



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

**LOCATION:** 2650 Parish View, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

**OFFICE PHONE:** 719-599-5031

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm (closed Fri-Sun)

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [parish@stfrancisCS.org](mailto:parish@stfrancisCS.org)

**WEBSITE:** [www.stfrancisCS.org](http://www.stfrancisCS.org)

## CLERGY

Fr. Erin Kochivar, x101, [ekochivar@stfranciscs.org](mailto:ekochivar@stfranciscs.org)

Deacon Jim Bachta, [jbachta@diocs.org](mailto:jbachta@diocs.org)



Deacon Rick Bauer, [rbauer@diocs.org](mailto:rbauer@diocs.org)

Deacon Andy Berry, [aberry@diocs.org](mailto: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

**CONFESION** 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](mailto:jenniferk@stfranciscs.org), x110. For middle, high school & young adult ages, **Terrie Hernandez** at [Theresah@stfranciscs.org](mailto: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](mailto:aberry@diocs.org).

**FUNERAL & ANOINTING** - Contact Fr. Erin

**MUSIC** - Mark B., x104, [mbauman@stfranciscs.org](mailto:mbauman@stfranciscs.org)

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

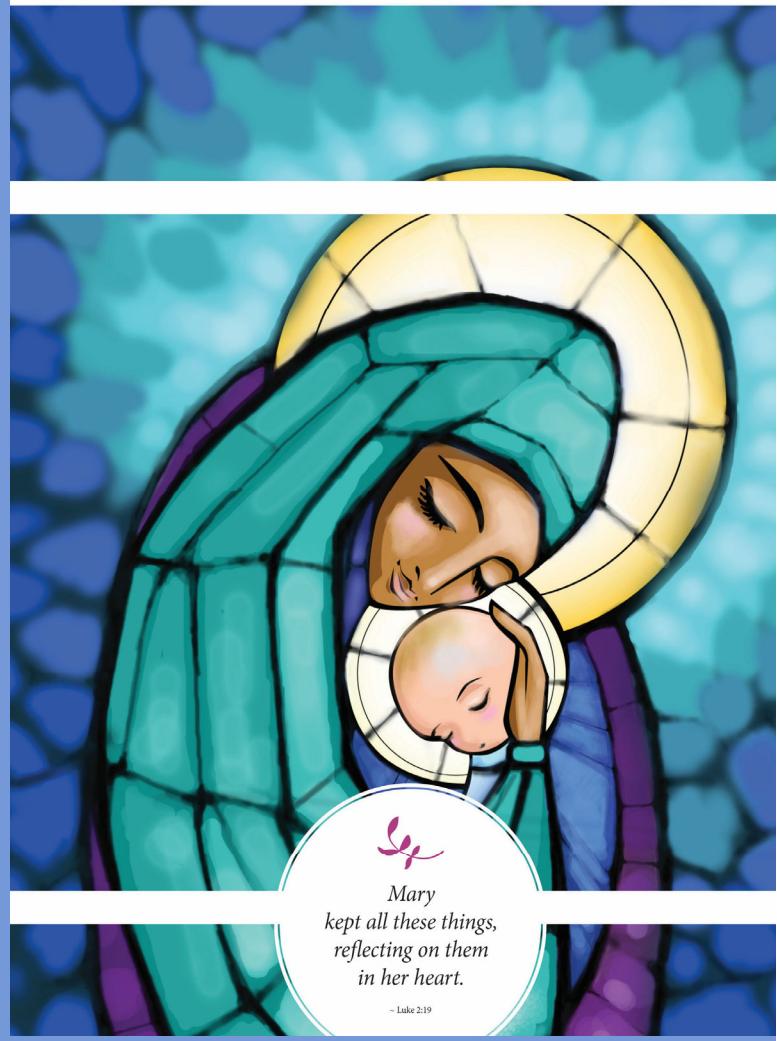
**ASST. BUS. MGR./COMM./WEBMASTER**

Cristi Mourn, x106, [Cristi@stfranciscs.org](mailto:Cristi@stfranciscs.org).

**ADMN ASST** - Judy, x100, [parish@stfranciscs.org](mailto:parish@stfranciscs.org)

**FACILITIES** - Jamie, x103, [jbettis@stfranciscs.org](mailto:jbettis@stfranciscs.org)

January 1, 2023 | Mary, the Holy Mother of God



## 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](mailto:Khutch8152@comcast.net) or 598-0758.



## New Year's resolution idea! Say a Hail Mary when washing your hands

(10 seconds), or an Our Father (15 seconds), or both, to fulfill the recommended time of at least 20 seconds to wash your hands effectively.



After all, **James 4:8 does say, “Cleanse your hands . . .”**, which inspired the sign, “Wash your hands and say your prayers because Jesus and germs are everywhere!”

**What does the priest say when washing his hands?** The name lavabo ("I shall wash" in Latin) is derived from the words of Psalm 26:6–12, which the celebrant recites while he washes his hands at the altar: "Wash me O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."

**NEW! Online Sign-up for Friday's Eucharistic Adoration coverage** through a “SignUpGenius app”.

Beginning sometime this week, there will be a link located on the main page of the parish website, <https://stfranciscs.org/>, **titled "Adoration Signup"; click on it.**

You will be placed directly into the SignUpGenius application, where you can pick the time slots you wish to volunteer to host coverage, and follow the directions in the app. Feel free to call Larry Gray at 719-593-7031, if you have any questions or need help signing up!

**We thank you for volunteering to host coverage,  
as without your help, extended Adoration times would not be possible!**

## Feminine Genius High School Girls Retreat

**When:**  
Friday, January 20, 5 PM -  
Sunday, January 22,  
11 AM

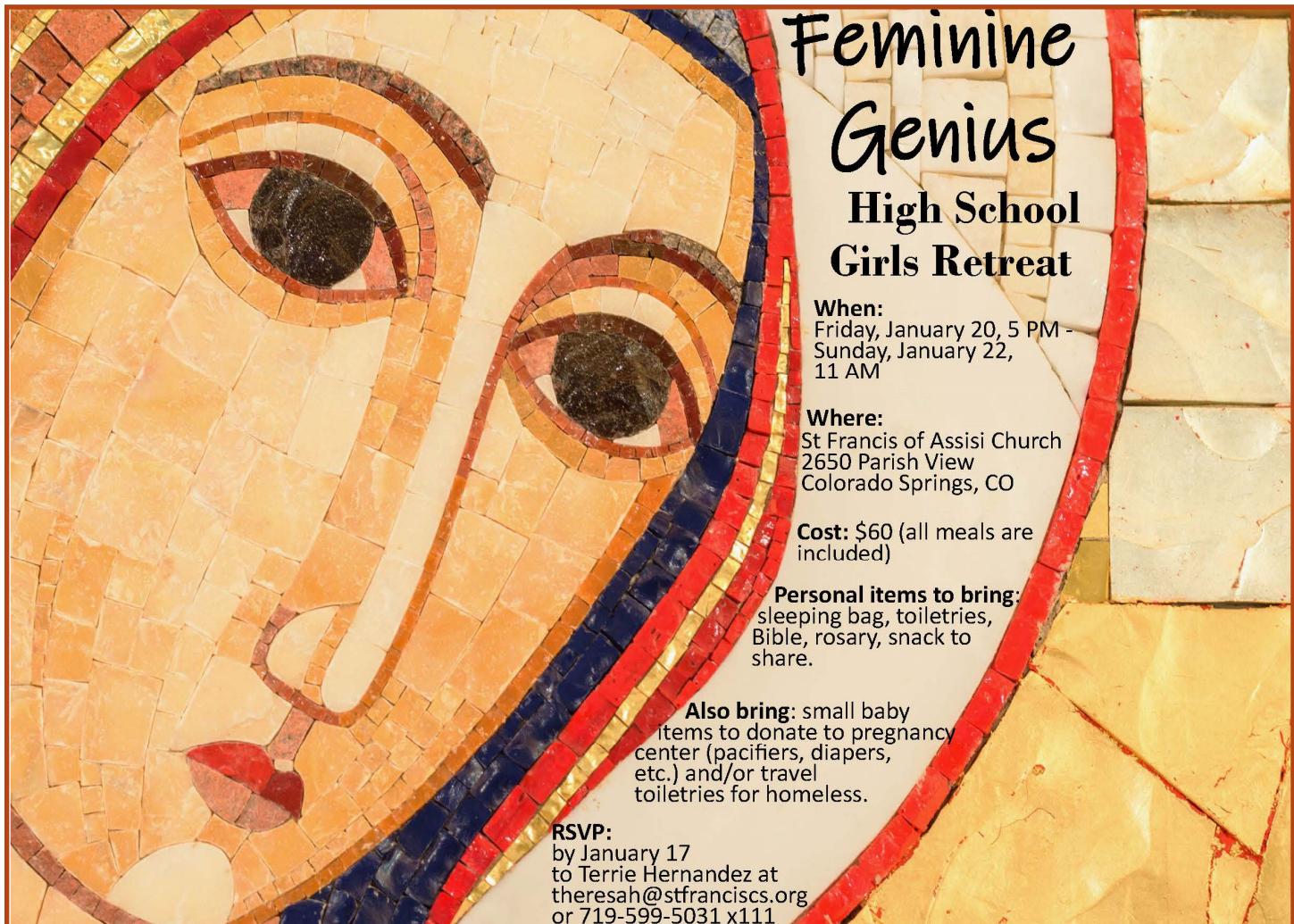
**Where:**  
St Francis of Assisi Church  
2650 Parish View  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Cost:** \$60 (all meals are included)

**Personal items to bring:**  
sleeping bag, toiletries,  
Bible, rosary, snack to share.

**Also bring:** small baby items to donate to pregnancy center (pacifiers, diapers, etc.) and/or travel toiletries for homeless.

**RSVP:**  
by January 17  
to Terrie Hernandez at  
[theresah@stfranciscs.org](mailto:theresah@stfranciscs.org)  
or 719-599-5031 x111



## The Blessed Virgin Mary Compared to a Window (Poem by Saint Thomas Merton)

(From the beginning of the Church, faithful believers have honored the Blessed Virgin Mary and understood the unique role she had in God's plan for the salvation of humankind. Because Mary has such a crucial role in our salvation and because Jesus gave her to the Church as our Mother, Catholics have always turned to her for guidance, protection, and love. Mary's special role in the history of salvation, her union with God, her humility, and her concern for her children on earth are strongly illustrated in the following poem.)

Because my will is simple as a window and knows no pride of original earth,  
It is my life to die, like glass, by light: Slain in the strong rays of the bridegroom sun.

Because my love is simple as a window and knows no shame of original dust,  
I long all night, (when I was visible) for dawn my death:  
When I would marry day, my Holy Spirit: And die by transubstantiation into light.

For light, my lover, steals my life in secret.

I vanish into day, and leave no shadow but the geometry of my cross,  
Whose frame and structure are the strength by which I die, but only to the earth,  
and am uplifted to the sky my life.

When I become the substance of my lover, (Being obedient, sinless glass)  
I love all things that need my lover's life, and live to give my newborn Morning to your quiet rooms,  
your rooms, that would be tombs, or vaults of night, and death, and terror,  
fill with clarity of living Heaven, shine with the rays of God's Jerusalem: O shine, bright Sions!

Because I die by brightness and the Holy Spirit, the sun rejoices in your jail, my kneeling Christian,  
(Where even now you weep and grin to learn, from my simplicity, the strength of faith).

Therefore do not be troubled at the judgments of the thunder.

Stay still and pray, still stay, my other son,  
and do not fear the armies and black ramparts of the advancing and retreating rains:  
I'll let no lightning kill your room's white order.

Although it is the day's last hour, look with no fear:  
For the torn storm lets in, at the world's rim, three streaming rays as straight as Jacob's ladder:

And you shall see the sun, my Son, my Substance,  
come to convince the world of the day's end, and of the night,  
smile to the lovers of the day in smiles of blood:

For through my love, he'll be their Brother, my light—the Lamb of their Apocalypse.

1. In the poem, what does Mary say would happen to our rooms if she were not transparent?
2. What happens to the "kneeling Christian" who dies by brightness and the Holy spirit?
3. What does the Blessed Virgin say to Christians when they hear the thunder and are afraid?
4. The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved by God from all stain of Original Sin. This privilege of Mary is known as the "Immaculate Conception." In what ways does Merton describe this sinless quality of Mary in stanzas one and two?
5. What does glass do for light? How is glass used as a symbol for the Virgin in the poem?

**Thank you Christmas Giving Tree Angels** – Gift givers, behind-the-scene volunteers, supply donors and monetary contributors. By opening your hearts, you have brought hope to parents; squeals of delight to children; and because they have been remembered, smiles to seniors in our community. Giving Tree recipients received wished-for jeans, shirts, tops, coats and shoes, as well as Legos, books, dolls and art supplies. 333 gifts were given to local children and teens, while 25 seniors were given bookmarks, monetary donations for needed gifts, and cards with loving thoughts and prayers. Thank you again for sharing the spirit of Christmas.



## **Marriage Convalidation Course beginning Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for 4 weeks**

This class is for those whose marriage is not in the Catholic Church. That is, for those who are civilly married but have never received the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church. The first class will be to go over the process and begin any/all necessary paperwork.

Fr. Erin Kochivar and Deacon Andy Berry will be offering this course over 4 consecutive Monday nights in rooms B-C. There is no cost and signups are not necessary. Please contact us with any questions: aberry@diocs.org or ekochivar@stfranciscs.org.



**Creation Care Tip:** If you missed earlier PBS broadcasts of the exceptional video *The Letter: A Message for Our Earth*, here is a link to the documentary on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>.



This feature film documents a completely original set of events about a contemporary game changing "call to action" that features unprecedented access from one of the world's most iconic leaders: **Pope Francis**. The storyline interweaves the lives of 5 principal characters on a voyage of discovery; which is both an adventure of the mind as well as the body. These life changing experiences raises questions about how science and spirituality are vital to solving perhaps the biggest globally defining issue of our time: climate change. Duration:1:21

### Does the Church Teach Evolution?

From *The New Catholic Answer Bible* (Gen 1:1-31, 2:7; Acts 17:26; Rom 5:12-19); CCC (33; 355-406; 415-417)

Are the opening chapters of Genesis a literal, scientific description of the world's creation? Or is their language more figurative, whose essential meaning points to fundamental truths about God and the world? Christians have debated the matter since ancient times.

Perhaps the sharpest controversy over these passages has to do with human origins, usually focusing on the scientific theory of evolution. Some believe that Genesis, rightly understood, denies any possibility that human beings have descended in some sense from other species. Others, however, claim that such evolution is a proven scientific fact.

Catholic tradition provides a different perspective. Following the insights of St. Augustine and others, it allows that Genesis employs figurative language, so it cannot be cited as a scientific text that rules out human evolution altogether. At the same time, however, the "proven facts of science" accepted by one generation may be rejected by later generations because of new evidence. So the Church warns scientists against presumption in their conclusions. She specifically rejects any scientific theories (such as that of Charles Darwin) which insist that evolution was the result of random forces rather than the intelligent design of a personal Creator. Such pretentious claims move beyond the limited realm of inquiry that is possible to science.

Given divine revelation as a whole, the Church teaches that a few fundamental truths about human origins cannot be contradicted by scientific speculation:

- The entire universe, including the human race, is not the result of chance, but of God's purposeful, loving design.
- Human beings are not simply more advanced animals; they bear the image of God in a unique way.
- Even if God may have created the *bodies* of the first humans through evolution, their *souls*, like all human souls, were immediately created by him at their conception.
- All human beings share a single, historical ancestor, so they all have the same nature and origin, and belong to one human family.
- The primordial fall from original holiness of our first human parents was a real event within time. It left them and their descendants with original sin.

**Dinner-for-Eight**  
starts another year with a party  
**Sunday, January 8 from 3-5pm.**



We will gather in the home of Joan and Gene Meek, 7464 Forestgate Dr. 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 for more info or to sign up.

**Please RSVP by January 5:** to Lou Ann Sosalla, 719 599-3523, email: tolapsos@msn.com, or Rose Ann Golobic, 719-466-7400, e-mail: mike@golobic.com.

### Our Journey through the Seasons of the Year

**Sunday, Jan. 29th 1:30—3:30pm, here in (B-C)**

**Leader: Sr. Marilyn Uhing OSF, Storyteller: Judy Smith**

No charge, donations welcome.

**RSVP required by January 23,** to Helen at 808-223-7214 or msfwomanstory@gmail.com.

God gave creation seasons of change. Each season brings its own growth and change. In our 2023 Woman's Story quarterly Gatherings, women will explore the characteristics of each season and discover the relationship between the seasons of the earth and the seasons of their lives. They will discover the presence of God within and around them in each of the seasons.

Winter is considered a season of deepening, a time to slow down. Come to this gathering and learn the benefits of this season for your body, mind and soul and learn the grace of winter for your wholeness using reflections, prayers, storytelling, meditations and small group sharing.

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3*

**Woman's Story**—A program where women share their experiences, hopes & spiritual journeys. Sponsored by Women Partnering & Sisters of St Francis, OSF.



## Born for This



This is an interactive women's program that focuses on fellowship. We are a ministry that meets women where they are on their spiritual journey and by incorporating fellowship, prayer, & solid Catholic teaching, we help to form women into the best they can be. We start out with visiting and eating, then have a presentation on a topic of our Catholic Faith, either video or audio, followed by discussion in a small group. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm, Sept - May.

### The Bible and The Virgin Mary

Jan 3: A Biblical Intro to Mary

Feb 14: The Promised Mother

Jan 10: Handmaid of the Lord

Feb 21: The Mother Crowned in Glory

Jan 17: Wedding at Cana

Feb 28: Full of Grace

Jan 24: The New Eve

Mar 7: All Holy

Jan 31: The Ark of the New Covenant

Mar 14: The Assumption

Feb 7: Born of a Virgin

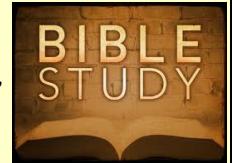
Mar 21: Always a Mother

**We would love for you to join us.**

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/SFWomens-Program> OR contact Margaret Kinney at [magsanaya@gmail.com](mailto:magsanaya@gmail.com) or 719-439-5146

### 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.

**Contact:** Larry Gray: (719) 593-7031, or [l.m.gray@comcast.net](mailto:l.m.gray@comcast.net). He needs to pre-order the student workbooks which are \$25, so plan ahead!



Follow the tantalizing smells of our **Parish Breakfast, Jan. 8**, after the 8:30 & 10:30am Mass

Do you like Cheesy Potato Casserole, Chocolate Chip and Classic Pancakes, Warm Apple Compote, Crispy Bacon, Breakfast Sausages, Scrambled Eggs and Seasonal Fresh Fruit? Well, you're in luck as Harvey's Hashers will be bringing you that olfactory-numbing deliciousness.



It's a donation for the meal, (something in the neighborhood of \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 & under). It'll go to a good cause: charitable organizations that help those who need it.

This week's "Featured Charity" is Cheyenne Village, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing assistance and support to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for more than 50 years in Colorado Springs.

### BLESSINGS

Today's readings include another account of the story of Jesus' birth. The reading from the book of Numbers reminds us that we are blessed. We are looked upon with kindness and grace.



The psalm and Galatians remind us of the blessings given through God's Son. Luke tells of our ultimate blessing, that Mary, a human being like us, gave birth to a child who is God's Son. Mary, a young mother, watches all that is happening around the birth of her son. She listens as the shepherds bring messages from angels, a message she also received from an angel, about her son to herself. She reflects on all these experiences. The only thing she shares is the name of her son, Jesus, a name given him before he was even conceived. Her silence leaves us wondering if this is how one responds to such a great blessing. *Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! *Num 6:22-27*  
**Psalm 67** — May God be merciful and bless us.  
**Second Reading** — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (*Galatians 4:4-7*).  
**Gospel** — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (*Luke 2:16-21*).

### DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28	
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34	
Wednesday:	1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42	
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a	
Friday:	1 Jn 5:13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]	
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11	
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12	

### Stewardship of Treasure

#### FINANCIAL INFO

**December 5-18th, 2022**

#### Offertory December 5-11

Envelopes (\$12,544; Online \$6,036)	\$18,580
Capital Repair & Replacement	\$1,040
Immaculate Conception	\$1,790
2nd Collection Retired Religious	\$4,187

#### Offertory December 12-18

Envelopes (\$12,647; Online \$8,789)	21,436
Capital Repair & Replacement	\$1,380
Other income (Grants, misc)	\$5,955

For Secure Online Giving, go to the 'Online Giving' tab from our website at: [www.stfranciscs.org/online-giving](http://www.stfranciscs.org/online-giving)

### Weekly Mass Intentions

Sat, Dec 31, 5pm: † Michael Kniffin

Sun, Jan 1, 8:30am: † Mary Ann Gazdowicz

10:30am: † Rosa Volkmer

5:30pm: Parishioners & Visitors

Monday, Jan 2, 8:30am: Heather Podraski

Tues, Jan 3, 8:30am: † Peter Obernesser

Wed, Jan 4, 8:30am: Giulia M.

Thurs, Jan 5, 8:30am: † Magdy

Friday, Jan 6, 8:30am: † Mel and Vernal Schene

Saturday, Jan 7, 5pm: † Michael Hoff

Sun, Jan 8, 8:30am: Parishioners & Visitors

10:30am: † Evo Coroniti

5:30pm: Mary Grace Vaughan

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.



## Weekly Activities

### Monday, January 2 (Offices Closed Today)

- 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, January 3 (Office hours 9am-4pm)

- 7:30am Confession (Church)
- 8:30am Daily Mass (Church)
- 9:30am Great Adventure Bible class (B-C)
- 9:30am Tai Chi (Hall)
- 6:30pm Born For This (Church)

### Wednesday, January 4 (Office hours 9am-4pm)

- 7:30am Confession (Church)
- 8:30am Daily Mass (Church)
- 7:00pm Choir Practice (Church)

### Thursday, January 5 (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)
- 6:45pm Knights council meeting (B-C)

### Friday, January 6 (Office closed for weekend)

- 7:30am Confession (Church)
- 8:30am Daily Mass (Church)
- 9:00am Adoration til 3:15 (Rosary 9am, Chaplet 3pm)

### Saturday, January 7

- 7:00am TMIY (B-C)
- 4:00pm Confession (Church)
- 5:00pm Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass (Church)

### Sunday, January 8

- 8:30/10:30am Mass (Church, Parish breakfast)
- 5:30pm Mass (Church)

## 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 and drop in the offertory or to the office. Thank You!

### Welcome New Parishioners

Gao & Victoria Amper and Daisy Heafner

Sarah Pellizzari

Marcelo Valdez

**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.

### New location of Holy Water Fonts:

Next week, you'll notice the Holy Water Fonts, where Father processes in, will be moved from the sister's entrance, to inside the church doorway for easier access.

### Resolve to Spread God's Mercy and Peace

Imagine: Two New Year's celebrations in little over a month! In late November, Advent began the new liturgical year, and today the secular New Year 2023 begins. In today's Gospel, everyone who heard it was amazed by the story the shepherds told of the angels' message regarding the child. Mary herself continued to reflect on all these things in her heart. With religious persecutions raging, international and domestic conflicts seething, our family and friends suffering various difficulties, and COVID not yet entirely in the rear-view mirror, not to mention our own personal problems, how much our world needs Jesus as another New Year veiled in mystery begins! As we pray for God's mercy to enfold our world and embrace each of us in 2023, let our New Year's resolution be to live for others, as Mary did, a channel of God's mercy and an instrument of Christ's peace.

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