



Congratulations

to all receiving their First Communion this week and last week, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and always.

Photo courtesy of Theresa Walsh



Help us reach our GOAL today!

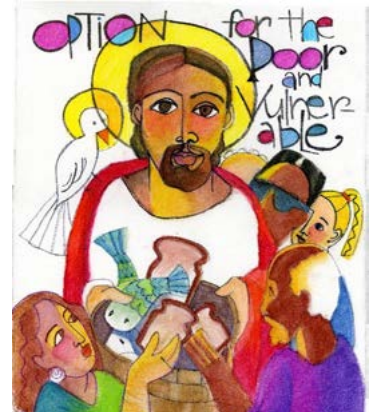


21.2% OF FAMILIES HAVE GIVEN

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



[Click to view Fr. Chris' message](#)



Catholic Social Teaching Highlight: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Our faith teaches that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. [Click here for more information.](#) [Click here to watch the USCCB video.](#) [Take action.](#) [Click to view insert.](#)

A click away If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at 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

Sunday, May 17 | Spring Walk at Umstead Park



2:00pm | Route 40 entrance Harrison Avenue. Join St. Francis' Care for Creation ministry, NC Catholics Caring for Our Common Home (N4CH), and Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle (ICCT) for a Spring Nature Walk on Sunday, May 17 at 2:00. Experience the wonders of creation on this first day of Laudato Si Week. Meet at Umstead Park, route 40 entrance at Harrison Avenue. Contact Pat & Paul Kelly mpmkelly@me.com.

[Register here.](#)

This Weekend!

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 10 | 10am
Fellowship Hall



\$7
PER PERSON

Breakfast includes:
3 Pancakes
3 Sausages
Donuts
Coffee and Juice
\$7 per person
\$24 Family of 4 or more



Knights of Columbus Memorial Day Mass

The Knights of Columbus will be recognizing deceased family members of parishioners who served in the military. Please share the name of your loved ones who served our nation with the Knights before and after Mass the weekends of May 10th-11th and May 17th-18th.

Please contact David Van Nett if you have any questions (sk.d.vannett@gmail.com).

[Click here to register](#)

May 10 - Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

10:00-11:30am. Join fellow parishioners for a Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast after the 9:00 am Mass in the Fellowship Hall (10:00 -11:30 a.m.). Price: \$7.00/person or \$24.00/family (living in a household) for 3 pancakes, 3 sausages, donut, coffee, juice, etc. Event proceeds [support worthy charities](#). Contact Nick Renga, nrenga@msn.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 13 | Wednesday Zoom Book Study

1:00-2:30pm. Wills argues eloquently that Paul's teachings are not opposed to Jesus' message. Rather, the best way to know Jesus is to discover Paul. Contact StephenWAndrews@outlook.com.

May 13 | Generous Orthodoxy: A Call to Faithful Citizenship

7:00-8:30pm. As we prepare for the Day of Prayer for Compassionate Leaders, join us for an open-ended online conversation on what it means to pray for our leaders in a polarized world. Doug James from the Civil Discourse Ministry will lead the discussion, building on a reflection available at bit.ly/depolarizeSFA2026e. Event information <https://this-is-who-we-are.org/event/generous-orthodoxy-a-call-to-faithful-citizenship/> Contact Doug James depolarizeSFA@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.

Sunday, May 17 | Spring Walk at Umstead Park

2:00pm | Route 40 entrance Harrison Avenue. (See page 2)

May 17 | 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.org.

May 18 and May 27 | Info Session:

Prayer for Compassionate Leaders 7:00-8:00pm

Learn how you can take part in efforts to collect prayer intentions for leaders at all levels, pray over them, bring them to the altar, and then deliver them so leaders know we are praying for them and how we see them living out their vocation for God. [Registration](#).

Contact casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

May 21 | Java with Jim

9:40-10:30am. Join us for Java with Jim on Wednesday, May 21, following daily Mass at 9:45am. Jim Wahl will share stories and reflections from his recent pilgrimage to Italy with parishioners, including their visit to Assisi, the home of St. Francis. Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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

May 30 | Wellness Fair Volunteers needed

We are seeking volunteers to assist with our upcoming Wellness Fair.

Morning Hospitality & Set-Up:

Assist with welcoming vendors and helping with event set-up.
Arrival time: 7:00a.m.-8:30am

Event Breakdown & Reset:

Help with breaking down tables and resetting the space in preparation for faith formation the following day.
Arrival time: 12:00 pm

If you are able to volunteer, [please sign here](#) or contact Stacey Shine at stacey.shine@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.



Seek And You Will Find

As the cofounders of the JobWorks Ministry, Paul Dean and Dana Gower, say, "Today's workforce is undergoing unprecedented disruption. Job loss, career pivots, and uncertainty are increasingly common due to restructuring, artificial intelligence, and automation. The average worker now changes jobs every 3-5 years, yet most people find themselves unprepared with the strategies, tools, or networks needed to navigate these transitions effectively." Both men are longtime Catholics in the Diocese of Raleigh and felt a calling to use their expertise to help those in need. [More](#)



Care for Creation

Laudato Si' is Pope Francis' landmark encyclical issued in 2015 on the care for the Earth and all creation as part of God's plan for the world. As a follow-up to that letter, in 2021 Pope Francis encouraged everyone to develop an action plan to implement the points of his encyclical. Fortunately, here at St. Francis, the Care for Creation Ministry is pushing for just such an action plan. [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.

June 9 | EM New and Refresher Training 6:30-8:00pm. Training for parishioners who desire to become a Eucharistic Minister and a refresher for existing EMs! Must be 16 years of age and confirmed.

[Click here to register](#). Contact john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 12-14 | Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat in the Raleigh area. It is strictly confidential, for both women and men and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. For more information or to register contact Project Rachel at: project.rachel@raldioc.org or call (919) 852-1021. The website is: rachel-nc.org Cost is \$350 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Discount of \$50 if you register before May, 12. Spanish and English speakers are welcome. If there is a financial burden, assistance is always available.

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-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.

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](#).

[Click here for the registration form](#).

The St Francis Inn Philadelphia Ministry trips for 2026

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.

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/>.

Wondering about Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual direction supports you while deepening your life with Christ. Our SFA directors will listen, hold your story, encourage, and help you find God in your daily life. Click here to learn how this accompaniment may be what you've been looking for! [Click here to learn more](#). or email Nancy at prayerfulheart3@gmail.com



St. Francis Jubilee

Welcome to a sacred year of reflection, renewal, and joyful celebration as we honor the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi. Rooted in the spirit of humility, peace, and deep reverence for all creation, this Jubilee invites our community to rediscover the timeless wisdom of St. Francis and live more intentionally in harmony with God, one another, and the world around us.

Throughout this year, we will come together as a community in prayer, service, and celebration, embracing the Franciscan call to simplicity, compassion, and care for all living things.

[Information & Events](#)



Feed the Need The Caring Cuisine fridge is nearly empty and desperately in need of side dishes, (rice, potato, vegetable) and main dishes (meatloaf, soups, pastas) gluten free options are particularly needed. For more info on Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles links below.

Feed the Need

https://stfrancisraleigh.galaxydigital.com/need/?s=1&need_init_id=8135

Caring Cuisine

<https://stfrancisraleigh.galaxydigital.com/ministries/caring-casseroles/>

Contact Celesta Carlson, feedtheneedsfa@gmail.com.



Pilgrimage to Prague and Poland Oct. 8-19 2026

under the spiritual direction of Fr. Daniel Oswald. Deadline for registration is rapidly approaching so if you are interested. For pricing and information please contact the tour director at praguepolandpilgrimage@gmail.com.



Plant dill or butterfly weed to attract and feed butterflies.



Serving With Heart, Offering Hope

A helping hand in a time of transition

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

Serve

Learn

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Raleigh, NC

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

Dental Professionals - Assisting SVdP

SVdP is looking into the possibility of initiating a Dental Care ministry for the homeless and working poor. If you are a Dentist or Dental Hygienist, working or retired and interested in helping out, contact Deacon Steve at (732) 213-0104 / StephenWAndrews@outlook.com.

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.



FORMATION
SUMMER CAMPS

ADVOCACY

CATHOLIC

CORNER

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

HUNGER:

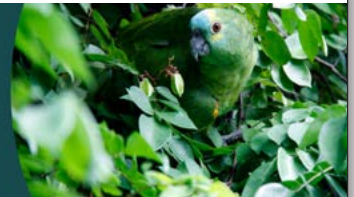
Lift Your Voice to Fight Hunger



Learn more here

VOICE

THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS



In 2015 Pope Francis urges us to care for our common home in Laudato Si

See the 7 themes of that encyclical here: laudatosiactionplatform.org/laudato-si-goals/

Open play

PICKLEBALL

WITH WOMEN'S MINISTRY



FRIDAY
MAY 15

SEVEN
OAKS

6:30 TO
8:30 PM

REGISTER IN REALM



BEGINNERS WELCOME

**GENEROUS ORTHODOXY:
A CALL TO FAITHFUL
CITIZENSHIP**

Monday, May 13
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

What does it mean to pray for our leaders in a polarized world?



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/>

Eucharistic Minister Training (For New Candidates or as a Refresher)

Tuesday, June 9th, 6:30pm-7:45pm

Training will take place in the church. Please sign up to attend on Realm.

Sign up on Realm or for more information.

Contact: John.Hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org




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

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



REGISTRATION VIA REALM
IS NOW OPEN!

MEN'S 18+ SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

SEASON RUNS JUNE-JULY WITH GAMES ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY

REGISTER NOW!





Group Leader Needed

For Alzheimer's & Dementia Caregiver Support Group

We are seeking a leader to start a second monthly daytime group. Ideal candidates have a background in nursing or social work with relevant experience. Training and collaboration will be provided.

CONTACT STACEY.SHINE@STFRANCISRALEIGH.ORG



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

Join the online SFA Social Network

**Click to
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News by parishioners, for parishioners
There is no cost to join. Must be 18+ years of age.
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Diogenes Ruiz
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diogenesruiz@live.com



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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.