Moving Forward in Hope: A Reopening Update

See page 2



We are ready to take more steps forward as we regather our community of faith.



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.







Moving Forward in Hope: A Reopening Update

Dear St. Francis Family:

We are ready to take more steps forward as we regather our community of faith. The following four adjustments will take effect on the dates noted below:

EFFECTIVE, TUESDAY, JULY 6: The parish will be open to the public M-F, 9:00am-4:00pm. Receptionists will be available at the Pastoral Offices to assist you with your pastoral needs.

EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, JULY 4: One more Mass will be added back to our weekend schedule. The Mass time will be 7:15am on Sunday (note the time change).

EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, AUGUST 15: The time change for the early Mass on Sunday morning is part of a bigger adjustment to the Sunday morning schedule that will begin on August 15 (see below). Motivating the schedule adjustment is the growing trend in Catholic parishes to experience Sunday not only as a time to worship but also to grow in what our faith means and as a community, especially for adults.

Making this growth in faith possible is the extraordinary education of our staff, the knowledge and skills of other parishioners, and access to outside speakers who can engage us in meaningful ways about what we believe and how we live our faith. There is a great opportunity before us as we regather our community to provide ongoing formation for adult parishioners who 1) seek depth more appropriate for adults about the fundamentals of our faith, 2) would appreciate updates on pressing current issues (e.g., bioethics, the environment, societal issues, parenting), and/or 3) simply want to learn more about their faith.

After extensive discussions with and the endorsement of both church staff and the Pastoral Council about this initiative, we will launch this program for parishioners beginning this fall. As a first step, we will offer a program on Sunday morning, twice a month between September and May, for adults to gather for approximately one hour to learn more about the Catholic faith as noted above. In order to do this, an adjustment to the current Sunday morning Mass schedule is required so we have enough time to socialize and learn without major chaos on the parking lots before or after these Masses.

I am fully aware that time changes to Mass schedules are among the most delicate issues a pastor faces. The current Sunday morning Mass schedule has existed at St. Francis for many, many years and I know people have important reasons for selecting a Mass time that best suits their needs. I am also aware that there is a major pastoral need for us to provide intentional and ongoing formation for the adults of our parish.

EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, AUGUST 15: On this day, we will also restart our late-morning Sunday Mass. Our Sunday morning Mass schedule will be:

7:15am 9:00am 11:45am

We will shift the 9:30am Mass to 9:00am. We will continue to livestream the mid-morning Mass as was announced a few weeks ago. The Saturday and Sunday evening Mass schedule remains unchanged.

The timing of this shift in mid-August will give us a few weeks to adjust to the schedule prior to the start of our fall faith formation programs. Once these programs begin in September, this adjustment will allow for faith formation of children and adults to take place between the conclusion of the 9:00am Mass and the beginning of the 11:45am Mass. Those coming for adult formation on Sunday and who would prefer to worship that morning as well will be able to go to Mass either before the adult formation sessions or after them. This also becomes an exciting new format for parents to be fed as first teachers in their children's faith as their younger children participate in faith formation on Sunday morning.

This is not a perfect solution for everyone at St. Francis. We took time to consider the impact this revised schedule will have on a variety of groups and individuals but believe this is the best solution for the vast majority of parishioners. I am grateful for your willingness to try this for a year to see if this can create a space for ongoing faith formation of our adult community while not seriously affecting a Mass schedule rhythm we have become accustomed to over several decades.

Msgr. Clay



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

- **+Javier Henao**Brother of Gladys Henao
- **+Vivian Barrett**Mother of Mary Ellen Koch

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 27 Weekly

June 27 Holy Father/Peter Pence

July Envelope Schedule

July 4 Weekly

July 4 Mortgage Sunday

July 11 Weekly

July 18 Weekly

July 25 Weekly

July 25 Sister Parish in NC

& Guatamala

Registration opens 7/19





SCAM ALERT

Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a soliciation email from our pastor or bishop asking for "a favor", or for emergency help in the form of money. Please do not open or click on them. Simply trash them. They could cause havoc on your computer and your pocketbook.

KBL Episodes and Release Dates



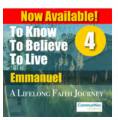
May 3



May 17



June 7



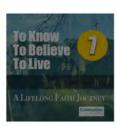
June 21



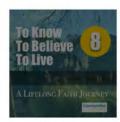
July 12



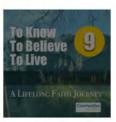
July 26



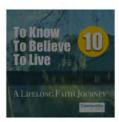
August 9



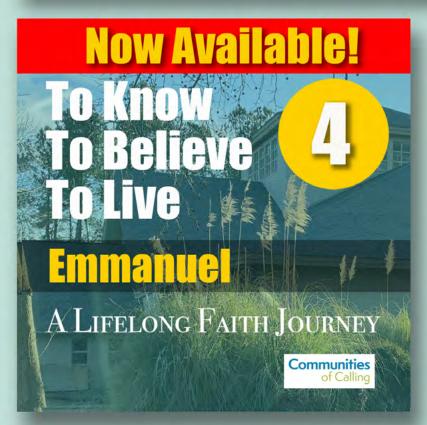
August 23



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/knowbelieve-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 <u>Patti.Panizza@stfrancisraleigh.org</u> or <u>Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org</u> with questions about joining the Realm group for non-small group KBL participants.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis Preschool



As a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1:10

This past week we marked the longest day of the year with the summer solstice. Growing up in the northeast, this always signaled the official start of summer as the school year was just ending. As a child, I vividly remember looking forward to what, at the time, seemed to be endless weeks of summer vacation! Of course, to a young child, time is often more ambiguous than not. It is usually difficult for children to think about the concept of time passing so much that they too will eventually grow to be an adult like their parents. Even though my own teenagers can certainly understand more readily than a small child, they still continually remind my husband and I of how 'ancient' we are! Needless to say, this only helps to emphasize to us how quickly the years are going!

From a developmental standpoint, preschoolers begin to have a better understanding of the concept of time around the age of 4. As educators, we introduce bits and pieces' of this concept throughout the preschool years in several ways. For example, we know that establishing a routine is key for our preschoolers. A consistent schedule helps our students know not only what to expect, but also gives a frame of reference for what has and will happen in their day. Snack time, playground time, and circle time are all appropriate points of time to mark with a preschooler. Using age-appropriate time

vocabulary such as 'before' and 'after' is also important and can be used in the context of a practiced routine. That's not to say, of course, that everything remains on schedule all of the time. Flexibility and how to adjust to change are skills that need to be practiced at an early age too so that blood pressure problems in the future can hopefully be avoided!

As with all preschool learning, making it relevant to children's experiences is critical. Preschoolers are more successful in understanding time when it's framed around personal events, not only at school, but in their everyday experiences as well. A perfect example of this is when it's someone's birthday; the child's excitement before they even enter the classroom is almost tangible! As preschool educators, we also recognize that visual aids and physical reminders help to build the concept of time. Many classrooms utilize techniques such as crossing off days on a calendar, turning over a completed activity card on a picture schedule, or setting a timer. Keeping in mind that a young child has difficulty understanding "5 more minutes", teachers often will spread their two hands apart to provide a more concrete idea of how long or short that is. They use songs about cleaning up, getting in line, etc. so that the children learn when the song is over, they need to be done with what the teacher asked of them.

Since time is so abstract for our preschoolers, can you imagine how hard it is for them to think about being with God? Many of them associate God in heaven. If they have had grandparents who have passed they might readily associate only very old people being with God in heaven. How do we help our little students understand this better? I think one of the most important things that we do at preschool is to teach them early on that God is not just in heaven and far away from us: He is, rather, right next to and all around us. We "see" His presence in the butterflies that flit by us, in the flowers that pop up in Spring, in our friends sharing with each other, and in the hands that we fold together in prayer. God is everywhere. We do not have to wait to see Him until we get old, die, and "go to" heaven. He is here with us now. Our exceptional teachers are experts in helping our preschoolers understand this. They aim to lay the groundwork for our children to develop a relationship with our Lord now that will only deepen as they become older. Seeing it from this perspective, I believe, is a good reminder to us adults. Perhaps we can strengthen our own relationships with our Heavenly Father by always keeping this in mind!

To learn more about becoming part of our incredible preschool family and the opportunities we provide, please visit our website at www.preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org. 5

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Becky Cawley, Justice and Peace Specialist

A Day in the Life of a Migrant Farm Worker



The Pandemic has changed a lot in our country, indeed our world. But a day in the life of a migrant farm worker here in North Carolina remains remarkably similar to what it has always been. For most it looks similar to this: Wake at 5:00 am. dress in the dark and eat a small cold breakfast. Board the van to the fields at 5:45 unsure of where you will be working that day. 6:00 am - begin harvesting tobacco, fruits and/or vegetables, most days in full sun, 80 degrees. Pick as fast as you can, if you don't you may not get a break. 9:00 am- take off the trash bag you wear to protect yourself from the pesticides and take a 10-minute water break. 12:00 pm - eat your lunch in the fields among the plants, with hands full of pesticides because there is no soap and water to wash. 4:00 pm - your second and final water break, this one for only 5 minutes.

7:00 pm – board the van back to your trailer, exhausted, to make dinner and lunch for the next day, to wash your clothes and take turns showering and calling your family who you will not see for months. 9:00 pm - go to bed hoping for a better night's sleep so you can drag yourself out of bed tomorrow, for pay that on average is below minimum wage because most farm workers are exempt from the minimum wage laws in our country.

Such is a day in the life of a Migrant Farm Worker in the fields of North Carolina. Would we do that work? I suspect not if there was any way we could avoid it.

Would you like to help ease the burdens of these brothers in Christ just a bit? Our Migrant Ministry here at St. Francis provides the opportunity for us to do just this. While we have always served the men through friendship and showing them we care, unfortunately COVID-19 has impacted our ability to assist them by driving them to and from Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Louisburg every Sunday from June – September, which has always been a big part of our ministry.

So the first two months of the summer we will take a break from driving the men to Mass and continue to assist them by providing supplies, clothes and work boots from your very generous donations back in January. Watch this space for more news as we move into August or contact Bruce Cartier at bcartier7@gmail.com or 919-900-0452 for more information. Your help and kindness mean so much!

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, Principal TFS

Grateful to Give



As parents face difficult decisions about how to provide their children with a quality education without breaking the bank. The Franciscan School (TFS) might just have the answer many families are looking for. TFS believes strongly in embracing students of all faiths and backgrounds - and is passionate about providing scholarships and tuition assistance to families that desire a strong Catholic education but worry the cost is financially out of reach. "There's often a misconception that private schools are elite schools," says Mike Watson, TFS principal. "While we are committed to providing quality education, we're not here to separate ourselves - we want our education to be as accessible as possible."

Each year, the school enrolls well over 600 students and offers approximately 25 percent of them with some form of financial assistance. Using funds provided by the parish offertory, TFS provides significant need-based financial aid. In five years, more than \$1.8 million of tuition assistance endowments have gone to Franciscan School families such as the Marks family, who have five children at TFS.

As a large family, the generosity of TFS families and supporters has allowed the Marks children to continue receiving a Catholic education. When they started at the school during daughter Ava's kindergarten year, they didn't expect they would need financial assistance. However, as their family grew, so did the financial strain. "When we got to the point that we

needed help, I thought I would be worried and embarrassed to ask for help. But the fear of removing them from this incredible faith-based education far surpassed my worries of being embarrassed," says Jenny Marks, TFS mother, "Our children would never be able to remain at TFS without financial help, even being a dual-working family. The school knows our commitment to TFS and they love and support us in any way they can to make sure our goal of keeping all of them at TFS can happen. I cry every time I get the financial aid email as it is the best gift our children have ever been given."

In 2019, in an effort to make excellent education a reality for as many families as possible, Watson formed the Timberwolf Fund to garner additional financial support. Through the generous contributions of many, including some Franciscan families who participate by paying additional tuition, each year there are families whose students received scholarships to offset the cost of tuition. "We never want the cost of tuition to be a deterrent to families seeking an excellent education," Watson says. "Charging tuition makes it possible for us to offer our teachers a fair wage and give them access to quality materials and resources, but we understand that not every family can afford it." And the quality of education is critical, Watson explains. The Franciscan School offers unique programs to develop life-long learners and leaders. Its reading program features a differentiated reading assessment that assesses students' varying reading levels in grades K-8, allowing teachers to meet students where they are and build upon their reading skills, as well as a choice reading program for middle schoolers.

The school also works to build self-confidence in its students from the moment students step foot onto campus. "We utilize cultural experiences like morning prayer and weekly mass to give students opportunities to become comfortable speaking in front of large crowds," Watson says. "These safe environments provide our students with the familiarity of speaking in front of hundreds - starting in kindergarten."

For families who desire a private education but fear it is out-of-reach. The Franciscan School's dedication to providing affordable private education is good news. "Offering financial assistance is a joy for us – and it's simply part of our mission to help and support others in our community," Watson says. "Offering hope and extending hospitality is the Franciscan way."

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

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: <u>Search.Committee@stfrancisraleigh.org.</u>



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.



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 Teachers - Kindergarten and First Grade

The Franciscan School is seeking qualified classroom teachers in kindergarten and first grade. 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.

Bridges After School Program – Part-time positions

We are currently seeking candidates to work in our Bridges After School Program on a part time basis. Candidates must have a strong desire and ability to work with children, be at least 18 years old, and pass a background screening. Bridges staff work within the program hours of Monday through Friday from 2:00 to 6:00pm. If interested, please submit a cover letter and resume to Joey Bradshaw, Head of Bridges, joseph.bradshaw@stfrancisraleigh.org.

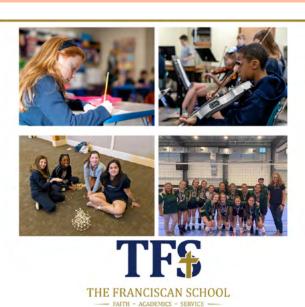


We're seeking paid part-time childcare workers for our Preschool Faith Formation program on Sunday mornings from 8:30am-1:00pm.

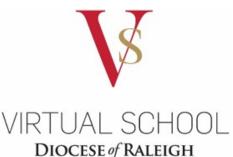
Contact
Tara.Moore@stfrancisraleigh.org

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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







OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Diocese of Raleigh Office of Education has created an exciting new option for Catholic education - The Diocese of Raleigh Virtual School. Registration has begun for grades K-8 and this school will open mid-August 2021.

Please join us for a parent informational session. Both sessions will be the same, therefore attendance is only needed once. Pre-registration is required.

Tuesday, July 6, 2021 1:00pm – 2:00pm https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrduyhrD8qE9bgTusei-o5MwxFbUji_x6F

Tuesday, July 6, 2021 6:00pm – 7:00pm https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtfuuprTwuE9TG7_moB-3ilqKWAPQr51qs1

After pre-registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the actual Zoom meeting link for your assigned time

For more information visit https://dioceseofraleigh.org/news/announcing-opening-diocese-raleigh-virtual-school

Direct questions to DORVS@raldioc.org



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

- Dry laundry outside
- •The soil & the climate emergency http://bit.ly/soil2021

https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation/ To help-_stfccreation@gmail.com

Adapted with permission from Church of the Nativity

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2



Stephen Ministry at St. Francis

Part I of IV

Life has twists and turns. We all need to carry our own loads - the stresses of everyday life, the times when we feel overwhelmed. But when we are met with burdens, that's when our community is called to walk with us. Just like Simon the Cyrenian, we are all called to help shoulder the load of those who are falling beneath the weight of life's crosses.

For more than 20 years, the Stephen Ministry of St. Francis has been quietly walking with parishioners in need of care. We are blessed to have more than 30 active Stephen Ministers, but what does that mean for our community and what is Stephen Ministry?

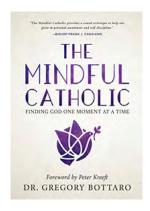
Back in 1975, Stephen C. Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, realized that to provide the best care for his congregation, he needed help. He realized that there were ways he could extend his pastoral reach if he could find – and train – the right people. Since then, his Stephen Ministries organization has been able to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12) to expand that care beyond what anyone can do alone, and he has developed the Stephen Ministry system of lay caring ministry, which has reached over 13,000 congregations worldwide. In the Triangle area, there are 87 Stephen Ministries at Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and, yes, Catholic churches.

We've all had times when the normal peaks and troughs of life are diminished by an overriding issue. Maybe it's a scary diagnosis, maybe it's a relationship in trouble, maybe it's an unwanted divorce, it could be the loss of loved one or the loss of a job. At first, there are people around you who reach out to see if you're ok, offer to help in any way and that brings comfort. But in some cases, people's best intentions don't last as long as the person's needs. That's when a Stephen Minister can be a great benefit.

Stephen Ministers are trained to be confidential, to be active listeners, and to ask probing questions. They listen to their care receiver – really listen. They notice the tone of the person's voice, their posture, whether they choose active or passive words. They allow the care receiver (CR) to tell their story as often as they need to tell it. Sometimes in telling the story, the CR gains insight, remembers key details, and can gradually come to accept the situation.

Stephen Ministers also ask probing questions. What are probing questions? They are the questions your friends or family may be thinking, but may not say. But a Stephen Minister is objective. They only know the story from the CR's point of view, so when they ask a question to go deeper into the feelings and details of a story, it's not from a place of emotion or of trying to steer the CR in one direction or another. It's all to help the CR realize a new aspect of the situation.

Stay tuned over the next few weeks as we discuss more about what Stephen Ministry is and how it benefits our community. If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Ministry relationship, please just reach out to me at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241.



The book is called *The Mindful Catholic* – *Finding God One Moment at a Time* by Dr. Gregory Bottaro. Let's plan to have lunch meetings on Thursdays, starting on July 8 at noon. That should give you some time to get the book and read the first chapter. We'll finish on August 26 just in time for back to school or back to whatever autumn has to bring.

To sign up, log into your Realm account at onrealm.org. You can go to Groups, Find Group, then up at the top right type in The Mindful Catholic and click Join and you'll be registered. If you don't have a Realm account, you can get one at https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/realm/ If none of this works, you can email/call me at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241.



Monday – Friday 8am-5pm

Casseroles is accepting casseroles every week from Monday-Friday (with the exception of holidays when campus is closed). For more information, visit https://www.stfrancisra-leigh.org/caring-casserole/



BAA Goal: \$509,088.28

Pledged Gift Amount: \$466,467 (91.6%) Received Gift Amount: \$429,418 (84.4%)

Number of Donors: 1,219 25.4% of registered parish families

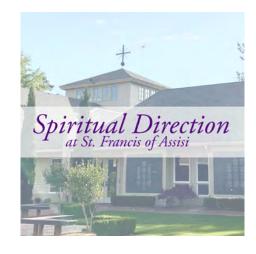




Sometimes it's the little glitches in life that can set one back. A single mother with a six-year-old son lives on the east side of Raleigh and travels to Cary to work. Her car broke down, so she had to use her rent money to pay for repairs so that she could continue to drive to her job. In addition, she must begin paying for summer child care.

The SFA St. Vincent DePaul Society (SVdP) was able to help her keep up with her rent as well as give her information on other places that can help. SVdP needs assistance to handle the workload.

In particular, we are in need of someone who can speak Spanish to assist with calls and visits to our neighbors in need. All work with our neighbors is completed virtually. All volunteers will receive extensive training. If you are interested in helping, contact Cathy Smith at <a href="mailto:smitht





Group Opportunities

Due to the changing nature of reopening our doors, please check the group opportunity to confirm whether it is held in a virtual format or in-person.

AA Meeting: For our Alcoholics Anonymous friends whose meetings have been ca ncelled. The Internet is full of online recovery resources. Online meetings like this one - you can belong to more than one, or two, or three. AA.ORG main website has a list. There are private Facebook groups, endless websites, and speaker tapes. It's all there. Al-Anon Meetings: Sun. 7:00pm, LaVerna, lower level.

Always God's Children: Always God's Children: The monthly support group meeting for LGBTQ+ people and family and friends. To receive an invite to the online meeting, 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, Itucker40@nc.rr.com, 937-478-9537.

Centering Prayer: Thursdays, 9:35am or 7:30pm

in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel.

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

www.stfrancisraleigh.org/programs-and-classes.

Community Garden: Saturday mornings,10:00am.

Call Pat or Paul Kelly at 919-413-8833, email mpmkelly@hotmail.com, or just drop by.

Divorce Care: Divorce Care – Our next session will begin meeting 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@stfrancisraleighorg. **Job Connections:** We provide tools and advice on how to stay motivated and on target. To enroll, contact Mary Horner at sfa.icm@gmail.com.

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

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

Contact: Ellen Ferrone - ellen.ferrone@gmail.com.

Peace Pole Prayer: Join us after the 9:30am Mass on Sundays to pray for peace in the world and our country. Meet in front of Clare Hall for a few minutes of prayer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Contact Cindy Cardello, 919-846-8825 or Diane Rotunno, 919-844-7153 for details.

Rosary Ministry: Mondays, 7:30 - 8:30pm, St. Mary of the Angels

Chapel, Marian Monti, janmar94@aol.com.

50+ Adults Group: Monthly potluck luncheons throughout the year and monthly game days, September through May in Clare Fellowship Hall. Contact Angela Azzopardi, 919-848-1347.

Women's Ministry:

- Tue Evenings with Anna Fowler annafowler@nc.rr.com
- Friday Morning with Celesta Carlson ccarlson210@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

To all our volunteers:

Here are a few ways you could help members of our parish:

FaceTime and Zoom

If you'd like to learn how to use FaceTime or Zoom or be connected to watch our daily and Sunday programs, or if you'd like to teach someone over the phone, please visit our https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/

Cards and Artwork

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

Make a Meal and Deliver Groceries

If you would like to make a meal or help deliver groceries to those in need, please visit: https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/ offer-or-receive-help/

Thank you!

All of our Parish Life Ministries and the Community Center would like to thank you for serving the St. Francis Community. At this time all other volunteer opportunities are suspended until it is safe for us to come together again. Please check your weekly bulletin for updates. Stay well.



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



Accepting Pain

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Minished before he turned twentyfour, expresses a theme Italians didn't enjoy seeing in art: death. Even worse, it recalls the torturous death of a crucified son held by his mourning mother. The image is horrific.

In his approach, Michelangelo is revolutionary. Rather than directly representing death, his statue is a meditation on it. Instead of showing the Virgin in the moment of extreme anguish, the normal strategy to achieve pity in the onlooker, the master decides

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

God formed us to be imperishable... But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

For your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

[Jesus] took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" to show Mary in humble acceptance of this heart-wrenching moment.

She doesn't fight or run from the pain in rebellious screams. Her teeth aren't clenched, her brow is unwrinkled, and her eyes aren't filled with tears imploring upward seeking to understand the illogical. She merely sits in the painful moment embracing the Son and abandoning her sorrow to the Father who permitted it.

Her hands reveal her attitude. One holds her Son under his arm firmly. She pulls him to her, sustaining the weight of the mystery. She absorbs the moment, fleeing not. Remaining in the pain, she endures the cost of our redemption, expressing her fiat again, in silence: Let it be done to me according to your word.

The other hand tilts toward us, open. She is letting go, giving over! She knows this Child in her arms was never only hers, but everyone's. We're invited to grasp her open hand, join her pain, and do our part to take up our own cross and follow him. +

Mary merely sits in the painful moment embracing the Son and abandoning her sorrow to the Father.

A Word from Pope Francis

They were two very different people....Yet the closeness that joined Peter and Paul did not come from natural inclinations, but from the Lord. He did not command us to like one another, but to love one another. He is the one who unites us, without making us all alike. He unites us in our differences.

—Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29, 2020



- How can I embrace life's challenging moments, rather than rebel or run from them?
- How can I better accept and let go of those things that cause me pain?



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.

Tune in to What Kids Watch

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

o your children listen to you?
Are they obedient? Are they
respectful? Do they understand the
role and meaning of authority? Do they
know their place in the family? If you
answered no to any of these questions,
you might want to review what your
children watch on TV. It could be one
source of your problems.

People criticize television programming for the prevalence of violence and sexual material available to young and impressionable viewers. With some success, the TV ratings system and other mechanisms that enhance parental supervision and control have helped to restrict young people to age-appropriate channels. The presumption is that age-appropriate is just that.

But have you ever watched children's TV programs? Often, what is called "suitable" for children is just as harmful (or even more harmful) than regular shows for grownups. Parents—as they are portrayed in sitcoms, cartoons, and commercials—are often set in opposition to their children and teens. This in itself is not bad; every family experiences conflict. The difficulty is that, more times than not, children and teens are characterized as wise beyond their years, responsible and—oddly—very parentlike, while the parents are depicted as witless, irresponsible,



and-strangely-like children.

I love my parents and value their wisdom and advice. I always have. I don't remember ever going through a rebellious teenage phase—where teens are known to judge everything parents do as wrong, disagreeable, contrary, or misguided—a period emulated in many TV programs that glorify the adult characteristics of children and exaggerate the foibles and weaknesses of parents. Although it may be generational, I don't think I'm alone in this opinion. The role of parents and parents themselves are being undermined.

The Family Guide for Using Media from the Communications Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is available online. Together with a list of good resources, the guide offers ten actions that can help parents determine television's role in the life of their family.

Under the heading "Respect Human Beings and the Family," parents are reminded that each of us is created in the image and likeness of God and that the family gives our lives meaning and purpose. Further, it is in the family that we come to understand our identity. This happens in and through "well-ordered relationships," the guide says.

In the section titled "Use Your Intelligence," parents are urged to look at television and media thoughtfully and critically because there's always a moral message. That message could be helpful, or it could contribute to discord in your family.

Well-ordered relationships are not accidental; they don't just happen. Who maintains order in your family? Mom and Dad or the TV? +



Lord, you promise eternal life to all who believe in you. Give me the courage to be an advocate for life.

—From Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

The Church offers a guide to help parents monitor the media.

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 28-July 3

Monday, St. Irenaeus: Gn 18:16-33 / Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday, Sts. Peter and Paul: Acts 12:1–11 / 2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18 / Mt 16:13–19

Wednesday, Weekday: Gn 21:5, 8–20a / Mt 8:28–34 Thursday, Weekday: Gn 22:1b-19 / Mt 9:1-8

Friday, Weekday:

Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67 / Mt 9:9-13

Saturday, St. Thomas:

Eph 2:19-22 / Jn 20:24-29

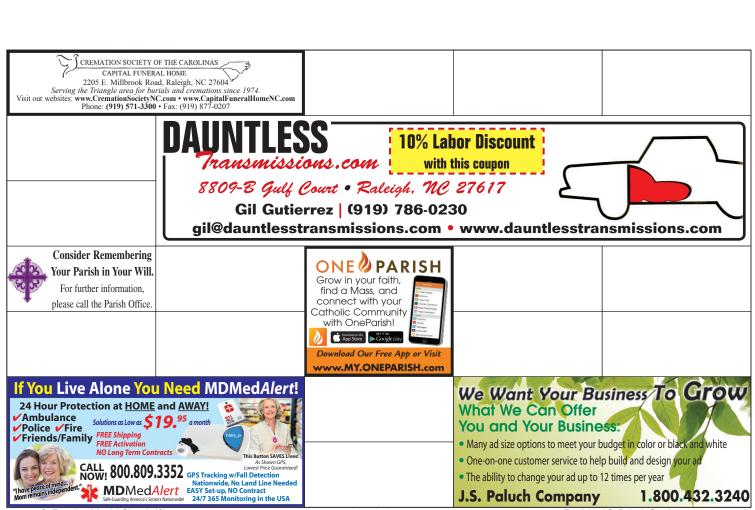


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Get Involved!

Parish Life Ministries			St. Francis of Assisi Community C	Center	
Director of Parish Life	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Coordinator of Community Center	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
Pastoral Presence Ministries			Athletic Programs	Mary Arleth	847-8205x358
Caregivers	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Assisi Café	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
Centering Prayer	Alice Stanford	919-781-5860	Parish Events (FrancisFest)	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
Emmaus Ministers	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Summer Camps (Camp Francis)	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
EMs to Abbotswood	Anita Misko	630-699-0519	Community Organizations	14 11 010	0.47.0005.000
EMs to the Homebound	Melanie Fraites	mjpfraites@gmail.com	Girl Scouts of USA	Melissa O'Connor	847-8205x296
EMs to the Magnolia Glen	Jacob House	919-449-7634	BSA Scouts:Troop 352 (6th-12th, boy		
EMs to the Meadows	Andrea McVerry	amcverry@yahoo.com	BSA Scouts:Troop 219 (6th-12th, girls		aster219tts@gmail.com
EMs to Rex Hospital		dward.gilmartin@gmail.com 484-949-1417	BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th) membershippack352@yahoo.com	Rebecca Brooks	
EMs to Springmoor Prayer Line Ministers	Janice Horner Pauk Wilson	wilsonpf99@gmail.com		D 1/ 1	101 (0700
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Cindy Cardello	919-846-8825	Knights of Columbus	Bryan Kozak	gk@kofc9709.org
rayer onawrwiinistry	Dianne Rotunno	919-844-7153	Secular Franciscan Order	Ellen Ferrone	http://ofscentralnc.org
Rosary Ministry	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Faith Formation Ministries Baptism Ministry	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
rtocary minoary	radiioon o iion	011 0200X211	Marriage Ministry	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Ministries of Support & Care			Confirmation Sponsors	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers	Linda Tucker	937-478-9537	Children's Formation Group Leader	Sarah Bowser	847-8205x496
Caring Casseroles Cooks	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Family & Marriage Enrichment Team		847-8205x244
Feed the Need Cooks	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Middle School Formation Group	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Job Connections Mentors	Mary Horner	610-755-5392	Faith Formation Regist. & Events	Patti Panizza	847-8205x237
Medical Facility Visitors	Sharon Holland	hollandbozo@yahoo.com	Youth Ministry Group Leader	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x223
Transportation to Mass Drivers	Stephanie Smith	919-302-0080	RCIA Team & Sponsors	Kathy Sales	847-8205x488
Weekday Volunteer Receptionists	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265	Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)	Tara Moore	847-8205x489
Social Groups	L O l -	040 740 7545	Young Adults Bible Study Group	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
AAMEN Ministry	Leon Cooke	919-740-7515 847-8205x241	Stewardship Ministries		
Always God's Children	Kathleen Owen Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Stewardship Committee	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222
LGBTQ+ Ministry Men's Ministry	Norm Tuomi	norman3722@att.net	Way of Francis Ben Whitehouse whit	tehouseben5@gmail.d	com
WEITS WIITISH Y	Ralph Guenther	rguenther2@nc.rr.com			
Young Adults	fb.me/YoungAdults	sofStFrancis			
Women's Ministry	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241			
50+ Adults Group	Pat Gerney	919-803-8276			
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