



Elect



Clare Cox



Eric Derstine



Samantha Priddy



Barbara Southerland

Candidates for Full Initiation



Maricela Bruno



Connor Hile



Lewis Jones



Angie Maher



James McNeely



Kathy Nichols

Candidates for Full Initiation



Caroline Numbers



Elise Saenger-Heyl



Jennifer Stewart



Addie Snavely



Alyson Zuerneman

Adult Confirmation Candidates



Andrea Calderon



Jennifer Dickinson



Katherine Dickinson



Ashley Esteban



Jared Gardner

Adult Confirmation Candidates



Scott Garner



Nicole Jones



Emily LaBanza



Sarah Lawrence



Christopher Libero

Adult Confirmation Candidates



Zachary Mense



Katie Morris



Sheila Ruegg



Cole Schumacher



Cody-Alyssa Southerland

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



We are into August now, and I want to update you on our plans for the month and beyond.

As you've seen, the past two weekends we have had 20 first communion children, along with their parents, at each mass. We have found that these have gone well and I want to thank everyone who has been involved in helping them go so well. Every week our staff comes together to review how these liturgies have gone, and to look ahead at possible next steps.

Beginning next Sunday, August 9th, in addition to continuing our first communion Masses at 9:30 with limits of 20 children and their parents, we will add a Mass on Sunday at 5:30pm. This Mass will be held in the church and will be limited to 100 people total, which includes liturgical ministers. There will be a sign-up for this Mass and we will need to hold to the limit of 100. Masks will be required, and we will require social distancing all throughout the mass. Communion will be given only in the form of bread, and only in the hand. After that Sunday, we will once again evaluate how it goes and plan from there.

We expect the sign-up for this Mass to go live on our website sometime later this week, and you can check our website for updates and further instructions. Please also note that the 9:30 livestream will continue (we will not livestream the Sunday 5:30), and please also note that our bishop continues to waive the Sunday Mass obligation, which of course means, you do not have to come to mass. We ask that you please consider your own

health, your own risk level, and to stay at home if you feel sick or have been exposed to COVID in any way. Health and safety remain a priority for all.

Our schools are set to begin again soon, TFS on August 19th and our preschool on August 24th. Both schools have done excellent jobs in preparing for this new school year, a school year unlike any other in our memory. Please contact either school for more information.

Please note also that our parish facilities – meeting rooms, Fellowship Hall, Founders room, community center – all parish spaces, are not currently open for reservation for events, as we need several rooms for both the school and the preschool. We will continue to evaluate this throughout the fall and beyond.

As an update on the friars, Steve Kluge and I still await news on assignments and expect to find out within the next few weeks. Jim Sabak of course will remain living at St. Francis ("in residence" officially) and work full-time at the Diocese of Raleigh in his role as Director of Worship. Our incoming pastor, Msgr. Michael Clay, will begin on September 1st, along with his associate Fr. Jairo Maldonado.

And thank you, as always, to those who continue to financially support the parish during these times. Your contributions are important and help sustain the vibrant life of St. Francis. Please see our website for ways to sign up for Faith Direct, and we are always grateful for contributions sent through the mail as well.

Blessings on your week!

Fr Steve

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.

August Envelope Schedule

August 2, Weekly
August 2, Mortgage Sunday
August 9, Weekly
August 15, Assumption
August 16, Weekly
August 23, Weekly
August 30, Weekly

THROUGH BAPTISM
MAY THEY WALK AL-
WAYS AS CHILDREN
OF THE LIGHT:

Montgomery Wade Edwards
Son of Kurt and Victoria Edwards

Abigail Evelyn Stoyell
Daughter of Sean and Jen Stoyell

THROUGH MARRIAGE
MAY THEIR LIVES AL-
WAYS BEAR WITNESS
TO CHRIST'S LOVE:

Marisa Grayson, daughter of
David and Colette Grayson
and **Steven Bigelow**, son of
Sam and Krista Bigelow

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

+ Regina Sisinni
Mother of Regina Propes

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/>

Inbox Communications

Follow this link to verify you will receive our emails. <http://bit.ly/SFASignup>.

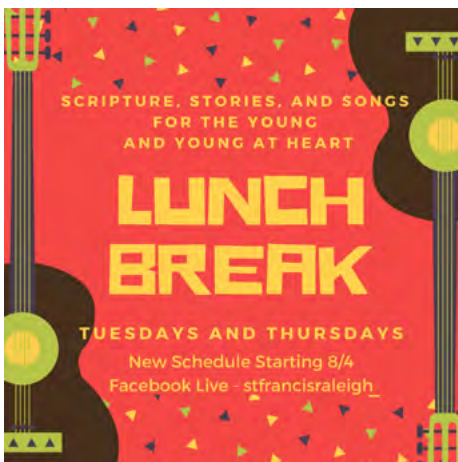
Our weekly bulletin will continue to be available on our [bulletin webpage](#) and emailed to you directly on Sunday mornings after Mass.

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](#).



Thank You

*Franciscan Friars of Holy Name
Province for serving the Catholic
Community of St. Francis of Assisi
1987-2020*



Please visit
www.stfrancisraleigh.org/friar-farewell,
a celebration of their service to our parish.



Online at <https://bit.ly/friar-notes>

Dropbox: in Cupertino Rm. of Comm. Center
Accessible M-F from 9am - 4pm

Mail: 11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613
Attention: "Friar Farewell"



It is with great joy that we are finally able to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with those who have been journeying through the RCIA program. Please join us in praying for those who will celebrate this weekend.

Our Elect:

*Carolina Cervantes
Christian Cervantes
Cara Hooten
Mitchell Hooten
Madison Monteith
Barbara Southerland*

Our Candidates for Reception:

*Jennifer Dickinson
Connor Hile
Thomas Lewis Jones
James McNeely, Jr.
Kathy Nichols
Jennifer Stewart*

Our Adult Confirmation Candidates:

*Andrea Calderon
Katherine Dickinson
Ashley Esteban
Nicole Jones
Emily La Banca
Sarah Lawrence
Zachary Mense
Jordan Monteith
Sheila Ruegg
Cole Schumacher
Codi-Alyssa Southerland*

The Faith and Science Forum

Did you know that St. Francis parish has a group which discusses the joy and wonder of creation?

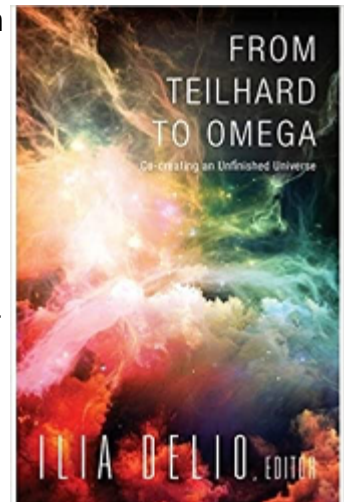
The Faith and Science Forum explores our natural world in multiple ways:

- **Rationally:** by discussing how faith and science are not logically in conflict.
- **Experientially:** through the awe of natural wonders and scientific discoveries
- **Spiritually:** as expressed in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* that the mystery of nature itself reveals the divine, that the Spirit is active in all matter, that each creature has its own purpose, and that the universe unfolds in God who fills it completely.

The Faith and Science Forum meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 pm to share information by discussing books, to ask questions, and to support one another in our mutual discovery and appreciation of our common home where Spirit illumines all things.

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, August 5th when we will begin discussing Ilia Delio's book, *From Teilhard to Omega*. Ilia Delio, a Franciscan Sister, edited this collection of essays which immerse us in the adventure of evolution, opening new windows to our role in the divine mystery and the wisdom needed to forge the future.

If you are interested, please contact Ron Monti at (919) 841-0807 / montiron@aol.com or Tracy Hurley at (828) 773-3152 / danandtracy@hotmail.com.



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/](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



The Catholic Church is one of the most diverse institutions in the world. The Diocese of Raleigh is home to many individuals from different cultural backgrounds and traditions whose stories are an invaluable addition to our communities. Now more than ever, it is important that we as Catholics discuss our distinct faith traditions and appreciate how our differences bring us together.

Join us for a panel discussion with various members of the Triangle Catholic community as they share their unique Catholic experiences. We will have several different cultural traditions represented.

August 11, 2020, 7:00pm via the virtual technology of Zoom.

Hosted by Emerald Izuakor, St. Francis of Assisi parishioner, and Trevor Thompson, Director of Office of Justice and Peace at St. Francis of Assisi. Also, we will be featuring the art of St. Francis of Assisi parishioner Leticia Álvarez.

Please RSVP for participation at www.bit.ly/SFAcatholicdiversity and you will be sent a link for participation prior to event.



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

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles Are Moving!



Change is good, right?? And who hasn't had enough change lately? Anyway, in this case, change IS good.

Effective Monday, August 3, Caring Casseroles and Feed the Need are moving. We're giving up our Clare Hall refrigerator and moving down to the Community Center. TFS needs the space to offer a socially distant environment for the returning students, and we're happy to help. Six years ago, this feeding ministry started when a parishioner called and mentioned she was having hip surgery and would not be able to cook for herself for a few weeks. She wondered if we had a ministry that could help. We didn't have the ministry then, but in a few months, we had a list of cooks, some free calendar software and a core team of folks who made the magic happen.

We happily offer more than 1250 meals each year. At any given time, we are assisting 10 families who are experiencing a new baby's arrival, maybe the loss of a loved one, sometimes a serious illness or surgery, and sometimes, it's all of the above! With COVID-19, we are seeing the number of active families go up and now have 12 active families.

So what does this all mean?
Here's what we know:

- Both Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles should be dropped off at the Community Center – specifically the middle door which opens into Cupertino Room. The middle door will be unlocked between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday.
- The doors to the rest of the Community Center will remain locked.
- There will be one refrigerator for Feed the Need and one refrigerator for Caring Casseroles. They will be labelled accordingly.
- Please do not put anything in the freezer. We will be using both freezers for short term storage of meals for families.
- Please remember to put a label on each meal including the ingredients. We have some families with food allergies and you can help us keep them safe by just including the ingredients for each meal for both Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles.
- If you have any questions or would like to join this wonderful ministry, contact me at 919-847-8205x241 or email me at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org
- Each week, Susie Bahnaman calls each of our families and asks how the food is and how the family is doing. She also asks if they have any prayer requests. Here are some of the requests from this week.
- For a man living with cancer.
- For a woman searching for employment: that she will find a job that fits her skills and her physical limitations.
- For a family under financial stress and fearing homelessness.
- For a women needing medical procedures but has no money.
- For a marriage under stress.
- For a handicapped woman seeking guidance from God.
- For a woman, who suffers from Alzheimer's and for the loving husband who cares for her.
- For a daughter suffering from MS and whose eyesight is being affected.
- For a son with leukemia.
- For an immigrant family.
- For an elderly woman caring for her very ill husband.
- For a woman who is suffers from loneliness during the COVID-19 crisis.
- For a woman suffering from late stage cancer whose is undergoing chemotherapy.
- For all those who suffer during the COVID-19 crisis.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Grateful to Give

TFS believes strongly in embracing students of all faiths and backgrounds – and is passionate about providing scholarships and tuition assistance to families that desire a strong Catholic education but worry the cost is financially out of reach. “There’s often a misconception that private schools are elite schools,” says Mike Watson, TFS principal. “While we are committed to providing quality education, we’re not here to separate ourselves – we want our education to be as accessible as possible.”

Each year, the school enrolls more than 600 students and offers approximately 25 percent of them with some form of financial assistance. Using funds provided from a variety of resources including a tithe from the parish offertory, TFS provides significant need-based financial aid. In five years, more than \$1.8 million of tuition assistance endowments have gone to Franciscan School families, such as the Marks family, who have five children at TFS.

When they started at the school during their youngest daughter’s kindergarten year, they didn’t expect they would need financial assistance. However, as their family grew, so did the financial strain. “When we got to the point that we needed help, I thought I would be worried and embarrassed to ask for help. But the fear of removing them from this incredible faith-based education far surpassed my worries of being embarrassed,” says Jenny Marks, TFS mother. “Our children would never be able to remain at TFS without financial help, even being a dual-working family. The school knows our commitment to TFS and they love and support us in any way they can to make sure our goal of keeping all of them at TFS can happen. I cry every time I get the financial aid email as it is the best gift our children have ever been given.”



In 2019, in an effort to make excellent education a reality for as many families as possible, Watson formed the Timberwolf Fund to garner additional financial support. Through the generous contributions of many, including some Franciscan families who participate by paying additional tuition, last year eight students received scholarships to offset the cost of tuition.

“We never want the cost of tuition to be a deterrent to families seeking an excellent education,” Watson says. “Charging tuition makes it possible for us to offer our teachers a fair wage and give them access to quality materials and resources, but we understand that not every family can afford it.”

The quality of education is critical, Watson explains. The Franciscan School offers unique programs to develop life-long learners and leaders. Its reading program

features a differentiated reading assessment that assesses students’ varying reading levels in grades K-8, allowing teachers to meet students where they are and build upon their reading skills, as well as a choice reading program for middle school students.

The school also works to build self-confidence in its students from the moment students step foot onto campus. “We utilize cultural experiences like morning prayer and weekly mass to give students opportunities to become comfortable speaking in front of large crowds,” Watson says. “These safe environments provide our students with the familiarity of speaking in front of hundreds – starting in kindergarten.”

As schools begin rolling out their re-opening plans for the fall, many families have begun considering private school more seriously – especially after watching COVID-19 wreak havoc on school systems. “Compared to many other schools in Wake County, we were able to pivot quickly and continue providing quality education,” Watson says. “And we’ve worked especially hard to develop a structure for the fall that serves our families well.”

For families who desire a private education but fear it’s out-of-reach, The Franciscan School’s dedication to providing affordable private education is good news. “Offering financial assistance is a joy for us – and it’s simply part of our mission to help and support others in our community,” Watson says. “Offering hope and extending hospitality is the Franciscan way.”

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



EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool



"He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" Mark 10:14

It's hard to believe that we are less than a month away from welcoming back our students to preschool! Despite the disruption to our lives that COVID has caused, there are still moments when I feel like the start of summer was just yesterday!

We have been working very hard to ensure that not only our "normal" preparations are underway, but also that extra precautions are in place given the pandemic that is upon us. While the safety of our students, families, and teachers has always been at the forefront of all that we do, we are being diligent to minimize the new risk as much as possible.

It is critical for us to be able to have our preschoolers in school because, as educators, pediatricians and other health experts recognize, preschool is done best in-person. There are many foundations that are built within a preschool classroom; one of the most critical involves the development of social-emotions skills. Social-emotional skills are life skills. They, among other things, influence a child's self-confidence, empathy, self-worth, and the ability to form meaningful and lasting partnerships.

As preschool educators, we know that young children learn through play. Teaching through intentional play is among a preschool teacher's many special skill sets. With this type of play, we are able to create purposeful activities that introduce and offer practice in many developmental areas, including social-emotional learning. By the time a child leaves preschool, we will have used play

to help him/her form and maintain friendships, learn to solve problems individually and collaboratively, and have a better understanding of their own feelings as well as those of others. More specifically, they will have acquired the ability to take turns, work successfully with others, control and respond to emotions, and have more self-confidence. These are examples of just a few of the skills which are critical for achieving success later in school and life.

Although play in preschool will be a bit different in some ways this year, the integrity of it will remain firm. Our teachers will guide students in their play so that each has the opportunity to grow and strengthen all developmental areas, particularly those related to their social emotional well-being. No matter the accommodations that we have to make to reduce the risks associated with COVID, our students will be provided with a multitude of new, creative, and varied opportunities that will allow them to take advantage of all that play provides. This commitment is unwavering no matter the circumstances. And because of our Catholic faith, we will continue to underscore all that we do with the knowledge of God's love for all, especially the youngest amongst us!

"Play is really the work of childhood."
Fred Rogers

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

Fall Divorce Care – via Zoom

Tuesday September 1 to Tuesday December 15

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

\$20.00 per book

New and past participants please register for this event.
Note: If you already have a book, there's no extra charge.

Visit <https://bit.ly/325V6tc> to register

Each week is different, so you can start anytime.

All are welcome!

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.

You don't have to go through difficult times alone.

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care.

To find out more talk with Kathleen Owen at

kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org



THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL
— FAITH - ACADEMICS - SERVICE —

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

This Week and Next

St. Vincent de Paul still at work: A mother of two young children is going through a divorce which wouldn't be final until the end of the month; meanwhile she had received an eviction notice which was to evict her and the children in the middle of the month. She contacted SVdP for assistance. SVdP along with First Presbyterian, a neighbor and a relative were able to collect enough money to prevent the eviction. The family will be okay next month with the Alimony payments that were agreed upon in the settlement.

If you know of anyone with a car/truck/boat/cycle to donate, contact Tom Nolan 508-827-6155. If you have any questions about SVdP, contact Cathy Smith at smithtcr@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Community Center Cupertino Room
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!



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.

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

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



Group Opportunities

All In-Person Masses, meetings, gatherings, and events are cancelled until further notice. This includes daily and weekend Masses as well as confessions. Please contact ministry leader for virtual or online opportunities.

AA Meeting: For our Alcoholics Anonymous friends whose meetings have been cancelled. The Internet is full of online recovery resources. Online meetings like this one - you can belong to more than one, or two, or three. AA.ORG main website has a list. There are private Facebook groups, endless websites, and speaker tapes. It's all there. 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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
August 2, 2020

God's "Cookie Jar"

By Mary Katharine Deeley

A cookie jar sits on a table outside my office. Thin Mints, Oreos, and chocolate chip cookies are there for the taking—free and welcome. Sometimes I wish it wasn't there because the daily temptation is hard to resist, though I do avoid the sweets most of the time.

The cookies are part of our hospitality corner. Hot water for tea, coffee, and hot chocolate is also available. Students and associates come to take a break from studying or working and appreciate the refreshment. Over the years, many have stopped by my office to talk about school, jobs, and the meaning of life. Who knew

that such a little thing as free cookies would create such graced moments?

Today we celebrate and remember the free gifts God has given to the human community. "Come to the water," Isaiah urges us; "The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all your works," the psalmist cries out (Psalm 145:8). Saint Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from God's love, and Jesus multiplies bread for thousands, making sure that all have what they need.

We only have cookies in our jar, and the looks on people's faces tell me they're much enjoyed. How much more, then, do we welcome and need what is in God's "cookie jar"—love, life, mercy, forgiveness, and himself?

We lift up one another in welcome and conversation. God lifts all of us up—teaching us, refreshing us, and showing us where we can participate in his hospitality by taking what he has given us and feeding others. +

*"The LORD is good to all,
compassionate toward all
your works," the psalmist
cries out (Psalm 145:8).*

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 55:1-3

All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!

Romans 8:35, 37-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

Matthew 14:13-21

They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full.

A Word from Pope Francis

...The Church organized the eucharistic liturgy into moments which correspond to the words and the actions performed by him on the eve of his passion....In the eucharistic prayer, we give thanks to God for the whole work of redemption, and the offerings become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

General audience,
February 28, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS ONE2ION2 REFLECTION

- Are you grateful for the good things in your life that were free of charge?
- Are you grateful God has used you to bless others?

"Rejoicing in Marriage" Webinar Series

REJOICE Counseling Apostolate invites you to join other couples for five free webinar sessions about having a marriage you can REJOICE in! Each webinar is led by parish counselors and an experienced parish minister. For five consecutive weeks, you can enjoy an in-home date night to discuss essential topics and tips for your marriage. Keep REJOICING IN MARRIAGE!

Anyone is welcome to attend—1 or all 3 webinars—so register for free today!

WHEN: Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 pm ET

August 6, 13 & 20

Register: <https://www.rejoicecounseling.com/webinars/>



Power Over Persecution

By Kathy Coffey

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:10).

If a vote was taken for the least-favorite Beatitude, this one might win. Our culture worships movie stars, sports heroes, corporate moguls—not saints. So why does Jesus proclaim that the persecuted are indeed blessed?

Jesus' style is not to make rigid rules but to hold up inspiring models. He asks us to look with new eyes upon the celebrities we may have admired and find hidden virtues in people who are quiet, unpublicized, and principled. If we shift our sights, we may find them more courageous, uplifting, and creative than those who once received our adulation.

Relatively few North Americans have suffered the oppression that is known by those in Asia, Africa, South America, and Central America. In countries like Bosnia, Rwanda, and El Salvador, genocide is common, being a catechist is dangerous, and the parents of the "disappeared" mourn their missing children.

You've had a glimmer of their experience if you've been a spokesperson for an unpopular, moral cause; the only ethical one in the department; the woman calling the "ol' boys club" (or the Church!) to equality; or belonging to

a group scorned by authorities. While being outside the norm pales beside the pain endured elsewhere, it teaches a lesson about being ostracized for the gospel.

Bone-deep Beliefs

Those who have undergone persecution are sustained by solidarity, inner freedom, and the knowledge that it doesn't last forever (though it might feel that way). Standing with others who believe in the same cause, at least we're not alone.

The persecuted find intimacy with others that can surpass the idle conversations or superficial ties of secure relationships. Etty Hillesum, author of *An Interrupted Life*, died at Auschwitz at age twenty-nine. At the Nazi concentration camp she called herself "bread shared among the hungry." Her journal's last words resonate with compassion: "We should act as a balm for all wounds."

The persecuted are united: Their relationships are based on bone-deep beliefs. Members of the armed services cherish wartime buddies. They put their lives on the line together. So our deepest affinities may be to those with whom we share unpopular beliefs.

Resting in Hope

From the writing of people like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Gandhi, or Óscar Romero emerges a sense of inner freedom. As the Gospel says, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna (hell)" (Matthew 10:28). Like the early Christians, Archbishop Romero predicted he would outlive his own martyrdom: "If they kill me, I will rise again in the Salvadoran people."

The persecuted teach us how much in our lives is superficial, how little is essential. Those deprived of material things still find joy and fulfillment.

Finally, Jesus directs us to place our sufferings in an eternal context. A problem that looms large does not last forever. The persecuted teach us to carry burdens lightly and wear our chains loosely. They take God's mission on earth seriously but can laugh at themselves.

We can approach persecutions as Jesus did. When we feel diminished by criticism, rejected by the "in" crowd, or demonized by those who disagree with us, we can rest in Jesus' assurance that we aren't alone, the pain doesn't last forever, and the kingdom is ours. +



Lord, your love and compassion are always with us in times of trouble. Help me walk in solidarity with those who suffer and show them your love and compassion.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 3–8

Monday, Weekday:

Jer 28:1–17 / Mt 14:22–36

Tuesday, St. John Vianney:

Jer 30:1–2, 12–15, 18–22 /
Mt 14:22–36 or Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

Wednesday, Weekday:

Jer 31:1–7 / Mt 15:21–28

Thursday, Transfiguration of the Lord:

Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 / 2 Pt 1:16–19 / Mt 17:1–9

Friday, Weekday:

Na 2:1, 3; 3:1–3, 6–7 / Mt 16:24–28

Saturday, St. Dominic:

Hb 1:12–2:4 / Mt 17:14–20

Bringing Home
the Word 
August 2, 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

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 Kiely	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

Deb Royals-Mizerk

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Kathleen Owen

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Kathleen Owen

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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) Rebecca Brooks membershipack352@yahoo.com

Knights of Columbus

Secular Franciscan Order

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 Regist. & 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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Ashley Watson

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Tim Hetzel

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Thomas Bulick

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Sarah Bowser

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Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Thomas Bulick

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Patti Panizza

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Marisa Ferrara

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