

June 6, 2021

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Tomorrow

Available June 7

To Know
To Believe
To Live

3

We Sin

A LIFELONG FAITH JOURNEY

Communities
of Calling

See page 5



Need an invitation
to Join Realm?

[Click Here](#)

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.

Forward
In HOPE
Our parish journey
of resurrection

See page 3



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

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



FR. JAIRO'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY:

Please join me in congratulating Fr. Jairo as he celebrates his first anniversary as a priest on June 6. He is away on vacation but I am sure he would be happy to receive your words of gratitude for his service to our parish as a priest. If you wish to send him greetings, you may reach him at: Jairo.Maldonado@stfrancisraleigh.org.

CREMATION AND CATHOLICS: Catholics are increasingly choosing to be cremated at the time of death. This has been particularly true since the onset of the current pandemic. In 1997, the Catholic Church in the United States, with the approval of the Vatican, published guidelines to assist parishes and the families of those who are cremated in the proper and reverent treatment of these cremains as is befitting their human dignity.

In our country, there are various practices regarding the treatment of cremains. Some of them are influenced by the secular world, other Christian traditions, or other faiths that do not view the human body in the same way as the Catholic Church does. This has led to some confusion or ignorance about how a Catholic who is cremated should be treated. I thought it would be helpful to provide a few comments from our official text, *The Order of Christian Funerals* (OCF), as guidance and education.

The Order of Christian Funerals says the following: "The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or a friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires" (OCF§417). This is our official Church teaching on this matter.

When possible and feasible, it is recommended that the cremation take place after the Funeral liturgy at which the body is present (OCF§418). This is because the body is of great importance in the Catholic faith since it served as a temple of the Holy Spirit and was once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life (OCF§412). Increasingly, the costs associated with funerals and other factors makes this recommendation impractical. Note that this is a recommendation, not a requirement.

If you have questions about cremation, funerals, our parish columbarium, or pastoral care for the dying, please feel free to contact us.

Msgr. Clay



**Happy
First
Anniversary
Fr. Jairo!**

(You are the bomb!)

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

Kaylee Jean Brown

Daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Brown

Crosby Donohue

Son of Greg and Ashley Donohue

Reese Elizabeth Frey

Daughter of Jeffrey and Natalie Frey

Lucas Armstrong Green

Son of Jim and Vanessa Green

Bennett Heafner

Son of Kolby and Allison Heafner

Greyson Christopher Knapp

Son of Christopher Knapp and Kate Adams

Kaleb Martin Lenard

Son of Kevin Lenard and Kristin Barnhardt

Reilly Salazar Ravallo

Daughter of Russell and Sheryll Ravallo

Collins Ann Stanford

Daughter of Joshua and Heather Stanford

Abigail West

Daughter of Jacob and Cassandra West

You can mail your contribution to us at:

St Francis Of Assisi
11401 Leesville Road
Raleigh, NC 27613

You give can Online through:



<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-direct/>



Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199

Additional Online Giving Methods:

www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/

June Envelope Schedule

June 6	Weekly
June 6	Mortgage Sunday
June 13	Weekly
June 20	Weekly
June 27	Weekly
June 27	Holy Father/Peter Pence

Forward In HOPE

Our parish journey
of resurrection

Click here for updates on
our parish reopening

Our Resurrection Committee continues to meet to discern the best way forward for our parish's return to fully-gathered ministry. Here are this week's updates:

- Starting tomorrow, Monday, June 7, the church building will be open from 9:00am to 12:30pm, Monday through Friday. This will allow time for private prayer and devotion, opportunities for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist access to the tabernacle, and interaction with our parish receptionists before and after daily Mass.
- Masks are still required upon entering any building on campus and must cover the mouth and nose for the duration of your time indoors.
- Designated ministries are beginning to come back to campus. At this time, we are only scheduling meetings for those designated ministries. Unless your ministry has been contacted by its ministry liaison, please do not call or email to schedule a meeting. If you are uncertain about your ministry's status, please contact your ministry leader and/or liaison.
- Because major maintenance is beginning on the boiler/chiller system for the Community Center, Chapel, Siena Center, and Elizabeth Halls, these spaces will be temporarily unavailable. Facility usage will be considered given these constraints.

Once again, we thank you for your patience and prayers as we work our way along this journey of resurrection. Please continue to watch this space for updates and information on some exciting and fun events that are in the works to celebrate our full return to campus in the near future!

Peace and all good,
The Resurrection Committee

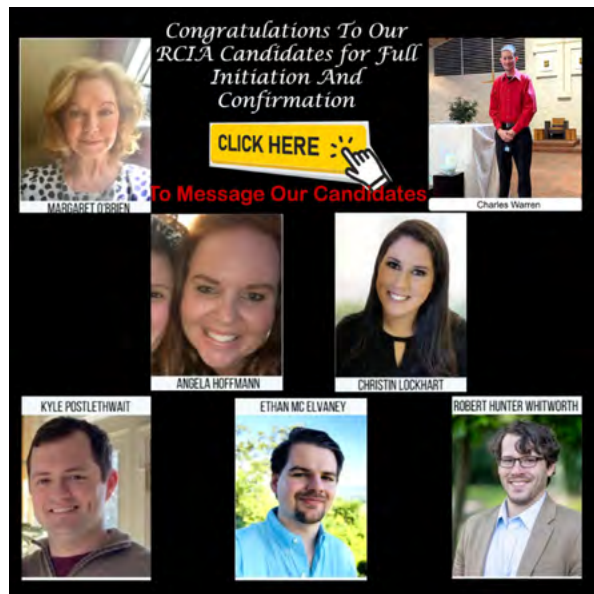
FORMATION MINISTRIES




**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>



*Congratulations To Our
RCIA Candidates for Full
Initiation And
Confirmation*

CLICK HERE 

To Message Our Candidates

MARGARET O'BRIEN
CHARLES WARREN
ANGELA HOFFMANN
CHRISTIN LOCKHART
KYLE POSTLETHWAIT
ETHAN MC ELVANEY
ROBERT HUNTER WHITWORTH



Healthy Air

We need healthy air to follow
God's call to build a healthier planet.

- Drive less
- Use EPA Safer Choice Cleaning Products

<https://bit.ly/natclean>

https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation/
To help— stfccreation@gmail.com

Adapted with permission from Church of the Nativity

Would you consider becoming a Formation Volunteer?



**FAITH
FORMATION
VOLUNTEERS
ARE NEEDED!**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**To learn more and
submit an interest form**

We have a large K-12 Formation program at St. Francis of Assisi and serve more than 600 children/youth in our Cross Walk, Cross Train, and Cross Road Sunday programs. Because Mass is the source and summit of our faith, our programs are scheduled following the Sunday Masses to break open treasures of the faith that have just been proclaimed. Because we offer a small group-based faith formation program for K-12th grade, Small Group Leaders are always needed!

Our Sunday programs meet twice a month, September through May, during the traditional academic year. The time commitment for Small Group Leaders over the course of the year is 16 sessions, or approximately 20 hours.

Small Group Leaders

- Lead sessions during the time that their child/youth attend the programs
- Love God and want to show others how to walk with Jesus
- Are paired up with at least one other adult volunteer
- Do not create lessons. Lesson plans are emailed the Wednesday prior to each session and all materials are provided
- Guide conversations, facilitate discussions, and invest in the lives of youth
- Build trusting relationships through prayer, games, hands-on activities, discussion on Catholic teachings, and service projects.
- Lead their small group in an activity with the objective of connecting with the Gospel/Catholic Teaching for the week
- Help keep the youth focused and engaged
- Supervise safe transition to parents

**It takes a village to make it all happen!
Won't you join our village?**

**Click here to complete the [Interest Form](#) or
contact one of our Coordinators:**

Grades K-5: Sarah.Bowser@stfrancisraleigh.org
Grades 6-8: Thomas.Bulick@stfrancisraleigh.org
Grades 9-12: Marisa.Ferrara@stfrancisraleigh.org

KBL Episodes and Release Dates



May 3



May 17



June 7



June 21



July 12



July 26



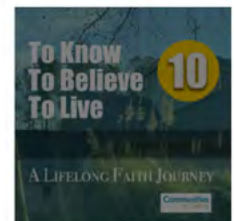
August 9



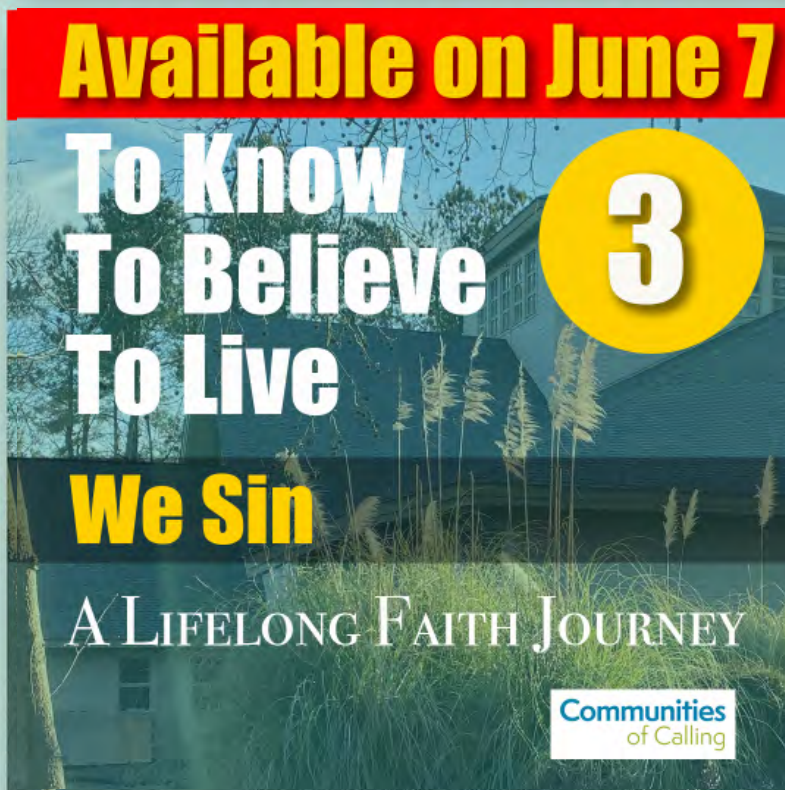
August 23



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



"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

As we end this year, one thing that is on several families' minds is that Kindergarten is on the very near horizon. Our 4 and 5 year olds celebrated the ending of their preschool journeys last week with small class ceremonies outside in our fountain area. Msgr. Clay offered blessings to all of the students that they may know that God is always walking alongside them no matter what life outside of preschool brings them.

Last week, I wrote about our 4-year old teachers and all that they do to make the year special for their students, most of whom will be headed to Kindergarten in August. Some of their students, however, will remain with us for one more year by attending the Transitional class or 5-year old class. The concept of a transitional class was implemented just a few years ago. It is intended to be an extra year before Kindergarten for those children who might not be quite ready yet. Most of the children who attend this class have birthdays very near the minimum age cut-off date and/or would benefit from an additional year of social-emotional growth. The staff in this room are fantastic at encouraging these social skills while challenging the students with additional practice in their Kindergarten-readiness skills. Like many on our staff, this teacher/assistant each have over two decades

of work educating children, the majority of those years being at our preschool. We are so fortunate to have their experience and knowledge to share with our students! Below you will find some reflections from our 5-year old team.

Q: What is one thing that amazes you about the 5's?

A: Their little minds are working all of the time! Their creativity and imaginations are stretched even further! They have the ability to be more detailed in their conversations and play. For example, one day they formed a "rock band" all on their own while outside on the natural play area, Exploration Station. They used sticks, pots/pans, shovels, and other items to have their own musical performance! Several encore presentations occurred over the following days much to everyone's enjoyment.

Q: What makes 5-year olds so fun?

A: They are expanding on their independence in so many ways. Their curiosity knows no limits and they are able to gobble up more abstract concepts. For example, they are often able to tell jokes and can expand on the humor in a story. They are better able to engage in more adult-like conversations with not only their teachers but with their friends as well.

Q: Why do you like teaching the 5's?

A: They come to us so little and by the time they leave they are very ready for

their next great adventure in "big kid school". Their ability to empathize and take care of each other is very closely reflective of a biological family. They have a deeper grasp of their emotions and being able to offer sympathy and kindness more purposefully.

Q: How do you see 5-yr olds exemplifying their faith?

A: Watching them learn more complicated prayers as the year progresses and being able to lead their classmates in reciting them is wonderful to see. Their retelling of Bible stories or those related to doing God's work are more detailed and seem to impact them more fully; they often are able to share examples of what they have heard that may have happened outside of school.

We are so blessed to have such an outstanding 5-year old team who not only continues to foster a deeper love of learning, but also a deeper understanding of God and His presence in the world around them. Thank you Ms. Aimee and Ms. Tammy!

We have a few openings remaining in our 5-year old class for next 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

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 at TFS!



We had the opportunity to celebrate our 8th grade on May 26th as they walked our hallways for the last time as students. Here we share some reflections from commencement as to how all of our students benefit from their time at TFS, especially as we close out a difficult school year.

The academic and spiritual foundation built here at TFS is constructed year by year with the help of parents, teachers, friends, and all the others who have, or will, impact our students in their time at TFS. This past year has been difficult because interactions with those who affect the success of our students has been reduced, and distanced, and masked; while we have continued to provide excellent academics, their academic success is not the only important thing that I hope they take away from TFS this year. What are the things our students will remember? Was it studying for a test, or the score on a project? Probably not. I am sure it was a memory about friends, maybe a funny moment from class, the reinforcement of the tenets of their faith

through their schoolmates, or a time a teacher made them feel important.

The relationships formed and built here are the most memorable part, and the interactions that take place each day are at least as instructive as the academic portion of their education. It is the friendships, the classmates, and the “cohort companions” that have taught the students this year how to interact with others. These experiences have taught all of us how to build and live in community with each other. Our students have experienced, learned, and succeeded as a member of their TFS community this year, and every year, through these relationships and they are what they will use every day of the future. Everyone lives in community, and by learning how to navigate and collaborate as members in that community, they will find how what they learned here will serve them well; because, out in the “real world”, we all live in community together each day.

We ask all of our students to take what they have learned as a whole here,

whether academically in the classroom, in the Church and in the study of their Faith, and through the impact they have had on the thousands of people they have helped through service; and continue to make a positive impact in the world. If they work hard, be kind, and focus on what is important to them, they will truly be the hands and feet of God on Earth!

As they leave, we again thank the Class of 2021 for all they have given to TFS, because, as happens every year, we have been changed by their presence here. More importantly, we are, without fail, changed for the better. We continuously say that “we send out good people into the world”, and this year’s 8th grade class is a shining example of that fact!

Do you want to learn more about how The Franciscan School prepares our students to live out their Catholic faith as part of their excellent educational experience? More information can be found on our website at www.franciscanschool.org or contact Principal Mike Watson at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Employment Opportunities



Director of Faith Formation

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Raleigh, NC announces an opening for a director of faith formation. The parish, an award winning and nationally recognized community of nearly 5000 households with a pastoral staff of 30, seeks an innovative, enthusiastic, and collaborative individual to oversee our comprehensive formation program serving pre-K through adults, including sacramental preparation and a year-round RCIA. The director supervises and collaborates with a formation and administrative team in establishing goals and implementing programs. The successful applicant will have a graduate degree in theology or related field, be conversant in the fields of evangelization and contemporary approaches to catechesis and have a minimum of five years in successful leadership in formation ranging from young children to adults. A minimum of three years of supervisory experience is required along with demonstrated knowledge and skills in adult initiation and adult faith formation. The director works with the leadership team in building on the parish's longstanding history of bringing baptismal and ministerial priesthood together in the collaborative vision of Vatican II.

Applicants should submit a résumé, a 1-2 page statement explaining why the applicant is well suited for the position, three references, and salary requirements to: Search.Committee@stfrancisraleigh.org.



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

Elementary Teacher - Kindergarten

The Franciscan School is seeking a qualified classroom teacher in 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.

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 cover letter, résumé, educational philosophy, and three references to: Dawn.Smith@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Teacher Assistants (Part time)

St. Francis Preschool is seeking enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about providing a faith filled education experience to the children enrolled in our preschool. We currently have positions available with our 2 year olds and 4 year olds. The teacher assistant will support the lead teacher in providing a faith filled education experience, sharing in the responsibilities for the safety and physical well-being of the children. The assistant teacher will engage the children in play and activities that are age and developmentally appropriate.

Spanish Enrichment Instructor (Part time)

St. Francis Preschool is seeking an individual who is bi-lingual in Spanish to join our staff as a Part Time Spanish Enrichment Instructor. This person will be responsible for developing and delivering fun-filled lessons that will engage and enhance the preschool experience of our three, four and five year olds. This position will be approximately 10 hours per week.

If interested in joining our wonderful preschool staff, please send resume and cover letter to Heidi Hobler at Heidi.hobler@stfrancisraleigh.org by June 14th.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Ashley Watson Coordinator of Community Center

Memorial Day



In celebration of Memorial Day, the Knights of Columbus invited the U.S. National Guard to conduct a military honors program, to express deep gratitude for those who have served our nation. This year, two individuals were selected to be honored for their service in the United States armed forces. Family members of the deceased veterans accepted American flags for their fathers.

Recognized for their service were:

- Henry A. Michal, Sergeant, U.S. Army.
(Father of Kathy Michal Hayes)
- Richard S. Wrzesien, Staff Sergeant,
U.S. Air Force. (Father of Mike Wrzesien)

The ceremony was held after the daily Mass on Monday, May 31, in the Memorial Garden. Thank you to all men and women who serve our country, and especially for those individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in support of their country.

Witness for Peace for George Floyd

Paul Williams, Racial Equity Issue Team Lead



by Marianne Williams



On Tuesday afternoon, May 25th, over 100 people from St Francis and eight other faith communities stood in peaceful solidarity as witnesses to our faith and racial justice and to commemorate the death of George Floyd. We gathered on the sidewalk in front of Benson United Methodist Church and Temple Beth Or. We were standing in solidarity with our Black sisters and brothers because our faith teaches us about the dignity of all human life. We were speaking out that we value and support Black lives and we will keep striving to advocate for racial equity and the elimination of systemic racism.

"As many of us start to see glimpses of pre-pandemic "normal," many of our low income neighbors are still dealing with massive rent and utility bills. Pre-pandemic North Carolina eviction rates were nearly double the national rate, due to a high poverty rate and rising housing costs, according to the Legal Aid of North Carolina's annual report. In 2016 Durham County's eviction rate was more than double the national rate. More affordable housing needs to be provided and hopefully many jobs will come back with higher pay rates. Some landlords, especially those with just a few properties, have been suffering also. Here's one such case this past month.

A recent neighbor called our St. Francis SVdP conference for assistance because she lost her job due to covid. Then she found a temporary job that ended before Christmas. She is caring for her grandchildren in a rented trailer. Her unemployment assistance, which was quite small, ended. Three other churches helped with her rent in small amounts, as did our SFA conference. When our visitor delivered the check to the landlord, she confirmed that we were not only helping the neighbor, but also the landlord couple. They lived in a very modest home in great need of repair. They hadn't evicted the grandmother, even though they really needed the income themselves. The good news is that the neighbor is caught up with rent and has more than one job possibility, paying a higher hourly rate than she had been receiving. She will need it to get caught up with other bills and try to restore some spent savings.

Several parishioners have been very generous in sharing some of their stimulus checks with our SVdP conference to supplement our budget and we happily received word this week that we have been granted money from the Friends of the Poor SVdP national fund to use for rental assistance for our neighbors. If interested in helping, please contact Cathy Smith at smithcr@gmail.com."



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., Tue., Thu., 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: \$462,077 (90.8%)

Received Gift Amount: \$421,115 (82.7%)

**Number of Donors: 1,202
25% of registered parish families**

\$47,011 To-go... We can do it!



2021 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
CATHOLIC DIOCESE of RALEIGH

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, contact Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241

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 from September 7 to December 14, 2021 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.



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>



Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) (B)
June 6, 2021

Jesus' Amazing Gift

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The beautiful painting, *Lament Over the Dead Christ* by Giovanni Bellini, shows the great care and reverence with which Joseph, Nicodemus, and Mary Magdalene place the body of Christ in the tomb. Yet it is also a symbol of the delicacy and devotion with which we should receive Jesus, who comes down to us on the altar at Mass.

His Body and Blood were shed to create a New Covenant, a new pact of love between God and people. In the Old Testament, God ordered that the blood of sacrificed animals be sprinkled on the

people as a way to seal a pact with him, thus gaining forgiveness of their sins. As if to say, may I be as this calf or goat if I ever fail to obey and live up to your commands.

In the New Covenant, God sent his own Son to be the sacrificial victim to seal our covenant of love with the Father. Before the blood was sprinkled, we consume his Body and Blood in the Eucharist as Jesus commanded: Do this in memory of me. Take this, all of you, and eat. Take this, all of you, and drink. If goat blood could express a covenant in the Old Testament, how much more powerful to unite us with God is the blood of his only begotten Son! How much more powerful to forgive us and communicate God's overpowering love!

Jesus lays down his life sacramentally again in this Mass. Let us receive his Body and Blood with purity and devotion, aware of the amazing gift and the miracle that happens in our presence. +

Sunday Readings

Exodus 24:3-8

[Moses] took the blood and splashed it on the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you."

Hebrews 9:11-15

He entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

[Jesus said,] "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many."

*Christ's Body and Blood
were shed to create a
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God and people.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The Eucharist satisfies our hunger for material things and kindles our desire to serve. It raises us from our comfortable and lazy lifestyle and reminds us that we are not only mouths to be fed, but also his hands, to be used to help feed others.

—Corpus Christi Homily, June 14, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- How well do I prepare my heart and mind to receive Jesus in the Eucharist?
- Do I take time to visit him in the tabernacle or at adoration to show him my love and gratitude?



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St. John Bosco Conference

Calling all catechists, Catholic school teachers, youth ministers, evangelizers, RCIA coordinators, and anyone who hands on the faith to others! Attend the St. John Bosco Conference on July 12-15 at Franciscan University of Steubenville. This is your time, your place to come be renewed in mind, heart and skills. Experience many engaging speakers, moving worship and outstanding fellowship that will rejuvenate you for life and mission. COVID policy in place. Register with this code SJB21LWerNC at steubenvilleconferences.com/adult/sjb, or contact Laura Werner at steubenvillemission-NC@gmail.com with questions.

With God, Keep It Real

By Kathleen M. Basi

When my husband and I found out we were expecting our first child, a friend wrote us a note. “Your life is forever changed,” she said. “You will learn a whole new meaning for prayer. I never prayed so much and so hard as I do now that I have children.”

Shew was right, but the way it plays out in my life is quite different from the picture my mind drew when I first read those words. Her comment evoked a mental image of deep breaths, long pauses, and fervent, eyes-closed, knees-to-the-carpet prayers for my children.

That is not how my life looks.

With four children in three schools, volunteer commitments, and working from home, I rarely have time to retreat to a quiet corner and kneel in prayer. Rather, I feel the presence of God as a quiet partner standing by my side, ready to leap in at a moment's notice. On any given day I toss a variety of mental whispers over my shoulder:

- *What should I tackle next?*
- *Grant me patience!*
- *What is the “natural” consequence to THAT behavior?*
- *Give me the right words.*
- *Help me to be bigger than myself.*
- *That was amazing, God. Just amazing.*



The hallmark of a healthy relationship is authenticity. Our human relationships are not based on one form of communication. Depending on what is going on in our lives, we may interact with our closest friends in person, by phone, or on social media, and each of those encounters has a unique character that enriches us.

The same is true of our relationship with God. I sometimes feel guilty about those prayers I toss over my shoulder. How dare I, a lowly human being, talk

to the Creator of the universe out of the corner of my mouth? Shouldn't I carve out more time for traditional, more concentrated forms of prayer? Yet in those encounters, God is with me in a way that is wholly authentic for this season of my life.

Too often we try to put prayer—and God with it—in a box. We think of him as out there somewhere rather than looking for his presence close at hand. God wants us to seek him out in all the circumstances of life—not just when the stars align for concentrated, knees-to-the-carpet time. And if that means prayer takes on an unconventional form, that's OK. As James said in his letter to the tribes of Israel: “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8). +



Lord, out of brokenness and weakness you saved my life.

Help me to embrace my weakness so that I can walk in solidarity with the poor and suffering.

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

The hallmark of a healthy relationship is authenticity.

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 7–12

Monday, Weekday:
2 Cor 1:1–7 / Mt 5:1–12

Tuesday, Weekday:
2 Cor 1:18–22 / Mt 5:13–16

Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Cor 3:4–11 / Mt 5:17–19

Thursday, Weekday:
2 Cor 3:15–4:1, 3–6 / Mt 5:20–26

Friday, The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Hos 11:1, 3–4, 8c–9 / Eph 3:8–12, 14–19 / Jn 19:31–37

Saturday, The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 2 Cor 5:14–21 / Lk 2:41–51

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Contact Us!

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Welcome

New Parishioner Registration	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265
Becoming Catholic	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x238

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
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Sacraments Administration	Martina Dumberger	847-8205x264
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The Franciscan School

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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
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

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Prayers	Mary Arleth	847-8205x358
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Support Groups

Divorce Care	Bill Morgan	dejanuts@yahoo.com
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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

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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
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Weekend Welcome Hosts	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222
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Brown Bag Ministry	Mailbox	stfrancisbbm@gmail.com
Oak City Cares	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
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Our Lady of Rosary Food Pantry	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
Interfaith Food Shuttle	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267

St Francis Serves

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Family Promise	Ron Smith	919-455-7786
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St Vincent de Paul Ministers	Cathy Smith	419-348-8843
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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
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Social Groups

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Always God's Children Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
LGBTQ+ Ministry Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Men's Ministry Norm Tuomi norman3722@att.net
Ralph Guenther rguenther2@nc.rr.com
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50+ Adults Group

St. Francis of Assisi Community Center

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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

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BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th) Rebecca Brooks
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Family & Marriage Enrichment Team Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
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