

July 12, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

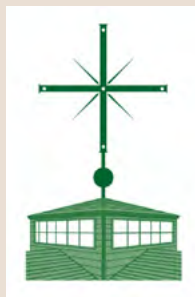
We Feel Your Presence

See page 4



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



Here is an update on our plans for the church over the next several weeks. As you know we have been very cautious – I have been very cautious – based on information about the virus, and based on cautions about bringing groups together. Our approach here during this time of pandemic has been to livestream every Sunday, with a maximum of around 12 people present in the church as liturgical ministers and technicians. We believe this is working well for us, even though we're aware that it's not the same as having people in the church.

Our plan at this time is, beginning next Sunday July 19, we will have a group of no more than 20 first communion children, and their parents, present in the church for our 9:30 Mass. This means 60 people + ministers and technicians, so around 75 people at the max. We will have strict guidelines in place: masks, distancing, no singing, communion in the hand only.

Our task force, which is made up of staff members plus medical professionals, has worked hard on preparing the way for us to have these kinds of celebrations. As always, this plan could change depending on how things go with the virus. Also, please note that no matter what happens, we will continue to livestream, as many people have commented that they are not ready to come back to the church building and this is a good way for people to stay connected. We will see how this goes next Sunday and then look further out into July and August, and look into the possibility of expanding into a model of having mass with some people inside, and some people outside in the columbarium garden. We will keep you informed.

On a pastoral note, I know that these have been very strange and difficult times to navigate for many people. Our whole understanding of "going to church" has changed. Our whole understanding of sacraments has changed. These times invite us to go deeper into

our Christian tradition. We believe in a God who became human, lived among us, and experienced everything of what it means to be human. God looks upon us, and as a poet once wrote, said "Let me go there." It's human life as a place where God seeks to dwell.

And these times we're in invite us to ask, can we see that? Can we recognize in the joys and struggles of our times as the place where God lives and dreams God's dream for all humanity? Can we recognize that God seeks to be known in the everyday stuff of life? We find God in the simple and ordinary form of bread, and we have not been able to receive that bread for several months now. Can our longing for the Eucharist, in this time of absence, become a longing for God's justice and peace and kindness and mercy in a world that cries out for it?

It's not the same as receiving holy communion on a Sunday morning at church. It does not replace that. But that's where we find ourselves in these days. Let me say thank you to all the faithful members of St. Francis who continue to support our parish in these times. And let me say also that we continue to look into what is best for the parish in any decisions we make, and will keep you informed along the way.

A few other things as we move into mid-July: the friars' last weekend is Sunday, August 30 and there are plans underway for a virtual farewell on that Sunday morning. Also, please be watchful for scam emails that are going around in my name. If you have any question at all about an email you receive from me or from anyone on staff here, please call to make sure. Please also know that we have members of our staff and volunteers who are making phone calls to check in on members of the parish. And finally, thank you to all who continue to support our parish financially. We are deeply grateful.

Blessings on your week!

Fr Steve

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

+ Phil Hurley
brother of Dan and Mary Jo Hurley

+ Mary Diamond
mother of Gerry Diamond

+ Michael Zedick

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/>

July Envelope Schedule

July 12 Weekly
July 19 Weekly
July 26 Sister Parishes in NC
and Guatemala
July 26 Weekly

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. Take advantage of the many virtual options available through our ministries.

Inbox Communications

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 this bulletin or look in the "Get Involved" tab of our parish [website](#) for all ministries contacts.

Virtual communications, keeps us connected as Catholics filled with hope and grace, through liturgy, prayer and formation, caring and serving with our community, ministries and schools.



Join us every Sunday for a [livestream of the 9:30am Mass](#). Watch it from the safety and convenience of your home during this time of COVID-19, and check out all of the other broadcasts from the parish by visiting the [parish website](#).

SCAM ALERT

Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a solicitation email from our pastor or bishop asking for "a favor", or for emergency help in the form of money. Please do not open or click on them. Simply trash them. They could cause havoc on your computer and your pocket book.



The [Franciscan School](#) is accepting applications for the 2020-21 School Year
Faith-Academics-Service
[Mike Watson, Principal](#)



The [Preschool](#) is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year.
ages 2-5 years,
Contact Shelley Freeman



Don't keep it all inside and struggle alone.
Our Stephen Ministers are there to care.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer,
you've been on a roller coaster of feelings-fear, hope, disbelief all while trying to cope with the demands of everyday life. If you'd be interested in a virtual support group to share your experiences, please contact Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241.

COMMUNI-TEA
2ND & 4TH
MONDAYS
10:00 AM

JOIN KATHLEEN AND FR STEVE K

VIRTUAL CAFE

REGISTER TO GET THE ZOOM LINK
WWW.STFRANCISRALEIGH.ORG/VIRTUAL-CAFE/

QUARAN-TEA-NI
2ND AND 4TH
WEDNESDAYS
7:00 PM

We Feel Your Presence



More than ever, we are so grateful for our St. Francis Family. We want each of you to know that being a part of this big beautiful family is so much more than filling out a registration form.

While COVID 19 has prevented us from being together around the communion table, we feel your presence. The stewardship office had to cancel Welcome Events in March, April and May but we have not forgotten that we invited you into this family and we hope that each of you will become an active part of our Church Community. That being said, we have decided to conduct a virtual welcome event for all our new members,

returning members or maybe those who want to recommit to this family. This welcome will include a message from our pastor and each of our directors and will also include important information about our parish history and a virtual tour of our church.

If you would like more information about how to participate, please contact the Director of Stewardship, Deb Royals Mizerk by email: deb.royals-mizerk@stfrancisraleigh.org. You can also go to the Sign Up Genius and register directly: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080848a8af2da1f85-virtual1>

We encourage every member of our St. Francis family to prayerfully consider the gifts of time, talent and financial support that you might be able to give back to God through our parish. As Christians, we are all called to be stewards of the gifts God gives to us so we can continue to build His Church. We are glad you're here!

If you have not registered or signed up for a Welcome Event – that's okay. Please complete the registration form online: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/register> or you can print the form and send it in to us by mail. Address: 11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh NC 27613. Attention: Deb Royals Mizerk.

Back to School Supply Drive

Drive up

Saturday August 8, 2020
11:00 am – 3:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi parking lot

Help us fill 200 backpacks
for children in need.
For a list of needed supplies:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/back-to-school-supplies-drive/>

To volunteer:

www.bit.ly/SFA-BTSSdrive2020



**Click here for a list of
needed supplies:**

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/back-to-school-supplies-drive/>

To volunteer:

www.bit.ly/SFA-BTSSdrive2020

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Book and Film Discussion on **Racism**



**For more info and to sign-up,
visit www.bit.ly/sfaracismdiscussion2020**

We are proposing two dates in August where we can gather virtually via Zoom to discuss some of what we learning through our reading and watching. ***These books and films have not been officially approved by the Catholic Church for content. We are inviting the community to read them in light of the gospel (and Catholic Social Teaching) and come for a facilitated conversation about their content.

Book Discussion August 10th 7pm-8:30pm

Read one or more of the following books and come ready to discuss what moved you, challenged you, made you think twice? What did you learn? How are you feeling now? How did it inspire you to work towards dismantling the sin of racism?

- Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: Story of Justice and Redemption*
- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*
- Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*
- Bryan Massingale, *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*
- Debby Irving, *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*
- Angie Thomas, *The Hate U Give*

Film Discussion August 20th 7pm-8:30pm

Watch one or more of the following films and come ready to discuss what moved you, challenged you, made you think twice? What did you learn? How are you feeling now? How did it inspire you to work towards dismantling the sin of racism?

- *Just Mercy*
- *The Hate U Give*
- *13th*
- *I am Not Your Negro*
- *Selma*
- *The Best of Enemies*

Continuing our Prayer, Learning, and Action for Racial Healing and Justice

The Office of Justice and Peace

In the fall of 2018, the US Bishops published a pastoral letter on the sin of racism in our country, saying in that document that “racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart.” The bishops spoke about individual racism and systemic racism being part of the story. It is the latter version of racism that many of us are waking up to in new and challenging ways over the last weeks. There are films to watch, books to read, news programs to engage in, podcasts to listen to, people to be in dialogue with, and more. It can be overwhelming and confusing to take it all in, but it also can be an enlightening time, one where we grow in faith, hope, and love and in our commitment to justice and peace. Our Office of Justice and Peace have a couple ways we will continue our learning conversation around this topic. Certainly, our current moment calls our attention in magnified way right here, right now. We hope to see you at the following opportunities to gather (virtually).

FIREFLY

*I held a flickering
Firefly
In my hand.
But when momentarily
Distracted
By the darkness,
I didn't feel it fly
Away.*

Fr. Steve K

To sign-up, visit www.bit.ly/sfaracismdiscussion2020, or if you have any questions, contact Trevor Thompson, trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

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 help serve others as well.

As I mentioned in previous bulletins, we are all in this together and I want to do my best to help support each other as we work through all of 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 you tried 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/> Stay safe and stay healthy and let's have a fun summer together!

Parish Staff Wellness Calls

Parish Life staff members are still calling to check in with parishioners to see how you're doing! We're calling from our cell phones, but we will identify ourselves and will leave you a message, and we'll try back again. Please know that these calls are our way of saying you are important to us and we're here if you need anything!



[Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life](#)

Planning a wedding can be the most exciting time of your life. There are so many choices and so many people to consider, it's easy to forget that the most important part of the whole process isn't the wedding at all – it's the marriage. When the cake has been cut, the gifts unwrapped and the guests have gone home, it's just two folks trying to figure how to tackle life together and how to grow with one another.

But it doesn't always work out. And when it doesn't work out, again, there are so many choices and so many people to consider that it's easy to forget that those two people are still pretty important and need to be considered. And these same two folks need to figure out how to unravel all the things they have built up, and just like a wedding, the divorce is just the starting point for the rest of your life.

If you have recently gone through a divorce, hopefully there are supportive family and friends to help, but even family and friends may not be able to listen to all you have to say. In divorce, it's common to feel isolated and that you're the only one who's dealing with this situation. That's where the support and healing of a DivorceCare group can really help. While each situation is truly unique, in a DivorceCare group, you'll discover that there are others who understand what you are going through. You'll learn helpful, practical information that will help you recover from your divorce. You'll have the chance to talk about your experiences. It can be very healing to tell others what you are going through. The support group sessions include a time to talk about what you've seen on the DivorceCare videos and what is going on in your life. And while you have the opportunity to tell your story, there's never pressure for you to do so if you don't feel like it.

Usually, we hold DivorceCare meetings on Tuesday nights in the Community Center. This year will be different. The group will meet 'virtually,' so if you were worried about finding a sitter for the kids, or if you don't like to drive at night, problem solved! You can just click on a link and gather with folks who are working through the same processes that you are.

Some of the topics covered are Facing My Loneliness, KidCare, Financial Survival, and The Road to Healing. Each gathering includes a video with experts as well as several case studies of folks who are dealing with some of the same things you are. There's a workbook you can purchase for \$20, and scholarships are available. There's even a daily email you can sign up for to help move you through some of the feelings you're having.

So if this sounds like something that you would benefit from, I hope you'll sign up. The sessions start on Tuesday, September 1 and runs from 7-9pm. The last session is scheduled for December 15. To sign up or get more info, visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/divorce-care/>

If groups just aren't your thing, I hope you'll consider requesting a Stephen Minister. For more information, contact Kathleen.Owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or call 919-847-8205x241.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Career Driven

Mike Watson, Principal



As parents and school leaders, we often tell the youth that they have to plan for their future. But they're not alone. TFS faculty and staff work alongside students to prepare them for high school, college, their profession, and to become overall extraordinary people. It's essential that our student's foundations are rooted in the Franciscan teachings and faith. From kindergarten through to the 8th grade, we watch students transform. They enter as wide-eyed, innocent children, and graduate as passionate young adults who desire to know God for themselves. "The pursuit of wisdom, which comes from knowing God, encountered through discovery and exploration, inquiry and examination embody what it means to be The Franciscan School," says Principal Mike Watson. Our students form a personal relationship with God, ensuring they are not afraid of new challenges as alumni. We're continuously amazed at their success and ability to take risks by being anchored in their faith. We are proud that our alumni have the skill, knowledge, and compassion to reach their academic and personal goals.

We understand that students' experiences outside the classroom are just as impactful as those they gain inside the school walls. Students participate in school-wide projects, introducing them to social change, and planting the seeds of service that they continue to sow as alumni. We nurture feelings of empathy,

inspiring them to embrace those who are different. TFS alumni often pursue a career or a cause that allows them to help other people. Many of those careers that allow them to help others are in the STEM fields.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are now at the center of many new careers and opportunities. With this knowledge, the TFS curriculum "utilizes technology to connect learning points and develop the skills needed to complete assignments." TFS alumni are students and professionals embarking upon careers in STEM, driven by their faith and love for the community.

Many of our alumni now have careers and majors in various STEM fields, such as 2013 alumni, Branden Hawkins. Branden recently graduated from NC State with a bachelor's in Material Science and Engineering. He earned his degree in only three years while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. He left his mark on the campus, completing his studies as both the Summa Cum Laude and Valedictorian. As Branden prepares to start his career at Cree, Inc. this summer, he credits TFS for sparking his interest in science and technology. "Taking science and math courses [at TFS] were important

in building my curiosity about the way things work and our methods to describe and understand them. Competing in the science fair helped even more; I did a project examining the soundproofing properties of different materials, and now I am a materials engineer!"

In celebrating our most recent graduating class, it's exciting knowing that this is only the beginning of their journey.

"My advice to the graduating 8th-grade class is to remember to share your gifts with others – time, talent and treasure are all valuable things that will not only make a difference in our lives but also the lives of those around us," said Branden. "I was told by my 7th-grade social studies teacher Mrs. Putman [that] 'to whom much is given, much is expected.' I have tried to live this statement by using my gifts responsibly to help others as best I can."

If our alumni are an example of what lies ahead for our recent graduates, we know they will excel. Read more about our most recent alumni, and learn how the TFS experience has prepared them to embark upon their next chapter.

Please visit our website at www.franciscanschool.org or contact Principal Mike Watson at mike.watson@franciscanschool.org to find out more and to get insight into the community of excellence we have built here over the past two decades!

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Little Hands - Big Skills



“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;” James 1:19

Since the pandemic first started, I, like many others, have been part of many virtual meetings and conversations. One thing that I find interesting about some virtual meetings is that as part of the chat function, there is often an icon of a hand or something similar that can be used to indicate a desire to speak. I have frequently wondered if the person who thought to add this was a teacher! We have all partaken in conversations/meetings, in our professional or daily lives, where people have a difficult time waiting for their turn to talk. For whatever reason, they interrupt a speaker, talk over a speaker, or just have to make sure that they have the final word in any conversation. Needless to say, it can be very difficult to accomplish things or share different ideas with someone like this. When you can't get a word in edgewise, it makes it very hard to stay involved in the conversation or even feel as though your words matter.

Ensuring that children feel respected and that they know that everyone's ideas have merit is part of some of the social-emotional teaching that occurs in preschool. This often begins with teaching children how to raise their hand as a signal that they have something to share. For little ones, this is often one of their first introductions to realizing that there are other little people like them who have ideas and questions too. Learning to listen to others' ideas helps our preschoolers begin to develop a number of social-emotional skills, including patience, respect, and perspective-taking. Waiting, particularly when they are very excited to share ideas, can be very hard for young children. As with social-emotional skills, preschool also offers children countless opportunities to practice self-regulation and attending, not only in play but in their conversations as well. Success in learning is largely dependent of how well we are able to listen to others and absorb their message.

Sometimes I think that maybe we would have more tolerance, more collaboration, more understanding, and more positivity in our world, if we all had had an early opportunity to practice listening to each other. Maybe we would find more mutual respect and less judgement if the ability to listen to others was nurtured in everyone like it is in preschool.

May we continue to look to God to assist us in moments when we are not patient or respectful in our daily listening. Let us continue to ask God to help us be good models of listening. Even when waiting to share our ideas in a conversation seems impossible, God will always be there to help and guide us!

To learn more about becoming part of our incredible preschool family and the opportunities we provide, please visit our website at www.preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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

This Week and Next

Caring Casseroles

There is always a need for Caring Casseroles! If you can, please consider dropping off according to the schedule below.

Caring Casseroles don't have to be casseroles. They can also be side dishes, soup, stew, chili, grilled chicken, or cooked burgers or pizza slices. Labels should include all ingredients or better yet, include the recipe. If you make a meal that meets specific dietary restrictions (low sodium, gluten free, etc.) please mark it that way--it helps the volunteers distribute meals appropriately.

Though we appreciate everything our cooks do, we DO NOT NEED ANY PASTA dishes at this time.

Clare Hall drop off by last name:
Monday--A-F
Tuesday--G-K
Wednesday--L-P
Thursday--Q-U
Friday--V-Z

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!

SingleSingleAgain 25th Annual VIRTUAL Retreat

will be Friday, August 14 and Saturday on August 15, 2020. The theme will be related to "Discerning God's will or call at this time in your life. Register by August 10 using the Eventbrite link:

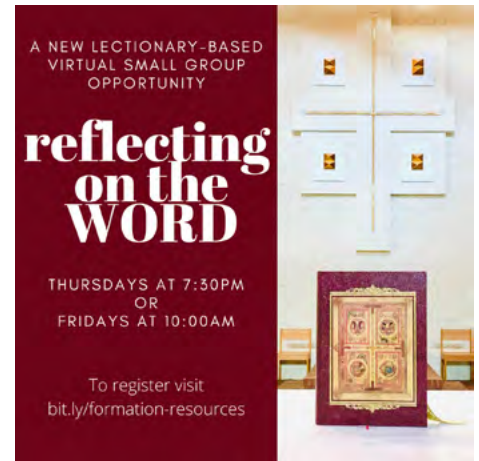
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/25th-annual-virtual-singlesingleagain-retreat-tickets-108899639754>

Cost for Retreat: \$35.00 (if you cancel your registration, you will receive a refund minus the Eventbrite fees.) For additional information email Celia at ckeator@nc.rr.com.

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
hross@mindspring.com
(919) 847-1408



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
from 7:30 to 8:45pm – Register here:
<https://forms.gle/nKWBnAdq4uKeCgV4A>

FRIDAYS
from 10:00 to 11:15am – Register here:
<https://forms.gle/zkbFaN751nBqgdVL9>

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

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer, you've been on a roller coaster of feelings – fear, hope, disbelief – all while trying to cope with the demands of everyday life. If you'd be interested in a virtual support group to share your experiences, please contact Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241.

Family Reflections

A virtual program for grieving families with children

August 4-6
6-8pm nightly on Zoom
Register by July 28
Call 919-719-7199

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. Al-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, August 2nd.

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 Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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:

Caring Connections Ministry

If you'd like to get to know more members of our community, consider joining our Caring Connections Ministry. Sign up to make check in calls to parishioners, send birthday cards or deliver meals. Also, if you would like to receive care, just let us know how to help. To sign up, please visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/>

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/>



Bringing Home the Word

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

July 12, 2020

The Eye of God

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Book of Romans meditates on a truth we sometimes neglect but that has inspired many artists. Creation longs to share in the freedom of God's kingdom. Sin has affected nature, so salvation will also set it free from corruption. What would a glorified planet look like? Charles Burchfield, a nature painter, tried to imagine just that.

He painted thousands of scenes from his bedroom in Salem, OH. He became obsessed with dramatizing landscapes and was known to sketch as he walked to and from school. His love and meditations didn't keep him

from entering the army, but given his gifts, he was assigned to the camouflage unit, using his skills to paint tanks and drapery. Some of his designs are still used today.

What Burchfield discovered was that a pristine nature scene was a divine image. The forms, the colors, the patterns were all created by God and guided by his providence. By painting these scenes, one was truly touching the hand of God and entering into his mind. His painting *Eye of God in the Woods* illustrates the eye of God in a sun that pierces through the trees of a snowy forest with a rolling brook.

God speaks in nature motifs. Scripture is full of them. Jesus also used nature as a model for his teachings: seeds sown in different soils, clouds predicting rain, a sparrow, a catch of fish.

Nature is a glorious soil from which inspiration can sprout. This week, meditate and marvel at the beauty of creation and, like Jesus, take lessons from it for your spiritual life. +

*Jesus used nature
for teaching: seeds sown
in different soils,
clouds predicting rain,
a catch of fish.*

A Word from Pope Francis

Every worker...should have the right to decent remuneration, to social security, and to a pension. Among you here are... workers in grassroots jobs who are excluded from labor rights, who are denied the possibility of unionizing, whose income is neither adequate nor stable. Today I...join my voice to yours and support you in your struggle.

—World meeting of popular movements,
October 28, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS ONE? TWO? THREE?

- How often do I spend time outdoors enjoying nature?
- What messages from God can I find in the natural world today?

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 55:10–11

So shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
It shall not return to me empty,
but shall do what pleases me.

Romans 8:18–23

Hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Matthew 13:1–23 or 13:1–9

[Jesus said,] "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Finding Meaning in Our Pain

By Richard Rohr, OFM

All religion is about transforming pain and what to do with that pain—the absurd, tragic, unjust experiences that make up our lives. The hurts, disappointments, and betrayals; the burdens of sinfulness and brokenness pile up throughout life. We must find a way to make our pain into sacred wounds. We must find a way to give meaning to our hurts and find God in that suffering. Our faith is a gift that helps us deal with life's tragedies.

Throughout history, literature has idealized people at the top: presidents and leaders who hold power and control the system. But biblical revelation turns history upside down with empathy for victims. It idealizes the bottom. It says that true power is not focused at the top. Then Jesus comes to epitomize that message by becoming poor, naked, and expelled—the one who teaches us that the way down is really the way up.

Our lesson is that we need to stop looking for meaning at the top and, instead, go to the edges and the bottom where we find those excluded and expelled. By his life and teaching, Jesus reminds us that we have to be rejected. We have to experience being on the outside before we have something to say.

This is the gift of biblical revelation. It's why we're the only religion that worships the victim, the one considered the problem by religious authorities.

God of Surprises

When Christians call Jesus the Lord of history—this bleeding, naked, crucified man—we are turning history around! We may not realize how scandalous and silly this seems to others. But when you think about it, the crucified Jesus is an unlikely candidate for God.

But this is the very Jesus who, through his teaching and life, reminds us to be careful where we look for God. Expect to find God in unexpected places, he tells us. And so it is in all of history: It has been the excluded ones and people at the bottom who have the privileged viewpoint. Why? Because it is from that position that we meet God, that we understand the illusion and lies of a system built on power, prestige, possessions. But until all that is taken from us, we don't know that. Until then we are simply playing the game, enjoying the fruits of the system.

Recall how Jesus sends his disciples to preach from a position of vulnerability. "Go out, take nothing for your journey,"

he tells them. Why? Because he knows they're going to fail and look like fools. They have to or they won't have a message to deliver.

Hard Truths

It's an initiation of sorts: Jesus sends his disciples into situations where people are going to laugh at them and consider them nobodies. Only when you are a nobody will you understand what it means to be somebody. That is when you will find your life on new ground. We call it the reign of God.

The Bible begins with a fall for a reason. The story of Adam and Eve is a microcosm of what will happen in every life. You and I will fall. Somewhere we will experience our own absurdity, our utter brokenness. This reality isn't something to hold off; it's a necessary, tragic, and beautiful part of the journey.

The answer to our pain is the Jesus who was rejected, betrayed, and abandoned; then hanged on a cross, bleeding and naked. The answer to our pain is the risen Christ, who reminds us that through pain we have new life. +



Lord, you completed God's work on earth. Help me know and accomplish God's will.

From Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 13–18

Monday, Weekday:

Is 1:10–17 / Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday, St. Kateri Tekakwitha:

Is 7:1–9 / Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday, St. Bonaventure:

Is 10:5–7, 13b–16 / Mt 11:25–27

Thursday, Weekday:

Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19 / Mt 11:28–30

Friday, Weekday:

Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8 / Mt 12:1–8

Saturday, Weekday:

Mi 2:1–5 / Mt 12:14–21

Bringing Home
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July 12, 2020

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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	Dawn Smith	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

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 Kieley	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	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241

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

Prayers

Get Involved!

Worship Ministries

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

Outreach Ministries

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

St Francis Serves

Community Garden	Pat & Paul Kelly	919-413-8833
Curbside Care	Lori Piraino	lpiraino7@gmail.com
Duke Children's Hospital	Joe and Geanie Slifer	919-870-6993
Family Promise / WHIN Hosts	Ron Smith	919-455-7786
Gabriel Project	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Migrant Ministry	Bruce Cartier	bcartier7@gmail.com
Prison Pen Pal	Jill Balogh	jbalogh@nc.rr.com
R.A.R.E.	Tom Zimmerman	thomaspzimmerman@bellsouth.net
Red Cross Blood Drive	Bryan Kozak	910-728-9200
Refugee Resettlement	Aggie Dalton	aggiedalton@gmail.com
St Francis Builds / Habitat	Diane & Bob Steinbeiser	919-846-8026
St Vincent de Paul Ministers	Cathy Smith	419-348-8843
Support Circles	Kat and Ferrel Guilroy	ferrel.guilroy@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
Community Conversations	Trevor Thompson
Engaging Spirituality	Becky Cawley
Just Faith	Trevor Thompson
Justice Theater Project	http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/
Peace Pole Prayer	Ben Whitehouse
Study Circles	whitehouseben5@gmail.com

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

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Angela Azzopardi

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St. Francis of Assisi Community Center

Coordinator of Community Center

Athletic Programs

Assisi Café

Parish Events (FrancisFest)

Summer Camps (Camp Francis)

Community Organizations

Girl Scouts of USA

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

Assisi Scripture Study

Baptism Ministry

Marriage Ministry

Confirmation Sponsors

Children's Formation Group Leader

Family & Marriage Enrichment Team

Middle School Formation Group

Faith Formation Retreats and Camps

Faith Formation Registration & Events

Youth Ministry Group Leader

RCIA Team & Sponsors

Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)

Young Adults Bible Study Group

Stewardship Ministries

Director of Stewardship

Stewardship Committee

Way of Francis

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Mary Arleth

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Ashley Watson

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Ashley Watson

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Tim Hetzel

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Thomas Bulick

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Jennifer McCourt

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Marisa Ferrara

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