

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.

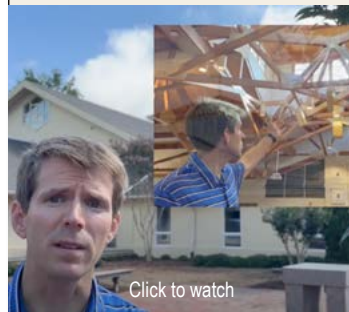
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The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi - 11401 Leesville Rd - NC 27613 - Tel: 919-847-8205



Click to watch

What is Faith Direct?



Click to watch

Gates of Justice



Click to watch

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.

[Click here for tickets.](#)



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

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.

TFS 2026/27 Application is now OPEN

The application for the 2026-27 school year opened on October 1. We invite all parishioners to apply. If you are new to TFS, please visit our website (franciscanschool.org) and click [Apply Today](#) to begin an application. Current TFS families who have a rising kindergarten student should apply through the [Family Portal](#). Contact Dawn Marie Smith, dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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, snyderjules5720@gmail.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 19 & 20 - Parish Survey Info Sessions See our parish survey results! Join info sessions **Oct. 19 (In person) & Oct 20 (Virtual)**. The Pastoral Council recently conducted a parish-wide survey to better understand the needs, experiences, and demographics of our community. This is the first general survey in a decade! A summary of the results is attached below. Join us to learn more and ask questions: In person on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 10:15am in Fellowship Hall or Virtually on Monday, Oct. 20 at 7:00pm. [\(For Virtual on Monday register in Realm\)](#). [Review the Executive Summary Here](#)

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 22 - 50+ Adult Group Potluck 11:30m. Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall: If last name starts with, then bring:
A thru D = Salad/Side Dish,
E thru L = Dessert/Bread,
M thru Z = Main Dish. Coffee, soda and water will be provided. Contact Pat Spencer, spencer1334@bellsouth.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.

October 26 - Volunteers Needed – Help with Coffee & Donuts!
8:30-11:00am. We need volunteers (teens and adults) to help with the preparation for coffee and donuts. This is a fun and meaningful way to earn service hours and support your parish community! Sign up on St. Francis Serves. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org. [Register on St. Francis Serves](#).

November 2 - First Meeting for Walking with Moms in Need Ministry 10:15-11:30am. First meeting of new Ministry: Walking with Moms in Need to educate parishioners and to attract volunteers. No registration required. Contact Costello, sfarespectlife@gmail.com.

November 7-9 Fair Trade and Alternative Gifts Market!
Shop returning and new vendors for the holidays! Market Hours:
Friday, November 7 – 8am-4pm
Saturday, November 8 – 4pm-5:30pm & 6:15pm-7:30pm
Sunday, November 9 – 8am-9am, 9:45am-11:45am,
12:30pm-2pm & 6:15pm-8pm
We are looking for donations for meals for the vendors.
[Please sign up in St Francis Serves!](#) Thank you!
contact: dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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 12 - Women's Ministry Holiday Service for Healing Transitions

7:00-8:30pm. Join us Wednesday, November 12, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Padua Room in the Community Center. We'll assemble hygiene gift bags for women at Healing Transitions. Donations of \$25-\$35 cover supply costs. Your support benefits our community. [Click to register](#). Contact Katie Coppins, sfawomensministry@gmail.com.

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.

Spiritual Direction is an ancient Christian tradition in which two people enter a sacred space to dream, explore, and discern a path toward a deeper relationship with God. People turn to spiritual direction in times of deep faith, doubt, or life transition to discern God's movement in the experience. [Click here for more information](#). Contact Nancy Jones, prayerfulheart3@gmail.com.



Fr. Chris helping the Hurricanes  beat the Devils  on Thursday.

Did You Know?

We offer low-gluten Communion hosts for those with a gluten sensitivity - just 0.01% gluten! If you or a family member needs one, let a Eucharistic Minister know before Mass where you're sitting and how many you'll need. Zero-gluten/Celiac? The safest option is receiving only the Precious Blood from the chalice - still the full presence of Christ!



Bishop Luis Zarama

The Family:
Important at Home and
as Part of the Church

The Family: Important at Home and as Part of the Church

The family is considered to be the foundation of the Church. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website has said since 2021, "The Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminded us that, 'The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church.' As the bishops of the United States, we renew our commitment to serve all married couples and families in our midst with a renewed pastoral attentiveness. It is our hope that the principles presented here will encourage effective efforts toward a renewal of evangelization in our country. The Church's ministry to and with families is of paramount importance, for 'as the family goes, so goes the nation, and... [More](#)



Ministry Spotlight: St. Francis Inn

Franciscan Friars in Philadelphia saw that many people struggled with homelessness, drug addiction, abuse, and other concerns, but the one thing most of them had in common was a lack of food. This need is what inspired three of these friars to found the St. Francis Inn as a way to address the food security issue for people experiencing poverty in Philadelphia. Their soup kitchen has managed to serve a meal to the people of the Kensington community in North Philadelphia every day for the past 45 years, serving hundreds of people every day and providing [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.

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. .

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?'" ~ 1Thm 5:16, 18:22-23 <i>The Testament of St. Francis</i>			1 Read about St. Francis' early life. "Lord, what do you want me to do?" <i>St. Francis</i>	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.
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!" Cantic 12:27 <i>The Form of Life of St. Clare</i>	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."
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.
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

[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



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.

FIAT FRANCISCUS

Take our Survey



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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

God has entrusted your spouse to your care – are you trustworthy in that care? Learn how to respond to your spouse on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences on Oct 24-26, 2025 in EMERALD ISLE, NC and Feb 13-15, 2026 in WAYNESBORO, VA. 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.

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://stfrancisvdp.org/blog/) to read more or visit <https://stfrancisvdp.org/blog/>

[Serve](#) [Learn](#) [Donate](#)

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

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Let's Start The Journey

TALK TO US TODAY!
prayerfulheart3@gmail.com

Every spiritual journey is sacred and unique. At times, we may seek a companion to help us listen more deeply to God's presence in our lives.

Come and See!

FISHER OF MEN AND WOMEN NEEDED



Join the OCIA & become a sponsor today!
Information session:
Sunday, November 16th @ 10:30 am in Founders Room

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

FOR GAZA

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

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.



Featuring Lord of the Harvest Healing Ministry:
If you are enrolled in the current series on spiritual warfare, please join us on the SFA social network.

FAIR TRADE & ALTERNATIVE GIFTS MARKET

NOVEMBER 7-9



Volunteer to donate food for vendors on St. Francis Serves

Security Alert

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

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

Sasmool

Fresh, healthy Lebanese Mediterranean food.
919-847-2700

RUCKUS

SCRATCH KITCHEN

13200 Strickland Rd
984-344-1444

UMSTEAD REALTY

919-412-8224



Diogenes Ruiz, Parishioner

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Change Your Socks, Change Your World

&
WEAR SIERRA

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Phil Thalheimer, Parishioner

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.