

May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

MAY
21

9AM TO NOON

Franciscan at Heart

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

Join us on **May 21st at 9am** to help us strengthen our commitment and identity as Franciscans. **See page 5 for more details.**



See page 4

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.



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

See page 7



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

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



Initiation Sacraments Season:

Spring is traditionally a time when children, adolescents, and adults celebrate the sacraments of initiation (i.e., baptism, confirmation, and eucharist) in the Catholic

Church. Between April 30-June 19, 165 children will be welcomed to the Eucharistic table for the first time. Fr. Jairo and I celebrated four First Eucharist Masses over the past two Saturdays and we will celebrate with several more at Sunday Masses in May and June. Great work has been done by our TFS second-grade teachers, Teresa Walsh, Lisa Ward, and Karin Ruiz, and by our elementary faith formation coordinator, Marisa Ferrera, and their assistants to prepare these children for their initiation to the table of the Eucharist. Our next adolescent Confirmation group of approximately 120 will complete their two-year formation program this spring and will be confirmed on September 10.

Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process has been in a transition this year. We have moved to a year-round process so there are now multiple times in a year when new people may begin the inquiry process with us (next two groups begin respectively on June 1 and September 7). Discernment to celebrate the initiation sacraments more intentionally focuses on readiness to celebrate these sacraments and to live the life of a practicing Catholic Christian. It is also not tied so strongly to when someone “completes the classes” because formation is year-round. This shift follows more closely what the RCIA guidelines recommend.

This shift means that those in formation do not all celebrate the sacraments of initiation at the same time. It also allows the Easter Vigil to retain its primary focus in terms of initiation sacraments: the unbaptized. The shift recognizes that there are various levels of knowledge and practice of the Christian faith that individuals bring with them that need to be taken into account as they prepare to celebrate initiation into the Catholic Church or complete their initiation sacraments as Catholics.

We have three groups of people in the RCIA: the unbaptized, those baptized in other Christian denominations/churches who wish to become members of the Catholic Church, and those baptized as Catholics in infancy who, as children of catechetical age or as adults, wish to complete the initiation sacraments. Because they will come from a variety of backgrounds and levels of catechesis, they are initiated when they believe they are ready and the team and sponsors who are accompanying them discern they are ready as well. We also have age-appropriate formation for younger children in these three categories (canon law defines them as between the ages of 8 and 15).

Two of our unbaptized catechumens celebrated all three sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 16. Two of our RCIA Catholic candidates were confirmed by Bishop Zarama on March 15 and four others were confirmed by me (with faculty to confirm granted to me by Bishop Zarama) on May 1. Several of those baptized in other Christian denominations will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, and be confirmed and, at the same Mass, receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time with us.

There are many others still in the process of formation who will celebrate the sacraments of initiation when they believe they are ready and the RCIA team and their sponsors have also discerned they are ready as well.

The RCIA in a parish our size needs many people to make it work well. If you are interested in learning more about how you may be part of our team or would like to serve as a sponsor for someone going through the process, please feel free to contact me.

If you are interested in exploring a possible call by the Lord to become a Catholic or to complete your sacraments of initiation if you were baptized as a Catholic in infancy but have not received the other two sacraments of initiation, please feel free to contact me.

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

THROUGH BAPTISM MAY
THEY WALK ALWAYS AS A
CHILD OF THE LIGHT:

Seth William Blanton

Son of Taylor and Melissa Blanton

Aisa Tyree Ward

Son of Michael and Sandra Ward

Elia Marie Ward

Daughter of Michael and Sandra Ward

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

+Marlene Rosen

Mother of Michael Rosen

+Celesta Miceli

Mother of Celesta Calson

Weekly Envelope Schedule

May 8 Weekly

May 15 Weekly

May 15 Catholic Home Mission/Black
& Indian Missions

May 22 Weekly

May 29 Weekly



**Daily Mass on Mondays,
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and
Fridays is held in the Chapel.**

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

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MAY 7 TO MAY 15



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday May 9, 9AM

+Frances Mary Slobodzin

Requested by Veronica Campbell

Tuesday May 10, 9AM

+Julie Olimpo

Requested by Emma Dempsey

Wednesday May 11, 9AM

+Luis Carlos Maldonado-Ortiz

Requested by Fr. Jairo Maldonado-Pacheco

Thursday May 12, 9AM

+Dolores Moreno

Requested by Wendy Santana

Friday May 13, 9AM

+Karen Barnes

Requested by Megan Long

Saturday May 14, 2022

Saturday, 5:30

+Anthony DiMaggio

Marianne Heston

Sunday May 15, 2022

Sunday, 7:15

+Judy Marston

Requested by Skip and Linda Allen

Sunday, 9:00

+Eileen Roth

Requested by Mia Batz

Sunday, 11:45AM

+Eleanor Becker

Requested by Steve Becker

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

(ill) Sharon Martin

Requested by Jackie Adamo

Health & Wellness

(ill) Christopher Martin

Requested by Jackie Adamo

Health & Wellness

+Josephine Morse

Requested by David Crout

Remembrance

+Annette Brandl

Requested by Elizabeth Stachewicz

Remembrance

+Eleanor Stachewicz

Requested by Elizabeth Stachewicz

Remembrance

+Marlene Rosen

Requested by Michael Rosen

Remembrance

+Celesta Miceli

Requested by Celesta Calson

Remembrance

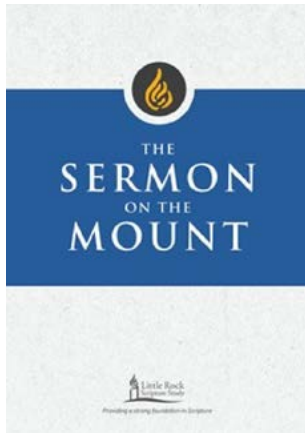
Mass Intentions

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.

Upcoming Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Contact: Kathy Sales with any questions.

kathy.sales@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 Yearly challenges us to hear the sermon once again as Christ intended it, as our call to follow him whose life illustrated its every ideal. Yearly 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.

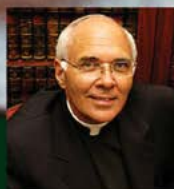


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How do we want to live in light of our Franciscan values? Msgr. Kevin Irwin will be joining us on **May 21st at 9am** to help us strengthen our commitment and identity as Franciscans. We all live in this community/home and we are called to care for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

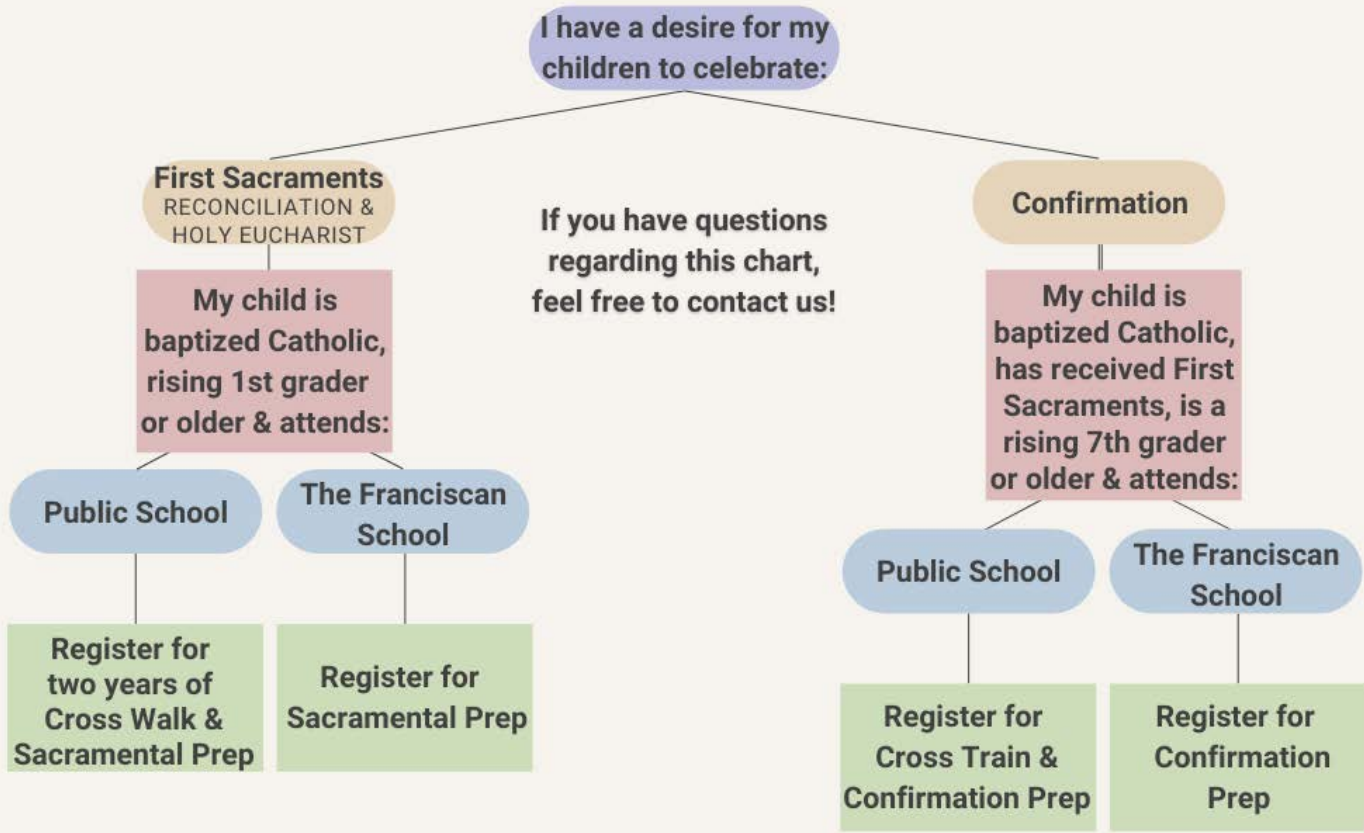
And so, on May 21st, we are gathering our parish leaders and parishioners who feel excited about our Franciscan legacy to do some reflection and strategizing about how we might embody the gospel life here and now.

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@stfrancisraleigh.org for future questions.

Sacramental Preparation Registrations open May 16th via Realm!



***Sacramental/Confirmation Prep is a two year program: one time registration/one time fee**

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.

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 |



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



SAVE THE DATE! Msgr. Kevin Irwin, one of the contributors to Laudato Si', will be HERE! If you want to understand why the Pope is urging us to change our lifestyle, mark May 21 on your calendar now.

For more eco info: stfrancisraleigh.org/care_for_creation

To connect with us: stfccreation@gmail.com



Gratitude Corner:

Thank you to all of our Scouts and parents who volunteered to help with coffee and donuts last weekend. The troops did a wonderful job setting up, serving, and taste testing all the donuts!

Camp Francis Explorers Counselors in Training

Our Counselor In Training Program is designed for mature and enthusiastic teens who are interested in developing leadership skills and working with children. C.I.T.s are expected to willingly and fully participate in camp programs while working with other C.I.T.s and Camp Staff. They are to look at themselves as role models for the campers they will be working with. Applicants that are ages 14-16 (by August 31, 2022) that are interested in volunteering for at least 2 weeks of the Camp Francis Explorers program should contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org for more information and the application.

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 :
5/10, 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 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/

Alzheimer's Support Group Facilitator Needed

We are in need of a volunteer facilitator for an existing Alzheimer's/ Dementia Caregiver's Support Group. Having experience as a caregiver for someone who has had dementia is a plus. Facilitator training is available. Contact Linda Tucker at 937-478-9537 if interested.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director



"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you." Isaiah 66:13

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts, and those who are like a mother in our lives! May the day bring many reminders of how much you are appreciated!

This past week we certainly had many opportunities to feel appreciative of all of the mothers in our lives at school. Not only did many of our classes have celebrations/gifts for their mothers, but the 30th anniversary picnic of preschool was held. As I was looking back through school photos, there were many mothers represented. As one might expect, many of the staff who have been with us were mothers themselves. I know that this is certainly true of our current staff. As a matter of fact, several of us began as volunteers when our own children were students and have never left! We are truly invested in our preschool which is just one example of how dedicated staff have helped sustain our preschool over these past 30 years.

Among the photos, I also saw numerous pictures of students with their own mothers, grandmothers, or those whom are like mothers. I reflected on how privileged

we have been to have so many families grace our hallways since the school was established in 1991. I also thought about how these mothers had entrusted us with their most precious gift. We are truly fortunate to have had so many mothers who recognized over the years how beautifully special our preschool is! Many of them even had multiple children who attended; I always say that when a family enrolls younger siblings, it is one of the highest compliments we can receive at preschool! In allowing us to be part of their children's education and faith journeys, they also helped grow the success of our program.

While all of our mothers, both past and present, have been influential in ensuring that our preschool has remained an important and valued ministry at St. Francis church, I also like to think that our holy mother, Mary, has watched over all of the families, staff, and students these last three decades. As a mother herself, I am confident that she understands the importance of a strong community supporting a child in his/her overall development, particularly in forming a relationship with

God. May is traditionally set aside as a time when Mary is especially honored as Queen of Heaven. Several of our classes discussed and focused on Mary this past week. It was a natural way for our children to remember that Jesus was like them; He had a mother who loved and cared for Him just as they do!



May today and the entire month be a reminder of the blessings that the mothers in our lives bring. Hopefully, we will always remember that our heavenly mother,

Mary, offers us her continual care, love, and support as she carefully watches over all of us!

A few openings remain for the 2022-2023 school year. Please visit our website at: preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

The Wonderful Month of May at TFS

Mike Watson, TFS Principal



We are so fortunate that we had this year as a transition year back to a much more normal structure at The Franciscan School. It has truly been a remarkable change from the past two years in how we have been able to return to so many fun traditions and events that we may have taken for granted in the past. It feels good to “revisit” and remember the fun and excitement, especially seen in the smiles on our students’ faces, as we reinstitute the normalcy we all took for granted. We really are embracing this return as we enter May!

Each year, as we get to close to the final few weeks of the school year, we enter the “legendary” month of May. We are only one week into May, and we have already done so much! May is always “tough” because of all that is taking place at the school. It is a happily chaotic month filled with joyful event after jubilant experience. We have already had our field day, and last week was a combined Spirit Week and Teacher Appreciation

week. We are celebrating the First Eucharist sacrament with our 2nd graders this next week, then we hold our 8th grade Commencement on May 25th to celebrate their academic and social milestones as they anticipate high school. We will close out our Spring Sports seasons, with playoffs and team celebrations, and a Spring pep rally. Mixed in, of course, is always the May Crowning, Mother’s Day, the Social Justice Fair, the Art Show, our drama production, and all the rest. May is truly a month of fun, joy and happiness at The Franciscan School.

I get nostalgic in knowing that I will look back at this “last May” as the TFS principal as a special time and know it will pass all too fast; all of a sudden it will be Memorial Day and the month will be done. I will take time this month to appreciate the hectic schedule and the specialness of each event, to embrace the chaos with a smile, and to remember that all 661 students at TFS

love these events and those students are the reason we are all here. I ask you to take the time this month, as we started May with teacher appreciation and spirit week, to appreciate the great value and spirit in all we do at TFS as a school and as a ministry of St. Francis of Assisi parish. We treasure the great faculty, the amazing families, the dedicated volunteers and the remarkably spirited and happy students we have at our school. We have a special place here at [The Franciscan School](#), and I know I will always appreciate the opportunity I have had here. Thanks to all of those who have dedicated themselves, in part or in whole, to making The Franciscan School the wonderfully remarkable place that it is. It is a joyful place dedicated to Academics, Faith, and Service to others. All of those who call St. Francis home should be rightfully proud of all that you have helped build here.

A Celebration of Justice-Seeking and Discerning Parishioners

By Tim Fasano, Coordinator of Justice and Peace



"We know that every effort to improve society... is an effort that God blesses; that God wants; that God demands of us."
St. Oscar Romero

The excitement in the room was palpable as nearly fifty participants of our parish's JustFaith programs, along with their family and friends, gathered for celebration and discernment at our first ever Action Forum on Racism and Racial Justice. We celebrated all who recently completed a JustFaith program, highlighting in particular those who experienced the most recent topics of Racial Equity, Healing, and Justice. Each of these three programs brought participants on an 8-week journey of encounter with the history and reality of racism and racial inequality in our nation, all through the lens of our Church's Social Teaching. Yet, as our re-experiencing of the truth

of the Resurrection this Easter season reminds us, struggle, pain, and injustice do not have the final word—that belongs to Christ.

Sunday's event transitioned into a time of discernment about how those present, as Catholics and members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, can transform their lives and thus transform our nation and our world. Under the leadership and direction of Trevor Thompson and Becky Cawley, the Director and Coordinator of Justice and Peace respectively, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the participants took time to learn about different organizations in our own community which

have taken a direct role in working for racial justice. Considering opportunities emphasizing accompaniment, dialogue, advocacy, and even education within our SFA community, participants communally discerned what their next steps should be.

There is much excitement for what is to come after this May 1st event. The Spirit is moving and hearts are on fire. So we invite you to join us on this journey of personal, communal, and social conversion and new life. If you are interested in future programs on faith and racial justice, contact Trevor Thompson, trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

By Sharon Winzeler

Sometimes it takes a village, and St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Francis of Assisi resides there with grace and compassion.

A neighbor in her early 50s recently fled from and divorced an abusive husband. Outstanding debt that was partially accumulated by her former husband is garnished regularly from her paycheck. She faced eviction because she wasn't left with enough money to pay the rent.

Help came from SVdP from St. Francis as well as Our Lady of Lourdes SVdP and Doorstep to prevent the eviction. In the meantime, she also is seeking help from Legal Aid to reduce the garnishments so she can afford to live.

How does SVdP operate? Neighbors seeking help are encouraged to call in on the help line at 919-534-4842. A caller intake specialist will retrieve the information from the helpline and fill out the initial report.

Next visitors, who have mostly been working by phone during Covid, will communicate with the neighbor and find out more information. The visitor will discuss options with the neighbor. SVdP has a reliable list of resources for helping neighbors in need. The visitor will take requests for any funds to the SVdP committee for consideration.

If you like doing web research, there is another volunteer option. SVdP needs 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. Any of those situations could make them need help with rent or utilities.

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 is available.

If you feel like you could volunteer, contact Cathy Smith at smithtcr@gmail.com.



Ministry to Migrant Farm Workers Returns!

Every Sunday from June – September
Volunteers Needed

No experience necessary
Questions and to sign up:

www.bit.ly/SFA-MMSummer2022

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.

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Eucharistic Minister 

Hospitality Minister 

Lector 

Mass Coordinator 

Technical Minister 



Scan for form



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.

Upcoming At a Glance

May 8

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

(See pg 9)

May 16

Sacramental Preparation

registration opens via Realm.

Sacramental preparation is a two-year program

(See pg 6)

May 21

Franciscan at Heart

(See pg 5)

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 4)

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 4)

August 14

Ecumenical Delegation to the US/Mexico Border

Delegates will travel to sister cities on the US-Mexico Border, Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, and Douglas, Arizona, USA, with organization Frontera de Cristo. Cost is \$1000 per person, plus airfare. Contact Trevor Thompson, trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

September 6: Divorce Care

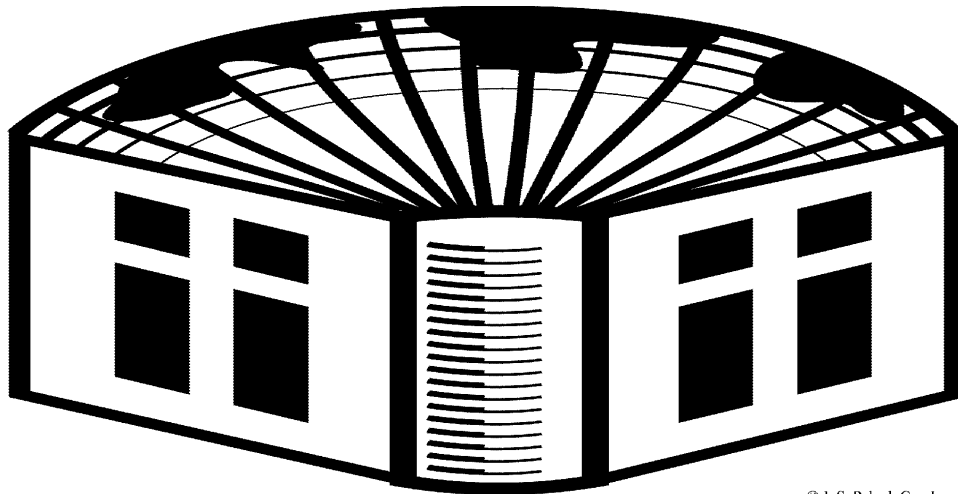
The Next Series of Divorce Care will be Sep 6, 2022 – Dec 13, 2022, for more information please contact Bill Morgan at dejanuts@yahoo.com. (See pg 9)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

*"I have made you a light to the Gentiles,
that you may be an instrument of salvation
to the ends of the earth."*

— Acts 13:47b



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