

April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus, may your cross  
always remind me of your  
great love for me.

HOLY WEEK 2022



**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 13**

Tenebrae • 8pm  
In the Chapel



**HOLY THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 14**

Church • 7pm  
Reposition in Fellowship  
until midnight  
Night Prayer • 11:45pm



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**APRIL 15**

Morning Prayer • 9am  
Passion of the Lord • 3pm  
Stations • 7pm



**HOLY SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 16**

Morning Prayer • 9am  
Easter Food  
Blessing • 9:45am  
Easter Vigil • 8:30pm



**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 17**

Sunrise • 6:00am  
Church • 7:15am  
Church and Gym • 9:00am  
Church • 11:45am

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



See page 9

### 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.



See page 7



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

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



**SEDER MEAL:** Trevor Thompson, Fr. Jairo, and I have been invited to participate in an inter-community Seder this Sunday afternoon. It has been many years since I attended such an event. We look forward to interacting and sharing a meal with our Jewish brothers and sisters and all who will join with us.

**SUMMER CAMPS AT ST. FRANCIS:** There are several camps for children, youth, and adults sponsored by St. Francis this summer. This will be the first time we have been able to hold these events since 2019. Registration has begun so take advantage of these inspiring and faith-filled camps. You will find more information in the bulletin.

**SUMMER OUTREACH MINISTRY:** There are wonderful opportunities to assist in migrant ministry and ministry to the homeless this summer. The bulletin has more details about these outreach ministries, so reflective of the spirit of our community.

**PARISH 40TH ANNIVERSARY:** We will celebrate our 40th anniversary on Friday, April 22. It has been an amazing 40 years! We will gather that Friday evening to celebrate at the labyrinth and enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship, and entertainment. We will honor our founding members at a reception between the 9:00am and 11:45am Sunday Masses on April 24. I look forward to seeing you, especially our founders, and getting to know more about you and the story of the Catholic Community of St. Francis.

**THANK YOU:** You will see a new oriental rug behind the altar in the church this weekend. This is a gift from John & Kathleen McGowen. The rug formerly resided underneath a dining room table in their former residence where, as Kathleen put it, "It was witness to many happy family dinners and celebrations." She was happy to learn where it is placed and said, "How wonderful that it is now in the House of the Lord and witness to the celebrations there!" Thanks to John and Kathleen for their generosity!

*Fr. Michael*

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

**+Richard Rogers**

Father of Rich Rogers

**+Lolita Minola Moron**

Mother of James Wimmer

**2021 Contributions** are finalized in Realm under the giving tab. Click on the funnel. Change the filter to "last year" and click the button filter. In order to access Realm you must set up your account first. If you have any questions about Realm visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/realm/>.

Any question please email Toni, [Toni.hammes@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Toni.hammes@stfrancisraleigh.org).

Coffee & Donuts

*This weekend!*



**Sunday, April 3rd @ 10:00 am**

Join us for Coffee and Donuts Sunday, April 3rd following 9:00am Mass from 10:00am-11:00am in Fellowship Hall hosted by our Women's Ministry.

We will spend time reflecting on our Lenten Challenge and enjoy the blessing of being able to regather together again. There will be Ministry booths with information about volunteering activities.

**All are welcome!**



### Weekly Envelope Schedule

April 3 Weekly

April 3 Mortgage Sunday

April 10 Good Friday/Holy Land

April 17 Easter

April 17 Priest Welfare & Retirement

April 24 Weekly

# PRAYER REQUESTS FOR APRIL 2 TO APRIL 1



## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 2, 5:30PM  
+Thomas Gellenbeck  
Requested by Marianne and Paul Williams

Sunday, April 3, 7:15AM  
+James Pietrzak Sr.  
Requested by Catherine Pietrzak

Sunday, 9:00AM  
+Robert Sokoloff  
Requested by Andrew and Eleanore Gamble

Sunday, 11:45AM  
+Virginia McGuinness  
Requested by Richard McGuinness

Sunday, 5:30PM  
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

Monday April 4, 9AM  
+Carmencita Hernandez  
Requested by Heather Rigney

Tuesday April 5, 9AM  
+Anna Johnson  
Requested by Carol Paniccia

Wednesday April 6, 9AM  
+Tam Lopez  
requested by Thanh Pham

Thursday April 7, 9AM  
+Patrick Magee  
Requested by Katherine Magee

Friday April 8, 9AM  
+Dolores Hammer  
Requested by Richard and Alma Hammer

Saturday April 9, 2022  
Saturday, 5:30  
+Laura Gambardella-DiNapoli  
Requested by Silvia Gambardella

Sunday April 10, 2022  
Sunday, 7:15  
+Alice Squeri and +George Ellerbrock  
Requested by Joan and Kevin Cvanaugh

Sunday, 9:00  
+Francis Gagliano  
Requested by Michael Gagliano

Sunday, 11:45AM  
+Winifred Tinney  
Requested by Constance Berberian

Sunday, 5:30  
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(ill) Daniel Maldonado  
Requested by Msgr. Clay  
Health & Wellness

(ill) Clarence Dordulaw  
Requested by Veneriches Dordulaw  
Health & Wellness

(ill) Jim Coolbaugh  
Requested by Kathleen Coolbaugh  
Health & Wellness

(ill) Irene Austin  
Requested by Michael and Lisa Austin  
Health & Wellness

+Don Carlson  
Requested by Celesta Carlson  
Remembrance

+Carol Gunther  
Requested by Ralph Guenther  
Remembrance

+Richard Rogers  
Father of Rich Rogers  
Remembrance

+Lolita Minola Moron  
Mother of James Wimmer  
Remembrance

## Mass Intentions

One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the living and the dead. Requesting a Mass is a most wonderful way to exercise this spiritual work of mercy. Our register for Mass intentions is open. You may make your request(s) by going to our website (<https://www.stfrancis-raleigh.org/mass-intention-prayers/>) or by calling the parish office at 919-847-8205 during normal business hours M-F.





*I have loved you  
with an everlasting  
love!*

LENT 2022



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

April 8, 8am and 7pm



## RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 4pm–5pm



## PRAYER / ADORATION

Wednesday, April 6, 7pm  
Sunday, April 10, 3pm

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### IN THE RALEIGH DEANERY

APRIL 5:


7PM: HOLY NAME OF JESUS CATHEDRAL

APRIL 6:

10AM: ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA  
(WAKE FOREST)

APRIL 7:

7PM: ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA  
(WAKE FOREST)



Jesus, may your cross  
always remind me of your  
great love for me.

HOLY WEEK 2022



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Stations of the Cross • 7pm



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**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**



*Please pray for our  
elect, catechumens, candidates, and confirmands  
as they continue their spiritual journey.*

## *Elect*



Kaylie Kirstein

Grace Bindon

*Receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation  
this Easter Vigil on April 16*

## *Catechumens*



Bryan Zack

Judy Young

Krystal Howard

Timothy Olson

*(Those receiving instruction in the Christian faith in order to be baptized)*

## *Candidates*



Ashley Qualkenbush

Erika Davenport

Eyram Klu

Stephanie Troche

William Noblitt

John Price

Eva Mitalova

*(Those who have been baptized in the Christian faith and are seeking full communion in the Catholic Church)*

## *Confirmands*



Bella Nesbeth

Charlee Halphen

Cici Nesbeth

Mia Nesbeth

Sasha Duncan

*(Baptized Catholics preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation)*

Join us for our  
40th Anniversary  
Celebration  
April 22nd  
5:30pm to 8:00pm

# SAVE THE DATE

Food, games,  
Father Face Off  
and more.



...and as part of our 40th year celebration, we will be featuring interviews with our founders and their families as part of a series on St. Francis TV. Visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org) and stay tuned for some great interviews.



Judy Barton, founding member of St. Francis of Assisi during her St. Francis TV interview with Deb Royals-Mizerk, scheduled to air soon.



## **Formation Summer Camps Still Have Spots Available!**

**For Middle Schoolers - "Mercy Camp"** is our works of Mercy Service Camp, where teens go out and serve in the local community every day, and then return together to talk about their experience. Mercy Camp runs 8:00am to 3:00pm from Monday, June 13th to Friday, June 17th with an overnight on Thursday.

**For High Schoolers - "Mission Mercy"** is our high school service camp, where teens spend a week together on campus, serving, living, and growing together. Mission Mercy runs from Sunday, July 10th to Friday, July 15th.

Additionally, high schoolers are welcome to help run our middle school "Mercy Camp," if they would like an opportunity to serve as well as practice leadership skills!

Registration for all camps is through Realm! For more details please visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/formation-camps/> or email Thomas Bulick ([thomas.bulick@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:thomas.bulick@stfrancisraleigh.org)) with any questions.





Looking for [Summer Opportunities](#)? St Francis of Assisi has many activities for all age groups this summer. Look for the opportunity that meets your needs.

We offer a variety of summer camps with lots of different offerings in Camp Francis, faith based camps like [Vacation Bible School and Mercy Camps](#), preschool aged camps in [Summer Adventures](#), and drama camp with [Justice Theater Project](#).

Our Franciscan inspiration comes through with our summer mission opportunities with [Mission Mercy](#) for the high school youth, and the many family [opportunities to serve](#) that are perfect for summer.

Continuing faith formation is a year around goal and St Francis gives those opportunities to the youth in our [Vacation Bible School, Mercy Camps, St. Francis Inn Trip, and Mission Mercy weeks](#).

The Assisi Community Center Gym uses this season as a great time for a summer athletic league. Our [youth volleyball league](#) is open to all youth rising 3rd -9th grade and teams will play this year in July and August.

[The Franciscan School](#) and the [St Francis of Assisi Preschool](#) are both open in the summer for tours, information, and registration. Please schedule time to check them out.





Pope Francis has called us to **SPEAK UP** and share your thoughts and experiences about our Catholic faith.

Join us for our final listening session.

**Every voice is important!**

**Join us Sunday, April 3rd**

1:30pm – 3:00pm in Clare Fellowship Hall

All are welcome!

Invite family, friends, neighbors.

[Click here to sign up](#)

## Play and Pray

### Play and Pray - Faith Formation for 1-4 Year-Olds

Interested in helping the young children of our Parish learn about God in a fun-filled, loving and educational environment? St. Francis is currently hiring part-time staff and seeking volunteers to help with the Play and Pray preschool faith formation program. Held during the 9:00am Sunday Mass, our program is geared towards children who are one-year-old (and walking) to four years of age. We spend each week playing and having fun with the kiddos while teaching them faith-based lessons centered around the weekly Gospel readings. It is truly a special hour of Playing and Praying.

Please contact [Andrea.Javier@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Andrea.Javier@stfrancisraleigh.org) for more information.

## Community Center

### Youth Volleyball Summer League

Sign-ups will run from early April-Mid May. The league will run from July 11th-August 26th with games and practices during the week. This league is open to Rising 3rd Graders-Rising 9th Graders of all skill levels. For more information: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/community-life-volleyball/>. Questions Please Contact: [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org)

### Youth Bball Skills Clinic

Youth Bball Skills Clinics will take place On Tuesday Evenings for grades 1st-8th Graders. This program is designed for campers to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph.

Tuesday Nights : 4/5, 4/12, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24

1st - 4th graders 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM

5th - 8th graders 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM

Cost: \$20.00 each Session or \$120.00 for all dates for the same child. For more information and to register visit:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/cl-youth-basketball-clinic/>

Questions Please Contact: [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org)

### Youth Soccer Skills Camp

The skills session will focus on teaching players fundamental skills key to players beginning team play. Sessions will introduce proper dribbling technique, skills to elude defenders and ball striking. Training sessions gradually increase pressure to allow players to familiarize themselves with techniques then play games that draw out the sessions topic. These Skills Camps will be run by Coerver Premier.

This will take place on the TFS Athletics Field.

4 Dates: Tuesday 4/19, Wednesday 4/20, Thursday 4/21, Friday 4/22

Group 1 - 2nd - 3rd graders 10:00 AM 12:20 PM

Group 2 - 4th -6th graders 10:00 AM 12:20 PM

Cost: \$35 each Session or \$130 for all 4 dates for the same child. For more Information and to Register Visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/youth-soccer-skills-camp/>

Questions Please Contact: [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org)



Join us this season in the SFA Lenten Challenge to see God in the struggles and joys of our lives.

Even in our trials, God is with us. Starting the FIRST Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil ALL are invited to share their Losses and Blessings in the collection boxes in the gathering area. Write down and share your sorrows to "Surrender our Losses" (Blue Box) and share your joys to "Finding our Blessings" (Yellow Box). On social media use #SFA Lenten Challenge to show us where you have seen God in your day.

God is all around us, we just need to open our eyes to see.



## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Did you know....Only a small percentage of child abuse is ever reported. You can learn how to respond to suspected abuse or neglect, and how to report it to the proper authorities. For more information, please attend a safe environment training being held virtually: <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/calendar?office=2249>.

For information on how you can become more informed and involved in keeping our children safe, please call: The Diocese of Raleigh Office of Child and Youth Protection at 1- 866-535-7233 or email [safe@raldioc.org](mailto:safe@raldioc.org). Information is also available at: <http://www.preventchildabusenc.org>.

**K-12 Faith Formation**  
**Registration is open now!**

**FORMATION**  
Meeting, Knowing, Loving, Serving Christ

**CROSS WALK** GRADES K-5  
**CROSS TRAIN** GRADES 6-8  
**CROSS ROAD** GRADES 9-12

Register for the 2022-2023 school year through Realm

### Registration for Fall Faith Formation Classes is Open!

Registration for Cross Walk (K-5th Grades), Cross Train (6th- 8th Grades) and Cross Road (9th-12th Grades) is now open! To register, log into your Realm account. Questions? Please contact Janie Hebert, Administrative Assistant for Faith Formation at 919-847-8205x237 or [janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org).

# We Need You

There are a number of ways to become involved and help support our celebration of the Mass. As liturgy is the "work of the people", we are in need of liturgical ministers in all areas.

**INTEREST FORM** [Click Here](#)

- Altar Server ■
- Cross Bearer ■
- Eucharistic Minister ■
- Hospitality Minister ■
- Lector ■
- Mass Coordinator ■
- Technical Minister ■



Scan for form



# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, TFS Principal

## A Franciscan School for All



Since 2000, The Franciscan School has provided a nurturing and challenging academic environment for students of St. Francis of Assisi Parish that encompasses Catholic values in the Franciscan tradition for students in grades K-8. As the school looks ahead to its 23rd year of serving the students and families of St. Francis of Assisi Parish as part of the parish education ministry, we continue to provide a solid foundation in our Faith with a strong academic tradition and a dedication to Franciscan values. We are first and truly a Catholic school. We are NOT an elite school, and we want to be able to provide a socially, racially and economically diverse choice for our families seeking an education steeped in the Catholic Faith. We are committed to being able to serve those in our parish, and in the larger community, who are seeking an education in a Catholic Environment.

To meet this commitment, we offer significant tuition assistance through the Parish tithe to the education ministry, from dedicated endowments, and through Diocesan scholarship funds, but in 2019 we decided we wanted to do more. We decided we could make progress towards

meeting our goal of making the benefits of a Catholic and Christ-centered education at The Franciscan School available to as many St. Francis students and families as possible by creating our Timberwolf Fund. We know how generous our families are, and we know that they are always looking for ways to help. Now our families who support Catholic education and may have some additional resources can donate to help their children's classmates be able to attend. "We never want the cost of tuition to be a deterrent to families seeking an excellent education," Principal Mike 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."

The quality of education is critical. 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 school students.

If you are a supporter of Catholic education, the Timberwolf Fund allows all those interested in making an impact in a child's life to help a student receive an excellent Franciscan Catholic education at The Franciscan School. Every gift, especially poignant during Lent, can help make a difference in the lives of our students at TFS, and, together, we can provide a strong academic foundation, develop compassionate life-long learners, and incorporate faith into their education as we bring them closer to God.

If you are interested in finding out more about our parish school, please take a look at our website available at <https://www.franciscanschool.org>.

The Franciscan School wants to partner with you to achieve the goals you have for your child and their educational experience in a Catholic faith environment. More information can be found on our website above or contact Principal Mike Watson at [michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org). If you are interested in helping a student attend The Franciscan School through our Timberwolf Fund you can donate through the parish site [here](#). Thank you always for your support of the education ministry at St. Francis of Assisi!

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES



*“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”* Jeremiah 29:12

As Catholic educators, we teach our children many things to help them grow in their faith. The importance of prayer, as you might expect, is certainly one of these. During Lent, we particularly emphasize it as one of the three pillars of this season. Talking to God through prayer helps us prepare for the glory of the Resurrection by allowing us to deepen our relationship with Him; this is something which He invites us into through all of the highs and lows of our daily lives. We teach our preschoolers that God always wants us to talk with Him and prayer is one way we express to Him our love.

All of the students at The Franciscan School start each morning by gathering together for prayer in their courtyard. It is one of many beautiful traditions at TFS. While we are not able to come together in a similar way with our young preschoolers, each class does begin and end the day in prayer. There are also multiple ways to pray before snack and lunch. Some classes do it with a song or a chant while other classes use a more traditional method such as a formal prayer. No matter the style, the children

recognize that this is a time to give thanks to God for the food and friends before them. Being the prayer leader for the week is definitely one of the top classroom jobs; everyone can appreciate what a special opportunity it is.

As our teachers and staff try to do with all lessons, particularly those related to knowing more about God, moments to practice and do are interwoven into other activities throughout the day. For example, when the children are walking outside to the playground, it presents a good opportunity to recognize and be grateful for the beauty God has provided around us. When our friend helps us clean up a play area in our room, it gives us a reminder to thank God for our friendships and all those who take care of us. Recently, I was outside with one of our 4-year-old classes on the playground. While out with them, emergency vehicle sirens could be heard off in the distance. The teacher asked all of the children to stop what they were doing and whisper a prayer of safety for both the rescuers and those whom they were going to help. The whole experience took only a couple of minutes, but what a powerful moment!

How many times have we heard or seen an ambulance or police car as we've been out and about? How often did we think to offer a prayer for those involved in that emergency call? Most parents naturally point out rescue vehicles to their small children as they race by because it is usually an exciting and easy way to practice naming. Flashing lights and blaring sirens generally capture a child's attention too. How hard would it be to extend the teaching to say a small prayer to keep everyone safe? This seems like a relatively simple practice for big and small alike!

As we continue with the rest of Lent, let us take every opportunity to show our young people how important a strong prayer life is. May it always be a part of our daily lives, not only so we can teach our youngest followers of Christ, but so we can strengthen our own relationship with God.

Come pray with us! For enrollment information for the 2022-2023 school year, please visit our website at: [preschoolatstfrancis.com](https://preschoolatstfrancis.com) or contact Shelley Freeman at: [shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org)



# JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace

## St. Francis Assists in Resettlement of Aziz Family



A couple weeks ago, in partnership with Raleigh refugee resettlement agency USCRI, St. Francis parishioners furnished and decorated an apartment for the Aziz Family. The Aziz Family is a mother and three young adult children. They have been in Raleigh since November living in a hotel awaiting availability of an apartment. They were overjoyed to finally be back in a stable and beautiful "home."

Between the generous gifts provided during the Advent Giving Tree and the purchases we made for their apartment, we delivered >\$1000 in gift cards, bedding, kitchenware, shelving, supplies and other needs for their apartment. We also received furniture and other household items from partner organization Green Chair Project.

Thanks again to the team of St. Francis volunteers that came together to make this happen, and for the generosity and support of the St. Francis parish.

If you are interested in being part of the next team of parishioners to resettle a refugee or help with other support needs for refugees like transportation, go to [www.stfrancisraleigh.org/refugee](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/refugee) to learn more or contact us at [welcomehomesfa@gmail.com](mailto:welcomehomesfa@gmail.com). Currently, there is a transportation need with one resettled individual who is living in Chapel Hill but works in Raleigh. Does this align with anyone's commute who could help with transportation? Contact us!

# JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



## Volunteers Needed to Help with Hosting Homeless Families with the Ministry of Family Promise

In Wake County there are many families facing homelessness and thus struggling, on a daily basis, to survive. Through our partnership with Family Promise, we have a special opportunity to shelter in our building up to four families attempting to transition out of homelessness. We have committed to doing this three times a year, and our next commitment is from Easter Sunday April 17 to Sunday April 24.

This will be our first in-person hosting in over two years. During the week, there are a whole host of volunteer opportunities for you and your family to help. This ministry is a great opportunity to share in a work of mercy for someone looking to better their lives.

We need people to prepare and share a meal, help with childcare or transportation, or be an overnight guest. You can bring the whole family!

Remember that just your physical presence and willingness to enter into their life for even this small period of time, says to that person: "You matter ... you are worthy and of value and deserving of dignity and my time."

There will be representatives in the Stewardship Center after all the Masses this weekend to answer questions and share with you how to sign you up. Or you may contact our ministry leader Ron Smith directly at [sfa.wihn@gmail.com](mailto:sfa.wihn@gmail.com).



## Employment Opportunities

### Coordinator of High School and Young Adult Ministry – Full Time

We are seeking a passionate, dynamic individual, to lead our formation program serving youth in grades 9 through 12 and our vibrant ministry for young adults. The coordinator will develop and implement programs using contemporary Catholic evangelization and catechetical approaches. The successful applicant will have a bachelor's degree with strong relational, communication, organizational, and leadership skills. An added plus is an understanding in the fields of evangelization and contemporary approaches to catechesis as well as experience with youth/young adult ministry. The Coordinator collaborates with the Formation 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 with a cover letter, and three references to: [Search.Committee@stfrancis-raleigh.org](mailto:Search.Committee@stfrancis-raleigh.org).



# JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



## **Our Migrant Ministry is Coming Back We need your help!**

Every summer fathers, brothers, uncles and sons leave their families in their home countries in Mexico and Central America and travel to our state with little more than a backpack to do the hard work of picking our fruits, vegetables, and tobacco for months on end. And a hard day it is:

5:00 am – wake, drag yourself out of bed, dress in the dark, eat a small cold breakfast

5:45 am – board the van headed to the fields, put on a trash bag for protection

6:00 am - harvesting of tobacco, fruits, and vegetables begins, in full sun, 80 degrees.

9:00 am - after picking as fast as you can for 3 hours, take a 10-minute water break

12:00 pm - eat lunch in the field, no soap and water to wash off pesticides

4:00 pm - final water break, 5-minutes

7:00 pm - board the van back to your trailer to make a bite to eat, do laundry, pack lunches

9:00 pm - to bed, hoping sleep will come to handle the same exhausting day tomorrow

While our brothers in Christ are here they live in run-down trailers and houses, often lacking the basic essentials like working plumbing and comfortable and clean bedding. They are overworked and underpaid doing work few Americans choose to do, only to provide better support and resources for their families back home.

Because we are a Catholic Community committed to living the Gospel in our daily lives, we have been serving our migrant brothers and easing their burdens for over 25 years. COVID interrupted our ability to do so these past two years. We are hoping to bring back this wonderful ministry this summer but we need your help. Won't you join us?

We serve these brothers in Christ on the margins of society by providing much needed supplies, driving them to and from Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Louisburg each Sunday from June 5 – September 25, 2022, and by offering them a monthly fiesta of food and fun.

We are in need of a team of leaders, drivers and fiesta cooks and coordinators. The ability to speak Spanish is not required. Families are welcome! Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/migrant-ministry-2/>

If you're interested, have questions or just want to hear more, representatives will be in the Stewardship Center after all the masses the weekend of April 2/3. Please stop by.

Or contact Becky Cawley any time at [becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org) or 919-847-8205 x 267 or 314-409-5034 (cell).

Thank you so much for considering this! Your help and kindness mean so much!

# JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



## Migrant Farm Worker Supply Drive

Every summer fathers, brothers, uncles and sons leave their families in their home countries of Mexico and Central America and travel to our state with little more than a backpack to do the hard work of picking our fruits, vegetables, and tobacco for months on end. While our brothers in Christ are here they live in run-down trailers and houses, often lacking the basic essentials. They do so only to better support and provide for their families at home.

We serve these brothers in Christ on the margins of society by driving them to and from mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Louisburg each Sunday from June 5 – September 25, 2022, and by offering them a monthly fiesta of food and fun. We also help by providing much needed supplies.

This year we are collecting ONLY the following. There will be bins in the Stewardship Center the weekend of April 2/3 for your donations.

- all personal hygiene items, including sunscreen
- laundry soaps
- caps/hats
- bandanas
- men's long sleeved shirts
- men's t-shirts
- new socks and underwear for men
- new work boots, all men's sizes
- towels and wash cloths.

If you have other household goods or personal items you would like to donate, please do so via The Durham Rescue Mission. We partner with this amazing organization on a regular basis and they do important work in our community. They have a thrift store just north of Brier Creek on Glenwood Avenue where you can drop off your items and/or you can schedule a pickup here: <https://drmthriftstore.org/>

Thank you for any help you can provide!

## Season of New Life

*Lent reminds us of our responsibility for the earth.*



Visit the Franciscan Community Garden on the St. Francis grounds and follow the contemplation guide provided by the QR code.

Sign up for an ICCT workshop on soils at [bit.ly/icctsoil](http://bit.ly/icctsoil)  
Learn about native plants here: [bit.ly/3ubvgik](http://bit.ly/3ubvgik)

More tips at: [stfrancisraleigh.org/care\\_for\\_creation](http://stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation)  
Questions? - [stfccreation@gmail.com](mailto:stfccreation@gmail.com)

**Care for Creation Ministry:** Are you passionate about the environment? Do you want to help our parish further our commitment to being a more ecological-minded community? Do you want to help lead ecological education programming for parishioners? Pope Francis has asked Catholics across the globe to put together a plan to strengthen our care of God's creation.

If you would like to help plan your response and ours, please email [stfccreation@gmail.com](mailto:stfccreation@gmail.com).

You can mail your contribution to us at:

**St Francis Of Assisi**  
11401 Leesville Road  
Raleigh, NC 27613

You can give online through:



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



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

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



# Forming a New Support Circle for a Family Experiencing Homelessness: Interested in Joining?

By The Costellos, St. Francis parishioners and leaders of the Support Circle Ministry



*Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

— St. Teresa of Ávila

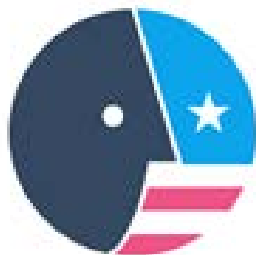
For a number of years now, St. Francis has partnered with Catholic Charities to help transition homeless families to stability through a program called Family Support Circles. Support Circles are small groups of parishioners who create a network of love and support – hands and feet of Christ – for families in transition from homelessness. This ministry allows parishioners to come together as a team to develop relationships with a homeless family over a period of a year. The objectives are to support the family through difficult times by helping with needed resources and skills, empowering them to move toward greater financial security and achieve overall stability.

Volunteering for St. Francis' Family Support Circle means joining together with a small group of parishioners committed to working together on a regular basis with the identified family. A willingness to help is all that's needed, as professional support and guidance is provided by Catholic Charities. Our team will practice accompaniment—being present along the path of a family in need as they move toward independence. To the best of our abilities, we will nurture their financial, social, emotional and spiritual growth.

All life is relationship and through relationships the healing presence of Christ becomes a reality. The Family Support Circle truly reflects Pope Francis' concept of the Church as field hospital. Does this ministry sound like something you are feeling called to? Whatever your charisms may be, we are confident there is a role for you in helping out this program.

We are starting another Support Circle this spring. If you are interested in helping as part of our team, we are hosting an info session to learn more on April 27th, 7:00pm in Padua Room on the campus of St. Francis. To sign up for this, visit <https://bit.ly/SFAsupportcircle> or contact Tom and Janine Costello at [saintfrancisfsc@gmail.com](mailto:saintfrancisfsc@gmail.com).

# JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



## America Talks

"America Talks" (Apr 21 and 23, 2022):

## Depolarizing Our Country One Conversation at a Time

"...be quick to listen, but slow to speak..." (James 1:19)

In conversations at St. Francis regarding topics of social concern, one topic consistently comes up among parishioners: division in the church and in civil society. On April 21 and 23, 2022, Americans from across the country will participate in a national event called America Talks <https://americatalks.us>, a coming together for face-to-face video conversations with people who have different backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences than their own. We are encouraging parishioners to participate in this event. "America Talks", now in its second year, is an initiative of the <https://www.listenfirstproject.org/>. Listen First Project, a consortium of 400+ large and small organizations is trying to address polarization by healing America, building relationships, and bridging divides. There's no cost for the event, and registration is easy: answer a few simple questions about yourself and your

views, choose a convenient date, and indicate whether you prefer a one-on-one conversation or a small group discussion. Come join us! To sign up or learn more, point your browser to <https://americatalks.us>.

The entire experience will take less than 90 minutes: after a 10-20 minute livestreamed introduction, you'll enter a breakout room with a written conversation guide and other tools intended to ensure a safe, productive, enjoyable conversation scheduled to last about an hour (you can interact for more or less time if you'd like; it's up to the participants.) The tools and guides will help you avoid the all-too-familiar "us versus them" mentality we all experience in favor of a much healthier "you and me" mindset. This isn't a debate, with two sides each trying to win an argument and change some-

one else's mind. It's not even an attempt to find common ground. Instead, it's about listening, seeing each other as neighbors, respecting differences, and seeking to understand and appreciate the experiences of others.

Several parishioners have already signed up for "America Talks". If there's interest, we may gather in May to reflect as a parish about our experience. If you'd like to receive occasional emails about this and other parish news and activities related to depolarization, consider joining the parish "Civil Discourse Allies" Realm group (login to Realm, then search for "civil"; or contact Trevor Thompson directly at [Trevor.Thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Trevor.Thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org).) You needn't worry about meetings or commitments; the allies group is nothing more than an email list that allows you to keep your finger on the pulse.



## Group Opportunities

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: Meets on the second Sunday of the month. A support group for LGBTQ+ people and family and friends. To receive an invite to the online meeting, contact Beth Gaudette 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](mailto:ltucker40@nc.rr.com), 937-478-9537. Centering Prayer: Thursdays, 9:35am or 7:30pm in Laverna.

**Community Center Classes:** Regular exercise classes and parent/child classes run weekly, September-May. [www.stfrancisraleigh.org/programs-and-classes](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/programs-and-classes).

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

**Divorce Care:** Divorce Care – Our next session will begin meeting from February 1 to May 3 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. For more information contact Bill Morgan at [dejanuts@yahoo.com](mailto:dejanuts@yahoo.com) or visit <https://www.divorcecare.org/about>.

**Grief Support Group:** Contact Marsha Riely at [marshariely@mac.com](mailto:marshariely@mac.com) or Marlys Varga at [marlysvarga@hotmail.com](mailto:marlysvarga@hotmail.com).

**GriefShare:** Contact Beth Gaudette at [beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org).

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

**Men's Prayer Breakfast:** 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](mailto:stephenwandrews@outlook.com).

**Padre Pio Secular Franciscans:** Learn more about living Franciscan spirituality in the secular world. Monthly Gatherings the 4th Sunday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm Founders Room. Contact: Ellen Ferrone - [ellen.ferrone@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.ferrone@gmail.com).

**Peace Pole Prayer:** Join us after the 9:00am 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, contact Marian Monti, [ianmar94@aol.com](mailto:ianmar94@aol.com).

**50+ Adults Group:** Monthly potluck luncheons throughout the year and monthly game days, September through May in Clare Fellowship Hall. Pat Gerney, 919-803-8276.

**Women's Ministry:**

- Friday Morning with Celesta Carlson – [ccarlson210@gmail.com](mailto:ccarlson210@gmail.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities

**To all our volunteers:**

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

### Caring Connections

We are looking for a volunteer ministry coordinator for Caring Connections. The duties would be to add/edit/delete tasks in our lotsahelping-hands.com app, create announcements to the ministry, monitor that tasks are being picked up, and if not, notify me. Training is provided. Total weekly time commitments – 1 hour. If you're interested, contact Beth Gaudette at [beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org) or 919-847-8205x241.

### 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, 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/>.

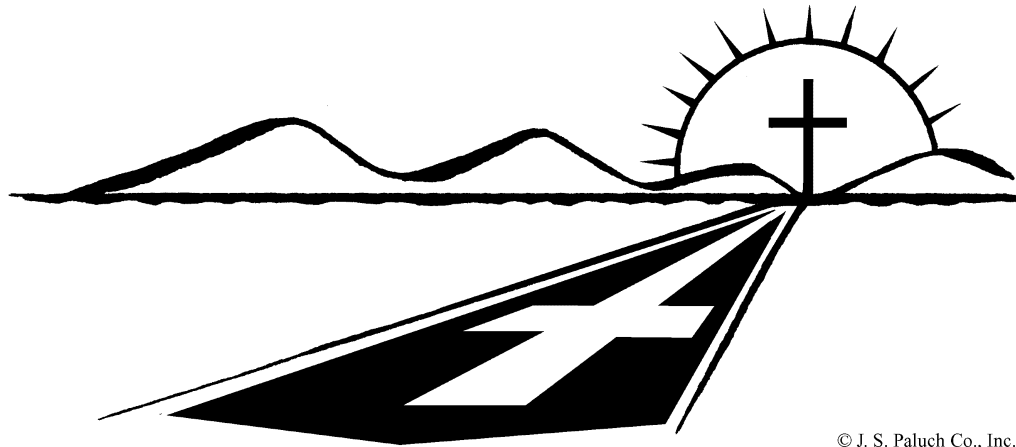
### Thank you!

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.

**For a complete list  
of SFA contacts  
and ministries,  
click here.**

## Fifth Sunday of Lent April 3, 2022

I consider everything as a loss because of the  
supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.  
— *Philippians 3:8*



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