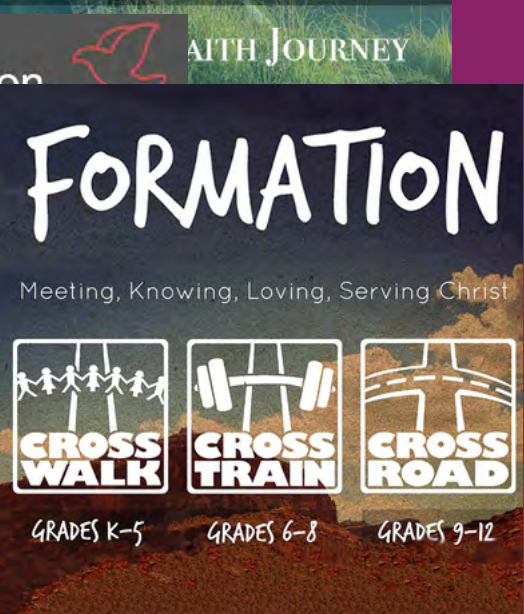


FORMATION

See pages 3,4, and 5



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.



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

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



Since You Asked

From time to time, I will use this page to respond to a question that has been asked of me and/or a member of our staff by one of you. With the arrival of diocesan priests at St. Francis, the custom of Mass intentions has shifted a bit. Allow me a few moments to explain what a Mass intention is and how it has shifted with the arrival of Fr. Jairo and me.

First, Mass intentions for the living and the dead are a venerable practice in the Catholic Church. The intention's purpose is to ask for God's blessing and grace upon the person(s) being remembered. Some intentions are for the living. Those celebrating a significant wedding anniversary or who are suffering from a serious illness are lifted up in our greatest prayer, the Mass, requesting God's blessing and grace upon those being remembered. We may also remember our beloved dead with a Mass intention. There are primarily two reasons for this type of intention. The first is that those for whom the Mass is celebrated will be freed from any unresolved consequences of sin they may have taken with them into eternity. The second is to express thanks to God for the life of someone we loved in this world and still love. I recently celebrated the Mass for my father on the 25th anniversary of his death. I offered this Mass in thanksgiving for his life and as an expression of my ongoing love for him.

It is general practice that a Mass intention donation goes directly to a diocesan priest who celebrates that Mass. This is a shift from the general practice when the friars led the parish. There is a reason for this. The friars take a vow of poverty and as such are not responsible for directly paying for many of their expenses. In such cases, the province or the parish covers their expenses when they occur. In the case of Mass intention celebrated by religious priests such as the Franciscans, the donation goes into a general fund or to a province. In some cases, no donation is requested. Diocesan priests do not take a vow of poverty. They manage their own salaries, pay taxes like you do, and, unless covered by a parish by diocesan policy, cover their own expenses. One example is a car. Fr. Jairo and I are responsible for the purchase, insurance, and maintenance of our cars whereas a car was provided and maintained by the parish for the friars at no expense to them.

Because diocesan priests bear more responsibility for their expenses, the Church permits them to receive a donation for a Mass intention to supplement the modest salary they are paid by the parish.

Mass intentions are strictly regulated by Canon Law to avoid abuse. A priest may only receive a stipend for one Mass intention per day. In the Diocese of Raleigh, a minimum stipend is established as \$10 although a person may offer a larger stipend at will. This minimum is meant to give access to everyone to request a Mass intention. Each diocese establishes this minimum based on the median income of the people living there.

In the case where a priest celebrates more than one Mass a day (e.g., on Sunday), he may only receive a stipend for one Mass. The other(s) must be donated to charity. We have set up a special account at St. Francis when this occurs.

Msgr. Clay

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

Delaney Brooke Carman
Daughter of Steve and Kristen Carman

William Thomas Westbrook
Son of Brennan and Rachael Westbrook

MAY HE REST IN PEACE
AND PERPETUAL LIGHT
SHINE UPON HIM:

+Brent Cash
Brother of Dana Cash

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/

July Envelope Schedule

July 18	Weekly
July 25	Weekly
July 25	Sister Parish in NC & Guatemala



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

REMINDER

The weekend schedule **until August 15** will be:

Saturday
5:30pm

Sunday
7:15am
9:30am

5:30pm (Masks required by all for this Mass)

The parish is now open to the public M-F, 9am-4pm.
Receptionists are available at the Pastoral Offices
to assist you with your pastoral needs.



If you have a great smile and like meeting new people, please **consider joining our Weekend Receptionists**. They are available before and after Masses to answer questions, help people find their way and take messages to give to staff. If this sounds interesting, please contact MaryLou Holloway at mlholly10@gmail.com.

SCAM ALERT

Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a solicitation 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.

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 19!
NOW OPEN TO SOPHOMORES!

Fresh-more Retreat

SUNDAY . SEPTEMBER 12

11:45 am Mass – 8:00 pm

ROLLINGVIEW . FALLS LAKE

All parish high school freshman and sophomores are invited to join us for a day-long retreat at Falls Lake on Sunday, September 12. Join us for a day filled with swimming, food, fun and fellowship. Teens will be challenged to work together and grow in community while growing deeper into the foundations of our faith.

Youth will gather in the meeting space at church and begin the day with Mass at 11:45am. At the end of the day, pickup will be at 8:00pm in the main church parking lot. Parent volunteers will be needed to drive youth to and from the retreat site.

Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/formation-retreats/>

Registration Fee: \$50.00, includes snacks, dinner, retreat supplies and activities. Registration is via Realm.



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>

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

Now Available!

To Know To Believe To Live

5

The Reign of God

A LIFELONG FAITH JOURNEY

Communities
of Calling

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.

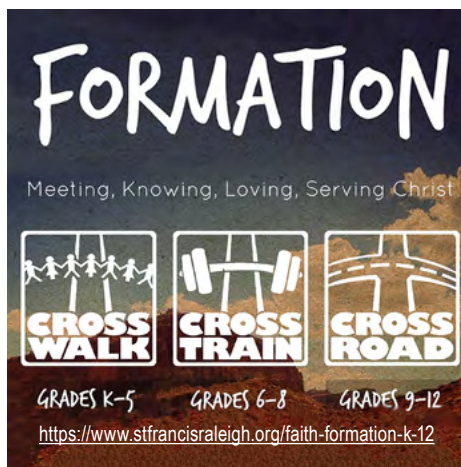
Please note: you do not have to join the Realm Group to view the series which will be posted twice a month at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/know-believe-live/>

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.

Registration for Faith Formation K-12 Opens July 19!



Families MUST be registered parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi to participate in Faith Formation.

Our Cross Walk (K-5), Cross Train (6-8) and Cross Road (9-12) programs are designed to make our youth/children feel “at home” at St. Francis, a place where they can have fun and be themselves, while knowing that they are valued and loved by God! Our programs include:

- Small group-based model
- Centered on the Sunday mass, 9:00am Mass (K-5), 5:30pm Mass (6-12)
- Meet twice per month, September through May
- Offer fellowship in a fun, safe environment
- Include monthly Family events, youth retreats and socials to build relationships
- Encourage and provide opportunities where families can grow together in faith.
- For the 2021-2022 school year, we are offering a home-based faith formation program for grades K-5 only.
- If your family requires special accommodations, we will be offering virtual small groups as a substitute for grades 6-12.

Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-formation-k-12/> for additional information about our K-12 program and how to register. A Realm login is required to register. Details on how to register via Realm and establish a Realm login can be found on this page, or visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/realm/>.

Would you consider becoming a Formation Volunteer?



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:

Tara.Moore@stfrancisraleigh.org

Grades 6-8:

Thomas.Bulick@stfrancisraleigh.org

Grades 9-12:

Marisa.Ferrara@stfrancisraleigh.org

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis Preschool

Fun Times: From Our Preschool Photo Album



EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, Principal TFS

Soaring to New Heights TFS Alumni Finds Success in the Air



The three core values of The Franciscan School - Faith, Academics, and Service - are woven into the daily lives of students, instilling lifelong skills that help set them up for a future of success. After 21 years of operation, TFS has seen the return of this investment by watching alumni make their marks on the world.

For Dylan Spitz, who graduated TFS in 2012 and attended all 9 years, it was the academic excellence, moral compass, and service for others that have helped mold him into the pilot he is today. Spitz also comes from a big family: he's the oldest of 6, all who have attended TFS. In fact, his youngest sibling just graduated in June. For his family, TFS has been an instrumental part of their lives for the last 19 years. Principal Mike Watson said "Dylan set the stage for his sisters and brother. Dylan, as well as his siblings, personified the hard work and widespread involvement in all aspects of life at TFS."

After Spitz graduated from TFS, he attended Leesville Road High School where he signed up for an aerospace class his first semester, not really sure what he was getting into. "At first, I didn't like it. But by the second semester, I was really enjoying it and knew I wanted to make it my career." Spitz moved quickly; by age 16, he started taking flying

lessons, and by the age of 17, he had already obtained his initial private pilot license.

Not long after, Spitz attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Science. He continued to work at the University as a flight instructor to get the air time he needed to fly commercially. And just a few months ago, Spitz began as a First Officer in Training at PSA Airlines where he pilots regional flights around the country. He gets to travel to new cities, sometimes having just enough time to explore. But Spitz said his favorite aspect of the new job is learning: "What I enjoy most about my job is that it's a challenge- learning how to fly different planes; some are smaller, and some are much larger."

During his time at Leesville Road HS and Embry-Riddle, Spitz said he was more than prepared for the rigor of classes he took, which he accredited to the skills he gained at TFS. "TFS prepared me to be a good student, helping me to succeed in high school and while studying to be a pilot," said Spitz. Principal Watson shared that Spitz's "success academically, and now professionally, is not a surprise to those who know him. He is driven and ultimately met his goal of becoming a

pilot early on. We are all proud of his accomplishments and know he will continue to be successful."

But Spitz also believes that TFS prepared him for more. He said the school instilled a moral compass for him, the understanding of moral ethics and work ethics. He also remembers the importance of serving others, like the times they volunteered at homeless shelters, donated food, and participated in service projects. Spitz recalls the family duo of teachers - Mr. and Mrs. Stevens (mother and son) - "who were always putting on service events for the community."

Spitz, like many graduates, says his time at TFS went too fast. "Take advantage of your time at TFS and all the opportunities provided because they will pay off," Spitz said. "And enjoy your time there, it truly goes too fast."

The Franciscan School's curriculum is the foundation on which we have built over twenty years of educational excellence to assure our students' success. To find out more about The Franciscan School, more information to be found on our [website](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org). You can also contact Principal Mike Watson at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org or reach out to our admissions team at admissions@franciscanschool.org.

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace

Back to School Supply Drive

Saturday July 24 – Sunday August 8
St. Francis of Assisi Church

Drop off to bins in the Church before
Mass or to the bin outside Cupertino
on Sat/Sun 5-6pm, Sun 9-10am

Help us fill 200 backpacks for
children in need.

For donations and a list of needs:
[https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/
back-to-school-supplies-drive/](https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/back-to-school-supplies-drive/)

Volunteers/Families are welcome:
www.bit.ly/SFA-BTSSdrive2021

Back to School Drive Financial Donations:

[https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/
NC674/43917](https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NC674/43917)

Did You Know?

Supporting Public Education for All in Wake County

Did You Know?

- 1 Wake County Public School System is the largest school system in NC, serving nearly 162,000 students.
- 2 In the last school year, 50,843 WCPSS students qualified for free or reduced price lunch. (NOTE: ALL students are eligible for FREE meals in the 2021-22 school year.)
- 3 Over 4500 students in WCPSS experienced homelessness in the 2019 school year. (McKinney-Vento Program/Student Data. WCPSS. <https://www.wcpss.net/Page/31389>)
- 4 WCPSS school buses serve all 191 schools, covering 857 square miles twice daily.
- 5 WCPSS employs over 19,000 teachers, staff and instructional support personnel.

District Facts / Overview. Wake County Public School System. (2021). <https://www.wcpss.net/domain/100>.

The Catholic Community of St. Francis will host a panel discussion with WCPSS educators. Monday, August 9 at 7:00PM via Zoom. Check next week's bulletin for details!

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

The Safe Place



From time to time, I share my personal experiences on this page. Today, I'm going to open up my experience of having a Stephen Minister of my own in the hopes that you may see how a Stephen Minister could benefit you...especially if you're navigating some choppy water in life. For years, Virginia Siefkes has served as my unofficial Stephen Minister. And she has been worth her weight (and mine!) in gold - helping me vent, acknowledge, and move on from whatever situation was before me. I've expressed anger, frustration, grief, disappointment, hopelessness, you name it. And during those times, I've been through deaths in my family, job difficulties, relationship issues, medical issues, and some other things that will remain confidential.

One situation stands out for me. I was working full time here at St. Francis and trying to take care of my Dad. It was clear that I couldn't do everything that he

needed or I wanted to do to take care of him. After 10 years of taking care of first my mother, then my dad, and mother-in-law, I was exhausted. This is the kind of exhaustion that robs you of your spunk, spirit, joy, sleep, peace of mind, and patience. At one point, I finally admitted that I wasn't sure how much longer I could continue to even attempt to keep up with everything. It was a turning point for me. Acknowledging that I was not keeping up, that I may not ever be able to keep up, and that maybe I (we) would have to lower our expectations of what life might look like. For a moment, I couldn't breathe. Then I breathed. In and out. And Virginia didn't judge me, her expression didn't change. She acknowledged that what I was trying to do was a lot and that I was human. And she was supportive of me and, to tell the truth, I felt that such a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. And suddenly, I felt that I could pick up my burdens and go forward for another week.

Virginia, and Stephen Ministry helped me find that safe space to acknowledge my fear and my disappointment. That was all I needed to keep going. Finding that space where I would be supported, not judged, made all the difference in how I could look at my situation, my expectations and even myself! I didn't even realize that I had been wasting energy beating myself up for what I didn't do instead of seeing what I did do. Hallelujah! So if you're laboring under a situation that is exhausting you, that is making you feel bad about yourself, that seems never ending, I would encourage you to consider asking for a Stephen Minister. Just contact me at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241 and we can get started. You don't have to feel bad or alone anymore!

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



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.stfrancisraleigh.org/caring-casserole/>

Our Transportation Ministry needs volunteers!

There are parishioners who would love to come to Mass, but no longer drive. Could you drive someone to your favorite Mass once every three weeks? This ministry is famous for lifelong friendships and celebrations. Contact Stephanie Smith at 919-302-0080 for more information.

Employment Opportunities



The Play and Pray Sunday morning ministry is currently accepting applications for childcare providers in our 1 and 2 year old rooms. The goal of Play and Pray is to partner with parents of young children, providing an opportunity for parents to attend Mass as a couple, and their children to begin to hear the stories of Jesus, and learn about our Catholic traditions using language and activities that are age appropriate. Providers play, sing songs and read Bible stories with the children. A strong candidate will have experience working with young children and be excited to share their faith with toddlers. Employees are required to be Level C certified, which includes successful completion of a background check. Play and Pray hours are 8:30am-1:00pm every Sunday, except for major holidays. If interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Tara.Moore@stfrancisraleigh.org.



People often enter the church looking for Holy Water to take home. Unfortunately, if a priest is not available, we have no way of providing this. Fr. Jairo has blessed the water in a special font located in the gathering space, (to the right of the church doors) and it is good to go! We do not have containers, but parishioners and guests are more than welcome to bring their own to fill.



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 kindergarten classroom teacher. 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.



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.

ZERO WASTE IN THE HOME

--Bring your own:
coffee cup, water bottle, take
out container, grocery bags,
reusable cutlery and straws

--Go reusable:
Use cloth rags; switch out paper
plates and napkins

To learn -- <http://bit.ly/stfcoc21>
To help: Peter at stfccreation@gmail.com



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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
July 18, 2021

The Source of All Forgiveness

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In his 1622 painting *The Penitent St. Mary Magdalene*, Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, known as Guercino, portrays Mary Magdalene with shoulders uncovered and disheveled hair. These details remind us of her shameful past without defining her present. Rather, it is her humble, penitent spirit from which her heroic love for Jesus springs. The sinful Mary, who had been forgiven so much, is also one who has loved much.

One angel holds out before her the symbols of the passion to remind Magdalene of the ransom her Beloved paid to set her free from sin. A second

angel pointing to heaven reminds her that these nails no longer bind him. Or as the angel would tell Mary Magdalene in the garden, "He is not here, for he has been raised" (Matthew 28:6).

Many mistakenly conflate Mary Magdalene with the unknown woman from Luke 7:36–50. The woman offers an act of humility by breaking into the dinner party of Simon and sobbing over the feet of Jesus. She bathes his feet with tears of repentance and dries them with her lovely hair. Despite the confusion, we admire this woman's and Mary's humility. Neither were too proud to repent.

The painting is called *The Penitent St. Mary Magdalene* because Mary looks purposely like a person kneeling in confession. Speaking with head downcast, she admits her failures. And as in confession, the representative of God sits on the other side encouraging her to consider Jesus' passion, love, and mercy. The angel in the center reminds Mary to whom she is really confessing. By pointing to heaven, we are all reminded of the source from whom all forgiveness comes. +

*It is Mary Magdalene's
humble, penitent spirit
from which her heroic love
for Jesus springs.*

A Word from Pope Francis

For leadership there is only one road: service. There is no other way. If you have many qualities—the ability to communicate, etcetera—but you are not a servant, your leadership will fail, it is useless, it has not power to gather [people] together.

—Address to Pontifical Colleges and Residences of Rome, May 12, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Am I humble enough to admit my faults to myself and others?
- How often do I ask forgiveness from my loved ones and in confession?

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 23:1–6

I will raise up shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear or be terrified; none shall be missing.

Ephesians 2:13–18

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ.

Mark 6:30–34

His heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd.



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH Office of Communications
7200 Stonebridge Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27613 919-821-9730 www.dioceseofraleigh.org

27th Annual Run for Life

27TH ANNUAL RUN FOR LIFE is staying Virtual - We're looking for runners and sponsors for the annual 5k Run and 1 Mile Fun Run from August 21-29. Please check our website www.raleighrunforlife.org or www.runnc.com for more info. If you have any questions, please contact Janelle Buchanan at 214-497-0756 or Kathy Klein 919-815-1369. All proceeds benefit Birth-choice.

"Be Not Afraid"

By Kathleen M. Basi

A director of religious education once told me that as grade-school children begin to process the world, they come to their parents and teachers with questions. We need to answer those questions, she said, because the window isn't open all that long. If you don't answer their questions honestly, sometime around the fourth grade they quit asking questions like:

- How can we say "thou shalt not kill" and fight wars and execute prisoners?
- What does gay mean?
- Why don't so-and-so's parents live together?
- What is contraception?
- Why are those people fighting with the police?
- Why would someone shoot schoolkids?
- What does climate change mean?
- Why do those children have flies around their mouths?

For many adults, answering questions like these is terrifying. We are jaded, embittered, and overwhelmed by the scope of the world's problems. When we try to put into words what we believe, it often seems simplistic—a woefully inadequate answer to reality. Trying to explain God and the world to children brings into sharp relief the inadequacy of our own faith and understanding of both.

We are afraid to scar our children's innocence. We are afraid of being labeled intolerant. We are afraid our kids



will demonstrate their knowledge in inappropriate ways or contexts. We are afraid of having to admit to our kids the many ways we have not lived up to what we profess to believe. We are afraid of being seen as frauds. Most of all, we are afraid of screwing up our kids.

And yet despite it all, we have to answer. Children's views of the world are being formed whether we participate in the process or not. We might as well make sure they get the right formation—the one guided by Christ and his Church.

The tough questions will always be tough, but constantly seeking greater wisdom and understanding for ourselves takes away some of the pressure to "get it right" for our kids in one shot. Instead,

we can approach difficult topics with our children as coseekers in the way of Christ, returning to subjects in greater depth as their understanding grows... and as ours does the same.

Perhaps then, it won't feel so difficult to trust God to give us the words when we need them and the wisdom to know when to respond, "You don't need to know that yet." Honesty is not easy when the subject matter is difficult. But God whispers to us today the same three words that are woven into the entire narrative of salvation history: "Be not afraid." +

*Parents, it's crucial we use
our faith in answering
the tough questions
of our children.*

PRAYER

*Lord, you are the Good
Shepherd who cares
for all people. Help me be
a good shepherd of love
and compassion.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 19–24

Monday, Weekday:
Ex 14:5–18 / Mt 12:38–42

Tuesday, Weekday:
Ex 14:21–15:1 / Mt 12:46–50

Wednesday, Weekday:
Ex 16:1–5, 9–15 / Mt 13:1–9

Thursday, St. Mary Magdalene: Sg 3:1–4b
or 2 Cor 5:14–17 / Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

Friday, Weekday:
Ex 20:1–17 / Mt 13:18–23

Saturday, Weekday:
Ex 24:3–8 / Mt 13:24–30

Bringing Home
the Word 
July 18, 2021

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1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with
permission and copyright © 2020 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.

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: We will resume sessions on Monday September 20. The ministry meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 7 to 8 am via Zoom. Contact 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. Please check your weekly bulletin for updates. Stay well.

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difficult times alone.

Our Stephen Ministers
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To find out more talk
with Kathleen Owen at

kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org



Contact Us!

Parish Office: 919-847-8205 fax: 919-870-1790

Welcome

New Parishioner Registration	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265
Becoming Catholic	Kathy Sales	847-8205x488

Priests and Deacon

Pastor	Msgr. Michael Clay	847-8205x224
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Jairo Maldonado-Pacheco	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
Administrative Assistant	Stacey Shine	847-8205x268

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	Kathy Sales	847-8205x488
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

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 Kieley	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

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	josephjrando1@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	stfrancismhministry@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
Curbside Care	Lori Piraino	lpiraino7@gmail.com
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

Care of Creation		stfccreation@gmail.com
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!

Parish Life Ministries

Director of Parish Life Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241

Pastoral Presence Ministries

Caregivers Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Centering Prayer Alice Stanford 919-781-5860
Emmaus Ministers Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
EMs to Abbotswood Anita Misko 630-699-0519
EMs to the Homebound mjpfrates@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 Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
LGBTQ+ Ministry Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Men's Ministry Norm Tuomi norman3722@att.net
Ralph Guenther rguenther2@nc.rr.com
fb.me/YoungAdultsofStFrancis
Young Adults Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Women's Ministry Pat Gerney 919-803-8276
50+ Adults Group

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
membershi-pack352@yahoo.com

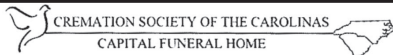
Knights of Columbus Bryan Kozak gk@kofc9709.org
Secular Franciscan Order Ellen Ferrone http://ofscentralnc.org

Faith Formation Ministries

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 Kathy Sales 847-8205x488
Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery) Tara Moore 847-8205x489
Young Adults Bible Study Group Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244

Stewardship Ministries

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



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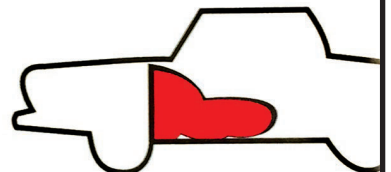
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