

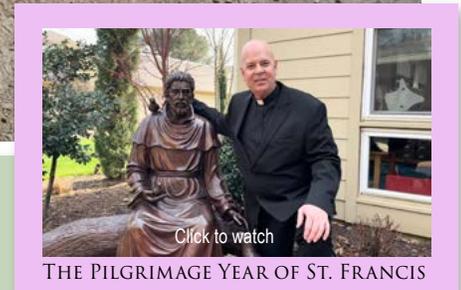
What does it feel like to be a person transitioning from incarceration?

Gain a better understanding through this engaging and thought provoking simulation of the first month after being released from prison. A truly eye-opening experience. If you're an adult or teen over the age of 16, please join us in Founders Room! (Lunch provided)

[Click here to register](#)
Please register by Tuesday, March 10



Sunday March 15 1:00-4:45pm



JOIN OUR TEAM

Altar Server

→ Training

Sunday, March 8th at 1pm
in the Church

Shannon.Hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org



Fr. Chris Koehn,
Pastor



Fr. James Singarayar, HGN
Parochial Vicar



Fr. Joseph Ita-Sam, CM
Parochial Vicar



Stephen Andrews
Deacon In Residence

March 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.

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 - Medical Presence and Safety Volunteer Information Session.

After Mass in Founders Room. Calling all volunteers. We need your help at Mass. Contact, John Hajdin, john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org. See page 4.

March 8 - Always God's Children

3:00-4:00pm. 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 11 - 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 12 - JCM Presents: From Rolodex to AI: Strategic

8:30-10:30am. Before LinkedIn and AI, careers were built through relationships and that hasn't changed. In this interactive session, you'll practice strategic networking in real time: clarify a career goal, exchange targeted connections, strengthen your value message, and learn how AI can support research and preparation while keeping the human element first. Contact Paul Dean vpauldean@gmail.com. Takes place at St. Andrews The Apostle in Apex at 3008 Old Raleigh Rd, Apex, NC 27502 RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/2rc8btff>

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 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! Contact Donna Schwede, Donna.schwede@gmail.com. [Click here to register.](#)

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.](#)

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.



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, maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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

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.

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.

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.

April 9 - May 7 Book Study: Life Everlasting

7:00-8:00pm. Join Rich Zemonek for a virtual and in-person study of Life Everlasting: Heaven, Hell, Death, and Judgment is a five-session mini-study designed for today's busy lives. Each session combines clear teaching, meaningful reflection, and practical application. Learn why these truths are meant to fill you with hope. [Click to register](#). Contact Rich Zemonek, rzemonek@yahoo.com.

April 21-May 26 and April 22-May 27: Gospel of Luke, Part 2 Virtual Study

The Gospel of Luke demonstrates the universal nature of Jesus' mission. In Part Two (Luke 12:1-24:53), readers travel with Jesus from the region of Galilee to the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus will enter into his passion and resurrection. Luke's focus on God's faithfulness will encourage you to trust. Contact Barbara Efird, barbaraefirdlpc@gmail.com.

[Tuesday evenings - April 21 - May 26](#) 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

[Wednesday mornings - April 22 to May 27](#) 10:00 am - 11:30 am

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.



St. Francis of Assisi
Raleigh, NC

Serving With Heart, Offering Hope

SVdP offers a persevering young woman hope as she navigates a new job and motherhood.

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

Serve

Learn

Donate

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

GET CONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to **Events** and **Volunteer Opportunities**



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.

Lenten Penance Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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.

St. Francis of Assisi Columbarium Committee Guidelines for Flower Placement



To honor our loved ones, a live flower may be placed by using one of our approved flower holders. Flowers will be removed at the discretion of the committee. Flower holders are available in the hallway closet near the parish office reception desk.

Join us for

EVENING PRAYER

WEDNESDAYS

DURING LENT

6:30pm - 7:00pm

Starting February 25
Main Church

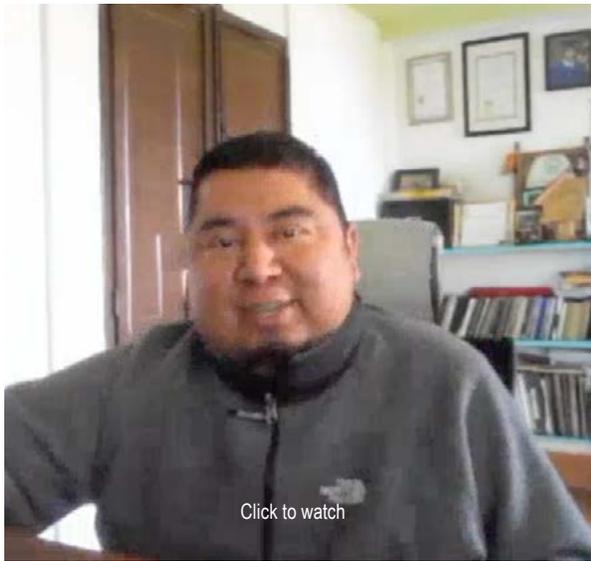
Catholic Charities 9th Annual Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing August 10



Calling all GOLFERS! Join Catholic Charities on August 10 for the 9th Annual Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing at Prestonwood Country Club, Cary, NC. Register as a golfer or sponsor! Entry includes Captain's Choice Tournament, Light Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Cocktail Reception. Your participation in this event will help support our 7 food pantries which distribute over 3 million pounds of food each year. REGISTER NOW. <https://www.catholic-charitiesraleigh.org/event/golf-2026/>. For questions, please contact Katey Fithian, Chief Development Officer, at Katey.Fithian@ccharitiesdor.org or by phone at 984-900-3119.



Sister Parish News - Summer 2026



Our Sister Parish in Guatemala awarded the student scholarships that are funded by St. Francis. The community is so grateful for our support. In addition, here is a personal invitation for us to visit July 9-19! This is a transformative cultural exchange, rooted in prayer, relationship, and solidarity. Contact Mary Ellen McGuire maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.

ADVOCACY

CATHOLIC

CORNER

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

BUDGET:

“AS BUDGET TALKS BEGIN, OUR FAITH CALLS US TO ACT.” Advocate for human dignity with Catholic Relief Services.

Learn more here

VOICE

MEDICAL PRESENCE AND SAFETY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP AT MASS!**



Register in Realm



To learn more attend an information session

March 8th - 10am (after Mass), Founders Room

March 31st - 7:00pm, Founders Room

April 22nd - 7:00pm, Anthony Hall room 403

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

Franciscan Day of Reflection 2026

A special thank you to Friar Julio Alberto Martínez, OFM Conv. for an excellent presentation!



Fr. Chris

Friar Julio

If you missed the Franciscan Day of Reflection, click on the images below to listen to Part 1 and Part 2.



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/).
<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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James W. Patella
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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.