

Sister Parish in Guatemala

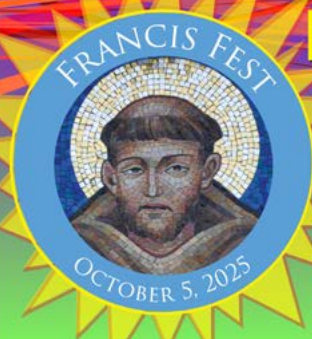
This ministry nurtures a relationship with a small, rural village in Guatemala called Las Margaritas II. We exchange visits and deepen our bonds of shared life and friendship. We invite parishioners to join us on pilgrimage for an experience of a life time or host villagers when they visit us every few years.

It is time for us to put together another delegation to visit in 2026! If you would like to learn more:

Information "lunch-n-learn" video call:
Monday September 29 from 12-1pm

To register, contact Mary Ellen McGuire,
Director of Justice and Peace and you will
receive the video link.





Everyone is invited!

**Food Trucks!
Fun Activities for All!
Live Music and More!**

Sunday, October 5, 12:45 - 4:30
www.stfrancisraleigh.org/FrancisFest



Don't miss our annual Francis Fest celebration as we come together for a fun afternoon of activities and events for the entire family. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase your wristbands. There are also volunteer opportunities!

[Link for Sign up to Volunteer](#) / [Link to Order Wristbands](#)

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org.

[Website](#) / [Realm](#) / [St. Francis Serves](#) / [Prayer Request](#) / [Listing of Prayers of the Faithful](#)
[KBL series](#) / [Bulletins](#) / [Employment Opportunities](#) / [St. Francis TV](#) / [Giving](#) / [Feed the Need](#)
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The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi - 11401 Leesville Rd - NC 27613 - Tel: 919-847-8205



The crew at St. Therese in Wrightsville Beach for the Priest Retreat.



Fr. Chris Koehn,
Pastor



Fr. James Singarayar, HGN
Parochial Vicar



Fr. Jim Sabak, O.F.M.
In Residence

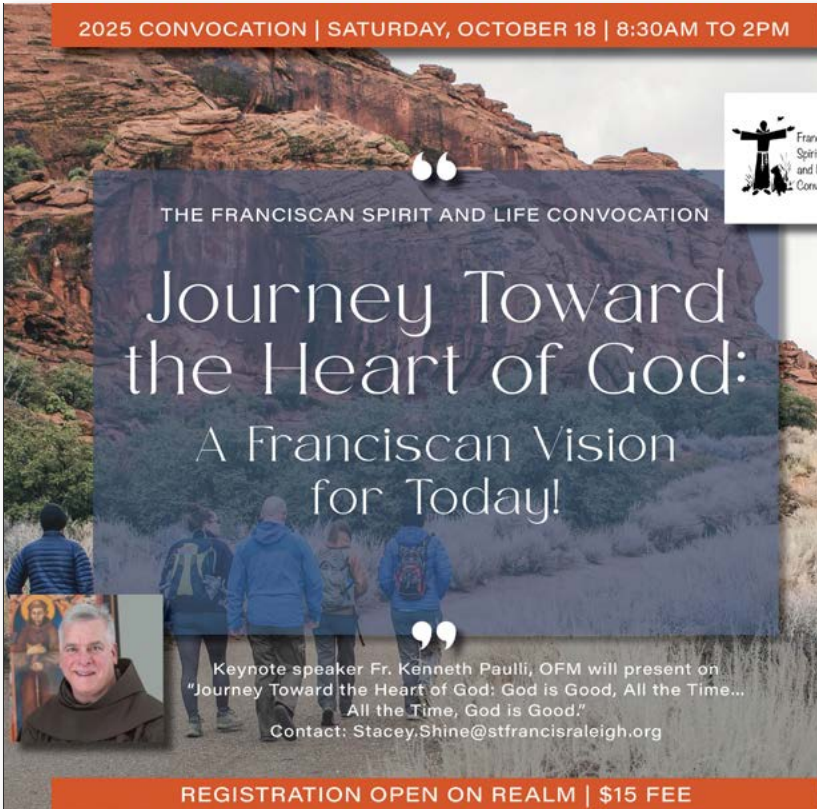


Fr. Joseph Ita-Sam, CM
Parochial Vicar



Stephen Andrews
Deacon In Residence

2025 CONVOCAATION | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 | 8:30AM TO 2PM



THE FRANCISCAN SPIRIT AND LIFE CONVOCAATION

Journey Toward the Heart of God: A Franciscan Vision for Today!

Keynote speaker Fr. Kenneth Paulli, OFM will present on
"Journey Toward the Heart of God: God is Good, All the Time...
All the Time, God is Good."
Contact: Stacey.Shine@stfrancisraleigh.org

REGISTRATION OPEN ON REALM | \$15 FEE

Session 1 Topics

Becoming God: How the Liturgy Transforms Us and the World - *Jim Wahl*

The Keynote Address: A Reprise
- *Fr. Ken Paulli, OFM*

Aging and Living the Franciscan Charisms
- *Gladys Whitehouse, OFS*

Franciscan Missionary Discipleship
- *Fr. Tim Kulbicki, OFM Conv.*

Integral Ecology: How Do We Care for Our Common Home? - *Pat and Paul Kelly*

Session 2 Topics

The Franciscan Way of the Cross: How does the San Damiano Cross Speak of Passion and Resurrection
- *Fr. Jim Sabak, OFM*

Coaching for Conversion: A Franciscan Approach to Guiding Others Toward God - *Jennifer Fiduccia*

St. Francis of Assisi: Rooted in Prayer - *Ann O'Hara*

Shaping the Environment (Literally) for Effective Ministry and Credible Witness in your Parish
- *Fr. John Grace*

Gathered, Transformed, Sent: Justice in the Liturgy
- *Angela Flynn*

September 9 - December 9, (Tuesdays) Fall DivorceCare

Fall Series 6:30-8:00pm. Don't go through the pain of separation or divorce alone. Join the DivorceCare group where you'll find caring people who understand and provide support. [Register here](#). Contact Bill Morgan, dejanuts@yahoo.com.

September 20/21 "Feed a Family CPO Food Drive" Donations of Nonperishable food items, or a monetary donation, to the Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) truck. [For a list of needed items Click Here](#). Collections: before and after weekend morning masses and only before 5:30 pm masses (note: collections end at 6 pm Sat/Sun). Contact Anne-Marie Summers at: summers51984@gmail.com

September 21 & 28 Co-ed Fall Youth Basketball Skills

This clinic is designed for players to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph. **1st Grade -4th Grade: 1:30-2:30 / 5th Grade -8th Grade: 2:35-3:35**
Cost is \$20.00 for each session/ All dates \$75.00 [Click here for more information and to register](#). Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org

September 21 - 2025 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge

1:00-3:00pm. Boys and Girls ages 9-14 are invited to compete. Competitors will demonstrate their skill at penalty kicks, and winners will have the opportunity to progress through future higher-level contests. Parents and guardians, please [Click here to Sign up!](#) Contact Paul Geisen, pgeisen@comcast.net.

Employment Opportunities:

Part-time Administrative Assistant for Finance & Planning
Please see our website for more information
<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>.

September 21 - Padre Pio Fraternity Of Secular Franciscans

Migrant Novena 7:00-8:00pm via zoom, beginning September 21. This coincides with the USCCB National Migration Week. It will include praying the novena followed by discussion on various aspects of immigration. To register, please email Doug Thoren at dpthoren66@gmail.com.

September 23 - JustFaith: Faith & Immigration Justice

Tues afternoon 1-3pm IN PERSON now available. Starting Sept 23. [Register here](#). Contact Casey Slock, casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

September 23 - November 5 Virtual Study: Women of the New Testament

7:00-8:30pm. Join us for a virtual 7-week study of the women of the New Testament. Learn more about how women were essential to the ministry of Jesus and the flourishing of the early church. Sessions on Tues PM and Weds AM start soon. Register in Realm. Men and women welcome. [Click here for Tuesday PM](#) / [Click here for Wednesday AM](#)
Contact Barbara Efird, barbaraefirdlpc@gmail.com.

September 24 - 50+ Adult Group Potluck Lunch

11:30am. Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall: If last name starts with, then bring: A thru D = Dessert/Bread, E thru L = Main Dish, M thru Z = Salad / Side Dish. Coffee, soda and water will be provided. Contact Pat Spencer, spencer1334@bellsouth.net.



Security Alert

Please remember to lock your car and place any valuables in the trunk or completely out of sight.

September 25 - Coffee with Chris

9:40 -10:30am. Join us Thursday, September 25 at 9:45am for Coffee with Fr. Chris in Padua. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and Fr. Chris to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

September 27 - American Red Cross Fall Blood Drive

8:00am-2:00pm This drive is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall. There will be drinks, snacks & lunch (after 11:30 am) after you give blood. Please sign up for an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. Search by Zip code 27613 for events on 9/27/25. Contact Bryan Kozak, bryan.c.kozak@gmail.com.

Help Feed Durham Seniors! BROWN BAG MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP! 9/27...

9:00-11:30am. ..and all Saturdays in October and November. 9:00-11:30am. **We need volunteers** to prepare bag lunches for seniors in two Durham apartment complexes. These meals—sandwiches, fruit, snacks, and dessert—are delivered every other week and make a real difference. [Sign up via St. Francis Serves](#) or contact Pam Peroutky at pperoutky@gmail.com.

September 28 - October 4 - Family Promise of The Triangle

Family Promise. Small Commitment. Big Impact. Make a difference by helping support the lives of families experiencing temporary homelessness. We provide meals and groceries for one week while families work towards permanent housing. Be part of our next hosting. Contact Jim Packard, stfa.fp@gmail.com, 910-389-8936.

September 29 - Sister Parish Guatemala: Information Session

12:00-1:00pm. It is time to put together a delegation of parishioners to visit our sister parish in Guatemala next year! Come to a "lunch-n-learn" video call to learn more. Contact Mary Ellen McGuire, maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org. See ad on page 1.

October 2 - Spiritual Warfare and Discernment of Spirits - A Six Part Series

7:00-8:30pm. (See page 5) Anxiety, depression and angry thoughts are not who you are. Learn to beat back lies, from the enemy, you've come to accept instead of fighting. Six week video series by Avila Institute's Dan Burke incorporates scripture and St. Ignatius Rules for Discernment to help you renew your mind. Meets every Thursday evening for six weeks in Founders Room. Contact Maureen Costello sentout72@gmail.com. [Register on Realm](#).

Oct. 2-Nov. 20 - Fall Bible Study: Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible

7:00-8:30pm. Join Rich Zemonek for a virtual and in-person study, Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. This study helps you get the "big picture" by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. [Register here](#).

Cancer Support Group - Thursdays in October

7:00-8:00pm. Do you need to find comfort and peace within the storm? Is your storm cancer? St. Francis has a ministry for that, and we are here for you. Contact Suzanne Ziemer suzanne.ziemer@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 4 - Habitat for Humanity Catholic Coalition Site Build

8:00am-3:30pm. [Register](#). Contact Will Connelly, st.francois.h4h@gmail.com.



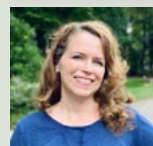
Francis Fest, A Celebration of Community

Francis Fest, A Celebration of Community
Francis Fest is a hallmark of the St. Francis of Assisi community, but it wasn't always in its current form. "When we first started this parish, Father English, if you remember, had the house across the street," says Tricia Henry, long-time parishioner and former Director of the Community Center. "That's actually where the first picnic started. They had a mass at the picnic table in his backyard. I guess you could say that he started the very first small social gatherings of the community." Those first small gatherings have grown into the Francis Fest we know today. [More](#)



Ministry Spotlight: Cross Step

When looking at the comprehensive faith formation program available at St. Francis, some parents may not realize how soon the program begins. As the first teachers of the Faith, parents are essential in teaching their children prayers and the importance of Mass. However, very young children can find Mass challenging to follow and understand. That's where Cross Step can support parents in introducing their children to the Faith! [More](#)



Are you New to St. Francis? We warmly welcome you to our community! If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about how to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to [Stacey Shine](#). We look forward to connecting with you and helping you feel right at home.

October 4 - Blessing of the Animals

10:00am. Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends for the Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 4, at 10:00am in the TFS Courtyard. Join us as we honor St. Francis of Assisi and celebrate the gift of God's creatures. All are welcome! Contact Shannon Hoffman, shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 4 - Invitation to Honor the Season of Creation in the Community Garden

10:00-12:00am. Celebrate the feast of St. Francis, in the garden on this final day of the Season of Creation to learn how sustainable gardening in the Franciscan Community Garden honors the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si as volunteers hear the "Cry of the Earth" and the "Cry of the Poor." Contact Pat & Paul Kelly, mpmkelly@hotmail.com.

**October 5 - Francis Fest**

Join us on Sunday October 5th from 12:45-4:30pm to celebrate our parish at FrancisFest 2025.

[Link for Sign up to Volunteer](#)

[Link to Order Wristbands](#)

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 5 - Francis Fest: Monitor trash/compost/recycling

12:00-5:30pm. Help us get it right! Sign up to monitor trash/compost/recycling at Francis Fest (the biggest trash generating event of our parish). Kids (especially TFS middle schoolers) are welcome! Contact Pam James, pam72j@gmail.com. [Sign up here](#).

Through October 7 - St. Francis Youth Basketball League

Registration Join us for the 35th season of the St Francis Youth Basketball League. This program is open to girls and boys grades 1 thru 8. Registration is NOW! Regular Registration ends Sept, 17 and late registration runs thru Oct 7. Contact Mary Arleth, mary.arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org. [Register Here](#).

October 11 - Pilgrimage of Hope at Holy Name of Jesus

Cathedral 3:40-4:50pm. Meet for prayer, reflection and action followed by 5:00 mass as Catholics celebrate a Jubilee year and 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures. This is a sacred opportunity to encounter Christ in Creation, and renew our relationship with God, the Earth, and one another. Contact Pat and Paul Kelly, mpmkelly@hotmail.com.

October 14 - First Responder's Dinner 6:30pm. The Knights of Columbus is hosting, in Fellowship Hall an Appreciation Dinner for our First Responders, the firefighters, police, and sheriffs' deputies who protect and serve in our community. Contact Tony Rivezzo, arivezzo82@gmail.com.

October 15 - Women's Ministry: Preparing for Advent with Handel's Messiah 7:00-8:30pm. Join Women's Ministry in the Padua Room on October 15 at 7:00pm to prepare for Advent with Handel's Messiah. This scripturally-based masterwork will help us reflect on the coming of the Messiah. Tickets for the December 7 performance at Duke Chapel will be available for purchase. [Register here](#). Contact Julia Snyder, jdsnyder@nc.rr.com.

October 18 - St Francis Convocation 2025 (See page 2)

Keynote by Fr. Kenneth Paulli of Siena College

October 20 - St Francis Inn Volunteer Trip

Upcoming week-long mission trip where a delegation of 5 to 6 SFA volunteers prepare and serve hot meals to the hungry and homeless in St Francis Inn, a Franciscan Eucharistic community in urban Philadelphia. If interested please contact Diana Melo via email: melo.diana@gmail.com or text: 919-475-9941.

October 21 - The Chosen- Season 5 Viewing

9:45am. Join us in watching one episode of Season 5 of "The Chosen" each Tuesday at 9:45am in the Padua room beginning Oct. 21- Dec 16th. Contact: Tina Morgan tpm120@earthlink.net.

October 24-26: Richard Rohr Conference 9:00am-5:00pm

What do we do with Christianity? Join Richard Rohr and other teachers from the Center for Action & Contemplation to explore how to reimagine the faith, stories and traditions that have shaped our Christian lives. Contact Pam Peroutky, pperoutky@gmail.com or Deacon Steve, stephenwandrews@outlook.com 732-213-0104.

November 16 - OCIA Sponsors Needed 10:30am-11:30am. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults needs you! God has called and they have answered in abundance! Journey with one of our participants as they grow closer to God. Sponsor information session will be held on November 16 at 10:30am in Founders Room. [Submit your interest here!](#) Contact Charlee Halphen charleelhalphen@gmail.com.



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH RESPECT LIFE MONTH MASS

Life:
Our Sign of
Hope



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of RALEIGH

October 25, 2025
Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral

11:00 am Mass | 10:30 am Rosary
(English/Español)

Vida:
Nuestra señal
de Esperanza

25 de octubre de 2025
Catedral del Santo Nombre de Jesús



DIÓCESIS
CATÓLICA de RALEIGH



MISA DEL MES
DE RESPETO A
LA VIDA DE LA
DIÓCESIS DE RALEIGH

Click here to see Msgr. Clay's new website <https://www.harvest4god.com/>

Harvest4God

Welcome to A Harvest for God!
Christian Initiation in the Rural and Small-Town Parish



October 2 - Spiritual Warfare and Discernment of Spirits

- A Six Part Series 7:00-8:30pm in Founders Room. Meets every Thursday evening for six weeks. Contact Maureen Costello sentout72@gmail.com. [Register and for more info.](#)

Oct 2, Week 1 Hope In The Storm

Oct 9, Week 2 - Renewal Of The Mind

Oct 16, Week 3 - Discernment Of Spirits

Oct 23, Week 4 - An Invitation To Healing

Oct. 30, Week 5 - Renouncing The Lies Of the Enemy

Nov. 6, Week 6 - Fight, Don't Run



Upcoming Dates

2025

October 20 – 24

2026

February 16 – 20

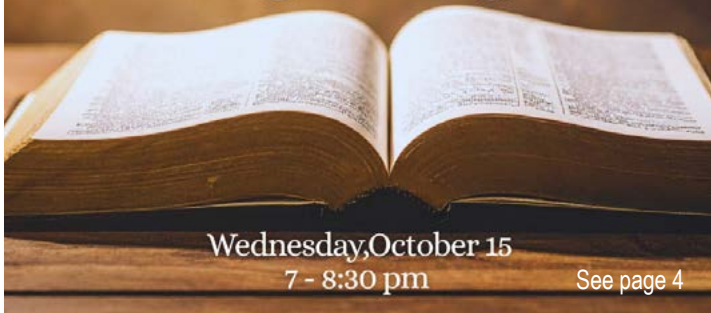
April 13 – 17

Jul 6 – 10 (Youth trip)

Oct 19 – 23



Preparing for Advent with Handel's Messiah



Children's Choir and Teen Singers

Children's Choir serves the 9 am Mass and is open to 2nd through 8th graders. Rehearsals Wednesday from 4:15 to 5:45.

Teen Singers serve the Sunday 5:30 Mass. Open to all Middle and High School students. Rehearsals 4:30 on Sundays and monthly on Wednesday evening.

For information contact

jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org

Work with a Stephen Minister today!

Feeling overwhelmed emotionally, physically, or spiritually? Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-on-one care during life's challenges. Whether you're facing a crisis or simply need support, a Stephen Minister can walk with you, listen, and pray with you. It's confidential, free and very helpful. Consider reaching out today!

Contact stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x234



It Was Such a Burden Off My Shoulders

A Listening Ear You Can Trust

Stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org | 919-847-8205x234

Click to watch video.

Habitat For Humanity

SITE BUILD - OLD POOLE PLACE - RALEIGH, NC
SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 8:15AM - 3:30PM

Come swing a hammer and help us build homes for families in need.

*Need lunches provided for 25-30.

Please contact for more details:

Will Connelly | st.francis.h4h@gmail.com



SCAN ME



Paul Koch is a devoted volunteer who contributes his time to the maintenance department at Saint Francis several days each week. In addition to his work there, he generously volunteers with special event teaching at The Franciscan School. In this photo, Paul is preparing to lead the fourth-grade classes at TFS in a lesson on the history of the United States flag, guiding students through its evolution from the founding of our nation to the present day.

St. Francis Online Social Network



Are you an artist, cook, poet, or musician?

Share your passion with our parish community. Join fellow parishioners by submitting your recipes, art, poetry, or music to be featured on the St. Francis social network. There is no cost to participate. It's an opportunity to engage with others in our community and share your gifts. [Click here to get started.](#)

Questions, contact diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Join fellow parishioners on the SFA Online Social Network.

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Advertise in the Parish Bulletin



Fresh, healthy Lebanese Mediterranean food.
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984-344-1444

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&
WEAR SIERRA
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[Click here for ad rates and to advertise in the parish bulletin.](#)

Questions, contact Diogenes Ruiz, diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org.
Take advantage of this opportunity to showcase your business in front of our many parishioners and thank you for helping to support our parish through the bulletin ad program.