

# Donation Drive

See page 7



# Caring Casseroles

See page 9



## 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**

11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-847-8205 [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org)



Welcome once again to our virtual Sunday, and this Sunday we celebrate the Ascension which in this diocese takes the place of the Seventh Sunday of Easter. And our strange quiet days continue. Even amid the quiet, there is much going on here at St. Francis: phone calls being made to check on people, on-line Zoom gatherings in faith formation, peace and justice, and other areas, casseroles being dropped off to help people in need. The parish continues its mission in different times and in different ways as we continue to adapt to these Covid-19 times.

There has been much talk in the news about re-opening and what it might look like. Here at St. Francis, we meet every week to talk this through from the perspective of liturgy and of facilities. As of now, we continue to go by the bishop's statement that the obligation to attend mass is waived – no one, during this time of Covid-19, is obligated to attend mass. Our primary way of reaching the people of the parish remains our Sunday morning live-stream, and we are hearing from many people that they appreciate the opportunity to watch and to hear the word.

At the same time, we continue to look at possibilities of re-opening and what steps we would need to have in place for any kind of re-opening. Our challenge is that we are a very large church. Our primary concern is for public health and safety. And so for now, we continue to invite people to our Sunday morning 9:30 liturgy, and we will keep you informed as we hear and learn more from the bishop's office.

A continued word on our parish offertory: thanks to all who continue to sign up for Faith Direct, or who send in envelopes every week. We have seen a rise in the number of people who have signed up for Faith Direct, and that is an enormous help to us here. We also receive donations every week in the mail, and these donations fluctuate week-to-week. We are doing OK overall, but it remains important that as many people as possible continue to support our parish during these times.

Also, some good news for all of us who have been stuck at home and looking for a way to get outside and help – we are having a food drive in our parking lot on the weekend of May 30/31, with proper distancing requirements in place. Please see elsewhere in this bulletin for more information on that. Blessings on your week!

*Fr Steve*



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

+ **Nelson Cabrera**  
Father of Julissa Rosen

+ **Eileen Roth**  
Mother of Mia Batz

### May Envelope Schedule

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.



Please see our [Special Announcement](#) about the appointment of Rev. Msgr. Michael Clay, D.Min. as our New Pastor

### **we continue to Live Streaming Sunday**

All are Welcome!

Sunday, May 17, 9:30 am  
The 6th Sunday of Easter

We have four ways for you watch:

- 1) Watch directly on our [SFA webpage](#)
- 2) Follow our [Facebook Live](#) stream,
- 3) Watch through our [Youtube](#) channel
- 4) Select our NEW St Francis [Churchonline platform](#),

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

### **we continue to Care & Serve**

Job Connections Ministry  
Are you looking?

Our job connections ministry is hosting a free weekly virtual group Job Coaching

Call led by Mike McGrail on Mondays at 04:00 PM

[Click Here to Register in advance](#)

Job Searching in these Uncertain Times by Linda Conklin on Thursdays, at 7:00 PM

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Please see the job connections webpage for other upcoming workshops and coaching opportunities.

\*\*\*\*\*

Caring Connections Ministry  
"Ring, Ring" We are calling ....

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. Did you know that We're calling all parishioners to check on each other??

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

### **we continue to Zoom Connect**

Catholic Social Teaching Workshop  
Are you looking for some meaningful formation opportunities in the coming weeks? The Office of Justice and Peace will offer another spring formation opportunity this coming week. 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](#).

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### **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](#)

### **we continue to 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](#) to assure our community connection remains strong and rooted in our shared daily faith experience.

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**

Continued from previous page

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 through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Are you following us?? Don't miss out! Links are at the end of this newsletter.

### **we continue our Faith Formation**

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.

### **Faith Formation Registration for 2020-2021 is now open!**

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. In addition, we hold monthly Family Events that will help build upon the teachings presented each week and foster opportunities in which the families can grow in faith together. Also, 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 as well. Please visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-formation-k-12/> to register and for additional information about our programs for Grades K-12.

### **we continue to Distance Learn**

[The Franciscan School](#) is continuing with online learning for the remainder of the school year. The Franciscan School continues to provide excellent instruction to students to assure they are prepared for their academic futures. Find out more about our school's response [here](#). The start of the new school year in August is planned to begin as scheduled, but we await future guidance from the NC Governor's Office and the Diocese of Raleigh.

To find out more about TFS, please contact Principal Mike Watson at [mike.watson@franciscanschool.org](mailto: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](#).

### **we continue our Online Parish Support**

#### Did You Know?

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.

Faith Direct is easy to set up. You can select which special collections you would like to support and establish your own schedule for your weekly or monthly regular donations.

If you would like to sign up for Faith Direct, you can call (866) 507-8757 and our church number is NC674 or you can click below.

For Easy Online Giving, Start Here:  
[Faith Direct](#)

For other Online Giving Options:  
[Online Banking](#)

### **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 [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

## Senior Spotlights



**Luis Sanchez**  
UNC Class of 2024,  
Biomedical Engineering  
Morehead-Cain scholar

Romans 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Luis will graduate this spring from Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy in Raleigh, where he serves as Student Body President—a position his classmates elected him into as a sophomore. One of Luis's signature accomplishments was successfully changing the school uniform dress code to allow for more affordable options for students in need. He acts as president of Key Club and launched the Tutoring Club at his high school. Additionally, Luis founded his own company when he was 14 years old and continues to manage the organization. Luis tutors middle and high school students and plays in multiple basketball leagues. At Carolina, Luis is interested in studying biomedical engineering. He is the son of Luis and Ingrid Sanchez of Raleigh. "Faith Formation has allowed me to personally grow deeper in my beliefs, and has granted me the opportunity to help guide others. This experience gave me great skills in leadership, and an ability to help develop thought and communication organically."



**Emma Grace Johnson**  
North Carolina State University,  
Chemistry Class of 2024

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear ~ psalm 118:6

Emma Grace served as President of her Senior Class at Leesville High and Vice Present of the National Honor Society.

"Faith Formation impacted my life because it brought me a new way to immerse myself in my faith. I was not only able to learn so much, but I got to teach others how amazing our God is and along the way I made many lifelong friendships!"

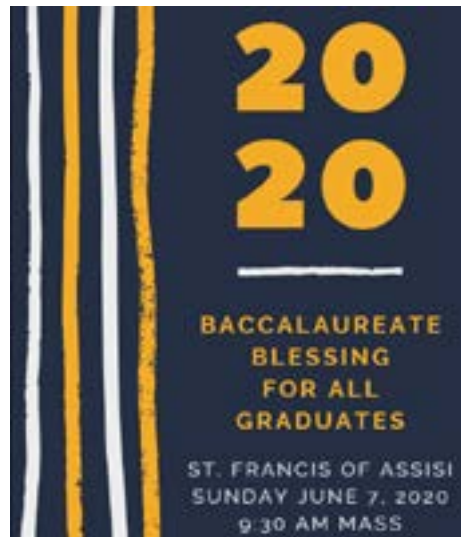


**Max Buico**  
Belmont Abbey College, Class of 2024

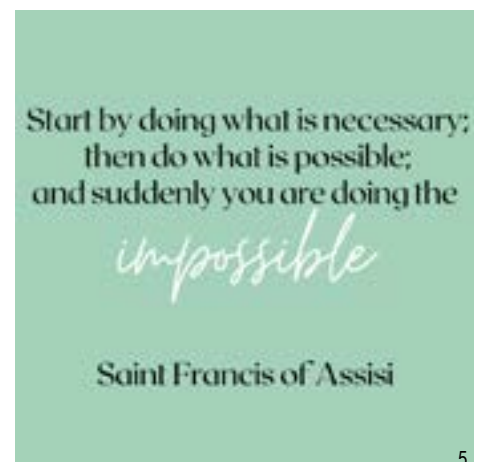
2 Timothy 3:17 "Through the word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us"

Max is graduating with a 3.9 GPA. He is a 4x All Conference Wrestler, along with 2x Varsity letterman for cross country. Max acted as Senior Section Editor of Yearbook and has served our parish as a Peer minister for three years.

"Faith Formation has helped me most in finding lifelong friends who also walk the same Christian Catholic path as me. It has also helped me develop leadership skills by leading retreats and planning youth nights. I have so much to owe to Saint Francis and all of the people that help make Faith Formation a thing from Marisa to the parents that volunteer to my fellow peers that I have learned so much from."



Parish High School Seniors are invited to partake in our Virtual Baccalaureate service! Please join our livestream 9:30am Mass on June 7, 2020. Feel free to don your cap and gown and celebrate your accomplishments with us through worship. Take a few pics and tag us! @francisformed.



## JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

# Social Justice Formation Opportunities – Part II

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace



The Church has a responsibility to bear witness to the Kingdom of God breaking into our world in the here and now through our works of mercy and justice. This requires that we be rooted in the wisdom from our faith tradition, and, with well-formed consciences, be engaged with the social problems of the world as we work with others to address injustice and oppression and work for the common good of all, especially the most vulnerable.

Earlier this month, the Office of Justice and Peace hosted the first of three

workshops providing the scriptural and theological foundations for this work of charity and social justice as Catholics. This coming week we are hosting the second workshop – that directly engages the Catholic Social Teaching tradition. What is Catholic Social Teaching? Over time, the Church has developed a body of teaching that attempts to articulate certain core values rooted in scripture, church history, theological reflection, and the experience of faithful Christians throughout history. This body of teaching is often referred to as “Catholic Social Teaching” (CST).

This workshop on May 28th, 7pm to 8:30pm will provide the history, main sources, and general content of Catholic Social Teaching and then look to develop tools for applying CST to contemporary issues of concern. You are welcome to participate. We are offering this workshop online via the technology of Zoom. To find out more information about the workshops and to sign-up, visit <https://bit.ly/JPFFoundations2020>.

## PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

### Donation Drive



Recently we reached out to over 40 of our partner agencies in the community to understand how we could help them during this coronavirus pandemic. The following agencies responded with critical needs that would help their clients and guests better weather this storm. Because our parish is full of incredibly generous, deeply faithful and deeply caring people who, in the tradition of St. Francis, are forever focused on others less fortunate, we put this multi-agency donation drive together.

All of the needs listed below are urgent and for safety reasons, neither the agency nor our parish can receive anything but what is listed. Monetary gifts are very welcome and can be dropped off at the same time as the donations.

Please pre-sort your donations into separate bags based on the items, so food in one bag, paper products in another, cleaning supplies, etc.

Please presort your donations (see below for actual items needed):

- Non-perishable food
- Paper Products
- Cleaning Supplies
- Personal protective supplies
- Amazon wish list
- Monetary donations

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/multi-agency-urgent-needs-donation-drive/>



Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

### Caring Casseroles – COVID-Style

So many of our ‘activities of daily life’ have taken on new aspects as we adjust to living with this virus. Most ministries are meeting virtually and we’re finding a new normal. I’ve even video chatted with my family in Scotland and it was almost like being in the room with them!

One of the things we have changed is the Caring Casseroles weekend. We used to designate one weekend a month for cooks to bring us a freezable, not frozen, cooked meals. We would freeze the meal to use on days when there was no cook assigned for a Feed the Need family. We would grab some bread, a bag of salad and a frozen casserole from the parish and Viola! Dinner is served!

So who gets these dinners? Families who have lost a loved one, families who have a new baby, families who are experiencing serious illness, families who have suffered tragedies, families who have severe financial situations and families who have had all of the above. It’s amazing the number of families in our parish who deal with several of these issues at a time, and they humble me. They make it look easy. But it isn’t easy, so after a day of waiting in the hospital for medical tests, or recovering from treatment, or recuperating from surgery or missing your life partner who’s deceased – after all the demands of the day, the parish offers them a nutritious, cooked meal. It’s a way we can walk with them on their journey.

If there’s a family you think could benefit from Caring Casseroles or Feed the Need, just reach out to me at [kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org) or 919-847-8205x241. And if you’d like to check out some recipes, look here <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/caring-casserole/>.

So to reduce/distribute the foot traffic and try to keep people safe, we have altered our Caring Casseroles requests. We are now accepting casseroles every day according to the following schedule:

- If your last name begins with A-F, drop off on Mondays from 9-noon
- If your last name begins with G-K, drop off on Tuesdays from 9-noon
- If your last name begins with L-P, drop off on Wednesdays from 9-noon
- If your last name begins with Q-U, drop off on Thursdays from 9-noon
- If your last name begins with V-Z, drop off on Fridays from 9-noon

We’re especially needing meals with the following dietary restrictions:

- Meals with no salt or pepper

## Congratulations TFS Class of 2020



We held our 8th grade class baccalaureate and commencement ceremony this past Wednesday, and I do want to take the time and opportunity to thank our TFS 8th grade Class of 2020 and to make a promise! Your time at TFS will not be defined by the last few months, and, instead, this challenge that you have faced, and overcome, will actually be another example of your perseverance, your hard work, and your ability to overcome obstacles.

I can honestly say that this group of students is a truly enjoyable class of people

who are dedicated to their own achievement and the success of each other. We have students who are naturally gifted, and those who have made themselves successful through hard work, or a combination of both, and who use those gifts to be supportive of others, are kind, generous, and humble. However, that doesn't mean that they are a homogenous group. They are, like all of our classes at TFS, composed of individuals who have learned, with the help and mentoring of our faculty and staff and their parents, to appreciate each other, to support each

other, and to find in each other the value that we all have as part of God's creation. It is this growth in appreciation, a learning and awareness of the intrinsic value and different talents each of us have, whether in academics, sports, the arts, or other areas, that is truly one of the most priceless lessons we hope to engender in our students each year as they leave us. We strive to build in our students a solid academic foundation, as any school would, but the more challenging mission for us here at The Franciscan School is to help our parents and families to send out students with a solid foundation not just in the strength of their minds but also in the care found in their hearts and the thoughtfulness of their souls. We emphasize Faith, Academics and Service, and how is that NOT a dedication to building the soul, mind and hearts of those students who come to us?

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus told the Pharisees the greatest commandment was to "love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." What we do here at TFS, and what this class has embraced, is to foster the development of just those things that allow us to do God's will on Earth. This class has the mind to consider all they have been given, by God and their families, which allows for them to be academically successful; they have a heart that considers the needs of others before themselves; and they have the soul to commit to personally working to make their community, God's community, a better place.

We have kicked off our admissions for the 2020-21 school year and we are excited to share all we offer here. Please visit our website at [www.franciscan-school.org](http://www.franciscan-school.org) or contact Principal Mike Watson at [mike.watson@franciscan-school.org](mailto:mike.watson@franciscan-school.org) to find out more and to get insight into the community of excellence we have built here over the past two decades!

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

St. Francis of Assisi  
Preschool



Growing in Excellence Since 1991

## Saying Goodbye...

Jennifer Stephens

"How lucky I am to have something  
that makes saying goodbye so hard"

– Winnie the Pooh

*In August of 2015, I joined the St. Francis of Assisi Preschool FAMILY as part of their staff and boy was I excited! I had grown to LOVE all of them over the previous 3 years when Tripp & Ainsleigh walked the halls as little preschoolers.*

*To say that I will miss each and every one of you; teachers, parents and especially the smiling little faces is an understatement! Some of you I met when my twins were in the 2-year-old class and others I met this past year, but I can say that I love each of you the same! The friendships have been amazing and just because I won't be standing at the door to greet you in the morning, or say goodbye in the afternoon doesn't mean that you don't have a place in my heart. I look at this as a "see you soon" situation and not a goodbye. In the words of Winnie the Pooh,*

*"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard"! I will be back to visit the preschool and our church family often!*

*Until then, I will see you at your parade!*

Love,  
Ms. Jen



Continued from page 7



- Meals that feed 3 people with no pasta, turkey, nuts, corn, or green pepper
- Meals that feed 2 people with no chicken or pork
- Meals that feed 2 people that are 'heart healthy'
- Meals that feed 4 people with no spice, pork, or avocado (no soups or stews)

As a way to bring you, our parish and our cooks, closer to our Feed the Need families, I want to share their prayer requests with you. Each week, one of our volunteers calls each family. We ask if the food is working out for them, how they are doing and how we can help. They request prayer. Always prayer. And this was the list of prayers from this week:

- For a man living with cancer.
- For a man grieving the loss of a friend.
- For a woman searching for employment: that she will find a job that fits her skills and her physical limitations.
- For a daughter who longs to safely return to work.
- For a family under financial stress.
- For a marriage under stress.
- For a handicapped woman seeking guidance from God.
- For a woman searching for full time employment.
- For a woman, who suffers from Alzheimer's and for the loving husband who cares for her.
- For a daughter suffering from MS and whose eyesight is being affected.
- For a son with leukemia.
- For an immigrant family.
- For an elderly couple who face many health issues.
- For a woman recovering from bilateral hip replacement surgery.
- For grieving children: may they be receptive toward their mother, as a parent.
- For a woman who is suffers from loneliness during the COVID-19 crisis.
- For all those who suffer during the COVID-19 crisis.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Formation Registration

Formation Registration for 2020-2021 is open! Register by 6/15 to receive the early registration discount. Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-formation-k-12/> to register and for additional information about our programs for Grades K-12.

### Sacramental Prep

ONLINE First Communion and Confirmation Preparation Information/Registration Meetings for 2020-2022

Our Sacramental Preparation meetings are online this year. During the online meeting, information on the sacramental preparation and the registration process will be provided.

### First Communion/ First Reconciliation Preparation

Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/first-eucharist/>

### Youth Confirmation Preparation Registration 2020-2022

Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/confirmation/>

If you've attended an online information/registration meeting, the due date to register for Confirmation preparation is May 29th and June 15th for First Eucharist preparation.

### 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, 7:30 to 8:45pm

Register here: <https://forms.gle/nKWB-Nadq4uKeCgV4A>

#### Fridays, 10:00 to 11:15am

Register here: <https://forms.gle/zkbFaN-751nBqgdVL9>

For more information, email [jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org).

## This Week and Next

### Mass for Deceased Veterans

The Knights of Columbus will host a virtual Mass for deceased veterans on Monday, May 25 at 9:00am and you can join us and watch live from our website. Parishioners with immediate family members or deceased Knights of Columbus that served in any branch of military may enroll the deceased veteran in the Council's Memorial Roll.

### SFA – Book Club

Every 6 weeks, our group, with diverse backgrounds and life experiences, meets to share our common love of reading. The selections are mostly secular and both fiction and non-fiction. Past reads have included World War II heroes, a Seventeenth Century artist, people of Appalachia, and a contemporary Mexican-American family. Our next meeting is June 2 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. We'll be discussing *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett. If you are interested in joining us please contact me and we will send you a Zoom Link the day prior to the meeting for you to join us.

Facilitator: Heidi Ross  
[hross@mindspring.com](mailto:hross@mindspring.com)  
(919)847-1408

### Men's Ministry Breakfast Meeting

Join us for the Men's Ministry Breakfast Meeting with Fr. Kluge, first and third Monday at 7:00am. To join, click on the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87907874636?pwd=QUM2U2wwR3orbzZzd2syZnJGdE9iZz09>

## You are invited to a free Job Connections Zoom meeting

Job Connections will host a Job Networking call via Zoom **every Monday at 4:00pm.**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82682099189?pwd=K2RXbUpDV0RySEZuRy9zYnF6M2tZZz09>. Join us and get the help you need to make a new start!



# Bringing Home the Word

Ascension of the Lord (A)  
May 24, 2020

## Truth Revealed

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

**P**inturicchio's wall painting, *Ascension*, is found in the apartments of Pope Alexander VI Borgia and was painted around the same time as one of Columbus' voyages to America: 1492. When the Alexander died in 1503, these rooms were shut and not opened again until 1889. How could such artistic treasures have been locked up and forgotten for 400 years?

The same thing can happen with the feast of the Ascension. We don't always give it much thought. Its powerful beauty is locked away, collecting dust.

The great truth revealed today is that Jesus is in heaven, in bodily form, seated at the right hand of the Father and watching over us all. From there he intercedes for us; from there he sends us on mission.

What are we to do with this truth? Treat it like a myth or an ancient story? Just stare at the sky and wonder like the apostles? No, we are to get busy building God's kingdom. His kingdom will not happen automatically. He calls us to be his witnesses until the end of the earth. We cannot sit by and let our politics, our schools, our churches, and our arts evolve unguided by the gospel. We are called to roll up our sleeves and get involved. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). Remember the good administrator who was left some talents. His master went away only to eventually return asking for a rendering. Jesus has left only to return again. Until then, it's time to build his kingdom. +

*We are to get busy  
building God's  
kingdom.  
His kingdom  
will not happen  
automatically.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

The Church holds out a mission, and I would like to entrust you with this mission. It is to go back and talk to your grandparents. Today more than ever we need this bridge, this dialogue, between grandparents and grandchildren, between the young and the elderly.

—World Youth Day prayer vigil,  
April 8, 2017



## Sunday Readings

### Acts 1:1-11

As they were looking on, [Jesus] was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

### Ephesians 1:17-23

And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.

### Matthew 28:16-20

[Jesus said,] "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do I accept the responsibility of actively building up God's kingdom?
- How can I showcase the truth of the ascension in my life?



## 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](mailto: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.

# Faith and Finances: Managing Debt

By Phil Lenahan

There's a link between our faith and how we handle money. Examining this link begins with considering what really matters. Money touches many aspects of life—family, work, and our faith. Are your financial goals determined by our culture, with its emphasis on *having*?

Or are they based on the principles of Scripture and the Catholic faith, which emphasize *being*?

I remember my dad sharing stories of the Great Depression. He spoke of families setting spending priorities—because if they didn't, there wouldn't be enough for basic needs. Now we're taught by our consumer culture to buy all we want, when we want, without concern for repayment. If we don't have money today...well, that's what credit cards and home-equity loans are for, right?

## The Financial Drug

Debt has become a financial drug, creating dependencies for millions of Americans. There is no doubt that the misuse of debt played a major role in recent economic crises. Some statistics:

—Seven of ten of households with credit cards don't pay the full balance every month.

—The average household carries a credit card balance of \$8,000.



—About eight of every ten undergraduates have credit cards, averaging \$2,200 in credit card debt.

Does Catholic teaching give insight into debt? People are often surprised to find that Scripture and other Church writings have much to say about finances. "The borrower is the slave of the lender" (Proverbs 22:7).

## Productive, Unproductive Debt

It makes sense to borrow when debt is used prudently to buy assets that increase in value. That's *productive* debt. For debt to be used productively, there must be guards to limit excessive borrowing. Borrowers must have a financial cushion to manage debt during crises.

Some types of debts are *unproductive*. Unproductive debt is used to purchase depreciating assets, those that decline in value. The most common example is credit card purchases that aren't paid off each month. Americans would do well to eliminate their unproductive debt and develop a more cautious attitude even when using productive debt.

## Eliminating Unproductive Debt

Straightforward steps can be taken to eliminate unproductive debt rapidly.

Once you've committed to becoming free of debt, your first step is to prepare a financial plan. Jesus says, "Which of you

wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?" (Luke 14:28-29). Your plan should include a balance sheet, debt summary, an annual budget, and strategies for savings and paying down debt.

## Accelerating Payments

Many with unproductive debt pay the minimum required balance. This strategy will keep you in debt forever. Instead, I recommend an aggressive approach that will eliminate unproductive debts in short order. This requires changing spending habits and perhaps temporarily taking a second job. But by increasing the amount of money allocated to debt repayment, you can be debt-free quickly.

Our financial priorities have ramifications for our families and faith. Becoming financially free is foremost a function of fulfilling our call as stewards of God's providence. We must grow to understand God's principles for managing money and apply them. +



*Risen Lord, you share with us the mission of God. Help me to use my gifts and talents to do God's work.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 25-30

**Monday, Easter Weekday:**

Acts 19:1-8 / Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday, St. Philip Neri:**

Acts 20:17-27 / Jn 17:1-11a

**Wednesday, Easter Weekday:**

Acts 20:28-38 / Jn 17:11b-19

**Thursday, Easter Weekday:**

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 / Jn 17:20-26

**Friday, Easter Weekday:**

Acts 25:13b-21 / Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday, Easter Weekday:**

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 / Jn 21:20-25

Bringing Home  
the Word 

May 24, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 [dejanuts@yahoo.com](mailto:dejanuts@yahoo.com) or visit <https://www.divorcecare.org/about>.

### **Grief Support Group**

Contact Marsha Riely at [marshariely@mac.com](mailto:marshariely@mac.com) or Marlys Varga at [marlysvarga@hotmail.com](mailto:marlysvarga@hotmail.com).

### **GriefShare**

Contact Marlys Varga at [marlysvarga@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:annafowler@nc.rr.com)  
- Friday Morning with Celesta Carlson – [ccarlson210@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

## Contact Us!

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

Staff email: [firstname.lastname@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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	Jenn Fiduccia	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	<a href="mailto:marshariely@mac.com">marshariely@mac.com</a>
GriefShare	Marlys Varga	<a href="mailto:marlysvarga@hotmail.com">marlysvarga@hotmail.com</a>

### Prayers

Prayer Line	Paul Wilson	<a href="mailto:wilsonpf99@gmail.com">wilsonpf99@gmail.com</a>
Prayers	Jackie Adamo	847-8205x268
Receive a Prayer Shawl	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241

### Support Groups

Divorce Care	Bill Morgan	<a href="mailto:dejanuts@yahoo.com">dejanuts@yahoo.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:rmadormo@sbcglobal.net">rmadormo@sbcglobal.net</a>
Children's Liturgy of the Word	Jackie Kelly	203-512-8807
Church Keeping	Beverly Saunders	919-846-5795
Cross Bearers	Joseph Randazzo	<a href="mailto:josephjrandazzo1@gmail.com">josephjrandazzo1@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:jepetzka@gmail.com">jepetzka@gmail.com</a>
Parking Ministry	Steve Burdett	919-845-2714
Ushers	Troy Chaput	<a href="mailto:troy.chaput@gmail.com">troy.chaput@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:stfrancisbbm@gmail.com">stfrancisbbm@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:stfrancisrmhministry@gmail.com">stfrancisrmhministry@gmail.com</a>
Jobs for Life Dinners	Ellen Ferrone	<a href="mailto:ellen.ferrone@gmail.com">ellen.ferrone@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:lpiraino7@gmail.com">lpiraino7@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:bcartier7@gmail.com">bcartier7@gmail.com</a>
Prison Pen Pal	Jill Balogh	<a href="mailto:jbalogh@nc.rr.com">jbalogh@nc.rr.com</a>
R.A.R.E.	Tom Zimmerman	<a href="mailto:thomaszimmerman@bellsouth.net">thomaszimmerman@bellsouth.net</a>
Red Cross Blood Drive	Bryan Kozak	910-728-9200
Refugee Resettlement	Aggie Dalton	<a href="mailto:aggiedalton@gmail.com">aggiedalton@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:ferrel.guillory@gmail.com">ferrel.guillory@gmail.com</a>
Whitaker House	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270

### St Francis on Mission

International Mission Trips	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Sister Parish - Guatemala	Carie Gunnells	<a href="mailto:carie.gunnells@gmail.com">carie.gunnells@gmail.com</a>
St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia	John Budway	305-205-5104

### St Francis Learns

Catholic Social Teaching	<a href="http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/">http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/</a>	
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	<a href="http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/">http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/</a>	
Peace Pole Prayer	Ben Whitehouse	<a href="mailto:whitehouseben5@gmail.com">whitehouseben5@gmail.com</a>
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

