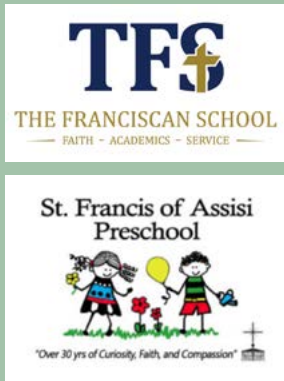




Hope you had a wonderful snow day this week! The Bishop's Annual Appeal letters have been mailed. Promptly responding to the cards is helpful. We need an average donation of \$200 per family to meet our goal.

Supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal makes our Catholic Church stronger. We cover the eastern half of the state, from Burlington to the beach, a lot of small rural areas and people in need. Please make your contribution today.

With love,
 Fr. Chris



Click to view video.

2025 Catholic Schools Week
January 26 - February 1

Catholic Schools
 United in Faith and Community

Celebrating Catholic Schools

As The Franciscan School (TFS) celebrates its 25th anniversary, we join with our Preschool, other schools in the Diocese of Raleigh, and all Catholic schools across the country to celebrate all that Catholic education provides to students and families. "Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week," says the National Catholic Educational Association, or NCEA. This year, it runs from January 26th through February 1st.

Happy Catholic Schools Week

United in Faith and Community

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](#)



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. Jim Sabak, O.F.M.
 In Residence



Fr. Joseph Ita-Sam, CM
 Parochial Vicar



Stephen Andrews
 Deacon In Residence

Immigration Assistance Available

If you know families in eastern North Carolina—from Alamance County to the Outer Banks—who need support with immigration matters, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services is here to help. They provide guidance and assistance with completing and submitting various immigration-related processes. For more information or assistance, please encourage them to reach out to Catholic Charities. [Click here for more information: https://www.catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/immigration/](https://www.catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/immigration/)

January 26 - Coffee and Donuts - Catholic Schools Week

10:00am. Join us for coffee and donuts in Fellowship Hall after the 9am Mass. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. TFS students will be hosting this event. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 26 - Altar Server Training 1:00 - 2:30pm. Contact Shannon Hoffman, shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org. If you are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please join us in the Church following the 11:45am Mass.

January 27 - Preschool 2025-2026 Registration

7:00am - [Registration link](#). Open to the Community
Contact Shellery Freeman, shellery.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 27 - February 10 - Mom's Strides 360 Session I

9:30-10:30am. Join us in the Assisi Community Center in the Cupertino Room for a three week session of fit 4 mom Strides 360 Class. [For more click here](#). Contact ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

January 28 - DivorceCare Spring Series

6:00-7:30pm. You don't need to go through the pain of separation or divorce alone. With DivorceCare you'll find caring and supportive people who understand the emotional turmoil and pain. Meets weekly in the Padua Room of the Gym/Community Center. [Register here](#).
Contact Bill Morgan, dejanuts@yahoo.com.

January 29 - Faith Formation Summer Camps Registration Kickoff

12:00pm. Interested in having your child participate in Faith Formation's summer camp offerings? Registration for Vacation Bible School, Mercy Camp and Mission Mercy kicks off at noon on 1/29/2025. [Find more information about our camps here!](#) Registration links will go live on 1/29. Contact Brooke Kingston, brooke.kingston@stfrancisraleigh.org. See page 3.

January 29 at 9am Camp Francis - Registration Opens via Realm

June 16-20, June 23-27, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25
Our popular summer camp, has lots of cool opportunities in athletics, science, arts and various enrichment areas! Camps are half-day or full-day based on age for the 2025-2026 school year. (Rising K-Rising 6th grade) Registration Link:
<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/> See page 4.

February 1 - Ignited by Truth - First Saturday Rosary

9:00 -11:00am. Join Ignited by Truth for our First Saturday Rosary in the Our Lady of the Angels Chapel at St. Francis of Assisi. We will begin the morning with Mass at 9am. Contact Richard Hammer, steinmeisterhammer@gmail.com.

Employment Opportunities:

[Afterschool Staff](#)

See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

February 2 or 4 - EM Training

For CURRENT EM's who would like a "refresher" AND for any one who would like to become an EM. *Must be 16 years of age, a member of St Francis, who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. SUNDAY, Feb 2 at 1:15pm
OR TUESDAY, Feb 4 at 6:30 pm.

February 3 - Career Networking Ministry

8:30 -10:30am. CNM Presents: Unlocking Growth and Resilience through the Power of P.L.A.Y with Joy Carter at St. Andrews Church. CNM is a group of working professionals and job seekers committed to proactive career management through continuous learning and relationship building pursuant to the expansion of opportunities for immediate or future employment. Contact: Paul Dean vpauldean@gmail.com. [Register Here](#).

February 5 - Alzheimer's | Dementia Caregiver Support Group

1:00-3:00pm. Are you caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia? Join us for support, understanding, and shared resources at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 5, at 1:00pm in Padua. Connect with others who understand your journey. All are welcome!
Contact Kathleen Boate, kboate@msn.com

February 5 - Wine & Will Event! See page 4

February 5 Faith and Poverty: A Justice Response

Join a Faith and Poverty: A Justice Response small group beginning February 5th (virtual or in-person). This eight-week program introduces us to the systems and structures that perpetuate poverty in our community and engages us in prayer and reflection. Register for either group in Realm. Contact Casey Slock, casey.slock@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 8 - Corral Riding Academy Saturday on the Farm

1:00 - 3:30pm. CORRAL Riding Academy is a faith-motivated nonprofit that serves adolescent girls in high-risk situations through a long-term, holistic program of equine therapy and education. Join us for hands-on projects to support the NEUSE RIVER (Raleigh) campus and learn about CORRAL's mission and programs! [Registration link](#). Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com. Families welcome!

Feb. 8/9, 15/16 & 22/23 Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Drive Volunteers Needed

Two ways to help (1) distribute bags after Mass on weekend of February 8/9 or (2) Collect donated items/load truck (1.25 hr. shifts) weekends of Sept. Feb. 15/16 & 22/23. See links for details. [Bag Distribution Volunteer Sign-Up](#) / [Donation Collection Volunteer Sign-Up](#). Contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

SCAM ALERT

Please be aware that a staff member of the parish, including the pastor, will never contact you via text message requesting assistance from you.

Every Tues 2/11-3/25 - Grief's Journey-Coping with Loss of a Loved One 10:30am-12:00pm. A seven week series that offers hope following the loss of a loved one through death. (Anthony Conference Room). The group offers a safe place to share your own journey with grief and to learn from others. Intended for those who are three months or more after the death of their loved one. [Click here to register in Realm](#). Contact Dina DaRe, dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 15/16 & 22/23 Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Drive Donations Needed Bring nonperishable food items, or a monetary donation, to the Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) truck. Collections: before and after weekend morning Masses and only before 5:30 pm Masses (note: collections end at 6 pm Sat/Sun). Contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

February 26 - April 2: Women's Ministry Bible Study: Fearless & Free 10:00am-12:00pm. Join us for a Women's Ministry Bible study based on the book of Ephesians. Sessions are on Wednesdays for 6 weeks. This study is ideal for those of us who long for wholeness of heart and are in need of freedom from past wounds. [Register here](#). Contact Eva Socko, esocko44@gmail.com.

March 1, Women's Ministry Retreat: Encountering Jesus 9:00am-2:30pm. Join Women's Ministry for a retreat: Encountering Jesus this Lent. Hear stories of women who experienced the Paschal mystery through their encounter with Christ, the cycle of living, dying, and rising. The retreat includes presentations, reflection time, group interactions and lunch. Childcare available. Register in Realm. [Retreat registration click here](#). / [Childcare registration click here](#). Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, czejkowskir@gmail.com.

Catholic Parish Outreach Donation Drives Coordinator Needed We are looking for a couple or 2 individuals to take over the volunteer role for coordinating the CPO food drives that are held twice a year. You would help coordinate volunteers, bags, and truck logistics alongside the parish staff. If you are interested and want to learn more, contact Ashley Watson, ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.



A graphic for Formation Summer Camps registration. It features a QR code in a yellow circle at the top left. The text "FORMATION SUMMER CAMPS" is written in large, colorful letters (blue, red, and purple) in the center. Below the text are three polaroid-style photos showing children and adults in various activities. At the bottom, it says "REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 29 12 O'CLOCK NOON VIA REALM" and "Make sure you have access to Realm!". The background is light blue with green leaf patterns and yellow stars.



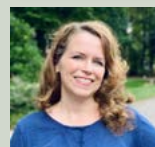
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Hospitality Ministers

For anyone who grew up in the Catholic Church, you knew about the 'ushers.' The ushers were usually a group of older dads and other men who pointed out seats to those attending Mass and gathered up the collection at the offertory. It was often an 'exclusive group' whose culture and bylaws were shrouded in 'mystery.' The 'ushers' ministry at St. Francis transformed a while ago; it has been known as the 'Hospitality Ministry' for years! [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."



CAMP FRANCIS

REGISTRATION OPENS ON
JANUARY 29TH
AT 9AM



Fr. David's first book, "Just an old Book" has sold out. His second and third book will be available this Spring and Summer. A limited quantity of 100 copies of each book will be produced. If you would like to reserve your copy, please visit www.grateful-leper.com.

(After printing costs, proceeds from the sale of Fr. David's books go to St. Anthony Friary in Petersburg Florida.)



*Join Us
for an
Exclusive
Wine
&
Will Event!*

Plan Your Legacy Over a Glass of Fine Wine
Whether you need to create or revise your will, please join us for our Wine and Wills event hosted by the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh on Wednesday, February 5th from 6:30- 8:00pm in Founders Room.

Come join us and enjoy a great evening of wine, conversation, and planning for the future.

The Seminar will be led by a local Estate Planning Attorney, providing an excellent opportunity for parishioners to learn more about creating or revising your will. Seminar topics include legal steps required in personal planning, understanding wills and trusts, Beneficiary Designations, Power of Attorney, Advance Directive- Living Will and other important information.

Don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity to take control of your future, protect your family and ensure your legacy for generations to come.

Thoughtful planning now will help those we love live peacefully in the future. To reserve your spot, contact Stacey Shine at stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org by February 3rd.

[Click here to register](#)

Please note that this is a free Seminar, and no solicitations will be made.



JUST ENGAGED?

LET'S PLAN YOUR WEDDING!

Congratulations to all newly engaged couples!
Start your journey together with a beautiful wedding at St. Francis of Assisi.

Contact Martina.Dumberger@stfrancisraleigh.org
marriages@stfrancisraleigh.org
pre-marriage preparation.



St. Vincent dePaul helps people in need.

Hear about how volunteers prevent the loss of Section 8 vouchers that enable the working poor to afford their rent in these challenging times.

<https://youtu.be/HylogrIEk5o>

Visit the [Svdp website](#).

Contact Cathy Smith, smithtcr@gmail.com.



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EXTRA BOXES**

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Questions, contact Diogenes Ruiz,
diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org.

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Rialto Theatre, 4:00pm

NC Master Chorale



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