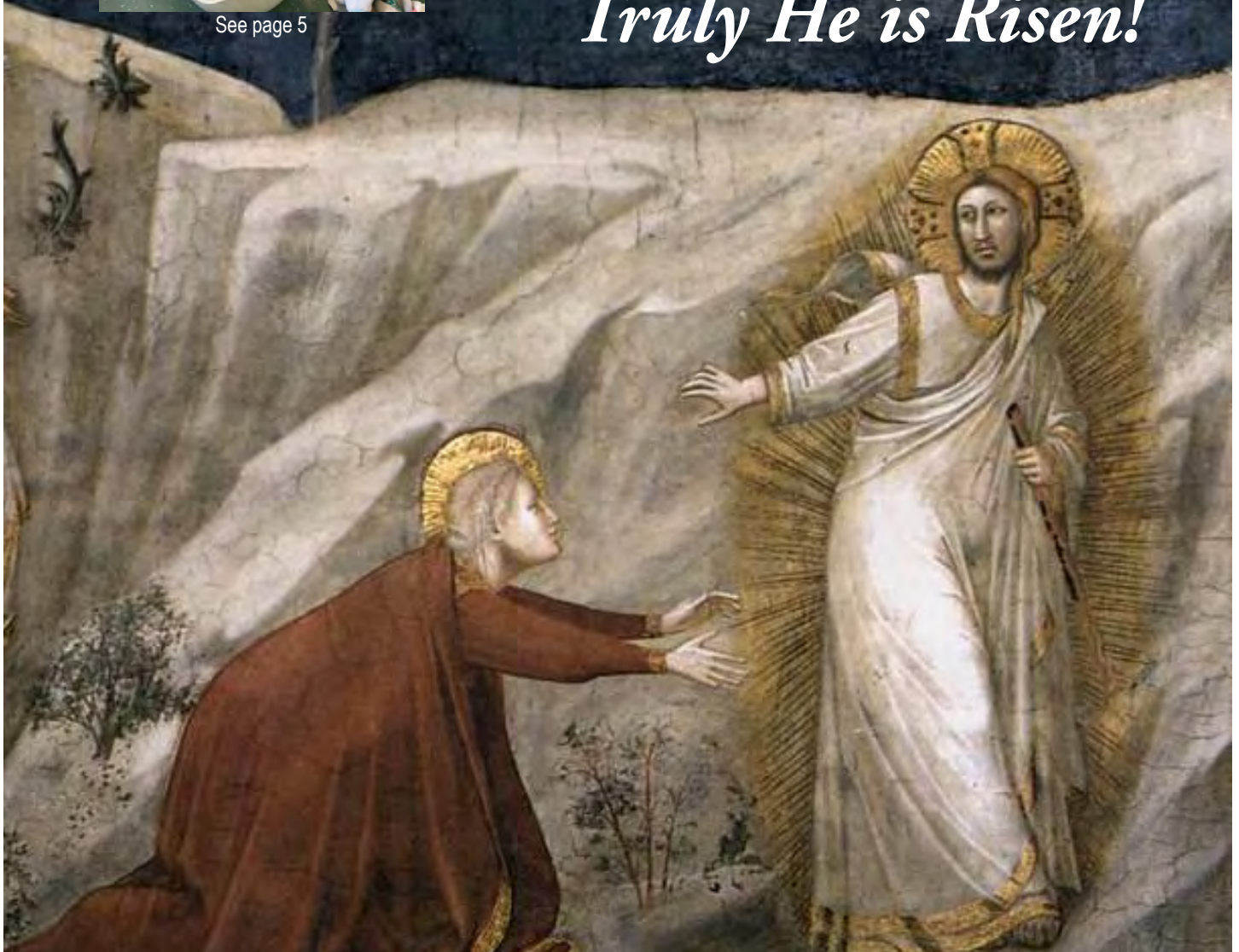
Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord



See page 5

*Happy Easter!*

*Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen!*



**The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi**

11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-847-8205 [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org)



I extend my blessings and best wishes to all who celebrate the great feast of Easter today. A year ago, no public celebrations of the Sacred Triduum could occur. This year we can gather with 250 in the church for each Mass but I know thousands will still be unable to join us in person. I am cautiously

optimistic that things will look fairly normal next Easter. Hope springs eternal! I am grateful for the livestream technicians who have worked tirelessly to make it possible for those who cannot join us in person to come as close as possible in our celebrations both today and for the past year.

As more and more are double vaccinated and the number of coronavirus infections diminishes, we will slowly but surely increase the capacity of those who may join us in person for Mass after consultation with our task force of medical experts who have been so important in helping us successfully reopen little by little.

There will be a committee established soon to oversee the reopening of the parish. Stay tuned for more details. Know we will be looking for members of our community to assist us with brainstorming, planning, and implementation.

As we enter the Easter season, we will celebrate initiation sacraments on several occasions. Those baptized as Catholics in infancy but who, for a number of reasons, were never confirmed or received the Holy Eucharist will celebrate these sacraments on the Third Sunday of Easter, the traditional Sunday in which Eucharistic overtones are found in the Gospel. Our young children will celebrate their First Eucharist over five Saturday Masses and a few others will celebrate theirs either at a daily Mass or one of the Sunday Masses. Those baptized in other Christian traditions will be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church and be confirmed and receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time with us at the feast of Pentecost. We will also resume infant baptisms which were on a brief hiatus during Lent.

We will begin inviting you soon to join a small group for the upcoming To Know, To Believe, To Live video-lecture series that begins in early May. I ask you to give serious consideration to joining a small group that will meet virtually twice a month through September to view the video-lecture as a group and engage in conversation about what is presented concerning the most essential beliefs of our Christian faith. More details will follow soon.

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

*Msgr. Clay*

Thank you to all who supported the ARC/KoC Blood Drive. 132 people showed up to donate and from that group we were able to obtain 137 units of blood. The Red Cross goal was 120 units. **Thank you, St. Francis!**

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

**+Alicia "CeCe" Taylor**  
Daughter of Jason Taylor

**+Suzanne Fiumano**  
Wife of Frank Fiumano

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/fait-direct/>



**Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199**

**Additional Online Giving Methods:**  
[www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/)

## **April Envelope Schedule**

April 4, 2021  
Easter

April 4, 2021  
Mortgage Sunday

April 11, 2021  
Weekly

April 18, 2021  
Weekly

April 18, 2021  
Priest Welfare & Retirement

April 25, 2021  
Weekly



# *Congratulations Lexi, Jason, Dave, and Christine!*

*Please pray for our Neophytes as we welcome them at the table of the Lord.*



**Alexandria "Lexi" Anderson**

Alexandria Anderson is coming to us from the Latter Day Saints faith tradition. She is the oldest of five in a big, tight-knit, fun-loving, military family. Lexi grew up "all over" but now lives here in Raleigh, working as an analytical chemist. In her spare time, she enjoys working out and running, reading, and catching up on her favorite programs, especially crime shows! New to the area, Lexi has found our parish to be incredibly warm and welcoming. Lexi is getting married this summer and she and her fiancé, Stuart, are looking forward to raising their future children in the Catholic Church. [Click here to send a message to Lexi](#)



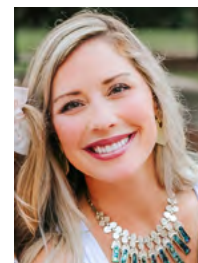
**Jason Riddle**

Jason Riddle grew up in the Baptist tradition in Weaver-ville, North Carolina, but never celebrated baptism. He lives here in Raleigh with his wife, Caroline, and daughter, Evelyn, who is a student at TFS. Jason works as a senior manager at Cisco Systems. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, especially playing with Evelyn. Jason says that our parish is open and welcoming, and he is very much looking forward to getting involved with the many volunteer ministries here. [Click here to send a message to Jason](#)



**David "Dave" Rion**

David Rion grew up in North and South Carolina. Although he was never baptized, he attended Catholic schools his whole life and has been brought to the Church by Catholic friends. Dave lives in Raleigh and works in his own practice as an orthopedic surgeon. In his free time, he enjoys building and painting models, as well as tabletop gaming. He also loves dogs and has an English Mastiff and an English Bulldog. Alongside wife Christine and his three children, Dave is journeying towards baptism at Easter. He has found our community to have a welcoming atmosphere and a willingness to help newcomers grow in faith. Dave really is looking forward to becoming even closer to Jesus Christ through the Sacraments. [Click here to send a message to Dave](#)



**Christine Rion**

Christine Rion grew up in a Christian household in Indianapolis, Indiana, but was never baptized. A wife and mother here in Raleigh, she is taking a break from her career in higher education to raise her three children, Reagan, Aurora, and Logan. Christine is a self-proclaimed podcast junkie. She loves book club and tries to read or listen to at least two books each month! She also loves to craft and cook for her family. Christine and her husband David, along with their three children, will all be celebrating baptism in the Easter season. She feels that St. Francis is among the most welcoming communities she has ever experienced and can't wait to celebrate and grow in the Catholic faith as a family. [Click here to send a message to Christine](#)

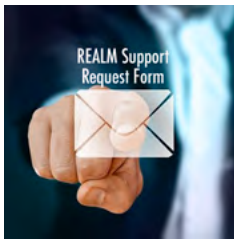


## Haven't set up your Realm account?

Please check your email for an invitation to join. An invitation was emailed to all adult parishioners in early March, and a reminder email was sent on Thursday, April 1st.



[Watch our video tutorial for getting logged in and setting up your account](#)



If you have any issues with logging in or setting up your Realm account, visit the parish Realm webpage, <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/realm/>, and look for the contact Realm Support Request Form button.



## Realm Connect

### Notes about the Realm Connect App






You must first set up your account on the web version and then download the Realm Connect app.

The Realm Connect App can be downloaded from the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android devices).

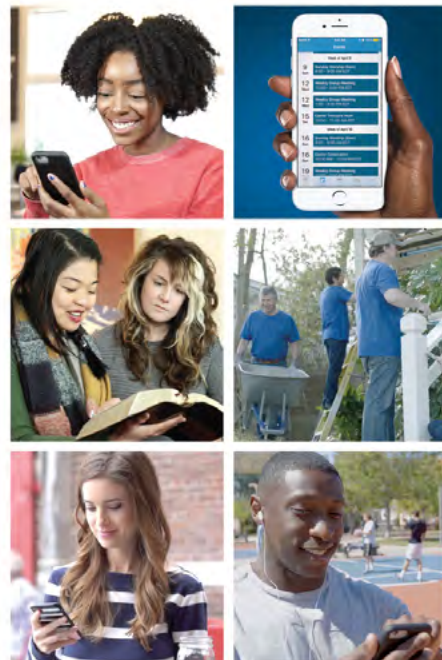
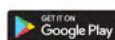
You'll use the same username and password to login to the Realm Connect app and the web version: <https://onrealm.org/StFrancisRaleigh/>.

  
**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.





# HolyWeek@SFA





# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, Principal TFS

## Happy Easter, The Lord is Risen!



At TFS we embrace our Easter celebration of Christ's sacrifice as a reminder that God loves each of us individually and completely! What a year it has been! A year ago, we were just beginning our journey through the pandemic, and entering a strange time in our school. I am unsure if there is anyone who has not been, in some way, deeply affected by all that has happened this past year, and yet we persevere. We were fortunate to be able to come back at the end of this past summer to a school year that, while different and certainly not "normal", was still a good school experience for our families and students. It has been a year that will not just "build character" in all of us through the trials we faced, but will, I hope, allow us to appreciate all we have and look at every day as a gift, especially as we hope to return to a more familiar life. We do not always appreciate the gift of perspective that certainly awaits us, but we will be thankful when it comes!

As we prepare for Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection, we consider the Pope's prayer from last year as he closed out his Easter message: "May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of His glorious day. A day that knows no end". Our life in Christ will certainly have no end, but we have faith that this struggle of the last year will soon end. We are not yet there, but as life renews all around us, both in nature and in our Faith's observance of Easter, we are filled with hope and joy. The joy of being able to be here for our families, students, faculty and staff, and experience all that this year, despite the concerns, has given us! We also have the hope that even better times are ahead as we emerge from the long year of pandemic. Our future is bright, and we have the optimism

of Easter to guide us forward and sustain us on the remainder of this journey.

We continue to stay strong, work hard, and look forward to the completion of another successful year at The Franciscan School with the hope that we can move swiftly into times that are more normal!

Do you want to learn more about how an educational experience at The Franciscan School prepares our students to embrace their Faith, succeed academically, and live in service to others? Join us for our upcoming virtual information session on April 14th to learn more on how we can support your family's goals for your child through the love and support provided by our TFS family. More information can be found on our website at [www.franciscanschool.org](http://www.franciscanschool.org) or contact Principal Mike Watson at [michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org).



# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

## **"He is Risen! Alleluia!"**



Happy Easter! On behalf of the teachers & staff I want to extend warm and blessed wishes to you and your families. As you can see from the pictures above, our preschoolers have worked hard during Holy Week to prepare for the beautiful celebration of Easter! Their concentration was fierce and efforts enthusiastic as they made wonderful creations to highlight the most sacred time in our faith life. May the hope and joy of Easter be with you always!

## PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES



### Introducing the Ministry of Spiritual Direction

Have you been curious about what spiritual direction is and how it might help you grow closer to God? During this past year of the pandemic, have you missed celebrating the Sunday Eucharist and the sacraments? Has it all distanced you from God? Perhaps now as things are easing up, you are looking for a way to reconnect and grow deeper in your relationship with God. I hope you will take a few minutes to explore how spiritual direction may help you and gain a better understanding of what it is.

It is said that we encounter the mystery of God primarily in our human experience and yet, so often, we are unaware of the presence of this Divine Mystery. The challenge then is for us to awaken to this mystery of God's presence and action in our daily lives and learn how to respond more freely to it. However, this can be difficult to do. Most of us need a companion who can listen to the inner movements of the Holy Spirit and accompany us on this journey of spiritual awakening. That is the role of a spiritual director. We are there to listen, to pray for and with the directee and hopefully ask questions that will lead to a deeper listening within.

Spiritual direction is an ancient Christian tradition designed to help us encounter God in our everyday life. We don't just encounter God when we are in church or in prayer. God is present in our relationships, in our work and families, in nature, in our senses and intellect. So often though, we are distracted or numb to this reality. Meeting with a spiritual director, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, helps us to open our eyes and become aware of how God is acting in our lives. The spiritual director is not there to fix or solve any problems the directee may be encountering but rather to be a conduit between them and God.

For over a year, a team of trained spiritual directors have been meeting to pray and discern the needs of the parish in regards to spiritual direction. Under the guidance of Msgr. Clay and Kathleen Owens, this new ministry is about to be launched in our parish. Presently, we are meeting with directees via zoom but hope to eventually meet in person at the parish. For more information on how to meet with one of the spiritual directors, please visit <https://www.sf francisraleigh.org/spiritual-direction/>.

Gladys Whitehouse OFS  
[sfspiritualdirection@gmail.com](mailto:sfspiritualdirection@gmail.com)



## Easter and Our Migrant Neighbors: Our Journey Together



It was Easter morning – the first Easter – arguably the greatest day in history. But there was no dancing in the streets; it was deathly quiet. Those destined to be called Christians were alone with their thoughts. Many were hiding, filled with confusion, grief, and terror. Some women sensed something miraculous might be afoot, and they tried to tell the others. But nobody, not even those women, knew quite what to think. Even as the picture became a little clearer over days and weeks, they couldn't possibly see what it all meant. Something radical and grace-filled was breaking through. But it was just the beginning. There was so much more to discern, and even more yet to do. Important moments sometimes feel this way.

Easter 2021 feels a bit like that first Easter. We're hopeful and grateful as we hold our breath. This is especially true for those new to our land, striving to make a life among us; for those yearning to escape desperate conditions; and for

all who stand in solidarity in with them. There are signs of grace. Eliseo Jimenez, who had been living in sanctuary since October 2017 at Umstead Park United Church of Christ, is now free. There's some hope of meaningful legislation, including a path to citizenship for adults who came to the U.S. years ago as small children. We're again welcoming refugees. Parish ministries continue, among them the Migrant Ministry's outreach to seasonal farm workers, and ONE Wake's advocacy for fair housing agreements at the Las Americas trailer park.

The Spirit stirs, calling us to welcome those looking to make a home, earn a living, feel safe, and contribute to their community. But we worry about a surge of desperate migrants at our southern border, including a heartbreaking number of unaccompanied youth. We're outraged at violence against Asian-Americans. We feel the weight of a pandemic that falls most heavily on those already struggling. And we're frustrated that we continue to fear and blame each other, as if lifting

up one's neighbor brings the rest of us down, as if life were a zero-sum game. So much to discern, so much to do.

Perhaps you feel a call to learn more or do more. If so, consider signing up for a new Realm group called "Immigration Issue Team – Allies" (go to Groups | Find Groups, then search for "immigration"; or email Trevor Thompson at [trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org)). We see this group of allies as a community of parishioners who want to connect with those who care about immigration-related challenges and opportunities. We expect to use the group to help us learn (occasional emails pointing to immigration-related news and resources) and serve (invitations to participate in initiatives supporting the local migrant community). We ask nothing of those who sign up. No meetings, no pressure – just an interest in knowing what's happening in the world of immigration. We are all migrants; let's walk this journey together.





## 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.

# VIRTUAL EVENING PRAYER

## Wednesdays 7:00pm


FACEBOOK LIVE - STFRANCISRALEIGH

LECTIONARY-BASED  
VIRTUAL  
SMALL GROUP  
OPPORTUNITY

## reflecting on the WORD

THURSDAYS AT 2:00PM

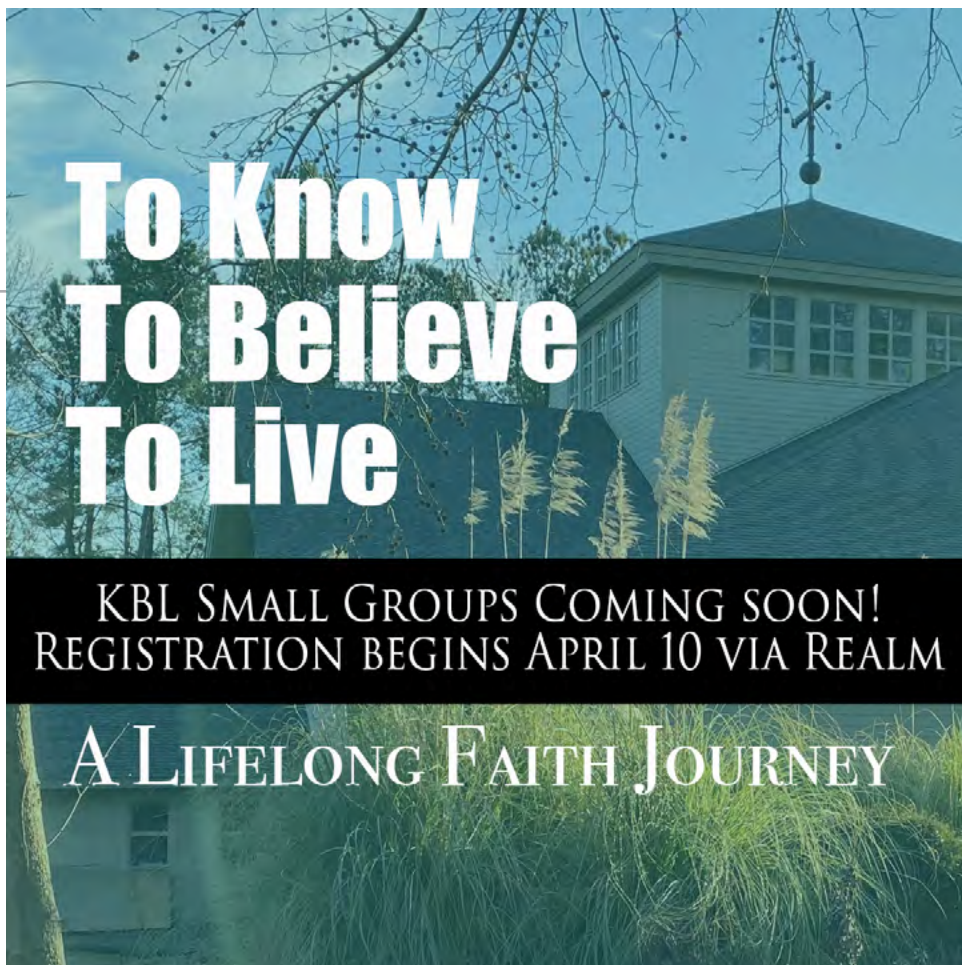
To register visit  
[bit.ly/formation-resources](http://bit.ly/formation-resources)



# To Know To Believe To Live

KBL SMALL GROUPS COMING SOON!  
REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 10 VIA REALM

## A LIFELONG FAITH JOURNEY



## ST. FRANCIS TV WATCH EPISODE 3

SPECIAL GUEST: BISHOP LUIS ZARAMA



## One Family in Christ

WHO PRAYS, SERVES & SHARES  
IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Update 4/2/2021

BAA Goal: \$509,088.28  
Pledged Gift Amount: \$384,792 (75.6%)  
Received Gift Amount: \$318,904 (62.6%)

Number of Donors: 986  
20.5% of registered parish families

(Click here to make your pledge)



2021 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE of RALEIGH



## Daily Mass 10am

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

Wednesdays are reserved for TFS and Preschool Mass.

All pandemic protocols are followed.  
No signups are required.

SCRIPTURE, STORIES, AND SONGS  
FOR THE YOUNG  
AND YOUNG AT HEART

## LUNCH BREAK

Saturdays at noon




## Employment Opportunity

### Full time Maintenance Tech

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



## Join Our Volunteer Tech Team



Contact [jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jim.wahl@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)



## Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles are located in the Community Center



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

## 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, [Deb.Royals-Mizerk@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Deb.Royals-Mizerk@stfrancisraleigh.org) 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](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.

## 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 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](mailto: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](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.

## Seeing God

in Your Cancer Journey

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

**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](mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org) or call 919-847-8205x241.





# Bringing Home the Word

Easter Sunday (B)  
April 4, 2021

## Victory!

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Fr. Lorenzo Ricci, SJ, placed the painting, *The Resurrection* by Domenico Cresti, in the chapel commemorating the spot outside Rome where Ignatius had a vision confirming his desire to ask the pope to found the Jesuit order. It's significant because Fr. Lorenzo enthroned this painting as a symbolic act just before his order was suppressed throughout the Portuguese and Spanish Empires. It was one of their darkest hours.

We all have dark moments in our histories. It seems death will swallow us; that God has abandoned us, and there is no solution. The darkness in the painting

suggests just that—the world of darkness and despair without the light of Christ. The soldiers sleep, the cold world waits below, and a once-strong trunk is dry and sapped of vigor.

Above, the beautiful Christ figure is surrounded in light, while he hoists the victory standard: the blood-red cross of martyrdom set upon the pure white of resurrection. He, like a new Moses, is leading them into the promised land of eternal life.

These contrasting scenes of darkness and light are the message of the painting and of the resurrection itself. Peter, John, and Mary Magdalene had locked themselves at home, engulfed in darkness, fear, and sadness. The next morning, they arrive to the tomb only to find it open and the body of their beloved Savior gone. Victory was being won even as they slept.

Entrust your ways to the Lord and he will act. God is at work winning your salvation! Do not let hope be vanquished! Hold on. Trust in him. Victory is right around the corner! +

*Entrust your ways to the Lord and he will act. God is at work winning your salvation!*

## Sunday Readings

**Acts 10:34a, 37-43**

[Peter said,] "He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge."

**Colossians 3:1-4 or  
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8**

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

**John 20:1-9**

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

## A Word from Pope Francis

You cannot give [courage] to yourself, but you can receive it as a gift. All you have to do is open your heart in prayer and roll away, however slightly, that stone placed at the entrance to your heart so that Jesus' light can enter...With you, Lord, we will be tested but not shaken.

—Easter Vigil Homily, April 11, 2020



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do I trust in Christ's power, which I cannot see, more than the problems that I can see?
- Do I believe God is a good Father and only permits that which leads to greater glory for both of us?



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7200 Sunbeam Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27613 919-821-9730 [www.dioceseofraleigh.org](http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org)

## Ignited by Truth

The 18th annual Ignited By Truth Conference will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021, 10am-5pm ET on the IBT YouTube Channel. Speakers include Dr. Scott Hahn, Fr. Michael Schmitz, Fr. Chris Alar, Matthew Leonard, Patricia Sandoval, and John Pridmore. Register at [IgnitedByTruth.org](https://IgnitedByTruth.org) for FREE access, including weekly pre-conference talks!

# Fifty Days of Easter

By Kathleen M. Basi

On Easter Sunday, anything seems possible. The triumph of life over death and heaven over hell seems to resound throughout a world poised on the cusp of spring.

But it's hard to hold on to the euphoria of resurrection for fifty days. White lilies fade and are discreetly removed from the altar, the spring rush of baseball and soccer starts. As the planet spins one day to the next, we get caught up in ordinary life until one day that newness of purpose is gone altogether.

Faith is like a muscle: healthier when exercised. In the years after the resurrection, the Church flourished because Christianity wasn't just something you did on Sundays and holidays. It was something radical—something so powerful, so threatening to the establishment that claiming it could get you fed to wild animals. That kind of commitment changes what you do and think and say every day.



You and I will probably never face execution for our beliefs, but the reality of the resurrection should still impact the way we live—not just on the holy day itself, but throughout the Easter season and beyond. It should illuminate what endeavors are worthwhile and which are not. It should challenge us to temper

our anger and expand our willingness to sacrifice for others. In short, it should challenge us to do something.

Nobody needs a longer to-do list. But living the faith doesn't require commitments of epic proportions. Imagine what could happen if every one of us celebrated the fifty days of Easter by doing one thing each day to grow, demonstrate, or share our faith.

It doesn't have to be earth shattering in importance. It just needs to be real. Set aside five minutes for quiet, contemplative prayer. Count to ten before reacting to that inflammatory tweet. Dig into the mystery of death and resurrection with your children. Read the

Acts of the Apostles and figure out one concrete way you can imitate their fervor in the context of your life. Read a book about the saints. Pick up that fast-food bag blowing around the mall parking lot. Send a donation to a crisis-pregnancy center. Buy a can of coffee and deliver it to a homeless shelter.

Doing one thing every day may not change the world, but it will change us. Our souls and our bodies are made to work in harmony to reflect God's image.

Our actions shape our inner reality. The more we act as Christ would have us act, the more our view of the world reflects his. In short, by doing as God does, we become more like God.

And that *can* change the world. +



*Lord, your resurrection  
pierces the darkness of doubt  
and fear. May the power of  
your resurrection help me  
to deepen my love for  
you and all people.*

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

*Doing one thing every day may not change the world,  
but it will change us.*

## WEEKDAY READINGS

April 5-10

**Monday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 2:14, 22–33 / Mt 28:8–15

**Tuesday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 2:36–41 / Jn 20:11–18

**Wednesday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 3:1–10 / Lk 24:13–35

**Thursday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 3:11–26 / Lk 24:35–48

**Friday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 4:1–12 / Jn 21:1–14

**Saturday, Octave of Easter:**  
Acts 4:13–21 / Mk 16:9–15

Bringing Home  
the Word   
April 4, 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

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### The Franciscan School

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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

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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	Mary Arleth	847-8205x358
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
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Children's Liturgy of the Word	Jackie Kelly	203-512-8807
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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
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Music Ministry	Joyce Petzka	<a href="mailto:jepetzka@gmail.com">jepetzka@gmail.com</a>
Parking Ministry	Steve Burdett	919-845-2714
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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
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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>
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	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>
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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>
Habitat for Humanity	Trevor Thompson	<a href="mailto:stfa.fp@gmail.com">stfa.fp@gmail.com</a>
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### St Francis on Mission

International Mission Trips	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
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Care of Creation		<a href="mailto:stfccreation@gmail.com">stfccreation@gmail.com</a>
Engaging Spirituality	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
Just Faith	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
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Peace Pole Prayer	Ben Whitehouse	<a href="mailto:whitehouseben5@gmail.com">whitehouseben5@gmail.com</a>
Racial Justice	Becky Cawley	<a href="mailto:becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org">becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org</a>

## Get Involved!

### 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

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Athletic Programs

Mary Arleth

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Assisi Café

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Parish Events (FrancisFest)

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Summer Camps (Camp Francis)

Ashley Watson

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### Community Organizations

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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

Bryan Kozak

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Secular Franciscan Order

Ellen Ferrone

http://ofscentralinc.org

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Assisi Scripture Study

Jenn Fiduccia

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Baptism Ministry

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Marriage Ministry

Tim Hetzel

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Confirmation Sponsors

Thomas Bulick

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Children's Formation Group Leader

Sarah Bowser

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Family & Marriage Enrichment Team

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Middle School Formation Group

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Marisa Ferrara

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RCIA Team & Sponsors

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Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)

Tara Moore

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Young Adults Bible Study Group

Tim Hetzel

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Stewardship Committee

Deb Royals-Mizerk

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