July 25th, 2021
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Francis of Assisi
Roman Catholic Church

2746 Fifth Street • Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

303-688-3025 Office *303-405-6808 Fax*

Fr. Homero Cardozo, Pastor ***Fr. Tim O'Connell, Parochial Vicar***

www.stfranciscr.org

Sacramental Emergency 720-215-4540

A S T E W A R D S H I P P A R I S H

Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm
Sundays 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30pm (Spanish) & 5:30 pm
Weekdays 9 am Mon - Sat and 6 pm Mon - Fri

Reconciliation/Confession
Monday-Friday 8:30am, Fridays 6:30 pm, Saturday 4 pm or by appt..

Baptism
Please call the parish for preparation information and scheduling.
Parish registration and Baptism classes are prerequisites.

Marriage
Preparation sessions should begin 12 months before the marriage date.
Please contact the parish secretary before making any arrangements.

Sick or Homebound
If you wish to receive Eucharist and are unable to attend Mass, please call the office to be referred to our Homebound/Nursing Home Ministry.

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Text **App** to **88202** to download MyParish app to your phone.

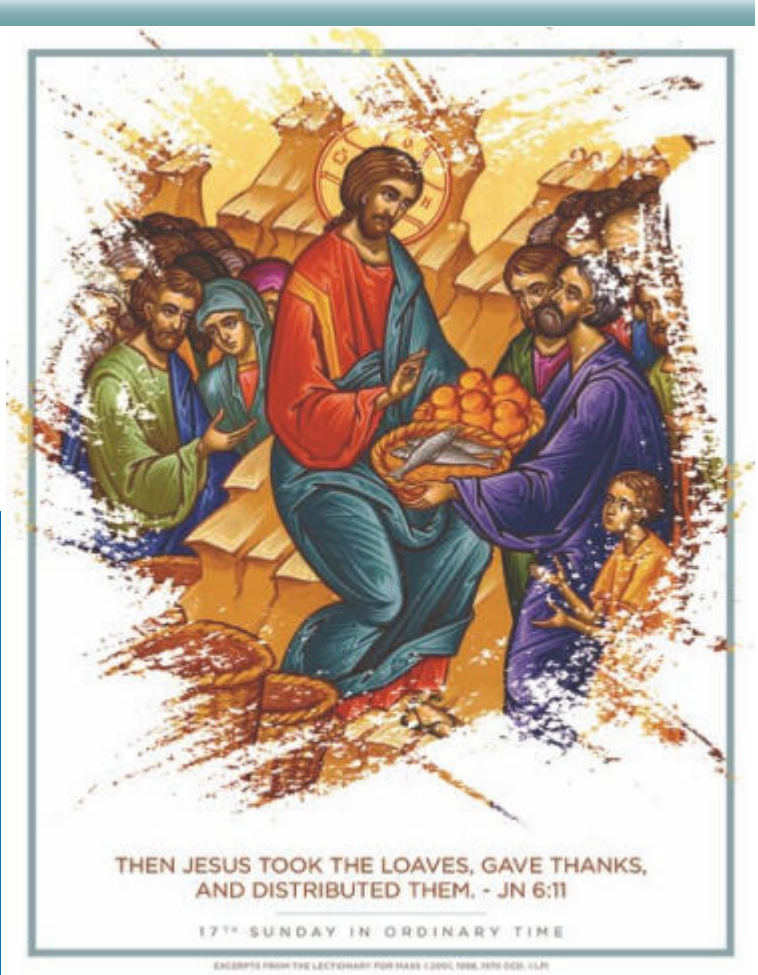
OR

To sign up for Flocknote, text **STFRANCISCR** to **84576** or visit flocknote.com/stfranciscr

Like us on Facebook
Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
to get the latest information

Request to join one of the closed Facebook groups:
St. Francis of Assisi Women's Ministry - Castle Rock, CO
or Castle Rock Catholic Young Adults

Sign up to get the bulletin delivered directly to your inbox at
www.ParishesOnline.com



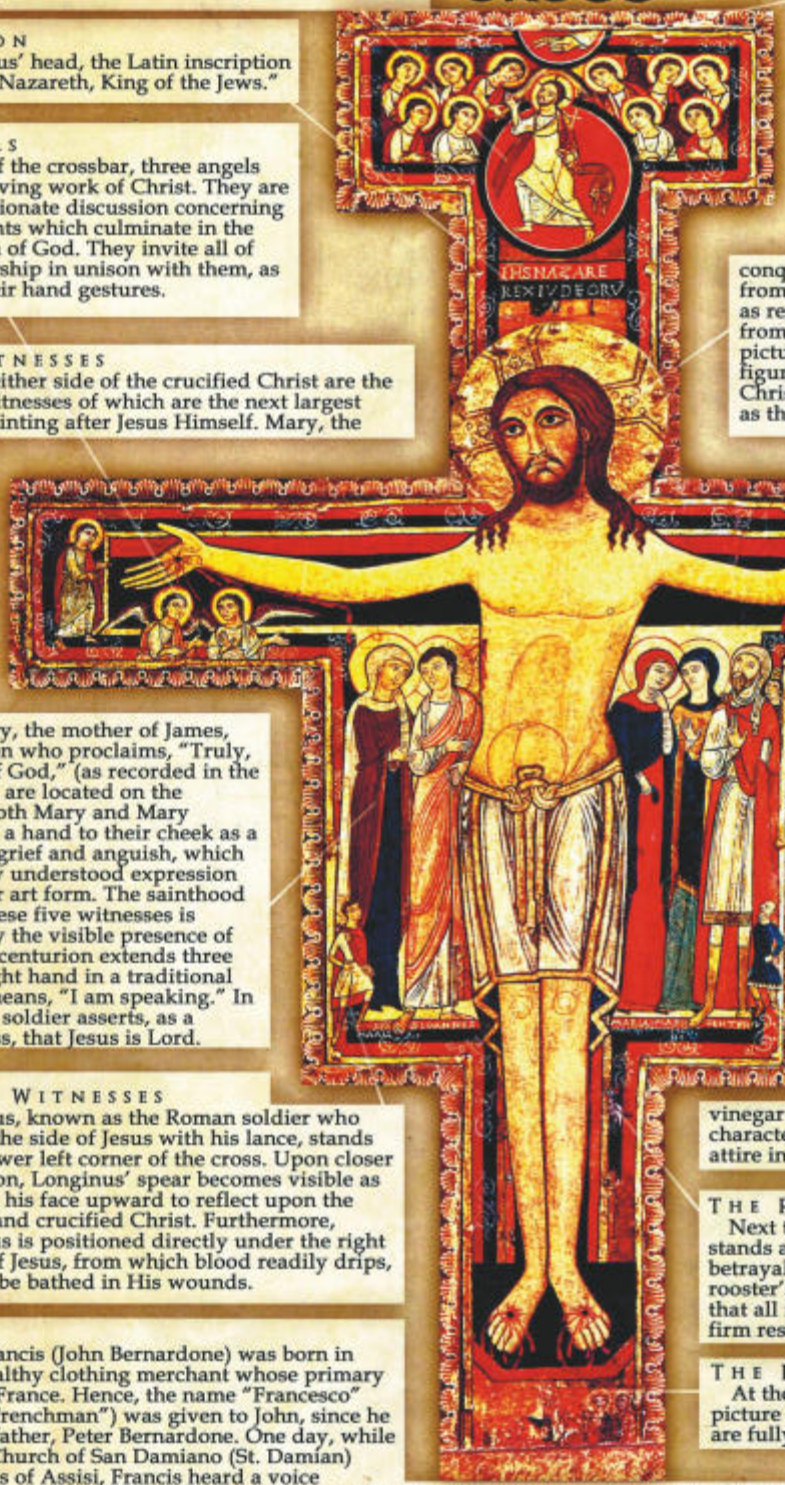
Welcome, New Parishioners

If you are new to St. Francis,
please contact the Office to register.
303-688-3025
The Office is open.
Hours are 10 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday,
Closed for lunch from 12 - 12:30 pm

The office is closed on Saturday and Sunday

THE DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS

The San Damiano Cross



The Heavenly Welcome
Toward the top of the cross, the resurrected Jesus is depicted. Climbing out of the tomb and into the heavenly courts, He wears regal garments. Christ wields the cross, which had been the very instrument of His torture and death, as a triumphant scepter. Ten angels surround the Lord, welcoming Him onto His heavenly throne.

Inscription
Just above Jesus' head, the Latin inscription reads: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

The Angels
At each end of the crossbar, three angels marvel at the saving work of Christ. They are engaged in passionate discussion concerning the Paschal events which culminate in the death of the Son of God. They invite all of mankind to worship in unison with them, as indicated by their hand gestures.

Major Witnesses
Arranged on either side of the crucified Christ are the five principal witnesses of which are the next largest figures in the painting after Jesus Himself. Mary, the mother of Jesus, and St. John the Beloved are depicted next to the pierced side of the Lord. Each of these figures have their names written beneath them. Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and the centurion who proclaims, "Truly, this is the Son of God," (as recorded in the Gospel of Mark) are located on the opposite side. Both Mary and Mary Magdalene hold a hand to their cheek as a sign of extreme grief and anguish, which was a commonly understood expression in this particular art form. The sainthood of four out of these five witnesses is demonstrated by the visible presence of their halos. The centurion extends three fingers of his right hand in a traditional gesture which means, "I am speaking." In this gesture, the soldier asserts, as a Christian witness, that Jesus is Lord.

Minor Witnesses
Longinus, known as the Roman soldier who pierced the side of Jesus with his lance, stands at the lower left corner of the cross. Upon closer inspection, Longinus' spear becomes visible as he turns his face upward to reflect upon the broken and crucified Christ. Furthermore, Longinus is positioned directly under the right elbow of Jesus, from which blood readily drips, so as to be bathed in His wounds.

History:
In 1181, St. Francis (John Bernardone) was born in Umbria to a wealthy clothing merchant whose primary trade was with France. Hence, the name "Francesco" (meaning "the Frenchman") was given to John, since he worked for his father, Peter Bernardone. One day, while praying in the Church of San Damiano (St. Damian) outside the walls of Assisi, Francis heard a voice coming from a Byzantine cross with a painted image of a crucifix on it. Three times, the voice said, "Francis, go and repair my house, which you see is falling down." Seeing that the church was, in fact, severely weathered, Francis immediately loaded a horse with a large quantity of his father's richest cloth and proceeded to sell both the cloth and the horse with the intent of using the profits for church repairs. Upon discovery, Francis' father was furious and demanded that he return home or be disinherited. His father also demanded that the Bishop of Assisi require Francis to return the money. In obedience to the Bishop, Francis returned everything, but, looking to his father, he said, "Hitherto, I have called you father on earth, but now I say 'Our Father, who art in Heaven.'" Following this conversion, Francis went on to establish one of the largest and most renowned religious orders in the Catholic Church. The Byzantine cross (now known as the San Damiano Cross), from which Francis had heard the voice of God, hangs in the Santa Chiara (St. Clare) Basilica in Assisi, Italy to this very day.

The Right Hand of God

At the apex of the cross, the Father extends two fingers of His right hand as a sign of power, illustrating that He is the One Who raises His Son from the dead. In addition, this gesture effectively symbolizes the Father's blessing upon Christ's salvific work in the economy of salvation.

Christ Crucified
Containing a depiction of the glorified cross, the crucified Christ's halo personifies Christ as being afflicted, yet unable to be conquered. This particular representation is distinct from earlier centuries in which Christ was portrayed as regal and triumphant. It is further distinguished from the suffering and dying Christ generally pictured following the fourteenth century. All other figures on the cross are small in stature compared to Christ, Who draws the viewer's attention to Himself as the One to be worshipped.

The Onlooker
The tiny face peering over the left shoulder of the centurion is in the front of a crowd of spectators, whose foreheads are barely visible in a uniform line behind his face. This face is more than likely a representation of the artist who, according to the practice of that time, was both asserting his authorship of the painting and immortalizing himself as a witness to Christ.

Minor Witnesses
Stephaton, who is often located at the foot of the cross in Umbrian paintings of the crucifixion, stands in the lower right-hand corner. According to tradition, Stephaton is the soldier who upon hearing Christ's thirsty plea, offers him a sponge soaked in vinegar wine. Despite his knee-length garment, which is characteristic of Roman dress, the rest of Stephaton's attire indicates that he is, in fact, a Jewish temple guard.

The Rooster
Next to the left calf of the crucified Christ stands a rooster. This is symbolic of Peter's betrayal, as it was immediately followed by the rooster's crow. The image serves as a reminder that all men are dependent upon the Lord for firm resolution and unshakeable faith.

The Patron Saints
At the very foot of the cross, a damaged and partial picture of six figures is depicted. Only two of these figures are fully visible with halos circling their heads. According to tradition, these figures are the patrons of Umbria, an ancient district in central Italy: St. Michael, St. John, St. Paul, St. Rufino, St. Peter and St. John the Baptist.

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This Week's Message From Our Priests

Justin, Martyr

Justin Martyr (100 - 165), born in modern day Palestine, was an early Christian apologist and martyr. He claimed to have been raised a Gentile, and in his search for truth he studied with the Stoics, Aristotelians, Pythagoreans, and Platonists. Impressed by the devotion of Christian martyrs, he was eventually converted to Christianity by an old Christian who taught him about the Hebrew prophets.

According to Justin, Christianity filled the highest aspirations of Platonic philosophy and was, therefore, the 'true philosophy.' He was one of the first to consistently use Greek philosophy (especially Platonism) to explain Christian doctrine, in dramatic opposition to Tertullian, who would ask *"what does Athens [representing the philosophy] have to do with Jerusalem [representing the church]?"*

In the writings of the early church we have three documents from Justin Martyr—*The First Apology; The Second Apology; and The Dialogue with Trypho*. In his First Apology, Justin argued that there were traces of Christian truth (*logos spermatikis*) that could be found in pagan writings. In both apologies, he seeks to defend the position of the Christians in the kingdom against unfair persecution and misconceptions. Justin seeks to dispel the myths surrounding Christians such as cannibalism or licentious sex but to prove these he goes on to write vastly on the Christian faith.

With fraternal affection,
Fr. Homero C.

Worship - Prayer - Stewardship

Readings for the week of July 25, 2021

Sunday	2 Kgs 4:42-44 Eph 4:1-6 Jn 6:1-15	
Monday:	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34	Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday:	Ex 33:7-11, 34:5b-9, 28	Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday:	Ex 34:29-35	Mt 13:44-46
Thursday:	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38	Jn 11:19-27
Friday:	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37	Mt 13:54-58
Saturday	Lv 25:1, 8-17	Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday:	Ex 16:2-4, 12-15 Eph 4:17, 20-24 Jn 6:24-35	

We greatly appreciate the donations that have been mailed or brought into the office, and appreciate your continued support.

THESE OUR GIFTS OF LOVE

July 13-19, 2021

Regular Offertory	**$17,278.83**
Weekly Budget	$27,000.00
5YFF Debt Reduction	**$1,870.00**
Weekly Budget	$6,157.00
SVDP Poor Box	**$255.56**

Online/Kiosk Donations June 2021

Regular Offertory	**$46,983.00**
5YFF Debt Reduction	**$14,731.00**

The Bishop's Dispensation from in person attendance at Mass has expired

On June 1st New Policies Started:

- Reservations are not needed - for any Mass.
- Masks are not required, except in the Purple section.
- There are no longer any seat assignments.
- There are no longer space limitations at any Mass.
- Use hand sanitizer when entering.

Choose your own seat in the Sanctuary, until it is FULL, then there will be overflow seating in the Narthex

Masks are required for EVERY Mass
Only in the Purple section
(by the working sacristy)

"All the things in this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we can come to know him better, love him more surely, and serve him more faithfully."
St. Ignatius Loyola
Patron: of Society of Jesus, soldiers, Educators and Education.

Mass Intentions

Monday,	**July 26, 2021**
9:00 am	+ Erik Fischer
6:00 pm	….The Evan & Leah Frazier Family
Tuesday,	**July 27, 2021**
9:00 am	+ Marvin Emrich
6:00 pm	+ Erica Lord
Wednesday,	**July 28, 2021**
9:00 am	Luke Litteken
6:00 pm	….Sharon Lord
Thursday,	**July 29, 2021**
9:00 am	+ Marvin Emrich
6:00 pm	Austin Garvin
Friday,	**July 30, 2021**
9:00 am	+ Lillian Knop
6:00 pm	….Jacob Garvin
Saturday,	**July 31, 2021**
9:00 am	+ Michael Mathena
5:30 pm	The Parishioners of St. Francis
Sunday,	**August 1, 2021**
7:30 am	Bob & Emma Rietsch
9:30 am	+ Herb Brown
11:30 am	+ Joseph Ziemianski
1:30 pm	Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Católco
5:30 pm	The Evan and Leah Frazier Family

Please continue to Pray for the Sick, those recovering from surgery and terminally ill:

Corey Remington
Chad Stoneking
Nicole Body
Becky Catterall
Betina Machamer
Janice Veresh,
Steven Fixter
John McGuire,
John Roscoe,
Steven Hain,
Jim Burke,
Barb Ridgeway,
Cimberleigh Smith,
Wes Rabens,
Kathy Card,
Tressa Guthrie,
Megan Mehl,
Kaye Le May,
Kimra Dietrich,
Audra Hehr,
Gary Dempsey,
Don Hull,
Steven Chin,
Teenie Modrigal,
Colleen & Wayne Boddicker,
Sarah Sloat,
Everett Hughes,
Fr. Dana Christensen,
Darby Kucinski,
Ben Bilder,
John Maguire,
Gary Kuntz,
Shelly Busby,
Marilyn Wandersee,
Jacob Pekol,
Reece Rubino,
Alaina Griffith,
Susan Cvikota,
Leona Hightower,
Rebecca Hightower,
Rosemarie Olmstead,
Nancy,
Michael Klausner,
Jonny Landis,
Zachary Quick,
Ann Hurley,
Gary McFarlen,
Owen Collins,
Robert Cooney,
Brenden Tronick,
Katherine Bylsma,
Harley Rothmeyer,
Kathleen Wilson,
Janet Kane,
Megan Hakes,
William Mulcahy,
Frances Staahl,
Kenneth Osredker,
Marguerite Purichio,
Michael Mulvaney,
Gabriel Ryan,
Austin Eddy,
Addie Flores,
Helen Wagner,
Arleen Gillen,
Bob Delaney,
Lynne Schoefield,
Dolores Braun,
Jessica Tidball,
Ceara Bristol,
Katlyn Pride,
Bob & Emma Rietsch,
Joe Mack,
Richard Salome Quintana,
Barbara Skene,
Denise & Mike Cortellini,
Sara McKinney,
Connie & Jackie Bilder,
James Davis,
Jonathan Dahlem,
Teagan Mc Donald

+++

May the healing presence of Christ comfort them.

If your loved one's name has been on this list for more than two years, please call the office to let us know if prayers are still needed.

Please offer your prayers for those who have recently died, especially:

Kenneth Tai

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him, O Lord and May Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him

Announcements

REECE'S ROUNDUP

LET'S RUN FOR REECE

All proceeds support Reece Rubino, a young St. Francis parishioner in his fight against Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

16th Annual Reece's Roundup 5K, 10K, and 1-Mile Fun Walk

Saturday August 14th

7AM-11AM

Philip S. Miller Park
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Register today at:
https://runtochangelives.org/reecesroundup

EVENT SCHEDULE

- **7:00AM – Race Day Registration Opens**
- **8:30AM – 10K Starts**
- **8:35AM – 5k Starts**
- **9:45AM – 1 Mile Walk Starts**

"It is because of our community, friends, sponsors, and supporters who have been on this journey with us that Reece is surviving and thriving despite his condition." ~Lesa Rubino

Tomorrow!!

Tony Melendez in Concert

Monday, July 26th

7:00pm

after the 6pm Mass

Tony Melendez,
world-renown singer, author and
motivational speaker
will preform
at St Francis in the Sanctuary

For more information on Tony and his amazing ministry,

see: www.tonymelendez.com

St Francis of Assisi Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, August 15th

3pm to 7pm

Rhyolite Regional Park
In the Crystal Valley Neighborhood of Castle Rock

We need volunteers to help with
all aspects of the picnic.
To be on the
Picnic Planning Committee,
please call Andrea
in the office at
303-688-3025.

St. Francis Knights of Columbus
OFFER ORIGINAL ROSARY BOOKS:

In the 1990s, K. of C. Council 8909 produced a popular rosary booklet which garnished hundreds of letters calling it people's favorite rosary meditation book.

Due to many requests, they have remade the book, doubling it in size.
Containing long and short meditations for all the mysteries,
two sets of meditations for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy,
an original blessing for the family,
a gorgeous, original cover painting of Jesus, and much more,
it will be offered at cost next weekend.
July 31/August 1

Thursday, August 5th
7:00pm

All are Welcome!

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a service consisting of praying the Rosary along with readings and reflections for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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303-847-2606

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with our Food Pantry on July 24th. The food for this Food Pantry was provided by our Partner, Food Bank of the Rockies. We know that summer is a busy time, so we really appreciate your help.

August Food Pantries:

Saturday—August 14
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Basement of Assisi Hall

Saturday – August 28
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Parking Lot,
In conjunction with our partner,
Food Bank of the Rockies

We need your help with food donations. We always accept your donations of non-perishable food items, but we are especially in need of the following items:

Cereal
Canned Corn
Jelly
Oatmeal

You can leave these items in the Red Wagons outside Assisi Hall and in the Narthex

We also need cash donations as well to offset our clients in need of other expenses including rent and utilities. It is also used to purchase perishable items such as milk, eggs and butter

Cash can be left in the Poor Box in the Narthex or mailed to the Parish Office, "Attention SVDP"

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado – Castle Rock Office

720-215-4521
410 S. Wilcox St, Suite 102
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This Week's Parish Calendar

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Monday, July 26, 2021

8:20am	Rosary	Sanctuary
10:00am	Adoration for 2 hours	Sanctuary
2:00pm	Adoration for 3 1/2 hours	Sanctuary
6;00pm	Respect Life Meeting	Library
6:30pm	Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting	Lower Level East
7:00pm	Tony Melendez Concert	Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

8:20am	Rosary	Sanctuary
10:00am	Adoration for 7 1/2 hours	Sanctuary
1:00pm	Prayer Shawl & Baptism Blanket Ministry	Library
7:00pm	Spirituality with Fr. Chris	Assisi Hall

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

8:20am	Rosary	Sanctuary
10:00am	Adoration for 2 hours	Sanctuary
2:00pm	Adoration for 3 1/2 hours	Sanctuary

Thursday, July 29, 2021

8:20am	Rosary	Sanctuary
10:00am	Adoration for 7 1/2 hours	Sanctuary
6:45pm	Outreach Committee-Monthly Meeting	Fr. McMahon Fireplace

Friday, July 30, 2021

6:00am	Men's Ministry	LL East
8:20am	Rosary	Sanctuary
10:00am	Adoration for 2 hours	Sanctuary
4:30pm	Wedding Rehearsal: Sasse/Nickel	Sanctuary
6:00pm	Couples Date Night	Assisi Hall

Saturday, July 31, 2021

9:00am	Mass	Sanctuary
2:00pm	Wedding: Sasse/Nickel	
4:00pm	Baptism: Quentin Noah Martin	Sanctuary
4:00pm	Confessions	Sanctuary
6:30pm	Knights Rosary Book Sale after Mass	Narthex

Job Vacancy

Director of Faith Formation:
Preschool thru 5th Grade
St Francis of Assisi
Castle Rock, CO
Full Time

Complete job description and applications are available in the Office.
A background check will be required.
EOE
Fr. Homero Cardozo

Job Vacancies Around the Diocese

Holy Trinity: Music Director.
Divine Redeemer: Director of Religious Education (Full-time)
Divine Redeemer: Temporary Facilities Manager (part-time).

For all job postings in our Diocese please go to:
www.diocs.org/Offices/Human-Resources/Job-Opportunities

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Men's Ministry

Meeting in person and virtually
Friday mornings at 6:00 am.
Please contact Kevin Zink at
303-884-7871 or

Fifth Annual St. Francis of Assisi
Charity Golf Tournament

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Monday, September 20, 2021
at Redhawk Ridge Golf Course
2156 Red Hawk Ridge Dr, Castle Rock, CO

7:30 am Registration Begins 8:30 am Shotgun Start

Tournament proceeds equally support three benefactors: Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, local Knights of Columbus Council 8909 charities, - both of which do tremendous work in serving the poor and needy in our community - and the Saint Francis of Assisi sanctuary debt reduction fund.

Red Hawk Ridge at Castle Rock

Single golfer - $150 Foursome - $600

Your $150 paid registration includes:
- 18 holes of golf with cart
- driving range
- breakfast, lunch, beverages and prizes

We also need Event Sponsors and individual hole sponsors. This is a great advertising opportunity for local businesses and a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together for a day of fun and camaraderie. For more information or to Sign up to Golf and/or become a Sponsor, visit the website www.stfranciscr.org or call Andrea in the office 303-688-3025.

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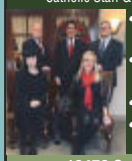

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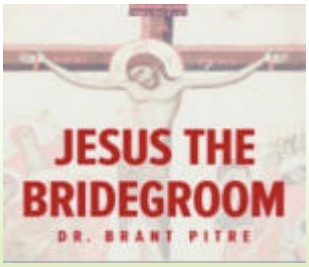
Faith Formation

To Register for Faith Formation
go to
www.stfranciscr.org/faith-formation-registration
Registration opens Monday July 26th
Classes start Mid-September

Want to know more about your Faith?
Want to grow in your Faith?
Check out FORMED!
www.stfranciscr.FORMED.org

St Francis has gifted parishioners with FREE **unlimited access** to **FORMED**, an exciting gateway to Catholic teaching videos, books, and audio talks to deepen your relationship with Christ and His Church.



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303-688-3025

Engaged Couples Weekend Retreat

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER
A WEDDING IS A DAY
A MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME®

August 14th-15th

Register Now!

http://www.coscee.org/About-Weekends/Registration

General Information

Where: Ponderosa Retreat Center, Larkspur Colorado

When: Saturday Aug 14th 7:00am- Sunday Aug 15th 2:30pm (Mass included)

Cost: $200.00- Includes room and meals during the retreat

Registration deadline: August 10th

Questions & more information please contact

Kaitlyn Vite - kberry390@gmail.com

St. Francis of Assisi Book Club

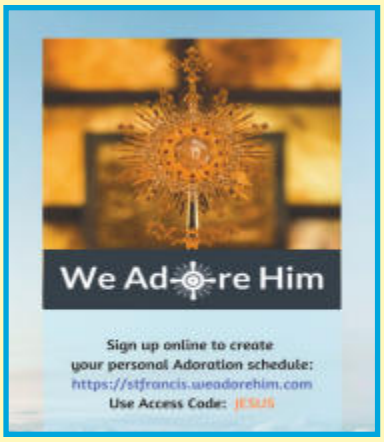
Thursday, August 26th
6pm

"Three Days- the search for the boy messiah" by Chris Stepien

In the Bible we are told Jesus was lost in the Temple for three days when he traveled to Jerusalem for Passover with Mary and Joseph.
Why did he stay behind? What did he do?
Who did he meet? Where did he sleep?
Was he ever in danger?
This Biblical novel is a compelling tale about 12-year-old Jesus, based on the second chapter of Luke's Gospel.
This book will grip your imagination—as you explore the Temple and experience the drama of ancient Hebrew traditions with the boy Messiah.
It's a story for the child in all of us.

Contact Katie Keller, this month's host at
KTJ324@sbcglobal.net
For information and directions to the meeting

Adoration



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Our next First Friday Overnight Adoration
will be
Friday August 6th at 7pm
thru
Saturday August 7th at 8am.

LAST MONTH WAS INSPIRING!
We had 33 individuals spend the dark hours of the night with Jesus.
For your safety we only give you the access code
when you sign up to Adore
The access code will change every month,
so make sure to sign up to receive the new code.

Weekdays in the Sanctuary

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
from 10am - 12pm and 2 - 5:30 pm
and
Tuesday, Thursday
from 10am - 5:30pm

Adjustments will be made for funerals and weddings

We must have TWO adorers at all times.
Please sign up and commit to a regular visit with
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Questions?
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Fr. Homero Cardozo, Pastor
Direct Line 720-215-4530
HCardozo@stfranciscr.org

Fr. Timothy O'Connell, Parochial Vicar
Direct Line 720-215-4554
TOConnell@stfranciscr.org

Deacon Ed DeMattee
DcnEd4@icloud.com

Deacon Dustin Duncan
DDuncan@diocs.org

Deacon Tom Liotta, retired
DeaconTomLiotta@comcast.net

OPEN Director of Faith Formation: Preschool to Fifth Grade
Direct Line 720-215-4524

Vicki Arndt, Director of Faith Formation: Middle School
Director of Hispanic Ministry
Direct Line 720-215-4523
VArndt@stfranciscr.org

Tod Masters, Director of Faith Formation: High School/LifeTeen,
Young Adult Ministry & Work Camp Director
Direct Line 720-215-4526
TMasters@stfranciscr.org

Maggie Cingoranelli, Business Manager
Direct Line 720-215-4520
MCingoranelli@stfranciscr.org

Andrea Cihak, Parish Secretary/Facility Manager
Direct Line 720-215-4522
ACihak@stfranciscr.org

Mary Carmen Lopez Mota Bilingual Receptionist/Admin Assistant
Main Office 303-688-3025 X 100
MLopezMota@stfranciscr.org

Mary Kochivar, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Main Office 303-688-3025 X 101
MKochivar@stfranciscr.org

Beth Kraner, Faith Formation Administrative Assistant
Direct Line 720-215-4525
BKraner@stfranciscr.org

Mary Ann Ball, Administrative Assistant
Direct Line 303-688-3025 X 164
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CLASES DE FORMACIÓN RELIGIOSA 2021 – 2022

Las inscripciones comienzan
el lunes 26 de julio
y las clases la tercera semana de septiembre.

Puedes encontrar las formas de inscripción en la página de internet de la parroquia en

www.stfranciscr.org/faith-formation-registration
o en la oficina parroquial.

Mensaje Seminal de Nuestros Sacerdotes

Justino, mártir

Justino Mártir (100-165), nacido en la Palestina actual, fue uno de los primeros apologistas y mártires cristianos. Afirmó haber sido criado como gentil, y en su búsqueda de la verdad estudió con los estoicos, aristotélicos, pitagóricos y platónicos. Impresionado por la devoción de los mártires cristianos, finalmente fue convertido al cristianismo por un anciano cristiano que le enseñó acerca de los profetas hebreos.

Según Justino, el cristianismo llenaba las más altas aspiraciones de la filosofía platónica y era, por tanto, la "verdadera filosofía". Fue uno de los primeros en utilizar sistemáticamente la filosofía griega (especialmente el platonismo) para explicar la doctrina cristiana, en dramática oposición a Tertuliano, quien preguntaba *"¿qué tiene que ver Atenas [en representación de la filosofía] con Jerusalén [en representación de la iglesia?]?"*

En los escritos de la iglesia primitiva tenemos tres documentos de Justino Mártir: *La Primera Apología; La segunda Apología; y El diálogo con Trifón*. En su Primera Apología, Justino argumentó que había rastros de la verdad cristiana (*logos spermatikos*) que se podían encontrar en los escritos paganos. En ambas apologías, busca defender la posición de los cristianos en el imperio contra la persecución injusta y los conceptos erróneos. Justin busca disipar los mitos que rodean a los cristianos, como el canibalismo o el sexo licencioso, pero para probarlos, continúa escribiendo extensamente sobre la fe cristiana.

Con afecto fraternal,.
Fr. Homero C.