

Celebrating Fr. Jim Sabak

Join us as we gather to thank Fr. Jim Sabak for his years of faithful service and to wish him well on his next chapter. We will deeply miss his presence, leadership, and pastoral care.

Fr. Jim will also display a selection of his beautiful crèches from around the world, an expression of his spirituality and a gift to our community.

Reception Times:

- **Saturday:** After the 5:30pm Mass
- **Sunday:** After the 7:15am Mass
- **Sunday:** Between the 9:00am & 11:45am Masses (No reception after the 11:45am Mass.)
- **Sunday:** After the 5:30pm Mass

Beginning **December 2**, a message book will be available on the large oak table for parishioners to share their thanks, prayers, and personal notes to Fr. Jim. All are welcome as we honor and celebrate Fr. Jim with gratitude and heartfelt blessings.

[If you would like to volunteer to bring food please sign up here.](#)

[To help with hospitality and supervision of creche display please sign up here.](#)

Saturday, December 13 & Sunday, December 14, Clare Fellowship Hall




Click to watch video

December 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass



Click to watch video

Fr. Chris shares the reveal of a gift received from a St. Francis parishioner.

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](#)
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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



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 6/7 - 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.

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 Volunteers Needed

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](#)

December 13-21- Bishop Thank you Let's thank Bishop Luis and the U.S. Bishops for their strong support of humane immigration reform. Sign a banner in the Welcome Center Dec. 13-21. Read Bishop Luis' letter here and the U.S. Bishops' statement here.

[Faith over Fear Bishop Luis Speaks Immigration US Bishops Issue Special Message.](#)

Celebrating Fr. Jim Sabak (see page 1)
Saturday, December 13 & Sunday, December 14 Clare Fellowship Hall

Through Dec 14: Advent Giving Trees See page 4

December 14 - Always God's Children

3:00-4:30pm. A confidential setting for those who identify as LGBTQ+, along with family and friends. This gathering provides a safe place to pray together, share our experiences, and support one another on our journey of faith and life. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 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 on December 17, and no resource guide is required. [Click here for additional details](#). Contact Michelle Kaiser mmk4894@yahoo.com.

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.

December 27/28 and January 3/4 - K of C Used Cell Phone Drive to Benefit Victims of Domestic/Sexual Violence

Knights of Columbus volunteers will collect old/unused cell phones & tablets for donation to InterAct. Items will be collected in the Welcome Center before/after masses on the weekends of Dec. 27/28th and Jan. 3/4th (please ensure factory reset or passcode removed). Donated items will benefit victims of domestic & sexual violence. [Interact of Wake County](#) provides support services to victims of domestic & sexual violence. Contact Joe Azzopardi, ncjazz@gmail.com.

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, charleelhalphen@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 rachelinc.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.

January 10 - Women's Ministry Yoga and Breakfast: Winter

2026 9:00-11:00am. Ladies, join us for yoga & breakfast on Saturday, January 10th from 9-11am in Fellowship Hall. No experience necessary! We will be guided in a 45 minute beginner yoga class, followed by food & fellowship. [Register in Realm](#). Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, sfawomensministry@gmail.com.

January 12 - Pen Pal Ministry Meeting

7:00-8:30pm. Interested in writing or securely texting a guy on NC's Death Row? The SFA Pen Pal Ministry has a long legacy of serving the men on NC's Death Row, and we need pen pals. Email sfapenpal@gmail.com if interested in learning more at a virtual meeting on Jan 12 at 7p. Contact Catherine Maher, sfapenpal@gmail.com.

The St Francis Inn Philadelphia Ministry trips for 2026

February 16 - 20 - waitlist only
April 13 - 17 - Open
Oct 19 - 23 - Open

Join a delegation to serve the Kensington community of Philadelphia, providing aid in the form of food, clothing, and so much more to anyone in need. Contact Diana Melo, Melo.diana@gmail.com.

Marriage Troubles? If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you might have grown cold and distant; or even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it, Retrouvaille can help...as it has already helped tens of thousands of others. Our next program begins January 16-18, 2026. For information, visit www.helpourmarriage.org, or call Bill & Lyn Folsom (727) 343-6701. Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in absolute confidence.

GET CONNECTED

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

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



The Friar of St. Francis

It's hard to have been at St. Francis Parish, or the schools here, for any length of time, and not know Father Jim Sabak. A "larger-than-life presence" doesn't describe Father Jim adequately, but there may actually be no proper way to describe his presence here accurately. Since 2017, he has been a force at the parish and the Diocese of Raleigh, helping many traditional Catholics reconnect with the Church through his fresh perspective and inspiring everyone with his joyful presence. [More](#)



Volunteer Spotlight: Vicki Carrillo

Vicki Carrillo came by her volunteer spirit naturally. "As a child," she remembers, "I grew up in a very religious family, and we were always participating in the community church. My mother continued that tradition of supporting the church with volunteer service in Mexico. Later, she moved to Oklahoma City and continued her volunteer work." That inspiration and experience were all Vicki needed. "I started doing the same with my children about 18 years ago because [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.

THANK YOU FROM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY!



\$4400 and 5000 pounds of food!



Pope Prayer for Christians in areas of Conflict - Video

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

[View Pope's prayer video](#) here. Contact person Mary Ellen McGuire, maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.



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 thru December 14 OR In the Welcome Center: Before or after Mass on the weekends and during the week thru 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.

Women's Ministry

Yoga & breakfast

Saturday, January 10
9 - 11 am

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CRECHE

CALLING ALL ACTORS

We are seeking volunteers to help with our Living Stations of the Creche, as part of the Creches, Carols and Cookies event on Friday, December 12, at 6:30 PM.

LESSONS & CAROLS

A magical evening of Lessons and Carols where the story of our salvation is brought to life through scripture and song.

December 19th at 6:30 PM

Led by the St. Francis Adult Choir, this inspiring celebration invites all to enter the joy and hope of the Christmas season.

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.

follow [@sfa.retreat.team](https://www.instagram.com/sfa.retreat.team)

for more info contact morganjess@gmail.com

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 Live Streamed	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		

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Click to
Join



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+

Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

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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.