

September 27, 2020

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Francis BlessFest

See page 5



Mark your calendar for October 4



Update

Sunday Liturgy

Up to 200 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

THIS WEEK
Daily Mass will be held in the Memorial Garden Mon, Tues, Thur, and Fri. There will be NOT be a Wednesday Mass or Livestream
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



Next Sunday, October 4, is the feast of the patron of our parish, St. Francis of Assisi. One anxiety that has been conveyed to me by both the friars and some parishioners has focused on the status of the Franciscan charism of the parish once the friars departed and diocesan clergy assumed leadership of the parish. This is a very understandable anxiety. I will be addressing this in my homily at the 9:30 Mass on October 4. I want to assure you that the spirit and influence of St. Francis will remain alive and well in the parish albeit with some differences in emphasis.

The feast day of a parish's patron saint raises the festivity level of the Mass to a solemnity, the highest level of festivity in the Church (think Easter Sunday, Christmas). While all our neighboring parishes will be celebrating the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we will be celebrating the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi at both Masses. There will be brass and other instruments adding to the joyfulness of this day. I will sing the entire Eucharistic Prayer to the Mass of Creation setting at the 9:30am Mass. We'll likely throw in a little incense too.

On Saturday evening, October 3, at 7:00pm, Fr. Jim Sabak will lead the beautiful Transitus Service in the Memorial Garden next to the church. This liturgy commemorates the passage of St. Francis to eternal life which occurred on the evening of October 3.

It will be important to do this since COVID-19 will put a serious damper on our usual FrancisFest. This year we need to modify the annual festival. We're calling it Francis Bless Fest, a drive-thru opportunity for pets to be blessed and greetings exchanged between parishioners in their cars and Frs. Jairo, Jim, and me. We will have a small gift to offer you as you depart. Please see the bulletin and website for further details.

We fully expect FrancisFest will return in full in 2021 but felt we needed to be realistic about what we could do in 2020 with the limitations we face to maintain everyone's safety. It is my hope that next year we will have all former Franciscans who have served the parish come and celebrate an appropriate thank you for their ministry which was truncated because of COVID-19.

Msgr. Clay



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7200 Stonehenge Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27613 919-821-9730 www.dioceseofraleigh.org

Political Messaging

During this election year, we are reminded that the Church does NOT endorse or oppose specific candidates or political parties. You may encounter campaigners or protestors exercising their right to free speech by displaying political messages on public property near your parish community or place of work. You may see signage professing political endorsements or statements by the Diocese of Raleigh or the Catholic Church. As a reminder to you and your communities, these types of political endorsements are not authorized or encouraged by the Diocese of Raleigh. For information and guidance, please see Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.

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

+ **Melinda Craig**
Sister of Robin Blomquist

THROUGH MARRIAGE
MAY THEIR LIVES
ALWAYS BEAR WITNESS
TO CHRIST'S LOVE:

Elizabeth King, daughter of Jeff King
and Kelly Anderson
and **Gregory Doonan**, son of
George and Mary Doonan

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/>

SCAM ALERT


Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a solicitation email from our pastor or bishop asking for "a favor", or for emergency help in the form of money. Please do not open or click on them. Simply trash them. They could cause havoc on your computer and your pocket book.

LECTIONARY-BASED
VIRTUAL
SMALL GROUP
OPPORTUNITY

reflecting on the WORD

THURSDAYS AT 2:00PM

To register visit
bit.ly/formation-resources



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/>

VIRTUAL EVENING PRAYER

Monday through Thursday
7:00pm

FACEBOOK LIVE - STFRANCISRALEIGH

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



VIRTUAL CAFE

REGISTER TO GET THE ZOOM LINK
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



Season of Creation
September 1 - October 4



www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care-of-creation/



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
To volunteer: bit.ly/SFA-CPOvolunteers2020

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

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

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



Daniel Burch
Olivia Ceradini
Kendyl Hoch
Michael Jones
Alexander Martin
Darcy McEnaney
Ava Merriman
Ustina O'Connell
Max Ortiz Jerez
Nicholas Reimers
Francesca Sales
Alexander Sloane
Luis Suau



Pete and Darsan Russo

THANK YOU to our Family Village "behind the scenes" volunteers! We are so excited to watch our Family Village program come to life; it launched this month! What many families may not know is that small group leaders who have served at Cross Walk in previous years, who are not part of villages this year, have been helping us immensely behind the scenes. They have been assembling kits, sorting paperwork, and labeling materials for the over 400 children enrolled in elementary Faith Formation this year.

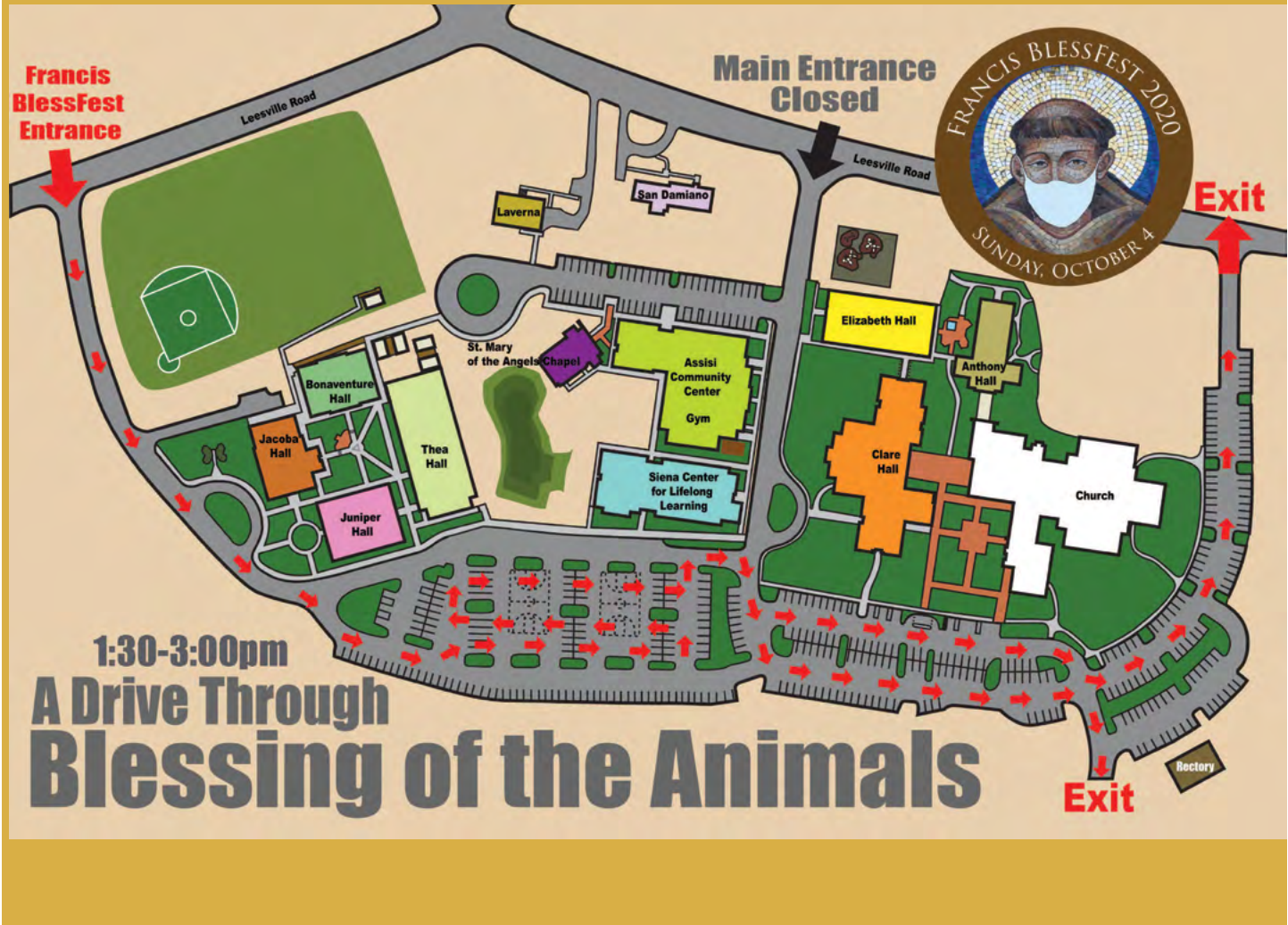
Rebecca Tibbetts, Marilyn Lyons, Joan Grace, Pete Russo, and Darsan Russo- We love you and could not do what we do without you!



RCIA

Continuing your faith journey in our community
Contact Jennifer.fiduccia@stfrancisraleigh.org

You're Invited to Francis BlessFest



2020 has been the year of accommodations. We've made accommodations in how we gather together, in how we shop, and in how we greet one another. And this year, we're making accommodations so that we can safely celebrate our patron, St. Francis, and enjoy some time together on campus.

The Feast of Saint Francis, October 4, falls on a Sunday this year and liturgically is a solemnity in the parish. The readings of the day will be for the feast rather than a Sunday in Ordinary Time as is the case in the rest of the diocese. The Masses will be very celebratory. There will be brass, incense, and Msgr. Clay will sing the entire Eucharistic Prayer at the 9:30am Mass.

In the afternoon, you're invited to our drive through Francis Bless Fest from 1:30-3:00pm. Everyone will enter from St.

Francis Drive by the school and remain in their cars. There will be a stop to have all the animals, live and toy, blessed in their cars by our favorite Franciscan, Fr. Jim Sabak. There will even be treats for the pets! Then you'll drive forward and have an opportunity to stop and greet Fr. Jairo from your car. Next, you'll have an opportunity to stop and greet Msgr. Clay from your car. There will be an opportunity to drop off cards and artwork for the priests. Finally, everyone will receive a gift from the priests to take home.

This isn't our usual FrancisFest of bouncy houses and food trucks, but it's an opportunity to take a break from your Sunday routine and have some fun and see our priests. We hope to see you there!

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

World Day of Migrants and Refugees



by St. Francis Parishioner Nam Douglas and Trevor Thompson,
Director of Office of Justice and Peace

The Vatican has designated Sunday, September 27 as the World Day for Migrants and Refugees. As noted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops, the Catholic Church here in the US is an immigrant Church and in remembering this history, our faith communities have strived to embrace newcomers and provide assistance and pastoral care to immigrants, migrants, refugees, and all displaced people. In doing so, the Church is responding to Christ's call for us to "welcome the stranger among us," for in this encounter with the immigrant, the migrant, and the refugee in our midst, we encounter Christ."

Refugees are persons forced to flee their country because of persecution, war or violence. They have a well-founded fear of being persecuted as a result of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group and either cannot return home or are afraid to do so. Most are forced out of their homes with little or no warning and without the certainty of knowing where they can find shelter or safety. Aside from the common threat of violence and persecution causing their flight, refugees include persons from all socio-economic backgrounds, professions, skills, and education. Today there are more displaced persons around the globe than ever before – more than 68.5 million. For those seeking refuge in another country, the process is long and arduous with screening, vetting and placement protocols taking more 24 months – time often spent living in refugee camps with few available resources.

All 50 states in the United States have welcomed refugees since 1975, when the US began to resettle displaced persons. North Carolina has a strong history of welcoming the immigrant, ranking 10th among states in the number of refugees resettled. More than 30,000 refugees have found a home in here over the past decades.

As a Catholic Community, we strive to encourage greater understanding of the challenges of migrants and refugees seeking safety and security in a foreign land. We believe that, while countries have the right to protect, secure, and control their borders, refugees and immigrants are a particularly vulnerable population who are fleeing violence, persecution, and climate change-related disasters and are often seeking safety, family reunification, and economic opportunity. Given the trauma many have endured, community efforts to accompany, assist, and stand in solidarity are vital. Our moral tradition calls on all people of faith and goodwill to stand up in defense of life and human dignity-regardless of one's immigration status; it is a fundamental calling for us as Catholics. We encourage everyone to continue to pray and advocate for refugees and migrants and remember God's challenge to care for the stranger as we welcome and support those now calling our community home. Let us all take the opportunity to become more aware and deepen our solidarity, prayer, and advocacy for them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Prayer of HIS HOLINESS
POPE FRANCIS FOR THE
106th WORLD DAY OF MI-
GRANTS AND REFUGEES
September 27, 2020**

Father, you entrusted to Saint Joseph what you held most precious: the child Jesus and his Mother, in order to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked.

Grant that we may experience his protection and help. May he, who shared in the sufferings of those who flee from the hatred of the powerful, console and protect all our brothers and sisters driven by war, poverty and necessity to leave their homes and their lands to set out as refugees for safer places.

Help them, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to find the strength to persevere, give them comfort in sorrows and courage amid their trials.

Grant to those who welcome them some of the tender love of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary at every step of the way.

May he, who earned his bread by the work of his hands, watch over those who have seen everything in life taken away and obtain for them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, whom Saint Joseph saved by fleeing to Egypt, and trusting in the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom he loved as a faithful husband in accordance with your will. Amen.

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Mike Watson, Principal

Back to Community Masses!



We were happy to be able to get back to celebrating our community masses again at The Franciscan School! This past Wednesday, our 7th grade class attended the first community mass of our new school year. Even though we couldn't have everyone attend in person as we have traditionally done, our 7th graders were there representing the student body while the remainder of their schoolmates watched the live mass with Monsignor Clay being streamed from the church on the parish website.

Community is an important aspect of a Catholic education, and especially at The Franciscan School. We really value the time together celebrating our faith, performing acts of service together as a community, and, of course, being together in classes and during the school day enjoying friendships and interacting as faculty and students. The value of

personal relationships, building friendships, and seeing the unique perspectives, ideas and opinions of each other has been lost during the masked and socially distant start to the year. It was a refreshing reminder of all we share, all we have experienced together, and the true value of our faith experience to return to this little bit of community and faith "normalcy" by being able to have a class attend mass together in the church.

Parents, students, and the faculty and staff are all working diligently each day to try and find a sense of routine and, oftentimes, a way to get through what has been a trying experience for all. It is not "normal", it is hard, and it is a different set of hurdles to overcome each week. It is only because of their dedication to our community, the desire to return to the amazing TFS experience they know,

and the knowledge and faith that things will get better as we move through the year that they are all able to pull together, join in facing each day's challenges and successes, and conquer those obstacles. We have a remarkable school community of committed parents, dedicated teachers, and hard-working students who all look forward to returning to the school they know and love. Today was a small step towards that return; every journey starts with the first few, small, tentative steps forward. Today was one of those steps, and it was thrilling to be a part of the experience!

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

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

Take A Child Outside week

"We are not a team because we work together. We are a team because we respect, trust, and care for each other." Vala Afshar



In the years that I have worked at St. Francis preschool, I have often been asked to explain why I do what I do. There is a very simple answer...I get to do what I love (in working with the children), work with people that I love (in being with amazing staff), and have my faith thoroughly mixed in. That is not an easy combination to find in a career! I would even venture to say that finding all 3 in one job is nearly impossible! God has truly blessed me with not only the large collective preschool family made of the students and their own families but also with a family made of teachers and staff.

Many of the staff with whom I work have not only been working at our preschool for multiple years, but have also had their own children attend here. Several will joke that they loved preschool so much when their children were here that they never left! This is certainly true for me! My twins were here over 12 years ago and here I still am! Having teachers and staff who are so clearly vested, both personally and professionally, in our preschool program shines through in all that they do. It allows us to "Be a Light". This then not only transfers to the children and their families, but to each other as well.



While we were saddened that a few of our wonderful staff members were not able to return this year because of the pandemic, we continue to have a solid foundation in those that remain here with us. Several of our longtime staff are approaching their 10th, 15th, or 20th year anniversaries. We have seen each other through personal tragedies, triumphs, and many changes overall. Given where we work, we are lucky to be able to pray for and with each other. We regularly raise each other up through words of encouragement, hope, and faith. We celebrate each other and our collective experiences whenever possible. Whether it's through a simple note, a prayer intention, or hug (pre-COVID), we recognize the gift that we are to each other. There is not one staff member who would not jump in to lend a hand or share what they have with the other. Each day, we try to be examples of our faith in word

and action so that we are true in what we teach our children. We are a family, not by blood, but by the care, respect, and friendship that we share. When I came to school last week, I was hit with another reminder of how close we actually are when I saw that 4 of my teachers had unknowingly come to school dressed alike! You know that you are a cohesive team when you start reflecting each other's fashion choices!

Please join me in my prayers that God continues to watch over and bless these outstanding teachers. They give well over 100% each day to their students, but they also do this for each other. I very much believe that God works through them to create a loving family for our children and one another. Please also join in my prayers of thanksgiving for all that they bring to our preschool and church community!

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

This Week and Next

Sept. 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!

Job Connections

JCM has weekly virtual meeting on guidance, actions and accountability more information contact Mary Horner at sfa.jcm@gmail.com

Sept. 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 or Tracy Hurley at 828-773-3152, danandtracy@hotmail.com.

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 Quarantido or the best Quarantee shirt. Come enjoy some relaxing social time. To register visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/virtual-cafe/>.



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.



The Franciscan School Fundraiser, is NOW UNDERWAY!

The Franciscan School Fundraiser officially launched this week and will remain open through October 2nd, 2020. There are A LOT of great auction items this year. Be sure to check in today for items that sell out and check back often for items you are bidding on and new items that will be added as the week goes on. There are two different types of items in the auction:

- 1) Traditional silent auction items, where you can bid and outbid all the way up until the last hour of the auction at 10pm on October 2nd.
- 2) Ticketed items for several events and "experiences" such as wreath making and virtual social events. Many of the ticketed items sell out during the auction period. You may miss out by waiting until the last day or two. **TICKETED ITEMS** listed on the auction are items that you can **ONLY PURCHASE THROUGH THE FRANCISCAN EXPERIENCE**.

Visit the BidPal link to get started! <http://bidpal.net/tfe2020>

Contact Christin or Jennifer at tfsfundraiser@gmail.com with questions.

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, Marian Monti, ianmar94@aol.com.

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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
September 27, 2020

Say Yes and Go Out

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We can really relate to God when he repeats the people's blame and accusations at him for not being fair. In moments of suffering or injustice, it's easy to pass judgment and blame it all on God. It's especially difficult when innocent and good people (ourselves included) suffer. We're tempted to ask, "Aren't you supposed to treat your friends better?"

We only need to look at Marco Palmezzano's painting *Christ Bearing the Cross* to reconsider our complaints. How have we treated God?

Jesus was and is the most innocent of souls; no other being was or is as good

as Jesus. No one was asked to suffer like him, and he suffered not to gain for himself but to pay our debt. Relating it to today's Gospel lesson, Jesus is the son who, when asked to work in his Father's vineyard, promptly said "yes" and went. Always obedient, always docile, always loving.

Watching Jesus, we hear the echo of St. Paul's letter. Jesus humbly regarded his brothers and sisters as more than himself and was willing to go to the cross and win them back for the Father. Keep in mind, those siblings had destroyed family unity, squandered away their inheritance, sold their birthright, sold him into slavery with their sin, and very often refused his love. Yet "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

God knows his merciful justice well and can kindly and provokingly ask in Ezekiel 18:25, "Is it my way that is unfair? Are not your ways unfair?" +

No one was asked to suffer like Jesus, and he suffered not to gain for himself but to pay our debt.

Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Since they turned away from all the sins they committed, they shall live.

Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.

Matthew 21:28-32

[Jesus said,] "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

A Word from Pope Francis

Today let us look at our hands, so often empty of love, and let us try to think of some free gift that we can give without expecting anything in return. That will please the Lord. And let us ask him: "Lord, let me rediscover the joy of giving."

Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Am I fair to God by giving him thanksgiving, adoration, and obedience for his love?
- Am I fair to others by offering them gratitude and humble kindness?



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7200 Stonehenge Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27613 919-821-9730 www.dioceseofraleigh.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Don't distance from your spouse! Learn how to bring your marriage to a new level. Renew, rekindle and strengthen your marriage on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience Nov. 6-8, 2020, in ATLANTIC BEACH, NC. Early sign up is recommended. For more information, visit our website at: <https://NCMarriageDiscovery.org> or contact us at applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org or 704-315-2144. Follow our Facebook page North Carolina WWME!

I Have No Hands But Yours

By Johan van Parys

My mother was big on two major cleaning efforts each year. The first was Easter cleaning—she argued that just as our souls needed cleansing in preparation for Easter, so did our home. The second was a fall cleaning that coincided with the St. Michael Summer, named for the September 29 feast of the archangels.

Our share in these week-long adventures was a thorough reorganization of our closets. We were instructed to remove every item, discern what we wanted to keep or toss, and then organize all that remained. To this day, I have a perfectly organized closet.

Over the years I've come to appreciate my mom's connection between the physical cleansing of our home and the spiritual cleansing of our heart and soul. As Christians, we're called to search our soul to rid ourselves of everything that keeps us from sharing more perfectly in the Body of Christ. We do this mostly as individuals, but from time to time even the Church takes stock of where we've come from, where we are today, and where we're going.

This kind of spiritual exercise is necessary because being Christian isn't always easy. Neither is being the Church, especially in a constantly changing and challenging world. Some people are



trying to take the Church in a direction that makes it difficult to reconcile with the gospel. Others call for a return to the past, giving in to a false nostalgia for a Church they never knew and that may never have existed. Both responses are ill-fated—we can't go back to the past, and we ought to be true to the gospel.

The only way forward in this age—as in every age—is to engage completely and openly with the world while using the gospel as our compass. The essence of our message never changes. However, the language we use to express it ought to change constantly. Like everything else,

our spiritual lives necessarily evolve—and so does the Church's. The alternative is a slow but sure spiritual demise.

I wish my spiritual home were in as good order as my physical home is. I still hear my mother's voice asking me to clean my room and cleanse my soul. And I take solace in the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that stands abandoned in a small Italian village. Due to years of neglect, the statue is badly in need of repair; it's cracked, and both hands are missing. Someone hung a sign around its neck that says, "I have no hands but yours." This image and invitation should prompt us to analyze our lives so we might be better Christians.

We're called to do this to realize that Christ's invitation is to be his hands, his feet, and his heart. +



Lord, I am grateful for your example of humble service toward others. Help me to be a humble and loving person toward all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 28–October 3

Monday, Weekday:

Jb 1:6–22 / Lk 9:46–50

Tuesday, Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael: Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12a / Jn 1:47–51

Wednesday, St. Jerome:

Jb 9:1–12, 14–16 / Lk 9:57–62

Thursday, St. Thérèse of the Child

Jesus: Jb 19:21–27 / Lk 10:1–12

Friday, Holy Guardian Angels:

Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5 / Mt 18:1–5, 10

Saturday, Weekday:

Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17 / Lk 10:17–24

Bringing Home
the Word 
September 27, 2020

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ARE YOU EXPERIENCING PANDEMIC FATIGUE?



Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- ISOLATION AND LONELINESS
- ANXIETY OVER HEALTH
- GRIEF DUE TO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOSSES
- TENSION FROM JUGGLING WORK, CHILDCARE, AND SCHOOLING
- FINANCIAL STRAIN OR JOB LOSS
- UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE
- OTHER UNEXPECTED LIFE CHALLENGES?



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. For more information, call our church office.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Friday Night Storm Damage

Some of you are aware of the damage done to our property last night during the storm. In the event that you are not, here are a few photos. The intense localized storm, probably a microburst, had high winds, large hail and torrential rains. Although it did not last long, the storm knocked down several trees, some of which fell onto power lines along Leesville Rd. Power was restored around 8:30 am this morning and First Communion and the Red Cross Blood Drive proceeded as scheduled. Mason's Landscaping, as well as Bartlett's Tree Service, will continue their work on campus today and tomorrow.

Prayers of Thanksgiving that no one was injured, and other than the recently built scout storage shed, there does not appear to be any other damage to our buildings. ~ Mark Kielty, Director of Facilities



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

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	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	Trevor Thompson

Get Involved!

Deb Royals-Mizerk 847-8205x222

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

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Alice Stanford

919-781-5860

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Anita Misko

630-699-0519

Pat Spencer

704-608-1678

Jacob House

919-449-7634

Andrea McVerry

amcverry@yahoo.com

Edward Gilmartinedward.gilmartin@gmail.com

Janice Horner

484-949-1417

Pauk Wilson

wilsonpf99@gmail.com

Cindy Cardello

919-846-8825

Dianne Rotunno

919-844-7153

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Ministries of Support & Care

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers

Linda Tucker

937-478-9537

Caring Casseroles Cooks

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Feed the Need Cooks

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

Job Connections Mentors

Mary Horner

610-755-5392

Medical Facility Visitors

Sharon Holland

hollandbozo@yahoo.com

Transportation to Mass Drivers

Stephanie Smith

919-302-0080

Weekday Volunteer Receptionists

Toni Hammes

847-8205x265

Social Groups

AAMEN Ministry

Leon Cooke

919-740-7515

Always God's Children

Chuck Small

984-204-0012

LGBTQ+ Ministry

Jane Paris

919-847-7431

Men's Ministry

Norm Tuomi

norman3722@att.net

Ralph Guenther

rguenther2@nc.rr.com

fb.me/YoungAdultsofStFrancis

Kathleen Owen

847-8205x241

50+ Adults Group

Angela Azzopardi

919-848-1347

St. Francis of Assisi Community Center

Coordinator of Community Center

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Athletic Programs

Mary Arleth

847-8205x358

Assisi Café

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Parish Events (FrancisFest)

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Summer Camps (Camp Francis)

Ashley Watson

847-8205x444

Community Organizations

Girl Scouts of USA

Melissa O'Connor

847-8205x296

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

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

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

Rebecca Brooks

membershippack352@yahoo.com

Knights of Columbus

Bryan Kozak

gk@kofc9709.org

Secular Franciscan Order

Ellen Ferrone

http://ofscentralinc.org

Faith Formation Ministries

Director of Faith Formation

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Assisi Scripture Study

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Baptism Ministry

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Marriage Ministry

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Confirmation Sponsors

Thomas Bulick

847-8205x239

Children's Formation Group Leader

Sarah Bowser

847-8205x496

Family & Marriage Enrichment Team

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Middle School Formation Group

Thomas Bulick

847-8205x239

Faith Formation Regist. & Events

Patti Panizza

847-8205x237

Youth Ministry Group Leader

Marisa Ferrara

847-8205x223

RCIA Team & Sponsors

Jenn Fiduccia

847-8205x238

Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery)

Tara Moore

847-8205x489

Young Adults Bible Study Group

Tim Hetzel

847-8205x244

Stewardship Ministries

Director of Stewardship

Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

Stewardship Committee

Deb Royals-Mizerk

847-8205x222

Way of Francis

Ben Whitehouse whitehouseben5@gmail.com

