

Founder's Day Celebration Highlights



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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 11





Last weekend we celebrated our 40th anniversary. We were blessed to have many of our founders present for some portion of our celebrations. We decided to feature them last weekend because they established an important bedrock upon which we have built a strong community of faith and service. Their legacy, which we see all around us in terms of people, ministry, and buildings, is a testimony to God's blessing upon their efforts. As founders, we hold them in high regard for what they set into motion and for their labors of love and service that have helped us to become the faith community we are today.

If you would like to know what they set in motion, please read our parish history. Here is a link:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/fri-ar-farewell-history/>

As I read this history, I stand in amazement of what this community has stood for and still stands for as we mark our 40th birthday. Allow me to highlight just a few.

First would be the wholehearted embracement of the laity in exercising your baptismal offices of priest, prophet, and leader in all aspects of parish life and ministry and equipping you to take your rightful place in shepherding the community and serving, both within and beyond, our church and schools. When people ask me how we survive with just two full-time ministerial priests on the staff, I tell them that we actually have thousands of baptismal priests, all doing their part to promote the Reign of God.

Second would be your commitment to justice and peace issues. You are peerless among Catholic communities in the diocese and beyond in this commitment. It would be impossible to tally the amount

of financial, material, and human resources you have given to help those in need, a faithful response to Fr. David McBriar's challenge when he arrived in 1987 that continues to this day: "What does the city need and how can we help?" His prophetic words, which the community has embraced to this day, have borne good fruit for others and for us.

Third would be an openness to all people no matter their walk in life and faith. Inclusion is an appropriate descriptive of this parish and apropos of Hilaire Belloc's definition of "Catholic" which is: "Here comes everybody!"

I have said repeatedly to others that we are peerless on multiple levels in serving the Lord and the Gospel both within and beyond our community. No other parish has such a deep commitment to issues like these and to so many of them. We feed hungers and meet needs that other parishes do not.

Fourth would be our spirit of hospitality and welcome. Countless people have told me the reason they became a member of this community or have returned again and again is the spirit of hospitality and welcome they experience here.

Fifth, but not least, is the Franciscan spirit that pervades this place. I tell people that what others and I "feel" here is similar to what I have "felt" every time I have been to Assisi. There is a spirit of peace and spiritual presence that pervades this place. I sense St. Francis is blessing us with his presence. This is a source of great consolation and wisdom for me and I hope for you too.

As pastor, I am so proud of all we have accomplished in 40 years and pledge to do my best to keep this heritage intact as we move to our golden anniversary in 2032.

Fr. Michael

Prayer Request for Fr. David McBriar

Fr. David recently underwent surgery and is now in rehab. Please remember him in your prayers. You may email him at: david.mcbriar@gmail.com or send him greetings/best wishes at: 180 Sargent Ave., Beacon, NY 12508



Daily Mass on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays will be held in the Chapel starting on Monday, May 2nd.

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

+Marilyn Hampel
Mother of William Hampel

+Adele Dickinson
Wife of Ron Dickinson

Weekly Envelope Schedule

May 1 Weekly
May 1 Mortgage Sunday
May 8 Weekly
May 15 Weekly
May 15 Catholic Home Mission/Black & Indian Missions
May 22 Weekly
May 29 Weekly

[For a complete list of SFA contacts](#)
[Group Opportunities,](#)
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)
[and Ministries, click here.](#)

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR APRIL 30 TO MAY 8



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday April 30, 2022
Saturday, 5:30pm
+Efrain and +Carmen Anglero
Requested by Karyn Anglero

Sunday May 1, 2022
Sunday, 7:15am
+Barbara Hellar
Requested by Kathleen Varnhold

Sunday, 9:00am
+Ian Lewis
Requested by James and Nancy Falanga

Sunday, 11:45am
+Lucia DiMaggio
Requested by Marianne Heston

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

Monday May 2, 9AM
+Michael Surles and +Walt Smith
Requested by Marge Smith

Tuesday May 3, 9AM
+Vincent Remsburger
Requested by Janice Horner

Wednesday May 4, 9AM
+Albina Gwisdala
Requested by Marge Smith

Thursday May 5, 9AM
+Florence Pirog
Requested by Beverly Skinner

Friday May 6, 9AM
+Greg Brown
Requested by Moira Roberts

Saturday May 7, 2022
Saturday, 5:30
+Barbara Ann Finnerty
Requested by The Finnerty Family

Sunday May 8, 2022
Sunday, 7:15
+Elizabeth Engelhardt and +Robert Bradford Young
Requested by John & Barb Young

Sunday, 9:00
+Richard Shine
Requested by Stacey Shine

Sunday, 11:45AM
+Caroline Tucci
Requested by William Tucci

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) Fr. David McBriar, OFM
Requested by Msgr. Clay
Health & Wellness

(ill) Pedro Pacheco
Requested by Fr. Jairo Maldonado-Pacheco
Health & Wellness

+Marilyn Hampel
Mother of William Hampel
Remembrance

+Adele Dickinson
Wife of Ron Dickinson
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.

We pray for our children celebrating FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST

Vivian Argao	Katherine DeMeo	Emma Layrisse	Alexa Royal
Andrew Austin	Gavin DiLorenzo	Stella Lewis	Giannina Russo
Margaret Austin	Joseph DiLorenzo	Addison Lidaka	Charley Sanchez
Leah Bagin	John Doles	Maddox Lipkin	Emma Sanspree
Diya Balaji	Lucy Dupere	Elisabeth Loos	Lucy Scaramuzzo
Lucca Barela	Emily Earnhardt	Ava Lowe	Michael Schwartz
Declan Bashar	Taylor Earnhardt	Logan Macchi	John Setzer
Sebastian Bassett	Sadie Edmister	Finn Maddox	Cade Shaw
Alexander Beltrone	Amelia Edwards	Luke McCready	Brynn Shreve
Griffin Beltrone	Grace Elliott	Brooke Merrigan	Callen Silvis
Ryan Bennett	Samantha Ellis	Vivian Meyer	David Simmons
Ingrid Bentley	Camden Ellison	Hannah Mialkowski	Sophie Simmons
Liam Berner	Elin Ennis	Cecilia Miller	Shawn Simpson
Giada Blandina	Jackson Enterline	Adeline Moore	Andrew Smith
Claire Boggiano	Ava Gabbard	Joseph Moore	Cheryl Snow
Jonah Bosken	Ariana Garnes	Braydon Morrow	Teagan Spears
Talon Braxton	Bella Garnes	Matias Munoz	Reagan Stewart
Ford Budnik	Caelan Garvey	Mackenzie Newbill	Elijah Stutzman
Nicholas Burch	Brooklyn Germano	Georges Nicolas	Emily Styers
John Burnap	Riley Glisson	Indiana Nielsen	Jack Taylor
Braidan Busse	Peyton Guillory	Reese Noblitt	Guy Teeple
Haidyn Buzan	Lincoln Hamlin	Harper Nowak	Charlie Thomas
Noah Carr	Angel Harris	Sophia Odinaka	Heidi Thomas
Jaxden Cayton	Kenna Hasher	Matthew Ogden	Brett Thompson, Jr.
Callie Ceremuga	Chloe Healy	Ashley Olsen	Kendall Thuftedal
Sadie Ceremuga	Benjamin Hetzel	Caroline O'Reardon	Alison Tyler
Amelia Ciaramitaro	Hayla Houfek	Jakub Pcolinsky	Connor Uniacke
Kaylyn Clark	Amaya Hovey	Mia Perez-Tavernier	Patrick Uniacke
Luke Clayton	Chiziterem Ifediorah	Julia Pinheiro	Fabio Valdivieso-Prado
Molly Collins	Sabrina Isenberg	Martins	Italo Valdivieso-Prado
Violet Copas	Brinkley Jackson	Joseph Pitsicalis	Charlotte Vescio
Tucker Cortazzo	Olivia Jackson	Riley Polites	Gabriel Villegas Cruz
Juliana Cronin	Adeline Joseph	Cecelia Priddy	Brady Waller
Grant Cygnarowicz	Keegan Kaselitz	Marco Principio III	Davis Waller
Jude Davidson	Aurelia Keppler	Levi Puhak	Elia Ward
Olivia Davidson	Chelsea Kinane	Cordelia Purser	Kieran Wilkins
Dilan Davila Osorio	Liam Kinane	Valentina Ramirez	Robert Wilson
Ida Davis	Jacob Klecha	Julian Rivas	Gabriela Wolak
Ana Jimena	Arya Krotoszynski	Emily Rivera	Emerson Woods
De-la-Maza-Martinez	Adam Lacson	Neal Robertson III	Aiden Yablunosky
Clara De Queiroz	Avery Lam	Isla Rodriguez	Reid Yeazel
Francesca DeGuzman		Olivia Rodriguez	Nathan Young

Upcoming Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Contact: Jonathan Vanegas-Calderon with any questions.
jonathan.vanegas-calderon@stfrancisraleigh.org



Consisting of five sessions, this study will meet in Founders from 10:00am until 11:30am on Wednesday mornings beginning on June 1st and continuing through June 29th. (Location subject to change.)

Cost: \$30.00

In The Sermon on the Mount, author Clifford Yeary challenges us to hear the sermon once again as Christ intended it, as our call to follow him whose life illustrated its every ideal. Yeary helps us to hear the Sermon on the Mount as a message for each of us, a

challenge that is our constant call to renewal. Cost of study includes book (which includes commentary, study and reflection questions, prayer and access to online lectures). For more information regarding this study and materials, visit: Little Rock Scripture Studies/Sermon on the Mount.

Co-Facilitators: Diane Rosendahl & Barbara Efird



This virtual adult Bible study group will meet from 7:30pm until 8:30pm on Wednesday evenings beginning on May 25th and continuing through June 22nd.

Cost: \$30.00

Exodus, Part II covers the final twenty-five chapters of Exodus. Beginning with the insecurity of the desert wanderings, to encountering God on Sinai and then constructing the tent of dwelling, God's people learn what it means to be part of a covenant with the

one who liberates and also gives the Law to guide and direct them. Book includes commentary, study and reflection questions as well as prayers, and access to online resources. Author Stephen J. Binz is a biblical scholar, award-winning author, popular speaker, and pilgrimage guide. He studied Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Jerusalem and has developed dozens of books and programs in biblical theology and spirituality.

Facilitator: Rich Zemonek



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.

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 for more information.



✝
*please pray
for all children
celebrating
First Holy
Eucharist
this week*



Administrative Assistant for Operations – Full Time (40 hours)

This position provides outstanding administrative support to the departments of operations, stewardship and safe environment with tact and confidentiality. The ability to multi-task in an effective and efficient manner is required, as this position handles a wide variety of duties, including website and database management, as well as communications and logistical support for events. The successful candidate will have excellent customer service skills, as well as strong computer skill.

To apply, please email cover letter and resume by May 9 to Trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

Laudato Si'

"I ask you in the name of God, to defend Mother Earth"

Pope Francis



The Pope is urgently calling ALL of us to commit to a 7-year plan to live more gently on our earth. To learn more about his request, watch an introduction to Laudato Si'.

[youtube.com/watch?v=DNU8fn_ap_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNU8fn_ap_U) (

(10 minutes)

For more eco info: stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation

To connect with us: stfccreation@gmail.com

Adult Open Play Ministry Leaders Needed!

We are looking for Ministry Leaders to coordinate the Adult Open Play Leagues for

- Men's 30 + Basketball Open Play
- Women's 18+ Basketball Open Play

For more information please contact Mary Arleth (Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org)

Youth Volleyball Summer League

Signups are NOW OPEN. The league will run from July 11th-mid/late August 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 and to register please visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/community-life-volleyball/> Questions Please Contact: 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 :
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.

For more information and to Register Visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/cl-youth-basketball-clinic/> Questions Please Contact: Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

Twice a year we help to fill the pantry at OLR, which serves the poor and rural communities, where approximately 24% live below the poverty line. This year, due to the Covid-19 crisis, the need is even greater. Please consider filling a bag! A complete list of foods needed includes: rice & maseca flour, canned tomatoes, vegetables, fruit & meats, pasta and rice, macaroni & cheese, boxes of cereal, fruit juice, dried beans, peanut butter and jelly, and baby wipes. **Please drop off your bag on Saturday, May 7th from 5:15- 6:45 pm or Sunday, May 8th from 7:00 am – 1 pm or 5:15 pm – 6:45pm.** For more information, the list of foods needed or to volunteer, please visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/our-lady-of-the-rosary/> Thank you for your Generosity!

Divorce Care

Most people will tell you that separation and divorce are the most painful and stressful experiences they've ever faced. It's a confusing time when you feel isolated and have lots of questions about issues you've never faced before. You don't have to go through separation or divorce alone, Divorce Care is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Divorce Care seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable resources to help you heal from the pain and trauma of separation or divorce. Thousands of Divorce Care support groups meet throughout the US, Canada and around the world, and the group is offered right here at Saint Francis.

The Next Series of Divorce Care will be Sep 6, 2022 – Dec 13, 2022, for more information please contact Bill Morgan at dejanuts@yahoo.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/



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

As we close out April, designated as national prevention of child abuse month, please continue to pray for those who have experienced the pain of abuse.

It is an adult's job to keep children safe as they grow in "wisdom and age and favor before God and man." (Lk 2:52 NABRE) Your relationship with your child is essential for their formation and protection. Intervene when you see a child mistreated. Correct a child if he/she is unkind to others. Children understand the concept of "rules". Let them know which behaviors are against the "rules" in your home/classroom/activity. Bullies are empowered when bystanders are passive. Help teach by your example that a person can act when someone's behavior is hurtful.


For more information on how you can help prevent child abuse, visit:

[Diocese of Raleigh Office of Child and Youth Protection](https://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/child-and-youth-protection)

Prevent Child Abuse NC: <https://www.preventchildabusenc.org/>

Darkness to Light: <https://www.d2l.org/>


Coffee & Donuts



Sunday, May 1 @ 10:00 am

Join us for Coffee and Donuts Sunday, May 1st following 9:00am Mass from 10:00am-11:00am in Fellowship Hall hosted by the Scouts.

It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. **All are welcome!**



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

What Easter Means at TFS”

by Father Jim



“The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world! And every land, every people exults in praise of God!” So speaks the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer all throughout the Easter Season! Fifty days to celebrate renewal brought to us once again by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Lofty words and filled with wonder and promise, but what might this mean for a Catholic and Franciscan elementary school? How do our students, faculty, and staff not only embrace the meaning of these words, but more importantly, how do they live them out?

It begins with JOY! If there is one constant comment and insight that visitors and touring families take away from their experience of The Franciscan School, it is always that our students radiate JOY – the joy of sharing each day together, the joy of learning, the joy of living out lives of faith, the joy of recognizing their gifts and potential and putting these into practice. It is the Resurrection already at work day by day, because Easter is not a day or a

season only, it is the reality and truth of what it means to live always as a believer in the world.

And this joy is united with a sense of renewal. For our students, renewal is taught not just as beginning again in the same place, but rather as beginning again in a new way. It is what makes it possible for us to learn from our mistakes and the times in which we fail. We at The Franciscan School teach our students that our mistakes and failures never define us, but surprisingly and remarkably allow and enable us to move to new and unexpected ways of understanding ourselves. This is the renewal the Resurrection brings forth – when all seemed a dismal and disheartening failure, God reverses human expectations, and brings forth new life and new beginnings in abundance. And God does this without recrimination, condemnation, or punishment for all the failures.

We help our students to remember this central and pivotal truth of our faith all year round and especially during the

Easter Season. We teach them to be courageous and fearless when faced with making choices and decisions in their lives. We teach our students that God does not want us to get everything right all the time, because that is impossible. What God desires, rather, is that we get life “less wrong.” Through beginning again in a different place, having gotten something “less wrong,” we appreciate that the constant renewal called forth by Christ’s resurrection becomes a means for growth and transformation. It is the vehicle for discovery and wonder, it is the means for accomplishment and achievement, it is process of coming to know ourselves as created by God with unique purposes that God knows will work for good in our world.

Such is the joy of Resurrection that we, at [The Franciscan School](#), live day after day. It is what inspired our patrons Saint Francis and Saint Clare to never give up when all seemed lost. This joy is born of trust in God’s great promises; promises that we teach our students God will bring to fulfillment!

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director



“And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” Mark 16:15

As you are aware, Pope Francis has called people from around the world to offer their voices, thoughts, and experience about our Catholic faith. He has invited everyone to participate in a global Synod. Our parish hosted various sessions over the last few months which allowed people to participate both online and in-person. Members of the Pastoral Council are currently working on creating a document to submit to the Diocese of Raleigh which will reflect the input that was gathered. This will then be part of a larger collection of responses which will eventually make its way to Rome to be shared at a gathering with Pope Francis next year.

Pope Francis encouraged participation from all, particularly those who might not always be easily heard. With this in mind, a plan was developed by members of the Preschool Advisory Council to find a way to include some of the littlest members of our parish community. Just before Easter, our preschool students were given the opportunity to share their responses, both through drawings and words. From the list of possible Synod questions,

two were adapted to be used with our preschoolers. One was presented to our 2 and 3-year olds while another was asked of our 4 and 5-year olds. The teachers recorded each child's answer on individual pieces of paper and the child was then able to illustrate their answer with their best artistic depictions. For each group, one of our parents beautifully crafted banners with the drawings.

The first banner depicts the children's answers to the question: “What would you like to thank God for?” The answers ranged from “my cars”, “Cheez-its”, and “popcorn” to “my mommy”, “my school”, and “Jesus!” The second banner shared the responses to the question asked of our 4 and 5's: “What will God help you to do when you grow up?” I certainly smiled when I read answers which ran the gamut of everything from: “be a mermaid” and “help sick people” to “be strong” and “to learn a lot”. Despite the wide array of answers, they all had a common thread of being truly genuine while expressing the belief that God would be with them

in the future to help them do many things, both big and small.

While I was admiring the banners, my heart was definitely made lighter as I pursued all of the students' responses. I daresay that my faith was also inspired in a very meaningful way. As I looked at each student's picture and words, I was humbled by their honesty, simplicity, and the reality of God through their eyes. Seeing how God was real for them offered me a way to see my own faith through a fresh perspective with a lens not tainted by any outside influence or clouded by misconceptions. I would encourage you to stop by the gathering area outside of Fellowship Hall and admire the ideas and work of our children. Perhaps it will also offer you a new way to imagine the presence of God in your own life; it might even enhance your personal journey of faith!

Join our preschool for the 2022-2023 school year, please visit our website at: preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director, Office of Justice and Peace

MAY
21

9AM TO NOON

Franciscan at Heart

DEEPENING
OUR
COMMITMENT
TO CARE FOR
THE POOR
AND
THE EARTH.



How do we want to live in light of our Franciscan values? Msgr. Kevin Irwin will be joining us on **May 21st at 9am** to help us strengthen our commitment and identity as Franciscans. We all live in this community/home and we are called to care for it in a common way.

Register on Realm

We are really excited about this gathering on May 21st to deepen our commitment to the Franciscan identity and vision that undergirds the ethos of our parish community. The impetus for this event is an invitation by the Vatican to all Catholic institutions to gather and reflect on how they are living out the gospel way of life amidst the challenges of our contemporary times.

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote a major teaching document inspired by our patron St. Francis of Assisi called *Laudato si'*: On Care of our

Common Home that articulated a vision for this gospel life. Pope Francis is now encouraging us to align our priorities and plans for the future with this vision.

And so, on May 21st, we are gathering our parish leaders and parishioners who feel excited about our Franciscan legacy to do some reflection and strategizing about how we might embody the gospel life here and now.

We will have a keynote by Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York who has served on the faculty of The

Catholic University of America for more than thirty years. He is author of several books, including *A Commentary on Laudato si'*: Examining the Background, Contributions, Implementation, and Future of Pope Francis's Encyclical. After this keynote, we will engage in table reflection and brainstorming ideas for embodying our Franciscan vision for the future.

Join us by registering in Realm. Contact Trevor Thompson, trevor.thompson@stfrancisra-leigh.org for future questions.

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director, Office of Justice and Peace

A Greener Lent = A Greener Earth



For Lent this year, 60 St. Francis parishioners signed up to participate in Greener Lent. This was an invitation to align one's Lenten abstinence and fasting practices with a greater awareness of our impact on the environment. In total, through this commitment of our parish, we saved 9079 CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent units) from entering our atmosphere. That's the same as not using 463 gallons of gasoline. As Christians, we are called to be caretakers of God's creation. This requires that we steward God's resources for the benefit of all and grow in our awareness of our lifestyle's impact on the most vulnerable. As we celebrate the 50 days of Easter and then head into ordinary time, consider setting aside a day or more in sacrifice and prayer each week to keep our hearts focused on our gratitude for our beautiful earth and the plight of the poor. Let's tell others about how they can positively impact the environment through simple lifestyle and diet changes, which over 40 days, or a lifetime, can have a real impact. If you would like to care for God's creation with others from our parish, contact our Care of Creation Ministry at stfccreation@gmail.com.

Upcoming At a Glance

May 1

Coffee & Donuts

(See pg 8)

May 7

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

(See pg 7)

May 7

**SFA Habitat for Habitat
Spring Building Day**

(See pg 13)

May 21

Franciscan at Heart

(See pg 11)

May 25 - June 22

Bible Study: Exodus Part 2

This virtual adult Bible study group will meet from 7:30pm until 8:30pm on Wednesday evenings. (See pg 5)

June 1-29

Bible Study: The Sermon on the Mount

Consisting of five sessions, this study will meet in Founders from 10:00am until 11:30am on Wednesday mornings beginning on June 1st and continuing through June 29 (See pg 5)

August 14

**Ecumenical Delegation to the
US/Mexico Border**

(See page 14)

September 6: Divorce Care

(See pg 7)

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

By Ann Bingham

Have you ever had to sell your car to pay for a lawyer because your husband was arrested during a traffic stop, and he is the only breadwinner for you, your six-year-old son and the baby on the way?

- Or have you been unable to pay for the utilities in your apartment because you aren't working because of a recent surgery?
- Or been a 65-year-old worker without work because the day care that employed you at closed permanently because of COVID and you need help with your electric bill?
- Or known that St. Vincent de Paul was unable to help you financially while you were living in an extended stay hotel but asked "If you could just call and say hello, I'd be so grateful." The reason you are living in the hotel is because you are a 55-year-old woman in an abusive situation and with serious health problems.
- Or wanted to move out of your neighborhood because one son was shot and killed there a year ago and your other children are in the same type of danger?

All of these, and many more, are cases that volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul Society respond to with gentleness, compassion, and financial aid.

SVdP can assist those who are in need because of volunteers like the parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi. Besides providing money for rental and utility payment assistance, SVdP refers neighbors to agencies that can also help.

SVdP maintains an extensive referral library that volunteers use to help the neighbors with future needs.

SVdP needs a volunteer to help research. If you feel called to help the poor from the comfort of your own home, consider volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul. We need a second person to update our list of helping agencies.

We focus on providing short term help for families in the area. Most of our cases are the working poor, families who can pay their bills until they get an unexpected situation – a funeral out of town, a car needing service, a sickness. And then they need help making their rent that month.

We try to provide a bit of money in the situations above, but we also provide updated lists of resources – how to get in touch with Legal Aid, where to find other help with utilities, which food banks are in their area, etc.

We need someone willing to update these lists by checking websites and calling phone numbers. Familiarity with Google docs is helpful but not necessary. On-the-job training available!

What a wonderful way to help people while staying at home. If you can assist, contact Ann Bingham at stfrancissvdp4444@gmail.com

SFA Habitat for Habitat Spring Building Day May 7



There's something really meaningful about picking up a hammer and nail and building a home with Habitat for Humanity. Through Habitat, we partner with a first-time home owner and a number of other local faith congregations, and we build a brand new and affordable home in Wake County. In October, 15 parishioners worked together with scores of others on a site in Apex. This spring, on Saturday May 7th, we have another opportunity to work again. We are inviting you to join us! The commitment is 8:15 to 3:30pm, and we provide lunch! No building experience necessary. Jobs for everyone.

If you are interested in signing up, go directly to Habitat sign-up: <https://habitatwake.volunteer-hub.com/lp/fallapostlesbuild/>

Or contact our ministry leader Jeremy Roca at jeremyjroca@gmail.com

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director, Office of Justice and Peace

Join an Ecumenical Delegation to the US/Mexico Border



Photo credit: <http://fronteradecristo.org/>

There is much in the news about refugees, migrants, and immigration laws, and our US Catholic Bishops have continued to speak out for the necessity of comprehensive immigration reform, pastoral and dignified care of migrants, and the enforcement of immigration laws in ways that are targeted, safe, orderly, proportional, and humane. Our southern border with Mexico draws a great deal of the attention. Given our distance from the border, it is often difficult to get a real sense of the dynamics at play. To address this, we are lifting up an opportunity to make a delegation to the US/Mexico border as part of an ecumenical effort in Raleigh.

Gail Phares, long-time St. Francis parishioner, community organizer, and co-founder of an organization dedicated to human rights in Latin America will lead a trip to the US-Mexico border August 14-24, 2022. This will be a wonderful immersive opportunity for participants to get to know the faces of migration and the dynamics of the border and stand in solidarity in prayer and ministry with immigrants.

On this trip, delegates will travel to sister cities on the US-Mexico Border, Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, and Douglas, Arizona, USA, with organization Frontera de Cristo.

The delegation will...

- meet with immigrants to learn about migration from directly affected communities
- go into the desert to commemorate sites where migrants have died while crossing the desert
- participate in opportunities to advocate for immigration reform

The cost is \$1000 per person, plus airfare.

Contact Trevor Thompson, trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org for more information or to apply to go on this trip.

Founder's Day Celebration Highlights



We are incredibly grateful for all our dedicated and hard-working volunteers who assisted in the Founders Day Events, last weekend. We had volunteers helping with activities for the kids, taking pictures and passing out pizza! It is because of your time and talents that the Founder's Day Event was such a success!

We would also like to take the time to thank the Knights of Columbus who helped served Coffee and Donuts last Sunday. This was another great way for our Franciscan Community to come together and to celebrate the past 40 years!

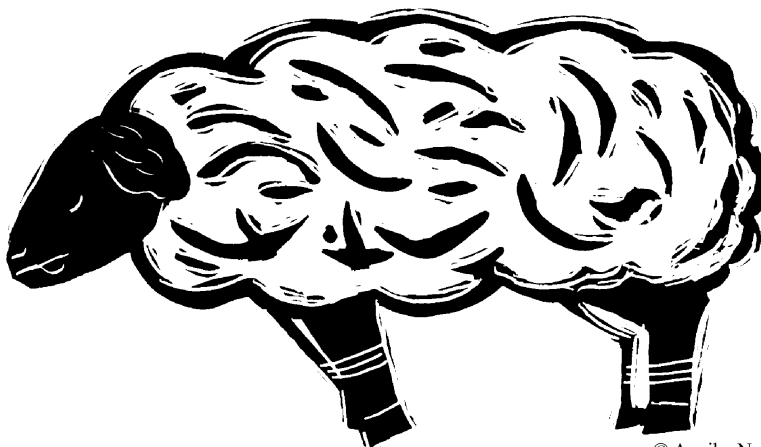
Lastly, thank you to all of our Founders who came and participated in these events. It is because of your hard work and dedication, which began 40 years ago, that the little Parrish in the Woods has become what it is today! Thank you!

Third Sunday of Easter

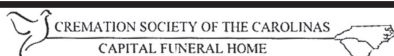
May 1, 2022

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and riches,
wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and blessing.”

— Revelation 5:12



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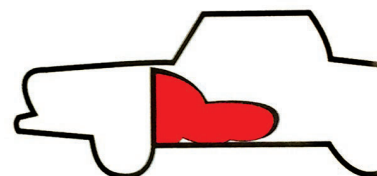
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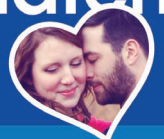
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