

Available Tomorrow!

To Know
To Believe
To Live

1

God is Love

A LIFELONG FAITH JOURNEY

Communities
of Calling

See page 4



First Eucharist see page 3

Our Mission Statement

Inspired by our patron Francis of Assisi, we seek to proclaim the reign of God by growing in Holiness through our experience of Christ in word, sacrament and one another, offering Hope to those who hunger for human dignity, and extending Hospitality to all.



Check your email for an invitation to REALM



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

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



We continue the conversation within the parish in consultation with various Task Forces comprised of medical professionals and other personnel on how to reopen the two schools and the church slowly but surely. With the newest directive from the Governor's Office, we will start allowing our school children to be outdoors without masks for recess beginning Monday, May 3. They will still remain in their cohorts for the time being.

Beginning this weekend, we will eliminate the spraying of hands after people receive Holy Communion. We will also allow people to remove facemasks once they are on the parking lot of the church after Mass provided social distancing is maintained. We will continue to ask that masks be worn when arriving to and leaving from the church and when walking along the walkways leading to/from the church because of the concentration of people in a fairly enclosed area.

Beginning Monday, we will no longer require those coming to daily Mass to sign in as part of the entrance process to the church. We need to continue online registration and check-in for weekend Masses for the time being due to the cap we are retaining for those Masses.

We are also looking at resuming daily Mass outdoors in the Memorial Garden as soon as the pollen season has concluded and as long as the temperature remains reasonable.

We will be offering some limited opportunities for youth to gather for activities this summer, both on our campus and beyond. Those details are still being worked out. Watch for updates on our parish website and in the bulletin.

Unfortunately, the Community Center will be closed this summer due to maintenance work that needs to be done to the boiler/chiller system that impacts water and climate control in that building.

The Parish Reopening Committee continues to work on a master plan for reopening and is working to have things in place by the time the next phase of changes in NC occurs around June 1. We are encouraged that things are continuing to move in the right direction so we may reopen and regather in the coming months.

The cumulative stress of the pandemic has worn us all down. St. Francis is offering some virtual sessions in May as part of Mental Health month to provide some tools and resources to support us as we slowly-but-surely move back to a more normal life. I encourage you to check these opportunities out and sign up for a session or two. Details are in the bulletin.

Msgr. Clay

THROUGH BAPTISM MAY THEY WALK ALWAYS AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT:

Charlotte Elizabeth Allison

Daughter of Grier and Amanda Allison

Lane Margaret Backus

Daughter of Collin and Taryn Backus

Stella Jane Betz

Daughter of Jordan and Kathy Betz

Isabelle Marie Franzen

Daughter of Patrick and Marissa Franzen

Charlotte Sophia Garrard

Daughter of Chris and Chricat Garrard

Caelan Austin Garvey

Son of Patrick and Caroline Garvey

Gannon Davis Garvey

Son of Patrick and Caroline Garvey

William Foster Hogshead

Son of Aaron and Jessica Hogshead

Vincent Michael Iadanza

Son of Michael and Angelica Iadanza

Everly Falyn Karam

Daughter of Phil and Amy Karam

Audrey Ruth Kreger

Daughter of Bradley and Stephany Kreger

Jackson Matthew McMillin

Son of Mark and Erika McMillin

Lucy Blair Novak

Daughter of Andrew and Casey Novak

Jackson Papula

Son of AJ and Jenna Papula

Olivia James Spinelli

Daughter of Steven and Lauren Spinelli

Mina Liv Teeple

Daughter of Nick and Gretchen Teeple

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

+ Robert Gangel

Father of Alice Ward

+ Sue Carol Hirtzel

Sister of Alma Hammer

+ James Kababik

Father of Stacey Kababik

Congratulations to our First Eucharist Candidates who received the Blessed Sacrament for the first time this weekend! May this day be an initial step for you into a life-long love of the Holy Eucharist. Your Saint Francis family rejoices and celebrates with you on one of the most sacred days of your life.



*Adonai Afewerki
Charles Appert
Sophia Austin
Jackson Bell
Marceau Carroll
Luca Cecconi
Natalia Dominguez De La Torre
Sofiana Gani
Miles Gessner
Evan Hazell
Colleen Holt
Hayden Hough
Elizabeth Hough
Serena Kelly
Carson LaChapelle
Amelia Landin
Alexander Marcinkowski
Colin Meary
Justus Menius
Lucas Novak
August Pflieger
Stone Pflieger
Zachary Placino
Kolbie Quarfot
Joshua Reardon
Ethan Rhodes
Michael Schneider
Vivienne Slusser
Brock Smith
Chloe Smith
Caroline Strange
Ava Taylor
Michael White*

First Communion and First Reconciliation Preparation Registration for 2021-2023 *ONLINE*

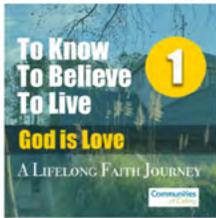
Parents/guardians with children in Kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year (or who are currently in 1st Grade and have not previously attended a meeting), MUST fill out an interest form to begin the online registration process to learn about sacramental preparation, important dates, and their role in this special journey. The Online First Communion Sacramental Preparation video is for ALL parents/guardians including Faith Formation, Home School, and The Franciscan School, who have children in Kindergarten or 1st grade (unless 1st grade families attended last spring).

If your family wishes to enroll in the sacrament preparation process, you must begin by filling out the interest form at the link below. *Registration forms for Sacramental Preparation enrollment are available ONLY after filling out this interest form and watching the emailed video.* After you fill out the interest form at the link below, further steps will be emailed to you on May 13th.

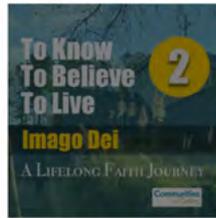
To fill out the Interest Form for 2021-2023
First Sacraments Preparation visit:
<https://www.jotform.com/build/62304764767160>

If you have any questions about
First Communion/Reconciliation preparation,
please contact Sarah Bowser
Coordinator of Children's Formation
Sarah.Bowser@stfrancisraleigh.org
Cell: 989-859-9244

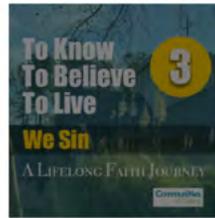
KBL Episodes and Release Dates



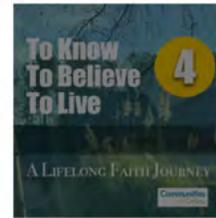
May 3



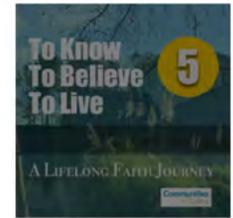
May 17



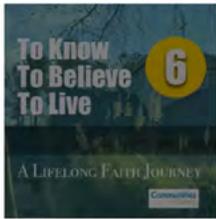
June 7



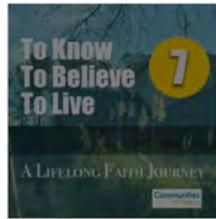
June 21



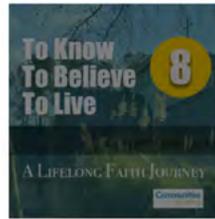
July 12



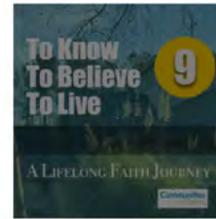
July 26



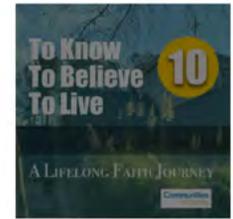
August 9



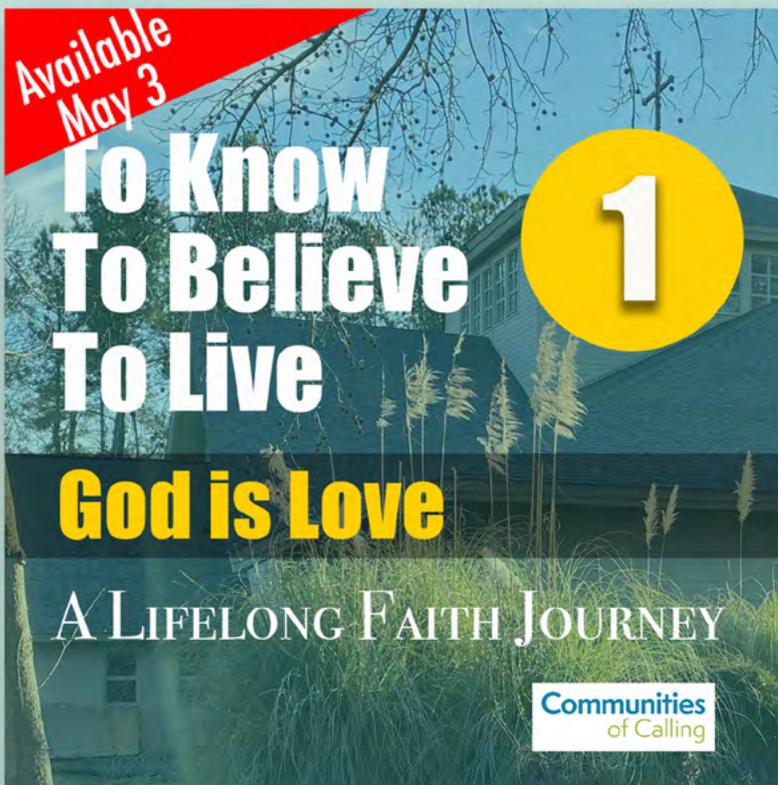
August 23



September 6



September 20



Watching Msgr. Clay's To Know, To Believe, To Live series but are not part of a small group?

If you are planning to participate in the Know, Believe, Live series, but are not in a small group, we invite you to join a Realm Group so you can receive updates and communications about the series as they occur.

Please note: you do not have to join the Realm Group to view the series which will be posted twice a month at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/know-believe-live/>

To join the Group:

- 1.) Login to Realm on the web <https://onrealm.org/StFrancisRaleigh> or on the Realm Connect app.
- 2.) Select "Groups" (or "More" and then "Groups" if you're using the App)
- 3.) Select "Find Groups"
- 4.) Select "Formation & Education"
- 5.) Look for the Group "KBL – Participants Not in a Small Group"
- 6.) Click the "Request to Join" button and a staff member will add you to the Group!

Please contact Patti.Panizza@stfrancisraleigh.org or Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org with questions about joining the Realm group for non-small group KBL participants.

If you have questions about KBL, please contact Kathy Sales at kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

[Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis Preschool](#)



"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29)

Last weekend, you may have heard Fr. Jairo speak with a friend about a conversation he had while he was in the process of discerning his vocation. He spoke about how incredulous his friend was that he wanted to become a priest. Fr. Jairo simply told his friend that he felt strongly that God was calling him in this direction. I think that it's a bit easier for us to think about God calling someone to enter religious life, but what about other callings? Msgr. Clay has spoken in his previews of "To Know, To Believe, To Live" series that one of the essential elements of Christianity is that God is calling all the baptized to a life of discipleship and a life of mission by going out and being a witness of His message in both word and deed. How is God calling you to do that? In trying to answer this for ourselves, I think that it is often helpful to look at those around us who provide witness to this in their daily lives. For me, those with whom I work frequently prove to be witnesses for me.

Not long ago, I was having a casual discussion with one of my preschool teachers. We were talking about the highs and lows of being in the classroom this past year. Although there have been

countless joyous moments with our children, there also have been many extra challenges this past year. While we did, unfortunately, have some of our teachers not return this school year due to family health concerns with the pandemic, we were able to largely keep our staff intact. If you had any uncertainty about whether teaching was for you or not, this definitely would not have been the year to put it to the test! The teacher with whom I was speaking about being in the classroom this year, reiterated this when she said that she truly felt God calling her to be a preschool teacher. This was one way in which God was asking her to be a witness to His love and lessons; she was to share these with small children. I smiled when she said this as I was reminded that God is not just calling those who enter into religious life. There are many other ways in which He does this.

A couple of weeks ago, I was able to officially congratulate all of the preschool staff, on Founder's Day, who have found a calling to work with our preschoolers. There were several teachers and assistants who celebrated noteworthy anniversaries of five, ten, fifteen, twenty, and twenty-five years! Although these were

those who were formally recognized, it is also important to note that the majority of our staff have multiple years serving our preschool children. This is truly one of the things that I feel makes our preschool unique- our staff is deeply vested in our school. While their tenure surely is a testament to their answering a call so are their examples of living their faith while nurturing the faith of their students in all that they do. Whether it's giving an extra hug, offering kuddos for a job well done, giving words of encouragement, or singing a song of praise to our Lord, our staff show our children how to answer God's call, how to be disciples of His teachings. I am so thankful for them every day because their examples not only inspire our children, but me as well!

How is God calling you to live out His message? May we always remember to keep our hearts open and ears ready to hear Him. May we always be willing to faithfully act on what He is asking of us!

There's still a few spots remaining for the 21-22 school year! To learn how to join our wonderful preschool, please visit our website at: preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, Principal TFS

Virtual Information Session Coming on May 19



The Franciscan School is a Cognia (Formerly AdvancED) accredited elementary and middle school with fully professionally licensed faculty and staff who provide an excellent Catholic education in the Franciscan tradition here at St. Francis parish. A National Blue Ribbon School since 2011, the talented and enthusiastic faculty and staff provide educational excellence inclusive of the diverse learning styles of all children. In support of our mission, the curriculum combines the traditional subjects, religion course offerings, and the application of STEM, including Arts and Religion (STREAM), extracurricular electives to enhance our educational offerings, all while assuring we provide professional academic support to those in need.

As the St. Francis of Assisi Parish school, we are here to provide your family with a great education steeped in

the Catholic and Franciscan values we all embrace. This year we have welcomed the opportunity for prospective families to find out more information about The Franciscan School during several "virtual information sessions". While these sessions are necessary during the COVID restrictions in place of our Open Houses, they have been a great opportunity for prospective parents to hear from teachers and parent panelists, as well as administrators, who provide insight into the daily academic and faith experience at TFS. We will be holding the next of these sessions on May 19th at 7:00pm, and all those interested in finding out about our school are welcome!

Our parish schools exemplify the natural extension of the ministry of teaching that is one of the principle foundations upon which our community of faith at St.

Francis has been built, and we want to provide all the information you need to plan for your child's continuing education. Please visit our [website](#) to sign up for our Virtual Information Session on May 19th, enjoy the opportunity to take our virtual tour, and schedule an opportunity to speak with our admissions team. As you explore school options for your children's education next year, please visit with us and consider The Franciscan School. If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me, Principal Mike Watson, by email at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org or reach out to our admissions team at Admissions@stfrancisraleigh.org. The faculty, parents, and students of TFS look forward to welcoming you to The Franciscan School community!

The Franciscan School, part of the education ministry of St. Francis of Assisi, has the following positions available beginning in the 21-22 school year.

Elementary Teachers - Grade 3 and Kindergarten

The Franciscan School is seeking qualified classroom teachers in the 3rd grade and kindergarten. The primary role of the classroom teacher is to instruct students in the Diocesan Curriculum for that specific grade, while challenging them to move beyond their current level of academic success. The candidate will demonstrate the ability to draw the students out to reach their full potential as it applies to the goals and requirements of the Diocesan curriculum.

As an instructor in a school with over 650 students, the ability to tie together the lessons within each grade as part of the grade level team, and make them build upon each other year after year, using established best practices and methods for instruction, is essential. The applicant would be responsible for working together with the entire faculty and the administrative team to provide a safe and academically challenging environment; one that builds upon the charism of the Catholic Church, and our Franciscan traditions, to form our students as fine young men and women prepared for their futures academically, socially, and morally.

Instructional Teaching Assistant

The Franciscan School is seeking an Instructional Teacher Assistant (ITA). The primary role of the ITA will be to assist the lead teacher and grade level team in creating a classroom environment that is consistent with the mission of the school and the parish. The candidate will provide classroom support to the lead teacher by providing general assistance with daily tasks, such as copying and planning for lessons, small group assistance, supervision of students when necessary, handling of disciplinary issues when appropriate, and assisting with special projects, such as field trips. The ITA is expected to participate in parish staff gatherings, conferences, and will collaborate as a member of the team to provide academic excellence for the students.

How to Apply: If you are interested in joining a dynamic educational environment working with dedicated professionals to provide an academically challenging experience for our students, please send a resume and cover letter to: Dawn.Smith@stfrancisraleigh.org. Candidates for teaching positions should also include his/her educational philosophy and three references.

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/TFS-Careers> or <https://www.franciscanschool.org/careers-at-the-franciscan-school/>



Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

Please help us fill grocery bags with much needed food items for the Our Lady of the Rosary Food Pantry. OLR serves the rural community of Louisburg, where approximately 24% of the residents live below the poverty line. The OLR Food Pantry serves over 100 families per day so the need is great.

Grocery list of needs

Rice and maseca flour, cans of tomatoes, vegetables and fruit. Cans of meat, soup and spaghetti sauce. Boxes of cereal, macaroni and cheese. Pasta, bags of rice and dried beans. Peanut butter, jelly, fruit juice, diapers all sizes and wipes.

- Bags will be available after Masses the weekend of May 1st & 2nd
- Bags are also available in the Cupertino room in the Community Center May 3rd – 7th from 8:00am – 4:00pm.
- Please drop of your filled bags at the truck in the church parking lot on Saturday, May 8th from 4-6 pm, and on Sunday, May 9th from 9 am – 1 pm and 3–6 pm.
- In lieu of filling a bag, financial donations may be made by check, made out to Our Lady of the Rosary, or by using your Faith Direct: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NC674/42816>

For more information please visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/our-lady-of-the-rosary/>

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org



Witness for Racial Justice Tuesday May 25, 4 – 5:30 pm Creedmoor Rd

Come stand in peaceful solidarity and be a prophetic witness to truth and justice for our brothers and sisters of color on Tuesday May 25, 4:00 – 5:30 pm, the anniversary of George Floyd's death. We will join with members of Benson Memorial United Methodist Church, Temple Beth Or and Pullen Memorial Baptist Church to honor the inherent dignity of all lives lost or harmed in any way by systemic racism.

We will meet at Benson Memorial - 4706 Creedmoor Rd, Raleigh, NC 27612 at 4:00 pm, begin in prayer, stand in solidarity outside, holding signs (no polls), wearing masks and social distancing. Sign up at www.bit.ly/demonstration-52021

Scripture and the principle of solidarity within Catholic Social Teaching tell us that we are one human family despite our racial differences, united to each other through Christ. And that solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of others. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the good of all people.



This past year presented so many different challenges and obstacles that tested our strength and resiliency. The global pandemic forced us to cope with situations we never even imagined, and a lot of us struggled with our mental health as a result. The good news is that there are tools and resources available that can support the well-being of individuals and communities.

Although 1 in 5 people will experience a mental illness during their lifetime, everyone faces challenges in life that can influence our mental health. We know that church and spirituality are often places people turn when in crisis, but we also know that most faith congregations do not talk about mental health. We want to be the kind of faith community where we are equipped to understand the nature of mental health struggles and know what to do and where to go in the event of challenges. We want people to feel safe to share their story and be supported in their spiritual journey. Now, more than ever, we need to combat the stigma surrounding mental health concerns. This is why during this Mental Health Month St. Francis will be offering opportunities for further learning, prayer, and action so that individuals and families can continue to prioritize mental health, build resiliency, and continue to cope with the obstacles of COVID-19.

Visit <http://bit.ly/SFAmentalhealth2021> to sign-up to attend these opportunities for VIRTUAL conversation around mental health and mental illness.

May 11, 7pm-8:30pm: Mental Health and Mental Illness in the Time of COVID with a panel of speakers providing a testimony of lived experience with mental illness and the impacts of COVID on mental health.

May 18, 7pm-8pm: Mental Health and Substance Abuse, a facilitated dialogue with Darryl West a substance abuse counselor who is in long-term recovery.

May 25, 7pm-8:30pm: Mental Health Resources in our Community with a panel of leaders from our community sharing what resources are available to individuals and families experiencing mental health challenges during the pandemic.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13)

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Becky Cawley, Justice and Peace Specialist



How do you talk with your children about racism?

Racism is a difficult topic to talk about. Yet, talking is one of the first and often most important steps to understanding this very complex topic that is affecting the lives of all of us. And like all things parents teach their children about, the best place to do that is within the loving embrace of home.

So we invite you to gather your family together read this book: *Ghost Boys* and then gather via Zoom with other parishioners for an enlightening discussion on May 12. Follow these links for more information and to sign up: www.bit.ly/REIT-book52021.

While this book is not Catholic per se, our tradition and the Gospel invite us to look at all of life through the lens of our faith. Come join us to do just that.



Employment Opportunity

Full time Maintenance Tech

www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs



The Affordable Housing issue team of the Justice and Peace Office at St. Francis continues to keep informed about local housing issues. Pre- covid ,NC's statewide eviction rate was almost double the national average. According to the NC Justice Center, a minimum wage earner must work 94 hours a week to afford a 2 bedroom rental. Our own SVdP conference reports:

A 59 year old neighbor who has a number of health problems is receiving a monthly disability check and a small amount in food stamps. His life has presented him with many challenges: he has been homeless and lived in a men's shelter for years. But now, he is proud and grateful to be renting a small house. However, sometimes his utility bills, especially in winter, are more than he can afford. He has received help from the Friendship Fund, and recently, St. Vincent de Paul paid his electric bill. St. Vincent de Paul also helped him with a gas card so he can drive to Food Banks, medical appointments, and volunteer with "Food not Bombs" which serves meals in downtown Raleigh. This neighbor acknowledges his gratitude to God for all the help he has received.



Bringing Creation Care Messages and Drawdown Solutions to Faith Communities

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Many of us hope to bring Creation care messages and practices to our faith communities. What opportunities, challenges, roadblocks, and successes have we experienced that can inspire and light our way as we continue this sacred mission?

Join us for **Bringing Creation Care Messages and Drawdown Climate Solutions to Faith Communities**, a free Zoom event on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. cosponsored by Orange-Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation and Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle.

Presenter Gail Powell, Vice President of ICCT

Host Kathy Kaufman, OCICC Steering Committee, retired air quality analyst at EPA

Panelists

Rev. Stephanie L. Allen, Rector, Church of the Nativity Episcopal, Raleigh

Trevor Thompson, Director, Justice and Peace, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic, Raleigh

Rev. Stephanie A. Ford, Minister of Christian Formation, Binkley Baptist Church, Chapel Hill

Bishop Hope Ward, Resident Bishop, NC Conference-Raleigh Area, United Methodist Church

Musical Guest Susan Ketchin.



Orange-Chatham Interfaith
Care for Creation



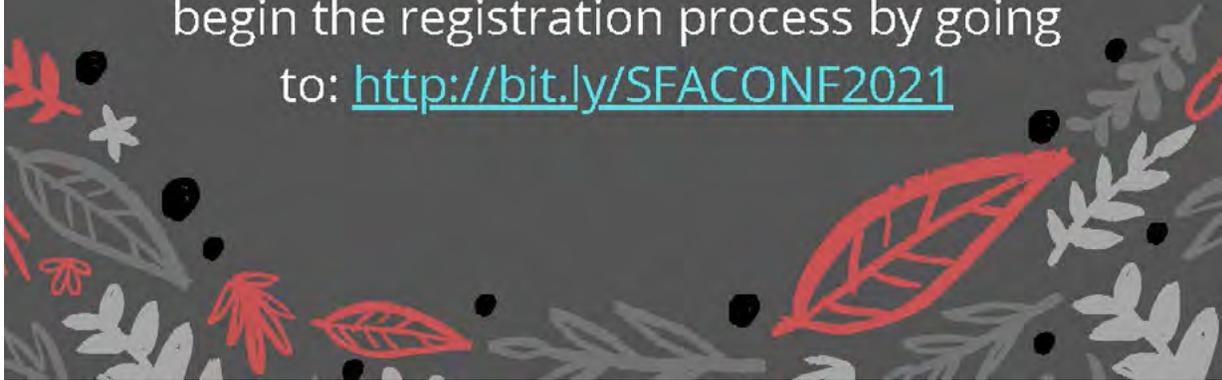
INTERFAITH
CREATION CARE
OF THE TRIANGLE



Confirmation Registration is Starting!

Beginning this fall, Confirmation Preparation at St. Francis will be moved to **7th and 8th Grades**

All Rising **7th and 8th Graders** should begin the registration process by going to: <http://bit.ly/SFACONF2021>



Join Our Volunteer Tech Team



Contact jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org

Help Needed for our Tech Ministry

One of the graces of the past year, has been our ability to stream our 9:30 Sunday liturgy to thousands of parishioners and guests each week. As we further reopen our liturgies, we want to ensure that this vital ministry continues. If you have experience with audio/visual equipment and want to share these talents with our community, please consider applying to assist us. We are looking for individuals who have:

- Experience with audio or visual technology
- Experience with streaming content
- Availability on Sundays for the 9:30am mass, maximum of 1x per month
- Potential availability other times for special events/liturgies
- Knowledge of/willingness to learn liturgical theology
- Knowledge and experience with OBS

Please prayerfully consider your participation and apply at the following link: <https://forms.gle/QEq4Dmiq9HdECHjPA>



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.

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.

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



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

One Family in Christ

WHO PRAYS, SERVES & SHARES
IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

BAA Goal: \$509,088.28

Pledged Gift Amount: \$435,838 (85.6%)

Received Gift Amount: \$372,232 (73%)

Number of Donors: 1,118

23.3% of registered parish families



2021 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
CATHOLIC DIOCESE of RALEIGH

ST. FRANCIS TV



EPISODE 4

Watch the latest episode of St. Francis TV featuring Cardinal Gibbon HS and the work the students are doing with the support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

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 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.

Adult Open Play Nights: Assisi Community Center Gym. Visit <http://stfrancisraleigh.org/adult-open-play> to contact the ministry leaders for each of our adult open play nights.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group: The first Wednesday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm and the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-9:00pm, in the Padua Room of Assisi Community Center. Linda Tucker, ltucker40@nc.rr.com, 937-478-9537.

Centering Prayer: Thursdays, 9:35am or 7:30pm in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel.

Community Center Classes: Regular exercise classes and parent/child classes run weekly, September-May. www.stfrancisraleigh.org/programs-and-classes.

Community Garden: Saturday mornings, 10:00am. Call Pat or Paul Kelly at 919-413-8833, email mpmkelly@hotmail.com, or just drop by.

Divorce Care: Divorce Care – 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@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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

Men's 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.

May Envelope Schedule

May 2 Weekly
May 2 Mortgage Sunday
May 9 Weekly
May 16 Weekly
May 16 Catholic Home Mission/
Communications
May 23 Weekly
May 30 Weekly



Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)
May 2, 2021

The Vine and the Branches Become One

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus himself picked the image of the vine to describe the reality of our being united to him and the Father. And this was not lost on early Christians. One of the first images they used to mark their graves was the vine and the branches.

An amazing thing about a vine and its branches is that you can't tell the difference between them. Look at a grapevine and try to determine which is the branch and which is the vine or trunk. You can't, since it appears as one seamless reality. Jesus invites us to be so

close to him that we appear to be just like him—"other Christs," as our name Christian suggests!

Second, the sap that springs from the vine, runs through the branches, and matures in the fruit is all the same. The life in Jesus and the life in us as Christians are the same. He has given us the same Spirit that animated him, the Holy Spirit.

This is why Jesus can guarantee that, if we remain in him by listening to his word and following his Spirit, we will definitely bear much fruit. His word and Spirit cannot remain sterile in us.

The most important result of being united to Jesus and bearing fruit is that not only will we be united to him in this life, but this friendship will last for all eternity. That's why early Christians put vines on their tombs. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 9:26-31

The Church...was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

1 John 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

John 15:1-8

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit."

Jesus guarantees that, if we remain in him by listening to his word and following his Spirit, we will bear much fruit.

A Word from Pope Francis

Let us not forget that the Our Father is the prayer of the poor. Our asking for bread expresses our entrustment to God for our basic needs in life. Everything that Jesus taught us in this prayer expresses and brings together the cry of all who suffer from life's uncertainties.

—First World Day of the Poor, November 19, 2017



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I find ways to regularly read and hear the word of God?
- What symbols would sincerely represent the way I live my life?



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH Office of Communications
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Power and Purpose Conference

Come experience the Holy Spirit's power and healing at the Power and Purpose Conference on June 4-6 at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Rediscover the "one thing" – the one Person – that matters most – Jesus Christ. Allow him to reveal the purpose of your life: to live in true freedom and joy of the Spirit. Be uplifted by the witness and fellowship of disciples like you. Register at steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/ppc, or contact Laura Werner at steubenvillemission-NC@gmail.com for more information.

Beyond Gun Control

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

Michael couldn't wait to tell his second-grade friend what had happened to him. "A policeman pointed a gun at my head this morning!" Michael's friend was scared, so he told the teacher, who told the principal, who called Michael's parents. His parents explained that their home had



been raided at 6:00 AM by federal agents, guns drawn. One had pointed a gun at Michael. An uncle living with the family had been arrested and charged with illegal sale of semiautomatic weapons.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops called for gun control in their document *Community and Crime: A Statement of the Committee on Social Development and World Peace*. That document was followed by *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*. It reiterated their support for legislative efforts to protect society from the violence associated with easy access to deadly weapons. Since then, the bishops affirmed their hope that any government action on gun-violence prevention would lead to greater respect for human life.

Like it or not, violence is part of our lives. Violent TV programs, video games, and movies are a source of entertainment

for many. War, insurrection, and mob scenes are reported on the news, in newspapers, and across the internet. Veterans are haunted daily by the trauma of battles fought decades ago, and thousands of soldiers continue to fight in conflicts around the world. Domestic violence is a reality for

many, and the tragedies of Littleton, Aurora, Columbine, Newtown, and Las Vegas have left an indelible mark on the American soul.

Even the Word of God is filled with violence—it can be found throughout the Hebrew and Christian Testaments. Prophets, priests, and kings are guilty of it; innocent and God-fearing men, women, and children are victims of it—and it's often attributed to God. Even our salvation was won through a horrific and violent act. We can't escape or explain violence away. It's a reality.

Our society encourages and celebrates overindulgence. People overeat, overspend, overwork, overachieve, overcommit, overdose, and overreact. It seems a bit like overkill to say this—but if you can name it, you can indulge in it.

Many turn to gun control as a remedy, and maybe there should be stricter government oversight of the availability and use of firearms. But a

deeper problem exists, one much greater than uncontrolled access to weapons. The inability to manage powerful emotions and urges—the absence of self-control—can have life-threatening and life-ending consequences. Self-discipline and self-restraint are more than indicators of healthy and mature growth and development; they are imperative to saving lives and building and maintaining true and lasting peace.

As a nation, we've got a gun to our head—it's time to get control of ourselves. +

Even the Word of God is filled with violence—it can be found throughout the Hebrew and Christian Testaments.

PRAYER

Risen Jesus, your abiding presence gives us hope. Help me to be a loving presence to others.

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 3–8

Monday, Sts. Philip and James:
1 Cor 15:1–8 / Jn 14:6–14

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:19–28 / Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:1–6 / Jn 15:1–8

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:7–21 / Jn 15:9–11

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:22–31 / Jn 15:12–17

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:1–10 / Jn 15:18–21

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
May 2, 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

Sacraments

Baptism Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
First Reconciliation Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
First Eucharist Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
Confirmation Thomas Bulick 847-8205x239
Matrimony Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Holy Orders Msgr. Michael Clay 847-8205x224
Anointing of the Sick Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Reconciliation Appointments 847-8205x249
RCIA Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
Sacraments Administration Martina Dumberger 847-8205x264
Funeral Planning Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Columbarium Niches Trish Adamkowski 847-8205x236

Staff email: firstname.lastname@stfrancisraleigh.org

The Franciscan School

Principal Mike Watson 919-534-4840
Receptionist (Main Number) Katie Hall 919-534-4837
Assistant Principal, K-5 Dawn Smith 847-8205x254
Assistant Principal 6-8 Colette Dziadul 847-8205x651

St. Francis Preschool

Director Heidi Hobler 847-8205x240
Assistant to the Director Shelley Freeman 847-8205x262

Faith Formation

Director Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
Children's Faith Formation Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
Coordinator of Youth Ministry Marisa Ferrara 847-8205x223
Middle School Faith Formation Thomas Bulick 847-8205x239
Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery) Tara Moore 847-8205x489

Parish Operations

Communications and Webmaster Diogenes Ruiz 847-8205x271
Director of Facilities Marc Kieilty 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 Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
GriefShare Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241

Prayers

Prayer Line Paul Wilson wilsonpf99@gmail.com
Prayers Mary Arleth 847-8205x358
Receive a Prayer Shawl Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241

Support Groups

Divorce Care Bill Morgan dejanuts@yahoo.com
Job Connections Mary Horner 610-755-5392
Seeing God in your Cancer Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
AA Daily Reprieve Group Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Al-Anon Madeline Horrigan 919-923-1234
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Linda Tucker 937-478-9537

Get Involved!

Worship Ministries

Director of Liturgy and Music Jim Wahl 847-8205x230
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministers Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Altar Servers & Thurifers Joanie Madormo rmadormo@sbcglobal.net
Children's Liturgy of the Word Jackie Kelly 203-512-8807
Church Keeping Beverly Saunders 919-846-5795
Cross Bearers Joseph Randazzo josephrandazzo1@gmail.com
Deaf Ministry Jean Cooke-Byrne 919-412-8365
Environment & Art Theresa Baumgartner 919-848-3383
Eucharistic Ministers Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Funeral Ministers Lisa Gianturco 919-845-9718
Hospitality Hands Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
Lectors Mike Wrzesien 919-624-1592
Master of Ceremonies Michael & Julie Ducatte 919-622-8883
Medical Presence at Mass Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Music Ministry Joyce Petzka jepetzka@gmail.com
Parking Ministry Steve Burdett 919-845-2714
Ushers Troy Chaput troychaput@gmail.com
Weekend Receptionists Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Weekend Welcome Hosts Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
Wedding Directors Carol Ricotta 919-554-8896

Outreach Ministries

Director of Justice and Peace Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
St. Francis Feeds Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Brown Bag Ministry Mailbox stfrancisbbm@gmail.com
Oak City Cares Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Catholic Parish Outreach Sue Hand 919-846-7954
Panera Food Pick Up Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Ronald McDonald House Mailbox stfrancisrmhministry@gmail.com
Our Lady of Rosary Food Pantry Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Interfaith Food Shuttle Becky Cawley 847-8205x267

St Francis Serves

Community Garden Pat & Paul Kelly 919-413-8833
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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 bcartier7@gmail.com
Prison Pen Pal sfapenpal@gmail.com
R.A.R.E. Tom Zimmerman thomaspzimmerman@bellsouth.net
Red Cross Blood Drive Bryan Kozak 910-728-9200
Refugee Resettlement Aggie Dalton aggiedalton@gmail.com
Habitat for Humanity Trevor Thompson stfa.fp@gmail.com
St Vincent de Paul Ministers Cathy Smith 419-348-8843
Support Circles Kat and Ferrel Guilroy ferrel.guillory@gmail.com

St Francis on Mission

International Mission Trips Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Sister Parish - Guatemala Liz Mosler lizmosler4@gmail.com
St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia John Budway 305-205-5104

St Francis Learns

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Engaging Spirituality Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Just Faith Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Justice Theater Project <http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/>
Peace Pole Prayer Ben Whitehouse whitehouseben5@gmail.com
Racial Justice Becky Cawley becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org

Get Involved!

Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222

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Pastoral Presence Ministries
 Caregivers Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
 Centering Prayer Alice Stanford 919-781-5860
 Emmaus Ministers Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
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 EMs to the Homebound Melanie Fraitres mjpfraites@gmail.com
 EMs to the Magnolia Glen Jacob House 919-449-7634
 EMs to the Meadows Andrea McVerry amcverry@yahoo.com
 EMs to Rex Hospital Edward Gilmartinedward.gilmartin@gmail.com
 EMs to Springmoor Janice Horner 484-949-1417
 Prayer Line Ministers Pauk Wilson wilsonpf99@gmail.com
 Prayer Shawl Ministry Cindy Cardello 919-846-8825
 Dianne Rotunno 919-844-7153
 Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241

Ministries of Support & Care

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Linda Tucker 937-478-9537
 Caring Casseroles Cooks Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
 Feed the Need Cooks Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
 Job Connections Mentors Mary Horner 610-755-5392
 Medical Facility Visitors Sharon Holland hollandbozo@yahoo.com
 Transportation to Mass Drivers Stephanie Smith 919-302-0080
 Weekday Volunteer Receptionists Toni Hammes 847-8205x265

Social Groups

AAMEN Ministry Leon Cooke 919-740-7515
 Always God's Children Chuck Small 919-859-4889
 LGBTQ+ Ministry Jane Paris 919-847-7431
 Men's Ministry Norm Tuomi norman3722@att.net
 Ralph Guenther rguenther2@nc.rr.com
 Young Adults fb.me/YoungAdultsofStFrancis
 Women's Ministry Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
 50+ Adults Group Angela Azzopardi 919-848-1347

St. Francis of Assisi Community Center

Coordinator of Community Center Ashley Watson 847-8205x444
 Athletic Programs Mary Arleth 847-8205x358
 Assisi Café Ashley Watson 847-8205x444
 Parish Events (FrancisFest) Ashley Watson 847-8205x444
 Summer Camps (Camp Francis) Ashley Watson 847-8205x444

Community Organizations

Girl Scouts of USA Melissa O'Connor 847-8205x296
 BSA Scouts:Troop 352 (6th-12th, boys) Robert Sadler scoutmaster352@gmail.com
 BSA Scouts:Troop 219 (6th-12th, girls) Scott Cash scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com
 BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th) Rebecca Brooks

Knights of Columbus Bryan Kozak gk@kofc9709.org
 Secular Franciscan Order Ellen Ferrone http://ofscentralinc.org

Faith Formation Ministries

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 Assisi Scripture Study Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
 Baptism Ministry Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
 Marriage Ministry Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
 Confirmation Sponsors Thomas Bulick 847-8205x239
 Children's Formation Group Leader Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
 Family & Marriage Enrichment Team Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
 Middle School Formation Group Thomas Bulick 847-8205x239
 Faith Formation Regist. & Events Patti Panizza 847-8205x237
 Youth Ministry Group Leader Marisa Ferrara 847-8205x223
 RCIA Team & Sponsors Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
 Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery) Tara Moore 847-8205x489
 Young Adults Bible Study Group Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244

Stewardship Ministries

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 Stewardship Committee Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
 Way of Francis Ben Whitehouse whitehouseben5@gmail.com