



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of RALEIGH

¡Únase a nosotros! Join Us!

Eventos de Respeto a la Vida
Respect Life Events

**JANUARY 22-23, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

National Prayer Vigil for Life Schedule | USCCB

Basilica of the National Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

4:45–5:00 pm ... **Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

5:00–7:00 pm ... **Opening Mass**

7:00–8:00 pm ... **Holy Hour for Life**
(Crypt Church)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

8:00–9:00 am ... **Closing Mass**



Reflection after attendance at the Vigil for Life:

“The beautiful sacrifice of the mass showed me how much God loves all of us, that he gave us his one and only son. Each time the mass is offered, Jesus says, ‘My sweet child, I would do this again and again out of my love for you.’ I have gained a strong testimony of my belief as I know that each life is valued.”

JESSICA PRACHT,
NC State Student | St. Joseph, Raleigh

Sisters of Life and Knights of Columbus LIFE FEST Morning Rally & Mass

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

11:00–1:00 pm

MARCH FOR LIFE begins at 1:00



The National Pro-Life Summit

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

time?



As always, there will be a Reception in one of the Senate buildings following the Mass hosted by Congressional Representative from North Carolina.



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. Joseph Ita-Sam, CM
Parochial Vicar



Stephen Andrews
Deacon In Residence

January 11 - 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 in our journey of faith and life. **This meeting will be virtual.** Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 12, 14, 20, 22, 26 - Preschool 2026-2027 Registration
Important Registration Dates
January 12: Current Students @ 7:00 AM
January 14: Siblings of Current Students @ 7:00 AM
January 20: Preschool Alumni & TFS Siblings @ 7:00 AM
January 22: Saint Francis Parishioners @ 7:00 AM
January 26: General Community @ 7:00 AM
<https://www.preschoolatstfrancis.com>
Contact shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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-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.

January 14 to 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 14 - 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 16 -TFS 2026-2027 application deadline for students in grades K-7 is January 16. We invite all parishioners to apply. Please visit our website (franciscanschool.org) and click Apply Today to begin an application.. Contact DawnMarie Smith, dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org with questions or to schedule a tour.

January 16-18 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.

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.

Virtual Book Study - Little Rock Scripture Study Gospel of Luke- Part 1
The Gospel of Luke reveals Jesus' universal mission and God's compassion. Part One (Luke 1:1-11:54) traces infancy narratives through births to Jesus' Galilean ministry beginnings.
Tuesday evenings - January 20 - March 10, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Wednesday mornings - January 21 - March 11, 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Contact Barbara Efird with questions, barbaraefirdlpc@gmail.com.

January 20 and 22 - Issue Engagement Sessions
6:30-8:00pm. What keeps you up at night? Learn what our parish is doing about different issues, and tell us what's on your heart, too.
Tues. Jan. 20 from 6:30-8 - in person or
Thurs. Jan. 22 from 12-1 - virtual
Contact maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org. [Click here to register.](#)

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.

January 24 - Gentle Yoga Session | Wellness Fair 10:00-10:30am, Founders Room. Join us for a 30-minute yoga session designed to promote relaxation, flexibility, and overall well-being. This session is open to all levels. Please bring a yoga mat. This class is being offered by HealthTrax Fitness and Wellness. Class is limited to 20 spots. [Register here.](#) Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 24 - Wellness Fair Volunteers Needed
Volunteers are needed to assist with the Community Wellness Fair. Opportunities include greeting parishioners at the check-in table and helping with event breakdown by resetting the space afterward. Your support helps make this event welcoming and successful. Please use the link to sign up. [Register here.](#) Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 26-February 1 - Family Promise of the Triangle

Family Promise. Small Commitment. Big Impact. Make a difference by helping support the lives of families experiencing temporary homelessness. We provide meals and groceries for one week while families work towards permanent housing. Be part of our next hosting. Contact Jim Packard, stfa.fp@gmail.com, 910-389-8936

February 1-3 - EM Training

EM Training is for anyone who would like to become an EM or any current EM who would like a refresher. Must be 16 years of age, a member of St Francis, who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Contact, John Hajdin
Email john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 3 - March 5 DivorceCare Spring Session

6:30-8:00pm. You don't have to face separation or divorce alone. DivorceCare is a safe, caring group where you'll find understanding people, emotional support, and practical tools to help you heal and move forward with hope. [Register here](#). Contact Bill Morgan dejanuts@yahoo.com.

February 17 - March 31 Grief's Journey-Coping with loss

10:30am-12:30pm. Seven week series offering hope following the loss of a loved one through death. A safe place to share your journey and to learn from others. Intended for those who are three months or more after a death of their loved one. Meet every Tuesday in Anthony Hall Conference Room. [Register here](#).
Contact Dina DaRe, Dina.DaRe@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.

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



Hidden Figures

Sometimes we take for granted how well things work at St. Francis of Assisi. Everything flows relatively smoothly, especially given the number of ministries supported here. How does that happen? Who are the people who, behind the scenes, make it all come together and work so well?

One of the 'hidden figures' bringing it all together is Shannon Hoffman, Administrative Assistant for Pastoral Ministries. "In my role," she says, "I help support our priests by coordinating their schedules, arranging meetings, assisting with requests for sacraments, preparing Mass intentions, and organizing the Prayers of the Faithful." [More](#)



Ministry Spotlight: CSA

Do you know what Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is? Did you know we have a ministry at St. Francis that supports local farmers? If not, here is a good way to get great, in-season produce, farmed organically in our local communities. Elizabeth Kearse is the ministry contact for the farm-to-church CSA that supports local BIPOC farmers who use sustainable and/or organic farming methods. Elizabeth says... [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.



Click to view video

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

CAMP FRANCIS

REGISTRATION COMING LATE JANUARY 2026!

What do you hope to see in the New Year? Review 2025 with your teen. What went according to plan and what went either better or worse than you expected? Consider the opportunities that could be in 2026. Take a moment to pray. Read Philippians 4:8. How can you plan and prepare to participate in what is good, fair, and just? This will help you prepare for both when your plans are successful and for when your plans are not successful.

HERALDS OF GOOD NEWS
A MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC LIFE OF PONTIFRANCIS
MARY QUEEN OF APOSTLES PROVINCE

Click to view video

There will be a second collection this weekend to support Fr. James' order "Heralds of Good News"

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.

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

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

Care for Creation

Climate change isn't just an environmental issue — it's at the root of hunger, migration, poverty, and injustice around the world.

Carolina Care for Creation

Eucharistic Minister Training

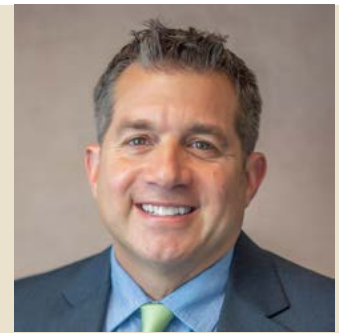
Sunday, February 1st, 1:15pm- 2:30pm
Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Training will take place in the church.
Please sign up to attend on Realm.

*EM Training is for anyone who would like to become an EM or any current EM who would like a refresher.

*Must be 16 years of age, a member of St Francis, who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Sign up on Realm or for more information contact:
John.Hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org



Please welcome our new bulletin advertiser, James W. Patella with Howard Hanna Allen Tate Realtors.

James is a proud graduate of North Carolina State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Computer Science. He is a highly motivated and experienced REALTOR® who works tirelessly to help clients achieve their real estate goals. Whether you're buying your dream home, selling your current property, or simply have a question about the market, he's always happy to help. See James' ad below.

GET CONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities

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



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



13200 Strickland Rd
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James W. Patella
Parishioner and local Realtor
with over 16 years of experience.



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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.