Daily Mass M-F: 9:00am in the Chapel
Weekend Mass Times: Saturday | 5:30pm
Sunday | 7:15 am, 9:00 am (also live streamed), 11:45 am, and 5:30 pm

2026 CONVOCATION | OCTOBER 17 | 8:30AM TO 2PM

"Journeying Together"

A Franciscan Mission for Today!"

Franciscan Spirit and Life Convocation

Jim, Sr. Helen, Trevor, Angela, Mary, Fr. Peter, Gladys

Photo from our last Convocation

Session 1

1. **Magnifica Humanitas and Artificial Intelligence: A Franciscan Perspective** with Fr. George Corrigan, OFM.
2. **Between Absence and Presence: The Eucharistic Life of St. Francis of Assisi** with Jim Wahl
3. **Topeka, Kansas to Albuquerque, New Mexico! Come Follow Me!** with Sister Helen Santamaria
4. **Learning to Love with St. Francis: A Franciscan Vision for Marriage and Relationships** with Trevor Thompson

Session 2

1. **Have You Given Up on the Synod? A Fresh Perspective on Synodality the Franciscan Way** with Gladys Whitehouse, OFS
2. **Faith is an Adventure! Live it!** with Mary Grace
3. **21st Century Franciscan Preaching: "Preach at All Times, Use the Pulpit Only When Necessary!** with Fr. Peter Tremblay, OFM Conv
4. **For the Connector: RCIA/OCIA – what's the difference?** with Angela Flynn

Fr. George Corrigan, OFM is our keynote speaker. He 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 on Realm | $15 Fee | Includes Lunch

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

GETCONNECTED
Connecting Parishioners to Events and Volunteer Opportunities

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

Deacon Stephen Andrews Deacon In Residence

Deacon Thomas Costello Deacon In Residence

Deacon Frank Bandy Deacon In Residence

Decaon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS Permanent Deacon

FrancisFest Highlights
See pages 6 and 7

Blessing of the Animals Highlights
See page 10

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 11 | Mass with Bishop and LSAP Reception
9:00-11:00am. Celebration with Bishop Luis: Join us at the 9:00 Mass on October 11 as the Diocese kicks off the Diocesan "Ladauto Si Action Plan", with goals to care for God's creation. Reception and information to follow. We are honored to host this event! Contact Mary Ellen McGuire Maryellen.Mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 11 | Always God's Children
3:30-5:00pm. A confidential setting for all members of the LGBTQ+ community, plus parents and grandparents. This meeting provides a safe place to pray and share our experiences together in relation to our Catholic faith. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Co-ed Fall Youth Basketball Skills Clinic 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.

Volunteers Needed in October
We need volunteers to help with several October events! Volunteers are needed for Coffee & Donuts on October 11 and 18 and for our Franciscan Spirit & Life Convocation on October 17 to help serve lunch and with breakdown. Click here to sign up through St. Francis Serves. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

October 12-18 | Family Promise Small Commitment. Big Impact. Make a differenceby helping support the lives of families experiencing temporary homelessness. We provide meals and groceries for one we ek while families work towards permanent housing. Be part of our next hosting. Contact Jim Packard, stfa.fp@gmail.com, 910-389-8936.

October 13 - 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.

October 15 | Coffee with Chris 9:40am. Join Fr. Chris for Coffee and Conversation on Thursday, October 15th in Padua, after Daily Mass. Contact Shannon Hoffman shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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.

October 18 | OCIA Sponsors Needed: We Need Your Help!
10:00 - 11:30am. Walk alongside someone becoming Catholic while growing in your own faith. Join our sponsor training session Sunday, October 18, at 10 AM in the Padua Room. Discover how your friendship, prayer, and encouragement can make a difference. A willing heart is all you need! Click to learn more. Contact Felipe Mendez, mendezman68@gmail.com.

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.

October 19-23 | St Francis Inn Ministry
6:00am-10:pm. Join us for a trip this year and make a difference. For five days, we will live with this Franciscan community, serve hot meals to the poorest of the poor, just as Jesus did. Why not come and be a part of something special? Spots are available. Contact Diana Melo, melo.diana@gmail.com.
February 8-12, 2026 (Mon - Fri) - waitlist only
April 14-18, 2027 (Wed – Sun) - open

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.

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.

November 4 | Women's Ministry with Walking with Moms in Need Baby Shower Event 7:00-8:00pm. Join us Wednesday, Nov 4th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm for a Baby Shower Event at the Padua Room in the Community Center. We'll assemble Blessing Boxes for Moms in need. Donations of $20/$30/$40 cover supply costs. Register here. Contact Katie Coppins, sfawomensministry@gmail.com.

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.

November 7 | Mass of Remembrance We will honor and pray for all parishioners who have died in the past year with a special reading of names. Parishioners are invited to bring a framed photo (max 5x7") of deceased loved ones to the Church Office between October 17th–30th. Please include contact information for easy return. Contact Shannon Hoffman, shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 8 | Native Seed Talk & Walk
2:00-4:00pm. Are you curious about how pollinator plants benefit our fall landscape? Join like minded people for a Native Seed Talk & Hike, or Gentle Walk at 2:00 on Sunday, November 8 at the Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Reserve Park, 5229 Awls Haven Drive, Raleigh, NC 27614
Register here for limited space in the walking group

- Guided Walk& Hike
- Guided Gentle Walk & Talk
- Or visit with others in the picnic area and explore on your own

Contact Pat & Paul Kelly, mpmkelly@hotmail.com.

The Little Pantry That Could

Maybe you have noticed the little white box in the courtyard at St. Francis, outside the Church and in the Columbarium. On one side it says, "Take what you need; leave what you can," and on the other, "St. Francis of Assisi Raleigh." Looking inside, you see canned goods and some dry goods, perhaps a snack pack of fruit cocktail. That 'Little Pantry,' and many like it scattered mainly outside Churches, many with associated schools, and large food pantries around the Triangle, was the project of Jillian Hines, a former student at The Franciscan School, who used it to complete her Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest Girl Scout award for middle schoolers. The idea has taken off! More

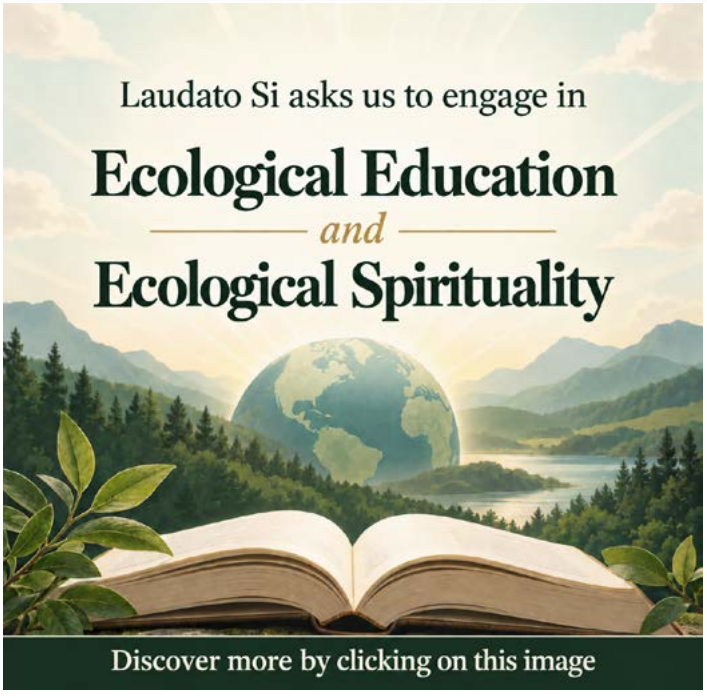
Duke Children's Hospital

We all love Christmas. The birth of Jesus, the celebration of our faith, the joy of family and friends gathered together in the spirit of the season- it's all so wonderful. Who loves Christmas most of all? Of course, children do, and, well, Santa Claus. What could be better than making a child's Christmas better, as Santa does, even when they are facing challenges during the special season of Christmas? 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.

THE STEALTH STOLES PROJECT

Led by Pam James, 17 parishioners collaborated on weaving stoles for Bishop Luis and Fr. Chris. The stoles have a bit of brown/beige for the earth, color for the plants, dark blue for water and light blue for the sky. Fr. Chris' has a few strands of metallic silver on the opposite end –the bishop has a few strands of metallic gold. The project was kept secret until the very end when they were presented to Bishop Luis and Fr. Chris.



May their lives always bear witness to Christ's love.

Congratulations to Bailee Torres and Brandon Alandt who celebrated the sacrament of marriage on 10/3/2026 with Rev. James Singarayar officiating.

LGBTQ+ Ministry's presence at Durham Pride on Saturday 10/3. We walked the 2-mile route along Main, Broad and Ninth streets in Durham, and the livestream included this note: The LGBTQ+ Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi is the longest-serving Catholic ministry in the Triangle, having formed in 1999. It has been involved with Pride in Durham since the early 2000s.

Transitus Highlights

Job Openings

Mission Support Specialist - Full Time

This position is responsible for maintaining accurate parishioner database, supporting stewardship qualification, coordinating facility scheduling, and assisting with parish-wide events and initiatives.

Community Center Staff - Part Time

Flexible hours in the evenings and on the weekendart-time, Flexible Days & Hours

More details:
https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/

TFS Application Portal Open

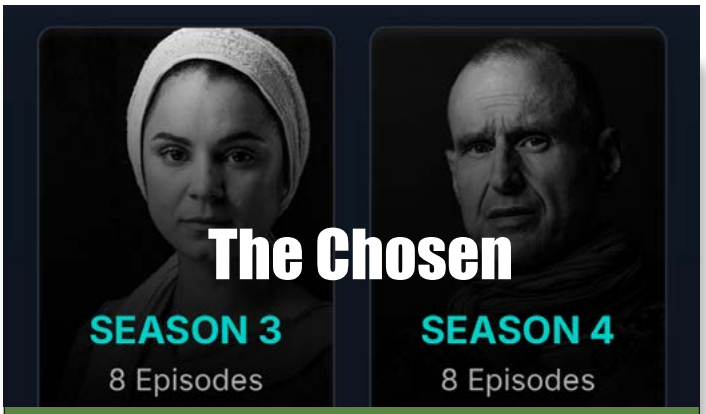
The 2027-28 application portal is now open! Families seeking an exceptional K–8 Catholic education rooted in faith, academics, and service are invited to discover all that TFS offers.

At The Franciscan School, all are welcome. We invite families of all backgrounds and faith traditions to join a community where students are encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, and through service to others.

Financial aid and scholarship opportunities are available to help make a Catholic education accessible. Learn about important application dates, admissions decisions, enrollment deadlines, and tuition assistance.

Admissions Timeline/Application

Begin your family's journey with The Franciscan School today!



October 13 - December 22 | The Chosen- Seasons 3 and 4 Viewing 9:45-11:15am (see page 3)

FrancisFest Highlights

Thank you to all who joined us for an awesome FrancisFest celebration. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and a special thanks to Ashley Watson our Director of Community Life and our Maintenance Dept for the excellent work pulling it all together!

AED

EXIT

ALL SAINTS COUNCIL
NO. 9709
KNIGHTS
OF

Congratulations on 40 Years of Marriage!

Anna and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on the Feast of St. Francis - October 4. When we got married we had no idea we picked such a great day! I had a lot more hair back then, but Anna looks the same. - *Randy Fowler*

Celebrating Your Marriage! Are you celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary? We would love to celebrate this special occasion with you and our parish community! Parishioners celebrating 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 years of marriage—or any five-year milestone thereafter are invited to send us a favorite wedding photo or a recent photo of the two of you. Send it to diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org. Please include your names, the number of years you are celebrating, and your anniversary date. With your permission, we'll share your photo and anniversary in the parish bulletin as we give thanks for the beautiful witness of married life in our community. May God continue to bless your marriage and the life you share together!

Download letter

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

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

Greater Triangle Area
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 25, 2026

JOIN THE SFA TEAM TO WALK OR GIVE

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.

DO YOU HAVE A PYX THAT YOU'RE NO LONGER USING?

IF SO, WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU RETURN IT TO THE CHURCH RECEPTIONIST DESK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE'RE CURRENTLY RUNNING LOW AND SEEM TO BE MISSING SEVERAL. YOUR HELP IN GETTING THEM BACK WILL ENSURE OUR HOMEBOUND MINISTRY CAN CONTINUE TO SERVE THOSE IN NEED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

St. Francis of Assisi
Raleigh, NC

A Helping Hand Toward Graduation

Click here to read more or visit 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

Blessing of the Animals

For those who stayed for a photograph with their pet,
You can download your pictures by clicking here.
Password "2026"

Stop by the Welcome Center and enjoy the art parishioners have created to commemorate this Jubilee Year.

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