

September 20, 2020

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# The Personification of Service!

See page 7



Joanne Sullivan



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

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](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org)



Some people have asked me, "What is the difference between Franciscan friars and diocesan priests?" A good question! Here are a few distinctions. More will follow in a later posting.

The Franciscan priests who staffed the parish until September 1 are religious order priests. Like diocesan priests, both share a common identity as Roman Catholic priests but there are some differences in the way we function and the spirituality that guides us. Religious order priests are led by a provincial minister, normally a brother priest who is elected by his peers for a specific term of office to lead the priests and religious brothers affiliated with a province. The Franciscans who led us belong to Holy Name Province with headquarters in New York City. Their friars are sent to parishes and other types of ministries (e.g., educational institutions like Siena College in NY, social justice ministries, retreat centers) over several states on the East Coast by their provincial minister to serve the church by the witness of their lives under the inspiration of St. Francis of Assisi, their founder. Their spirituality follows the insights of St. Francis handed down over the past 800 years.

Fr. Jairo and I are diocesan priests. We are led by a bishop, someone appointed by the Pope to lead a diocese (or an archdiocese-more on this distinction later). We belong to the Diocese of Raleigh, whose territory covers the eastern 54 counties of North Carolina. Normally, diocesan priests serve their entire ministry within the diocese in which they were ordained in parishes although occasionally a diocesan priest will be asked to serve outside parish ministry or the diocese. I'm an example of this. For 10 years, I served as the vocation director of the diocese. In this role, I was responsible for encouraging men and women to explore the possibility of a vocation to serve the church as a diocesan or religious order priest, a woman religious (a nun or a sister), or a religious brother. I also supervised diocesan seminarians during their formation during pastoral assignments within the diocese and at seminaries. For a couple of years, I was the director of liturgy for the diocese. Fr. Jim Sabak is currently serving the diocese in that role. Between 1989-1995 and again between 2012-2020, the Bishop of Raleigh released me to serve at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC at their request, the first time serving on the formation faculty of the national diocesan seminary at the university, Theological College, and then on the faculty of the School of Theology and Religious Studies as a professor of pastoral theology.

The spirituality of the diocesan priest is centered on the parish and its liturgical/sacramental life. The Word of God and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, celebrated with the people of a parish is at the heart of our spiritual life. As part of our spiritual life we may befriend certain aspects of a school of spirituality for our own personal benefit, like St. Francis or Ignatius of Loyola, however we do not follow the charisms or teachings of any particular saint. Praying with the Word of God, celebrating the sacraments/liturgy prayerfully with parishioners, and interceding to God on behalf of our people constitutes the heart of diocesan spirituality.

*Msgr. Clay*

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

- + **Therese Reilly**  
Mother of Sarah Hoffman
- + **Charlotte Hassan**  
Mother of Bridget Hassan
- + **David Lection**  
Husband of Pamela and father of Pamela and Andrew Lection
- + **Chase McCord**  
Son of Chase and Erin McCord and brother of Molly
- + **Jim Dougan**  
Parishioner
- + **Arthur Faraldi**  
Parishioner

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 20 Weekly  
September 27 Weekly




LECTIONARY-BASED  
VIRTUAL  
SMALL GROUP  
OPPORTUNITY

# reflecting on the WORD

THURSDAYS AT 2:00PM

To register visit  
[bit.ly/formation-resources](http://bit.ly/formation-resources)



PARTICIPANT  
JOURNAL ONE


## Grief Group This Fall

### SEASONS OF HOPE

A six-week virtual  
series begins  
September 8  
at 10:00am

[kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org)

M. Donna MacLeod

# Blood Drive

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

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

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



## VIRTUAL CAFE

REGISTER TO GET THE ZOOM LINK  
[WWW.STFRANCISRALEIGH.ORG/VIRTUAL-CAFE/](http://WWW.STFRANCISRALEIGH.ORG/VIRTUAL-CAFE/)



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



SCRIPTURE, STORIES, AND SONGS  
FOR THE YOUNG  
AND YOUNG AT HEART

# LUNCH BREAK

TUESDAYS AND  
THURSDAYS

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



**cancercompanions**  
bringing hope to the journey

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



CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of RALEIGH

Out of concern  
for the health  
and well-being  
of the community,  
this year the Wedding  
Anniversary Mass  
will not take place.

# Anniversary Year

Commemorative Certificate

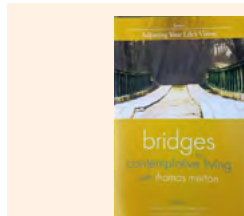
Couples willing to receive a wedding anniversary  
certificate please register at:  
<https://raldioc.configio.com/go/wam2020>

## 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](http://www.bit.ly/SFA-CPOneeds)  
To volunteer: [bit.ly/SFA-CPOvolunteers2020](http://bit.ly/SFA-CPOvolunteers2020)



### Contemplative Spirituality.

Experience Why - Began 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](mailto:danandtracy@hotmail.com) / (828-773-3152) or Deacon Steve at [stephenwandrews@outlook.com](mailto:stephenwandrews@outlook.com) / (732-213-0104).



## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

### Are You Considering Joining the Catholic Church?

Join us for the RCIA and Adult Sacramental Preparation this September!  
Wednesdays at 7:00pm via Zoom



We are gearing up for our fall sessions for the RCIA/Adult Sacramental Preparation. The RCIA, or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a journey of faith through which those wishing to become Catholic prepare for full initiation into the church and the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. This journey of faith takes as long as it takes for each individual and we begin with a period of "Inquiry", where anyone is invited to come and ask lots of questions to see if the Catholic Church is something of which he/she wants to pursue being a part. This process is for those who are not baptized or for people who are baptized in other Christian faith traditions. In addition, we also walk with baptized Catholics who have not yet received First Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Through the RCIA and Adult Sacramental Preparation process, you will have an opportunity to come together in a small group to understand how much God loves you and for what purpose you were made, to pray, to become a part of our community, and to learn more about the Catholic faith. Our Inquiry sessions are happening NOW, via Zoom, but you can join at any time! We'd love to have you.

For more information or to sign up, please email Jennifer Fiduccia at [Jennifer.Fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Jennifer.Fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org) or call 919-847-8205x238.



### Have you considered being a SPONSOR for adults entering the Church?


A number of adults have expressed their desire to become Catholic and are in need of a sponsor. Would you prayerfully consider taking on this important role in our parish community? Sponsors must be confirmed Catholics actively practicing their faith. They are not catechists, nor are they expected to have all the answers. Rather, sponsors are companions and guides on a faith journey, representatives of the Christian community, witnesses of their own journey of faith, and sources of information about our parish and values. The most frequent comment we get from sponsors is that although they went into it hoping to reach out to a friend or newcomer to the church, they got so much more out of the relationship and process than they had expected. Is God calling you to be an RCIA Sponsor? If you are interested in this vitally important ministry or have questions, please email [jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org), or call 919-847-8205x238.

## VIRTUAL EVENING PRAYER

Monday through Thursday  
7:00pm

FACEBOOK LIVE - STFRANCISRALEIGH

# PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES



Pack 352 – Raleigh, NC  
Boy Scouts of America

## JOIN CUB SCOUTS

*Families looking for adventure?  
Boys and Girls in Kindergarten - 5th grades!*  
Join us to learn more about fun Cub Scout activities:

**When: Tuesday, September 22, 2020**  
**Time: 7:00 PM**

*Parents please attend the joining night Zoom for our  
information session & registration. You do not have to  
be a member of St. Francis to join.*

Please contact:  
Rebecca Brooks:  
[membershippack352@yahoo.com](mailto:membershippack352@yahoo.com)  
for more information and a link to the  
Zoom meeting.

## 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](mailto: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.

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](mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org)



## Fall Divorce Care – via Zoom

Tuesday September 1 to Tuesday December 15  
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
\$20.00 per book

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

Visit <https://bit.ly/325V6tc> to register  
Each week is different, so you can start anytime.  
All are welcome!



# JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace



## 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>.

## ONE Wake Founding Public Assembly

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 - 9:00pm via Zoom

Over the past couple years, St Francis of Assisi has been sharing in a new county-wide effort to involve citizenry in tackling the region's most pressing problems. We've shared our work with this organization many times in the bulletin, newsletters, meetings, and conversations.

Many of you asked to be kept in the loop, so that you can participate when the organization launches. Well, now is the time!

This organization is called ONE Wake. It is now time for it to go public and share its priorities for helping our county be a place of justice and peace for all God's people. This is the agenda for this meeting on October 13th. They are hoping to have 2000+ participants tune in from 40+ congregations in the county, and also Wake County policy and decision makers and elected officials.

We want you there at their founding public assembly. We are hoping to have 200+ people from St. Francis. Currently, we have 35 people registered. Please register now to participate in this important gathering of community faith and civic leaders! You can register by going to [www.onewake.org/launch](http://www.onewake.org/launch). If you want more information about this event and our community organizing in Wake County, contact Trevor Thompson, [trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:trevor.thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org).

## EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, Principal

# The Personification of Service!

The Franciscan School has just finished their 4th full week of school for this year; and what a different year it has been so far! All the faculty and staff are working harder each day to serve students both in the classrooms and online, and our school nurse, Joanne Sullivan, is certainly no exception! In her 20 years as the school nurse at The Franciscan School (TFS), Joanne Sullivan has worked to ensure that every member of the TFS community is healthy, happy and safe.

Before COVID-19, Sullivan spent most of her days updating student records, administering lunchtime medications, communicating with parents and treating jammed fingers or sprained ankles, cuts and scrapes, mostly minor injuries. "Every day is different," Sullivan says. "But it's always a joy. I love getting that one-on-one time, hearing our students' stories, and helping people in practical ways."

Now, with a pandemic underway, she has several other responsibilities to take care of to maintain a safe environment for all. But with 35 years of experience as a nurse under her belt, including time working in the ICU, Sullivan feels prepared for the school year ahead.

"I'm ready for the challenges that come my way and can promise that communication will be a key factor," Sullivan says. "Parents can reach out to me at any point with questions and concerns. And if I don't have the answer to a particular question myself, I will direct it to the right person."

Sullivan also finds confidence in the work the entire TFS community is putting in to keep students – and their families – safe. "We have lots of new procedures in place this year," Sullivan says. "We'll take daily



Joanne Sullivan

temperatures on all of our students and staff, ask attestation questions, wear face masks and ensure social distancing. It's all a work in process, and I'm sure things will change daily, but we're working hard to keep everyone safe."

In addition to serving as the school nurse, Sullivan has been a parishioner at St. Francis since 1992 and has been invested in TFS as a parent as well. Her three children, Lauren, Mark and Katie, all graduated from TFS. "I've been part of

the community at TFS for 20 years now and love it so very much," she says. "I'm looking forward to another year of serving our community."

If you have an interest in learning more about The Franciscan School and how we are functioning in a pandemic setting to assure a safe environment for all, please visit our website at [www.franciscanschool.org](http://www.franciscanschool.org) or contact Principal Mike Watson at [mike.watson@franciscan-school.org](mailto:mike.watson@franciscan-school.org).



# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

## Take A Child Outside week

"The best classroom and the richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky." Margaret McMillan



As you have probably seen in past parish bulletins, Pope Francis wrote in 2015 "Laudato Si". In this letter, he expresses the great need to take care of our earth and also the poorest among us. This same message is reiterated in churches around the world as they celebrate the Season of Creation which begins on September 1st and ends with the feast of St. Francis on October 4th. The Care of Creation Ministry here at our parish notes that during this time we should look to reflect, pray, and act on our call to be caretakers of all that God has created.

It might not be just a coincidence that T.A.C.O. week also happens to fall during the Season of Creation. Take A Child Outside week is an annual program that partners with agencies across the U.S. to help break down obstacles that children might encounter which would prevent them from enjoying and discovering the natural world. You can imagine that if children are not given an opportunity to play in and explore nature, then it might be difficult for them later in life to be full participants in celebrations like the Season of Creation. Like many things, developing a strong connection early in life can have positive effects that carry into adulthood. It is difficult to be invested in taking action or seeing the beauty of God's world if one is not exposed or allowed to feel connected to nature.



For the past few years, we have tried to call special attention to T.A.C.O. week, particularly in light of the natural play-ground area that we have in front of our preschool. This area was the vision of a previous preschool director, Mrs. Cathy Ashton, who, like many educators, recognized the value and learning opportunity that is created when young children are allowed to discover the natural world around them. In this area, our preschoolers are encouraged to do things such as make pinecone soup, hunt for caterpillars, balance on logs, and play in wooden teepees. Even without a "formal" natural play area, the learning that can come from letting children use their imaginations and play outdoors is exponential.

There is not one area of a young child's development that is not in some way positively impacted by an opportunity to investigate, create, and enjoy outside play. Being outdoors allows children not only the chance to run, expand their



imaginations, and create with peers, but it enables them to develop an early appreciation for the beauty that God has created. When they begin to understand that God has gifted us with the trees, flowers, sun, and animals, they build on their faith journey and develop a simple knowledge that God is in all things and all around us. One of our 2-year old teachers works on that relationship in a simple way each day with her class. She asks them every time they are walking outside, "Who made those clouds?", "Who made that spider?" or "Who made those leaves?" By doing this repeatedly with things in the outdoors with which these children are familiar, God is more easily seen and understood by their young minds. Not only are the children seeing the beauty of their world but they are beginning a relationship with God that includes being thankful and appreciative for all that He has made.

Maybe we should all take a minute to enjoy the nature that surrounds us. Maybe if we really stopped to watch that butterfly or feel the wind blow on our faces we would deepen our relationship with God in a way that we might never have imagined!

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



# This Week and Next

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

A four-week series that offers hope through the grief of losing a loved one. We gather virtually 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.

## **The Faith and Science Forum**

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](mailto:montiron@aol.com) or Tracy Hurley at 828-773-3152, [danandtracy@hotmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:dejanuts@yahoo.com) or visit <https://www.divorcecare.org/about>.

### **Grief Support Group**

Contact Marsha Riely at [marshariely@mac.com](mailto:marshariely@mac.com) or Marlys Varga at [marlysvarga@hotmail.com](mailto:marlysvarga@hotmail.com).

### **GriefShare**

Contact Kathleen Owen at [kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:annafowler@nc.rr.com)

- Friday Morning with Celesta Carlson – [ccarlson210@gmail.com](mailto: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-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)  
September 20, 2020

## A Message of Reform

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Alessandro Farnese was elected Pope Paul III in 1534 amidst very difficult times. Martin Luther had left the Church, and many German bishops, along with their kings, were separating from the faith. Part of the push for separation was financial, another part was political, and a third part was spiritual. The papal court and clerical life in Rome were often criticized, encouraging separation.

Pope Paul III started a reform by calling on nine respected cardinals to investigate the accusations and propose measures. The suggestions were received and true reform began to take root—although much of the success was due to the Council of Trent (called by

the pope in 1545) and the many saints active at the time: Ignatius, Philip Neri, Teresa of Ávila, Francis de Sales, Charles Borromeo, and others.

Another measure taken was to contract Michelangelo to paint two frescoes in the Papal Pauline Chapel—*The Conversion of Saul* and *The Crucifixion of St. Peter*—a kind of sixteenth-century marketing campaign. This chapel would send a message to all popes and the papal court; indeed, the frescoes challenged everyone in the Curia. Amidst the temptation to power and luxury, the pope was saying, “If you want power, it’s the power to serve that requires true conversion and embracing the cross.” The chapel needed a pithy Latin phrase to drive home this message of reform. It comes from today’s second reading: “To me, life is Christ, and death is gain.” That’s a good phrase to live by as we seek our own ongoing conversion. +

### Sunday Readings

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways.

**Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a**

For to me life is Christ, and death  
is gain.

**Matthew 20:1-16a**

[Jesus said,] “Thus, the last will be  
first, and the first will be last.”

*If you want power,  
it’s the power to serve  
that requires true conversion  
and embracing the cross.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the laborers searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard....It is a gaze which calls, invites one to get up and begin a journey because he wants life for each of us.

Angelus, September 24, 2017



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I love without strings attached or do I love to get something in return?
- What is holding me back from reforming my life?

### 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 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](mailto:mmccarty@cghsnc.org)

# God's Call Doesn't Wait

By Kathleen M. Basi



Occasions like New Year's, Ash Wednesday, and birthdays seem custom-made for adopting new life goals. It's neat and tidy to say, "As of January 1, I will no longer lose my temper with my children." "Beginning Ash Wednesday, I will stop using food to ward off boredom or anesthetize pain." But how often have you promised to change, only to find that within a few days or weeks you've reverted to your old ways?

Conversion doesn't happen according to a schedule, and God doesn't call us based on the calendar. He calls us when he has work for us or when we're tripping on our own weaknesses. In other words,

he calls every moment of every day. The question is, do we listen and respond?

When I find myself re-resolving the same things, I get frustrated. If my commitment is sincere, why doesn't it "take" the first time? Why do I have to keep starting over?

I once heard a homily that addressed this frustration. The priest urged us not to beat ourselves up when our attention wanders during Mass. We all come to the table filled with our own worries and concerns; its human nature to be distracted. The important thing is to keep turning back.

This, he emphasized, is the true meaning of repentance. Every time we consciously shift our focus from our own anxieties back to God, it's a recommitment—a moment of renewal.

This is an encouraging thought. Bad habits are easier to come by than good ones, and replacing the former with the latter requires constant vigilance. The practice of turning and returning to God defines the Christian journey, separating the true disciple from the seed that's sown in shallow soil and withers in the sun (Matthew 13:1–9).

We all need daily reminders of how much we depend on God's saving grace. We all need to be smacked upside the head with awareness of how little we can accomplish on our own.

God calls us when our lives are in need of refocus, when our hearts are in need of repentance—and that call doesn't wait for some artificially imposed milestone on a calendar. It comes every day, as reliable as the sun rising in the east, as certain as the failure of our own resolve and our own strength. Can you hear that quiet voice within your heart speaking, asking you to make a change? Don't wait for some date on a calendar to tell you it's time to start anew.

"Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). +



*Lord, I am grateful for the gift of your compassion. Help me to be more generous in sharing your compassion with others.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

September 21–26

**Monday**, St. Matthew:  
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13 / Mt 9:9–13


**Tuesday**, Weekday:  
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13 / Lk 8:19–21

**Wednesday**, St. Pius of Pietrelcina:  
Prv 30:5–9 / Lk 9:1–6

**Thursday**, Weekday:  
Eccl 1:2–11 / Lk 9:7–9

**Friday**, Weekday:  
Eccl 3:1–11 / Lk 9:18–22

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
Eccl 11:9–12:8 / Lk 9:43b–45

Bringing Home  
the Word   
September 20, 2020

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## Contact Us!

Parish Office: 919-847-8205 fax: 919-870-1790

Staff email: [firstname.lastname@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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

### Priests and Deacon

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	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	<a href="http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/">http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/</a>	
Care for Creation	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Community Conversations	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Engaging Spirituality	Becky Cawley	847-8205x267
Just Faith	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270
Justice Theater Project	<a href="http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/">http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/</a>	
Peace Pole Prayer	Ben Whitehouse	<a href="mailto:whitehouseben5@gmail.com">whitehouseben5@gmail.com</a>
Study Circles	Trevor Thompson	847-8205x270

## Get Involved!

### Parish Life Ministries

Director of Parish Life

### Pastoral Presence Ministries

Caregivers

Centering Prayer

Emmaus Ministers

EMs to Abbotswood

EMs to the Homebound

EMs to the Magnolia Glen

EMs to the Meadows

EMs to Rex Hospital

EMs to Springmoor

Prayer Line Ministers

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Rosary Ministry

### Ministries of Support & Care

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers

Caring Casseroles Cooks

Feed the Need Cooks

Job Connections Mentors

Medical Facility Visitors

Transportation to Mass Drivers

Weekday Volunteer Receptionists

### Social Groups

AAMEN Ministry

Always God's Children

LGBTQ+ Ministry

Men's Ministry

Young Adults

Women's Ministry

50+ Adults Group

Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Alice Stanford

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Kathleen Owen

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Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Angela Azzopardi

919-848-1347

### 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

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Mary Arleth

847-8205x358

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Melissa O'Connor

847-8205x296

Mark Priest scoutmaster352@gmail.com

Scott Cash scoutmaster219tfs@gmail.com

Rebecca Brooks membershipack352@yahoo.com

Bryan Kozak

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Ellen Ferrone

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Tim Hetzel

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Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Thomas Bulick

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Sarah Bowser

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Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Thomas Bulick

847-8205x239

Patti Panizza

847-8205x237

Marisa Ferrara

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Jenn Fiduccia

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Tara Moore

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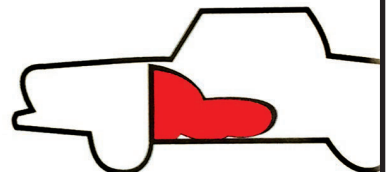
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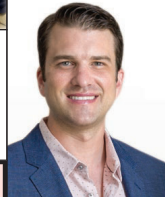
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