

#iGIVECATHOLIC

We're excited to share that we will be participating in **#iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025** — a national day dedicated to celebrating and supporting the beauty of our Catholic faith.

This year, our Giving Tuesday mission is to **Live Our Faith in Every Walk of Life**. All funds raised will directly support our parish **Faith Formation programs**, helping us nurture our youth in their journey with Christ. These initiatives such as retreats, service opportunities, and faith-based programs, help young people strengthen their relationship with God, build lasting friendships, and develop a lifelong foundation of faith rooted in the Franciscan tradition.

Click here to make a gift that nourishes faith, strengthens community, and supports the ministries that help us live out the Gospel every day. Thank you for your generosity and for being an essential part of our parish family.



Congratulations to Akuro and Mary Adoki who celebrated 41 years of marriage on Monday, November 24. They received a special blessing at morning Mass.

ParishSOFT
by Ministry Brands®



Please review your ParishSOFT account to ensure your information transferred correctly. If you received a rejection notice, please log in to update your details or call Donor Support at 866-930-4774 (option 6), Monday–Friday, 9am–5:30pm. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your continued generosity. Contact Toni.Hammes@stfrancisraleigh.org.

GET CONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities



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

November 30 - December 21 - Sign up to Light the Advent Wreath

If your family would like to light the advent wreath prior to Mass, [please click here sign up](#). Please only sign up for One mass. Contact Shannon Hoffman shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 1 – Peace in the Holy Land: An Educational Event

7:00pm-8:30pm. How does our faith call us to respond to the ongoing violence, hunger and suffering in the Holy Land? Join us to learn more about its historical origins, the current situation, and how we can pursue peace and advocate for justice together. [Click here for more information](#). Contact: Jim Rice jrice0313@gmail.com.

December 2 - 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 Oct. 21- Dec 16. Contact: Tina Morgan tandmorgan@earthlink.net.

December 2 - #iGiveCatholic (see page 1)

We're excited to share that we will be participating in **#iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025**

December 3/17 - Young Adult Advent Small Group

6:30-7:30pm. Join other young adults in their 20s–30s for an inspiring reflection of the light and beauty of the season of Advent. We will meet in two sessions on December 3 and 17, and no resource guide is required. [Click here for additional details](#). Contact Michelle Kaiser mmk4894@yahoo.com.

December 4, Women’s Ministry Christmas Carol Bingo and Cookie Exchange

Celebrate the spirit of the season at the Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange and Social on 12/4, 7:00-9:00pm! Exchanging cookies is optional. Bring the number of cookies that you'd like to go home with (split into bags of 6). We will play Christmas Music BINGO, too! [Register via Realm](#). Contact Jackie Schroeder, schroederjackie@gmail.com.

December 11 - JobWorks Career Ministry: Career Crossroads: Exploring Your Options with Confidence

8:30 -10:30am. Many professionals reach a point where it's wise to pause and consider whether a career pivot might be worth exploring. Our speakers will share their experiences and insights to help you build the mindset, confidence, and clarity needed to evaluate your strengths and consider new career directions. [RSVP](#). This will be at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. Contact Paul Dean, vpauldean@gmail.com.

December 12 - Living Christmas Pageant

6:30pm. We are seeking volunteers to help with our Creche, Carols, and Cookies - Living Stations of the Creche, a special parish-wide event on Friday, December 12, at 6:30 PM. This meaningful evening will feature drama, readings, music, and refreshments. The event will take place in the Church. Important details listed in sign up. [Sign Up Here](#)

Through Dec 14: Advent Giving Trees See page 4

December 19 - Lessons and Carols

6:30-8:30pm Join us for a moving evening of traditional Lessons and Carols, where the story of our salvation is brought to life through Scripture and song. Led by the St. Francis Adult Choir, this inspiring celebration invites all to enter the joy and hope of the Christmas season. Contact shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 7 - Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Interested in exploring the Catholic faith? Do you desire to experience full initiation into the life of the Church? A new cohort group for OCIA will begin January 7, 2026. [Complete the interest form to find out more!](#) Contact Charlee Halphen, charleehalphen@gmail.com.

January 9-11 - Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat. The retreat is strictly **confidential**, for both women and men and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion.

For more information or to register, contact Project Rachel at: project.rachel@raldioc.org or call (919) 852-1021. Visit rachelnc.org. Cost is \$350 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Discount of \$50 if you register before December, 9. Spanish and English speakers are welcome. If there is a financial burden, assistance is always available.

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.



A special thank you to St. Francis parishioners

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 Staff](#) / [Advertise in the Bulletin](#) / [Franciscan School](#) / [Preschool](#) / [All Ministries](#) / [Financial Summary](#)

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

Click the link in our bio for more information

YOUNG ADULT
ADVENT
SMALL GROUP

DECEMBER 3RD + DECEMBER 17TH

6:30-7:30 PM

Cupertino Room in Community Center

Important Mass Dates

December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

9:00am with TFS | 11:45am | 7:00pm
Mass will be live streamed | Church

December 11

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe | 9:00pm | Chapel | Join us for a special evening in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, December 11, at 9:00 PM in the Chapel. The Mass will be celebrated in Spanish (Misa en Español), followed by a warm gathering with coffee and Pan Dulce in Padua. All are welcome to partake in this beautiful tradition of faith and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

December 24

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4pm Mass in Church, Children Focused (also Live-Streamed)
4pm Mass in Gym, Children Focused
4pm Mass in Fellowship Hall, Children Focused
10pm Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)

December 25

Christmas Day Mass Schedule | 9:00am Live Streamed | 11:45am | Church

No Daily Masses for December 26, 29, 30

January 1

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Thursday, January 1 at 10am | Church



Advent: "To Come To" the Christmas Celebration

Advent, as it states on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website, is a start in many ways. "The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36)." [More](#)



Ministry Spotlight: One Wake

What can the compassion of 46 communities, 50,000 households, and you do when we all work together for the Common Good? As described on their website, ONE Wake is a nonpartisan, multiracial, multi-issue group of religious congregations, associations, and other nonprofits in Wake County. They have over 50,000 local households as members, and they "bring people together to identify shared concerns, build relationships, and take collective action to improve communities through systemic change," as Nancy Dilger, a St. Francis parish liaison with ONE Wake, said. [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.

Sign up to light
The Advent Wreath



IF YOUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH PRIOR TO MASS PLEASE USE THE LINK TO SIGN UP. PLEASE ONLY SIGN UP FOR ONE MASS.

[Click to sign up](#)



Advent Giving Trees

Nov 15-Dec 14:

Share the spirit of the Christmas season by supporting the St. Francis of Assisi Advent Giving Tree. Our primary recipients are organizations in the community that work directly with people in need. There are 2 ways you can support the Advent Giving Tree.

1. Take a paper ornament from the trees located in the Community Center and the Welcome Center and follow the instructions on the ornament for when to return the gift. Return gift by the date on the tag (or if no date then please return by December 14th) to: Community Center Lobby: Monday-Friday from 8am-2:30pm Dec. 1st thru December 14 OR In the Welcome Center: Before or after Mass on the weekends and during the week from November 22-December 14.

Community organizations whose families are included on our tree this year include Catholic Parish Outreach, Hispanic Family Center, Duke Children's Hospital, Emily K Center, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Passage Home, St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. Parish ministries that benefit include Prayer Shawl, Feed the Need, St. Francis Brown Bag Ministry, and Oak City Cares.

2. Make a Financial donation thru Parish Soft. (make sure to select the Advent Giving Tree drop down) The following organizations will be beneficiaries of our financial donations this year: Helen Wright Center, Ronald McDonald House in Durham, Helene Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

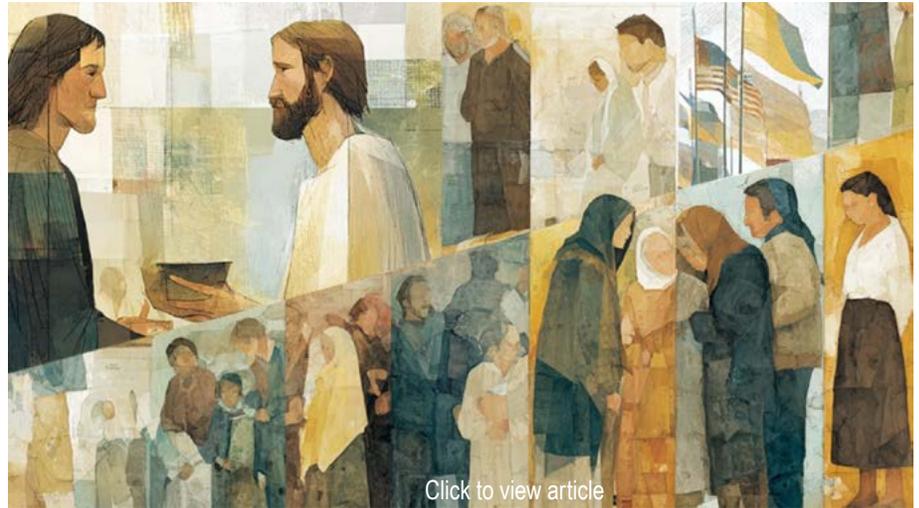
Contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Funeral Notifications

Would you like to be notified by email of upcoming funerals at St. Francis, as they are scheduled? If so, please contact Joan Port at joankport@gmail.com and include "Funeral Notices" in the subject line.

Contact Joan Port, joankport@gmail.com.

Faith over fear: Bishop Zarama speaks on immigration



[Click to view article](#)

Contact Mary Ellen McGuire, maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org

Become an Immigration Ally

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering. You are not alone.

Contact Casey Slock casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Join the "Immigration Issue Team - Allies" group in Realm.



PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND: AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT

December 1

See page 2



Savor Food Truck



[Click to watch the video and learn about the Savor food truck](#)

We're in a Zoom call with the Pope

Highlights of the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis



8 youth and 4 adults from St. Francis were blessed to participate in a video conference with Pope Leo at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis last weekend. We gathered with over 15,000 other Catholics, most of them youth, to learn, pray, laugh, dance, sing, and encounter God together. The Pope talked about a range of topics, from having hope to how the youth are both the future and the present of the Church. One of the most remarkable moments was when he went a little off script and talked about what he does when he's praying and gets distracted. It was a rare glimpse into the authentic humanity and faith of our leader. **Thank you to the parishioners of St. Francis for supporting our trip; it was truly a life changing experience.**









Join fellow parishioners on the St. Francis social network (like Facebook only better, no ads, no spam) - a safe toxic free online platform. Meet/Connect with fellow parishioners - set up a personal page, upload pictures, post blogs, share interests, There is no cost to join. Must be 18+

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT

December 12- 14, 2025
Rockfish Retreat Center

Come discover God's JOY this Advent season, deepen your faith, and build lasting community.

Register Here



follow @sfaretreat.team 

for more info contact morganjess@gmail.com 



Serving With Heart, Offering Hope

Two neighbors lifted by SVdP support

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

Serve

Learn

Donate

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

Care for Creation

Use left-overs; can it, freeze it, pickle it, store it.

zerowaste.org/food-waste/

DECEMBER 2025

*Advent Penance Services and
important Mass Times.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	01	02 7pm-8:30pm St. Eugene Wendell, NC	03 7pm-8:30pm St. Andrew's and St. Mary Magdalene, Apex	04 7pm-9pm St. Michael and Mother Teresa, Cary NC	05 7pm-9pm Our Lady of La Vang, Raleigh, NC	06 4pm Confessions in the Church
07	08 Feast of the Immaculate Conception 9am with TFS 11:45am 7:00pm - Live Streamed	09 11am - 12pm Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh NC 7:00-8:30pm St. Bernadette, Fuquay Varina, NC	10 7:00-8:30pm St. Catherine of Sienna Wake Forest, NC	11 10am-12pm St. Catherine of Sienna Wake Forest, NC 9pm Our Lady of Guadeloupe Mass	12	13 4pm Confessions in the Church
14	15	16 10:30am-12pm St. Bernadette, Fuquay Varina, NC 7:00-8:30pm Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh NC	17 7:00-8:30pm St. Raphael's, Raleigh NC	18 10:00-11:30am St. Michael's Cary, NC 6:30pm - 8:00pm St. Luke's, Raleigh, NC	19	20 4pm Confessions in the Church
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Mass Times 4pm Live Streamed 10:00pm	25 Christmas Day Mass Times 9am 11:45am	26 No Mass	27 4pm Confessions in the Church
28	29 No Mass	30 No Mass	31 9am Daily Mass in the Church	1 Happy New Year!! 10am Solemnity of Mary Mass in the Church		

Click to enlarge and print

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin



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Diogenes Ruiz, 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.