

April 5, 2020

PALM SUNDAY



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 9 and 10

All Masses, meetings, gatherings, and events are cancelled until further notice.

This includes daily and weekend Masses as well as confessions

We invite you to watch our live online streaming of Sunday, 9:30 am Mass



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

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



We continue our days of social distancing and strangeness, and a section in the newspaper yesterday headlined "The Great Emptiness" with pictures of places around the world that are usually filled with people – Paris, New York, Rome, Milan, Tokyo – now emptied out. People out walking in the neighborhoods around St. Francis, at a distance (except for the dogs who of course want to check out everything and everyone!). It has all happened so fast, and even things from just a few weeks ago now seem like they are from another lifetime.

One thing we have not had is Sunday mass, as we follow directives from local authorities. This makes sense – we must do our part in helping keep people safe from this virus. We have heard from many people who appreciate our live-

streaming our Sunday morning mass. People watch from home, and it has helped give some sense of familiarity and normalcy amid all of this. And still, what's missing of course is receiving communion, and we hear this from people – what it's like to watch, but not receive. Not ideal, but given the state we're in, necessary.

This is not the only time this has happened in the history of the Church. It happens even now in remote areas of the world. You may know that Fr. Jim Sabak serves as the Director of Worship for the Diocese of Raleigh, and he reminds us that even as we experience the lack of holy communion during this time, Christ is also present to us in the Word (the readings proclaimed at mass), and also among one another. How are we called to be Christ among one another in a time of absence? We are, as Jim says, in a

kind of prolonged Good Friday (Good Friday is the only day of the year in which there is no mass). In these times, stressful and filled with uncertainty for all of us, we hold to a presence amid absence, and perhaps an invitation to a deeper kind of faith.

Holy Week: we will live-stream Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday morning mass. Check our website for more information on that and on other ways we are living out our mission in a time of absence. Also, a word on our parish offertory: our offertory is down of course, and yet we thank the many people who support our parish through Faith Direct, or through sending in envelopes in the mail. Everything helps, and we are grateful. Blessings on your week!

Fr Steve

Weekly Financial Update

Did You Know?

Last week we provided an update about all the parish activity still taking place while our campus has been virtually closed. Needless to say, not holding Sunday Masses in the sanctuary has been stressful in many ways. It stresses all of us who are members of the parish and who want to attend Mass. It stresses our parish staff who are working extremely hard to keep us all connected in a virtual environment. It stresses, as well, the finances of the parish because parishioners are not given the opportunity to present their gifts in the collection basket during the offertory.

With respect to the financial stress, I would like to let you know how the Diocese of Raleigh is helping us during these very strange times. They have informed the parishes that mortgage payments will be deferred during April, May, and June of this year. They are also forgiving our assessment payments for Cathedraticum (the annual "tax" we pay to the diocese) and Priest Welfare and Retirement during the same time frame. The Diocese has provided us significant financial relief through June 30, 2020 as we navigate these current uncharted waters. We appreciate how the Diocese has responded to the needs of the parish; however, it remains critically important that the people of St. Francis continue their support of the parish during this time.

As always, we thank you for your continued financial support of the parish and our work in the community. In these times we are in, many people continue to support the parish through Faith Direct and by sending in envelopes through the mail. Even with the support from the diocese, our ongoing financial health depends very much on the ongoing support of the people of the parish, and so, once again, thank you! Please know that your financial gifts are being put to very good use during these trying times.

Rob Neppel, Director of Finance and Planning

May he rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon him:

+ Don Carlson
Father of Tom Carlson

You can mail your contribution to us at:

St Francis Of Assisi
11401 Leesville Road
Raleigh, NC 27613

You give can Online through:



Faith Direct:

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



Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199

Additional Online Giving Methods:
<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/>

As The Catholic Community of St Francis of Assisi, we are continuing to respond to the coronavirus as the many aspects of our lives personally and professionally are affected. Let us share how we are moving forward as a community of faith.

Live Streaming Holy Week

All are Welcome!

We have three ways for you watch:

- 1) Select our [NEW St Francis live stream platform](#),
- 2) Follow our [Facebook Live stream](#), or
- 3) Watch directly on our [SFA webpage](#)

From our homes, let us gather as one community of faith. We invite you to join us for all our live streaming.

For more details on SFA Celebrating Holy Week at Home, including At Home Ideas and Worship Aids, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Holy Thursday:

9:00 Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday:

9:00 Morning Prayer

3:00 pm The Lord's Passion

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday:

9:00 Morning Prayer

8:00 pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Easter Sunday:

9:30 am The Resurrection of the Lord

For detailed instructions on how to watch Sunday Mass, please go to our instruction page. In addition, we are also offering these DAILY prayer opportunities:

- Every morning, [The Franciscan School](#) is continuing to post "TFS Morning Prayer" and can be located here for all to enjoy.
- Every day, we are posting a video with a "Daily Friar Reflection" to our [SFA website](#) and our [SFA Facebook page](#).
- Each evening, we are live streaming to our [SFA Facebook page](#): "Virtual Evening Prayer."

Virtual Retreats

As we enter Holy Week, we invite you to visit our new Formation Resources web page! Liturgy Training Publications is offering a variety of FREE virtual retreats for Holy Week and Easter. Enjoy!

Praying the Psalms Virtual Retreat:

Friday, April 3, 8:00pm [Click for Details](#)

Palm Sunday Virtual Retreat:

Sunday, April 5, 4:00 pm - [Click for Details](#)

Holy Thursday Virtual Retreat:

Thursday April 9, 4:00 pm - [Click for Details](#)

Good Friday Virtual Retreat:

Friday, April 10, 4:00 pm - [Click for Details](#)

Easter Vigil 1 Virtual Retreat:

Saturday, April 11, 4:00 pm - [Click for Details](#)

Easter Vigil 2 Virtual Retreat:

Saturday, April 11, 8:30 pm - [Click for Details](#)

Easter Sunday Virtual Retreat:

Sunday, April 12, 4:00 pm - [Click for Details](#)

For a complete listing of events, [CLICK HERE](#).

Cyber Prayer

As we enter Holy Week, please go to our SFA webpage to meet our RCIA Elect, our Candidates for Full Initiation, and our Adult Confirmation Candidates. Take time this week to share your words of prayer with them through notes, letters, or art.

You can mail your prayers to:

St Francis Of Assisi
11401 Leesville Road
Raleigh, NC 27613

During these days of virtual liturgy and prayer, we have created a new opportunity for us to pray together. If you would like to submit a prayer intention or name those in need of prayer, please see our SFA webpage for our Virtual Prayer Request form. Let us hold each other in prayer during these most Holy Days ahead.

"Stay-at-Home" Caring & Serving

In this time of COVID-19, we have created a SFA help webpage for connecting opportunities to serve with those who need to receive care.

For those of you wanting to offer care to members of our parish through prayer, grocery and pharmacy shopping/delivery, caring calls, etc. If you'd like to send or receive cards to/from fellow parishioners and establish a connection with other folks who are sheltering in place, or if you have kids who would love to send their artwork to brighten someone's day or if you'd like to receive some artwork, please visit our information SFA help webpage to share your "offers to serve."

If you'd like to learn how to use FaceTime or Zoom or you'd like to learn how to watch our daily and Sunday services, or if you'd like to teach someone over the phone, please visit our information SFA help webpage.

Also, on this page you will find a number of opportunities through local partner agencies/ministries (like Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, NC Food Bank, Brown Bag Ministry, Oak City Cares, etc.) who are, with many precautions in place following CDC and government guidelines, still trying to provide some level of support.

Distance Learning

The Franciscan School is closed indefinitely until more direction comes from the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Schools Office. Meanwhile, our teachers and students have been working through Distance Learning. The school will continue to update their website with any general information from the school and the continuation of our daily Morning Prayer found here for all to enjoy.

Our St Francis Preschool is also closed indefinitely. Our preschool teachers continue to develop and offer optional online resources to share with parents that include developmentally appropriate 'learning through play' activities. We are also including home activities for our pre-schools through our preschool Facebook page. All are welcome to follow.

Each noon, we are live streaming to our SFA Facebook page. "Lunch Break with Mr. Jim" which is meant the youngest members of community.

Inbox Communications

Please make sure you are receiving this weekly communication with your current email address and by accepting these emails from our parish constant contact. Please follow this link to verify you will receive our emails. <http://bit.ly/SFAsignup>.

Our weekly bulletin will continue to be available on our bulletin webpage and emailed to you directly on Sunday mornings after Mass.

Even though the parish offices are closed to visitors, you can contact our parish staff through email and you can reference the 'Contact Us' pages of the parish bulletin or look in the "Get Involved" tab of our parish website for all ministries contacts.

Through virtual communications, our faith community is keeping us connected as Catholics filled with hope and grace.

At the end of each week, you will receive this email: Weekly Franciscan Flash newsletter from the parish.

We hope you will stay connected through liturgy, prayer and formation, caring and serving with our community, ministries and schools. This correspondence will enable the growth of our faith together as The Catholic Community of St Francis of Assisi.

Stay Current and Connected
[St. Francis of Assisi](#)
[Parish Facebook Page](#)
[Diocese of Raleigh](#)
[Holy Name Province](#)



*The destiny for those who keep Your law is one of
blessedness, While the wicked condemn themselves.*

*I open myself to daily following Your path,
And this brings joy to my being,*

*I am like a willow planted near a spring of living
water. Though the winds turn cold,
Its open leaves never wither and die.*

But the wicked are like trees in the desert.

*With no water to refresh them,
They grow weak,*

*Their leaves, closed, soon wither and die,
Driven off by the hot howling winds.*

When judgement comes,

The wicked will not survive,

*They have made themselves a closed ruin,
And will find no room in the assembly of the faithful.*

*But the just have opened themselves to receive
the Lord's care, And this care will be for them
from eternity to eternity.*

Fr. Steve K.

Faith Formation Ministries

Preparing for the Day...



Have you been considering entering the Catholic Church or completing your Sacraments of Initiation?

New participants are entering the RCIA all the time, even during social distancing! If you've been considering entering the Church or were baptized as a child but did not celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist, we'd love to talk with you!

Through the RCIA and Adult Sacramental Preparation Ministry, you will have an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about the Catholic faith. Our sessions, which consist of prayer, music, presentations, and discussion, focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) usually during the Easter season. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm, accepting setting.

To talk with someone about becoming a member of the Church, coming back to church, receiving sacraments, or your questions about the Church, please contact Jennifer.Fiduccia@st-francisraleigh.org or visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia-2018/>.



Despite our social distancing and our delayed sacramental celebrations, our Elect and Candidates in the RCIA are still meeting virtually and preparing for the day when they can be fully initiated! YOU can help them by praying for them and writing them cards or letters, or having children draw them pictures. Visit our homepage at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/> and scroll down to scroll through the photos and bios of each of our participants. You can mail the cards and letters to the church at 11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613, or you can hold onto them and drop them off when the church is open again.



Outreach Ministries

How You Can Help



“How can I help?” “People must be really struggling now, but I’m doing fine, what can I do to help them?” “I feel so bad for people who are losing their jobs through all of this. How can I help?” “How do people living in temporary homeless shelters practice social distancing? Is there anything we can do?” These are just a sampling of the hopeful and soulful questions we continue to hear during this pandemic; questions showing great care and concern for other people in harm’s way; questions from disciples with the instruction to Love your Neighbor at their root; questions... from you.

If there is one common thread that unites all St. Francis parishioners it is our deep desire to care for people in need. Whether by providing hope to those hungering for human dignity, or help and support to family members, members of our own community, or our brothers and sisters on the margins of society living day to day off the goodness of others, your care and concern shine forth. You know that while this crisis may be a major inconvenience for folk like us who usually find ourselves safe and secure, it may be an insurmountable burden for others who seldom if ever feel safe nor secure.

So here’s how you can help.

For those of you wanting to offer care to members of our parish through prayer, grocery and pharmacy shopping/delivery, caring calls, etc. please follow this link to a page on our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>. After filling out the form, we will send you an invitation to our electronic calendar where you can sign up for specific activities on specific days.

For those of you feeling called to serve the most vulnerable outside of our parish, please also follow this link <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>. On this page you will find a number of opportunities through local partner agencies/ministries (like Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, NC Food Bank, Brown Bag Ministry, Oak City Cares, Center for Volunteer Caregiving, etc.) who are, with many precautions in place following CDC and government guidelines, still trying to provide some level of support.

For those of you wanting to help our partner agency Family Promise as we have done for many years during Easter week, please reach out to our ministry leader Ron Smith at stfa.fp@gmail.com. Family Promise coordinates the

shelter of the most vulnerable families who are experiencing homelessness in our county by working with different faith congregations. Due to the current pandemic though, we will not be hosting the families on our campus, but we will be providing breakfast, lunch and dinner meals on Thursday 4/16 – Sunday 4/19. Many hands are needed in this endeavor.

For those of you feeling called to help through donations, right now Oak City Cares is in desperate need of food supplies. Go to their website at <https://oakcitycares.org/donate/> for specifics on their needs and how/where to drop off items. You can also call them at 919-812-5546 for drop off instructions. Or click here for their Amazon wish list which makes purchasing donations very simple.

And finally, to all of you, thank you for anything you can do to reach out to someone in need. Your words and deeds bring so much hope that our compassion for- and connection to- each other will remain sure despite disease and social distancing, and that growth and healing will result from this unprecedented time.

Peace and all good!
Becky

Parish Life Ministries



Camp Francis:

Registration is NOW OPEN! We have lots of really cool opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts, and various enrichment areas! We have several new opportunities this summer for all age groups. Kids can join us for half day or full day. All camps have min and max number of students so camp availability is based on enrollment. For more information: <http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

Youth Volleyball Clinics:

Registration is COMING SOON! Two clinics for rising 3rd – 9th grade boys & girls. Clinics will be held on May 3rd and May 31st. Cost is \$25 per child/ per clinic. Register: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/youthvolleyball-clinic/>

Youth volleyball League:

is for children of all skill levels that are rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders. Teams will have an hour practice on either Monday or Wednesday. All Games will be held on Thursday nights. For more information and to register: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/community-life-volleyball/>

April Envelope Schedule

April 5	Weekly
April 5	Mortgage Sunday
April 5	Palm Sunday/CPO
April 10	Good Friday/ Holy Land Ministries
April 12	Easter
April 12	Priest Retirement
April 19	Weekly
April 26	Weekly

essential

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

During the last few weeks, I've heard the word 'essential' a lot. Merriam-Webster says that essential means, "of the utmost importance," as in essential for life, essential for proper functioning. Lately I've heard a lot about essential workers. With decades of work at a hospital, that means doctors, nurses, therapists, etc. It also means cafeteria staff, custodial staff and the types of workers that may not be part of your hospital experience as a visitor.

I don't know about you, but I didn't start my working life at the top. I had several 'entry level' positions in a couple of areas before I settled on healthcare. In fact, I started out as a Promotions Assistant for a well-known local AM radio. My duties were to haul the "free popcorn" machine all over the county, bring the helium tank to blow up the balloons, and wrap all the boxes where you drop your entry for the free vacations. In other words, entry level.

All along the way, the people who made the biggest impact on me weren't the bosses – they were the people who were essential to the character, if not the hearts of the organizations. The housekeepers, the security folks, the quiet people who went about their work with a dignity that doesn't come from the work, the size of the paycheck, or the title on the door, but from within the person. Many times, their caring words brought comfort after a grueling day 'in the trenches.' They notice things and they aren't afraid to reach out to help.

Yesterday, I heard an interview with a young lady who bags groceries at a store. Her parents were afraid she was going to contract the virus and maybe bring it home to them. They wanted her to leave her job. But this young woman said that she was now deemed 'essential'. She said that her store depended on her to help clean the store for their guests' safety, to stock the shelves, and to help customers get their purchases out of the store. Then she said something that broke my heart. She said, "Right now, I'm considered essential and people really appreciate what I do. When this is over, I'll go back to being another minimum wage person who nobody notices."

So I'm asking for each of you and all of you to take a stand, to make something good come from this bizarre situation we're in right now. Today, tomorrow, and all the tomorrows that follow, seek out the people who may not be on the front lines, but who help keep your world comfortable, moving forward and safe. It would be great if you were the first one to smile, the first one to say, "Good morning. How are you," the first one to make eye contact. As it is written in Matthew 5:16, "Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

This is a strange, uncertain and stressful time, but we are all in it together. Let's be strength, hope and support for this journey by being present to every person we encounter. Let's be essential for each other. Peace be with you!

In anticipation...

Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph! Palms are laid in his path to honor him as the conquering Messiah the people thought he would become. However, he rides into the city on a donkey, not a beast of victory and conquest, but a sign of peace and of his humility. The failure to recognize this distinction will transform accolades of triumph into roars for Jesus' death in one short week!

The glory and wonder of Holy Week and Easter is how Jesus responded to all this transformation in the perception of him by the crowds and to God's guiding hand in what was to unfold. Jesus knew the praise would be short-lived, the shouts of joy would turn to accusation and derision, and that he would most likely endure suffering and death. Jesus even faced doubt and concern, as we all do. Why else would he have asked his Father "if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me." But in the midst of all this tragedy and loss, Jesus trusts that God knows what God is doing, and so is also able to respond, "Yet not as I will, but as you will".

We are also facing doubt and fear, especially in these difficult and anxious times. We spend most of our time being "reactive" to events. We have all faced trial and tribulation, as well as success and acclaim, but, as Jesus knew, much of this is short-lived. In these times of confusion and fear, we, like Jesus, turn to our faith and know, in the end, we will share in His ultimate triumph.

The Franciscan School's students and families have faced the adversity of the past few weeks with good humor and calm. The teachers have been conscientiously providing the familiarity and comfort of academic plans from the first day the school was closed. The parents have stepped into unfamiliar roles and expanded their parent partnership with our faculty; all with that humor and calm (and some anxiety and fear as "substitute teachers"), to reassure their children, provide them with a routine in unusual times, and assure their child's continuity of academic success. This ability to "react and adapt" comes from the confidence and skill of our faculty, the support and patience of our families, and the overwhelming faith we share symbolized each year at Easter! We stand tempered by the heat of this challenge, and know we will come out tested, but stronger, because of our trust and faith in God's constant and abiding presence we share as the indispensable foundation of our school.

To learn more about The Franciscan School, visit us at www.franciscanschool.org, check out the recent WRAL Spotlight articles found here, or contact Principal Mike Watson at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.



"Hossana! Hossana! Blessed is the king of Israel!"

Here we are, Palm Sunday, celebrating from the comfort of our home – watching mass via a live stream on Facebook. I know we never, in a million years, thought this would be how we would celebrate the start of Holy Week!

Since we're all at home, most of us without access to palms, I have put together a family activity you can do to make your own palms!

1. Trace your hand, 6-7 times on a green piece of construction paper. If you don't have construction paper at home, you can also use white paper and then color them green.
2. Cut out the hands.
3. Glue the hands onto a popsicle stick or a stick from your yard if you don't have popsicle sticks at home. Now you have your own palms to wave around, HOSANNA! HOSANNA!



Ways to Give

We commit to being fully engaged in the St. Francis Family.

We will:

- ☐ Pray for our community in this way.
- ☐ Sign up for recurring giving through FaithDirect by 4/15/20.
www.stfrancisleigh.org/faithdirect
- ☐ Increase offertory giving by 2% by 4/15/20. www.stfrancisleigh.org/treasure
- ☐ Join a new ministry, tell us which one.

www.stfrancisleigh.org/talent

- ☐ Volunteer my time by:

www.stfrancisleigh.org/time

- ☐ Perhaps you have a unique idea. Share this with us.

- ☐ Although we have not actively participated in offertory in the past, we commit to contributing \$_____ per month.

(If you have never participated in offertory, please remember that even \$5/week goes a long way to helping our parish. Currently 40% of our parish families do not contribute to offertory. Help us reach our parish goal of 100% participation.)

Questions, Contact Deb Royals-Mizerk
919-847-8205x222



Answer the Call!

Each of us is called by God. At Baptism we became a part of the Body of Christ and following Christ is the work of a lifetime!

Contact Deb Royals-Mizerk to learn how.
919-847-8205x222



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Come and See

Everyone is invited to be a part of this passionate steward community - a community that recognizes that all we are, have and will ever be, is God's.



Getting Our House in Order

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Envelope Number (if applicable) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email 1 _____

Email 2 _____

Cell Phone _____

Home Phone _____

*We are updating our records.
Please fill out and return this form
with any corrections to confirm
that you are an active member
of the St. Francis community.*

Please return by March 31, 2020

*Place form in an envelope and mail it to:
The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi
11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh NC 27613*

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21

Giving is Receiving



*Thank you to all
those who faithfully
contribute to our
parish offertory.*

- Registered, engaged members who make regular identifiable contributions, receive the stewardship rate at our schools.
- Registered, engaged members who make regular identifiable contributions, can purchase niches in the Columbarium.
- Registered, engaged members who make regular identifiable contributions reap the benefit of their generosity through our many available ministries.

Not registered? Not sure? Visit
<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/register/>
and register on line as a member
of The Catholic Community of
St. Francis of Assisi.

Or call 919-847-8205x222

Dear St. Francis Family,

As faithful stewards, we **MUST** take care of our faith home and that means every person of this parish needs to prayerfully consider their commitment to our church. Consider how you are sharing your time and talent. Consider increasing your offertory today. If you are not contributing at all, there are many ways to give. We need the **entire** St. Francis family to responsibly give back so that we might continue to promote God's kingdom on earth. May God, through the Holy Spirit, guide each family here to give back to this community remembering that making this commitment impacts the future of our church.

Here is the link to the ways to give:
www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/.
Please contact Deb Royals Mizerk at 919-847-8205x222 if you need assistance.

Peace and blessings,
Deb Royals Mizerk,
Director of Stewardship



Bringing Home the Word

Palm Sunday (A)
April 5, 2020

Noble and Humble

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord prepares us to leave behind Jesus' public ministry and enter into his suffering and death. From miracles, crowds, and praise we move to pain, silence, and humility. Only the strong and true lovers of Jesus will make it to the foot of the cross.

A painting in the Vatican Museum by Pseudo Domenico di Michelino, *The Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem*, depicts Jesus coming into Jerusalem sitting

nobly—on a donkey—in the center.

The prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 sets the scene and marks its importance: "Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! Behold: your king is coming to you, a just savior is he, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." By riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus embraces the path of the Messiah that God mapped out through the prophets. He comes as a king and in peace and obedience. Jesus wins with meekness and love.

Returning to the painting, we see little children laying down their coats before Jesus. These simple souls recognize his divine humility and honor him with their gestures while the crowd acclaims his kingship. The reign of Jesus incites praise, fidelity, and allegiance. The people wave olive branches and throw them on the ground before him.

Counting the followers in the painting, eleven process with golden halos around their heads. These symbols of holiness highlight the fact that to love Jesus is to follow him to the end, as do almost all of the twelve disciples Jesus selected to join him in his ministry. One follower, however, is surrounded in shadow. Unlike the others, he looks away. His heart is set on another plan. +

Sunday Readings

Matthew 21:1–11

The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road.

Isaiah 50:4–7

The Lord God is my help, / therefore I am not disgraced.

Philippians 2:6–11

He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave [and]...humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Matthew 26:14–27:66 or 27:11–54

Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus enters Jerusalem. The liturgy...somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love, but also for great hatred; the capacity for courageous self-sacrifice, but also the ability to "wash our hands" at the right moment.

—Palm Sunday homily, March 25, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- How do I respond to Jesus' invitation to join him in his passion? do my actions show where my heart really is?
- Would I be shrouded in shadow or surrounded by Jesus' glory?



Diocese of Raleigh News

Ignited by Truth

The 17th annual Ignited By Truth Conference will be held on April 18, 2020, 10am-5pm, FREE on the IBT YouTube Channel (due to COVID-19). Speakers include Fr. Donald Calloway, Fr. Chris Alar, Matthew Leonard, Jesse Romero, and Dr. John Bergsma. LIVE Vigil Mass at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy will close the online conference. Please SHARE and let's see how many souls we can reach! For agenda, visit IgnitedByTruth.org. Tune in at YouTube.com/IgnitedByTruthCatholicConference.

Jesus Christ, Our Starting Point

By Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM

Being Catholic starts with Jesus Christ. In fact, everything begins with Christ. He is "the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 22:13). He is "the firstborn of all creation" (Colossians 1:15).

I wasn't around before the creation, of course, but from my perspective I can imagine things happening something like this: God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—was sitting at breakfast when God the Father said, "Being God is wonderful, but eternity can sure get boring." "So let's do something different," the Son replied. "Let's create something out of nothing!" The Father asked, "Can we do that?" "Sure," said the Spirit, "we're God, aren't we?" The Father said, "OK, what shall we make?"

And (this is the crucial point) what did God make? Jesus Christ—the firstborn of creation, the Word through whom God made everything else that exists.

If you are not accustomed to thinking of Jesus in this way, an analogy may help. Years ago when I was teaching at a seminary, one popular hobby among the students was making model airplanes. On winter evenings the hobby shop would be crowded with boys gluing together various shapes of balsa wood pinned to diagrams on a table.



When asked, "What are you making?" the seminarians never said, "I am gluing piece A7 to H5." One might respond, "I am making a P-51 Mustang." From the beginning, their minds were on the finished project. Similarly, if you asked God at the creation, "What are you making?" he would have responded: "We're making Jesus Christ."

God's Masterpiece

Jesus is God's masterpiece. God created Christ out of love, and Christ returned perfect love to God. We can see this in everything Jesus said and did while he walked on earth. We see this most clearly in Jesus humbling himself, "becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8). And on the cross "he handed over the spirit" (John 19:30) to the Church so that we who are baptized put on Christ and become his body.

At Mass we ask God to "grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ." Our incorporation into Christ is the principal petition at every Eucharist. We pray that we, to paraphrase St. Augustine, be what we see on the altar and receive what we are—Christ's body. Through Christ, in him, with him, our lives have meaning. We live for more

than ourselves. We are taken up into that great, mysterious plan of God that is Jesus Christ.

God's Coworkers

And what is our role in God's plan? Our mission is reconciliation. While God has reconciled all things in Christ, "making peace by the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:20), with our incorporation into Christ, God has "given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). We are to improve the quality of life for all, to alleviate hunger and disease, injustice and conflict.

And while this task may seem impossible, we Catholics know that it is possible. In fact, we know that it will be achieved because it is God's plan. This is what gives us our inherent Catholic optimism. We are optimistic because we know that grace is more original than sin. God's great plan of love did not start with Adam and Eve, the fruit, or the snake, but with Jesus. Everything starts with Jesus. +

PRAYER

Lord, you are the model of nonviolence and unconditional love. May your example inspire me to be a more loving and forgiving person in life.

—From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSwerry

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 6–11

Monday of Holy Week: Is 42:1–7 / Jn 12:1–11

Tuesday of Holy Week:
Is 49:1–6 / Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

Wednesday of Holy Week:
Is 50:4–9a / Mt 26:14–25

Holy Thursday: Ex 12:1–8, 11–14 /
1 Cor 11:23–26 / Jn 13:1–15

Good Friday: Is 52:13–53:12 / Heb 4:14–16;
5:7–9 / Jn 18:1–19:42

Holy Saturday: Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a /
Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 /
Ex 14:15–15:1 / Is 54:5–14 / Is 55:1–11 /
Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4 / Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28 /
Rom 6:3–11 / Mt 28:1–10

Bringing Home
the Word

April 5, 2020

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Group Opportunities

All In-Person Masses, meetings, gatherings, and events are cancelled until further notice. This includes daily and weekend Masses as well as confessions. Please contact ministry leader for virtual or online opportunities.

AA Meeting: (Online see page 2) The Daily Reprieve Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Mon. thru Fri. at 7:00am in the Laverna Center (log cabin across from the Chapel.) Enter thru the garage.

Al-Anon Meetings: Sun. 7:00pm, LaVerna, lower level.

Always God's Children: Always God's Children: The monthly support group meeting for LGBT people and family and friends **will meet virtually April 5**, same time, 3:15-5:00pm. To receive an invite to the meeting, email Chuck Small at chuck.smallsfa@gmail.com.

Adult Open Play Nights: Assisi Community Center Gym.

Visit <http://stfrancisraleigh.org/adult-open-play> to contact the ministry leaders for each of our adult open play nights.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group:

The first Wednesday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm and the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-9:00pm, in the Padua Room of Assisi Community Center. Linda Tucker, ltucker40@nc.rr.com, 937-478-9537.

Centering Prayer: Thursdays, 9:35am or 7:30pm in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel.

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

Community Garden: Saturday mornings, 10:00am.

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

Divorce Care: Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00pm in the Cupertino Rm. of the Assisi Community Center. Confidential, co-ed healing from separation and divorce. Contact Bill Morgan at dejanuts@yahoo.com.

Grief Support Group Next meeting is April 8, 10:00-11:30am in Anthony Hall Room 402. Contact Marsha Riely at marshariely@mac.com or Marlys Varga at marlysvarga@hotmail.com.

GriefShare

Contact Marlys Varga at marlysvarga@hotmail.com.

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

Men's Ministry: Breakfast, Padua Room of the Assisi Community Center. Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/mensministry/> for details.

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

Contact: Lee Cunningham - emcunningham3@gmail.com.

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

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

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

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

Women's Ministry:

- Tue Evenings with Anna Fowler – annafowler@nc.rr.com

- Friday Morning with Celesta Carlson – ccarlson210@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

To all our volunteers:

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

The Parish Life staff is calling parishioners to make sure they are safe and aware of several ministry opportunities during the COVID-19 crisis. If you haven't gotten your call, stay tuned. If you need help or want to offer help, check out our link at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>

We will match up needs with offers of help. Currently, it seems most folks are handling the daily changes well, but that may change over the coming weeks. Please reach out if you need to talk, need some help or just want to hear a cheerful voice! St. Francis of Assisi is here for our parishioners.

Even though the parish offices are closed to visitors, you can contact our parish staff through email and you can reference the 'Contact Us' pages of the parish bulletin or look in the "Get Involved" tab of our parish website for all ministries

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.

Contact Us!

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

Staff email: firstname.lastname@stfrancisraleigh.org

Welcome

New Parishioner Registration
Becoming Catholic
Get Involved!

Franciscan Friars

Pastor Fr. Steve Patti, O.F.M.
Assistant to the Pastor Fr. Steve Kluge, O.F.M.
Associate Pastor Fr. Jim Sabak, O.F.M.
Deacon Stephen Andrews

Sacraments

Baptism
First Reconciliation
First Eucharist
Confirmation
Matrimony
Holy Orders
Anointing of the Sick
Reconciliation Appointments
RCIA
Sacraments Administration
Funeral Planning
Columbarium Niches

Toni Hammes 847-8205x265
Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222

Fr. Steve Patti, O.F.M. 847-8205x224
847-8205x249
Fr. Steve Kluge, O.F.M. 847-8205x226
Fr. Jim Sabak, O.F.M. 847-8205x261
Stephen Andrews 732-213-0104

Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
Thomas Bulick 847-8205x239
Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Fr. Steve Patti, O.F.M. 847-8205x224
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
847-8205x249
847-8205x238
Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
Martina Dumberger 847-8205x264
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Trish Adamkowski 847-8205x236

The Franciscan School

Principal
Receptionist (Main Number)
Assistant Principal, K-5
Assistant Principal 6-8

St. Francis Preschool

Director
Assistant to the Director
Admissions and Marketing

Faith Formation

Director
Children's Faith Formation
Middle School Faith Formation
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)

Parish Operations

Dir of Strategic Planning
Communications and Webmaster
Human Resources
Safe Environment Specialist
Director of Stewardship
Parishioner Records
Director of Finance
Director of Facilities

Mike Watson 919-534-4840
Diana Chapman 919-534-4837
Michele Northington 847-8205x254
Colette Dziadul 847-8205x651

Heidi Hobler 847-8205x240
Shelley Freeman 847-8205x262
Jennifer Stephens 847-8205x377

Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
Thomas Bulick 847-8205x239
Marisa Ferrara 847-8205x223
Tara Moore 847-8205x489

Tricia Henry 847-8205x375
Diogenes Ruiz 847-8205x271
Trish Adamkowski 847-8205x236
Trina Sugrue 847-8205x245
Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
Toni Hammes 847-8205x265
Rob Neppel 847-8205x243
Marc Kiely 847-8205x227

Get Care!

Care

Home Eucharist Visits
Feed the Need (meals)
Medical Facility Visits
Transportation to Mass
Stephen Ministry
St. Vincent de Paul
Good Grief
GriefShare

Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241

Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Leave Voicemail 919-534-4842
Marsha Riely marshariely@mac.com
Marlys Varga marlysvarga@hotmail.com

Prayers

Prayer Line
Prayers
Receive a Prayer Shawl

Support Groups

Divorce Care
Job Connections
Seeing God in your Cancer
AA Daily Reprieve Group
Al-Anon
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Paul Wilson wilsonpf99@gmail.com
Jackie Adamo 847-8205x268
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241

William Morgan dejanuts@yahoo.com
Mary Horner 610-755-5392
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Madeline Horrigan 919-923-1234
Linda Tucker 937-478-9537

Get Involved!

Worship Ministries

Director of Liturgy and Music
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministers
Altar Servers & Thurifers
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Church Keeping
Cross Bearers
Deaf Ministry
Environment & Art
Eucharistic Ministers
Funeral Ministers
Hospitality Hands
Lectors
Master of Ceremonies
Medical Presence at Mass
Music Ministry
Parking Ministry
Ushers
Weekend Receptionists
Weekend Welcome Hosts
Wedding Directors

Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222

Jim Wahl 847-8205x230
Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Joanie Madormo rmadormo@sbcglobal.net
Jackie Kelly 203-512-8807
Beverly Saunders 919-846-5795
Joseph Randazzo josephjrandazzo1@gmail.com
Jean Cooke-Byrne 919-412-8365
Theresa Baumgartner 919-848-3383
Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Lisa Gianturco 919-845-9718
Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
Mike Wrzesien 919-624-1592
Michael & Julie Ducatte 919-622-8883
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Joyce Petzka jepetzka@gmail.com
Steve Burdett 919-845-2714
Troy Chaput troy.chaput@gmail.com
Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
Carol Ricotta 919-554-8896

Outreach Ministries

Director of Justice and Peace
St. Francis Feeds
Brown Bag Ministry
Oak City Cares
Catholic Parish Outreach
Panera Food Pick Up
Ronald McDonald House
Jobs for Life Dinners
Our Lady of Rosary Food Pantry
Interfaith Food Shuttle

Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Mailbox stfrancisbbm@gmail.com
Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Sue Hand 919-846-7954
Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Mailbox stfrancisrmhministry@gmail.com
Ellen Ferrone ellen.ferrone@gmail.com
Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Becky Cawley 847-8205x267

St Francis Serves

Community Garden
Curbside Care
Duke Children's Hospital
Family Promise / WHIN Hosts
Gabriel Project
Migrant Ministry
Prison Pen Pal
R.A.R.E. Tom Zimmerman thomaspzimmerman@bellsouth.net
Red Cross Blood Drive
Refugee Resettlement
St Francis Builds / Habitat
St Vincent de Paul Ministers
Support Circles Kat and Ferrel Guilroy ferrel.guilroy@gmail.com
Whitaker House

St Francis on Mission

International Mission Trips
Sister Parish - Guatemala
St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia

St Francis Learns

Catholic Social Teaching
Care for Creation
Community Conversations
Engaging Spirituality
Just Faith
Justice Theater Project
Peace Pole Prayer
Study Circles

Pat & Paul Kelly 919-413-8833
Lori Piraino lpiraino7@gmail.com
Joe and Geanie Slifer 919-870-6993
Ron Smith 919-455-7786
Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Bruce Cartier bcartier7@gmail.com
Jill Balogh jbalogh@nc.rr.com
Bryan Kozak 910-728-9200
Aggie Dalton aggiedalton@gmail.com
Diane & Bob Steinbeiser 919-846-8026
Cathy Smith 419-348-8843
Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270

Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Carie Gunnells carie.gunnells@gmail.com
John Budway 305-205-5104

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/>
Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
<http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/>
Ben Whitehouse whitehouseben5@gmail.com
Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270

Get Involved!

Parish Life Ministries

Director of Parish Life

Pastoral Presence Ministries

Caregivers

Centering Prayer

Emmaus Ministers

EMs to Abbotswood

EMs to the Homebound

EMs to the Magnolia Glen

EMs to the Meadows

EMs to Rex Hospital

EMs to Springmoor

Prayer Line Ministers

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Rosary Ministry

Ministries of Support & Care

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers

Caring Casseroles Cooks

Feed the Need Cooks

Job Connections Mentors

Medical Facility Visitors

Transportation to Mass Drivers

Weekday Volunteer Receptionists

Social Groups

AAMEN Ministry

Always God's Children

LGBT Ministry

Men's Ministry

Young Adults

Women's Ministry

50+ Adults Group

Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Alice Stanford

919-781-5860

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Anita Misko

630-699-0519

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704-608-1678

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Edward Gilmartinedward.gilmartin@gmail.com

Janice Horner

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Pauk Wilson

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hollandbozo@yahoo.com

Stephanie Smith

919-302-0080

Toni Hammes

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Leon Cooke

919-740-7515

Chuck Small

984-204-0012

Jane Paris

919-847-7431

Norm Tuomi

norman3722@att.net

Ralph Guenther

rguenther2@nc.rr.com

fb.me/YoungAdultsofStFrancis

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Angela Azzopardi

919-848-1347

St. Francis of Assisi Community Center

Coordinator of Community Center

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Athletic Programs

Mary Arleth

847-8205x358

Assisi Café

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Parish Events (FrancisFest)

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Summer Camps (Camp Francis)

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Community Organizations

Girl Scouts of USA

Melissa O'Connor

847-8205x296

BSA Scouts:Troop 352 (6th-12th, boys) Mark Priest scoutmaster352@gmail.com

BSA Scouts:Troop 219 (6th-12th, girls) Scott Cash scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com

BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th) Mike Hutchinson membership@pack352.com

Knights of Columbus Bob Weisenberger 919-723-7424

Secular Franciscan Order

Lee Cunningham

http://ofscentralnc.org

Faith Formation Ministries

Director of Faith Formation

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Assisi Scripture Study

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Baptism Ministry

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Marriage Ministry

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Confirmation Sponsors

Thomas Bulick

847-8205x239

Children's Formation Group Leader

Sarah Bowser

847-8205x496

Family & Marriage Enrichment Team

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Middle School Formation Group

Thomas Bulick

847-8205x239

Faith Formation Retreats and Camps Jennifer McCourt

847-8205x269

Faith Formation Registration & EventsPatti Panizza

847-8205x237

Youth Ministry Group Leader

Marisa Ferrara

847-8205x223

RCIA Team & Sponsors

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)

Tara Moore

847-8205x489

Young Adults Bible Study Group

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Stewardship Ministries

Director of Stewardship

Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

Stewardship Committee

Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

Way of Francis

Ben Whitehouse whitehouseben5@gmail.com

