

September 13, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Francis Goes Solar

See page 7



Clare Fellowship Hall



Update

Sunday Liturgy

Up to 150 people are now welcome to attend the 9:30am and 5:30pm Sunday Masses. To sign up, visit our website at 12 noon the Wednesday prior.

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.



Daily Mass 10am

No Daily Mass week of Sept. 14 due to our priests being on retreat. Daily Mass resumes on Monday 9/21.

Daily Mass will be held for up to 150 people on Mon, Tues, Thur, and Fri.

(Wednesdays are reserved for TFS and Preschool Mass)

Daily Mass is held in the main church. All pandemic protocols are followed. No signups are required.



The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-847-8205 www.stfrancisraleigh.org



We started public daily Masses last Thursday and approximately 60 people came to worship. Public weekday Masses will be celebrated each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10:00am in the church beginning Monday, September 21. Normal protocols for Masses at St. Francis will be followed, namely, all must wear a face mask, provide information for contact tracing before entering the church, and be seated with appropriate social distancing. No sign-ups in advance are necessary. You may arrive anytime beginning 9:30am to maintain separation from the pre-schoolers who arrive up to 9:15am each morning and use the same entrance as those coming to Mass. Wednesday morning Mass/Liturgy will be reserved for the school communities but will not be open to the public. School liturgies will be livestreamed for those who would like to view the Mass. These will begin in a few weeks, once we have things organized. We will notify you when they will begin.

There is a wonderful article about Fr. Jairo Maldonado, our new parochial vicar, in this month's NC Catholics magazine. There is one particular story that stands out in the article. The article is available on our parish website. If you do not receive NC Catholics, a free monthly publication produced by the Diocese of Raleigh, and would like to, please contact Toni Hammes (toni.hammes@stfrancisraleigh.org) and she will assist you. You may always view NC Catholics online by going to the diocesan website (<https://dioceseofraleigh.org/>) and clicking the NC Catholic icon in the upper right hand side of the homepage.

As part of our parish's Franciscan identity, the Season of Creation inaugurated by Pope Francis (September 1-October 4) provides us with opportunities to increase our awareness of our care for creation, particular in view of its implications for our future generations. One of our parish's efforts is the installation of solar panels on our property and an opportunity to learn how solar energy is ecologically and financially sound, both for the parish and the community-at-large. There will be a virtual meeting on Tuesday, September 15, to learn about the SFA project, how the technology works, and how you may install solar panels at your home or business. Please see the parish website for further information on accessing this meeting.

Each September, all priests serving within the diocese join for an annual five-day retreat. Normally, we gather in one location under the direction of a retreat master. This year's retreat is September 14-18. Due to COVID-19, Bishop Zarama has cancelled the large-group retreat and has asked us to make a private retreat. Fr. Jairo and I will leave the parish on Monday to make our private retreat and will return on Friday afternoon. Because we will be away, all daily Masses this week are cancelled. If you have a critical medical crisis that requires a priest, please call the parish and follow the prompts to leave a voicemail. Someone will follow up with you as soon as possible. For other types of assistance, please contact the parish office during regular business hours. Please keep us in your prayers this week and know that we will be keeping you in ours each day.

Msgr. Clay



THE CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

New Cohort for Diaconate Formation

The Diocesan Office of the Permanent Diaconate is preparing to start the next cohort for the Formation of Permanent Deacons. Practicing Catholic men that are discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate should send an email to Amy.breindel@raldioc.org by Sunday, September 13.

Appointments will be made for those who express an interest to learn more about the Diaconate in the Diocese of Raleigh and have the opportunity to ask questions about the formation process. This is the first step for candidates who are interested in forming the next group of Aspirants to the Diaconate.

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/>

September Collection Schedule

September 13	Weekly
September 13	Support for Catholic Education
September 20	Weekly
September 27	Weekly

To honor those celebrating wedding anniversaries this year,
the Diocese of Raleigh through the Department of Married Life
invites you to receive an



Anniversary Year

Commemorative Certificate

SPECIAL CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COUPLES
CELEBRATING 25, 50, AND 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE.

For couples interested in receiving a certificate:

please register by November 1, 2020

<https://raldioc.configio.com/go/wam2020>

For questions, call 919-821-9753

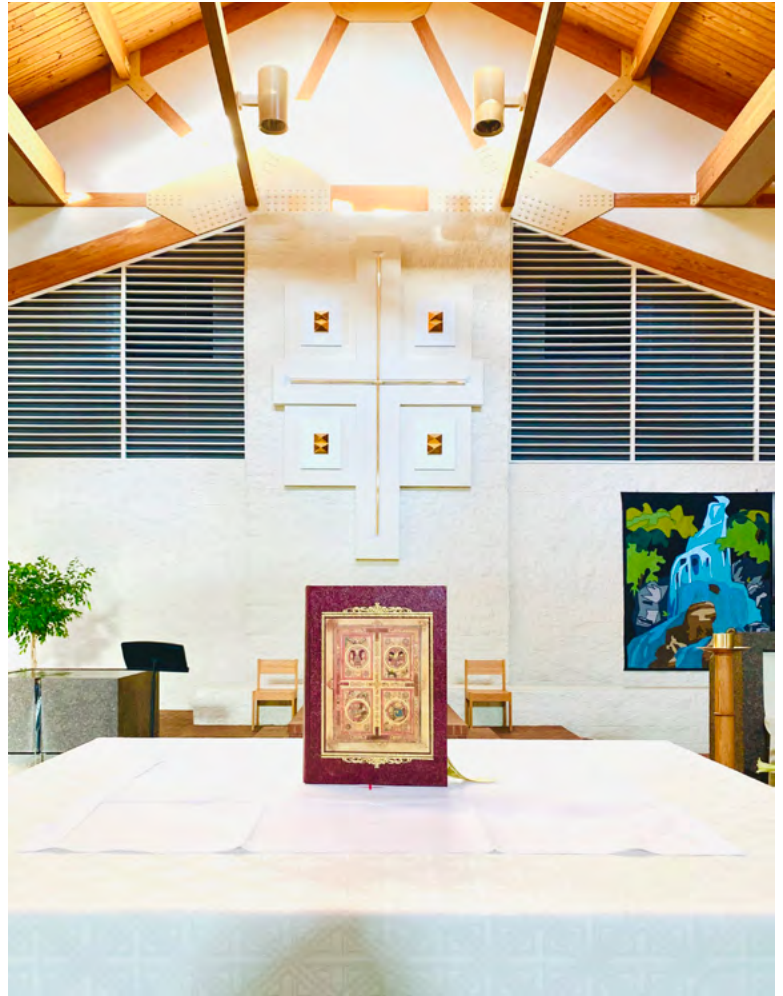
Out of concern for the health and well-being
of the people in our diocese, the
2020 Wedding Anniversary Mass will not take place.

The Most Reverend Luis Rafael Zarama will offer a
special Mass intention for the anniversary couples, and
the strengthening of the sacramentality of marriage.



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE *of* RALEIGH

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES



Reflecting on the Word

Join us on Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:15pm 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. Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/formation-resources/> to register.

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



PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Kathleen Owen, Director of Parish Life

Word Problems

When I was a kid, there were subjects I enjoyed – spelling, vocabulary, writing, history. Math terrified me. Word problems were just torture! What if the train really wasn't headed to Chicago? What if Susie really didn't start out with 10 pieces of cake – what if she ate one or two before the word problem started? I could never trust a word problem.

Recently my husband and I were puzzling over how to approach a project. As I heard myself talking, I realized I sounded just like a word problem. So if we start with X number of days to prepare for, and we need Y for each day, then we need Z for a month. Who knew life was a word problem? Did you? It got me thinking.

Lots of times, life just happens. You're minding your business, you're prepared for adversities and WHAM! Something totally unanticipated happens. You're left trying to figure out why it happened, what you could have done to prevent it, figuring out how you're going to move for-

ward, and how can you protect yourself and your family in the future. You're putting together a word problem to explain the experiences you've had.

But sometimes the situation you're in seems to defy any rational explanation. Sometimes you're so blindsided it takes some time before you can begin to make sense of the situation. And sometimes the effects are so devastating, it's easier to try to ignore the whole situation and effects and focus on other aspects of life. But that's usually only a short term solution.

What if there was a safe place to unburden yourself? What if there was a place where you could get the time to tell your whole story – to describe all the ins and outs, the ups and downs, without interruption, without judgement? And what if you got understanding, not judgement; encouragement, not critique; care, not correction. Would that help you come to terms with your situation?

Could you start thinking about how to move forward instead of looking back? Would you be able to start planning for what's ahead instead of replaying all the events of the past?

Stephen Ministry is that safe place – to explore how you got to where you are, to consider where you want to be, and to determine what you want to do to move past your circumstances. The active listening, gentle questions and consistent encouragement and presence will help you unburden, get your footing, and plan a new path forward.

If you're interested in hearing more about Stephen Ministry, visit <https://www.stfranciscisraleigh.org/stephen-ministry/>. If you're ready for a Stephen Minister, give me a call at 919-847-8205, ext. 241 or email me at kathleen.owen@stfranciscisraleigh.org. We're here for you!



Contemplative Spirituality.

Experience Why - Beginning Friday, September 18 and for the next 8 Fridays from 1 to 2:30pm, we will dialogue on Thomas Merton's book # 7 in the "Bridges to Contemplative Living Series, Adjusting Your Life's Vision". If you have questions or are interested in joining the Friday session contact Tracy Hurley at danandtracy@hotmail.com / (828-773-3152) or Deacon Steve at stephenwandrews@outlook.com / (732-213-0104).

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@stfranciscisraleigh.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!

Join us for 9 weeks
Beginning September 21 at 7:00pm



Fee, \$10.00 - scholarships are available
<https://www.stfranciscisraleigh.org/cancer-companions/>

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace



Season of Creation Daily Reflection Guide

We have created a daily reflection guide for the entire Season of Creation (September 1st to October 4), which you can access and download at <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care-of-creation/>.

This guide provides daily prayers, exercises for whole families, videos, learning, and action to invite us to take time for reflection, prayer, and action to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment.



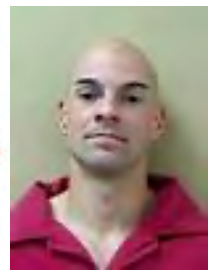
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

**September 26
8:00am - 2:00pm
in Clare Fellowship Hall**

CPO Feed-a-Family Drive-up Food Drive



**Sundays, September 20 and 27
St. Francis Parking Lot
9:00am - 1:00pm, 3:00pm - 6:00pm**
For a list of needs: www.bit.ly/SFA-CPOneeds
To volunteer: bit.ly/SFA-CPOvolunteers2020



Voices from Death Row

**Conversation with Tessie Castillo
and Lyle May, St. Francis Parishioner
and Death Row Inmate at NC's Central Prison**

Join Tessie Castillo and Lyle May, co-authors of *Crimson Letters: Voices from Death Row* on **September 22nd, 6:00 - 7:30pm** on Zoom for a Q&A book discussion and discourse on faith and activism.

Lyle May, who is currently serving a death sentence in North Carolina's Central Prison, will call in from prison to share his faith journey to Catholicism, his struggle to find hope and purpose while serving a death sentence, and to answer audience questions about life and faith on Death Row.

Please join us for this important and moving conversation.

To sign-up and get information for Zoom, visit <http://bit.ly/voicesfromdeathrowSFA>.

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace



Clare Fellowship Hall

Why Solar Energy on a Church?

Join us for this online program on September 15 at 7:30pm that shares the details of St. Francis of Assisi Church's solar project, how this commitment helps our parish live out our mission and values, and ways to take the next step in solar for your church, business, or home.

For this program, we will have several guests, including our solar contractor Scott Alexander from Eagle Solar & Light; and Fr. Pat Cahill, pastor and Bill Maloney, Solar Project Manager, both from St. Eugene Catholic Church in Asheville, NC, speaking on "Celebrating 5 Years of Solar: Why We Did It and How".

This is an amazing opportunity to move forward in making a difference in our impact on our environment and getting any of our questions answered. All are welcome, no matter what congregation or faith tradition you belong to.

Sign-up at <http://bit.ly/SFAsolar>, and we will email you a link to Zoom to participate in this program.

This summer the Parish installed a Solar Panel Array on the roof of Clare Fellowship Hall. You will be happy to know this project did not require any "out of pocket" funding from the Parish. The installation has been performed by Eagle Solar and Light who offered a lease option. All the upfront costs will be covered by the rebate we receive from the State and Duke Power. The monthly lease cost will be covered by the savings we expect to receive from our Clare Hall utility bills. The lease covers 15 years during which Eagle Solar and Light will be responsible for maintaining the system.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

Happy Grandparent's Day!



2018 Photo



2018 Photo

*"Children's children are a crown to the aged,
and parents are the pride of their children." Proverbs 17:6*

To all of those in our community who are grandparents or like-grandparents: Happy Grandparent's Day! Did you know that this holiday actually is attributed to a mother, Marian McQuade, from WV who was planning a community event in 1956 for elderly neighbors? She became aware that some residents in a local nursing home seemed to have been forgotten by their families and neighbors. She wanted to bring national attention to these older people and to all grandparents. In 1973, West Virginia became the first state to have an official day of recognition for grandparents. In 1978, Grandparents Day was given national status by Jimmy Carter. It is reported that Ms. McQuade worked tirelessly to not only have a special day of recognition for grandparents, but also to encourage youth to continually form meaningful connections with the elderly.

I can't help but wonder what a young Jesus might have done for His grandparents, St. Anne and St. Joachim. I like to think that He, like most children, had a special relationship with them. I am sure they helped shaped Jesus' childhood as many senior adults do today with children whom they hold close, even if they are not necessarily biologically related. I also am sure that Jesus' grandparents showered Him with love by telling Him stories, sharing their advice, and going for walks together. Maybe St. Anne even taught Jesus family recipes and told stories of when Mary, His mother, was a child. Perhaps St. Joachim went fishing with Jesus or cheered Him on when He was learning to do something like climb a tree.

I believe that God has given our children grandparents for a reason. I think that He, in His infinite wisdom, means for them to be examples of faith, love, and kindness for young children. He knows that they have much to pass on to our young, both in little and big ways. He also knows that children, of course, need their parents, but also blossom under the gentle care and abundant support of others, particularly those who have a lifetime of experience behind them as most grandparents do.

Let us pray today for all of those who are grandparents or act as grandparents in our lives. May God continue to bless them with health and the love of those around them. May they always know God's light in their lives, especially as seen through their grandchildren!

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

**Feed the Need
and Caring Casseroles
have moved to the
Community Center**



**Bring all meals to the center door
9am-4pm, Monday-Friday**

Caring Casseroles & Feed the Need:

Please note the following when dropping off your meal.

- Both Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles should be dropped off at the Community Center, the middle door which opens into Cupertino Room. The middle door will be unlocked between 9:00am and 4:00pm Monday-Friday.
- The doors to the rest of the Assisi Community Center will remain locked.
- There is one refrigerator for Feed the Need and one for Caring Casseroles. They are labelled accordingly.
- Please do not put anything in the freezer. We use both freezers for short term storage of meals for families.
- Remember to label 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 St. Francis community who are in need.



This Week and Next

Sept. 15, 22, 29

Fall Divorce Care – via Zoom

Tuesday, September 1 to Tuesday December 15, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, \$20.00 per book. We do ask that everyone (new and past participants) register for this event. Note: If you already have a book, there's no extra charge. To register, visit <https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/4555>. Each week is different, so you can start anytime. All are welcome!

Sept. 14, 21, 28

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!

Sept. 15, 22, 29 & Oct 6, 13 Seasons of Hope

A six-week series that offers hope through the grief of losing a loved one. We will gather virtually beginning Tuesday, September 8 at 10:00am. Each meeting will last between 60 to 90 minutes. Registration fee is \$10 per person and includes a participant journal. The group offers a safe place to share your own journey with grief and to learn from others. We learn to let others into our struggle and to enter gently into theirs, to take strength and to give it. After registering, you will receive a link for the weekly virtual meetings. Visit <https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/4882> to register.

Sept. 16

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.

This group meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 1:00 to 2:30pm via Zoom 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. 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.

Sept 23

Quaran-TEA-NI

Join our Virtual Cafe' and share an hour just passing the time, no structure, no format, just random bumping into each other like we used to do before Mass. Join us the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm for a little light conversation, hopefully a few laughs and maybe some creative ideas to get you through the next week. Points may be awarded for the best Quaran-do or the best Quaran-tee shirt. Come enjoy some relaxing social time. To register, visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/virtual-cafe/>.

Sept 14, 28

Communi-TEA

Join our Virtual Cafe' and share an hour just passing the time, no structure, no format, just random bumping into each other like we used to do before mass. Join us the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 10:00 am for a little light conversation, hopefully a few laughs and maybe some creative ideas to get you through the next week. Points may be awarded for the best Quaran-do or the best Quaran-tee shirt. Come enjoy some relaxing social time. To register visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/virtual-cafe/>.

Sept 21

Cancer Companions

St. Francis Parish Life is offering a 9-week cancer support group called Cancer Companions. This will be a virtual group starting on Monday, September 21 at 7:00pm. Registration is

\$10 per person, journals will be available for \$25, although they are not needed for the course. Journals are to be used as a devotional during the course. To register, please visit: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/5083>. For information, please contact Kathleen Owen: 919-847-8205x241.

Sept 22

Safe Environment Training

Tuesday, 4:00 - 6:15pm

Registration Link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5645026147226533135>

The session is for adults and will be just over 2 hours long with one short break. It will equip you to recognize and report child abuse and neglect. Upon completion, you will receive a certificate, which you must give to your ministry site as part of your Level C certification. This is the safe environment training that is required for all clergy, employees and those in leadership positions with children and youth. This session is for either initial safe environment training or for those needing the 5-year renewal.



**Blood Drive Sept 26
Blood Drive**

From 8:00am-2:00pm in Clare Fellowship Hall. Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time> to register.

St. Vincent de Paul still at work:

A woman who lives on a disability check can usually get by but when her college age daughter lost her job in another city, she helped her with her rent, leaving her short for her own subsidized apartment. She was 3 months behind but thanks to the moratorium in evictions she wasn't evicted and with help from SVdP and Salvation Army and her disability check, she was able to pay her rent. Luckily her college-age daughter has been re-hired as she awaits the start of a new semester.

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.

Group Opportunities

Due to the changing nature of reopening our doors, please check the group opportunity to confirm whether it is held in a virtual format or in-person.

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 resumed 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: Ellen Ferrone - ellen.ferrone@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

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
September 13, 2020

Right Judgment

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Often when we think of a judge, we think of severity or cold justice. Courtroom and criminal-justice dramas—even some news coverage of major crimes and scandals—love depicting the offender as receiving his or her just rewards, with the judge or prosecutor smugly reflecting or sighing in relief.

But in the scriptural sense, a judge is much more. A good judge is an educator, teacher, and parent. Good judges promote wise living and respect for authority and the law. Their tools are sometimes mercy, sometimes penance, but always prompted by love.

A better image to understand the judge's role is a parent educating his or her child. Sometimes education means letting something slide; sometimes it means holding the child accountable. Both can be expressions of love.

Today's readings caution us against selfish passions that prompt us to judge. One who has been forgiven much but is then harsh with others will be severely punished—or as Sirach puts it, God "remembers their sins in detail."

Mercy toward others is key to the Gospel message. Some think they are good Christians because they don't steal and haven't killed anyone. They may even be active in their parish but are highly critical of others.

Remember, as Jesus said: "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you" (Matthew 7:2). And, "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart" (Matthew 18:35). +

Sunday Readings

Sirach 27:30—28:7

Remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.

Romans 14:7–9

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Matthew 18:21–35

Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

*Good judges promote
wise living and respect for
authority and the law.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The increase in the rates of suicide in your cities, as well as bullying and various kinds of neediness, are creating new forms of alienation.... I ask you to pay special attention to [the young] and their needs. Try to create spaces...of generous and selfless love...to everyone, and not only to those who have "made it."

Meeting with bishops, Tokyo,
November 23, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How forgiving, patient, and kind am I on a regular basis?
- How forgiving, patient, and kind would others say I am?

Cardinal Gibbons High School Update

The Gibbons Positioning System (GPS) program welcomes 8th-grade students who are interested in potentially attending Cardinal Gibbons High School. Gibbons students and educators will host visitors by sharing activities and giving them a glimpse inside Gibbons. The visits will begin at 8:15am and end at 10:15am.

Due to COVID-19, we will begin by offering a few days: September 17, 23, 30, and October 21. We will add dates as we are able, ensuring our continued commitment to the health and safety of our Gibbons families and visitors.

We welcome you to come engage with us at Gibbons and see what everyone is so excited about! Please register for one of the four GPS dates at <https://www.cghsnc.org/admissions/visit>

Also, mark your calendar for October 5, 2020. That's when Cardinal Gibbons High School's application for 2021-2022 will be available online. For more information about admissions, please contact Marianne McCarty, Director of Admissions at mmccarty@cghsnc.org

Meaningless Ritual? Never!

By Johan van Parys

My liturgy professor once shocked me out of my post-lunch comatose state one afternoon by saying, “If the Eucharist does not cause you to want to make a difference in the world, then you are doing nothing more than making meaningless, ritual turns around an altar.” What could he possibly mean? Surely the Eucharist is more than just ritual turns, even if it doesn’t cause me to want to change the world.

Since that day, I have been affirmed in my thinking that the celebration of the Eucharist is never a meaningless ritual. The liturgy is always transformative, regardless of anyone’s state of mind or ensuing actions. Although we may not notice this in the short term, we can be assured of the efficacy of the liturgy in the long term. Just as water carves out even the hardest rock, liturgy molds us all into the image of Christ—even those with the hardest of hearts.

Though the connection between celebrating the Eucharist and working for the betterment of the world is apparent each time we celebrate the Eucharist, it’s made especially clear during the Mass of our Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. On that day, we celebrate the Eucharist (Luke 22:15–20) and we wash feet (John 13:4–17) just as Jesus asked of us during the Last Supper. It’s important to remember to embody these acts we perform so solemnly on Holy Thursday during every day of our life. Christ



mandates us to pray for the needs of the world and, at the same time, work toward a better world. These two Christian characteristics of prayer and action are not mutually exclusive—prayer without action is hollow, while action without prayer is arrogance.

This all became clear to me one particular Holy Thursday many years ago. As our priest finished the washing of feet, I noticed a man entering the building and walking briskly toward the front of the church. He walked right into the sanctuary and sat down. Without hesitation, our priest walked over to the man and the two engaged in a brief conversation. He then motioned to the

servers, who brought a pitcher and bowl. The man took off his shoes, revealing his unwashed feet. Our priest knelt down and slowly washed the man’s feet. When finished, they both got up and hugged. The man walked out, never to be seen again. As we processed the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose later that evening, I couldn’t help but think that it was Jesus who walked in and sat down to have his feet washed right in our midst.

By the way, my former professor denies making the statement at the top of this column. He agrees that the celebration of the Eucharist is never a series of empty turns around an altar but always efficacious and constantly invites us to be Christ to the world. While some people know that and act upon it rather easily, others need a professor’s shocking wake-up call and the extraordinary opportunity to see Jesus’ feet being washed. +



*Lord, I am grateful for your
endless mercy. Give me
the humility and courage
to forgive those who have
hurt me.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 14–19

Monday, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross:
Nm 21:4b–9 / Phil 2:6–11 / Jn 3:13–17


Tuesday, Our Lady of Sorrows: 1 Cor 12:12–14,
27–31a / Jn 19:25–27 or Lk 2:33–35

Wednesday, Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian:
1 Cor 12:31–13:13 / Lk 7:31–35

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Cor 15:1–11 / Lk 7:36–50

Friday, Weekday:
1 Cor 15:12–20 / Lk 8:1–3

Saturday, Weekday:
1 Cor 15:35–37, 42–49 / Lk 8:4–15

Bringing Home
the Word 
September 13, 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	Msgr. Michael Clay	847-8205x224
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Jairo Maldonado	847-8205x226
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	Msgr. Michael Clay	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
Coordinator of Youth Ministry	Marisa Ferrara	847-8205x223
Middle School Faith Formation	Thomas Bulick	847-8205x239
Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)	Tara Moore	847-8205x489

Parish Operations

Communications and Webmaster	Diogenes Ruiz	847-8205x271
Director of Facilities	Marc Kieilty	847-8205x227
Director of Finance	Rob Neppel	847-8205x243
Director of Stewardship	Deb Royals-Mizerk	847-8205x222
Human Resources	Trish Adamkowski	847-8205x236
Parishioner Records	Toni Hammes	847-8205x265
Safe Environment Specialist	Trina Sugrue	847-8205x245

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

Prayers

Prayer Line	Paul Wilson	wilsonpf99@gmail.com
Prayers	Jackie Adamo	847-8205x268
Receive a Prayer Shawl	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241

Support Groups

Divorce Care	Bill Morgan	dejanuts@yahoo.com
Job Connections	Mary Horner	610-755-5392
Seeing God in your Cancer	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
AA Daily Reprieve Group	Kathleen Owen	847-8205x241
Al-Anon	Madeline Horrigan	919-923-1234
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support	Linda Tucker	937-478-9537

Get Involved!

Worship Ministries

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

Outreach Ministries

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

St Francis Serves

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

St Francis on Mission

International Mission Trips	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Sister Parish - Guatemala	Carie Gunnells	carie.gunnells@gmail.com
St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia	John Budway	305-205-5104

St Francis Learns

Catholic Social Teaching	http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/
Care for Creation	Trevor Thompson
Community Conversations	Trevor Thompson
Engaging Spirituality	Becky Cawley
Just Faith	Trevor Thompson
Justice Theater Project	http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/
Peace Pole Prayer	Ben Whitehouse
Study Circles	whitehouseben5@gmail.com

Get Involved!

Parish Life Ministries

Director of Parish Life

Pastoral Presence Ministries

Caregivers

Centering Prayer

Emmaus Ministers

EMs to Abbotswood

EMs to the Homebound

EMs to the Magnolia Glen

EMs to the Meadows

EMs to Rex Hospital

EMs to Springmoor

Prayer Line Ministers

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Rosary Ministry

Ministries of Support & Care

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers

Caring Casseroles Cooks

Feed the Need Cooks

Job Connections Mentors

Medical Facility Visitors

Transportation to Mass Drivers

Weekday Volunteer Receptionists

Social Groups

AAMEN Ministry

Always God's Children

LGBTQ+ Ministry

Men's Ministry

Young Adults

Women's Ministry

50+ Adults Group

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Angela Azzopardi

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St. Francis of Assisi Community Center

Coordinator of Community Center

Athletic Programs

Assisi Café

Parish Events (FrancisFest)

Summer Camps (Camp Francis)

Community Organizations

Girl Scouts of USA

BSA Scouts:Troop 352 (6th-12th, boys) Mark Priest scoutmaster352@gmail.com

BSA Scouts:Troop 219 (6th-12th, girls) Scott Cash scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com

BSA Cub Scouts: Pack 352 (K-5th) 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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Thomas Bulick

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