



WE'VE REACHED  
**72.5%**  
OF OUR GOAL  
\$548,071.00


Help us reach  
our GOAL today!



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

18.8% OF FAMILIES HAVE GIVEN


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



Live in the  
**JOY**  
of the Lord

Women's Retreat  
April 18  
8:30 am to 2 pm

[Click to register](#)



**Catholic Social Teaching Highlight:  
Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred from conception to natural death, and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

[Click here for more information.](#)  
[Click here to watch the USCCB video.](#)

# 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*

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](#)  
[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



CELEBRATING

**VOLUNTEERS**

**WE THANK YOU ALL!**

**APRIL 25  
&  
APRIL 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 6:30 PM,**

**or on Sunday, April 26, 8:00–9:00 AM or 10:00–11:30 AM.**

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)

**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).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lisaorb1@gmail.com).

**April 15 | Info Session: Prayer for Compassionate Leaders**

7:00-7:40pm. Find out how, together, we can be coworkers with God to help our leaders. Join starting now with info sessions and discussions leading up to the Day of Prayer for Compassionate Leaders on June 24th. This is one way we can exercise our faith and shape the world with God's love. [Click for Registration](#). [Click here for Day of Prayer Website](#). Contact [casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**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 | Coffee with Chris 9:30-10:30am.** Join us Thursday, April 16 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. Contact [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.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 18/19 & April 25/26 | Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive**

**Volunteers** We need volunteers (families, adults, youth) to pass out bags after masses the weekend of April 18/19. We also need volunteers (families, adults, youth) to collect and load a truck with the OLR food donations the weekend of April 25/26. [Click here to sign up to assist](#).

**April 25/26 | Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive Collections**

Bring nonperishable food items, or a monetary donation, to the truck. Collections: before and after weekend Masses. [Click here to see a list of the current needs and for a link to make a financial donation through Parish Soft](#). Contact Odile Fredericks, [odilefredericks@bellsouth.net](mailto:odilefredericks@bellsouth.net).

### April 19 | Earth Day Celebration Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to support this year's Earth Day Celebration. Opportunities include assisting with activities and clean-up, as well as helping with Coffee and Donuts hospitality. Please use the links below to sign up. Thank you for helping make this event a success.

Volunteer for activities and clean up: [Click here.](#)

Volunteer for Coffee and Donuts Hospitality: [Click here.](#)

### 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 22 | 50+ Adult Group Potluck** 11:30am. Join us in Clare Fellowship Hall: If last name starts with, then bring A thru D = Dessert/ Bread, E thru L = Main Dish, M thru Z = Salad/Side Dish. Coffee, soda, and water will be provided. Annual Book Exchange and Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange (Complete Set). Contact, [spencer1334@bellsouth.net](mailto:spencer1334@bellsouth.net).

### 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](mailto:director@catholicsforabolition-nc.org). Contact Nancy J Jones [director@catholicsforabolitionnc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org). Please check website for acceptable items: <https://www.anythingwithaplugrecycling.com/>



## 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 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](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).

### 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](mailto:stfa.fp@gmail.com), 910-389-8936.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 in Realm; consider bringing a snack or drink. Play at your own risk; weather-dependent event. [Register here](#). Contact [kathryn.noblitt@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.noblitt@gmail.com).

### May 30 | Community Wellness Fair Saturday,

8:30am-12:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Take part in our first Community Wellness Fair and discover resources to support your mind, body, and spirit. With more than 40 local vendors, this event offers practical tools, expert guidance, and supportive services for all ages.

*Featured Activities & Screenings:*

- Pulse Screenings
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Balance Assessments
- Long-Term Care Resources
- Technology Assistance
- Home Improvement Guidance
- Fitness Information

Join us for a morning of learning, connection, and healthy living. All are welcome! Contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@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).

### 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](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### June-July | Men's 18+ Summer Basketball League Registration

League play during June and July on weekends only. Teams will have no practice time. Registration is TEAM BASED only. Players will form their own teams and submit registration and fee as a team. Each player must also complete an Individual Player Registration. Teams will provide their own jerseys. [Register Here!](#) Contact [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto: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](mailto:GingerlaBelle@gmail.com). [Click here for flyer](#).

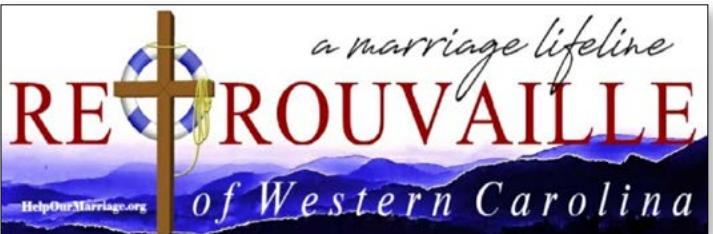
## How to help the Earth

Use cotton balls in your dryer instead of disposable fabric softener sheets.



### 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](mailto:prayerfulheart3@gmail.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).

**Employment Opportunities:**

Maintenance Tech (FT/40 hrs) Responsible for ensuring all areas of the campus are in good repair, maintaining a safe environment and professional appearance of all campus buildings. See more details here:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>

# 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)**

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



**REGISTRATION VIA REALM  
IS NOW OPEN!**

### 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).




**FORMATION  
SUMMER CAMPS**

## GET CONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities

# 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**

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

# Holy Thursday



# Good Friday



# *Easter Vigil*



# *Easter Sunrise Mass*



Open play

# PICKLEBALL

WITH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

FRIDAY  
MAY 15

SEVEN  
OAKS

6:30 TO  
8:30 PM

REGISTER IN REALM  BEGINNERS WELCOME

# MEN'S 18+ SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

SEASON RUNS JUNE-JULY WITH GAMES ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY

## REGISTER NOW!

## 2026 YOUTH CO-ED SUMMER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

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

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

Scams are on the rise

Please remain vigilant

Emails not sent from our official parish email address ending in “@stfrancisraleigh.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@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ryan.Edwards@stfrancisraleigh.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.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

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  
Chaplin of Cardinal Gibbons

# You're Invited!



## Join the SFA Parish Social Network

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

**Click to Join**

**Free Japanese Maples**  
April 10, 2026 at 12:20am

I have a couple of Japanese Maple trees. They range from 4 to 7 feet in height. If you are in getting one for your garden, please reach out to me here. They are in pots and you are able to easily transport them. I'm in North Raleigh. These plants can grow to 25 feet tall and do well in full or partial sun. You are welcome to them at no cost - first come basis.

**EVENTS**

**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

**New Members**

 Dana F Healy	 Daniel DiPerna	 Denise Gold
 David Bole	 Candice Joyce Martin	 Alita Bluford
 Val Cummings	 Eileen Walsh Dowd	 Richard Francis Hobb

## Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

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

**RUCKUS SCRATCH KITCHEN**  
13200 Strickland Rd  
984-344-1444

Click to subscribe to my FREE Monthly real estate report.

**UMSTEAD REALTY**  
919-412-8224

**Diogenes Ruiz**  
Parishioner since 1987  
Licensed NC Realtor  
[diogenesruiz@live.com](mailto:diogenesruiz@live.com)

**HOWARD HANNA**  
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE  
9212 Falls of Neuse Rd., Ste 111  
Raleigh, NC 27615  
(336) 682-1799  
[james.patella@allentate.com](mailto:james.patella@allentate.com)

**James W. Patella**  
Parishioner and local Realtor  
with over 18 years of experience.

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Change Your Socks, Change Your World  
&  
**WEAR SIERRA**  
Fashion and Accessories

All types of photography including weddings. Live Streaming on location anywhere.  
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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.