

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

Deacon Steve

StevenWAndrews@outlook.com



[Click to view video](#)

Easter Schedule

Holy Saturday | April 4
9:00 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Blessing of the Food
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Easter

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](#)

GETCONNECTED
Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities



Help us reach
our GOAL today!




17.2% OF FAMILIES HAVE GIVEN

[Click here to contribute to the BAA](#)

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



REGISTRATION VIA REALM
IS NOW OPEN!

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

April 4 | 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.

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

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.

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 9 | Apostolic Exhortation DILEXI TE See page 4.

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

April 9 - JCM Presents: Faith, Identity, and Showing up Differently in Your Job Search

8:30-10:30am. Whether you're a job seeker or a professional looking to expand your network, this event will help you meet more people, gain career insights, and boost your confidence—all in a supportive and engaging environment! It will take place here at St. Francis in Founders Room. [Register here](#). Contact Paul Dean, vpauldean@gmail.com.

April 11 - 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 in St Francis Serves](#). Contact Donna Schwede, Donna.schwede@gmail.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 Rappl, Kelly.Rappl@ccharities-dor.org.

April 11 | Local Affordable Housing Advocacy Opportunity

11:00am-1:00pm. ONE Wake will hold its annual meeting and host elected officials to address this crisis. As city leaders finalize their budgets, showing up in large numbers is essential to signal that our community expects concrete investments and stronger commitments. [Registration and more information here](#).

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.

April 12 | Always God's Children 3:30-5:00pm.

A warm and 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. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.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 15 - 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. Apr. 15, May 13, June 10. Contact Lisa Miller, lisaorb1@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. 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.

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 19 | Earth Day Celebration 8:30am-1:30pm. Games, fun, and information for the whole family... including a short talk by a collaborator on the FIRST Earth Day! Come celebrate our Franciscan heritage of Care for Creation. Contact Pam James, stfccreation@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.

[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 22 - Medical Presence and Safety Volunteer Info Session

7:00pm Anthony Hall Room 403. [Register on Realm](#).

April 24 | Diocesan Anti-Death Penalty Gathering & Pizza Social

12:00-1:00pm. Catholics for Abolition in NC invites you to a pizza lunch at the Catholic Center, 1300 Stonehenge Drive, Raleigh, on Friday April 24, from Noon to 1:00. Join us for this opportunity to connect with other Catholics who share your convictions, and enjoy meaningful conversation, fellowship, and food together. RSVP: director@catholicsforabolition-nc.org. Contact Nancy J Jones director@catholicsforabolitionnc.org.

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.

April 27-28 | Anything with a Plug Recycling

7:30-10:30. Drop off electronics and small home appliances in the Community Center parking lot at traffic circle next to the Chapel on April 27. On April 28 drop off at school parking lot next to the dumpsters. No large appliances. Contact dina.dare@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.

[Register here](#). Or call 919-740-7435. Experience will be held at Cathedral School, Raleigh, NC. Contact Diana Forehand, 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.

May 4-10 | Family Promise

Family Promise. Small Commitment. Big Impact. Make a difference by helping support the lives of families experiencing temporary homelessness. We provide meals and groceries for one week while families work towards permanent housing. Be part of our next hosting. Contact Jim Packard, stfa.fp@gmail.com, 910-389-8936.



First Eucharist: Preparing as a Body of Christ

At the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi, preparation for First Eucharist has always been an important milestone in the life of our parish. Each spring, children come forward for the first time to receive Holy Communion, surrounded by their families and the wider community. Over the years, however, our parish began to reflect on how we prepare children for that moment and how the journey leading up to it could better reflect the life of the Church itself. [More](#)



Volunteer Receptionists

Will Rogers, the American humorist, entertainer, and social commentator, famously said, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." That is certainly true, and first impressions are very important for those looking to find a Parish Church. Your parish is where you receive sacraments, find your community, and share faith experiences throughout your life. First impressions are very important, and we fortunately have some fine ambassadors of our parish always at the ready. [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.

May 6-April 22 | Virtual Book Study: God's Grandeur

1:00-2:00pm. Explore the complementarity of our Catholic faith with nature and science. Scientists, philosophers and theologians share insights on the cosmos, evolution, purpose of creation, the human person and more. For novices, science enthusiasts, and those who appreciate the splendor of God's creation. [Register here.](#)

Contact Ron Monti, montiron@aol.com.

May 11 - Pen Pal Ministry Meeting

7:00-8:00pm. Current and potential pen pals with those serving time on NC's death row, please join us on Monday, May 11th at 7p in the Founders room to share, support, and learn. Our goal is to provide a match for each person who has requested a pen pal. Email questions to sfapenpal@gmail.com.

May 15 | Women's Pickleball and Fellowship Night

6:30-8:30pm. Join the women of St. Francis for a fun pickleball night! All skill levels welcome. Meet at Seven Oaks Swim & Racquet Club courts (near the pool). Bring a paddle (extras available) and water. Sign up n Realm; consider bringing a snack or drink. Play at your own risk; weather-dependent event. [Register here.](#) Contact kathryn.noblitt@gmail.com.

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.

June 1-July 23 | Youth Summer Volleyball League Registration

Registration is open for Coed League for children of all skill levels - rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders. Teams have an hour practice on Mon. or Wed. Games are held on Thurs. night. [Click here for more Information and to Register.](#) Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

August 14-16 | Single, Single Again Retreat

6:00-12:00pm. Come enjoy a beach weekend of spiritual enrichment, friendship and relaxation. Our theme is "Ebb and Flow: From Challenges to Change". Location is the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores. Contact GingerlaBelle@gmail.com. [Click here for flyer.](#)

TFS Kindergarten Admissions Spots Available



THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL
— FAITH - ACADEMICS - SERVICE —

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

SFA Spiritual Directors


Keep your Lenten Spiritual Growth Growing! Spiritual direction is a definitive way to continue exploring your life with Christ. SFA has three spiritual directors who will walk with you on the most important journey in the world! [Click here to learn more.](#) or email Nancy at prayerfulheart3@gmail.com

ADVOCACY

CATHOLIC

VOICES

CORNER



Click here to watch the video.

The Church decries hatred, persecutions, and displays of **antisemitism** at any time and by anyone.

PRAY, DECIDE, DON'T WORRY

DISCERNMENT FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



OUR REGISTRATION LINK IS OPEN!

MAY 2ND
9AM-2:30PM
\$20 FEE

BREAKFAST & LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!

FR. LUKE RAWICKI
Chaplain of Cardinal Gibbons

Earth Day Celebration



Sunday, April 19
8:30AM - 1:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Fun! Games! Info!

"The Earth is our environment to protect
and the garden to tend to."
- Pope Francis

Care for Creation

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

- Ways to help the Earth
- Grow your own veggies in pots or a raised bed.
 - Buy locally grown food at farmers' markets
 - Join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).



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.

To learn more attend an information session

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

Register in Realm



Palm Sunday Highlights





GIFT OF HOME CELEBRATION

April 16, 2026

Union Hall

510 W. Martin St. in Raleigh



St. Francis of Assisi
Raleigh, NC

Serving With Heart, Offering Hope
In serving families like this one, we are reminded that even in the most difficult circumstances, courage and love quietly persist.

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

Serve

Learn

Donate

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

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



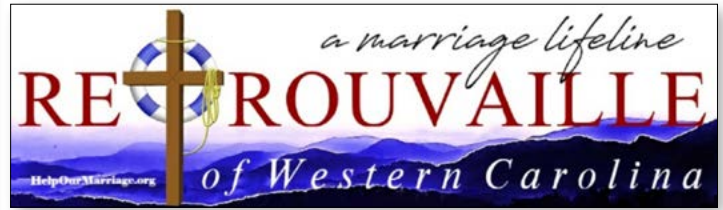
Church Keeping

We are currently looking for volunteers to help maintain the worship space, Holy Water fonts, altar, and other liturgical items, as well as wash and iron linens. Volunteer times for Church Keeping can be adapted to fit in your schedule.

For more information please contact:
Shannon.hoffman@stfrancisleigh.org



Emails not sent from our official parish email address ending in "@stfrancisleigh.org", should be considered fraudulent. Clergy and staff will NEVER ask you for favors or money. This includes email, text messages, and voice mail. ALWAYS check with the parish office when in doubt. NEVER click on a link, or respond to any request unless you have checked the validity of the message. If you receive scam email please forward them to Ryan.Edwards@stfrancisleigh.org. He will block them.




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.stfrancisleigh.org/camp-francis/>



Open to children of all skill levels in rising 3rd-9th grades.

For questions, please contact
Mary.Arleth@stfrancisleigh.org

TFS Kindergarteners bring ideas to life with chalk



On a beautiful spring day last week, Ms. Aker's Kindergarten class was busy imagining worlds. They created fairy dust through magical color combinations using chalk and designed an earth protection system where a series of laser beams shoot out from the planet to keep hostile space aliens away. Great young minds...Thank you TFS!

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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.**

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CONTACT: john.hajdin@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

You're Invited!



Join the Parishioner Directory

It's a safe, private online platform where parishioners can connect, share their interests and stories.

Click to Join

Celebrating Palm Sunday Annually with a Seder
Posted by Barbara M Efford on March 30, 2024 at 9:07pm



For the past 27 years, we have hosted a Seder on Palm Sunday with special friends and SFA parishioners. Celebrating the Passover on Palm Sunday with a traditional Seder meal and very special friends/sojourners is very significant. It helps me understand more fully the actual sacrifice of Good Friday, the...

Poetry Manuscript - Spiral Up
Posted by Richard Francis Hobb on March 11, 2024 at 5:28am

My name is Rick Hobb. I have been a member of St. Francis of Assisi since 2020, along with my wife Jean. Jean passed on February 28, 2024 after a series on long and complicated illnesses. I did some care and hospice care for Jean. I continue my journey with loss and grief. I have filled my time in many ways. Through prayer and through writing poetry. I want to introduce myself to the St. Francis community by posting one of my three poetry manuscripts. It's titled, "Spiral Up - The Holy Spirit - Finding Home - Finding Home." It represents my poetic journey in finding my home (Finding the Holy Spirit). I have it out for self-publication along with two other final draft manuscripts.

I will let the poetry speak for it's message of hope and healing. If you take the time to read it (approximately two and a half hours), I will very much like your feedback.

I'm a 3rd Degree Knight, but honestly not very active, except through this poetry, and my devotion to the Holy Mother Mary and the Holy Spi

Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate (Tom Costello)
Jun 27, 2026 from 10:00am to 1:00pm
Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral Raleigh - North Carolina

Description:
God willing, I will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on 6/27 at the Cathedral at 10:00 a.m. The mass is open to the public and all are welcome.
Created by: Thomas A. Costello

Happiness, like the pain, is something that ever was!
Posted by Robert O. Hall on January 19, 2024 at 11:30am

I have long believed that the concept of "happiness" is a false god like Baal - fools gold in reality. Happiness or the good life is the goal of us all, usually in the original Greek sense of the word, "eudaemonia," which stressed the importance of external goods such as health, wealth, and beauty. Rather, it should represent the highest human good, virtue of character, personal excellence and ethics. Happiness, is fickle, a state of well being that is subject to events outside of your control. Cheerfulness, on the other hand it is a way of life that recognizes the good in our life and spurs you on to sharing it. You can will it, merely your attitude toward yourself and others. Thackeray, named it up nicely in his novel, "Vanity Fair." Ah! Vanitas, Vanitatum, which of us is happy in this world? Which of us has this desire, or, having it, is satisfied?



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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.