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# Palm SUNDAY

MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> AND 29<sup>TH</sup>

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE.

WE WILL BEGIN ALL MASSES OUTSIDE  
IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECYCLE  
LAST YEARS PALMS, PLEASE BRING  
THEM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS



FRIDAY, MARCH 27 | 6PM | TFS COURTYARD  
DINNER TO FOLLOW IN TFS CAFETERIA



## SPAGHETTI

*dinner*

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus  
FRIDAY, MARCH 27  
AT 6:30PM  
Jacoba Hall (TFS)

Stations at 6pm TFS Courtyard | Register in Realm

[Click to Register](#)

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org).

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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

## *This Weekend!*

### **March 21 | Young Adult Bonfire Night**

6:30-8:30pm. Join other young adults in their 20s-30s for a relaxed evening in fellowship featuring sweet and savory smores! We are excited to host Fr. Joseph again to lead us in a discussion around the Examen Prayer and ways to improve our daily prayer lives. [Register here](#). Contact Michelle Kaiser, [mmk4894@yahoo.com](mailto:mmk4894@yahoo.com).

### **March 21-22 | Migrant Ministry Clothing and Toiletry Drive**

The Migrant Ministry will collect full-sized toiletries and clean small-medium sized men's clothing in the Welcome Center. They can accept men's long sleeve shirts, jeans, hats, belts, boots and shoes sizes 8-11, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, laundry detergent, bar soap, and new towels & washcloths. Contact Tom Carlson, [tcarlson28@gmail.com](mailto:tcarlson28@gmail.com) and Carlos Panameno, [carlos.panamenojr@gmail.com](mailto:carlos.panamenojr@gmail.com).



**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](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **March 24 | PK-12th Faith Formation & Sacramental Prep**

**2026-2027** Registrations for Cross Walk (grades K-5), Cross Train (6-9), Cross Road (9-12) and Sacramental Prep (First Eucharist and Confirmation) opens March 24 at 9:00am!

### **March 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).

### **March 28 | Habitat for Humanity Catholic Coalition Site Build**

8:10am-3:00pm. Come help build homes in our Pope Leo Village for those in need! [Register here](#). Contact Will Connelly, [st.francis.h4h@gmail.com](mailto:st.francis.h4h@gmail.com).

### **March 31 | Medical Presence and Safety at Mass**

7:00-8:00pm. Orientation for healthcare professionals, current/retired first responders (first responders covers law enforcement, so we save some space there), current/former military, corporate security, risk management, mental health professionals and anyone else interested in helping to make our parish a safer place to gather and pray. [Click here to register](#). Contact [john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **April 5 | Sensory Room for Easter Sunday 9am Mass**

9:00-10:00am. A sensory room will be available during the **9:00am Mass on Easter Sunday, April 5** for individuals who identify with sensory differences. The Mass will be live-streamed in the room and communion will be provided. **Due to limited space, registration is required in Realm and is limited to the individual and one accompanying adult.** All children must remain with an adult at all times. [Register](#). Contact [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@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](mailto:snyderjules5720@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](mailto:rzemonek@yahoo.com).

### **April 9 | Apostolic Exhortation DILEXI TE**

6:30-8:00pm. Contact [maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org) or Deacon Steve, [stephenWAndrews@outlook.com](mailto:stephenWAndrews@outlook.com).

### **April 11 | Pig Pickin' at Catholic Parish Outreach**

3:30-7:00pm. Please plan to come to CPO for our 14th Annual Pig Pickin' to be held on Saturday April 11th from 3:30 pm – 7 pm (or until the pig runs out). We will have a 50/50 raffle, live music, bake goods sale, and NEW this year - beer & White Claw sales. Let's Pig Out to Feed More Families! Contact Kelly Rapp, [Kelly.Rapp@ccharities-dor.org](mailto:Kelly.Rapp@ccharities-dor.org).

### **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](mailto:mary.arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **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](mailto:Melo.diana@gmail.com).

### **April 16, 17, 18 | All Day Breakthrough Healing Workshop**

**LORD OF THE HARVEST HEALING MINISTRY** Experience healing and spiritual freedom at the Breakthrough Healing Workshop with Patrick and Joy Campbell. Through testimony, teaching, and prayer, participants learn how to overcome spiritual obstacles, heal past wounds, and grow in God's love. St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Monica's Hall in Raleigh. [Click here to register](#). Contact Maureen Costello, [sentout72@gmail.com](mailto:sentout72@gmail.com). Diocesan approved event - there is a \$25 registration fee for the entire event.

### April 16 | Oak City Cares Gift of Home Celebration

6:00-9:00pm. Join us for [Oak City Cares](#) Gift of Home Celebration at Raleigh's Union Hall on April 16 at 6:00 pm. [Purchase Tickets](#). Contact David Bashier, [development.director@oakcitycares.org](mailto:development.director@oakcitycares.org).

### 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](mailto:sfawomensministry@gmail.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](mailto: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

### April 25-26 | Join Us for Our Volunteer Celebration!

We are incredibly grateful for our dedicated volunteers and want to celebrate all that you do! Join us on Saturday, April 25, at 6:30pm, or on Sunday, April 26, 8:00-9:00am or 10:00-11:30am. These gatherings provide a wonderful opportunity to express our appreciation and celebrate together after Mass. We look forward to honoring you! In Fellowship Hall. Contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### May 1 | World Wide Marriage Encounter

Marriage Encounter is a weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores & phones and focus on each other. Representatives will be passing out information after all masses the weekend of March 14-15 in the Welcome Center. [Register here](#). Or call 919-740-7435. Experience will be held at Cathedral School, Raleigh, NC. Contact Diana Forehand, [Applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org](mailto:Applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org).

### May 2 | Fiat Franciscus Young Adults Retreat: Pray, Decide, Don't Worry: Discernment for Everyday Life

9:00am-2:30pm. Searching for clarity in your life? Join other young adults to learn how to slow down, tune out the noise and learn to listen to the voice of God. Explore the rich Catholic tradition of discernment, learn practical tools for how to discern both large and small decisions in daily life. [Register here](#). Contact Michelle Kaiser, [mmk4894@yahoo.com](mailto:mmk4894@yahoo.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](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### Camp Francis Counselors in Training | June 15-19, June 22-26, July 6-10, July 13-17, July 20-24

An opportunity for teens (rising 9th-12th grade) interested in developing leadership skills and working with children. They will work with other C.I.T.s and Camp Staff. They are to look at themselves as role models for the campers they will be working with. For information and to apply Contact Ashley Watson, [Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org).



## Let The Little Children Come To Me

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 19:13-14, Jesus admonishes his disciples: 'The children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Certainly, the fact that we have a robust faith formation program, The Franciscan School, and the St. Francis Preschool at St. Francis speaks to our parish's continuing dedication to the youngest members of our faith. [More](#)



## Ministry Spotlight: 50+ Adults Group

Are you looking for a group here at St. Francis in your age range to do ministry with? The St. Francis 50+ Adults Group was formed to provide opportunities for social, spiritual, charitable, and educational activities for the benefit of its members, the parish, and the Wake County community. Membership is open to persons 50 years of age or older who attend St. Francis Parish or reside in Wake County and the surrounding areas. [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

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

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

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
St. Raphael the Archangel, Raleigh

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
Holy Name of Jesus, Raleigh



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

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

March 27 - Family Focused - TFS Courtyard

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

**Lenten Potluck Dinner | Friday Night | 6:30pm**

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

**Evening Prayer | Wednesday Night | Main Church | 6:30pm**

March 25

### Service Sundays

March 22 Pet Adoption Event 10am-12pm.

## Holy Week & Easter Schedule

**Palm Sunday | March 28 & 29**

Regular Mass schedule

We will begin all Masses outside in the Memorial Garden

**Wednesday | April 1**

6:30 pm Evening Prayer Service (Church)

**Holy Thursday | April 2**

7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Reposition in Fellowship Hall until Midnight  
11:30 pm - Night Prayer

**Good Friday | April 3**

9:00 am Morning Prayer

3:00 pm Passion of the Lord

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

**Holy Saturday | April 4**

9:00 am Morning Prayer

10:00 am Blessing of the Food

8:00 pm Easter Vigil

**Sunday | April 5**

6:00 am Sunrise Mass (Memorial Garden)

7:15 am Mass ( Church)

9:00 am Mass (Church and Fellowship Hall)

11:45 am Mass (Church and Fellowship Hall)

No evening Mass

[Click for a printable copy](#)

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PK-12 FAITH FORMATION & SACRAMENTAL PREP 2026-2027



REGISTRATION OPENS VIA REALM  
TUESDAY, MARCH 24 AT 9 AM

Registrations for Cross Walk (grades K-5), Cross Train (6-9), Cross Road (9-12) and Sacramental Prep (First Eucharist and Confirmation) opens March 24.

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION  
**DILEXI TE**  
(I Have Loved You)

POPE LEO XIV



ON LOVE FOR THE POOR



THURSDAY  
APRIL 9  
6:30-8PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

If you chose to read Pope Leo's Exhortation Dilexi Te during Lent, you are cordially invited to join us for a post-Easter gathering on **Thursday, April 9th, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM**, where we will share our insights and experiences from reading the document.

**REGISTER IN REALM**



[maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org)

Deacon Steve

[StevenWAndrews@outlook.com](mailto:StevenWAndrews@outlook.com)

**TFS Kindergarten Admissions-Spots Available**



We invite all parish families to apply for the 26/27 school year. Please visit [franciscanschool.org](http://franciscanschool.org) to begin an application. Contact Dawn Smith, [dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org).

CELEBRATING  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
WE THANK YOU ALL!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 6:30PM TO 7:30PM  
SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 8AM TO 11:30AM



JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

# ADVOCACY

CATHOLIC

CORNER

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



Lenten Almsgiving:  
Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls

Learn more here

VOICES



# PROJECTION MINISTERS NEEDED

We need help at all Masses with projecting slide on the screens and monitors. Anyone high school age or older is eligible for weekend masses.

**TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.**

CONTACT: [john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org)

# MEDICAL PRESENCE AND SAFETY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



- Healthcare professionals
- Current/retired first responders
- Current/former military
- Corporate security
- Risk management
- Mental health professionals
- Anyone else interested in helping to make our parish a safer place to gather and pray.

Register in Realm



**To learn more attend an information session**  
 March 31st – 7:00pm, Founders Room  
 April 22nd – 7:00pm, Anthony Hall room 403

**FORMATION SUMMER CAMPS**

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 3

**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/>

Care for Creation

Read the U.S. Bishop's call for an Ecological Conversion this Lent

**Click Here.**

**Serving With Heart, Offering Hope**

Compassion in Action: A Home Restored

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

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Make check payable to: St. Vincent de Paul of St. Francis of Assisi

# Highlights of Kairos Retreat Prison Ministry March 4-7

**THANK YA'LL** 

Dear Brothers  
 I just want to take a second to give thanks to you guys. I'm very Grateful for the Fellowship I've had these last few days. It's been along time since I've had the chance to experience this Brotherly Love. I've gained from this, these last few days has given me hope to keep pushing forward on my journey. **THANKZ** for this program/event I did find something that was lost to me & that's that people still care about me & w/out you guys I might have not found something I've been looking for within myself. And That's ~~the~~ one of the Reasons I wanted to be here. I'm Closer to God Now thanks to you & **KAIROS**  
**#57**

**See you soon**

**GOD SPOKE TO ME Thru you!**

In the March 1 bulletin we featured the Kairos Retreat Prison Ministry, led by St. Francis parishioner Mike McGrail. It was to take place at Central Prison March 4-7. The purpose was to deliver the Lord's message of love to resident/inmates incarcerated there through a 3-day retreat.

See Mike's comments below about the letter (left) he received from one of the resident/inmates.



Thank you to all who responded and submitted their first names for the paper prayer chain which helped adorn the space for the men as a reminder that they are not alone and there is a wide community of brothers and sisters in Christ who prayed for them during their 3-day retreat.

I wanted to pass on this letter from one of the K57 men that we received this week, which captures so much about K57 that I wanted you to see this letter.

My view of K57 was that it was one of the best of the many 4 day experiences I have had. It wasn't without glitches, but it was how the men responded that was so wonderful. We started with 42 men and we ended up with 41 of the originals on Saturday. That was awesome. Also, on the follow-up Saturday, we had 26 men at the reunion, which is also really good. Many of the residents have work. Often they can not get away from it for a 2nd weekend in a row at the prison.

Thanks again for your "instant on" support that helped to make this event the success it was. - Mike

For more information on KAIROS K57 contact Mike McGrail [mcgrailgroup@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrailgroup@gmail.com)

# St. Francis Staff Retreat

Our dedicated staff had an opportunity to unwind and have fun during our annual staff retreat last Friday, March 13. Thanks to a great staff and an awesome leadership team led by Fr. Chris





## 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!)

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Phil Thalheimer, Parishioner

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Questions, contact Diogenes Ruiz, [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org).  
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