

August 9, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

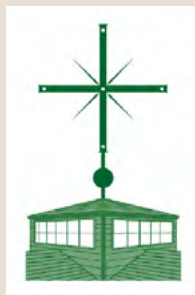


First Eucharist

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



These are days of all kinds of transitions as the friars begin to pack things up and get ready to move, and as we prepare the way for our new pastor Msgr. Michael Clay and his new associate Fr. Jairo Maldonado. There are boxes everywhere around the office and our house. Msgr. Clay will begin here as pastor on September 1st, not far off now. As you know, Fr. Jim Sabak will continue to live in the house ("in residence") and will move to full-time status at the Diocese of Raleigh, so you will see him around. Fr. Steve Kluge and I continue to await news on our new assignments and we expect to find out soon where we are going.

Here on campus we continue to adapt to these new COVID times and that of course has meant a major shift in preparation and planning for just about everything. Our governor stated this past week that North Carolina will continue in Phase 2 until September 11th, a sign that the virus is still very much with us and that we must continue to be cautious and careful in planning any events.

Here at St. Francis, we are taking a step toward re-opening by adding a Sunday 5:30 mass for this Sunday, August 9th: there has been much planning that has gone into this, and we will evaluate how this Sunday goes to see about continuing it further into August. Please note that there is a sign-up for this mass on our parish website and that we are limiting attendance to no more than 100 people, which includes liturgical ministers.

A lot of work also has gone into re-opening plans for both of our schools. Grades K-8 begin on Wednesday, August 19th with a combination of on and off campus instruction; our preschool begins on Monday, August 24th with on-site instruction. As you can imagine, an enormous amount of planning has gone into preparing our schools for re-opening. Because our focus in these days is primarily on parish liturgies and schools, we have cancelled all other parish events through September 15th, and will evaluate after that date. As we are finding, everything is new and different in these days, and we are adapting as we go.

We are grateful, in these days, of your continued support of St. Francis: by your faithful viewing, your supportive comments, and your continued financial support of the parish and schools. All of this is vitally important for the parish. Options for giving include Faith Direct, and you can sign up for that directly by calling 866-507-8757 and giving our parish ID# NC674. Or you can always send in your contributions to: St. Francis of Assisi Church, 11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh NC 27613.

Blessings on your week!

Fr Steve

Please do not drop off any unsolicited items on the church property or in our buildings. All of our donation drives are closely coordinated with our ministry partners in the community and are well publicized in advance. If you have donations at times outside of our announced drives, please take your donation directly to a charity of your choice. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

+ **Virgina Hoffman**
Mother of Ed Hoffman

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/>

August Envelope Schedule

August 9, Weekly
August 15, Assumption
August 16, Weekly
August 23, Weekly
August 30, Weekly

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.

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](#).

"FROM A PARISH PRIEST"



A collection of Fr. Steve K's poems, many never having been in the bulletin, is now available on Amazon.

All profits go to support St. Francis of Assisi parish.

<https://bit.ly/stevekpems>

Mark your calendar

Friar Farewell

Sunday, August 30

immediately following the 9:30am Mass



Join us for a virtual friar farewell in appreciation of our current and past friars of Holy Name of Jesus Province.

Though our faith community cannot gather in person to wish the friars farewell, we invite you to join through the live streaming of this event.

The voices of our parishioners will be presented to the friars through farewell messages sent in advance.

If you would like to send them a farewell message, there is still time. Send in your message by August 27. You can do so one of three ways.

- Online at <https://bit.ly/friar-notes>
- Dropbox in the Cupertino Rm. of the Community Center, accessible Monday - Friday from 9:00am - 4:00pm.
- USMail to 11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613. Attention "Friar Farewell".

The blessings of our parishioners will be offered at the celebration when all are asked to join in.

We have also set up a tribute to our friars on line at www.stfrancisraleigh.org/friar-farewell, as a celebration of their 33 years of service to our parish. There you will find photo galleries, history, and videos.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Fall Virtual Bible Study The Book of Exodus



The exodus is the central event of the Old Testament, giving meaning to everything else we find in its pages. Part One of this study takes us through the first fifteen chapters of Exodus—from slavery to the call of Moses, from plagues to crossing the sea, from captivity to freedom in the Sinai. Part Two of this study covers the final 25 chapters of Exodus. Beginning with the insecurity of the desert wanderings, to encountering God on Sinai and then constructing the tent of dwelling, God's people learn what it means to be part of a covenant with the one who liberates and also gives the Law to guide and direct them. Discover that God hears those who are beaten down and liberates those who are in need of his justice.

Sessions will take place on the free Zoom platform. Registration is required. To register, visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/adult-formation/>

Dates: Wednesdays – 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18 (10 sessions)

Time: 10:00-11:30am via Zoom

Facilitators: Barbara Efird and Cindy Cardello

Cost: Participants will receive instructions on how to purchase their own materials that will be shipped to their homes. Cost for each of the two books is \$16.95 + shipping.

Registration closes on 9/1. The maximum number of participants is 20.

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

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.



Abigail Aldacosta
Hadley Armstrong
Vincenzo Blandina
Elaine Chorba
Laughlin Dougherty
Hudson Elliott
Charlotte Harward
Cara Logallo
McKenna Lotchin
Lillian Louzao
Lillian Lundin
Emersyn Malone
Claire Miranda
Kennedy Potemra
Vivian Priddy
Allie Rowinski
Rachel Stokes
Ethan Susi
Lillian Thompson
Natalie Venturini

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES



Get Out the Vote

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace

In conjunction with our partnership with the community organizing effort in Wake County called One Wake, we are prioritizing over the next couple months reaching out to our friends, families, neighbors, and fellow parishioners to encourage them to take their civic responsibility to vote in the upcoming election seriously. There are many concerns that because of this pandemic, voting rates, which are already surprisingly low, might be even lower. In an nonpartisan way, there is great value in checking in with those around you if they are registered and have a correct address in the system and pointing them to the appropriate web pages to take action.

As the late John Lewis gave witness to over the course of his life, voting rights are a fundamental right of all citizens in our country, a right that is often threatened for some individuals in our democracy. It requires us to exercise this right in a discerning and prudent way, to invite others into this faithful citizenship, and to work for voting justice for all. Pope Francis also encourages us to participate in the political process, saying "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern" (Sept 16, 2013).

Finally, the US Catholic Bishops echo Pope Francis' words, writing "This statement by Pope Francis represents our guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. We urge our pastors, lay and religious faithful, and all people of good will ... to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching. This statement lifts up our dual heritage as both faithful Catholics and American citizens with rights and duties as participants in the civil order" (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility).

Most of your voting questions and actions pertaining to election like checking your voting registration status, finding a list of candidates, registering to vote for the first time in NC, changing your address, finding out about early-voting sites, and learning the ins and outs of absentee/mail-in ballots can be found at the NC Board of Elections website:

www.ncsbe.gov.



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.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Thank You

we received 112 meals and 4 side dishes for Caring Casseroles. Many of these meals are family projects. This is in addition to the meals our Feed the Need cooks supply on a daily basis. Thank you for helping us reach out, in kindness, compassion and generosity to members of our community who are dealing with difficult situations. For more info, contact Kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Caring Casseroles & Feed the Need:

Caring Casseroles and Feed the Need have moved! Our refrigerator is now located in Cupertino in the Community Center. Please note the following when dropping off your meal.

- 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 4:00pm 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.

Thank you so much for continuing to cook delicious, nutritious meals that benefit members of our

6 St. Francis community who are in need.

Grief is Everything

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

Grief is everything you've heard that it is. It is dark, cold, painful, sneaky, crippling, exhausting, and angry. It can hide all day long and when you least expect it, there it is – blocking you from everything bright and good. There are as many different types of grief as there are people who are grieving.

But I want to tell you about the other side of grief. When you do the grief work and you process through your feelings, grief can take you to a place of acceptance, of appreciation and of greater understanding. You see, coming to love someone is a process. You notice things about them that you like, they make you feel a certain way, and you come to love them – as a spouse, as a friend, as a child, as a family member. When they die, the love doesn't end, but the feelings get so backed up inside and there's fear and anger and no clear path to get back to how things were. The process of learning to still love them, and yourself, after they have died is the grief work, and it's a process, too.

Truthfully, grief changes you. At least for a while. You'll never get things back the way they were, but you can get to a way of life that celebrates the love you shared, a way of life that remembers the good times, but doesn't ignore the tough times, a way of life where you can begin to feel like the same person you were before your loss.

Sound impossible? I have five examples of folks who have lived to the other side of grief and each of them will be a facilitator for our grief group this Fall. On September 8, at 10:00am, we will gather virtually for our first Seasons of Hope series.



This is a six-week series that will include prayer, scripture, reflection, sharing, and some journaling. Richard Hammer, Bernie McShane, Elizabeth Thomas, Denise Mickalites and Chris Veit will all be helping facilitate this new group. Each session will last about an hour, depending on the size of the group. The cost for the

series is \$10.00 and you can register at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/announcements/>. Just scroll down to Seasons of Hope. And don't be afraid of the virtual gathering. If you need some help getting used to that, I can help you.

You may not finish processing your grief in six weeks, but you can surely feel better than when you started. And with this series, we will have 4 series each year – each just 6 weeks, and each series is a bit different.

So if you've lost a loved one and you'd like some help doing the grief work, check us out. If you're more of a one on one person, give me a call about getting a Stephen Minister. You don't have to do this work alone. We're here for you.

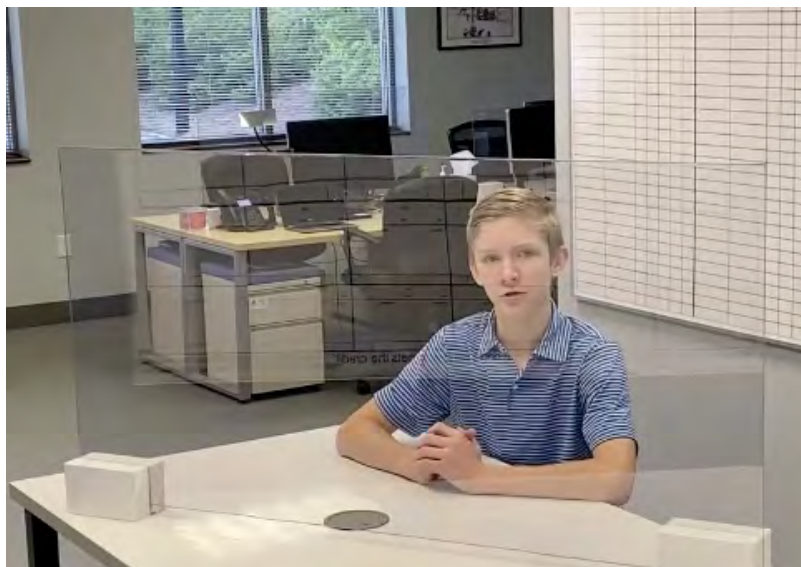
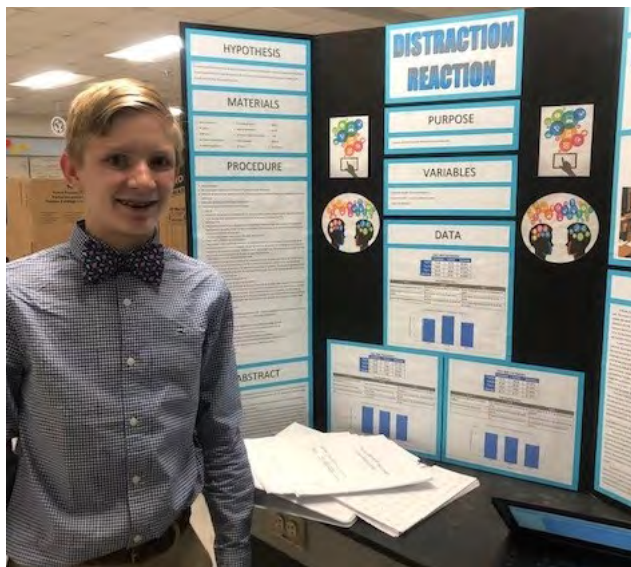
Connection Calls

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

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Passion Meets Purpose

Mike Watson, Principal



While COVID-19 has presented its share of challenges, for recent TFS graduate Noah Langbo, it also gave him the unique opportunity to combine two of his greatest passions, science and service.

Last spring, Noah was brainstorming with his father Keith, founder and CEO of talent acquisition and advisory firm Kelaca, about the company's return-to-work plan.

"My dad wanted to buy protective shields to use between work desks, but it was hard to find the right size - and the ones that were the right size weren't particularly stable," Noah says. "So I decided to go to Home Depot, look at different materials and design something myself."

After some tinkering, Noah selected an acrylic material - LEXAN Polycarbonate - that is virtually unbreakable and extremely durable.

And while Noah is no stranger to design, this is the first product he's developed from conception to market. Through the process, he learned first-hand the challenges many business owners face.

He credits his time at TFS, which he attended from first grade until his graduation in May, for giving him the curiosity and confidence to explore his passions.

In addition to participating in the school's National Junior Honor Society and Student Council, he also was encouraged by his science teachers, Mrs. Harrington and Mrs. Moser, to participate in programs like Science Olympiad. His biology project "Distraction/Reaction" earned him the chance to compete with students across the state as part of the NC State Science Fair in 2020.

"TFS gave me so many opportunities to encourage my love of science and I tried to take advantage of all of them. Our amazing science classes introduced me to the scientific method and walked me through the STEM design process, and the interactive labs gave me the opportunity to see how you can use science in real life," Noah explains. "Beyond that, TFS and my teachers and principals did so much to enrich my faith and encourage me to use my gifts to help others."

His protective shields will be used at TFS next year, and Noah has committed for every 10 shields sold, he will donate one to a local non-profit organization.

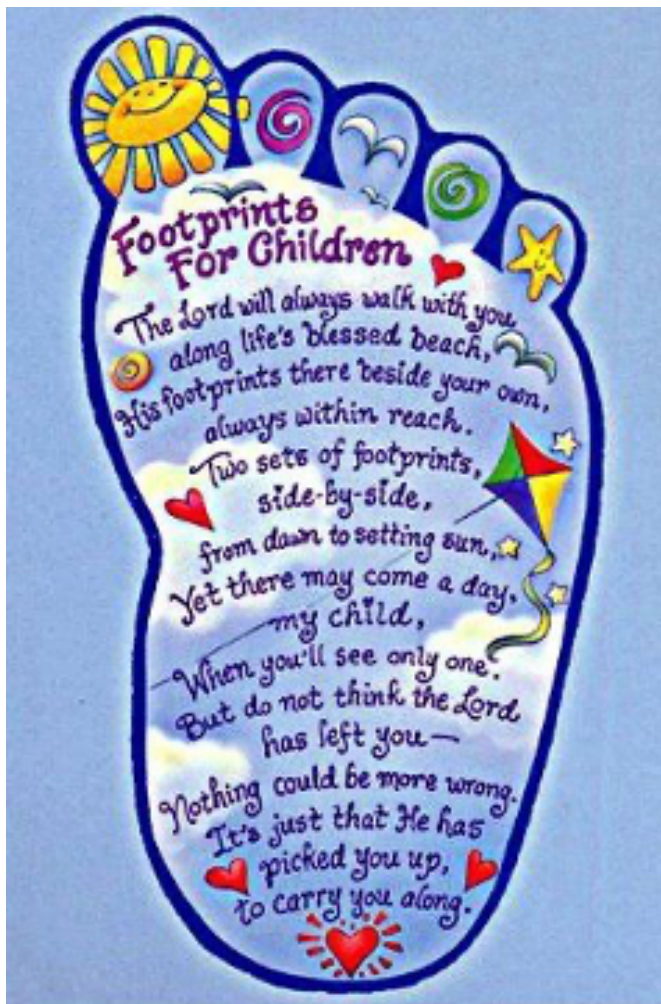
"Noah has always been the first to volunteer to help out and has always been a great representative of the school and our students", says Mike Watson, TFS Principal. "From our Open Houses, where he acted as a tour guide for prospective families, to his leadership on student council, where he often brought forward proposals for student service, Noah has been a terrific person to work with at the school. His new venture is perfect for him, combining his love of science and design, with his outgoing personality and entrepreneurial spirit."

This fall, Noah will begin high school at Raleigh Charter, after which he hopes to attend college to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering or pre-medicine. Whatever he does, he hopes that he can use his interests and abilities to serve others around him.

Please visit our website at www.franciscanschool.org or contact Principal Mike Watson at mike.watson@franciscanschool.org to find out more about our academic programs, our students' success, 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



We all need ways to cope and deal with the pressures and stresses of life. Being in the midst of a pandemic, when things are so uncertain and challenging on many levels, just underscores the need for support, strength, and faith in God.

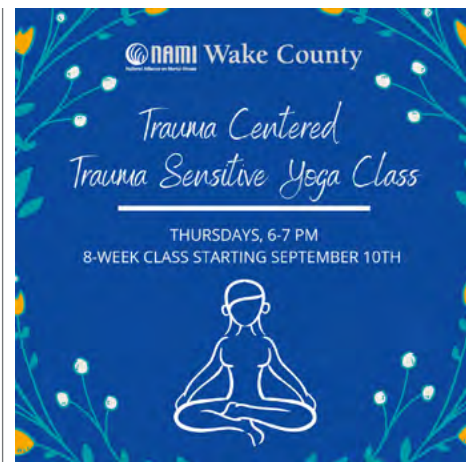
As Catholic preschool educators, we help parents teach the message of God's love from the minute that their child steps into the classroom. Our preschool days are punctuated with opportunities and purposeful moments when we can teach our students about prayer, thankfulness, forgiveness, and belief in God's all-encompassing love. Of course, we spend extra time and attention on the high points of our faith such as Christmas, Lent, and Easter, but we also understand the importance of teaching children in the moment. Young children learn best through play and activities that are relevant and naturally occurring throughout their day.

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Capturing moments when one child helps another clean up toys, allows a peer to go ahead of him/her down the slide, or asks if a friend is OK when he/she falls down are just some examples when we can emphasize with our children that God is everywhere. Our kind actions and words demonstrate God working through us to offer another member of His family our support. In turn, it helps children recognize that God is also always there for them during similar times.

May the Lord continue to guide us as we teach and share the message of His strength, constant presence, and never-ending love with the youngest members of our faith community.

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



If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer,

you've been on a roller coaster of feelings - fear, hope, disbelief all while trying to cope with the demands of everyday life.

If you'd be interested in a virtual support group to share your experiences, please contact Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org or 919-847-8205x241.

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!

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



This Week and Next

St. Vincent de Paul still at work:

A grandmother who was living on her disability check and working part-time, was laid off from her part time job because of Covid. In addition she took her grandson in to live with her. She ran short on money to pay her July rent and was facing eviction. SVdP helped her pay her rent and in August she will start receiving food stamps which will enable her to meet her monthly expenses. 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, 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 ckearor@nc.rr.com.

SCOUTS BSA Troop 219 Girl Troop

Scouts BSA is a great opportunity for 11-17 year old females looking for a fun, safe, and welcoming environment. The four aims of Scouting is Character Development, Personal Fitness, Citizenship, and Leadership. Here is a website one of our scouts developed showcasing what we have done in the past 15 months. <http://scouts219.weebly.com/> Our meetings are Thursday nights 7:00-8:30pm. We typically meet at St. Francis, but have shifted to weekly Zoom meetings for the time being. We strive to do a campout each month. We have taken many precautions to navigate our new world. Check out the photos on the website. If you are interested in getting outdoors, making lifetime memories, and having some fun give us a shot. You can text or call Scott Cash, Scoutmaster Troop 219 at (919) 270 6167 or email scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com



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.

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!



Group Opportunities

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

AA Meeting: For our Alcoholics Anonymous friends whose meetings have been cancelled. The Internet is full of online recovery resources. Online meetings like this one - you can belong to more than one, or two, or three. AA.ORG main website has a list. There are private Facebook groups, endless websites, and speaker tapes. It's all there. AI-Anon Meetings: Sun. 7:00pm, LaVerna, lower level.

Always God's Children: Always God's Children: The monthly support group meeting for LGBTQ+ people and family and friends. To receive an invite to the online meeting, email Chuck Small at chuck.smallsfa@gmail.com. Next online meeting is Sunday, October 4.

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
August 9, 2020

Walking in Faith

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Giovanni Lanfranco's painting *Christ Saves Peter from Sinking in the Water* is placed in a rather hidden place in the Vatican—on purpose. When a newly elected pope walks out of the Sistine Chapel, he processes across the Sala Regia (regal room) and into the Loggia della Benedizione (blessing hall) to step out onto the façade of St. Peter's and greet the world as pope for the first time. Along the way he passes this painting of Peter sinking in the water. It speaks to that sinking feeling he probably experiences at that time!

This Gospel passage holds a great lesson for us all, even the pope. When Jesus comes walking on the water, he scares the disciples; they think he is a ghost. Sometimes Jesus scares us by what he asks, by how he wants to bless and shape us if we say yes. Jesus tells us not to be afraid, but Peter says, "Lord if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." That the ghostly figure responds doesn't prove it is Jesus; it just proves whoever it is has heard Peter and answered.

To really know if it is Jesus, Peter has to get out of the boat. He has to walk in and take a risk. Only once he steps out on the water, can he do the impossible? Even then, his faith falters and he notices the waves. Such is our experience. Even when we trust, step out, and Jesus does great things, we are still weak! But not to worry: Jesus loves our effort and will always reach out and grab us. In the end, that is what we want, isn't it? To touch Jesus, to know it is him. +

Sunday Readings

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Elijah...stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, Why are you here, Elijah?

Romans 9:1-5

I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the holy Spirit.

Matthew 14:22-33

Peter said to [Jesus] in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

*Sometimes Jesus scares us
by what he asks, by how
he wants to bless and
shape us if we say yes.*

A Word from Pope Francis

We must ensure that in the usual activities of every Christian community, in parishes, in associations, and movements, there actually be at heart the personal encounter with Christ who communicates himself to us in his word, because, as St. Jerome teaches us, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

Address to Catholic Biblical Federation,
June 19, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When have you felt Jesus' presence most strongly in your life?
- Which "winds" distract you from Jesus?

"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!

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The Private Pain of Infertility

By Julie Irwin Zimmerman

The year after our wedding, I sat in church on Mother's Day and daydreamed about how joyful the holiday would be the following spring. My husband and I decided to have a baby, and I imagined we'd have our newborn the next Mother's Day. But the following May and the one after that we went to church with empty arms. To our dismay, we'd been diagnosed as among the 25 percent of married, childless couples in the United States who have trouble conceiving or carrying a baby to term.

It wasn't only Mother's Day that was hard to bear. Baptisms and baby showers were difficult. Sometimes merely seeing a pregnant woman or a couple with a baby sent me into despair.

The months developed an unwelcome rhythm, beginning with hope, then anxiety, and ending in tears. My prayer life had taken on the same rhythm: first, optimistic appeals for pregnancy; then, frantic pleas for help getting through the month; and finally, silent anguish when I felt my prayers had been ignored. I wondered: What have we done to deserve this? Why hasn't our simple wish for a child been granted?

Although infertility is common, it can be isolating to sufferers. Often friends and family don't know what to say, make awkward jokes, or avoid the



topic altogether. There are moral, ethical, and financial mine fields to navigate, and it's easy for spouses to disagree about what to do.

Couples facing infertility have three options: seek medical treatment, pursue adoption, or live without children. While it's understandable to want

to end the ordeal of infertility as quickly as possible, these decisions are important ones deserving prayer and discernment.

Catholic teaching on infertility treatment is often misunderstood. While the Catholic Church encourages couples to welcome children, not all medical options for infertility are considered acceptable. Surgeries and treatments that restore or enhance a couple's ability to conceive naturally or which assist the conjugal act are encouraged. Procedures that involve a third party, replacing natural conception or the conjugal act—artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, surrogacy, and donor eggs or sperm—are considered unacceptable.

A document by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology," reiterates the long-standing position of the Church. Fortunately, there are an increasing number of physicians using NaPro Technology, which treats infertility in harmony with Church

teaching. The Pope Paul VI Institute is a leader in the field, and an internet search can help couples find local providers.

Adoption is also a path to parenthood that's filled with many blessings. Seeking out adoptive parents and hearing their stories can affirm for infertile couples the role God played in bringing them together.

And, of course, even in the midst of infertility, couples should take time to nurture their relationships and acknowledge that they're already a family. A weekend away, a walk in the woods, even setting aside dinner hours free from infertility talk helped my husband and me remind ourselves of our love and how satisfying our marriage was.

The experience of infertility helped me understand what Jesus did when he willingly accepted his cross. Before encountering infertility, I still believed if I worked hard enough at something, I could achieve it. Those years taught me a difficult, invaluable lesson about giving up control over my future and trusting God to reveal a future that was beyond my hopes and fears.

To learn more about Catholic teaching on reproductive technologies, please visit usccb.org/LifeGivingLove. +



Lord, you taught your disciples to pray. Help me cultivate the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 10–15

Monday, St. Lawrence:
2 Cor 9:6–10 / Jn 12:24–26

Tuesday, St. Clare:
Ez 2:8–3:4 / Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday, Weekday:
Ez 9:1–7; 10:18–22 / Mt 18:15–20

Thursday, Weekday:
Ez 12:1–12 / Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday, St. Maximilian Kolbe:
Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63 or 16:59–63 / Mt 19:3–12

Saturday, Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary:
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab / 1 Cor 15:20–27 / Lk 1:39–56

Bringing Home
the Word 
August 9, 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!

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 Gilmartinedward.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
	fb.me/YoungAdultsofStFrancis	
Young Adults	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Women's Ministry	Angela Azzopardi	919-848-1347
50+ Adults Group		

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)	Rebecca Brooks	membershippack352@yahoo.com

Knights of Columbus	Bryan Kozak	gk@kofc9709.org
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 Regist. & 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

