



As we celebrate the holy season of Christmas, we rejoice in the wondrous gift of the Incarnation—God with us in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May the light that shone in Bethlehem fill your hearts and homes with peace, hope, and abiding joy.

As we enter the New Year, we place our trust in God's providence. May the Lord bless you with good health, renewed faith, and a spirit of generosity. Guided by the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow as disciples, bearing Christ's light to our community and to the world.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our St. Francis parish family.



Our Living Stations of the Creche, last Friday was an outstanding success. Thank you to all who attended and participated - a special thanks to Jim Wahl, our music director, for organizing this wonderful event.



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



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

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.

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.

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, 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 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.

January 14 and May 28 - Virtual Book Study - Palace of Nowhere

1:00-2:30pm. The Palace of Nowhere invites readers into Thomas Merton's exploration of the false self and the freedom found in letting it fall away. Through clear, accessible wisdom, Jim Finley—Merton's former student—shows how releasing illusion opens us to grace, humility, and genuine transformation grounded in God's presence. [Register here](#). Contact Stephen Andrews, stephenwandrews@outlook.com.

January 16 - Virtual Book Study - Oneing: A Living Tradition

1:00-2:30pm. Looking for a New Year's resolution? Join the biweekly virtual Friday book club starting January 16. Explore desert wisdom, monastic renewal, contemplative justice through ONEING: A Living Tradition, CAC's biannual journal of essays, poetry, and translations rooted in our Christian tradition often overlooked in our daily lives. [Register here](#). Contact Stephen Andrews, stephenwandrews@outlook.com.

2026 High School Basketball - Registration Until January 20

We are now accepting registrations for the 2026 St. Francis Boy's High School Basketball League. The league runs from February-May. The league is opened to boys in grades 8-12. Regular Registration runs until Jan. 20. [Click here for more information including registration](#). Mary Arleth, Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 24 - Community Wellness Fair

Saturday, 8:30am-12:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Take part in our first Community Wellness Fair and discover resources to support your mind, body, and spirit. With more than 40 local vendors, this event offers practical tools, expert guidance, and supportive services for all ages.

Featured Activities & Screenings:

- 10:00am Yoga Session in Founders
- Pulse Screenings
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Balance Assessments
- Long-Term Care Resources
- Technology Assistance
- Home Improvement Guidance
- Fitness Information & Demos

Join us for a morning of learning, connection, and healthy living. All are welcome!

Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

May 10-19 - Franciscan Centenary Pilgrimage

Join Fr. Jim Sabak and Jim Wahl on a Franciscan Centenary Pilgrimage honoring the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis. Journey from Rome to Assisi, celebrate Mass at sacred sites, and walk in the saint's footsteps. Only 14 spots available— family and friends are warmly invited. [More information](#). Contact Jim Wahl, Jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Mid-February - JustFaith Advocacy Program Facilitators Needed

We are looking for JustFaith facilitators for "Just Action! How to Advocate and Mobilize for Justice" to begin mid-February. No prior knowledge or experience is necessary – just a heart for justice and a willingness to organize gatherings. All materials will be provided. [Click here for program info](#). Contact Casey Slock casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

CAMP FRANCIS



**REGISTRATION
COMING
LATE
JANUARY 2026!**

Immigration Support



In God's Image

Immigration and border enforcement are issues facing our country like never before. Before the celebration of Thanksgiving last month, Bishop Luis Zarama sent a letter out to the faithful of the Diocese of Raleigh, saying, in part, "Immigration is not merely a matter of public policy or law enforcement; it touches the very heart of our faith. Every person is created in the image of God and deserves dignity, compassion, and care. (Jesus) commands us to welcome the stranger, for in doing so, we welcome Him. [More](#)

Prayer Shawl continues to have the every other Thursday early afternoon meeting but are trying to make the ministry available for those who are not available during the day.

Prayer Shawl Wednesday meeting dates – 4:15 to 5:30PM
Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 15, May 13, June 10
 Contact Lisa Miller, lisaorb1@gmail.com.

January 14-February 28 - Winter Parent Child Classes

These classes are a fun ways to connect with your child. Join us for these fun, low pressure, hands on classes (0-5 years of age). Join us Wednesdays for Making Music Praying Twice and/ or Sign Language at the Community Center. Click here for more information and to register. Contact Jess Kelly, info@signsoflearning.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.

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.

Work with a Stephen Minister today!

Feeling overwhelmed emotionally, physically, or spiritually? Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-on-one care during life's challenges. Whether you're facing a crisis or simply need support, a Stephen Minister can walk with you, listen, and pray with you. It's confidential, free and very helpful. Consider reaching out today! Contact stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org, 919-847-8205x234

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.



Ministry Spotlight: Young Adult/Fiat Franciscus

The Young Adult Ministry at St. Francis, Fiat Franciscus, is here for all those in their 20s and 30s looking to connect in a faith-filled environment. "Our main goal," says Michelle Kaiser, "is to really help build community within young adults, to help connect people who maybe are new to St. Francis or they're coming back to the Church. We find many people in their 20s or 30s who have become disconnected are now seeking re-connection with their faith. We provide times, places, and spaces for young adults to connect." [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.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Season of Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve

- 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)

Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day

- 9am and 11:45am Mass in Church

No Daily Masses for December 26 and 29

Tuesday, December 30th Communion Service

- 9am in Church | Church Hours 7am-11am | Chapel Closed

Wednesday, December 31st | Church

- 9am Daily Mass | Church Hours 7am-11am | Chapel Closed

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

- Thursday, January 1st at 10am | Church
- Church Hours 7am-11am | Chapel Closed

Parish Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 24 to Thursday, January 1

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Community
WELLNESS FAIR

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Fellowship Hall
8:30am - 12:30pm
11401 Leesville Rd
Raleigh, NC 27613

Get Free Screenings & Information

- Pulse
- Blood pressure
- Balance
- Long Term Care
- Tech Information
- Home Improvements
- Fitness

Come to our Community Wellness Fair and explore local services, health screenings, and helpful information to nurture your mind, body, and spirit.

10am Yoga Session in Founders

Click to enlarge

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.

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

Serving With Heart, Offering Hope

SVdP Walks with Our Neighbors

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

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

St. Francis of Assisi
Raleigh, NC

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

Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions for 2026 are now available. Mass Intentions can be requested through the Parish Website or through the Front Office. For additional information please visit the Parish Website. Contact Shannon Hoffman shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Care for Creation

Buy local for Christmas
greenishneighbor.com/green-directory

Better yet - -give experiences not 'stuff'!

stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/

Let's say

Thank you

to 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.**



Click to watch video

Meet Mary Ellen McGuire, Director of Justice and Peace



Click to watch video

Clare Pope
St. Francis Parishioner

ParishSOFT
by Ministry Brands

What is ParishSOFT?



This delivery marks the 19th straight year that Tim and Bonnie Moser, the owners of Shepherd's Way Farms, have donated the big tree to St. Francis. In addition, they have donated the poinsettias, wreaths, and garland. This tree was a finalist for selection for the White House but it comes to our house instead (Tim and Bonnie have been selected to deliver a tree to the Vice President's residence next year).

These generous gifts to our parish (for nearly two decades!), enrich the Christmas environment experience for members of our faith community. Just think of all the family pictures taken in front of the tree over the years by parishioners who have no idea who makes this beautiful experience possible. The Mosers are humble and seek no accolades, but they certainly deserve them.

Mark Baumgartner

A special thank you to Theresa Baumgartner for making the star that crowns the St. Francis Christmas tree!

Diogenes Ruiz

Travel to Italy with Fr. Jim Sabak & Jim Wahl

Franciscan Centenary Pilgrimage
800th Anniversary of the Death of St. Francis



MAY 10-19

14 SPOTS AVAILABLE | CONTACT JIM WAHL

**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

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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.
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.