# First Communion

See pages 2 and 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

As I write this on Tuesday evening July 14th, I hope that as you read these words we will have 20 children making their first communion in church this Sunday. With the way things are going, we never know. But we have a very good plan in place for inviting these children and their parents into the church, at a social distance, with masks, with plenty of hand sanitizer, and with procedures for giving and receiving communion. We are continuing to look at ways we can gradually open up in the coming weeks and as always we will keep you informed.

Please note also that all parish events have been cancelled through Labor Day. Due to virus concerns, we had not scheduled anything anyway, but we decided to formalize it this past week. The reason for this is that our focus in these next several weeks is on 1) church events such as mass, funerals, weddings, baptisms, all of which now require far more preparation and planning than ever before, 2) we are preparing for both our school and preschool to re-open in August (19th for TFS, 24th for the preschool) and we are looking into the use of church meeting space for the schools. I know just from being here during the week that there is an enormous amount of effort and planning going into everything right now, and so we need to clear the decks in preparation for the fall.

A quick note on all of this: many of you have questions about why we are planning to reopen, or why we are not planning to reopen. We are receiving all of the questions. We have staff involved and we have medical professionals involved in helping us to sort through all of it. We are being cautious and responsible in all of our discussions, and will keep you informed about any decisions.

We received sad news over the Fourth of July weekend that one of our friars, Fr. Chris Posch, who was pastor at St. Camillus Church in Silver Spring, MD, died on Sunday, July 5th. Chris had been in the hospital for several weeks with Covid symptoms, though he tested negative for the virus. Chris was 58 years old. We were able to see the funeral service at St. Camillus via livestream. We also send out our condolences to our Franciscan friends at the Duke Newman Center in Durham, as the associate friar there, Fr. Brad Heckathorne, died last week. Brad was a Conventual friar, a different branch from the three of us here, and we would often see each other at diocesan gatherings. These are sad and anxious days for many, and we continue to trust in a God of hope and a God of horizons, with us always.

Blessings on your week!

Fr Steve

**SCAM ALERT**

Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a soliciation 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.

## May they rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon them:

**+ Nancy Regan**
Wife of Dave Regan

**+ Louis Coker**

**+ Bob Allen**
Husband of Jane Allen

**+ Nancy Arnold**
Mother of Mark & Shawn Fields

**+ Charles Monahan**
Husband of Kathleen Monahan, father of Bryan (wife Paula) and Daniel (wife Kristi), a daughter, Mary, and three grandchildren, Michael, Patrick and Bridget.

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®
inspiring secure giving®

**Faith Direct:**
https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-direct/

**Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199**

**Additional Online Giving Methods:**
https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/

*As The Catholic Community of St Francis of Assisi, we are continuing to respond to the Corona virus as the many aspects of our lives personally and professionally are affected. Take advantage of the many virtual options available through our minitries.*

## 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.

## July Envelope Schedule

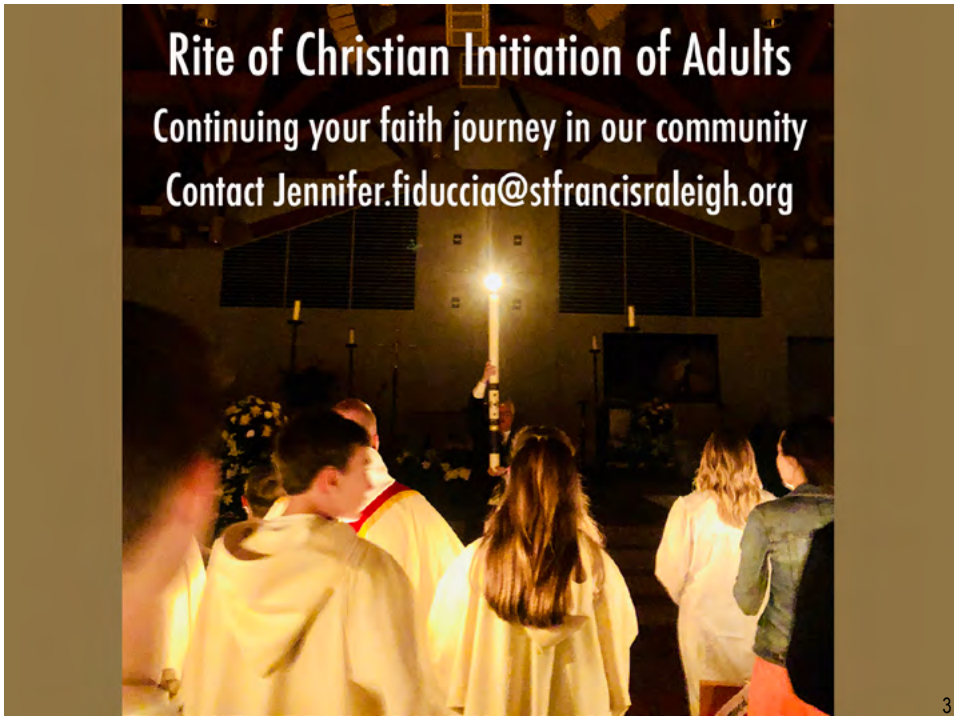
July 19 Weekly
July 26 Sister Parishes in NC and Guatamala
July 26 Weekly

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.



*Congratulations to our First Eucharist Candidates who received the Blessed Sacrament for the first time this weekend! May this day be an initial step for you into a life-long love of the Holy Eucharist. Your Saint Francis family rejoices and celebrates with you on one of the most sacred days of your life.*

Alexander Ballek
Molly Bennett
Elizabeth Burnap
Jonathan Charland
Lauren Conly
Zachary Diffley
Max Forero
William Hammond
Chinwe Ifediorah
Danielle Lagonigro
Michael Lanci
Joseph Le
Lucia McDonald
Brodie Noonan
Carlos III (Trace) Panameno
Gavril Pizon
Ainsleigh Stephens
Keith (Tripp) Stephens III
Anika Travar
Zachary Wilgus

*My dear Saint Francis family,*

Four months ago, if you would have told me we'd be celebrating First Eucharist in July, I would not have believed you. These past few months have been filled with many emotions for all of you and for myself as well. But on this greatly anticipated morning where 20 of God's children join us at table, I feel it's only appropriate to express my gratitude to each of you who have given me hope during this time. After all, as any of our First Eucharist kiddos will tell you, the word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving"!

To the children who decorated my yard with "Be happy" signs and Easter eggs for little Olivia to open, you are Christ to me. To the parents who so patiently waited for this day and who lovingly prayed with their children night after night, you are Christ to me. To the dad who responded to my check-in phone call with a wonderful conversation about the quality time he's been grateful to spend with his kids on bike rides, you are Christ to me. To the peer minister who met me for a smoothie and blessed me by your witness and your incredible faith, you are Christ to me. To the kids who sent in pictures on our virtual classroom of the projects and crafts you made this Lent, you are Christ to me. To the Core Team members who drove by our house on our one year old's birthday with balloons and posters, you are Christ to me. To the second grade ITAs who selflessly give of their time to assist us at all the First Eucharist Masses each year, you are Christ to me. To the parents and guardians who so patiently walked with their kids through these days of virtual schooling and all the other tasks that come with raising your children, you are Christ to me. To the family members who drove through our First Eucharist banner kit pick up and asked me through the window how me and my family are doing, you are Christ to me.

And lastly, to the 20 sweet children who approach the altar this weekend with the faith, hope, and love that reminds me that the future of our Church is in extremely capable hands: I love you and I meet Jesus in each of you.

Sarah Bowser
Coordinator, Children's Formation

**Click here for a list of needed supplies:**
https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/back-to-school-supplies-drive/

**To volunteer:**
www.bit.ly/SFA-BTSS-drive2020

# 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).

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*

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

# More than Just A Badge

Since 1988, the Knights of Columbus have been helping out at St Francis of Assisi. So who are the Knights? They are an international brotherhood devoted to charity, unity and fraternity.

Who are our Knights? They are the guys with the blue name badges at mass. They are the men you see all around the church. They are the men you see helping out, celebrating our faith and our fellowship, working together and serving others. Let's take a look at a year of Knights:

- Monthly hosts of the Coffee and Donuts on Sundays
- Weekly volunteer at the USO at RDU Airport, welcoming military members home
- Deliver donuts to shelters
- Host blood drives
- Veterans Breakfast
- Highway Cleanup
- 5th Sunday Rosary
- Welcome Events Support
- TFS Spelling Bee
- Help with food drives at St. Francis
- Breakfast for Lunch at TFS
- Hosts of Novena for the Consecration to The Holy Family
- They are also EM's as well as lectors and MC's at Mass
- Each First Communicant receives a rosary from the Knights
- Assembled desks for TFS
- Helped in the reconfiguration of campus to bring the kids back to school
- Support for religious with stipends
- Host the Memorial Day Mass
- Crosswalk Buddy Bible Program
- Help decorate the church for Christmas – including the lights all around the Memorial Garden
- Culture of Life
- Veterans Breakfast

And if that's not enough, our Council 9709 received the Star Council Award this year. They did all these things for our parish while also meeting the requirements for new membership, programs and activities and meeting targets for their insurance programs.

So if you are a man at St. Francis and you'd like to join a team of men who celebrate their faith, their families and service to others, you need to check out the Knights. For more information, visit www.kofc9709.org/ or email gk@kofc9709.org

Fr. Jim Sabak, O.F.M.

To modify a line sung by George III in the musical Hamilton: "WE'LL BE BACK!" Yes, after weeks of pensive anticipation, waiting for the state to decide on the best measures for resuming classes in the fall, The Franciscan School will be up and running on August 19. And yes, the model that the state has asked us to follow is one of modified in class and long-distance, but this doesn't mean that we will forfeit or jeopardize any of the teaching excellence that has marked The Franciscan School for more than 20 years.

What we are facing now is the task of adapting and utilizing the skills and talents and resources and creativity and imagination of our outstanding faculty and staff to this continually evolving extraordinary period in our human history. We could easily find this a daunting task, one that might appear to be overwhelming and insurmountable to even begin to attempt; better to wait it out, to stay at home, where it is safe and comfortable, and we can passively watch what continues to unfold. But to do so would not only invalidate and undermine our educational mission, it would frustrate our mission particularly as a Catholic school.

All education is adaptive, whether that be to a student's abilities, to environmental and social contexts, or to time and place. Now more than ever we are challenged to adapt in all these areas and contexts, and not just as an elementary school, but especially as a Catholic elementary school. Because to be Catholic is to be able to adapt to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, whose breath blows wherever it wills over every time and place.

The first Christians were people who were able to adapt to the different cultures and social contexts of the ancient world. If Christianity could not, it would be a strange and alien movement, unable to relate or respond to the needs of the people to whom the gospel would be addressed. In turn, the Christian movement would take concepts and ideas from the culture and give these a different spin, to adapt them to the needs of spreading the gospel. The word, "liturgy," itself would have meant more of something akin to public service to the ancients than to anything connoting praise given the divine. It is one example of how Christianity took something of the time and made it something new and useful to express the wonder of the Reign of God.

TFS
THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL
FAITH – ACADEMICS – SERVICE

We teach many important things to our students at The Franciscan School, but this year, and in the years to come, we are challenged to teach within a new context. It is a context we did not anticipate or expect, but one that challenges us to adapt. We adapt so that our mission of leading our students to discover the wonders of God's creation around them and within them will always remain the core around which that mission unfolds.

Yes, indeed, "We'll be back!" And we will teach what wonders will be unlocked as we adapt and put to use for God's glory and our own the opportunities this extraordinary time reveals to us.

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

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God…."* Isaiah 41:10

Fear. Anxiousness. Uncertainty. Because of the world health crisis that we are experiencing now, these emotions often plague our days. If you are a parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, godparent, or any type of caregiver of a young child, these feelings are likely overshadowing your decision making, particularly if you have a child who might be attending school this coming fall. It's hard not to have these emotions swirling about our daily lives. As parents, family members, and caregivers, our primary responsibility is to provide a loving and safe environment for children to grow. How can we not feel some level of trepidation and worry when the world around us seems to be slowly succumbing to nothing but sickness and despair?

I won't pretend to have the answer for overcoming these feelings, but I can say that it's important to reach out and seek support and help whenever possible. Now more than ever, we need to be strong for our children and this might mean considering things that we never previously have. It might mean reaching out to others and asking for assistance. It might mean allowing others to share our worries and concerns to lighten our burden even if just temporarily. In doing so, we will likely find that it allows us to handle the fear and anxiety that we are experiencing and be more present for our children.

It is no secret that children can often easily sense when adults around them are uncomfortable, worried, or fretting. We do our best to shelter them from these emotions, but their curious minds and keen observation skills often best our attempts. Although we do not need to burden them with adult size worries, it is important to be honest and sincere in our conversations. Children are very perceptive and often understand more than we think. Being willing to have a conversation and listen to them will not only precipitate calm for them, but likely for the adults around them too.

If parents and caregivers find that they are having difficulty providing answers or addressing questions, there are a multitude of professionals and other resources available that can assist. Arming yourself with information is often a first step. To help our preschool parents feel comfortable and hopefully reduce some of their concerns in order to keep their children's worry levels low, we are working diligently towards the goal of bringing our students safely back to preschool next month. Not only are we considering the health and well-being of staff, students, and families, but we want to do our best to maintain the integrity of what preschool is. While we are carefully following national and state healthcare guidelines to physically keep our students well in body, we are also trying to prepare for additional emotional challenges that might arise such as an increase in separation anxiety.

Finally, we can do all of this to ensure that our worries and those of our children do not overrun us, but it is likely that there will be bumps along the way that are difficult to manage. When we encounter those times, we should never forget about turning to our faith. God is waiting for us to trust in Him and to offer our fears to Him. He is always ready to listen. In reminding our children of this and in helping them learn to talk to God, both in and out of church, we give them the chance to grow in their faith and learn to rely on it throughout their lives. What a powerful 'tool' our faith can be in helping us navigate our stress, anxiety, and fear! As Catholic educators, we reinforce this for our children in all that we do..

Let us continue to recognize that when our worries threaten to pull us down and impact our lives with our children, we always can turn to our Heavenly Father who will guide us and never leave us alone.

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

# 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.

A Program of Transitions LifeCare

# 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 ca ncelled. 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@stfrancisraleighorg.

**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

***Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)***
**July 19, 2020**

## A Show of Mercy

*By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC*

One of the most important signs of true strength is the ability to show mercy. The Roman emperors understood this and were praised when they showed clemency toward a criminal. The one who has the power to condemn also has power to forgive.

The artist Ippolito Scarsellino—in his painting *Virgin and Angels Imploring Christ Not to Punish Lust, Avarice and Pride*—depicts this mercy, as it applies to Jesus, in classic allegorical fashion. Mary and the angels are shown pleading with Jesus to hold back his wrath against lust, avarice, and pride. Jesus is rearing back to launch arrows upon them, yet Mary begs him to withhold his judgment.

The Book of Wisdom praises God, for he is "master of might," but governs with lenience (12:18). The fact is, he would be fully justified to reprimand every vice of his creatures, yet he chooses mercy. What a wonderful lesson for all persons in authority!

It's enough to just look at the Gospel. The weeds are not immediately torn out or burned out of consideration of the wheat. Both are allowed to grow and develop to maturity to ensure the harvest. Permitting the good to struggle with evil allows the good to grow in perfection. It also gives the bad a chance to convert.

God gives every grace to those who love him so that we may not succumb to the challenges around us. His mercy gives the sinner every possible chance to repent and be saved. This is the heart we must have for one another and why we should never gloat about our goodness or despair of our weaknesses. While there is life, there is hope. +

***God would be fully justified to reprimand every vice of his creatures, yet he chooses mercy.***

## Sunday Readings

**Wisdom 12:13, 16–19**

Your might is the source of righteousness; / your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all.

**Romans 8:26-27**

The Spirit...comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought.

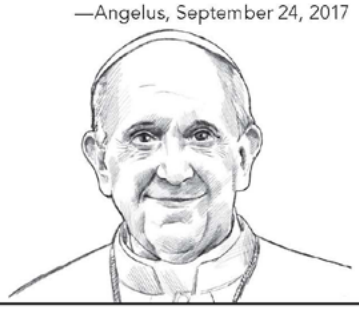
**Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30**

[Jesus said,] At harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."

## *A Word from Pope Francis*

There are no unemployed people in the kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do their part; and there will be a reward from divine justice for everyone in the end...the salvation that Jesus Christ acquired for us with his death and resurrection, a salvation which is not deserved, but donated.

—Angelus, September 24, 2017



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I more readily imitate God's judgment, justice, or mercy?
- How can I practice all three?

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# Spiritual or Religious? Why Not Both

*By Jim and Susan Vogt*

Are you religious, spiritual, both, or neither? Does it matter? Many young adults these days are distancing themselves from the Catholic Church, claiming they're spiritual but not religious. To understand this, we talked with several twenty-somethings. Here's one conversation.

**Q: Jeff, what's your take on this "spiritual vs. religious" debate?**

**A:** Many of my friends would say they're spiritual but not religious. Most of them grew up Catholic, went to church on Sundays and to Catholic school. Now that they're on their own, making time for organized religion isn't a priority. Many do volunteer work, but going to church isn't on their radar.

**Q: What about you? You go to Mass with your family on Christmas, Easter, and special occasions. Do you still consider yourself Catholic?**

**A:** Yes, I'm Catholic. I believe what Christ taught, and the essential ideals of the Church make sense. I filter some Church stuff through the lens of common sense, though. The Catholic Church often seems archaic to me—all that medieval pageantry. The sexual abuse scandal doesn't help. I buy "love your neighbor as yourself," but I get fed up with rules like only unmarried men should be priests and restrictions about marriage and Communion. I figure those are human rules—not the essence of Catholicism.

**Q: So if you agree with the heart of Catholicism, are you a practicing Catholic? Do you attend weekly Mass?**

**A:** I attend, but not weekly. That's not where my social network gets together. I've already got a good group of friends, and I wouldn't see any of them at Mass.

**Q: Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me." He was giving us a way to stay close to him on a regular basis.**

**A:** You have a point. Maybe I'm spiritual but not religious. It's just that I believe in a loving God and don't think God is going to send me to hell if I lead a good life but don't go to Mass every Sunday.

This conversation may be disconcerting to practicing Catholics. What we hold dear isn't part of the culture of many young adults—even thoughtful, idealistic ones. Their reasons might sound superficial or immature to us. Can you and I do anything that will make a difference?

▪ **Challenge your own faith.** Often the path to a deeper faith comes through the powerful experience of meeting Jesus on the margins of society. Like the Good Samaritan, we can move beyond our comfort levels and see the face of Christ in those who are ignored or hurting.

▪ **Challenge the faith of young adults.** Young adults are especially ripe for discovering the face of God through powerful spiritual and human experiences. Help your parish design opportunities for volunteering their talents to lend a hand to those in need.

▪ **Use crises.** Nobody seeks a tragedy, but in time, enough naturally come our way. Recognize hardship as an unwelcome time of potential grace. It's often through crisis that God breaks into our lives.

▪ **Prepare teens.** While teens are still living at home, prepare them for the day when it will be up to them to shake off the inertia of society to seek God's presence in community. They'll have to decide what's important in life. Make sure they know the Church is open to them.

▪ **Recognize the importance of friends.** Parishes must be creative about connecting younger adults with networks of friends who care about each other and about gathering in Jesus' presence.

Religious or spiritual? For Catholics, this is the wrong question. We should be both. +

## PRAYER

*Lord, you revealed the power of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Help me plant the seeds of love, compassion, and peace in the hearts of all people.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

*July 20–25*

**Monday,** Weekday:
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8 / Mt 12:38-42

**Tuesday,** Weekday:
Mi 7:14–15, 18–20 / Mt 12:46–50

**Wednesday,** St. Mary Magdalene:
Sg 3:1–4b or 2 Cor 5:14–17 / Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

**Thursday,** Weekday:
Jer 2:1–3, 7–8, 12–13 / Mt 13:10–17

**Friday,** Weekday:
Jer 3:14–17 / Mt 13:18–23

**Saturday,** St. James:
2 Cor 4:7–15 / Mt 20:20–28



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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 Kielty | 847-8205x227 |

# Get Care!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Kathleen Owen | 847-8205x241 |
| ***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 |
| ***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!

Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***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.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 Spiritualty | 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!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Deb Royals-Mizerk | 847-8205x222 |
| ***Parish Life Ministries*** | | |
| Director of Parish Life | Kathleen Owen | 847-8205x241 |
| **Pastoral Presence Ministries** | | |
| Caregivers | Kathleen Owen | 847-8205x241 |
| Centering Prayer | Alice Stanford | 919-781-5860 |
| Emmaus Ministers | Kathleen Owen | 847-8205x241 |
| EMs to Abbotswood | Anita Misko | 630-699-0519 |
| EMs to the Homebound | Pat Spencer | 704-608-1678 |
| EMs to the Magnolia Glen | Jacob House | 919-449-7634 |
| EMs to the Meadows | Andrea McVerry | amcverry@yahoo.com |
| EMs to Rex Hospital | Edward Gilmartin | edward.gilmartin@gmail.com |
| EMs to Springmoor | Janice Horner | 484-949-1417 |
| Prayer Line Ministers | Pauk Wilson | wilsonpf99@gmail.com |
| Prayer Shawl Ministry | Cindy Cardello | 919-846-8825 |
| | Dianne Rotunno | 919-844-7153 |
| Rosary Ministry | Kathleen Owen | 847-8205x241 |
| **Ministries of Support & Care** | | |
| Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers | Linda Tucker | 937-478-9537 |
| Caring Casseroles Cooks | Kathleen Owen | 847-8205x241 |
| Feed the Need Cooks | Kathleen Owen | 847-8205x241 |
| Job Connections Mentors | Mary Horner | 610-755-5392 |
| Medical Facility Visitors | Sharon Holland | hollandbozo@yahoo.com |
| Transportation to Mass Drivers | Stephanie Smith | 919-302-0080 |
| Weekday Volunteer Receptionists | Toni Hammes | 847-8205x265 |
| **Social Groups** | | |
| AAMEN Ministry | Leon Cooke | 919-740-7515 |
| Always God's Children | Chuck Small | 984-204-0012 |
| LGBTQ+ Ministry | Jane Paris | 919-847-7431 |
| Men's Ministry | Norm Tuomi | norman3722@att.net |
| | Ralph Guenther | rguenther2@nc.rr.com |
| Young Adults | fb.me/YoungAdultsofStFrancis | |
| Women's Ministry | Kathleen Owen | 847-8205x241 |
| 50+ Adults Group | 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 |