

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

Thank You for Your Commitment to the Church

As we enter the final week of the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal emphasis, we extend heartfelt gratitude to all who have already made a gift or pledge. Your generosity sustains essential ministries throughout our diocese and reflects a shared commitment to living the Gospel. If you have not yet participated, there is still time to join in this important mission. Together, we continue building a future of faith, service, and hope for our Church and all whom we serve. [Click here to contribute to the BAA.](#)



	(02/25/26)	(02/27/25)
Goal:	\$548,071	\$522,280
Pledged:	\$164,343 30.0%	\$246,237 47.1%
Received:	\$146,203 26.7%	\$188,431 36.1%
Families:	367 / 4270 8.6%	581 / 5500 10.8%

	St. Francis	St. Michael	St. Luke's
Goal:	\$548,071	\$478,988	\$153,793
Pledge Total:	\$164,343	\$213,293	\$23,716
Percentage of Goal:	30.0%	44.5%	15.4%



After 2 months of preparations the inside team of the Kairos Retreat Prison Ministry will enter Central Prison on March 4. The purpose is to deliver the Lord's message of love to resident/inmates incarcerated there through a 3-day retreat, March 4-7.

Please join us in prayer. Respond with your 1st name and we will put your 1st name on a paper prayer link. We're trying to have 4000 names hanging on these prayer links by the end of the event. This shows the love and prayer support shown the residents for the love of Christ to be experienced by each of the 42 inmate/residents making this retreat.

To have your first name added to a prayer link, [click here.](#)

Contact Mike McGrail
mcgrailgroup@gmail.com



Sunday March 1 - Preschool International Festival

10:00am-12:00pm. Join the Preschool for Our Annual International Festival! in Fellowship Hall. Experience the rich cultures of our parish family with food, crafts, music, and performances.

[Click here to register.](#) Contact [Shelley Freeman](#)

March 3 - Mass, Rally, March, and Summit for Life 10:00am-2:30pm.

The NC Right to Life Rally and March for Life is Saturday, March 7, 10:00 Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, 12:30 rally at Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh. Food trucks will be available beginning at noon. Contact [Deacon Josh Klickman](#).

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 4 - Lenten Penance Service 7:00-8:00pm.

All are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. There will be multiple priests available for individual confession. Contact Shannon Hoffman, shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

March 4 - Women's Reflection Wednesday at St. Andrew the Apostle in Apex.

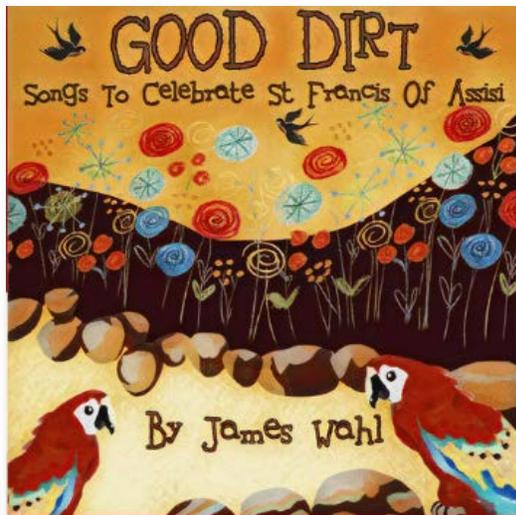
We invite you to join us and feel free to bring a friend. You may RSVP to me or thru the ways indicated on the invitation.

Contact Kelley Karpinski, kelly.karpinski@raldioc.org.

March 4 - 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.

March 4-7 - Pray for the Imprisoned see page 1



Join us for a lively, all-ages concert with Jim Wahl celebrating the launch of his new album, *Good Dirt*.

Friday, March 6th at 7pm

MUSIC CONCERT

Fellowship Hall

Potluck Dinner at 6:30pm - Bring a meatless dish to share!

March 6 - Stations | Lenten Potluck | Album Launch Celebration with Jim Wahl

Friday, March 6 | 6:00pm - 8:30pm. Join us for **Stations of the Cross at 6pm** in the church and a special Lenten potluck dinner at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall, followed by a lively, all-ages concert at 7:00pm with Jim Wahl celebrating the launch of his new album, *Good Dirt*. Bring a meatless dish to share and enjoy an evening of food, music, and community.

[Register on Realm](#)



JOIN OUR TEAM

Altar Server



Training

Sunday, March 8th at 1pm
in the Church

Shannon.Hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org

March 8 - Altar Server Training

1:00-2:30pm. Altar Servers assist the priest in the preparation of the altar, the prayers spoken by the priest, and any other items necessary to conduct the liturgy. Requirements: Rising 5th graders through High School, must be trained at St. Francis of Assisi. Contact Karina Miranda, karinamiranda86@yahoo.com.

March 8 - Always God's Children

3:00-4:30. 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.

March 8, March 15, April 12, April 19, April 26 Co-Ed Spring Youth Basketball Skills

This clinic is designed for players to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph 1st Grade-4th Grade 3:30-4:20pm / 5th-8th Grade: 4:30-5:30pm Each Session is \$23 or \$100.00 for all 5 sessions. [Info/Register Here](#). Contact Mary Arleth, mary.arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

March 12 - Time, Talent and Treasure 10:00am-12:00pm.

In the Padua Room of the Community Center. This presentation invites participants to explore work and financial decisions through a fresh and meaningful lens of stewardship. Contact Charles Marciano charles.marciano@yahoo.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. [Register here](#).

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS

Saturday, March 21st
8am-2pm
Fellowship Hall

Walk-Ins Are Welcome
Two make an appointment please visit:
www.redcrossblood.org
Search by Zip Code 27613



give blood, give life

March 21 - American Red Cross Spring 2026 Blood Drive

8:00am-2:00pm. This drive is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall. There will be drinks, snacks & lunch after you give blood. Please sign up for an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. Search by Zip code 27613 for events on 3/21/26. Contact Bryan Kozak, bryan.c.kozak@gmail.com.

Now - March 22 - Remains of St. Francis to be visible for veneration in Assisi

From Sunday, February 22, until March 22, in the lower church of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, pilgrims will be able—for the first time—to pray before the Saint's remains, as 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of his death. [Click here for details](#). Contact Mary Ellen McGuire, maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Welcome to the Catholic Church

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, or OCIA, is a welcoming program that fosters community and faith growth, inviting adults interested in joining the Catholic faith to learn more. Initially, this was called in English by the acronym RCIA, standing for the 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults,' a name which many were familiar with. However, in November 2021, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a new translation of the name of this process, now calling it the "Order of Christian Initiation of Adults." While it may seem like a small change, many see this as a new turning point, with a focus on the ongoing, lifelong process of discipleship. [More](#)



Ministry Spotlight: Spiritual Direction

Experiencing the restlessness of life, searching down paths that differ from the one God wants for your salvation and his greater glory, needn't be undergone alone. A spiritual director will gently walk with you for a period of time, a season in your life. Spiritual direction is intentionally not a 'one-and-done,' a one-hour 'spiritual oil change,' or a quick pit stop before getting back onto the racetrack. We are here for the journey, trained to listen. [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 watch video



Lunch provided

Service Sunday

Post Incarceration Reentry Simulation

Come role-play as a social services worker (such as the courthouse, employment office, bank, medical clinic, etc.) or a person transitioning from incarceration back into society. This engaging and thought provoking simulation will represent the first month after release from prison, during which participants will try to meet their required needs by navigating the system of social supportive services. This will help us better understand the barriers for people who have "paid their debt to society" and their risk of poverty so we can more effectively support and advocate for their needs.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1:00 - 4:45

REGISTRATION ON REALM REQUIRED

ADULTS & TEENS 16+

[Click here to register](#)

Led by our partners at
ARISE
Collective



March 22 - Pet Adoption & Foster Event The office of Justice and Peace is sponsoring our first pet adoption day on Sunday March 22 from 10-12! St. Francis of Assisi loved animals, and so do we! We will have cats, dogs, and turtles in Fellowship and around campus, and they all need a home. Also, if you would like to volunteer, [register here](#). Contact Mary Ellen McGuire, mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.

April 9 - May 28: Women's Ministry: Walking with Purpose Bi-

bible Study 7:00-8:30pm. Ordering Your Priorities is a practical Bible study designed to help you focus on what truly matters. By seeking God's guidance, learn to align your schedule with your values, love your family intentionally, and build a fulfilling life.

Join us to create a life that you don't need to escape.

[Register here](#). Contact Julia Snyder, snyderjules5720@gmail.com.

April 18 - Women's Ministry Spring Retreat: Live in the Joy of

the Lord 8:30am-2:00pm. You are invited to catch your breath and lean into the steady joy that Christ promises us. Led by Sr. Helen Santamaria, S.L., this retreat is an opportunity to step away from the noise of daily life and reconnect with the deep, sustaining peace found in Christ's presence. [Register in Realm](#). Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, sfawomensministry@gmail.com.

The St Francis Inn Philadelphia Ministry trips for 2026

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.

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.

June 20-28 - 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 at maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Lenten Chain of Intentions Stop by the Welcome Center and take part in our Lenten Chain of Intentions. Write a prayer, fasting, or almsgiving intention and add it to the growing chain. This meaningful activity is a wonderful way for individuals and families to journey together through Lent. Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Lenten Penance Services

Monday, February 23rd at 7pm
Holy Infant, Durham

Tuesday, March 17th at 10:30am
St. Bernadette's, Fuquay Varina

Thursday, February 26th at 7pm
St. Mary Magdalene, Apex

Wednesday, March 18th at 11am
Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh NC

Tuesday, March 3rd at 7pm
St. Bernadette's, Fuquay Varina

Wednesday, March 18th at 6:30pm
Our Lady of the Rosary, Louisburg

**Wednesday, March 4th at 7pm
St. Francis of Assisi, Raleigh**

Thursday, March 19th at 10am
St. Michael the Archangel, Cary

Thursday, March 5th at 7pm
St. Matthew, Durham

Monday, March 23rd at 6:30pm
St. Ann, Clayton

Friday, March 6th at 7pm
Our Lady of La Vang, Raleigh

Tuesday, March 24th at 7pm
St. Catherine of Siena,
Wake Forest

Wednesday, March 11th at 10am
St. Catherine of Siena,
Wake Forest

Wednesday, March 25th at 7pm
St. Raphael the Archangel, Raleigh

Wednesday, March 11th at 7pm
St. Luke's, Raleigh

Thursday, March 26th at 7pm
Holy Name of Jesus, Raleigh

Thursday, March 12th at 7pm
St. Michael the Archangel, Cary



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

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

Stations of the Cross | Friday Nights | Main Church | 6:00pm

March 6 - Family Focused

March 13

March 20

March 27 - Family Focused - TFS Courtyard

April 3 - 7:00 pm Outside Stations of the Cross (Begin TFS Courtyard, conclude Memorial Garden)

Lenten Potluck Dinners | Friday Nights | Fellowship Hall | 6:30pm

March 6 - [Register Here](#)

March 27 - [Register Here](#) | in Jacoba Hall | Hosted by Knights of Columbus

Evening Prayer | Wednesday Nights | Main Church | 6:30pm

March 4 | Penance Service to follow at 7pm

March 11

March 18

March 25

Service Sundays

March 15 Post-Incarceration Re-entry

Simulation 1:00pm-4:45pm | [Register Here](#)

March 22 Pet Adoption Event 10am-12pm.

CARE FOR CREATION AND THE POOR THIS LENT

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

PRAYER

Gow closer to Christ

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

L E

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.

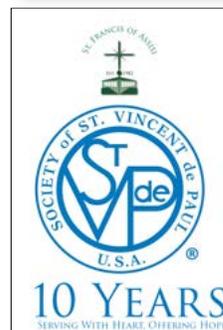
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JOIN

Come to Lent with a Plan

Founded by two St. Francis parishioners —nationwide in reach, homegrown in spirit.

Join at www.greenerlent.org



Join us! Please click [here](#) for more information and to donate and volunteer.

Find out more specifics regarding the SVdP financial commitment over the years.

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



RALEIGH DEANERY FORMATION DAY

The New Apostolic Age: Challenges and Opportunities
Responding to the Church's Call to Missionary Discipleship

A Day of Formation for Clergy, Parish Staff, Catechists, and Volunteers

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

St. Michael the Archangel | Conference Center Gallery
830 High House Road, Cary, NC 27513



PRESENTER

Friar Timothy Kulbicki

Pastor and Campus Minister at the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish at UNC-Chapel Hill. A Church historian, he has also held seminary leadership roles in Baltimore and served at his order's General Curia in Rome.

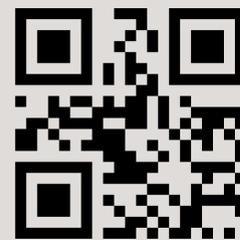
WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

A day of reflection and formation focused on missionary discipleship in today's Church. Explore the challenges and opportunities of this new apostolic age and gain pastoral insight to strengthen evangelization and ministry in your parish.

DETAILS

Cost \$20 (includes lunch).

Registration by Wednesday, April 6



bit.ly/rdfd2026

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The Raleigh Deanery

**DURING REGISTRATION, PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PARISH
AFFILIATION AND ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS.**

ADVOCACY

Weekly tidbits for how to bring our faith into the public sphere

VOTING:
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CHURCH GIVES US MORAL GUIDANCE FOR HOW TO BE FAITHFUL CITIZENS?

Learn more here

CATHOLIC VOICE CORNER

Click here to access the survey.



New Catholic High School Community Survey

The Diocese of Raleigh, in partnership with Cardinal Gibbons High School, will open a new Catholic high school on the Cary–Raleigh border in fall 2028.

Launching with 100–125 freshmen and growing to 400–500 students, the school will be grounded in a strong Catholic identity and offer a rigorous college-preparatory experience, strong athletics, thriving visual and performing arts, and a deep commitment to service and outreach. The school’s name and mission will be announced in late spring/early summer.

This school is being built for our community — and with our community. Share your ideas, hopes, questions, and priorities by completing the community survey today. Your input will help shape the foundation of this new school!

[Survey Link](#)



Join us for

EVENING PRAYER

WEDNESDAYS

DURING LENT

6:30pm - 7:00pm

Starting February 25
Main Church

GET CONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities



FORMATION SUMMER CAMPS



REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 3



FROM AMERICA'S PREMIER SEE

In Charity & Truth

Toward a Renewed Political Culture

By Archbishop William E. Lori



[Click to view document](#)

Baptism: Congratulations Mariana

Monday, February 23



Mariana's family was present for her Baptism Celebration

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre

Raleigh Section Celebrating Stations of the Cross at St. Francis on Monday.



Lenten Potluck 2026

Friday, February 20



Spring groups forming now.

Just Action!

How to Advocate and Mobilize for Justice




Just Action! How to Advocate and Mobilize for Justice
 Groups registering now, Program March-April
 Do you want to take action for faith-filled justice and unsure how to get started? Are you already taking action for justice and want to be more effective? Learn how to stand in solidarity with those affected by the issue, mobilize others for action, and advocate effectively for lasting change. Contact Casey Slock, casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Just Action! Advocate for Justice - Tuesdays 12-2pm, virtual:
Just Action! Advocate for Justice- Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm, in-person:



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/>

Care for Creation

Read the U.S. Bishop's call for a Ecological Conversion this Lent [here](#).

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/care-for-creation/>

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



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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.