



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**




## Thank you, Fr. Jim

You brought fun, cheer, and holy mischief to our days, reminding us that joy, too, is a gift from God. With passion and steady dedication, you served the people of God as friend, shepherd, and brother.

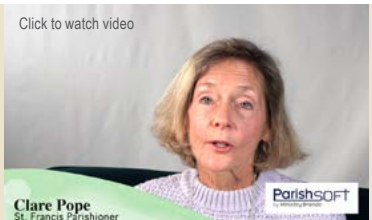
Fr. Jim, we love you, and we will miss you. Thank you for being wonderfully, faithfully you—for the compassion you offered, for the Spirit you carried gently into our lives.

May God bless you on the road ahead, and may each step reveal the grace of where He calls you next. Go in peace, wrapped in our gratitude, and in the everlasting warmth of Christ.

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org).

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



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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mmk4894@yahoo.com).

**December 19 - Dilexi Te: Lunch-n-Learn**  
11:30am-12:30pm. Join Mary Ellen McGuire, Director of Justice & Peace, for a community conversation about Pope Leo's first exhortation on love for the poor. [Read the text beforehand here](#). For the virtual link, RSVP to Mary Ellen McGuire at [maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**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](mailto:shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**Through December 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 their statements here.  
[Faith over Fear Bishop Luis Speaks Immigration US Bishops Issue Special Message.](#)

**December 24 - Regular Donations Drop Off at Oak City Cares**  
Contact Jim Caravello, [jimcaravello23@gmail.com](mailto:jimcaravello23@gmail.com).

**December 26 - Donations of Hot Food for Oak City Cares.**  
9:40-10:00am We have the honor of bringing Christmas joy to the guests of Oak City Cares by serving a special holiday breakfast. We need hot breakfast casseroles, hot cinnamon rolls, hot tater tots, and individually wrapped treats. We are also asking for the usual donations. Won't you help our neighbors? [Register here](#). Contact Jim Caravello, [jimcaravello23@gmail.com](mailto:jimcaravello23@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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, [charleehalphen@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:project.rachel@raldioc.org) or call (919) 852-1021. Visit [rachelinc.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:sfapenpal@gmail.com) if interested in learning more at a virtual meeting on Jan 12 at 7p. Contact Catherine Maher, [sfapenpal@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.helpourmarriage.org), or call Bill & Lyn Folsom (727) 343-6701. Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in absolute confidence.

**August 1-10 - Sister Parish in Guatemala**  
It is time for us to solidify a delegation to visit our sister parish in Las Margaritas II in Guatemala! Please reach out to Mary Ellen McGuire before the holidays at [maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org).

# Important Mass Dates

## 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



## Church Keeping

We are currently looking for volunteers to help maintain the worship space, Holy Water fonts, altar, and other liturgical items, as well as wash and iron linens. Volunteer times for Church Keeping can be adapted to fit in your schedule.

For more information please contact:  
Shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org

## 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](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org).

## Care for Creation

Buy local for Christmas

[greenishneighbor.com/green-directory](http://greenishneighbor.com/green-directory)

Better yet - -give experiences not 'stuff'!

[stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/](http://stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/)



St. Francis of Assisi  
Raleigh, NC

## Serving With Heart, Offering Hope

SvdP Walks with Our Neighbors

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

Serve

Learn

Donate

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



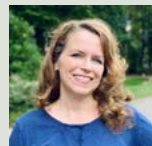
## The Friar of St. Francis

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.



## 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](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org).



Congratulations to Alexandra Palma and Jonathan Galka who celebrated the sacrament of marriage on 12/06/2025. May their lives always bear witness to Christ's love.

**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.

# DECEMBER 2025

*Advent Penance Services and important Mass Times.*

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

Click to enlarge and print

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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SCRATCH KITCHEN

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984-344-1444

**UMSTEAD REALTY**  
919-412-8224



Diogenes Ruiz, Parishioner

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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](mailto: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.