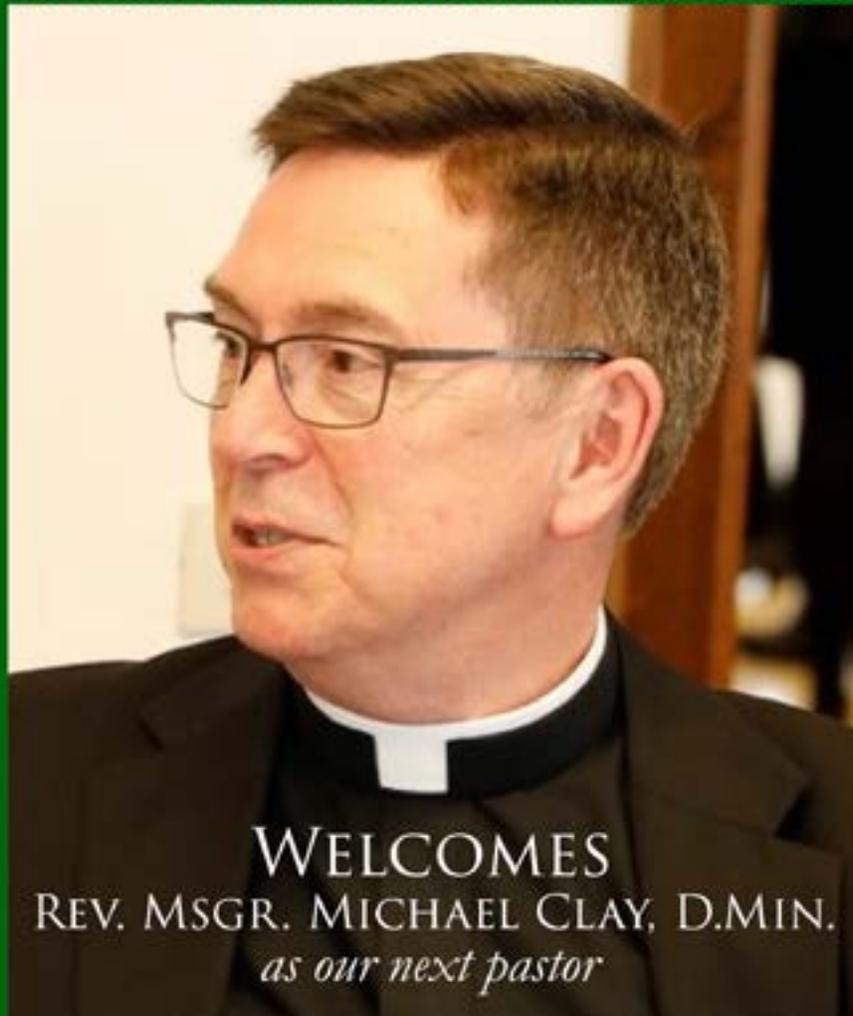




THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



See page 10

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





We continue in these strange and new and unknown days, watching and waiting for any kind of news about this virus and whether things are improving, or not. We have not known anything like this in our lifetimes. We look for ways to adapt, hopeful that in time we might return to something of what we knew before.

In the gospel for this Sunday we hear from Thomas, one of the apostles who is always ready to ask the honest questions that others may not want to ask. "Master," he says to Jesus in today's passage, "we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Thomas is the one who later in the gospel needs to see proof of Jesus' wounds. Here he admits that, even as Jesus assures his followers that he will always be with them, he is feeling a little lost and uncertain. And he admits that.

The question of Thomas "How can we know the way?" is, perhaps, a question we have asked ourselves at one time or another in our own lives. We want to know the way forward, we want to know what's going to happen, we simply want "to know." In an interview, the writer Phil Klay spoke about Catholicism as "not a religion of hard mechanical rules...Catholicism is an invitation to mystery, not mastery, communion, not control." His words seem wise to me; mystery as living within ambiguity and unknowing, communion as an invitation to be in relationship with God and others. Maybe that's what these days are offering to us.

As of this writing (Monday 5/4), we are waiting to hear any news about reopening, and what that might look like here. We expect we will receive guidance from the diocese. In the meantime, thank you to everyone who continues to tune in for our Sunday mass live-streams and for our other virtual events. And thank you to all who continue to contribute: as we have mentioned, Faith Direct has been an enormous help for us, and you can sign up for that by calling 866-507-8757 and giving our parish code NC674. We also receive many donations through the mail every week and many of them include thoughtful and encouraging notes, and we thank you for that.

Finally, for news soon on the pastoral transition here, please see page 10 for information about Bishop Zarama's selection of St. Francis' next pastor, Msgr. Michael Clay.

Blessings on your week and Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there!

Fr Steve

Weekly Financial Update

Offertory	Full Year	Year to Date		Year to Date	
	Plan	2020	Plan %	2019	Year to Year
Annual Budget	\$3,681,197	\$3,032,978	82%	\$3,031,593	+0.1%
	Plan	2020 Actual	Plan %	2019 Actual	Year to Year
April Budget	\$327,106	\$301,114	92%	\$318,770	-5.5%
March Offertory Sources:		2020	2019		
Weekly Collections/Envelopes		\$124,006	\$174,038	-28.7%	
Faith Direct		\$177,109	\$144,731	+22.4%	
		-----	-----		
		\$301,114	\$318,770	-5.5%	

Observation: Since the COVID-19 shutdown, we have seen a major shift in how our families provide monetary support to the Church and our ministries. During this period, 125 families have enrolled with Faith Direct for their weekly or monthly donations. Thank you to everyone for your support through these trying times and enabling St. Francis to continue our ministry work serving the community.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE
AND PERPETUAL LIGHT
SHINE UPON HIM:

+ Hugh Fields
Husband of Gloria Fields

May Envelope Schedule

May 10 Weekly
May 17 Weekly
May 24 Weekly
May 24 Catholic Home Mission/
Communications
May 31 Weekly

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 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, May 10, 9:30 am
The 5th 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 [Youtube](#) channel,
- 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.

#SFAStayConnected

Zooming Connections

Justice and Peace Foundation Workshops

Are you looking for some meaningful formation opportunities in the coming weeks? The Office of Justice and Peace will offer two more spring formation opportunities. If you are interested in how to think about complex social problems through the lens of faith rather than partisan politics, or how to work more effectively and prudently for the kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace, then these workshops are for you! We are offering these workshops online via the technology of Zoom. To find out more information about the three workshops and to sign-up for any or all of these workshops, go to our Workshop Signup Page.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunity Reflecting on the Word

Join in Lectio Divina followed by small group discussion on the upcoming Sunday readings! We will be using Zoom online conferencing and you will be sent a link to join after you register. Attend all meetings, or drop in for just one!

THURSDAYS, from 7:30 to 8:45pm
[Register here](#)

FRIDAYS, from 10:00 to 11:15am
[Register here](#)

A Conversation about Pope Francis' Laudato Si' in context of COVID-19

"The Cry of the Earth, the Cry
of the People"
May 21, 7-8:30pm

In honor of the 5th anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' landmark teaching document Laudato si', we will reflect up Pope Francis' document and his challenge to us to consider this current Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic as a timely opportunity to pause our lives and consider the kind of world we are living in and what we want the world to become in the future. We will be using Zoom online conferencing and you will be sent a link to join after you [Register Here](#).

Daily Posts

We encourage you to stay connected as a virtual community in these days at home. Have you found all our online opportunities to stay connected?

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 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."

And, several times a day, we are posting to all our social media accounts. Are you following us?? **You should.**

"Stay-at-Home" Caring & Serving

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. Some ways we're connecting with each other

- We're making meals and delivering groceries
- We're calling a parishioners to check on each other
- We're creating artwork and writing cards for each other
- We're teaching and learning Face-Time and Zoom to stay in touch

If you need help or want to offer help, please visit our [SFA help webpage](#).

Distance Learning

[The Franciscan School](#) is closed for the remainder of the school year. Guidance for the start of the new school year will come with direction from the NC Governor's Office and the Diocese of Raleigh. The Franciscan School continues to provide excellent instruction to students to assure they are prepared for their academic futures. The school continues to host our daily Morning Prayer, which can also be found on our COVID 19 resource page. This shared prayer keeps the school community connection strong and rooted in a daily faith experience.

To find out more about TFS, please contact Principal Mike Watson at mike.watson@franciscanschool.org and to take a virtual tour of the school, please [click here](#).

Our [St Francis Preschool](#) is also closed through the end of the school year. However, you can continue to see fun and educational preschool activities on the preschool [Facebook page](#) as well as on our [preschool website](#).

Our Faith Formation program 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 our faith formation volunteer page.

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.

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.



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.



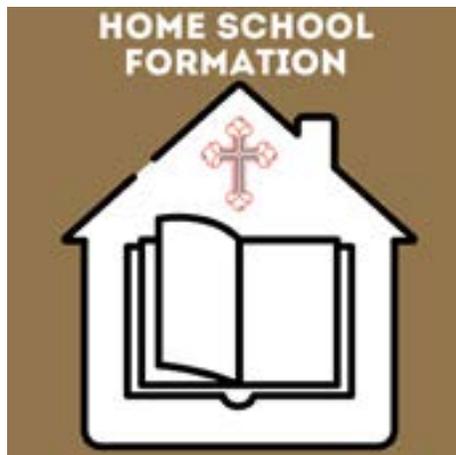
Formation Registration for 2020-2021 is now open!

Register by 6/15 to receive the early registration discount.

Our Sunday Cross Walk, Cross Train and Cross Road programs are group-based, centered on the Mass, and offer fellowship, in a fun, safe environment. Sessions meet twice per month, September through May. The Formation Team also offers monthly Family Events and other special events that will help build upon the teachings presented each week and foster opportunities in which the families can grow in faith together.

We understand that all family schedules and situations are different and that some families may choose to home school their children/youth. We do offer this as an option. Participation in this program includes appropriate age level materials and open invitations to our Family Events.

Please visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-formation-k-12/> to register and for additional information about our programs for Grades K-12.

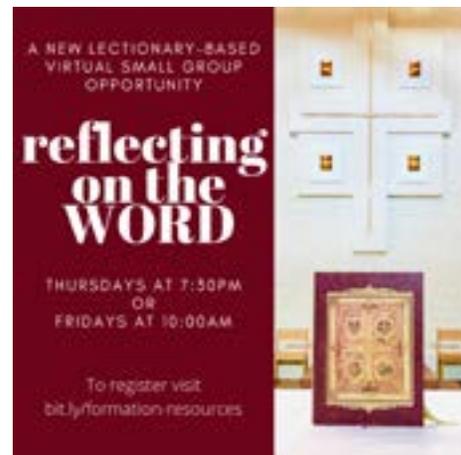


Call for Volunteers

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.

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.



At Home with the Word

Reflecting on the Word Lectio Divina followed by small group discussion

Join our Director of Formation, Jenn Fiduccia, for Lectio Divina followed by small group discussion on the upcoming Sunday readings! We will be using Zoom online conferencing and you will be sent a link to join after you register.

TWO COHORTS:

THURSDAYS
starting APRIL 30, from 7:30 to 8:45pm
– Register here: <https://forms.gle/nKWB-Nadq4uKeCgV4A>

FRIDAYS
starting MAY 1, from 10:00 to 11:15am –
Register here: <https://forms.gle/zkbFaN-751nBqgdVL9>

For more information, email jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

by Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace



The election of Barack Obama in 2008 to the highest office in our country and in fact to the distinction of being the most powerful person in the world as President of the United States was a monumental, historically significant event. Some news outlets described it as “sweeping away racial barriers”, an “unthinkable breakthrough that could not have been imagined even two years earlier” ushering in a “post-racial” America. Blacks and whites alike heralded it as profound and remarkable. Some talked about it as almost unbelievable; how their long passed ancestors must be turning over in their graves. Still others, as a mark of true progress toward the end of racism in America, which of course it was. Or was it?

While Barack Obama’s election and then re-election were indeed profound and remarkable events, certainly representing true progress, racism in our country is still very much alive and wreaking havoc on people of color in countless ways every day. Perhaps not in the way that most people think about racism however.

The common understanding of a racist act is an intentional and mean offence done by an individual who consciously does not like people based on their race and thinks himself or herself superior. Using this definition alone, racism is probably rare, just a few “bad apples”. But as 20 St. Francis parishioners engaged in a Faith and Racial Equity workshop over the past few weeks have come to understand, this definition of racism is highly inadequate and does not reflect the realities of racism in our country.

In fact, the United States of America is actually a racially structured society with white people at the top, holding most positions of power and decision making, and black people at the bottom most of whom are struggling to survive. Racism exists in our societal systems such that in almost every measurable way, people of color fair worse than white people, be it in housing, healthcare, wealth, education, jobs, etc. This is called systemic racism. More than a just few bad apples ... the whole apple tree is infected.

So profound is the problem of systemic racism in our country, that in 2018 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the teaching office of the Roman Catholic Church here in the US, published a new pastoral letter against racism called *Open Wide Our Hearts The Enduring Call to Love*. In this historic document our Bishops state: “... we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue. Accordingly, we will not cease to speak forcefully against and work toward ending racism.”

Racism is a life issue!

People are dying as a result of racism! How can this be? Follow this link to sign up and learn more. <https://bit.ly/SFA-FRH2020>

Also, please refer to the USCCB.org website and our own website at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/learn/racialjustice/> to learn more about the complexities of systemic racism and how it adversely affects people of color in our country. Contact Becky Cawley at becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org or 314-409-5034 with questions.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Caring Connections



Things are so very different in May of 2020 than they were in March of 2020. I haven't been inside a store since before St. Patrick's Day. I have mastered the art of online grocery shopping. I take daily walks with the dogs and I'm getting to know my neighbors – from at least 6 feet away.

Work has changed, too. I've taken over the dining room as my office. My husband has the office. It gets pretty chaotic when we're both on back to back Zoom calls, so I'm enjoying earbuds these days, too. I wanted to share a project that many staff members are working on because it affects you and in fact, it is totally for you.

Way back in March, when we all started working from home, we wanted to try to keep the parish all connected. Most departments started reaching out to the folks involved in their ministries, Justice & Peace, Liturgy, the schools, Faith Formation, and Parish Life. But what about the folks who weren't identified with a particular ministry? Who could call them? So I assembled a team of Parish Life staff, asked for a couple of reports, wrote up a script, and started calling parishioners. All 5000 families!!! We've added some staff from the schools and from the Bridges staff and we've reached out to about 2000 families. We still have a ways to go!

We have had some wonderful heart-warming stories. We've had some heartbreakers, too. There was a service veteran who loved sharing stories about the good old days. We found a member of the Knights who enjoyed hearing the stories, so we made a good connection there. There have been several families who are walking with a family member who has a terminal condition. They were glad to hear from us and the call seemed to brighten their day, but it's hard to hear the pain in someone's voice and not be able to hug them.

The best part of this work is we are seeing a different side of our parish. Not just the folks who are often at church outside of mass, but members of our community whose names and situations we aren't familiar. In short, we're making new friends, finding new connections and realizing that reaching out, just to say hello is something we want to keep doing. Once a staff member has made connection with a parishioner and updated all the demographic information (you wouldn't believe how many people have disconnected their land line, changed their email addresses and never updated their information with the church!), we're asking if the person would like a weekly check in call. For those who say yes, we're adding them to a ministry called Caring Connections. We're asking volunteers like you to sign up to make a call, send a card, or deliver a meal to someone in our community. That's another

way we're building community. Through these calls, we've found that there are people who need to have a bulletin printed and mailed to them, we now have a large print bulletin we can email or print out and mail.

And anyone can join this ministry! There's no Level C required, no age limit. If you can make a call or draw a picture or write a card, you're in! There can also be recognition of service hours for teens who may have had other opportunities canceled. If you would like to 'virtually' meet a few parishioners and have the time to make a few calls, we invite you to participate in this ministry.

Keeping the community together during this time of social distancing is challenging, but it's possible. We're calling folks as fast as we can. If you want to get the jump on it, call or email me at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241. Let me know how you're doing, if you've got any updates to your demographics. And if you'd like to get to know more parishioners, volunteer with our Caring Connections ministry at <http://lotsahelpinghands.com/c/700845/>. Once there, you can either click Join A Care Team and the under Find A Community, enter st francis of assisi caring connections. You can sign up to make calls, send cards or children's artwork, print a bulletin and deliver/mail it, or deliver a meal. Let's get through this together!

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Appreciation at The Franciscan School



The appreciation we normally share at this time of year is even more poignant this Spring as we endure the continuing effects of the pandemic and the response to it. This past week was National Teacher Appreciation Week and we certainly appreciate all that our faculty do each day for their students; this year especially so. The past 8 weeks our teachers have worked harder than ever to make sure our students' academic success continued, even though it was from home. They quickly switched from the traditional way of doing things to "Distance Learning", and did it in a way that reflected the fact that everyone's home situation was different. With their characteristic care, love for learning, and accommodating nature, they have assured that our students will be prepared to move forward confidently into next year! Our faculty and staff are truly dedicated, and have

demonstrated the enthusiastic support under very stressful circumstances that characterizes who they are as Catholic educators. Thank you to all teachers everywhere and, in particular, at The Franciscan School!

We would be remiss in not recognizing that today is Mother's Day, and we always appreciate all that our mothers, and fathers, do to support their families and all of us here at TFS. We very much value all that our families put into the school, and the thoughtful sacrifices they make to assure that their children can receive a great Catholic education. A school community is built of the faculty, staff, families, and students; each being essential. Our families help strengthen and form the backbone of our mission and they ensure the amazing experience of all who are involved here in this place!

Thanks to all that our families do to contribute to the great everyday things that build and form the TFS community! We love all of our students and families, and the greatest challenge we have had is the inability to be able to enjoy the quality classroom time we are used to spending with those students in support of our families. We appreciate all of our families and we miss you all tremendously!

We are continuing our admissions process for the 2020-21 school year and we are excited to share all we offer here in The Franciscan School community. Please visit our website or contact Principal Mike Watson at mike.watson@franciscanschool.org to find out more and to get insight into the community of excellence we have built here over the past two decades!



A Prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the mothers
who have gone before us.
For their love, sacrifice, struggle
and joy, we thank you.

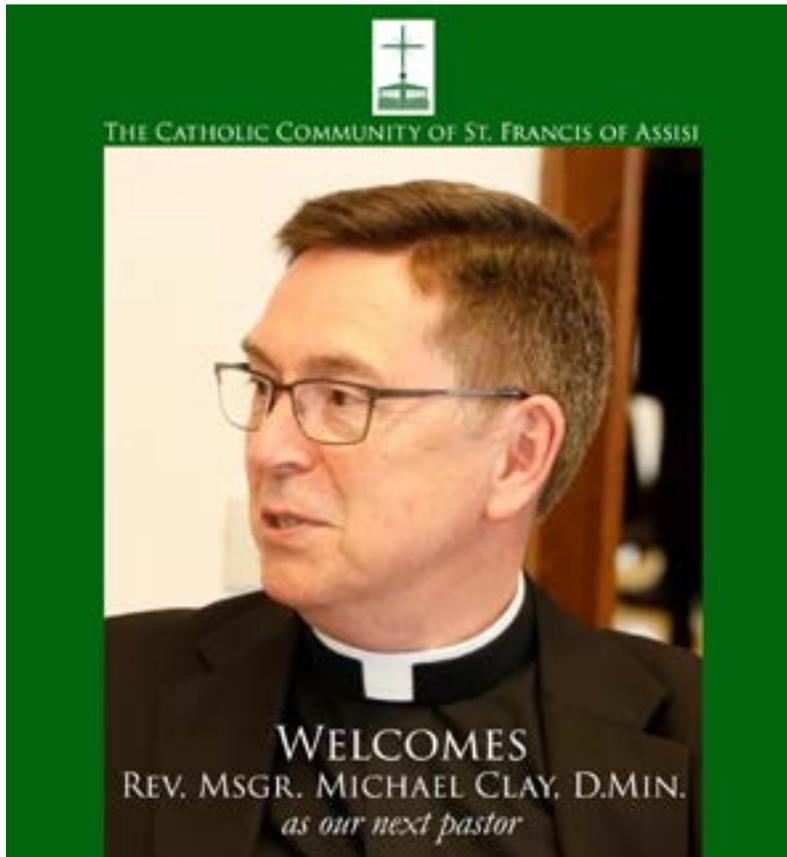
Lord, we remember the mothers of
Scripture who are a part of our story
as we are a part of your story.
For their courage, faith, love and
fierceness, we thank you.

Lord, we remember those who have not
given birth to us, but are mothers to us.
For their gift of themselves that they
have given, we thank you.

For the women who struggle with
fertility, for those women whom
society labels as less in their childlessness,
for those women who have lost children.
For their tears, for their strength,
For their wisdom, for their lives
We thank you.

In your name we pray, Amen
By Claire Schoepp

Happy Mother's Day
Love, St. Francis of Assisi Preschool



To all the people of St. Francis,

I have great news to share – a new pastor has been appointed for St. Francis. He is Msgr. Michael Clay, a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh who for the past eight years has been teaching at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. His official start date here will be September 1, 2020. He will also have an associate who will be named at a later date.

We friars will continue to serve here up until the time of transition. Fr. Jim Sabak, who as you know currently works for the diocese as part-time Director of Worship, will become full-time Director of Worship at the diocese as of July 1st, and Jim will also continue to be with us here at St. Francis up until the time of transition. Fr. Steve Kluge and I expect to hear news on new assignments sometime within the next few months.

Msgr. Clay and I have spoken on the phone and he is excited about becoming pastor here. He is a great choice for St. Francis – he is familiar with the parish, understands the kind of parish we are, and is looking forward to meeting the people. Thanks to everyone for your prayers during this transition process.
Peace and all good!

Fr. Steve Patti, O.F.M.
Pastor
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
11401 Leesville Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27613



Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)
May 10, 2020

Rely on the Cornerstone

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

One of the great accomplishments of Roman construction was the arch. It enabled them to span larger distances and make bigger buildings without sacrificing strength. Just think of the Roman aqueducts, basilicas, and coliseums standing today.

The key to the Roman arch is that each stone is well cut. Additionally, the cornerstone takes all the stress and stabilizes the whole. Saint Peter uses these construction images as a metaphor for the Church. We are all living stones, built into a spiritual house founded on

the cornerstone, Jesus Christ. Like the deacons in the early Church, we each have a role to play.

What is asked of a stone in a building structure? Every stone needs to be strong. It needs to be formed and shaped. Accepting and seeking formation in faith is key to finding our place in life and in God's house. A stone needs to be connected to the stones alongside it. Finally, the stone needs to accept where the master builder places it. If a stone could move itself from one place to another, there would be chaos.

Our active participation in God's plan and the Church is important. We must build on the one sure foundation and follow the plan of the master builder and those who represent him. Jesus has prepared a place for each of us in the Church and in heaven. Jesus is the way. Follow him and he will lead you to your place. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 6:1-7

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly.

1 Peter 2:4-9

Come to him, a living stone...and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Accepting and seeking formation in faith is key to finding our place in life and in God's house.

A Word from Pope Francis

Be my ambassador, [Mary] says to us, giving food to the hungry, drink to those who thirst, a refuge to those in need, clothe the naked and visit the sick. Come to the aid of your neighbor, forgive whoever has offended you, console the grieving, be patient with others, and above all beseech and pray to God.

—Homily, February 13, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Have I sought out a place to serve and build up the Church in my local area?
- What spiritual means do I use to discern Jesus' plan for me?



Diocese of Raleigh News

Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat June 12-14, 2020, at Trinity Conference and Retreat Center in Salter Path, NC. The weekend retreat is strictly confidential for both women and men and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or to register for the retreat, contact Project Rachel at: project.rachel@raldioc.org or call (919) 852-1021. The cost is \$200 for lodging, meals and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available.

Feeding the Hungry in a Land of Dieters

By Jim and Susan Vogt

A man holds a sign at an interstate exit: "Will work for food." You're moved with compassion but have just seconds to act before the traffic moves again. What might a conscientious Christian do? Do you drive him to your home and pay him to weed the garden? Probably not.

Do you hand him \$5 and wish him well? Most likely you drive by, saddened and conflicted. After all, Jesus clearly tells us to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty (Matthew 25:31–46). One family we know stores a bag of nonperishable food in the car to hand out the window—a good idea, but few of us are this prepared. What's a Christian to do?

It's one thing to meet a hungry person on the street and another to read about children dying of hunger in an impoverished country or suffering from malnutrition in poor areas of your community. Conscientious people are disturbed knowing that many Americans are concerned about losing weight, while others would welcome our leftovers.

Let's say you raise vegetables, have reduced meat consumption for your health, and don't overeat. Are you home free in the feeding-the-hungry department? Well, as many moral issues go, yes and no. It's virtuous to use food wisely. Consider, however, the



connection between what we eat and the reality that some people in the world are hungry. For example, Colombian farmers grow coffee for export, yet their own families go hungry because of insufficient income. One can't survive just on coffee.

Globalization shows that our planet is interconnected.

Overconsumption of resources, pollution, and economic irresponsibility in one part of the world will eventually impact all. Jesus' command to be like the Good Samaritan rings in our ears. Our neighbor is anyone who needs us to be a neighbor, since anyone in need presents a claim on us. It can sound overwhelming and intimidating, for how could any one person—even a well-intentioned Christian—respond to the masses of humanity suffering in Africa?

What Can I Do About Hunger?

You can make a difference—both through lifestyle changes and by leveraging your influence with others.

- Eat responsibly. Don't overeat or waste food. Reduce or eliminate meat from your diet. Eat nutritiously and organically when possible.
- Eat locally as much as you can. Locally grown food supports area farmers, and reduces transportation costs and use of preservatives.

- Eat humanely. Animals are often raised inhumanely. Find meat and eggs from cage-free animals.
- Consider fasting so others may eat. Consider fasting from a meal or dessert. Donate the money saved to a hunger cause. Fasting is a form of prayer and puts us in solidarity with those who are hungry.
- Plant a vegetable garden. You'll get fresh vegetables and the joy of watching your labor turn into food. Consider donating half your produce to a food bank.
- Educate yourself about food and hunger issues. Books like *The Omnivore's Dilemma* bring light to an important topic.
- Work for systemic change. Once your diet is under control, look at food systems around you to see if they need improvement.

The bottom line? Eat responsibly, share, learn, and advocate. Keep some food in your car and don't let it go to waste—or waist. +

PRAYER

Risen Jesus, you heal our broken hearts and give us peace. Help me to be a source of encouragement to those troubled by pain and suffering.

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 11–16

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:5–18 / Jn 14:21–26

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:19–28 / Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:1–6 / Jn 15:1–8

Thursday, St. Matthias:
Acts 1:15–17, 20–26 / Jn 15:9–17

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:22–31 / Jn 15:12–17

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:1–10 / Jn 15:18–21

Bringing Home
the Word 

May 10, 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: 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. AI-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, June 7.

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: Divorce Care: sessions will resume Tuesday September 1, 7:00 - 9:00pm in the Padua Room of the Assisi Community Center. For more information contact Bill Morgan at dejanutes@yahoo.com or visit <https://www.divorcecare.org/about>.

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 you!

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.

Offer Care / Receive Care

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>

You are invited to a free Zoom meeting

A Weekly virtual group Coaching Call - led by Mike McGrail
When: May 11 at 4:00pm

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUdqopjwqHt1PN9tQEbz49BTC8fxbuGgD>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Contact Us!

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

Staff email: firstname.lastname@stfrancisraleigh.org

Welcome

New Parishioner Registration Toni Hammes 847-8205x265
Becoming Catholic Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
Get Involved! Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222

Franciscan Friars

Pastor Fr. Steve Patti, O.F.M. 847-8205x224
Assistant to the Pastor 847-8205x249
Associate Pastor Fr. Steve Kluge, O.F.M. 847-8205x226
Associate Pastor Fr. Jim Sabak, O.F.M. 847-8205x261
Deacon Stephen Andrews 732-213-0104

Sacraments

Baptism Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
First Reconciliation Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
First Eucharist Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
Confirmation Thomas Bulick 847-8205x239
Matrimony Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Holy Orders Fr. Steve Patti, O.F.M. 847-8205x224
Anointing of the Sick Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Reconciliation Appointments 847-8205x249
RCIA 847-8205x238
Sacraments Administration Martina Dumberger 847-8205x264
Funeral Planning Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Columbarium Niches Trish Adamkowski 847-8205x236

The Franciscan School

Principal Mike Watson 919-534-4840
Receptionist (Main Number) Diana Chapman 919-534-4837
Assistant Principal, K-5 Michele Northington 847-8205x254
Assistant Principal 6-8 Colette Dziadul 847-8205x651

St. Francis Preschool

Director Heidi Hobler 847-8205x240
Assistant to the Director Shelley Freeman 847-8205x262
Admissions and Marketing Jennifer Stephens 847-8205x377

Faith Formation

Director Jenn Fiduccia 847-8205x238
Children's Faith Formation Sarah Bowser 847-8205x496
Middle School Faith Formation Thomas Bulick 847-8205x239
Coordinator of Youth Ministry Marisa Ferrara 847-8205x223
Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery) Tara Moore 847-8205x489

Parish Operations

Dir of Strategic Planning Tricia Henry 847-8205x375
Communications and Webmaster Diogenes Ruiz 847-8205x271
Human Resources Trish Adamkowski 847-8205x236
Safe Environment Specialist Trina Sugrue 847-8205x245
Director of Stewardship Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
Parishioner Records Toni Hammes 847-8205x265
Director of Finance Rob Neppel 847-8205x243
Director of Facilities Marc Kieilty 847-8205x227

Get Care!

Care

Home Eucharist Visits Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Feed the Need (meals) Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Medical Facility Visits Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Transportation to Mass Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Stephen Ministry Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
St. Vincent de Paul Leave Voicemail 919-534-4842
Good Grief Marsha Riely marshariely@mac.com
GriefShare Marlys Varga marlysvarga@hotmail.com

Prayers

Prayer Line Paul Wilson wilsonpf99@gmail.com
Prayers Jackie Adamo 847-8205x268
Receive a Prayer Shawl Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241

Support Groups

Divorce Care William Morgan dejanuts@yahoo.com
Job Connections Mary Horner 610-755-5392
Seeing God in your Cancer Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
AA Daily Reprieve Group Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Al-Anon Madeline Horrigan 919-923-1234
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Linda Tucker 937-478-9537

Get Involved!

Worship Ministries

Director of Liturgy and Music Jim Wahl 847-8205x230
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministers Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Altar Servers & Thurifers Joanie Madormo rmadormo@sbcglobal.net
Children's Liturgy of the Word Jackie Kelly 203-512-8807
Church Keeping Beverly Saunders 919-846-5795
Cross Bearers Joseph Randazzo josephjrandazzo1@gmail.com
Deaf Ministry Jean Cooke-Byrne 919-412-8365
Environment & Art Theresa Baumgartner 919-848-3383
Eucharistic Ministers Tim Hetzel 847-8205x244
Funeral Ministers Lisa Gianturco 919-845-9718
Hospitality Hands Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
Lectors Mike Wrzesien 919-624-1592
Master of Ceremonies Michael & Julie Ducatte 919-622-8883
Medical Presence at Mass Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Music Ministry Joyce Petzka jepetzka@gmail.com
Parking Ministry Steve Burdett 919-845-2714
Ushers Troy Chaput troy.chaput@gmail.com
Weekend Receptionists Kathleen Owen 847-8205x241
Weekend Welcome Hosts Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222
Wedding Directors Carol Ricotta 919-554-8896

Outreach Ministries

Director of Justice and Peace Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
St. Francis Feeds Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Brown Bag Ministry Mailbox stfrancisbbm@gmail.com
Oak City Cares Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Catholic Parish Outreach Sue Hand 919-846-7954
Panera Food Pick Up Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Ronald McDonald House Mailbox stfrancisrmhministry@gmail.com
Jobs for Life Dinners Ellen Ferrone ellen.ferrone@gmail.com
Our Lady of Rosary Food Pantry Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Interfaith Food Shuttle Becky Cawley 847-8205x267

St Francis Serves

Community Garden Pat & Paul Kelly 919-413-8833
Curbside Care Lori Piraino lpiraino7@gmail.com
Duke Children's Hospital Joe and Geanie Slifer 919-870-6993
Family Promise / WHIN Hosts Ron Smith 919-455-7786
Gabriel Project Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Migrant Ministry Bruce Cartier bcartier7@gmail.com
Prison Pen Pal Jill Balogh jbalogh@nc.rr.com
R.A.R.E. Tom Zimmerman thomaspzimmerman@bellsouth.net
Red Cross Blood Drive Bryan Kozak 910-728-9200
Refugee Resettlement Aggie Dalton aggiedalton@gmail.com
St Francis Builds / Habitat Diane & Bob Steinbeiser 919-846-8026
St Vincent de Paul Ministers Cathy Smith 419-348-8843
Support Circles Kat and Ferrel Guillory ferrel.guillory@gmail.com
Whitaker House Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270

St Francis on Mission

International Mission Trips Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Sister Parish - Guatemala Carie Gunnells carie.gunnells@gmail.com
St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia John Budway 305-205-5104

St Francis Learns

Catholic Social Teaching <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/>
Care for Creation Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Community Conversations Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Engaging Spirituality Becky Cawley 847-8205x267
Just Faith Trevor Thompson 847-8205x270
Justice Theater Project <http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/>
Peace Pole Prayer Ben Whitehouse whitehouseben5@gmail.com
Study Circles 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

Pat Spencer

704-608-1678

Jacob House

919-449-7634

Andrea McVerry

amcverry@yahoo.com

Edward Gilmartinedward.gilmartin@gmail.com

Janice Horner

484-949-1417

Pauk Wilson

wilsonpf99@gmail.com

Cindy Cardello

919-846-8825

Dianne Rotunno

919-844-7153

Barbi Taperek

919-744-7234

Linda Tucker

937-478-9537

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Mary Horner

610-755-5392

Sharon Holland

hollandbozo@yahoo.com

Stephanie Smith

919-302-0080

Toni Hammes

847-8205x265

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 & Events Patti 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

