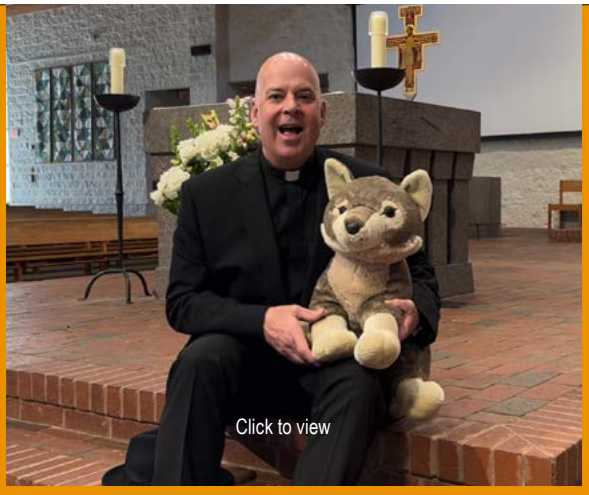
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

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

In celebration of the Thanksgiving Holiday, the parish offices will close at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 25. Holy Hour on Wednesday evening is canceled. The parish offices are closed on November 26 and 27.







ParishSOFT Account Assistance If you have forgotten or misplaced your ParishSOFT login information, **please contact ParishSOFT directly at (866) 930-4774, option 2**. Their support team can assist you with resetting your password and accessing your existing account. **Please do not create a new account if you already have one**. Creating multiple accounts can cause issues with your parish records and account information. Contact ParishSOFT for assistance before attempting to register again. Thank you for your cooperation!

A baptism celebration see page 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

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

November 2 - 30 | Funeral Notifications
Would you like to be notified by email of upcoming funerals at St. Francis? If so, please contact Joan Port at joankport@gmail.com and include "Funeral Notices" in the subject line.

Nov. 14-Dec. 13 | Advent Giving Trees

November 24 | The Chosen- Season 6 Viewing 9:45-11:15am. Please join us on Tuesday mornings in the Padua Room of the Community Center beginning September 8 to view season 6 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.

November 26 | Thanksgiving Day Mass
10:00-11:00am. Begin your Thanksgiving Day with gratitude! Join us for Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday, November 26, at 10:00 a.m. as we come together in prayer and give thanks for God's many blessings. All are welcome! Contact shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 30 | 12/7 and 12/14 Advent Giving Tree Core Team
8:00-9:00am. We are looking for a few people who are interested in leading our Advent Giving Tree initiative in 2027. If you would like to learn more, come "shadow" us as we sort returned gifts in coming weeks. Contact Mary Ellen McGuire, maryellen.mcguire@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 1 | EM New and Refresher Training
6:30-8:00pm. At this training you will learn the process of becoming an EM at our Parish or in the larger community. Register here. Contact John Hajdin, john.hajdin@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 1 | Advent Penance Service 11:00am. Prepare your heart for Christ this Advent. Join us on Tuesday, December 1, at 11:00 a.m. for our Advent Penance Service. Take time for prayer, reflection, and reconciliation as we prepare to welcome the joy and hope of Christmas. Contact Shannon Hoffman, shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 9 | Women's Ministry Christmas Carol Bingo and Cookie Exchange 7:00-9:00pm. Celebrate the spirit of the season at the Women's Ministry Christmas Carol Bingo and Cookie Exchange Social on 12/9 from 7:00-9:00pm in Founders Room! Exchanging cookies is optional. Bring the number of cookies that you'd like to go home with (split into bags of 6). Register via Realm.

December 11 | All Creatures Great and Small: The Christmas Story 6:30-8:30pm. Experience All Creatures Great and Small: The Christmas Story, a special parish-wide celebration featuring drama, readings, music, live animals, and refreshments. Bring the whole family, invite friends, and share in this memorable evening as we celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season! Reception for follow in Fellowship Hall. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

EM's Needed EM's are needed to assist with a 30-minute liturgical service on Sundays, at Abbotswood. This is a meaningful ministry that brings residents who are unable to attend Mass together to celebrate the Eucharist and share in prayer and fellowship as a faith community. Thank you for considering this opportunity serve!" Contact Susan Bartone, sdbartone5@gmail.com.

December 24 | Help put out Luminary Bags in Memorial Garden
9:30-10:00am. Help us prepare the Memorial Garden for Christmas Eve! Volunteers are needed to place approximately 260 pre-filled luminary bags throughout the garden. This is a simple way to help create a beautiful and welcoming setting for our Christmas Eve celebration. The setup should take no more than 30 minutes. Sign up here. Contact Stacey Shine stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

December 24 | Help light Luminary Bags 9:20-9:40pm Help us create a beautiful and welcoming atmosphere for Christmas Eve! If you are planning to attend the 10 p.m. Mass, please arrive early at 9:20 p.m. to help light the candles in the luminary bags. Your help will make this special Christmas Eve celebration even more inviting for everyone! Sign up here. Contact Stacey Shine stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Jan 6-Feb 10 | Study on the Death Penalty & Church Teachings
3:30-5:00pm. Recent news about state and federal executions left you angry, sad, confused? If so, this book study is foundational for those who know little or nothing about capital punishment and Church teachings on this prolife issue. Virtual six-week study with Nancy Jones, Director of CANC. Contact Nancy J Jones, catholicsforabolitionnc@gmail.com.

project rachel

January 8-10 | 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. The weekend retreat 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 for the retreat, contact Project Rachel at: project.rachel@raldioc.org or call **(919) 852-1021**. Visit rachelnc.org. Cost is $350 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Discount of $50 if you register before December 10. Spanish and English speakers are welcome. If there is a financial burden, assistance is always available.

February 6 | Franciscan Day of Reflection - Save the Date
9:00am - 2:30pm. Save the Date! Join us for a Day of Reflection with Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM. Explore how the Sacraments of Initiation call us to live our baptismal faith through solidarity, witness, and service, inspired by the life and spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi. Registration opens December 5, 2026

Saturday, February 13 | 2027 Wedding Annivesary Mass/Misa de Aniversario de Bodas 2027 10:00am. At the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. Cost: $0 The Wedding Anniversary Mass, celebrated each year in the diocese, honors those celebrating wedding anniversaries, with special recognition to couples with 25, 50, or 60 years of marriage.

Feed the Need The Feed the Need ministry of St. Francis provides temporary meal assistance to members of our community who are facing life transitions including job loss, new baby, grief, hospitalizations, illness etc. If you (or someone you know) would benefit from meals made with love during a life transition email feedtheneedsfa@gmail.com and a ministry member will be in touch.

Giving Tuesday, December 1



We're excited to share that we will be participating in #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2026 — a national day dedicated to celebrating and supporting the beauty of our Catholic faith.

This year, our Giving Tuesday mission is to Live Our Faith in Every Walk of Life. All funds raised will directly support our parish Faith Formation programs, helping us nurture our youth in their journey with Christ. These initiatives such as retreats, service opportunities, and faith-based programs, help young people strengthen their relationship with God, build lasting friendships, and develop a lifelong foundation of faith rooted in the Franciscan tradition.

Click here to make a gift that nourishes faith, strengthens community, and supports the ministries that help us live out the Gospel every day. Thank you for your generosity and for being an essential part of our parish family.





From Cardboard Shrine to Parish Church: One Woman's Story

In the 1980s, a few years after St. Francis of Assisi Parish opened in North Raleigh, the North Carolina Catholic publication ran a story by someone who was familiar with the area. Bryna Bozart, who wrote the article, recounted her early life on her family's farm in Wake County. She was surprised to see her family's former farm was now the home, as near as she could tell, of the new St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Bryna remembered in that article: "When I was a child between the ages of 10 and 16, I grew up in a rural area about 12 miles from the city limits of Raleigh. In the summer, out of school, my days were filled with... More



Altar Servers & Thurifers

We see them every time we are at Mass: the altar servers who assist the priest. Many of us may have served as altar servers many years ago, and those who did know how vital these young girls and boys are to our clergy and to those attending Mass. As Ministry Coordinator Karina Miranda says, "The Altar Server Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is a ministry of faith, service, dedication, and spiritual growth. It serves God and the Church through active participation in the liturgy, and is a great way to involve kids in the Liturgy." 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.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, 2026

Advent Penance Service
Tuesday, December 1st at 11am | Church

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday, December 8th at 9am (with TFS) 11:45am, 7pm

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Friday, December 11th at 9:00pm Misa en Español | Chapel

All Creatures Great and Small: The Christmas Story
Friday, December 11th at 6:30pm | Memorial Garden
Reception to Follow | Fellowship Hall

Lessons and Carols
Friday, December 18th at 6:30pm-8pm | Church

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

SCHEDULE

The Season of Christmas Schedule

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve
4pm Mass in Church, Children Focused (also Live-Streamed)
4pm Mass in Gym, Children Focused
4pm Mass in Fellowship Hall, Children Focused
10pm Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)

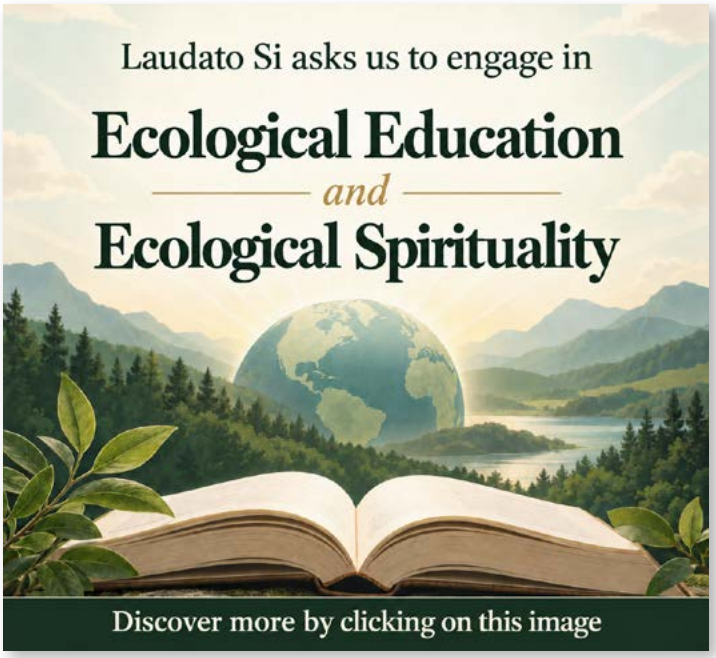
Friday, December 25th Christmas Day
9am and 11:45am Mass in Church

No Daily Masses for December 28, 29, and 30

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Friday, January 1st at 10am | Church

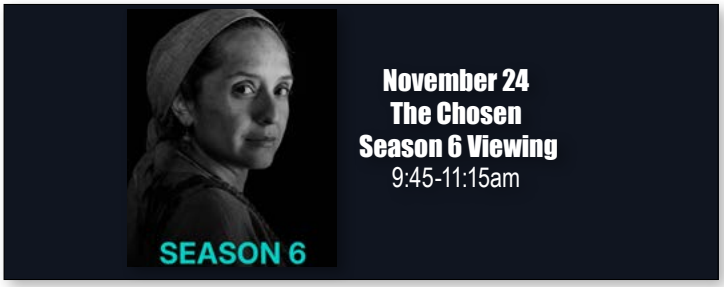
Parish Offices Closed
Thursday, December 24 through Friday, January 1











December Hospitality Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help with our December hospitality events! It's a great way to get involved, support our parish community, and earn volunteer hours. Check the calendar for available opportunities and sign up to lend a hand. Every volunteer makes a difference! Register here. Contact Stacey Shine stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

SOCIETY of ST. VINCENT de PAUL U.S.A.

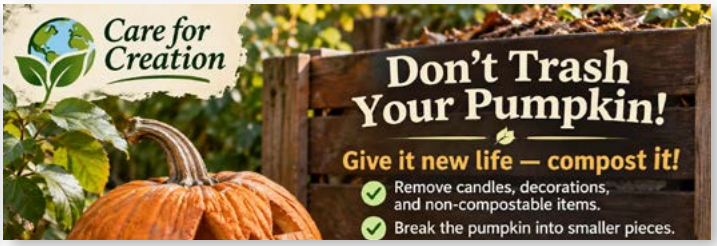
St. Francis of Assisi
Raleigh, NC

The Call that Came Back

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









Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in our frozen turkey drive. Because of your generosity, we collected 220 frozen turkeys for families in need.

Congratulations on 25 years of Marriage





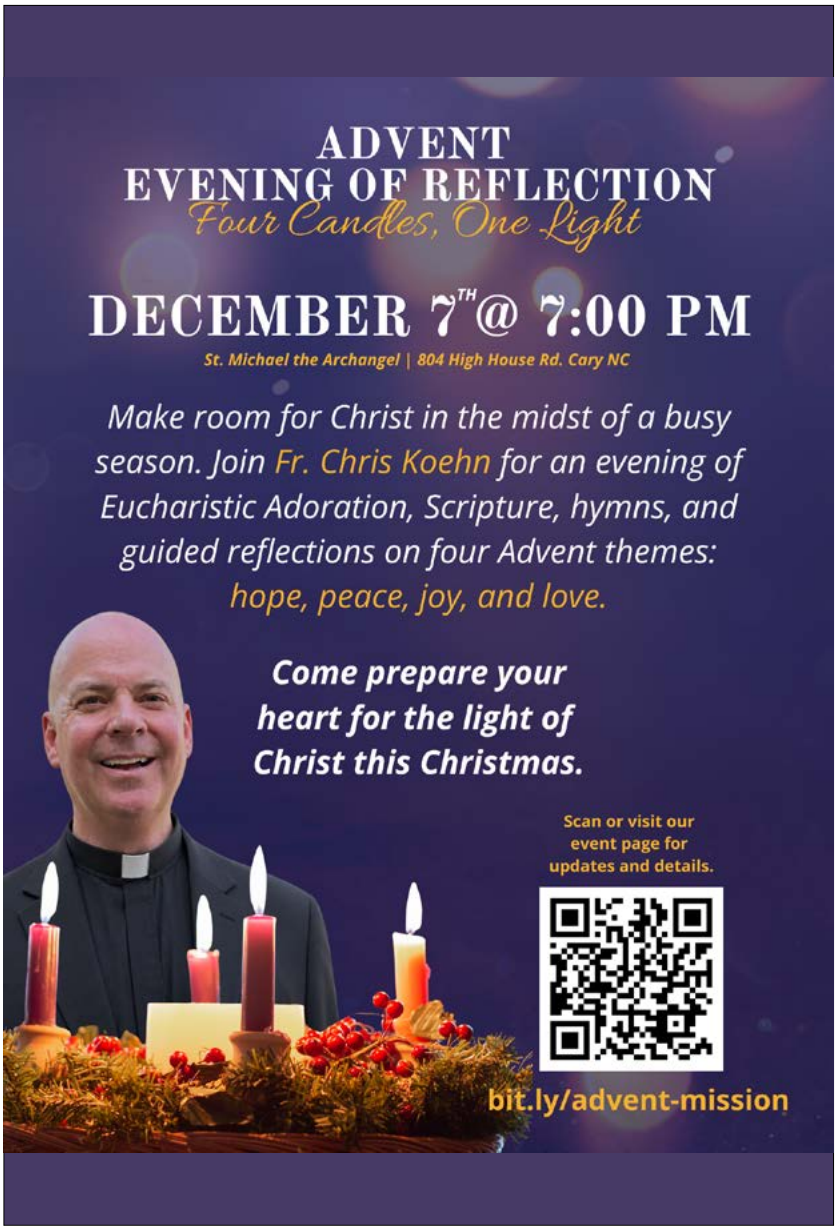
My husband and I (Matt and Jessica Yonkovit) just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. We were married on October 6, 2001, in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

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.

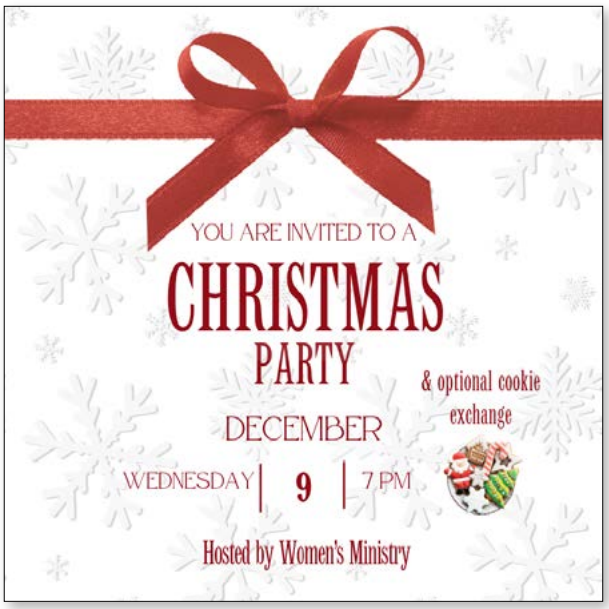
Congratulations to Caitlyn Padgett and Evan Merkey



Congratulations to Caitlyn Padgett and Evan Merkey who celebrated the sacrament of marriage on 11/14/2026 with Rev. James Singarayar officiating. May their lives always bear witness to Christ's love.







Fair Trade Gift Market Highlights

Products purchased at the Fair Trade and Alternative Gifts market benefit workers around the world by paying a fair wage for their wares. Thanks to all who supported this effort!









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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.





Share the spirit of the Christmas season by supporting the St. Francis of Assisi Advent Giving Tree. Our primary recipients are organizations in the community that work directly with people in need. There are 2 ways you can support the Advent Giving Tree.

1. Take a paper ornament from the trees located in the Community Center and the Welcome Center and follow the instructions on the ornament for when to return the gift. Return gift by the date on the tag (or if no date then please return by December 13th) to: Community Center Lobby: Monday-Thursday from 8am-2:30pm Nov. 30 thru December 10 OR In the Welcome Center: Before or after Mass on the weekends and during the week from November 21-December 13. Community organizations whose families are included on our tree this year include Catholic Parish Outreach, Hispanic Family Center, Duke Children's Hospital, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Passage Home, St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. Parish ministries that benefit include Prayer Shawl, Feed the Need, St. Francis Brown Bag Ministry, Walking with Moms and Oak City Cares.

2. Make a Financial donation thru Parish Soft One-Time Gift. (make sure to select the Advent Giving Tree drop down) This year's beneficiary organizations of our financial donations will be: Helen Wright Center, Ronald McDonald House in Durham, Helene Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

Contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.





Congratulations to baby Clara and her family. May this baptism day be the start of a life-long journey of faith, love, and grace, and may she shine as a light in the world to the glory of God."