CLERGY
Fr. Erin Kochivar, x101, ekochivar@stfranciscs.org
Deacon Jim Bachta, jbachta@diocs.org
Deacon Rick Bauer, rbauer@diocs.org
Deacon Andy Berry, aberry@diocs.org

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.,
Sunday: 8:30 & *10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Monday—Friday: 8:30 a.m.
Nursery is available for Sunday morning Masses
*Livestream Mass available from our website.

ADORATION
Thursdays from 5-6pm during Holy Hour
Fridays 9am—3:15pm

CONFESSION
See website for occasional exceptions
Monday—Friday: 7:30—8:15am before daily Mass,
Thursdays 5—6pm during Holy Hour, Saturdays
4:00—4:30pm and by appointment.

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH GROUPS
Includes Sacramental Preparation and Religious Education. For elementary & adult ages contact
Jennifer Lehrman, jenniferk@stfranciscs.org, x110.
For middle, high school & young adult ages, Terrie Hernandez at Theresah@stfranciscs.org, x111.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS
Held the third Saturday of the month at 3pm
(except December). Contact the office to sign up.

MARRIAGE
- Couples considering marriage begin preparation 12 months prior to the anticipated date. Contact Deacon Andy, aberry@diocs.org.

FACILITIES
- Jamie, x103, jbettis@stfranciscs.org

MARIAH - Couples considering marriage begin preparation 12 months prior to the anticipated date. Contact Deacon Andy, aberry@diocs.org.

MUSIC
- Mark B., x104, mbauman@stfranciscs.org

BUS. MANAGER
- KellyC@stfranciscs.org, x102.

ASST. BUS. MGR./COMM./WEBMASTER
Cristi Mourn, x106, Cristi@stfranciscs.org.

ADMN ASST
- Judy, x100, parish@stfranciscs.org

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND
Any member of our St. Francis community who is ill or homebound and who needs communion brought to them, Deacon Andy (719) 235-7724.

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
- A service for parishioners experiencing hardship such as a serious illness or accident, or a family or friend in peril.
For prayers contact Karen Hutcheson at Khutch8152@comcast.net or 598-0758.
**Christmas Schedule**

- **Christmas Mass times:** (nursery not available)
  - Saturday December 24th at *4pm, *6pm (with children’s choir) plus a midnight Mass.
  - Sunday December 25th 10am
  - *We will livestream the 4 & 6pm Mass into the Hall for overflow if the church is full, which typically occurs at the 4pm Mass.

- **Solemnity of Mary** (Jan 1st) Holy Day falls on a Sunday, so we will follow our regular weekend schedule: Saturday vigil at 5pm, Sunday Mass at 8:30 & 10:30am, 5:30pm.

  **Note:** The office is closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2.

**Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer Program**

The St. Francis Council of the nights of Columbus is sponsoring a special Faith in Action for Families Program this Christmas season.

This activity is designed to be celebrated as a family, whether you are a single individual or a large group.

The “Consecration to the Holy Family” Faith in Action Celebration will take place at all Masses December 31st/January 1st.

**Informational Brochures**, with suggestions for preparation to participate in the Prayer of Consecration, will be available in the narthex. No signups necessary, just come prepared to participate!

**What is Apologetics?**

“In the beginning ... God.” The first words of the bible affirm an essential teaching of the Christian faith: *Before all else, God is.* It’s a reality that seems obvious to most Christians, yet many people doubt or deny it.

Challenges are often issued to other articles of the Christian faith as well, such as the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to specifically Catholic beliefs, such as the unique authority of the pope. For this reason, Christians—and Catholic Christians in particular—often find themselves defending their beliefs in conversations with non-believers.

The Greek word for “defense” is *apologia*. Our English word “apology” is derived from it. In its classical definition, “apology” did not mean an admission of wrong, as the modern English word suggests. Rather, an apology was a defense or justification of a belief. For example, students of philosophy or the classics are familiar with Plato’s *Apology*: an account of Socrates’ defense of his teaching.

In the present context, then, “apologetics” refers to the *reasonable defense of the Christian faith*. It is one aspect of what our Lord Jesus talked about when he urged us to love God with all our mind. Faith is not opposed to reason; in fact, reason, rightly understood, is a support to faith.

The foundations of Christian apologetics were laid by our Lord himself when he presented “many proofs” of his resurrection, including his appearance to skeptical, hard-nosed, “doubting” Thomas and the other apostles. The resulting apostolic proclamation of the gospel included eyewitness (legal or scientific) testimony as a central feature.

St. Paul likewise engaged in apologetics, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks of the truth of Christianity. His reasoned style of evangelization is demonstrated in his sermon on the Areopagus, Mars Hill, in Philosophy-dominated Athens and in his determination to “become all things to all, to save at least some”.

The apostle’s approach to sharing and defending his faith should encourage Catholics today to follow his example. *(Lk 1:4, 10:27; Jn 20:24-29; Acts 1:3,2:32,17:2-34; 1Cor 9:3-23; 1Pt 3:15; Jud 3), CCC (31-49, 156-159)* The New Catholic Answer Bible
Want to make a difference on Christmas Eve?
Our 4th Saturday for supporting the Marion House Soup Kitchen falls on Christmas Eve, December 24th! Please let me know if you can help by email at magsbea33@gmail.com by this Tuesday, Dec 20th. We have the opportunity of 2 shifts or working the entire time. Shift 1: 7-10am, preparing the meal to be served. Shift 2: 10am-1pm, serving the meal.
Thank You!

New Adult Bible Classes Begin in January!

**Mondays 7pm: 1st Corinthians class begins January 9th.**

Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, addresses many of the same topics that appear in the news headlines today: scandals, promiscuity, debates and controversies, and issues related to prosperity versus poverty.

The Church and the Christian Community explores Paul’s advice for living an authentic Christian life in a pagan culture as well as his teachings about the nature of grace, the Church as the body of Christ, and the most powerful gift of all—the Eucharist.

**Wednesdays at 7pm: James begins Jan. 4th.**

Looking for an anchor to hold you steady through the storms of life? Want the secret to finding joy in the midst of trials? Interested in learning to recognize the source of discord and the way to peace?

In James: Pearls for Wise Living, Jeff Cavins shows how the teachings of James speak to those of us who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and our faith.

**Tuesday 9:30am Bible Timeline class will continue.**

If interested in joining mid year, talk to Larry below.

**Larry Gray will be in the Narthex after all Masses next weekend to answer questions and sign you up.**

Or you can reach him at: (719) 593-7031, or l.m.gray@comcast.net. He needs to pre-order the student workbooks which are $25, so plan ahead!

Dinner-for-Eight starts another year

The Dinner-for-Eight group is starting another year with a party on Sunday, January 8 from 3-5pm. We will gather in the home of Joan & Gene Meek, 7464 Forestgate Drive 80908.

**Bring an appetizer to share.**

This dinner group of couples provides an opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of other parishioners in relaxed, small group settings. We’re not a gourmet group, and we all contribute to each meal.

**We welcome new members.**

If you’re interested but not sure, try us as a substitute.

Call or e-mail Lou Ann or Rose Ann for more information about the group or to sign up. Please RSVP by January 5 to Lou Ann Sosalla, 719-599-3523, e-mail: tolapsos@msn.com, or Rose Ann Golobic, 719-466-7400, e-mail mike@golobic.com.

Pray for our Seminarians & Priests, calendar thru August 2023:

www.diocs.org/Vocations/Seminarians

Last Call! We need a new coordinator to represent our parish for the (IHN) Interfaith Hospitality network.

St. Francis partners with St. Michael’s Episcopal Church to provide shelter, meals, and support services for 3-4 families without homes twice during the year.

Call Susan Guetig (719) 593-0226 for info as she is stepping down in December after 15 years and would be available to help the new person with the transition.
Mass will be offered regardless of weather but the parish office and all church activities will follow the School district 20 inclement weather policy:
If D-20 is closed or evening activities are canceled, our parish follows; no changes for a 2 hour delay.

**The Bible in a Year** (below) is a daily podcast that goes through the entire Bible while Fr. Mike offers insight, prayer, and commentary on the readings. Released in 2020, this was the #1 Apple Podcast for two years in a row—reaching millions of people around the world. Maybe you’ve always wanted to read the Bible cover to cover but didn’t know where to start or got stuck in Leviticus. This is the solution.

Catholics from all over the world have experienced the transforming power of God’s Word from this podcast and have felt a deeper and closer connection to God and the Catholic Faith.

To listen: [www.ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear](http://www.ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear)

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**The Catechism in a Year** podcast (below) with Fr. Mike Schmitz is being released for the first time on **January 1st, 2023.**

Similar to The Bible in a Year, this podcast will go through the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Faith* and Fr. Mike will act as our insightful guide throughout the journey. Maybe you aren’t familiar with the *Catechism* and maybe you think the *Catechism* is just a reference book — it’s not!

This is God calling you to learn more about our Faith. Through this podcast, you’ll discover a new love and clear understanding for what we believe as Catholics and why we believe it.

**Both of these podcasts are completely free!**

Each of the daily episodes are about 20 minutes long, making it easy to listen to them while going on a daily walk, drinking your morning coffee, driving into work, or however you like. All you have to do is click “play” and allow God to transform your life day by day.

To listen: [www.ascensionpress.com/ciy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/ciy)

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**Read and Understand the Bible with The Bible in a Year Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!**

“As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass and occasionally in self study but never like this. *The Bible in a Year* brings it all together.”
—Ignacio G.

Join over 1 million Catholics listening to this podcast!

**Get the FREE Reading Plan!**

Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!
[www.ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear](http://www.ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear)

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**Understand Your Catholic Faith with The Catechism in a Year Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!**

By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:
- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

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   Improve posture & balance, Improve concentration & memory, Reduce pain, stiffness & stress.
   Can be done from a chair or wheelchair

Instruction Includes: Warm-up, cool-down and breathing exercises, Gentle Tai Chi forms.

Marilyn Reback, kmj1007@aol.com, (719) 650-2859

Women’s Spiritual Mentoring Program

Do you desire to grow in your relationship with God?

This free program offered by Women’s Story is about women supporting women in their spiritual journey for a period of 6 months.

If you desire a prayer partner, are in need of spiritual support or are considering the path God has in store for you, we have openings for a mentee.

For information or to sign up, contact Helen Cason (808) 223-7214, mswomanstory@gmail.com.

Women’s Story is a program of Women Partnering and is a sponsored ministry of The Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration of Colorado Springs.

The Burning Babe

By Saint Robert Southwell 1561-1595.

This poem reflects on the love of the Son of God for fallen humanity. Through poetic imagery he combines the story of Christ’s birth, Passion and Death and gives us an unforgettable portrait of Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

As I in hoary winter’s night
   Stood shivering in the snow,
   Surprised I was with sudden heat
   Which made my heart to glow;
   And lifting up a fearful eye
   To view what fire was near,
   A pretty babe all burning bright
   Did in the air appear;
   Who, scorched with excessive heat,
   Such floods of tears did shed,
   As though His floods should quench His flames,
   Which with His tears were bred:
   ‘Alas!’ quoth He, ‘but newly born
   In fiery heats I fry,
   Yet none approach to warm their hearts
   Or feel my fire but I!
   ‘My faultless breast the furnace is;
   The fuel, wounding thorns;
   Love is the fire, and sighs the smoke;
   The ashes, shames and scorns;
   The fuel Justice layeth on,
   And Mercy blows the coals,
   The metal in this furnace wrought
   Are men’s defiled souls:
   For which, as now on fire I am
   To work them to their good,
   So will I melt into a bath,
   To wash them in my blood’
   With this He vanish’d out of sight
   And swiftly shrunk away,
   And straight I called unto mind
   That is was Christmas Day.

All donations received or postmarked by Saturday, December 31st will count towards your 2022 contributions for tax purposes.

After careful consideration, the COVID careful space in the church will be discontinued starting December 24. As always, parishioners are welcome to wear a mask in the Church if they choose to do so. We will continue to live stream the 10:30am Sunday Mass.
**GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US**

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today’s first reading. “A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz’s time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God’s presence known. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

**Psalm** — The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).

**Second Reading** — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

**Gospel** — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, “God is with us” (Matthew 1:18-24).

**Weekly Mass Intentions**

Sat, Dec 17, 5pm: † Mary Daly
Sun, Dec 18, 8:30am: Sr. Therese Clair  
10:00am: Parishioners & Visitors  
5:30pm: † Renato Bianchi

Monday, Dec 19, 8:30am: † Sharon Sowers
Tues, Dec 20, 8:30am: Patrick Vaughan
Wed, Dec 21, 8:30am: Vicenza Marshalls
Thurs, Dec 22, 8:30am: † Charlie Martinez
Friday, Dec 23, 8:30am: † Dolores A. Barrowman
Saturday, Dec 24, 4pm: † John F. Milan  
6pm: † Dennis Ryden
Sun, Dec 25, 12:00am: Parishioners & Visitors  
10:00am: † Doug Voss

You may have a Mass offered for the living, deceased (†) or a special need. Contact the office to schedule. No charge but a typical offering is $10.
Welcome to our Church!

We are happy to have you here with us. If you are new to the parish or have not yet registered, please visit our website or fill out a registration card. Pick one up from an Usher and drop in the offertory or to the office. Thank You!

Why Register? It is the official way to join a parish community and shows a commitment to practice your faith. It entitles you to receive sacraments, enroll in religious education and serve as a godparent.

Registration creates a two-fold obligation: On one hand, the Pastor and his Apostolate of Lay People take on the obligation to serve the spiritual needs of each parishioner. On the other hand, the parishioner takes on the obligation to support the mission and needs of the parish.

Worldly wisdom says, live longer. Biblical wisdom says, prepare to die.

Nursery available during the Sunday 8:30 & 10:30am Mass, for Ages 6mo-5yrs

Our parish provides a nursery staffed with two caring adults and fun toys for your little ones to enjoy while you spend a peaceful hour in Mass. (Closed for Christmas)

Last Call! We need a new coordinator to represent our parish for the (IHN) Interfaith Hospitality network. St. Francis partners with St. Michael’s Episcopal Church to provide shelter, meals, and support services for 3-4 families without homes twice during the year.

Call Susan Guetig (719) 593-0226 for info as she is stepping down in December after 15 years and would be available to help the new person with the transition.

Weekly Activities

**Monday, December 19 (Office hours 9am-4pm)**
- 7:30am: Confession (Church)
- 8:30am: Daily Mass (Church)
- 9:00am: Quilters (D-E)
- 6:00pm: Marian Devotion Rosary Group (B-C)
- 7:00pm: Rosary after above meal/discussion (Church)
- 7:00pm: Church Fathers (St. Clare)

**Tuesday, December 20 (Office hours 9am-4pm)**
- 7:30am: Confession (Church)
- 8:30am: Daily Mass (Church)
- 9:30am: Great Adventure Bible Timeline (B-C)

**Wednesday, December 21 (Office hours 9am-4pm)**
- 7:30am: Confession (Church)
- 8:30am: Daily Mass (Church)
- 7:00pm: Choir Practice (Church)

**Thursday, December 22, (Office hours 9am-4pm)**
- 7:30am: Confession (Church)
- 8:30am: Daily Mass (Church)
- 5:00pm: Holy Hour with Confessions (Church)
- 6:30pm: Boy Scouts (D-E)

**Friday, December 23 (Office closed for the weekend)**
- 7:30am: Confession (Church)
- 8:30am: Daily Mass (Church)

No Adoration today

**Saturday, December 24**
- 4pm/6pm Vigil Christmas Mass (Church, Hall)
- Midnight Mass (Church)

**Sunday, December 25**
- 10:00: Christmas Day Mass

Colorado Stations

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