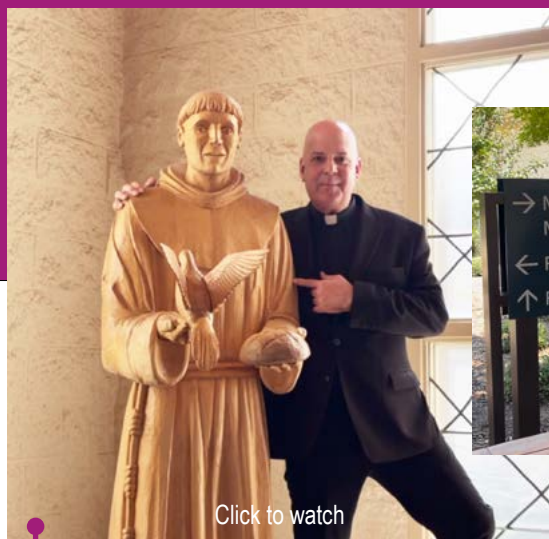




JUBILEE EVENTS

October 3 | Blessing of the Animals | 10:00am TFS Courtyard

October 3 | Transitus | 7pm | Chapel

October 4 | Francis Fest | 12:45pm-4:30pm

October 11 | Laudato Si Mass | 9am | Main Church

October 17 | Franciscan Spirit and Life Convocation

Journeying Together: A Franciscan Mission for Today

October 25-27 | Elevated Parish Mission

What Are You Searching For

November 8 | Preschool Harvest Moon Festival

November 13-15 | Fair Trade and Alternative Gifts Market!

December 11 | Living Stations of the Creche | 6:30pm-8:30pm

December 18 | Lessons and Carols | 6:30pm-8:30pm

February 6, 2027 | Franciscan Day of Reflection | 9am-2pm

Click to visit the Jubilee Page



See Confirmation highlights on pages 9 and 10

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



Cardinal Gibbons Parish Affiliation Form:

If your child is a rising 8th grader planning to apply to Cardinal Gibbons for Fall 2027 or currently enrolled at Cardinal Gibbons, please submit the completed [Gibbons Parish Affiliation Form](#) to Stacey Shine or Maggie Vladyka by October 31, 2026.

This new deadline, moved up from mid-December, allows our staff sufficient time to process and submit the form to Cardinal Gibbons by December 31st. **Note that completing this form is separate from the Cardinal Gibbons application process and does not guarantee acceptance.**

Additionally, please note to qualify for the Parish Steward rate, you must make identifiable financial contributions of \$100 per month to the church offertory or at a level commensurate with your means via **ParishSOFT** or church envelopes and participate in parish activities such as [St. Francis Serves](#).

You must also fill out the [Annual Parish Steward Rate Form](#) online. For questions, contact Stacey.Shine@stfrancisraleigh.org or Maggie.Vladyka@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Positive People WANTED

Join our After School Staff
Monday - Friday, 2:30pm - 6pm
Part-time, Flexible Days & Hours

Must be 18 years or older
Submit resume to or
send question to:
TFSResume@StFrancisRaleigh.org

More details:
<https://www.franciscanschool.org/about/employment-opportunities>

GETCONNECTED

Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities



Fr. Chris Koehn,
Pastor



Fr. James Singarayar, HGN
Parochial Vicar



Deacon Stephen Andrews
Deacon In Residence



Deacon Thomas Costello
Deacon In Residence



Deacon Frank Bandy
Deacon In Residence



Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS
Permanent Deacon

September 15-21 | CPO 17th Annual H2O for Hunger Challenge

For 1 week you can help in two ways. 1) Drink tap water instead of your preferred beverage and mail your savings at the end of the week so CPO can buy food to feed the hungry. OR 2) You can contribute any amount to help the less fortunate in our community. [Register](#). Contact Kelly Rappl, Kelly.Rappl@ccharitiesdor.org.

September 14-20 | CPO 18th Annual H2O for Hunger Challenge

For one week you can drink tap water instead of your preferred beverage. Send your savings to CPO to feed the hungry in your community. OR you can just contribute any amount to help the food insecure in our community. Every dollar given will be matched by CPO Friends. For more information, go to www.cporaleigh.org or call 919-873-0245. Catholic Parish Outreach, 2013 Raleigh Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604 \$55 feeds a family for a week. CPO served enough food to feed more than 143,000 people last year a week or more of nutritious food. Contact Kelli Rappi, www.cporaleigh.org. [See flyer](#).

September 19/20 | CPO 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 [Anne-Marie Summers](#)

Co-ed Fall Youth Basketball Skills Clinic 9/20, 9/27 & 10/11. This clinic is designed for players to work on dribbling, passing, rebounding, shooting and defensive drills with Triple Threat Triumph. 1st Grade -4th Grade: 1:30-2:30 / 5th Grade -8th Grade: 2:35-3:35 Cost is \$23.00 for each session/ All dates \$105.00 [Click here](#) for more information and to register. Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

September 19-20 "Try-It" Weekend

The Better Cleaning Products project lets parishioners try four simple, homemade cleaners from inexpensive, safe, accessible ingredients. They contain no harmful VOCs, are safer for aquatic life, and cost less than commercial cleaners. Participants may complete an optional survey to share experiences and help determine whether the program should continue. Contact Rosemary Herhold, rosemary.herhold@gmail.com.

September 20 | 2026 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge

2:00pm. Boys and Girls ages 9-14 are invited to compete at the local level. Competitors will demonstrate their skill at penalty kicks, and winners will have the opportunity to progress through future higher-level contests. Parents and guardians, please [Click here to Sign up!](#) James Hoose, jameshoose02@gmail.com.

Virtual Bible Study - Paul's Letter to the Romans Join us for 7 weeks as we break open the rich treasury of Paul's letters and come to a fuller understanding of the life-changing reality of the death and resurrection of Jesus. In this study, discover what Paul has to say about the themes that are most essential to Christian life: faith, salvation, relationships, and community. This study is on Zoom and the Zoom link will be sent to you prior to the first meeting. Please purchase the book from Liturgical Press when you register. Facilitators: Barbara Efird, Cindy Cardello and Diane Rosendahl.

[Tuesday September 22nd at 7:00 pm.](#)

[Wednesday September 23rd at 10:00 am.](#)

September 21 | Franciscan Values In Action (VIA)

6:00pm. A new program to continue the parish's outreach while showing how that outreach impacts our faith. It is called 'Franciscan Values in Action', or VIA. [Register here](#). Contact Mary Ellen McGuire, maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.

September 22 - December 22 | The Chosen- Seasons 3&4

Viewing 9:45-11:15am. Please join us on Tuesday mornings in the Padua Room of the Community Center beginning September 8 to view seasons 3 and 4 of The Chosen — "a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus, seen through the eyes of those who knew him." Contact: Tina Morgan tandmmorgan@earthlink.net.

September 23 | Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

6:30pm. Are you or anyone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Church? Do you have a desire to complete your Sacraments? Let the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults walk with you on your journey of faith. Classes will begin September 23! Contact Felipe Mendez, mendezman68@gmail.com.

September 23 | 50+ Adult Group Potluck

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
Contact Pat Spencer, spencer1334@bellsouth.net.

September 24 - April 15 | Women's Ministry: Walking with

Purpose Bible Study 7:00-8:30pm. Feeling overwhelmed by life's demands and unrealistic expectations? "Keeping in Balance" is a biblical study exploring Old and New Testament wisdom to help you manage pace and pressure. Learn to prioritize God, set healthy boundaries, and find calm, steadiness, and a lifestyle of health and holiness amidst daily challenges. [Register here](#). Contact Julia Snyder snyderjules5720@gmail.com.

September 25 | Music Ministry Evening Concert

7:00pm St. Mary of the Angels Chapel
The marimba music of Alice Gomez.

September 26 | American Red Cross Fall Blood Drive

8:00am-2:00pm. Please join the Knights in Fellowship Hall to support the American Red Cross and our larger Raleigh community through your gift of life. Please sign up for an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> searching sponsor code 'stfrancis'. Walk-ins are also welcomed. Never attended before? [Watch the video of last year's event](#). Contact Chris Miranda cmiranda0711@gmail.com.

September 27 Care for Creation

In honor of the Season of Creation, the Laudato Si Action Plan and the Care for Creation committees are hosting an adult formation event between morning Masses on September 27. Stay after 9:00 or come early to the 11:45 to hear about the Five R's (reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse and rot). Kids in faith formation? Come hang out with us while they are in their small group sessions. Follow up opportunities to be involved and learn more will be discussed! More information, sfccreation@gmail.com.

September 29 | Phoebe Forum

7pm-8:30pm, Founders Room. An educational forum on the Church's newest teaching on women and how you can contribute to ongoing discernment about women's participation and ministry during the Vatican's Synod Implementation Phase. St. Phoebe, pray for us! Contact Lori Zabiga - lorizagiba@gmail.com. [Register Here](#).

October 2-4, November 6-8, January 29-31 | Worldwide Marriage Encounter If you would like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can make! [Register](#). or Call 919-740-7435. Contact Diana Forehand, dforehand@nc.rr.com.

October 3 | First Saturday Communion Service

9:00-9:30am. First Saturday Communion Service followed by devotion to our Blessed Mother. Contact Lori Zagiba, lorizagiba@gmail.com.

October 3 | Transitus Service | Chapel

7:00pm. Join us for our Transitus Service as we prayerfully commemorate the passing of St. Francis of Assisi from this life to his heavenly home. Through prayer, candlelight, music, and the Word, we will reflect on the final moments of our patron saint on the vigil of his death. Contact Jim Wahl Jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 3 | Blessing of the Animals

10:00am. Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends for the Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3, at 10:00am in the TFS Courtyard, rain or shine. Join us as we honor St. Francis of Assisi and celebrate the gift of God's creatures. All are welcome! Contact Shannon Hoffman, shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

FrancisFest 2026

October 4th 12:45-4:30pm



- Food Trucks
- Youth Activities
- Live Music
- Franciscan Tasting Room
- Inflatables

October 4 | FrancisFest

Join us on Sunday October 4th from 12:45-4:30pm to celebrate our parish at FrancisFest 2026. Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

[Link for Sign up to Volunteer](#)

[Link to order Wristbands](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

October 6 | St Francis Youth Basketball League

Registration Deadline St. Francis Youth Basketball League Registration Join us for the 36th season of the St Francis Youth Basketball League. This program is open to girls and boys grades 1 thru 8. Registration is NOW! Regular **Late registration runs thru Oct 6**. Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org. [Register here](#).



Elevating Faith Through Mission

At St. Francis of Assisi, we offer many programs and ministries to fulfill our parish's mission. We encounter those in need; we encounter each other; we encounter the power of Jesus and God in the world. That said, we feel strongly about our mission, and we know God loves us, but do we experience God in our hearts at all times? We have a great opportunity, as Father Chris mentioned in a recent Instagram post, to attend a mission here at the parish with Elevated Parish Missions, a Catholic apostolate known for its impactful parish experiences. [More](#)



The Fair Trade and Alternative Gift Market

The Fair Trade and Alternative Gift Market returns this year on the weekend of November 14th and 15th! If you have been before, you may know how the market works, but we want to emphasize what makes St. Francis different, even if you see these same vendors elsewhere in the area. The Market reflects our parish's commitment to live out Catholic Social Teaching, especially by affirming the dignity of work and the importance of a fair wage for those who share their artisanship and hard work with the world. [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.

October 7 | Walking with Purpose Bible Study: Seven Habits that Make Life Work

10:00am-12:00pm. God wants us to experience the joy that comes from focusing on what matters most to Him. Are you ready to discover what matters most in life and how to prioritize things? If you want to create an abundant life that you enjoy and don't need to escape, join us! [Register here](#). Contact Jeanette Cottone jyc1@msn.com.

October 10 | World Day Against The Death Penalty

10:30-11:30am. Death Penalty Abolitionists: Join CANC outside Central Prison, at 10:30am, protesting the death penalty in NC, standing in solidarity with the 122 men & women on death row, and praying for the 43 who were executed between 1984 and the last execution in 2006. NC doesn't need the death penalty! [Register](#). Contact Nancy J Jones director@catholicsforabolitionnc.org.

October 11 | A Stand for Dignity 2:00-4:00pm. A Stand For Dignity is a gathering of people of many faiths concerned about our immigrant neighbors at the State Capitol. Join us on October 11 from 2:00 - 4:00 to bear witness and stand for the God-given dignity every person deserves. Sponsored by Wake Interfaith Immigration Network. [Click here to sign up](#). [Click here for the Wake Interfaith Immigration Network Home page](#). Contact Email aclassiter02@gmail.com.

October 12-18 | 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.

Oct 15 - Dec 10 | Fall Bible Study - Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

7:00-8:00pm. Join us for an eight-session journey through Mary's life, filmed in the Holy Land. Discover her unique role in God's plan through Scripture, walk with her through joy and sorrow, and learn how her example can draw you closer to Christ and deepen your faith. [Registration](#). Contact Rich Zemonek, rzemonek@yahoo.com.

October 16 | NC State Fair Peace Booth

9:00am-3:00pm. The Peace Booth is a visible presence at the North Carolina State Fair that lets fairgoers know that there are viable alternatives to the militarism and violence that are so pervasive in the world. If you would like to represent our parish during this time slot, free tix! Contact Mary Ellen McGuire maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 17 | Franciscan Spirit and Life Convocation

8:30am-2:00pm. Join us on for a day of inspiration, learning, and fellowship. Fr. George Corrigan, will present "Mission in the 3rd Millennium: A Franciscan Perspective – The Journey So Far and the Journey Ahead," exploring how the Franciscan charism continues to shape the Church's mission in today's world. [Register here](#). Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Employment Opportunities:

- After School Care Staff (Part-time)
- Assistant Principal (Full-time)

See more details here: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>.

October 18 | Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Respect

Sun, 10:15-11:15am, Founders Room. A presentation on the latest version of the [U.S. Catholic bishops' letter](#) on political engagement and voting. We'll walk through the bishops' wise, nuanced counsel on how to navigate the messiness we face during this important but polarizing election season. Contact Doug James, depolarizeSFA@gmail.com.

Oct 19 - 23 | The St Francis Inn Philadelphia Ministry Trips for 2026

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.

October 25-27 | Elevated Parish Mission

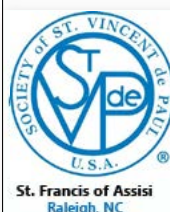
What Are You Searching For? 6:30-8:30m - Everyone is searching for something—purpose, peace, hope, healing, or a deeper relationship with God. Join us October 25-27 for the Elevated Parish Mission, a three-night parish-wide experience designed to help you encounter the transforming love of Jesus Christ and discover the joy of living as His disciple. [Click here to learn more and register](#).

October 25 | Greater Triangle Area CROP Hunger Walk

2:00-4:00pm. We are called to care for the poor and marginalized. Join the St. Francis of Assisi Community Team to support just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster both locally and around the globe. Family Friendly! [Register today](#) to walk, donate, or both. Contact Mary Ellen McGuire maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Msgr. Clay, Fr. Chris and Fr. James at their priest retreat.



Help for a New Mother

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

Serve

Learn

Donate

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

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




The Chosen

SEASON 3
8 Episodes

SEASON 4
8 Episodes

September 15 - December 22 | The Chosen- Seasons 3 and 4 Viewing 9:45-11:15am (see page 2)



CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER FOR THE FIRST VIA!
MON. SEPT. 19 AT 6PM

THEME: JOY



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Care for Creation/recycling adult formation event
Sept 27 between the 9:00 and 11:45 Masses.

PHOEBE FORUM

Women, Service, and the Catholic Church



An educational forum on the Church's newest teaching on women and how you can contribute to ongoing discernment about women's participation and ministry during the Vatican's Synod Implementation Phase. Saint Phoebe, pray for us!

"Phoebe" ©2008 Laura James
Discerning Deacons

September 29 | 7 pm to 8:30 pm
Founders Room | Hospitality at 6:45

*Hosted by the Phoebe Circle
at St. Francis of Assisi*

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Saturday, Sept 26th
8am-2pm
in Clare Fellowship Hall

Walk-Ins Are Welcome
To make an appointment please visit:
www.redcrossblood.org
Search by Zip Code 27613



give blood, give life

Music Ministry Evening Concert

Friday, September 25 at 7:00 PM
St. Mary of the Angels Chapel



the marimba music of
Alice Gomez



WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR?



Everyone is searching for something — Purpose, Peace, Hope, Healing, or a Deeper relationship with God.

Join us for the Elevated Parish Mission

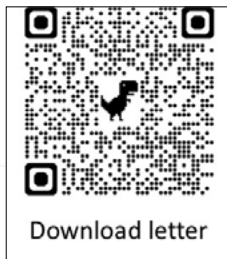
October 25, 26, & 27

"Forgive us for turning water into a commodity, forgetting that it is a universal gift, a right without borders, meant for all your children."

Pope Leo XIV
Prayer for September

EM to the Homebound

We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers to join our EM to the Homebound. If you are interested or would like to learn more please contact Shannon.Hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

U.S. bishops' letter on politics and voting

"...a better kind of politics..." Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti

Sun, Oct 18, 2026, 10:15-11:15am, Founders Room

More info: depolarizeSFA@gmail.com

Fall Bible Study: **Mary: A Biblical Walk** **with the Blessed Mother**

Thursdays, 7 - 8:30PM

10/15 - 12/10

In Person & Virtual

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother is an eight-session study that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this study places you within the powerful story of Mary's earthly life, walking with her through her joys and her sorrows. Along the way, you will discover how Scripture unveils Mary's role in God's plan and how she continues to draw believers closer to her Son today.

Facilitator: Rich Zemonek, MPS is a Diocese of Raleigh Certified Master Catechist and a co-founder of the Assisi Scripture Study program here at St. Francis. He is looking forward to help you explore the bible and discover new and different ways for "practical" application of the scripture in your daily life!

Questions? Email Rich Zemonek: rzemonek@yahoo.com

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. He will block them.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Renewal & New Certification

IT'S TIME TO RENEW OR GET CERTIFIED!

Safe Environment Training (SET) - Required for all volunteers & employees who work with children or youth at any parish, preschool, or school event.

IMPORTANT DATES

Renewal Period: July 15 – September 15, 2026

IF YOU'RE ALREADY CERTIFIED

Renew your training annually during the renewal period.

***Miss the renewal period?** Your file will be suspended and you will need to be recertified to be active in ministry.*



dioceseofraleigh.safeenvironment.org/login/index.php

IF YOU'RE NEW TO VOLUNTEERING

You must **complete the 2.5-hour certification course** before you can begin volunteering.



If you have any questions, please contact SET.support@raldioc.org



MISA DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA

MISA 11:00 AM
SÁBADO 10 DE OCTUBRE DE 2025

CATHEDRAL HOLY NAME OF JESUS

715 Nazareth St. Raleigh, NC 27606

CELEBRANTE:

Obispo Luis Rafael Zarama

**¡HABRÁ COMIDA,
BAILES CULTURALES Y MÚSICA!**

Para mas información: 984-900-3182

PATROCINADO POR LA CAMPAÑA ANUAL DEL OBISPO



Confirmation Highlights

Congratulations to our 111 newly confirmed youth. Thank you to all the families, staff, and volunteers who made this such a wonderful sacramental event. A special thanks to our clergy, faith formation team, and our music ministry.







Season of Creation

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/

Greater Triangle Area
CROP HUNGER WALK
OCTOBER 25, 2026




JOIN THE SFA TEAM TO WALK OR GIVE

Join the online SFA Social Network

CLICK HERE
to Send a request to join. Put "JOIN SOCIAL" in the subject line. You will then receive the link.



Connect with fellow parishioners - a safe place to interact. No spam, or annoying advertisements. All are welcome. Share your interest such as writing, photos, books, music, art, etc with like-minded individuals. Contribute to the Faith blog or the General blog - tell us about yourself. Join us!

Questions, please contact diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org

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