



My dear Saint Francis, The Franciscan School, and Saint Francis Preschool Community:

Eight and a half years ago, I came to this extraordinary parish, the first parish I ever ministered in full time.

And, as God plans, there was much I found to love here than I could ever have anticipated or desired. After only a few months I began to realize that Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Community embodied the spirit of the Franciscan Movement in a profoundly dynamic way.

Through the departure of the friars in 2020 and the rise of the Covid-19 pandemic God again gifted me with the privilege of remaining with you all, a blessing that gave me immense joy.

Thank you for gifting me with your support, your encouragement, your steadfastness, and so importantly, your love. Thank you for honoring me at the weekend reception on the Third Sunday of Advent. I am humbled and honored that in such a short time you embraced me with such deep affection. Please know that it is returned to you all a hundredfold. I ask, if possible, that you try to remember me kindly; you truly have left "a handprint on my heart."

Each in your own way are sons and daughters of Francis and Clare and I pray you find ways to carry on the Franciscan identity and movement of this place. It is a truly unique and exceptional community, in which for a short time I was blest to find a place and a home.

And so, my brothers and sisters of Saint Francis Catholic Community, may God bless you and keep you, may God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you, and may God bless you and give you peace.

Much love to you all now and always,
Your brother,
Jim

Jim Sabak, OFM
St. Vincent Friary
4176 Ibis Street
San Diego, CA 92103

jsabak@sandiego.edu
Fr. Jim's Daily Reflection - YouTube page:
<https://www.youtube.com/@jimsabak7214>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

(sponsored by The Knights of Columbus All Saints Council)

[Click here for the Information Sheet](#)
[Additional Information](#)



National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Seton



National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes



Click to view

Two major Catholic pilgrimage sites in Emmitsburg, MD March 9 - 11, 2026:

National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Seton
National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

What's Included:

Transportation, lodging, tours and associated fees at pilgrimage sites and destinations, breakfasts and lunches, group dinner on Tuesday (dinner on your own on Monday)

Cost:

\$400 per person (based on double occupancy)

To sign up please contact

Mark Baumgartner, markbaumga@gmail.com

Click here to pay
50% deposit by February 7 and full payment by February 15

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

February 2 - 23 Dilexi Te "On the Poor" study in February

6:00-7:00pm. Review and discuss Pope Leo's Dilexi Te on Tuesdays in February on Zoom. Sponsored by NC Catholics Caring for Our Common Home. [Register](#). Contact Monica, mitzkleimeyer@nccommonhome.org.

February 3 - The Chosen 9:45-11:15am Please join us in Padua every Tuesday starting Jan 27 for the viewing of The Chosen. We will be starting at the beginning with Season 1-Episode 1. Contact Tina Morgan, tandmmorgan@earthlink.net.

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 4 - Alzheimer's | Dementia Caregiver support Group

1:00-3:00pm. Are you caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia? Join us for support, understanding, and shared resources at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 4 at 1:00pm in Padua. Connect with others who understand your journey. All are welcome! Contact Kathleen Boate, kboate@msn.com.

February 4 - 50+ Adult Group Potluck 11:30am.

Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall; If last name starts with, bring
A thru D = Dessert/Bread,
E thru L = Main Dish,
M thru Z = Salad/Side Dish.
Coffee, soda, and water will be provided.
Contact Pat Spencer, spencer1334@bellsouth.net.

Feb. 7/8, 14/15, 21/22 - Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Volunteers Needed

Volunteers Needed Two ways to help (1) distribute bags after Mass on weekend of Feb. 7/8 or (2) Collect donated items/load truck weekends of Feb. 14/15 & 21/22. See links for details.
[Bag Distribution Volunteer Sign-Up / Donation Collection Volunteer Sign-Up](#). Contact Anne-Marie Summers, summers51984@gmail.com.

February 8 - 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. This meeting will be virtual. Please contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org for Zoom link

February 10 - EM Training See page 5

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 has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Contact, John Hajdin
Email john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 11 - 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
Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 15, May 13, June 10
Contact Lisa Miller, lisaorb1@gmail.com.

February 11 - Women's Ministry Galentines with Friends

6:30-8:30pm. Women's Ministry is hosting a fun Galentines evening with friends, drinks and lively conversations! Come for some cheer and to celebrate the joy of friendship on 2/11 from 6:30-8:30pm at Vita Vite Midtown, ages 21+. [Register via Realm](#), we heart to see you there! Contact Lindsey Burke, lindseyburke3@gmail.com.

February 12 - JCM Presents: Working the Long Game: Career Management Through Change and Uncertainty

8:30-10:30am Stephen Lacovelli shares insights from balancing a career in technology with senior military leadership. He explores transitions, growth, and long-term success, offering practical guidance for navigating change, uncertainty, and evolving professional paths with clarity, purpose, and confidence in every stage of life across seasons of work and service and leadership. RSVP: <https://lnkd.in/eQnGT5c6>
Contact Paul Dean, vpauldean@gmail.com.

February 14 - Corral Riding Academy Saturday on the Farm

9:30am-12:00pm. CORRAL Riding Academy is a faith-motivated nonprofit that serves adolescent girls in high-risk situations through a long-term, holistic program of equine therapy and education. Join us as we do hands-on projects to support the NEUSE RIVER (Raleigh) campus and learn more about CORRAL's mission and programs! Families welcome!
[Register](#). Contact Donna Schwede, Donna.schwede@gmail.com.

February 15 - Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

10:00-11:30am. Join fellow parishioners for a President's Day Weekend Pancake Breakfast. Hosted by Knights of Columbus, after the 9:00 am mass in the Fellowship Hall. Price: \$7.00/person or \$24.00/family (living in a household) for 3 pancakes, 3 sausages, donut, coffee, juice, etc.
[Event proceeds support worthy charities](#).
Contact Nick Renga, nrenga@msn.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.



Click to view

February 17 - Wine and Will Event 6:30-8:30pm. Whether you need to create or revise your will, please join us for our Wine and Wills event hosted by the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh in Fellowship Hall. Come join us and enjoy a great evening of wine, conversation, and planning for the future. [Registration](#).
Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

GETCONNECTED
Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities

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.

February 18 - Ash Wednesday Schedule

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule | Church | Distribution of Ashes at ALL Services

7:00am Liturgy of the Word (No Communion)

9:00am School Mass

11:45am Mass

5:30pm Liturgy of the Word (No Communion)

7:00pm Mass

Contact Shannon Hoffman, shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 19 - Coffee with Chris

9:40-10:30am. Join us Thursday, February 19 at 9:45am for Coffee with Fr. Chris in Padua. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners and Fr. Chris to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. Stacey Shine
Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 20 - Lenten Potluck Dinner - Following Stations of the Cross

6:30-8:00pm. Join us on Friday, February 20 for a powerful Family Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm with a Lenten Potluck Dinner to follow at 6:30pm in Fellowship. Please bring a meatless soup, chowder, or chili to share, preferably in a crockpot to keep it warm. Contact Stacey Shine stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org. [Register here.](#)

February 20 - Stations of the Cross Family Focused

6:00-6:30pm. Join us for a powerful Family Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 7 at 6:00 pm (potluck dinner at 6:30 pm)! This is a beautiful opportunity to walk with Jesus and grow in faith together as a family. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 21 - Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship

10:00-12:00pm. Boys & Girls, Ages 9-14 Show off your basketball skills & earn a chance to compete in the state finals

When: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Where: Assisi Community Center Gym

[Registration.](#) Contact Paul Scaini, paul@scaini.com.

February 25 - Evening Prayer

6:30-7:00pm. Join us on Wednesday nights during Lent for a peaceful time of prayer in the church. This sacred time of reflection and worship offers an opportunity to deepen your faith and prepare your heart for Easter. All are welcome to come and pray together during this Lenten season. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 28 - Franciscan Day of Reflection See page 4
With Friar Julio Alberto Martinez, OFM Conv.



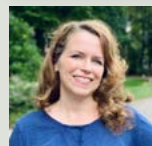
A Safe Environment for All

We are called to share our Catholic Faith, and, at St. Francis, we heed this call in so many ways. From our various ministries, to our faith formation program and schools, to the parish athletic and camp programs, and many other events and programs, St. Francis is a hub of activity that can be frenetic. Providing a safe environment for our faith to grow is essential, and Trish Adamkowski, the parish's Coordinator of Human Resources, is the parish contact for the parish's "Safe Environment Program," which includes safe child training, reference checking, and background checks, as required by the Diocese of Raleigh's Safe Environment Program. [More](#)



Ministry Spotlight: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Deacon Steve Andrews and Richard Szulewski work together to provide fellowship for the men of our parish over a shared meal. As Deacon Steve says, "The Men's Prayer Breakfast ministry is a gathering of men over coffee and burritos to explore the writings of various spiritual writers. The meetings provide an environment for the men to freely express their heartfelt views on how what they read impacts them." He emphasizes that the discussions primarily aim to... [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.

March 4 - May 13 Women's Ministry Bible Study: Jesus - The Way, the Truth and the Life 10:00am-12:00pm Make Jesus the center of your life this Lent with Jesus: The Way, The Truth, and the Life, a 10-week program with the Wednesday women's Bible study group. We will meet at 10:00am to noon, March 4-May 13, in the Padua Room. [Registration](#). Contact Heather Thorstensen, heather.thorst@gmail.com.

March 9 to 11 - Lenten Pilgrimage to two significant Catholic sites in Emmitsburg, MD: The Knights are sponsoring a Lenten pilgrimage, led by Fr. Chris Koehn, to two significant Catholic sites in Emmitsburg, MD: National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. [For details click here](#). Sign up by January 31, 2026

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.

Through 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.

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.

Just Action! How to Advocate and Mobilize for Justice
Groups registering now, Program March-April
This skills-based JustFaith series introduces participants to tools for action, advocacy, and organizing that are rooted in the Christian tradition. It begins with a discernment retreat and will guide participants in articulating a specific, achievable goal around the group's chosen focus area to create a 1-3 month action plan. [Interest Form click here](#). Contact Casey Slock, casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Catholic Parish Outreach Needs WAREHOUSE Volunteers
We need help unloading trucks and running the forklift. Must be active and able to lift 40+ pounds. Volunteer opportunities are Mon./Wed./Thurs./Fri. 8:00 am - 2:00pm See our website www.cporaleigh.org or call our Volunteer Coordinator Darcy Hull at 919-847-1466.

Tap to Give : Register Your Credit Card



Dates for Lent Dinners, Stations, Evening Prayer, and Service Sundays

Stations of the Cross | Friday Nights | Main Church | 6:00pm
February 20 - Family Focused
February 27
March 6 - Family Focused
March 13
March 20
March 27 - Family Focused

Lenten Potluck Dinners | Friday Nights | Fellowship Hall | 6:30pm
February 20 - [Register Here](#)
March 6 - Register Here
March 27 -Registration to come | Jacoba

Evening Prayer | Wednesday Nights | Main Church | 6:30pm
February 25
March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25

Service Sundays | Fellowship Hall
March 15 at 1pm-3pm - Information to come
March 22 at 10am-11:30am - Information to come



Join us for a Franciscan Day of Reflection with Friar Julio Alberto Martinez, OFM Conv.
Saturday, February 28, from 9:00am. to 2:30pm.

Fr. Julio's presentation, "The Peaceful Restlessness of Francis for a Restless Age," explores the question: Can inner peace coexist with restlessness?



Drawing from the life of St. Francis, this reflection examines how what may appear to be opposing forces can generate creative and life-giving energy. Participants are invited to explore how these insights can offer guidance and inspiration for navigating our own restless age. FEE \$15 includes morning hospitality and lunch.

[Register on Realm](#).
Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Eucharistic Minister Training

Rescheduled!

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30-7:45pm

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



\$7
PER PERSON

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 15 | 10am
Fellowship Hall

Breakfast includes:
3 Pancakes
3 Sausages
Donuts
Coffee and Juice
\$7 per person
\$24 Family of 4 or more

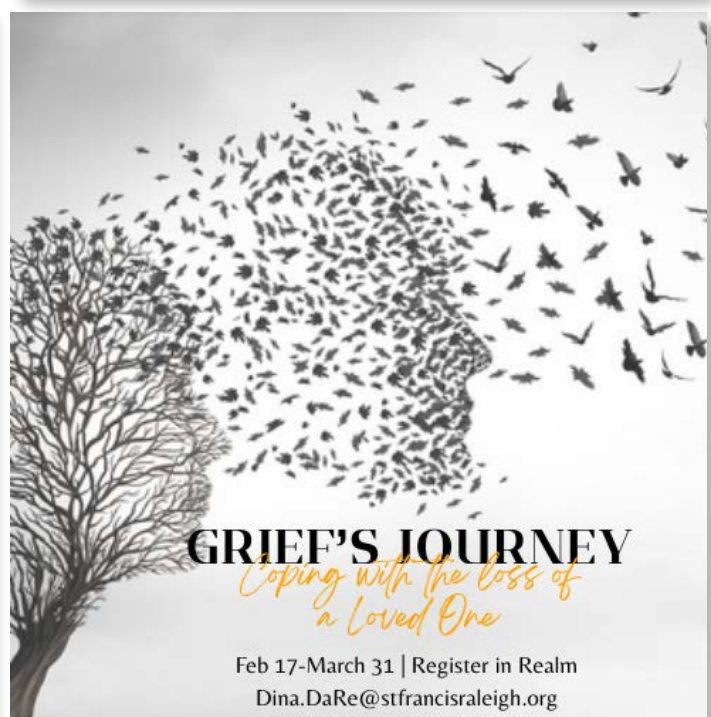


Women's Ministry
warmly invites you to

Women's Night Out

February 11
6:30 - 8:30 pm

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



GRIEF'S JOURNEY

*Coping with the loss of
a Loved One*

Feb 17-March 31 | Register in Realm
Dina.DaRe@stfrancisraleigh.org



Boys & Girls, Ages 9-14

Show off your basketball skills & earn a chance to compete in the state finals

When: Saturday, February 21, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM
Where: Assisi Community Center Gym

Hosted by:
Knights of Columbus
All Saints Council 9709



Knights of Columbus
**Free Throw
Championship**

Faith in Action Community



Spring groups forming now.

Just Action!

How to Advocate and Mobilize for Justice

See page 3



JUSTFAITH
ministries

Highlights of Fr. Chris' Trip to Rome



Fr. Matthew Brody Fr. Chris Monsignor John Wall Fr. Noe Ramirez

We were able to attend Evening Vespers with Pope Leo on Sunday, January 25th at St. Paul's Basilica.



Then have a nice Rome dinner.



Stranded in London because of cancelled flights. Stayed at the Strand Palace Hotel. Can you guess where this picture is from?

Answer: Trafalgar Square

Join us for an unforgettable summer where friendships bloom, laughter echoes, and memories are made.

Camps Offered the weeks of:

- June 15-19
- June 22-26
- July 6-10
- July 13-17
- July 20-24

For more information & to Register:
<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

Serving With Heart, Offering Hope
 In 10 years of operation, the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Francis of Assisi parish has helped more than 2,000 families.

Click [here](https://stfrancisvdp.org/blog/) 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

Producing a bouquet of roses may have generated the environmental equivalent of driving 200 miles.

Plan dinner instead!

www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/

Join us for

EVENING PRAYER

WEDNESDAYS

DURING LENT

6:30pm - 7:00pm

Starting February 25
 Main Church

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER




Family Fun
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 | 6:30PM
 FELLOWSHIP HALL | REGISTER IN REALM

**FORMATION
 SUMMER
 CAMPS**



**REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 3
 12 O'CLOCK NOON VIA REALM**

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


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

RUCKUS
 SCRATCH KITCHEN
 13200 Strickland Rd
 984-344-1444


UMSTEAD REALTY
 919-412-8224



Diogenes Ruiz
 Parishioner since 1987
 Licensed NC Realtor
diogenesruiz@live.com



James W. Patella
 Parishioner and local Realtor
 with over 18 years of experience.

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 ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE
 9212 Falls of Neuse Rd., Ste 111
 Raleigh, NC 27615
 (336) 682-1799
james.patella@allentate.com

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 (919) 599-7683



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.