

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.



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



Easter greetings to all as we continue in these strangely unfolding times. We continue to adapt to our new virtual

presence. Holy Week was unlike any other we've had; the church was set up for it, the friars were ready for it, we had staff helping out with the technical parts of streaming, and yet no one was quite prepared for all of that in a mostly empty church. My mother and father, watching from home, were happy to have a shoutout from their son, and as they said to me, as they watched, all they could think of was their little Stevie as a six-year-old riding his Big Wheel around the driveway. Oh how we change....

We have now been in this new way of being for more than a month. Our doors are closed, but our parish is still running in a new virtual mode. Our staff meets regularly via Zoom calls. Pastoral care is now being done mainly by telephone. Outreach is still happening under distancing guidelines. Liturgy and prayer and reflections happen on the front page of our website.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support us financially. About half of our offertory comes through Faith Direct – a form of automatic giving - and that has been a huge help for us. If you would like to sign up for Faith Direct, please contact them directly at 866-507-8757. Our parish code # is NC674. The other half of our offertory comes through envelopes and any cash or checks we receive. Every day in the mail we receive envelopes with donations, and we are grateful for all who continue to support us in that way. Our offertory, as you can imagine, has been affected by this pandemic, and we are grateful for any financial support we receive in this time.

We are not sure – no one is sure – when our doors will be open again. We will continue to look for guidance from civil and diocesan authorities as to when we might open up again. Events that typically happen in April and May have either already been called off, or are being evaluated as we go forward. The same is true for events in June and after. At this point, so much remains unknown. For now, our website is our front door and

entryway into a new and adapted life of our parish. And again, thank you to all for your ongoing kindness and support.

To review also, for the friars, our provincial chapter has been postponed until August at the earliest, and changes typically happen after a chapter, and so as far as we know, we will be here sometime into August, but that could change also. The decision by our province to withdraw from St. Francis still stands, we just don't know the timing of the departure.

The gospel reading for this past Monday describes Mary Magdalene's arrival at the tomb, and she is "fearful yet overjoyed." (Matthew 28:8). A reflection on that passage, written by Michael Jordan Laskey from "Give Us This Day" reads: "This passage has the seeds of a good Easter prayer: Lord, when I'm afraid or confused, help me lean into your love and joy." "Give Us This Day" by the way, is a very good source for daily scripture readings and reflections, and you can find them at www.gutd.net. Blessings on your week!

Fr Steve

Weekly Financial Update

Offertory	Plan	YTD Actual	Plan %	YTD 2019	YTY
Annual Budget	\$3,681,197	\$2,731,864	72%	\$2,712,823	+0.7%
	Plan	March Actual	Plan %	March 2019	YTY
March	\$338,572	\$288,907	85%	\$329,944	-12.4%
March Offertory	Sources:	2020	2019		
Weekly Colle	ctions/Envelopes	\$135,849	\$184,74	1 -26.5	%
Faith Direct		\$153,058	\$145,20	3 +5.4	%
		\$288,907	\$329,94	4 -12.4	%

Observation: COVID-19 and restrictions on attending mass have yielded a significant loss of donation revenue. While Faith Direct enrollment has increased, it has not been enough to offset the loss of collections in the church.

Did You Know? Offertory represents 65.2% of the church income and is the primary funding source for our church ministries, service outreach, Parish operations.

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

+ Edward Conolly husband of Moira Conolly



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/faithdirect/



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 corona virus 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 Sunday

All are Welcome!

Sunday, April 19, 2020 9:30 am The 2nd Sunday of Easter

We have four ways for you watch:

- 1) Select our NEW St Francis Churchonline platform,
- 2) Follow our Facebook Live stream.
- 3) Watch through our <u>Youtube</u> channel, or
- 4) 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 video broadcasting.

Daily Video Broadcasts

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 <u>SFA website</u> and our <u>SFAFacebook page</u>.

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

Each evening, we are live streaming to our SFA Facebook page: "Virtual Evening Prayer."

"Stay-at-Home" Caring & Serving

In these days of COVID-19, we are coming together as a community to support our community. We are connecting opportunities to serve our community with those who need to receive help from our community, please visit our SFA help webpage for more information.

This Week's Focus:

St. Francis will host a Blood Drive on Thursday, April 30 from 9:00am to 3:00 pm in Clare Fellowship Hall. There are 125 appointments available. The need for blood donations is great, and your support is greatly appreciated. For information, and to schedule your appointment, please visit: https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/blood-drives/#

We also highlight Catholic Parish Outreach, the largest emergency food pantry in Wake County. They resumed their food pantry services in recent days with heightened safety policies for clients and volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kathy their volunteer coordinator at cpovol.coordinator@raldioc.org or phone/text at 919-847-1466.

Sacramental Preparations

2020-2022 Sacramental Preparation Registration *NOW ONLINE*

First Communion

The Online First Eucharist Sacramental Preparation meeting is for ALL parents including Cross Walk, Home School and The Franciscan School, who have children in Kindergarten or 1st grade. For more information, click here.

Confirmation

Confirmation preparation is a two year long journey, can start as early as 8th grade and will culminate with the celebration of Confirmation in the fall of 2022. All Interested youth who are currently in 7th grade through high school and at least one parent MUST attend registration meeting. For more information: Click here

Faith Formation

Faith Formation has gone digital and we invite you to visit our new Formation Resources web page! Visit for links to virtual resources for people of all ages. Take a virtual tour of the Vatican, join us for daily events, learn how to pray the rosary, and connect to virtual resources, and programming for our preschool, elementary,

middle and high school parishioners. Be sure to watch them on their facebook page as well.

For when we can gather again, would you consider becoming a Formation Volunteer for 2020-2021?

Want to learn more? Visit https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/ff volunteer/
or contact one of our Coordinators:

Sarah Bowser, Coordinator of Children's Formation - sarah.bowser@stfrancisra-leigh.org

Thomas Bulick, Coordinator of Middle School Formation - thomas.bulick@stfrancisraleigh.org

Marisa Ferrara, Coordinator of Youth Ministry - marisa.ferrara@stfrancisraleigh.org

Distance Learning

The Franciscan School is closed indefinitely until more direction comes from the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Schools Office. 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. We are including home activities for our preschools through our preschool Facebook page.
All are welcome to follow.

Online Parish Support

Thank you for your continued financial support.

Did you know offertory represents 65.2% of the church income and is the primary funding source for our church ministries, service outreach, Parish operations? All the parish activity that is still taking place even though our campus in-person gatherings has been canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The ministries of the Parish are still active in the community and continue to depend upon your financial support.

As always, we thank you for your continued financial support of the parish and our work in the community. Our ongoing financial health depends very much on the ongoing support of the people of the parish, and so, once again, thank you!

For Easy Online Giving, Start Here:

Faith Direct
For other Online Giving Options:
Online Banking
Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199

To mail your contribution: St Francis Of Assisi 11401 Leesville Road Raleigh, NC 27613

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 <u>bulletin webpage</u> 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.



Youth Confirmation Preparation Registration – NOW ONLINE

Prayerfully discerning celebrating Confirmation? Thinking about completing your Christian Initiation?

Interested youth who are currently in 7th grade through high school (including TFS students) and at least one parent MUST attend a NOW ONLINE information/registration meeting. Confirmation preparation is a two year long journey, can start as early as 8th grade and will culminate with the celebration of Confirmation in the fall of 2022.

During the online meeting, information on the sacramental preparation and the registration process will be provided. If your family is planning on participating in the 2020-22 Confirmation preparation process, you MUST register with the online registration! Please understand that due to the program starting in October, we will not be able to facilitate registrations in the fall.

If you had previously registered to attend one of the in-person April meetings, you do not need to register again to attend the online meeting.

If you have any questions about Confirmation preparation, please contact: Thomas Bulick, Coordinator of Middle School Formation, Thomas.Bulick@st-francisraleigh.org or Martina Dumberger, Martina.Dumberger@stfrancisraleigh.org

Registration forms for Confirmation Preparation are available ONLY after attending the online meeting. While there is no specific date or time for the meeting, after you RSVP to the meeting link, further information will be emailed to you on April 19.

RSVP online: https://form.jotform.com/60824762171152.

Faith Formation Ministries

First Communion and Confirmation Preparation Information/Registration Meetings are now ONLINE! Based on the Governor's order banning large gatherings, we're bringing our Sacramental Preparation meetings to you ONLINE this year.

Would you consider becoming a Formation Volunteer for 2020-2021?

We have a large K-12 Formation program at St. Francis of Assisi and serve more than 600 children/youth in our Cross Walk, Cross Train, and Cross Road Sunday programs. Because Mass is the source and summit of our faith, our programs are scheduled following the 9:30am Mass (K-5 children) and following the 5:30pm Sunday Mass (6-12 youth) to break open treasures of the faith that have just been proclaimed. We offer a small group-based faith formation program for K-12, and Small Group Leaders are always needed! Our Sunday programs meet twice a month, September through May, during the traditional academic year. The time commitment for Small Group Leaders over the course of the year is 18 sessions, or approximately 22 hours.

Small Group Leaders:

- Lead sessions during the time that their children/youth attend the programs
- Love God and want to show our children and youth how to walk with Jesus
- Are paired up with at least one other adult volunteer
- Receive lesson plans via email the Wednesday prior to each session and all materials are provided
- Guide conversations, facilitate discussions, and invest in the lives of children/youth
- Build trusting relationships through prayer, games, handson activities, discussion on Catholic teachings, and service projects.
- Lead their small group in an activity with the objective of connecting the Gospel/Catholic Teaching to their life
- Help keep the children/youth focused and engaged
- · Supervise safe transition to parents

It takes a village to make it all happen! Won't you join our village? Want to learn more? Visit https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/ff_volunteer/. Interested in becoming a Formation Volunteer? Visit https://form.jotform.com/201044103073032 to complete a Volunteer Interest form.

For more information, please contact one of our Coordinators: Sarah Bowser, Coordinator of Children's Formation sarah.bowser@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x496

Thomas Bulick, Coordinator of Middle School Formation: thomas.bulick@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x239

Marisa Ferrara, Coordinator of Youth Ministry: marisa.ferrara@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x223

First Eucharist and First Reconciliation Preparation Registration for 2020-2022 *NOW ONLINE*

Parents with children who are in Kindergarten for the 2019-2020



school year (or who are currently in 1st Grade and have not previously attended a meeting), MUST attend a now online Information/Registration meeting to learn about the preparation process, important dates, and their role in this special journey. The Online First Eucharist Sacramental Preparation meeting is for ALL parents including Cross Walk, Home School and The Franciscan School, who have children in Kindergarten or 1st grade.

If your family wishes to enroll in the Sacrament Preparation process, you must attend the upcoming online meeting. During the online meeting, information on the sacramental preparation process will be provided and enrollment forms will be available. *Registration forms for Sacramental Preparation enrollment are available ONLY after attending the online meeting. While there is no specific date or time for the meeting, after you RSVP to the meeting link, further information will be emailed to you on May 4, 2020.

To RSVP for the online meeting, visit: https://form.jotform.com/62304764767160

If you had previously registered to attend one of the in-person May meetings, you do not need to register again to attend the online meeting.

If you have any questions about First Eucharist/Reconciliation preparation, please contact:

Sarah Bowser, Coordinator of Children's Formation, Sarah. Bowser@stfrancisraleigh.org, 989-859-9244 (cell)





Formation Registration for 2020-2021 Opens May 5 Please visit https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-formation-k-12/ for additional information about our programs for Grades K-12.

How's COVID-19 Affecting our Brothers and Sisters in Guatemala?

by Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace



One of the things I have been doing over this last month is checking in on my family members, colleagues, and friends more than usual. Life seems so disorienting, unpredictable, and fragile right now, and so somehow these conversations feel grounding. They also express well the sense of solidarity that we are all feeling right now, how small the world is, how interdependent we all are, how universal are our fears, anxieties, questions, hopes, and dreams.

In this spirit, one of the relationships I have been checking in on over the last month is with our Sister Parish, the village of Los Margaritas II (LM2) in Guatemala. We watch the news to get a sense of what is happening in our cities, states, and in our nation, but we likely get only a vague and piecemeal vision of how our brothers and sisters in other places are experiencing COVID-19. As many of you know, we have had a dear relationship with LM2 for over 25 years now. LM2 is a rural village of about 100 indigenous Mayan families located about a 10-hour drive northwest of Guatemala City. It might be fairly easy for us to imagine how our brothers and sisters in New York or Ohio or

even Italy are faring, but can what about our friends in Los Margaritas II, Guatemala?

Through a series of emails with Brian Tyler, the Sister Parish staff person who lives in Guatemala and is our liaison with LM2, I have been able to get a bit of a picture of what things look in Guatemala and in the village in particular. I wanted to share this with you to enrich your sense of solidarity and prayer during this time.

In response to COVID-19, Guatemala has enacted a nationwide curfew 4pm to 4am, suspended all public transport, closed borders, limited transportation in private vehicles to 3 persons, limited the amount of people that are allowed in open air markets, restricted travel within country, and made it an obligatory law to wear face masks in public. Even before COVID-19, most people in LMII struggle economically, with farming as the main profession, which rolls on with the seasonality of life and the vagaries of weather and markets.

At this point, the national restrictions have not prevented the village from continuing their planting, harvesting, and selling of their crops, but much depends on the future renormalizing in how things will affect them long-term. In order to supplement family income, many LM2 family members travel to and even live in neighboring urban areas, other farms, or in even in Guatemala City. With restricted travel and the economy halted, there is a great economic strain put on those who remain in the village and puts more pressure on farming to sustain their

already tenuous existence. At this point, most basic necessities are able to be secured in a town about 30 minutes away from LMII. The Guatemala government has made a decision to provide stimulus aid of 1,000 Quetzales (about \$130) and some food aid to individuals, but LM2 community members are still in the dark as to whether this support will reach them. Many doubt that it will.

At this point, there are only 200 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 5 deaths in all of Guatemala (0 cases in LM2). At least half of these cases are a result of COVID-19 positive migrants who have been deported from the US over this past month. There is very little access to CO-VID-19 testing in the country, and in areas like LM2, there is very poor health care and hospital infrastructure to support anyone who would be in need of extraordinary care. It is also the case that Guatemala's economy relies heavily on agricultural exports and tourism, as well as the large amount of remittances sent by Guatemalans living in the United States to relatives in Guatemala. All of this is being affected in negative ways and will undoubtedly affect the most vulnerable most severely. Although many of the Holy Week services and festivities were curtailed in Guatemala. LM2 continues to find solace in their new church they have been building over the last five years. They send us their prayers.

I invite you to please keep our brothers and sisters in LM2 in your prayers during this time when we are all feeling so distant and yet so connected.

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. Clinic Dates will be announced at a later date. Cost is \$25 per child/per clinic. Register at https://www.stfrancisraleigh. org/youthvolleyball-clinic/.

Youth volleyball League:

Registration is Coming Soon! The Game Level program 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/.

St. Francis will host a Blood Drive

on Thursday, April 30 from 9:00am to 3:00pm in Clare Fellowship Hall. There are 125 appointments available. The need for blood donations is great, and your support is greatly appreciated. A huge thank you to all those who supported our past blood drives on March 28, April 4 and April 6! For information, and to schedule your appointment, please visit: https://www.stfrancisraleigh. org/blood-drives/.



Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

Have you got two seconds? Great! That's how often someone in America needs blood. That's right. Two seconds. And in the time it took you to read those lines, 3 more people needed blood. And you know how much that is nationwide? It's 36,000 units of blood, according to the American Red Cross. Each day. Every day. In America.

So what kind of people need blood? People who have accidents or major surgery need blood. Have you read about the severe weather that has hurt so many people across the South? And even with social distancing, people are still having car accidents and getting burned and all the other regular, every day accidents that can create a need for blood.

People who have cancer need blood. Sometimes it's the cancer that creates the need for blood. It can stop the person's body from being able to keep up with the demand for new red blood cells. Sometimes it's the treatment to kill the cancer that creates the need for blood. Sometimes the cancer causes a need for surgery and that creates the need for blood.

People with chronic illnesses need blood. People with Sickle Cell disease need blood. Sometimes an infection can become so bad that a person needs blood to help tip the scales back towards health. Some people with kidney disease need blood. And people with hemophilia need blood.

So it's safe to say, people need blood. And you know what else? The only place they can get blood is from other people. Blood can't be artificially made or manufactured. It has to be donated. And, less than 38% of all people can donate blood, based on things like age, blood pressure and exposure to certain risk factors. And of that 38%, less than 10% actually donate blood.

You may have noticed that we've had several blood drives lately. We usually only have the Spring and Fall Blood drives hosted by our Knights of Columbus. But this year is different. This year, we need blood more than ever before. So we have invited the American Red Cross back to our campus for the fourth time in a month. Thursday, April 30, from 9-3, Clare Fellowship Hall will be a donation site. Every donation slot was filled for the previous three drives. Can we do it again? Can you roll up your sleeve and give us an hour of your time? Can you help save lives? I know you can! Visit https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/blood-drives/ to sign up for an appointment. And thank you! 7

Education Ministries

Embracing a Different Spring!



As we enter the Easter season and the warmer weather of Spring, both signaling rebirth, it is a very different world we experience this year. Schools are hard hit by the social distancing protocols in place to assure a healthy environment for all of us, but The Franciscan School faculty has been working hard to reassure our families that their students will finish the year well and be ready for next year through the thoughtful distance learning established by the school!

As we enter this season of renewal, the faculty, families, and students at TFS find themselves renewing their understanding of all that our education ministry community in St. Francis of Assisi parish provides to so many. We are not "just" a school, but a strong community that is dedicated to Faith, Academics, of course, and Service to all those who we impact each day; and we can especially see that impact now. As our mission continues, we have donated classroom supplies of facial tissues, disinfecting wipes, and paper towels to local organizations supporting women in our area; our faculty are providing lesson plans and materials to all students in our area who ask, even though some don't attend our school, to help support other families and their education in these trying times; and we have continued to provide morning prayer and other familiar cultural connections to our school families and our parish families on our website to keep our faith strong during separation.

All of us at The Franciscan School wish you a healthy Spring, personal renewal during this time of rebirth and new growth, and a blessed Easter season! Please know we in the Education Ministry are here to support you! We stand ready to provide your family with an excellent option for K-8th grade schooling in the Catholic and Franciscan tradition of dedicated faith, strong academics, and a commitment to service to God's people. Come join us!

To learn more about The Franciscan School, visit us at https://www.franciscanschool.org/, check out the recent WRAL Spotlight articles found here: www.wral.com/the-franciscan-school-raleigh/19018599/, or contact Principal Mike Watson at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Service Through Art!



Do you have a child who loves to color, draw or paint? Now is the time to let their creativity go to work! We can't see all of their art in the hallway, so what better way to show off their talent?! There are folks who haven't been able to have any visitors or go to church due to the CO-VID-19 crisis. Receiving artwork from a child might be just the right prescription for a brighter day!

If you'd like to send cards to 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 please visit https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/.

Once you've clicked on the link above, you will want to focus on the left (peach) column. You'll click the "other" box and then write in the fillable box that you'd like to contribute cards; scroll all the way to the bottom and fill out the form which will then be sent to the parish office and someone will be in touch with how to proceed from there.

Be sure to write the name of the recipient on the envelope and include a stamp; then place the completed card and envelope into another envelope and mail to Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life, who will make sure that it gets to the recipient.

April Envelope Schedule

April 19 Weekly April 26 Weekly

Ways to Give

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

We will:

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□Sign up for recurring giving through FairhDirect www.stfrancisraleigh.org/fairhdirect □Increase offertory giving by 2% by 4/15/20, www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure

Doin a new ministry, tell us which one.

www.stfrancisraleigh.org/talent

■Volunteer my time by:

www.stfrancisraleigh.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

(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

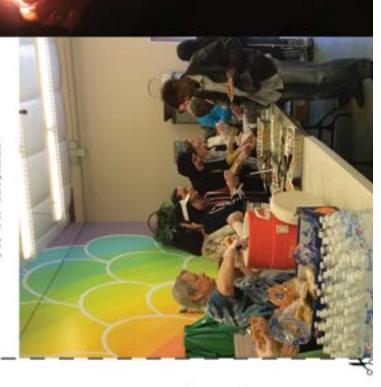


THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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





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 ASSIST

Envelope Number (if applicable)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email 1

Email 2

Cell Phone

Home Phone

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

Place form in an envelope and mail is to: The Catholic Community of St Francis of Assisi 11401 Leewille Road, Raleigh NC 27613

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Giving is Receiving

those who faithfully contribute to our thank you to all parish offertory.

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

https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/register/ and register on line as a member of The Carholic Community of Not registered? Not sure? Visit Or call 919-847-8205x222 St. Francis of Assisi.

Dear St. Francis Family,

care of our faith home and that means responsibly give back so that we might that making this commitment impacts on earth. May God, through the Holy back to this community remembering you are sharing your time and talent. Spirit, guide each family here to give As faithful stewards, we MUST take all, there are many ways to give. We need the entire St. Francis family to continue to promote God's kingdom today. If you are not contributing at every person of this parish needs to ment to our church. Consider how Consider increasing your offertory Here is the link to the ways to give: www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/. prayerfully consider their commit-Please contact Deb Royals Mizerk at 919-847-8205x222 if you need the future of our durch.

Director of Stewardship Peace and blessings, Deb Royals Mizerk,



Touching Jesus' Mercy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The memory of the marks of our sufferings can lead us to lose our peace. For Christ, this is not so. He shows the disciples his wounds and says, "Peace be with you." It may seem contradictory, but it isn't. To touch Christ's wounded side is to touch his mercy, to touch a love that overcomes everything. In spite of my sins wounding him, he comes to me in loving mercy. Jesus' wounds bring peace.

When the apostles see his hands and side, they rejoice. His wounds are a sign

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:42-47

Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

1 Peter 1:3-9

You may have to suffer through various trials, so...the genuineness of your faith...may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John 20:19-31

These [signs] are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah,...and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

that it is really him. No one else has those marks. His wounds are his identification! His wounds bring joy.

Thomas misses Jesus' first apparition, returning and demanding proof before he will believe. Rather than becoming angry, Jesus shows him his wounds. He invites Thomas to touch the signs of his suffering, and Thomas believes. Jesus' wounds bring faith.

We also need to insert our hands and hearts into Christ's side, to come into contact with his love and mercy. Only then can we be healed. Only then can we experience real peace, joy, and faith.

That's why Jesus breathes on his disciples and says, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (John 20:22-23). He wants to heal their wounds and see them produce joy and peace in others. God's grace is to reach all generations through the power of forgiveness he entrusts to his Church. The sacrament of penance is exactly that. We acknowledge our sins, and Jesus responds with understanding, forgiveness, and counsel. +

We need to insert our hands and hearts into Christ's side, to come into contact with his love and mercy.

A Word from Pope Francis

To us also, on this Sunday, which St. John Paul II wished to dedicate to divine mercy, the Lord shows us, through the Gospel, his wounds. They are wounds of mercy....Jesus invites us to...enter into the mystery of these wounds, which is the mystery of his merciful love.

-Homily, April 12, 2015



QUESTIONS ODESTIONS MEETIONS

- How often and how sincerely do you receive mercy through reconciliation?
- How often do you show and share the forgiveness and mercy you have been blessed with?



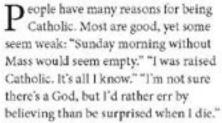
Diocese of Raleigh News

Career Network Minisry

The Career Network Ministry has gone VIRTUAL! Join us Saturday, April 25, 2020, at 9 AM for a one-hour online presentation and discussion on "Managing Personal Finances During Disruptive Times" by Jim Wallace, MBA, CFP, of the Millennium Planning Group; a topic that is particularly important as we address the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We'll cover strategies for managing cash flow and debt obligations, accessing benefits (e.g., unemployment, COBRA, etc.), short- and long-term financial planning and potential stimulus relief programs.

Why Community? Why Church? Why Catholic?

By Jim and Susan Vogt



These aren't bad reasons, but they may not stand up to the challenges of modern life. They're like the house built on sand. When the storm came, it collapsed (see Matthew 7:24–27).

The storms are many: anger at the clergy sex-abuse scandals; dissatisfaction with the limited role of women; judging the Church as too wishy-washy, politically involved, rich, or concerned about rules; and hurt from negative personal experiences (for example, "The Church wouldn't bury my father").

Once a young adult leaves home, the practice of the faith may be seen as only a cultural commitment with no roots. Sometimes people aren't welcomed when they approach the Church for marriage or other sacraments. Our Church must walk a delicate balance between staking out an identity that sometimes upholds unpopular values while welcoming all with unconditional love as Jesus did.

Lately we've been listening to folks who have left the Church and to others who have remained or returned to active



Catholicism. These are some of the more significant reasons we've heard about why people stay:

- The communion of saints: Many in the Church have been inspired by Catholics, some deceased but others still alive, who've been powerful witnesses of lives lived for others true followers of Jesus.
- Crisis: Sometimes a life crisis drives us to ask the ultimate questions about life's meaning. God often touches us during difficult times, and we come to understand that life is about more than collecting stuff or even surrounding ourselves with loving people.
- The sacraments: The Catholic Church has a rich tradition of combining the Word with actions and symbols in its seven sacraments. This reflects an understanding of how ordinary things—water, bread, oil, rings, words of forgiveness or commitment, and human touch—help us experience God's love.
- Universality: People have told us that they were attracted to the Catholic Church because its heritage goes back to Jesus and there's a unity of belief around the world.
- Service and social justice: The Catholic Church has perhaps the most extensive social service network

- in the world—tending to the poor, coordinating aid during crises, and challenging everyone to live simply and help their neighbors because that is what Jesus taught.
- Community: Living a Christian life isn't about being a "lone ranger." Being in community with other believers, we can pool our resources and support each other.

In the end, the reason that we—Jim and Susan—are Catholic is that it's where God has called us and spoken to us. There are many routes to God, but Catholicism is where we have experienced God's touch. There may be Church policies with which we disagree, but we would find human foibles and failings no matter what religion we followed.

Some of the best and worst things in human history were done in the name of church, God, and religion. We must align ourselves with the best and repudiate the worst. The challenge is to be humble enough to remember that we're not in charge and that we're all imperfect sinners, still loved by God. As a community inspired by the life of Jesus, faith calls us to devote ourselves to the good of others.

Bottom line? Love. +



Risen Lord, you share with me God's gifts of peace and forgiveness. Open my heart to share your peace and forgiveness with all people.

 From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pontocost, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Arn McSweery

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 20-25

Monday, Easter Weekday: Acts 4:23-31 / Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 4:32–37 / Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 5:17-26 / Jn 3:16-21 Thursday, Easter Weekday: Acts 5:27-33 / Jn 3:31-36

Friday, Easter Weekday: Acts 5:34-42 / Jn 6:1-15

Saturday, St. Mark: 1 Pt 5:5b-14 / Mk 16:15-20



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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. To receive an invite to the online meeting, email Chuck Small at chuck.smallsfa@gmail.com. Next online meeting is Sunday, May 3.

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, Itucker40@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

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:

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

FaceTime and Zoom

If you'd like to learn how to use FaceTime or Zoom or be connected to watch our daily and Sunday programs, or if you'd like to teach someone over the phone, please visit our https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/

Cards and Artwork

If you'd like to send or receive cards to/from fellow parishioners and establish a connection with other folks who are sheltering in place, or if you have kids who would love to send their artwork to brighten someone's day or if you'd like to receive some artwork, visit https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/

Make a Meal and Deliver Groceries

If you would like to make a meal or help deliver groceries to those in need, please visit: https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/

Making a 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.

Thank vou!

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 other volunteer opportunities are suspended until it is safe for us to come together again. Please check your weekly bulletin for updates. Stay well.

Contact Us! Par	rish Office: 919-847-8205	fav: 010, 970, 1700	Staff amail: firetname lactname	Octfranciaraloigh org	7
	ISH Office. 919-047-0205	iax. 919-0/0-1/90	Staff email: firstname.lastname	wstirancistaleigh.org	}
Velcome			The Franciscan School		
lew Parishioner Registration	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265	Principal	Mike Watson	919-534-48
ecoming Catholic	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x238	Receptionist (Main Number)	Diana Chapman	919-534-48
Set Involved!	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222	Assistant Principal, K-5	Michele Northington	847-8205x2
ranciscan Friars	•		Assistant Principal 6-8	Colette Dziadul	847-8205x
astor	Fr. Steve Patti, O.F.M.	847-8205x224	St. Francis Preschool		
ssistant to the Pastor		847-8205x249	Director	Heidi Hobler	847-8205x2
ssociate Pastor	Fr. Steve Kluge, O.F.M.	847-8205x226	Assistant to the Director	Shelley Freeman	847-8205x2
ssociate Pastor	Fr. Jim Sabak, O.F.M.	847-8205x261	Admissions and Marketing	Jennifer Stephens	847-8205x
eacon	Stephen Andrews	732-213-0104	Faith Formation	ocimilar otophana	047 02000
acraments	Otephen Andrews	102-210-010-	Director	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x2
	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244	Children's Faith Formation	Sarah Bowser	847-8205x
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rst Reconciliation	Sarah Bowser	847-8205x496	Middle School Faith Formation	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x
rst Eucharist	Sarah Bowser	847-8205x496	Coordinator of Youth Ministry	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x
onfirmation	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239	Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)	Tara Moore	847-8205x
atrimony	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244	Parish Operations		
oly Orders	Fr. Steve Patti, O.F.M.	847-8205x224	Dir of Strategic Planning	Tricia Henry	847-8205x
nointing of the Sick	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Communications and Webmaster	Diogenes Ŕuiz	847-8205x
econciliation Appointments		847-8205x249	Human Resources	Trish Adamkowski	847-8205x
CIA	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x238	Safe Environment Specialist	Trina Sugrue	847-8205x
acraments Administration	Martina Dumberger	847-8205x264	Director of Stewardship	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x
uneral Planning	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Parishioner Records	Toni Hammes	847-8205x
columbarium Niches	Trish Adamkowski	847-8205x241	Director of Finance	Rob Neppel	847-8205x
Olumbanum Niches	IIISII AUdilikowski	047-02038230	Director of Facilities	Marc Kielty	847-8205x
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et Care!	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Prayers		
are	Ratificen Owen	047-02038241	Prayer Line	Paul Wilson	wilsonpf99@gmail.c
	Kathleen Owen	0.47 0205,241		Jackie Adamo	
lome Eucharist Visits		847-8205x241	Prayers		847-8205x2
eed the Need (meals)	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Receive a Prayer Shawl	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x
ledical Facility Visits	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Support Groups	14000	
ransportation to Mass	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Divorce Care	William Morgan	dejanuts@yahoo.c
tephen Ministry	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Job Connections	Mary Horner	610-755-53
t. Vincent de Paul	Leave Voicemail	919-534-4842	Seeing God in your Cancer	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x
ood Grief	Marsha Riely ma	rshariely@mac.com	AA Daily Reprieve Group	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x
riefShare		varga@hotmail.com	Al-Anon	Madeline Horrigan	919-923-12
	a,o ra.gaa,o	.a.ga@aa	Alzheimer's Caregivers Support	Linda Tucker	937-478-9
et Involved! orship Ministries	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222			
rector of Liturgy and Music	Jim Wahl	847-8205x230	St Francis Serves		
pordinator of Liturgical Ministe		847-8205x244	Community Garden	Pat & Paul Kelly	919-413-8
tar Servers & Thurifers	Joanie Madormo rmado		Curbside Care	Lori Piraino	lpiraino7@gmail.c
		203-512-8807			
nildren's Liturgy of the Word	Jackie Kelly		Duke Children's Hospital	Joe and Geanie Slife	
nurch Keeping	Beverly Saunders	919-846-5795	Family Promise / WHIN Hosts	Ron Smith	919-455-7
	oseph Randazzo josephjrar		Gabriel Project	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x
eaf Ministry	Jean Cooke-Byrne	919-412-8365	Migrant Ministry	Bruce Cartier	bcartier7@gmail.c
vironmenť & Art	Theresa Baumgartner	919-848-3383	Prison Pen Pal	Jill Balogh	jbalogh@nc.rr.d
charistic Ministers	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244	R.A.R.E. Tom Zimme		nmerman@bellsouth.
neral Ministers	Lisa Gianturco	919-845-9718	Red Cross Blood Drive	Bryan Kozak	910-728-9
ospitality Hands	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222	Refugee Resettlement		aggiedalton@gmail.c
ectors	Mike Wrzesien	919-624-1592	St Francis Builds / Habitat	Diane & Bob Steinbe	
aster of Ceremonies	Michael & Julie Ducatte		St Vincent de Paul Ministers	Cathy Smith	419-348-88
edical Presence at Mass		847-8205x241			
	Kathleen Owen		Support Circles Kat and Fer		rrel.guillory@gmail.c
usic Ministry		epetzka@gmail.com	Whitaker House	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x
arking Ministry	Steve Burdett	919-845-2714	St Francis on Mission	T T	C 1= CCC=
shers		.chaput@gmail.com	International Mission Trips	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x
Veekend Receptionists	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Sister Parish - Guatemala	Laria Gunnalle cai	rie gunnells@gmail.c

Church Reching	Develly Saulidels	313-040-3133	railing riolinise / within 110515	NOIT SITILLI	313-433-1100
Cross Bearers		zo1@gmail.com	Gabriel Project	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Deaf Ministry	Jean Cooke-Byrne	919-412-8365	Migrant Ministry	Bruce Cartier	bcartier7@gmail.com
Environment & Art	Theresa Baumgartner	919-848-3383	Prison Pen Pal	Jill Balogh	jbalogh@nc.rr.com
Eucharistic Ministers	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244	R.A.R.E. Tom Zimme	erman thomaspzimi	merman@bellsouth.net
Funeral Ministers	Lisa Gianturco	919-845-9718	Red Cross Blood Drive	Bryan Kozak	910-728-9200
Hospitality Hands	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222	Refugee Resettlement	Aggie Dalton a	ggiedalton@gmail.com
Lectors	Mike Wrzesien	919-624-1592	St Francis Builds / Habitat	Diane & Bob Steinbeis	ser 919-846-8026
Master of Ceremonies	Michael & Julie Ducatte	919-622-8883	St Vincent de Paul Ministers		419-348-8843
Medical Presence at Mass	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241			rel.guillory@gmail.com
Music Ministry	Jovce Petzka iepet	zka@gmail.com			847-8205x270
	Steve Burdett	919-845-2714			
Ushers	Trov Chaput trov.cha	aput@gmail.com		Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Weekend Receptionists					e.gunnells@gmail.com
	Deb Rovals-Mizerk	847-8205x222			305-205-5104
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	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270			847-8205x270
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Get involved!	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222			
Parish Life Ministries	Kathlaan Owen	847-8205x241	St. Francis of Assisi Community Coordinator of Community Contar	Center Ashlev Watson	847-8205x444
Director of Parish Life Pastoral Presence Ministries	Kathleen Owen	047-02U3X241	Coordinator of Community Center Athletic Programs	Mary Arleth	847-8205x358
Caregivers	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Assisi Café	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
Centering Prayer	Alice Stanford	919-781-5860	Parish Events (FrancisFest)	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
Emmaus Ministers	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Summer Camps (Camp Francis)	Ashley Watson	847-8205x444
EMs to Abbotswood EMs to the Homebound	Anita Misko Pat Spencer	630-699-0519 704-608-1678	Community Organizations Girl Scouts of USA	Melissa O'Connor	847-8205x296
EMs to the Magnolia Glen	Jacob House	919-449-7634	BSA Scouts:Troop 352 (6th-12th, boy		
EMs to the Meadows	Andrea McVerry	amcverry@yahoo.com	BSA Scouts:Troop 219 (6th-12th, girls	s) Scott Cash scoutm	aster219tfs@gmail.com
EMs to Rex Hospital		lward.gilmartin@gmail.com	BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th)		mbership@pack352.com
EMs to Springmoor Prayer Line Ministers	Janice Horner Pauk Wilson	484-949-1417 wilsonpf99@gmail.com	Knights of Columbus Secular Franciscan Order	Bob Weisenberger Lee Cunningham	919-723-7424 http://ofscentralnc.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Cindy Cardello	919-846-8825	Faith Formation Ministries	Lee Guillinghain	nitp.//orscentraine.org
rayor onam minory	Dianne Rotunno	919-844-7153	Director of Faith Formation	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x238
Rosary Ministry	Barbi Taperek	919-744-7234	Assisi Scripture Study	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x238
Ministries of Support & Care	Carlo Toolean	007 470 0507	Baptism Ministry	Tim Hetzel Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244 847-8205x244
Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Caring Casseroles Cooks	Linda Tucker Kathleen Owen	937-478-9537 847-8205x241	Marriage Ministry Confirmation Sponsors	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x244 847-8205x239
Feed the Need Cooks	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241	Children's Formation Group Leader	Sarah Bowser	847-8205x496
Job Connections Mentors	Mary Horner	610-755-5392	Family & Marriage Enrichment Team	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Medical Facility Visitors		hollandbozo@yahoo.com	Middle School Formation Group	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Transportation to Mass Drivers	Stephanie Smith	919-302-0080	Faith Formation Retreats and Camps Faith Formation Registration & Event		847-8205x269 847-8205x237
Weekday Volunteer Receptionists Social Groups	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265	Youth Ministry Group Leader	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x237
AAMEN Ministry	Leon Cooke	919-740-7515	RCIA Team & Sponsors	Jenn Fiduccia	847-8205x238
Always God's Children	Chuck Small	984-204-0012	Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)	Tara Moore	847-8205x489
LGBT Ministry	Jane Paris	919-847-7431	Young Adults Bible Study Group	Tim Hetzel	847-8205x244
Men's Ministry	Norm Tuomi Ralph Guenther	norman3722@att.net rguenther2@nc.rr.com	Stewardship Ministries Director of Stewardship	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222
Young Adults	fb.me/YoungAdults	ofStFrancis	Stewardship Committee	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222
Women's Ministry	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241			nouseben5@gmail.com
50+ Adults Group	Angela Azzopardi	919-848-1347			