

[Click here for the Diocese BAA video](#)



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**BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**  
 — DIOCESE OF RALEIGH —

## Launching the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal

The 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal officially begins this week! As a diocesan family, we are invited to join together in supporting the ministries, programs, and outreach efforts that bring Christ's love into our parishes and communities. Your prayers and participation help strengthen Catholic education, support parish vitality, and extend care to those in need. As we begin this year's Appeal, please take time to reflect on how you can contribute to this mission of faith and service. [Click here to contribute to the BAA.](#)

### Join us for a Franciscan Day of Reflection

with Friar Julio Alberto Martínez, OFM Conv. Saturday, February 28, 9:00am-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](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).



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### CARE FOR CREATION AND THE POOR THIS LENT

#### PRAYER

**Grow closer to Christ**  
 Pray your devotion of choice or join us online for novenas and a weekday 9:00 PM rosary.

#### ABSTINENCE

**Mirror Christ & Catholic Tradition**  
 Skip meat or cheese on extra days to reduce carbon emissions.  
 Together, we save the equivalent of one tanker of gas each year.

#### ALMS

**Dig wells in African parishes**  
 Over the last 2 years, we have provided an estimated 1300 people with clean water in African Catholic parishes.

#### JOIN

**Come to Lent with a Plan**  
 Founded by two St. Francis parishioners —nationwide in reach, homegrown in spirit.  
 Join at [www.greenerlent.org](http://www.greenerlent.org)



Lent is challenging, but its spiritual rewards are abundant. Be encouraged in your fasting, abstinence, prayer, and almsgiving by joining Greener Lent.

Each year, together we reclaim Catholic traditions rooted in our faith by:

- Reducing (not eliminating) our consumption of meat or cheese
- Committing to daily prayer
- Donating the savings from our food abstinence to help our Catholic brothers and sisters in the hottest regions of Africa who desperately need access to clean water—or to a charity of your choice

Join us at <https://greenerlent.org>.

A click away If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://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](#)  
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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. Joseph Ita-Sam, CM  
 Parochial Vicar



Stephen Andrews  
 Deacon In Residence

**February 7/8 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](mailto:alysonzwerneman@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 in our journey of faith and life. This meeting will be virtual. Please contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org) for Zoom link.

**February 10 - 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](mailto:tandmmorgan@earthlink.net).

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**February 10 - EM Training** See page 4

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:vpauldean@gmail.com).

**Feb. 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](mailto:summers51984@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**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](mailto:Dina.DaRe@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**February 18 - Ash Wednesday Schedule**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
Where: Assisi Community Center Gym  
[Registration](#). Contact Paul Scaini, [paul@scaini.com](mailto:paul@scaini.com).

### February 22 - Concert: St. Francis Brass Band

2:00pm at St. Mary Magdalene School Gym, 625 Magdala Place, Apex. Sponsored by The Military and Hospitaler Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem to benefit The Archdiocese of Kigali, Rwanda, Africa. The concert is free but donations will be accepted. The Order of St. Lazarus is a 501-C3 corporation, all monies donated are tax deductible. Donations may be by check made payable to St. Lazare, USA or by scanning QR code at the concert. [Click here to sign up](#). Light refreshments will be served after the concert compliments of K of C Council 7186.

### 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](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**February 28 - Franciscan Day of Reflection** See page 1  
With Friar Julio Alberto Martinez, OFM Conv.

### 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](mailto:heather.thorst@gmail.com).

### March 15 - Service Sunday: Reentry Simulation

1:00-4:40pm. Learn about the challenges faced by individuals transitioning from incarceration back into society. We will role-play as social services workers (such as the courthouse, employment office, bank, medical clinic, etc.) and individuals transitioning from incarceration back into society and simulate the first month after release from prison. Ages 16+.  
Contact Casey Slock, [casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org). [Register here](#).



## 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 22 - Pet Adoption & Foster Event

In the spirit of St. Francis and the Lenten call to compassion, join us on March 22 for a Pet Adoption Event at our parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome a new companion into your home or to learn more about fostering a pet in need. [Please sign up here](#). Local vendors will also be on site, making this a joyful day of community, care for creation, and living out our faith through action. Contact Mary Ellen McGuire, [maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@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](mailto: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](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org).

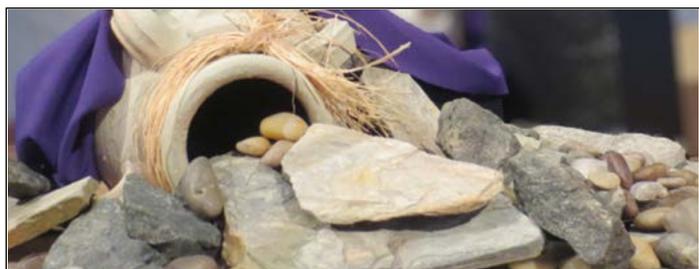
### Just Action! How to Advocate and Mobilize for Justice

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 an 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](mailto: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](http://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

## 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](mailto:John.Hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org)



## GETCONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities

FORMATION  
SUMMER  
CAMPS




REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 3  
12 O'CLOCK NOON VIA REALM

**\$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**

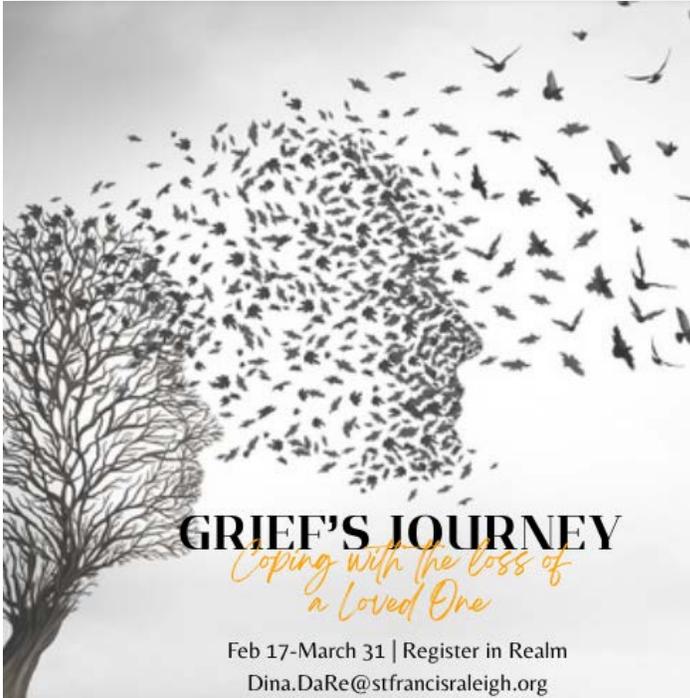


Women's Ministry  
warmly invites you to

# 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






Presenting the St. Francis signed banner to the bishop after a larger meeting about immigration.

## CAMP FRANCIS

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/>

## LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER

*Family Fun*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 | 6:30PM**

FELLOWSHIP HALL | REGISTER IN REALM

Join us for

# EVENING PRAYER

**WEDNESDAYS**

**DURING LENT**

6:30pm - 7:00pm

Starting February 25  
Main Church

## PET ADOPTION

**Sun. March 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am**

Find your forever friend today!



On a snowy day at St. Francis,  
priests laughed in delight,  
Fr. Chris, Fr. James, and Fr. Joseph  
rolled snow pure and white.  
They crowned their creation with  
Msgr. Clay's clerical flair,  
A collar, a cassock—holy frost in the air.  
Standing proud in the courtyard,  
serene and unstirred,  
They named him  
Father Flurry McSnowface,  
the coldest man of the Word.



St. Francis of Assisi  
Raleigh, NC

**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](#) 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

We discard about 22 BILLION  
pounds of clothing each year.  
About 85% ends up in landfills.

For a better way go to  
[bit.ly/SFArecycles2026a](http://bit.ly/SFArecycles2026a)

## Join fellow parishioners on the SFA social network

Click to  
Join



Interact with fellow parishioners - set up your profile  
page, share interests, hobbies, books, music,  
events, pictures, post blogs, free stuff, meet new  
people. There is no cost to join. Must be 18+

(a 100% spam free environment - a safe toxic free private  
online platform by invitation only. This is your invitation!)

## Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

School

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

RUCKUS  
SCRATCH KITCHEN

13200 Strickland Rd  
984-344-1444

UMSTEAD  
REALTY

919-412-8224



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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.