

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

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



Jim



Fr. Jim



Ann



Jennifer



Gladys



Fr. John



Angela



Pat and Paul



Fr. Tim

Session 1

1. **The Keynote Address: A Reprise** with Fr. Kenneth Paulli, OFM.
2. **Franciscan Missionary Discipleship** with Fr. Tim Kulbicki, OFM Conv.
3. **Becoming God: How the Liturgy Transforms Us and the World** with Jim Wahl
4. **Aging and Living the Franciscan Charisms** with Gladys Whitehouse, OFS.
5. **Integral Ecology: How Do We Care for Our Common Home?** with Pat and Paul Kelly.

Session 2

1. **The Franciscan Way of the Cross: How does the San Damiano Cross Speak of Passion and Resurrection** with Fr. Jim Sabak, OFM.
2. **Coaching for Conversion: A Franciscan Approach to Guiding Others Toward God** with Jenn Fiduccia.
3. **St. Francis of Assisi: Rooted in Prayer** with Ann O'Hara.
4. **Shaping the Environment (Literally) for Effective Ministry and Credible Witness in your Parish** with Fr. John Grace.
5. **Gathered, Transformed, Sent: Justice in the Liturgy** with Angela Flynn



Fr. Kenneth Paulli, OFM, will be the keynote speaker and will present on "Journey Toward the Heart of God: God is Good, All the Time... All the Time, God is Good." In this uplifting keynote, he reflects on how for over eight centuries, the Franciscan community has been noted for its joy in and praise of the Lord. Perhaps St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures best exemplifies this as this poem reveals to us God's goodness in all of creation, and that God is good in every moment of life including the moment of earthly death.



Scan to Register

REGISTRATION OPEN ON REALM | \$15 FEE

[Click here to register for the Convocation](#)

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

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The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi - 11401 Leesville Rd - NC 27613 - Tel: 919-847-8205



Join us at the Inn
St. Francis Inn Philadelphia
October 20-24



Join a team of SFA volunteers for a week of service preparing and serving meals for the hungry and homeless.

Contact Diana Melo
melo.diana@gmail.com



Click to watch



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



Sunday
October 5, 2025
12:45 - 4:30 pm
 Main Entrance closed
 at 12:15pm

Assisi Community Center Gym
 12:45 Dodgeball
 1:30 Basketball
 2:30 Dodgeball
 3:30 Basketball

Carnival Alley*
 Scratch Art
 Decorate a Mask
 Beaded Bracelets
 Sand Art
 Suncatchers
 Clothes Pin Art
 Pipe Cleaner Creations
 Face Painting
 Tattoos
 Selfie Station
 Shake Box Game
 Cup Stacking Game
 Rubber Chicken Toss

Assisi Community Center
 Dining Area
 Assisi Cafe Concessions
 Youth and Adult Wristband Sales
 Adult Franciscan Tasting Area
 (Regional Wines & Local Breweries)
 Water Bottle Refill Station

Volunteer Check in
 Information Desk

Trash
 Compost (Food Scraps)
 & Recycle

Labyrinth Stage
 12:45-1:45pm TIGERLILY Acoustic
 1:45-2:30pm Happy Dan the Magic Man
 2:30-3:15pm TIGERLILY Acoustic
 3:15- 3:30pm La Vang Dragon Dance
 3:30-4:15pm Happy Dan the Magic Man

Food Truck Rodeo
 Frost Bites
 Barone Italian Grille
 Arepa Culture
 The Flat Drum
 Knights of Columbus Barbecue & Hot Dogs

Lucky Cart Ice Cream Truck

Clare Fellowship Hall*
 Inflatable Kids Zone
 Water Bottle Refill Station

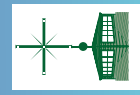
Clare Hall
 Youth Wristband Sales

Trash
 Compost (Food Scraps)
 & Recycle

Labyrinth Carnival Area*
 Face Painting

Clare Lawn
 Main Driveway
 Picnic Area

*** Wristbands required**



The Catholic Community of
 St. Francis of Assisi
 11401 Leesville Rd
 Raleigh, NC 27613

Traffic Entrance/Exit

Exit

Traffic Entrance/Exit

Two way traffic

Francisfest

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 1 - The Franciscan School 26/27 Application OPENED

The application for the 2026-27 school year opens on October 1. We invite all parishioners to apply. If you are a current TFS family and have a rising kindergarten student, you must apply through the Family Portal. Parish families please visit our website (franciscanschool.org) to begin an application. Contact DawnMarie Smith, dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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](#).

October 4/5 - Curbside Care Ministry Care Packages

Our Curbside Care Ministry provides care packages you can keep in your car to hand out when needed. Pickup from the Welcome Center the first full weekend each month. Donate supplies or volunteer with this ministry at St. Francis Serves. Contact Alyson Zwerneman, alysonzwerneman@gmail.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, Stfccreation@gmail.com. [Sign up here](#).

Through October 7 - St. Francis Youth Basketball League

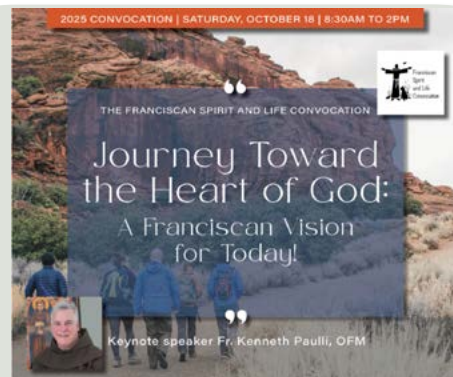
Registration Join us for the 35th season of the St Francis Youth Basketball League. This program is open to girls and boys grades 1 thru 8. Registration is NOW! Regular Registration ends Sept,17 and late registration runs thru Oct 7. Contact Mary Arleth, mary.arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org. [Register Here](#).

October 8 - 50+ Adult Group Game Day

11:30am. Join us in Fellowship Hall for our Monthly Game Day. We will be playing Left, Center, Right. Table stakes are \$0.75 a game and exact change is appreciated. Contact ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 10 - 23rd World Day Against the Death Penalty -

CANC Event 4:00-5:30pm. Join with Catholics for Abolition in NC for prayer and peaceful protest on Oct. 10th, World Day Against the Death Penalty. Start at HNoJ's Chapel for the rosary and then march to Central Prison. Or meet directly at Central Prison. Either way, stand against capital punishment! Questions to: catholicsforabolitionnc@gmail.com. [More Information](#). Contact Nancy J Jones, catholicsforabolitionnc@gmail.com.



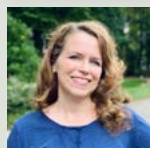
Gathering to Renew Our Franciscan Spirit and Life

On Saturday, October 18th, from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, the 5th annual Franciscan Spirit and Life Convocation will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Why is this gathering something you should consider attending? As Father Steve Kluge said when the friars 'officially' left the parish in 2020, "You are what makes this community 'Franciscan', not us. You are the Franciscans at St. Francis of Assisi." If you are someone who seeks more insight into what it means to be a Franciscan in the world, the title of the convocation, 'Journey Toward the Heart of God: A Franciscan Vision for Today,' should pique your interest. [More](#)



Ministry Spotlight: Feed the Need

Feed the Need is one of our ministries that seems self-explanatory by its name. As an outreach ministry providing home-cooked meals to those going through a life transition or a difficult time, the food they offer serves as a welcome respite from the daily chore of preparing a healthy dinner during stressful or busy periods. As Feed the Need coordinator Celesta Carlson says, "Whether they are recovering from surgery, grieving a loss, welcoming a new baby, or facing other challenges, our volunteers offer the comfort of a nourishing meal. Meals can be [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 10 - Mass of Creation & Jazz and Gelato!

6:30-8:30pm. Join us for a special Mass of Creation as we gather to celebrate God's gift of creation in prayer, song, and Franciscan spirit. After Mass, all are invited to Fellowship Hall for a joyful evening of Jazz and Gelato, a chance to relax, connect, and celebrate community together. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 11 - Young Adult Bonfire with Fiat Franciscus

6:30-8:00pm. Join us at the Labyrinth for an evening around the fire with good company, sweet and savory s'mores, and meaningful conversation. Father Joseph will lead a discussion on prayer as we gather in fellowship. Open to young adults in their 20s-30s, children & families are welcome too! Contact Michelle Kaiser, mmk4894@yahoo.com.

October 11 - Corral Riding Academy Saturday on the Farm

9:30am-12:00pm. CORRAL Riding Academy is a faith-motivated non-profit that serves adolescent girls in high-risk situations through a long-term, holistic program of equine therapy and education. Join us as we do hands-on projects to support the NEUSE RIVER (Raleigh) campus and learn more about CORRAL's mission and programs! Families welcome! [Register here](#). Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com.

October 11 - Misa de la Herencia Hispana con Obispo Luis Rafael Zarama. 11:00am. Cathedral Holy Name of Jesus, 715 Nazareth St., Raleigh, NC 27606. 984-900-3182

October 12 - Always God's Children 3:30-5:00pm. A confidential and welcoming setting for all members of the LGBTQ+ community, plus their family and friends. This meeting provides a safe place to pray and share our experiences together in relation to our Catholic faith. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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, jsnyder@nc.rr.com.

October 18 - Volunteer Opportunity: Serve Lunch at the Franciscan Convocation 12:10-2:20pm. We are looking for volunteers to assist with serving lunch at the Franciscan Convocation. This is a wonderful opportunity for both teens and adults to earn service hours while supporting our parish community. Your help will ensure a warm and welcoming experience for all who attend. [Click here to sign up](#). Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 18 - St Francis Convocation 2025 (See page 1)
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.

October 24 - Gates of Justice - North Carolina Master Chorale

7:30pm in the church. Join us for an inspiring evening of music that speaks to the soul and to society. The program features Dave Brubeck's The Gates of Justice, a bold fusion of jazz, classical, and spiritual traditions calling for racial and social unity, paired with Margaret Bonds' Credo, a powerful choral affirmation of human dignity and belief in justice. A stirring celebration of hope, resilience, and shared humanity — not to be missed. [Get your tickets here](#).

October 25 - Women's Ministry Communion Service in God's

Creation 9:30-10:30am. Join us for the Women's Ministry's Communion Service in God's Creation at St. Luke's Outdoor Chapel. Led by Gladys Whitehouse, the service will be followed by some time to walk the paths of the outdoor Stations of the Cross and Rosary, enjoying fellowship and God's creation together. [Register here](#). Contact Lori Zagiba, lorizagiba@gmail.com.

November 8 - Greater Triangle CROP Hunger Walk

10:00am-12:30pm. Join fellow SFA community members and their families to walk in solidarity with those who are hungry and raise awareness of issues of hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster both locally and around the globe. Opportunities exist to walk, donate, or both! Invite a friend. [Register online](#). Casey Slock, casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.





Employer Matching Gift Program



We encourage you to explore whether your employer offers a corporate matching gift program. Many companies will match charitable contributions made by their employees, effectively doubling—or even tripling—your generosity at no extra cost to you. These programs are a wonderful way to increase your impact on our parish community. If your employer does offer a matching gift program, or if you'd like help determining if one is available, please contact Toni Hammes, toni.hammes@stfrancisraleigh.org at the parish office. She will be happy to assist you in navigating the process.

Mass of Remembrance Monday, November 3rd, at 7pm in the Church

During this liturgy, we will honor and pray for all parishioners who have died in the past year with a special reading of names.

Parishioners are also invited to bring framed photos (max 5x7") of deceased loved ones to the Welcome Center or church office between October 15-29. These will be displayed near the altar during the liturgy and in the gathering space throughout November.

Please write your name and contact info on the back of each photo for easy return after the month ends.

For more information, please contact
shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org

FRANCISCAN MONTH							OCTOBER 2025 CALENDAR <i>In the Footsteps of Francis and Clare</i>						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
Week 1 In the Footsteps of Francis and Clare "The Lord revealed a greeting to me that we should say: 'May the Lord give you peace?' " -Chia I-ha (1840-1906) The Testament of St. Francis				1 Read about St. Francis' early life. "Lord, what do you want me to do?"	2 Create a prayer space with images of Francis & Clare.	3 Watch Brother Sun, Sister Moon.	4 Feast of St. Francis - Blessing of Animals.						
Week 2 Care for Creation "The earth is the LORD's and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it." -Psalm 24:1	5 Nature Walk: thank God aloud for each created thing.	6 Recycle & reduce waste today.	7 Reflect on Cantic of Creatures by Francis.	8 Draw or photograph nature scenes & share them.	9 Pray outdoors under the stars tonight.	10 Choose vegetarian meals today.	11 Clean up a local park or parish grounds.						
Week 3 Service and Simplicity "Bearing in mind the example of the Lord and most high Master, she did not seek to be served, but was prepared to serve." -Cicco di Pietro The Testament of St. Clare	12 Donate gently used clothing to a shelter.	13 Simplify a part of your home today.	14 Write a thank-you note to someone who serves quietly.	15 Fast from social media to pray.	16 Volunteer at a food pantry or cook for a neighbor.	17 Pray: "Lord, make me poor in spirit."	18 Bake bread or soup to share with someone in need.						
Week 4 Solidarity and Reconciliation "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." -Matthew 5:9	19 Pray for peace worldwide.	20 Reach out to someone you've disagreed with.	21 Read about Francis meeting the Sultan: discuss interfaith respect.	22 Light a candle for someone you need to forgive.	23 Buy a fair-trade product today.	24 Journal who you need to reconcile with; pray for courage.	25 Join a prayer vigil or peace walk.						
Week 5 Conversion of Heart "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you." -Ezekiel 36:26	26 Reflect: Where do you need conversion? Pray for grace.	27 Attend Eucharistic Adoration or silent prayer.	28 Confess a fault to God today.	29 Read Luke 15 (Lost Sheep, Coin, Sons).	30 Practice humility by letting someone go first today.	31 Create a Franciscan commitment card for November.							

[Click to enlarge](#)

NOVEMBER

A month of remembrance.

All Saints Day
Memorial Garden Mass

Saturday, November 1st
10am Mass in Memorial Garden

Mass of Remembrance

Monday, November 3rd
7pm Mass in Church

Incense will be used at this Mass



GET CONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to **Events** and **Volunteer Opportunities**

Memorial Garden Mass

Saturday, November 1st | 10:00am

We will celebrate the lives of those inurned in our Memorial Garden or buried in the St. Francis portion of the cemetery at Raleigh Memorial Park. All are welcome to attend.



FIAT FRANCISCUS

Take our Survey



Calling all men & women in their 20s-30s! Let us know how we can better serve you!

YOUNG ADULT

BONFIRE NIGHT

WITH FIAT FRANCISCUS

SATURDAY | OCT 11TH | 6:30-8PM

Location: Labyrinth at St. Francis Church

Join us for fellowship, sweet & savory s'more, & a discussion on prayer with Fr. Joseph & other young adults!

Care for Creation

stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/

"We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it."

Laudato Si', 229

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Communion service

IN GOD'S CREATION

Saturday, Oct 25, 2025
9:30-10:30am
at St. Luke's Outdoor Chapel
Led by Gladys Whitehouse

 **Serving With Heart, Offering Hope**

A Warm Home, a Grateful Heart

Click [here](https://stfrancissvdp.org/blog/) to read more or visit <https://stfrancissvdp.org/blog/>

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If you need help, please call our helpline at (919) 534-4842



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

Come and See!



Join the OCIA & become a sponsor today!

Information session:
Sunday, November 16th @ 10:30 am in Founders Room

St. Francis Online Social Network



Click to Join

Join fellow parishioners on the SFA Online Social Network. A safe place to interact with members of our parish, a place to build each other up, a place to share our faith.

CRISTO REY RESEARCH TRIANGLE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

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Diogenes Ruiz, Parishioner

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Phil Thalheimer, Parishioner

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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.