

June 7, 2020

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

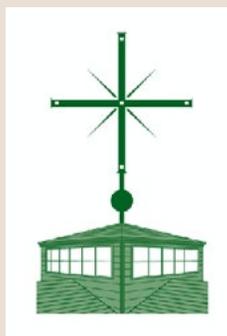


Thank you!

See page 7

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



I want to say thank you to all who contributed to our food drive last weekend. We filled two trucks! If we can't receive the Body of Christ at mass just yet, we can continue to be the Body of Christ, in a time of absence and hope. Last weekend this community did just that – looked broadly and with generosity at the great need in our area, and helped. Thanks to all who helped organize the food drive and all the volunteers.

Deep thanks also to those who generously contribute to our parish offertory, whether by Faith Direct or by sending in donations through the mail. We are grateful!

We are living through troubling days in our country. We have been living amid the uncertainty of COVID-19 for several weeks, the not knowing of how long we will be living in days like these. More recently, we have seen a deeply troubling video of a black man in Minneapolis murdered by a white police officer, pressing down on his neck and suffocating him. All of it on video, all of it seen by the whole world, and all of it a reminder of what it's like to be black in America, to be constantly on alert, on watch, afraid for one's very life.

Recently a group of 19 members of our parish took part in a facilitated series of talks on the subject of racism. They read a book together titled "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism." Many of them spoke about how eye-opening it was for them to learn more about how racism still holds in these United States. They want to learn more about it.

I suspect it is hard for those who are white to talk about that subject. Racism has been described as America's original sin, dating back to the founding of our country and going back earlier than that. Slave ships. Slavery itself. Slaves considered to be three-fifths of a person in the U.S. Constitution, this in a land in which "all men are created equal" - a

contradiction written into our very founding document. Black veterans from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, other wars— what we refer to as heroes in our culture – often denied their benefits upon their return from war. Thousands of lynchings all throughout the American South, with onlookers cheering and posing for photographs. The disproportionate percentage of those who are pulled over for "driving while black." It keeps going. Once, here at St. Francis, I was challenged by someone who said I only spoke about racism as being in the South, that it was part of the North too. This person was right. I remember, in my hometown, the arrival of a black family in our mostly white neighborhood, and the whispers surrounding that family – did they belong, would they last. I remember hearing that the great Jackie Robinson once tried out for the Boston Red Sox but was not given a contract, and was subject to racial taunts during his tryout. And that the Red Sox were the last team in Major League Baseball to sign a black player, Pumpsie Green in 1959.

I remember visiting Charleston, South Carolina 12 years ago, walking around its historic downtown on a bright sunny day, stopping for an ice cream cone somewhere, walking by a small stone building which, upon closer inspection, turned out to be a "slave mart" – a place where in the 19th century slaves were brought to be bought and sold. I went inside. There were displays. Shackles. Iron chains. Stories – a slave family brought in, inspected, separated, sent off to some part of the South to work a plantation somewhere. I stayed a while, saw ancient slave tags used to identify slaves. Heard stories of the violence used against enslaved people to keep them in line. And – how, how could this be, and as much as we might want to look away, or not know, what I learned is, we have to know, we have to understand and see this.

In March, going for a hike at Horton Grove Nature Preserve in Durham, a 30-minute drive from here, a beautiful March day to walk the trails, hear the

birds, be in the sunshine. And the trails – named for slaves who once worked the land in the years before the Civil War. It was all right there. It was haunting.

I want to look away. I want to not know. I hear people say that the violence is caused by "one bad apple." I believe the time to look away, to not know, has passed. I believe, as followers of the Jesus Christ of the gospels, that we must begin to see and acknowledge the depth of ingrained racism in our land, and how racism has denied the basic human dignity of black men and women. We must see it. We must admit that it's there. We must not look away and pretend that it's not so bad.

I listened to the participants of our parish study group speak about how their eyes were opened to the depth of racism in our country, and as difficult as it was for them to learn about white privilege, they were also grateful to have learned more, to know more, and to see all of it within the hopeful light of the gospel. Sometimes we need to go to where the pain is, where the wounds are. And it can be by that experience that we come to a deeper sense of our own humanity, and the humanity of all God's created people. That's where God's grace searches for and finds us.

In late August we will host another study group here at St. Francis focused on racism. This one will be entitled Faith and Racial Healing: Truth, Justice and Restoration. Participants will explore the historical context behind the racial inequalities people of color face today, whether in the education system, criminal justice system, the workforce, or even in our own church life. You can sign up here: www.bit.ly/SFA-FRH2020.

Below is a statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, from May 29th, released last week just before the Solemnity of Pentecost. We publish it here to show the strong response

of Catholic leadership to the ongoing violence toward the black community in

(Continued on p.3)

our country. You will see that this statement offers prayers for those affected by violence, understanding of those who are outraged by the violence, and also prayers for those in our justice system and in law enforcement as well. As we all know, there are many who work within the justice system and in law enforcement who are repelled by the ongoing racism within our country. In these uncertain and unsettled times, we continue to look to the uniting Holy Spirit, a Spirit who, as we hear in the Acts of the Apostles, brings people of all nations and languages together.

"We are broken-hearted, sickened, and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our very eyes. What's more astounding is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion.

Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be banded about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As members of the Church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice.

While it is expected that we will plead for peaceful non-violent protests, and we certainly do, we also stand in passionate support of communities that are understandably outraged. Too many communities around this country feel their voices are not being heard, their complaints about racist treatment are unheeded, and we are not doing enough to point out that this deadly treatment is antithetical to the Gospel of Life.

As we said eighteen months ago in our most recent pastoral letter against racism, Open Wide Our Hearts, for people of color some interactions with police can be fraught with fear and even danger.

People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue.

We join Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis in praying for the repose of the soul of Mr. George Floyd and all others who have lost their lives in a similar manner. We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy and for the victims of the rioting. We pray for comfort for grieving families and friends. We pray for peace across the United States, particularly in Minnesota, while the legal process moves forward. We also anticipate a full investigation that results in rightful accountability and actual justice.

We join our brother bishops to challenge everyone to come together, particularly with those who are from different cultural backgrounds. In this encounter, let us all seek greater understanding amongst God's people. So many people who historically have been disenfranchised continue to experience sadness and pain, yet they endeavor to persevere and remain people of great faith. We encourage our pastors to encounter and more authentically accompany them, listen to their stories, and learn from them, finding substantive ways to enact systemic change. Such encounters will start to bring about the needed transformation of our understanding of true life, charity, and justice in the United States. Hopefully, then there will be many voices speaking out and seeking healing against the evil of racism in our land.

We call upon Catholics to pray to the Holy Spirit for the Spirit of Truth to touch the hearts of all in the United States and to come down upon our criminal justice and law enforcement systems. Finally, let each and every Catholic, regardless of their ethnicity, beg God to heal our deeply broken view of each other, as well as our deeply broken society."

Fr Steve

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE
AND PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE
UPON HER:

+ KAY FORCE WIFE OF
CHARLES FORCE, MOTHER OF
BRANDON

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.

We continue to Live Streaming Sunday

Sunday, June 7, 2020 9:30 am

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

Statement from Fr. Steve on
Recent Events in Our Country In Light of
Our Faith

Join us for an 8-week course that will explore the historical context behind racial inequities we face today and the truth of our history, whether in education, the criminal justice system, housing, jobs, etc. It is a module in a three part series on Racism presented by JustFaith Ministries. This program will begin in late August.

[Please sign up to reserve a spot.](#)

Job Connections Ministry

Are you looking?

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

[Register in advance](#)

Continue on next page

Thursday at 7:00 pm

[Register in advance](#)

Please see the [job connections web-page](#) for other upcoming workshops and coaching opportunities.

We continue to Zoom Connect Virtual Café

Join Kathleen and Fr. Steve K For a little light conversation, hopefully a few laughs and maybe some creative ideas to get you through the next week. Communi-tea Mondays at 10:00 am Quaran-tea-ni Wednesdays at 7:00pm

[Register here to receive the Zoom link.](#)

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 pm – [Register here](#)
FRIDAYS, from 10:00 am– [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?

We continue our Faith Formation

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.stfrancisleigh.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](#) has finished up the school! Although a different experience with Covid-19, our students still received an excellent Catholic education from a distance as we provided excellent instruction to students for over 2 and ½ months to assure they are prepared for their academic futures. 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](#) and to take a virtual tour of the school, please click [here](#).

[Our St Francis Preschool](#) is now 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 are still actively accepted registrations and preparing to start the new year.

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

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:

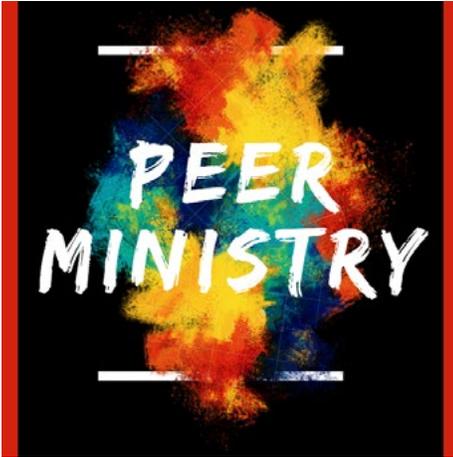
<https://www.stfrancisleigh.org/faith-direct/>



Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199

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

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES



**Cross Road Peer Ministry
2020-2021
Grades 10-12**

Are you or someone you know interested in being a Peer Minister for Cross Road Faith Formation? We are taking nominations and sending out applications throughout the summer! Send the name and email address of rising sophomores-seniors to Jennifer.Fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org to receive an online application!

For additional information about the Cross Road Peer Ministry program, please visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/peer-ministry/>

Registration for our K-12 Formation program for 2020-2021 is underway. Register by June 15 to receive the early registration rate. Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-formation-k-12/> to register.



**CONGRATULATIONS
2020 GRADUATES!**

Start by doing what is necessary;
then do what is possible;
and suddenly you are doing the

impossible

Saint Francis of Assisi

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



Fifty five volunteers and 2, full to the brim, 20' trucks and 6 cars is what it took to receive and deliver your donations from the multi-agency urgent needs donation drive this past weekend!! And on top of that you gave almost \$10,000 in cash!! THANK YOU!! And THANK YOU volunteers, couldn't do any of this without you!!

All eleven agencies who received your gifts were overwhelmed and beyond grateful. One young director sat down and cried, another was out delivering to her clients in need that afternoon. THANK YOU!! You all are beautiful, generous souls full of love, goodness and kindness. It's a privilege to live the Gospel alongside you.



PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

A New Place to Chat



Communi-Tea June 8, 10 am

Quaran-Tea-ni June 10, 7 pm

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/virtual-cafe/>



I have been a really good sport so far. I'll bet you have, too. While I'm staying out of the stores and away from the office, the list of daily activities at home has grown and we've tried to expand our scope of interests. And yet, here we are, three months later, still maintaining quarantine and starting to get a little cabin fever. We've re-organized the pantry, straightened the garage, started on the attic. Now we're rearranging the cabinets and drawers in the kitchen. And really, how many times can you walk your 15 year old dogs each day? They're starting to hide when we pick up the leashes!

I know many of you with younger kids and jobs that can't be done from home must think we're feeling sorry for ourselves. You would probably jump at the chance to take a quiet walk in the morning, after lunch, in the afternoon and just after dinner, but I can tell you, the sameness of the days can be overwhelming. And for those of us who really crave human interaction – this is really hard. What I miss most is grabbing a cup of tea, settling into one of the blue chairs in my office and have a good chat with someone – a volunteer, someone who's interested in receiving care from one of my ministries, a coworker – it could be anyone. Just taking that moment to look at someone's face, have the easiness of back and forth of a conversation, and take a break from whatever is next on the To Do list is refreshing. Working from the dining room table isn't nearly as much fun!

So why can't you join me for a cup of tea? Maybe we can't be cozy in my office, but we can see and hear each other and find out how we're all doing. We can create a 'virtual café' to talk about what we're learning about ourselves and each other. We can share ways that we've



found to have fun, talk about things that are still hard, and express our care and concern for one another. Think of it as 'Communi-Tea!' We can connect and share a quick hour just passing the time. No structure, no format, just random bumping into each other like we used to do before mass.

So, as with all good ideas, I wanted to try it out on a friend, so I called Steve Kluge. He liked the idea, so we're going to do this together. You're all invited to our 'virtual café'. We're having two each month. They are:

Communi-Tea on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the Month at 10 am

Quaran-Tea-ni on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday's of the Month at 7 pm

So what do you have to do?

Register at <https://form.jotform.com/SFa11401z/virtual-cafe>

and we'll send you the link. Then just join

us for a little light conversation, hopefully a few laughs and maybe some creative ideas to get you through the next week. Points may be awarded for the best quaran-do or the best tee shirt! See you soon!

St. Vincent de Paul still at work:

A family of 3 had a decent income due to the father working construction and were able to keep up with their bills. But when jobs stopped due to covid, they got very behind on their bills. They didn't qualify for a stimulus check or unemployment. They worked out a weekly payment plan with their leasing agent and the finance company allowed them to delay their car payments. Luckily the power company is not issuing shut-offs right now and CPO provided food. St. Vincent de Paul was able to pay almost a month's worth of rent in an amount a bit higher than our normal. We recognize we'll need to step up to meet the unprecedented demand for help so many families right now. If you know of anyone with a car/truck/boat/cycle to donate contact Tom Nolan 508-827-6155. If you have any questions about SVdP, contact Cathy Smith at smithtcr@gmail.com.

St Vincent de Paul (June 30th)

Eat for St. Vincent de Paul and support a local restaurant at the same time! Leesville Taproom will be donating 20% of the proceeds of all take-out meals (but NOT delivery!), June 30 from 6 pm to 9 pm. You can RSVP to ensure this event happens at <https://www.groupraise.com/events/154629> Be sure to mention St. Vincent de Paul when you pay for your meal. This is a take-out event ONLY. Call Leesville Taproom at 919-870-1515 and place your order between 5 and 8:30 PM. You will pick up after 6 inside or at the drive-thru. Have a heart and eat hearty!

EDUCATION MINISTRIES



Our 20 th Year at TFS

The Franciscan School completed their 20th year of service to St. Francis of Assisi parish families this week, and what an end to our second decade! As everyone has experienced the effects of the global pandemic, many parents with school age children had double duty, especially if their children were younger. Many parents worked at home, or went in to work and had to find childcare, while their children at home had classwork and zoom sessions with teachers...it was an exhausting time to be a parent, a student and a teacher!

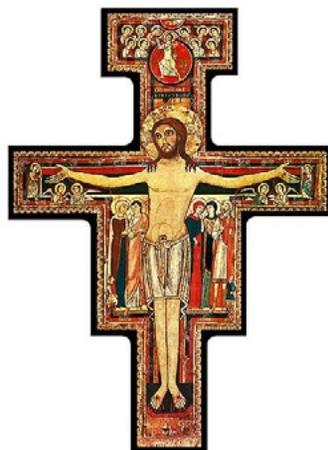
However, we persevered at The Franciscan School thanks to a dedicated faculty and staff; because of enthusiastic and committed parents who embrace the Faith, Academics and Service found here, and had tremendous patience and understanding; and especially due to our students who took the change well, boosted up their technical expertise and "zoomability", and persevered in a strange and scary time. I am proud of how our community, tested like many others, rose to the occasion, embraced the opportunities that remained for our mission to continue, and overcame all challenges to end the year well; with students prepared for their next school year, whether they are headed to high school or first grade next year. However, we do want to return to normal; when it is safe, when it is wise, and when we can embrace the full cultural expe-



rience and community found at our school. We remain hopeful that will be in August! Now, however, we have completed the year and look forward to summer. Still, a different summer... one possibly more subdued, more family focused, as we have all been the last few months, and perhaps a little more locally based. But still a summer, a time to relax, to rejuvenate and refresh, and to, perhaps even more so this summer especially, appreciate all that we have. Many people have faced exceedingly trying times, and experienced loss and pain from Covid-19 and the events of the last week. We embrace them with our prayers, hold them up in our hearts, and wish for all of them, and for all of our TFS and St. Francis families, time to heal and appreciate the larger community of God's people who are all His children and loved by Him. We are in trying times, but together as a school, a parish, a state and a national community, we can find the support and the understanding to enter next year stronger, wiser, and more empathetic towards everyone's individual trials and successes. All the faculty and staff of The Franciscan School wish all a peaceful and safe summer!

Please visit our website at www.franciscanschool.org or contact Principal Mike Watson at 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



“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19-20

Happy Trinity Sunday! Because preschool is not always in session to celebrate this special Sunday, our teachers find ways to teach the Trinity throughout the year. Developmentally speaking, it is a difficult concept for children. There are some adults who even wrestle with the idea of God being 3 persons in one!

While we do emphasize the beautiful Trinity when teaching our students such things as making the sign of the cross or how to recite the Glory Be prayer, teachers often have many additional creative ways to also share this with their classes. They might target the idea of 3 pieces making a whole or one when learning

the 3 colors that are stacked to make a candy corn or the 3 leaves that make up a shamrock. There are also the 3 lines that come together to make a triangle or form the letter H or N. One of my food favorites has always been Neapolitan ice cream with strawberry, chocolate, and vanilla all in one scoop- yum!

When I think of the Trinity, I also call to mind the 3 “parts” that help form St. Francis Preschool into the wonderful place that it continues to be- the teachers/staff, the students/families, and our faith. Without these three things, we could easily be viewed as just another preschool. In my mind, our preschool

shines because of the amazingly dedicated and long-time teaching staff and the caring and supportive families that we have who are united behind our faith; this is a faith which they live out daily, not just in words or in church, but in both big and small actions everywhere. How blessed we are!

May we continue to be disciples in Christ while remembering the presence of the Holy Trinity all around us!

With Joy,
Heidi Hobler
Director
St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

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/>

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.

This Week and Next

Topic: Career, What's Next, Defining My Future:

workshop on defining strengths, passion and purpose as it relates to my next career

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jun 11, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErc--hpzMoGtX0_tD8xWzemfwg-8TexANf](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErc--hpzMoGtX0_tD8xWzemfwg-8TexANf)

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

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. 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

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!

Summer Camp at Home:

Are you looking for activities and ideas to keep your children engaged, creative and happy during the summer? We are putting together a list of ideas that may keep your children entertained and serve others as well.

As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, we are all in this together and I want to do my best to help support each other as we work through all this. So, send me links and fun activities over the summer that you and your kids find as fun summer fillers! It can be a craft, an activity, a new snack or meal recipe or a great book or movie to check out!

Send all ideas to me at Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org. As I receive resources, I will share them with you all at: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

One way to be creative and reach out to members of our community who are needing some comfort and a smile to make their day, is to send your child's artwork and homemade cards to our parishioners. You can do so by visiting <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>

and signing up to offer care. One of our staff members will then send you the name and address of a parishioner who would love to hear from you! Who knows, this could be the beginnings of a brand-new friendship with a member of our church community.

June Envelope Schedule

June 7 Weekly
June 7 Mortgage Sunday
June 14 Weekly
June 21 Weekly
June 28 Weekly
June 28 Holy Father/Peter Pence



Bringing Home the Word

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (A)
June 7, 2020

Salvation's Cost

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In Ludovico Carracci's painting *The Trinity with the Dead Christ*, we see a meditation on the Trinity in a hidden moment. Rather than paint the moment when Mary takes her Son into her arms, Carracci painted the scene when the heavenly Father receives the spoils of his Son's battle for the salvation of humanity.

The dark colors communicate the pathos and drama. The Father's head turns away in grief even as he offers the Son. He reverently holds him, yet almost fears to touch his pierced hands.

Consider how much love God showed in allowing the Son to go to the cross, in sacrificing one beloved child to gain life for all his others.

Theology struggles to balance the truth of a loving, caring God the Father with the appreciation that he is unable to suffer as we do. Yet Carracci focuses on that popular intuition that the Father and the Spirit suffered the death of the Son. We should reflect on what our salvation cost the Trinity and how much love they showed in sending the Son to die. God suffers when we suffer and wishes to console and protect us, even if the good Father doesn't remove the suffering.

Faith teaches us that God willed his only begotten Son to suffer and die to save humanity. This divine decision manifests justice and mercy. It shows not only that God actually required satisfaction for our sins but also that no one but a God-man could offer a suitable sacrifice. Because he was God, Christ could offer an infinite satisfaction for our infinite offenses. Because he was man, he could offer a man's satisfaction for humanity's sin. +

*God suffers when we suffer
and wishes to console
and protect us.*

A Word from Pope Francis

With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity....His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously....The signs he works, especially in favor of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy.

—*Misericordiae Vultus*, April 11, 2015



Sunday Readings

Exodus 34:4b–6, 8–9

[Moses said,] "Pardon our wickedness and sins, and claim us as your own."

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you.

John 3:16–18

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Which person of the Trinity do I most easily relate to—the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
- Do I remember to direct my prayers to all three persons of the Trinity?



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.

The Gift of John's Gospel

By Bishop Robert F. Morneau

One of the treasures of the Church is the Gospel of John. In this work we are given a unique insight into the life of Jesus. Moreover, we are invited to enter into intimate union with Christ at a personal level and as members of a community.

In John's Gospel we learn the concept of "blessedness," what it means to live a Christian life. To the extent that we respond to our fourfold baptismal call, we will experience the blessedness John articulates.

Through the other evangelists—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—we see Jesus as someone who is earthly but also the very presence of God in history. The Gospel of John, on the other hand, presents Jesus as the preexistent one. In becoming human, Jesus reveals the inner workings of divine life. That life is offered to us, and salvation consists precisely in our participation in it. To the extent that we accept Jesus into our lives, we enter into the mystery of salvation.

Through our baptism into the life of Jesus, we are called to maturity, holiness, community, and service. John's Gospel articulate those calls and provides insights into living them. Responding to the call is the way to a blessed, happy life.



Four Calls

The call to maturity.

The mature disciple is a person of faith. Faith is the opening of our lives to God revealed in Jesus. Everything depends on faith, on our submission to Jesus and his word. Maturity is a lifelong process; faith demands ongoing development.

The reading and rereading

of the Gospel of John helps us grow into the full stature of Christ.

The call to holiness. Within Catholic tradition, holiness is the perfection of love. John speaks eloquently of the grace of love. In the Last Supper discourse, Jesus speaks profoundly of the values of friendship, intimacy, and love. This love points to union with God and unity among us. The tenderness and force of God's love is overwhelming. And the test? To lay down one's life for others.

It is in John's Gospel that Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and the branches. This image captures the essence of holiness. To the degree that we are united to Jesus, the Vine, then we, the branches, can bear fruit that will last forever. Holiness is that union, that oneness that sustains us on our journey.

The call to community. One characteristic of early Christians was the insistence on Jesus' command that

its members love one another. Another feature was dedication of the community to the person of Jesus. His vision and values were their compass. They came together because of an outside enemy, the "world," which stood for all that was not good.

The call to service. John depicts Jesus as someone for others. In the Cana miracle of water turned to wine, in the healing of the royal official's son, in the raising of Lazarus from the dead, in the washing of the feet at the Last Supper, in the resurrection accounts—Jesus is serving the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of the people.

Simple Treasure

The Gospel of John is a great treasure. Though complex in many ways, there is an underlying simplicity: Jesus, the preexistent Word of God, is for and with us. We are invited into a life of deep friendship and called to share the gift of light, love, and life with others. Thus, we live the words of Jesus: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me" (14:1). +

**PRAYER**

Lord, you live in communion with God and the Holy Spirit. Help me to live in communion and peace with all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 8–13

Monday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 17:1–6 / Mt 5:1–12

Tuesday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 17:7–16 / Mt 5:13–16

Wednesday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 18:20–39 / Mt 5:17–19

Thursday, St. Barnabas:

Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3 / Mt 5:20–26

Friday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11–16 / Mt 5:27–32

Saturday, St. Anthony of Padua:

1 Kgs 19:19–21 / Mt 5:33–37

Bringing Home
the Word 

June 7, 2020

© 2020 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2020 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.

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 LGBTQ 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 dejanuts@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/>

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 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 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 Bill 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 thomaszimmerman@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

LGBTQ 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

