PASTOR Reverend Michael J. Oenbrink 843-681-6350 x 261

> PAROCHIAL VICAR Fr. Max Tria 843-681-6350 x 256

PAROCHIAL VICAR Fr. Rodolfo Gonzalez 843-681-6350 x 263

DEACONS Deacon Joseph Nazzaro, Retired Deacon Gerard Hand Deacon Patrick Sheehan

DIRECTOR OF ADULT FAITH FORMATION Jennifer McGlynn 843-681-6501 x 266 843-900-4303

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE Dion Jenks 843-681-6350 x 231

> ADMIN-FINANCE ASSISTANT Jennifer Kelly 843-681-6350 x 295

FINANCE OFFICE ASSISTANT Pam Slawson 843-681-6350 X 267

PARISH SECRETARY/BULLETIN EDITOR Merideth Johnson 843-681-6350 x 250 Fax 843-689-5502

> DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Mitzi Weaver 843-681-6350 x 248

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF HISPANIC MINISTRY & ASSISTANT TO THE DRE Kevin Coriolan 843-681-6350 x 249

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS PARISH SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR Colleen Rzeczycki 843-681-6350 x 288

SFCS SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR Melissa Markey 843-681-6501

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Jonathan Davis 843-540-1232

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Brian Pope 843-681-6501

> YOUTH MINISTRY Klaudia Coriolan 843-681-6350 x 236

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR Bryan Goll 843-681-6350 x 289

ST. FRANCIS OUTREACH MINISTRY 15 Hospital Center Commons, Ste. 100E 843-681-2112

DIOCESAN OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES 843-853-2130 x 206

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE MINISTER Louisa Storen 800-921-8122

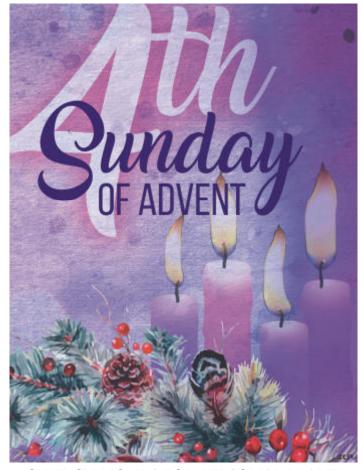
IMMIGRATION & PARALEGAL SUPPORT Mily Choy 843-785-2200 843-531-5535 x 41

WELCOME HOME MINISTRY FOR INACTIVE CATHOLICS Ron Angner 843-686-6037

# ST. FRANCIS BY THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH ESTABLISHED 1984

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston, SC 45 Beach City Road Hilton Head Island, SC 29926 Office 843-681-6350 Fax 843-689-5502 www.stfrancishhi.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS 7:30am—4:00pm If Last Rites are needed, please call 1-843-941-9434



CHURCH HOURS FOR PERSONAL PRAYER 8:00am—3:00pm / Monday through Wednesday 8:00am—4:00pm / Thursday & Friday

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 20—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 Daily Mass will be celebrated in the Church at:

8:30am: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:30am: Monday, Tuesday

Christmas Eve: 4:00pm, 5:30pm, & 8:00pm (with Orchestra) Christmas Day: 9:00am (with Orchestra), 11:00am (with Orchestra) & 7:00pm (Spanish)

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 7:30am, 9:00am, & 10:30am in the Church

Confession: 15 minutes before daily Mass in the Church Saturday: 3:30-4:30pm in the Church, or by appointment.

# Readings & Intentions for December 19—26, 2021

	C		-
12/19 Sunday	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am Noon	Colleen Boylan + Intentions of Monae White + Dennis D.M. O'Brien + Robert Kanski +	First: Micah 5:1-4a Second: Hebrews 10:5-10 Gospel: Luke 1:39-45
12/20 Monday	8:30am 11:30am	Intentions of Selah White Ned Beatty +	First: Isaiah 7:10-14 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
12/21 Tuesday	8:30am 11:30am	Eileen Haggerty + Fred & Lisa Seifert +	First: Songs 2:8-14 Second: Zephaniah 3:14-18a Gospel: Luke 1:39-45
12/22 Wednesday	8:30am	Regina Vincent + Francis Barber +	First: Samuel 1:24-28 Gospel: Luke 1:46-56
12/23 Thursday	8:30am 11:30am	Al Hermina + NO MASS	First: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Gospel: Luke 1:57-66
12/24 Friday Christmas Eve	4:00pm 5:30pm 8:00pm <i>(Orchestra)</i>	John & Kevin Coleman + Maureen Phalen + James Laughlin + Don Whitaker +	First: Isaiah 9:1-6 Second: Titus 2:11-14 Gospel: Luke 2:1-14
12/25 Saturday Christmas Day	9:00am <i>(Orchestra)</i> 11:00am <i>(Orchestra)</i> 7:00pm <i>(Spanish Christ</i>	Bob Wolff + Bob Dancer + tmas Day Mass)	First: Isaiah 9:1-6 Second: Titus 2:11-14 Gospel: Luke 2:11-14
12/26 Sunday Feast of the Holy Family	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am	John Marshall Clark, Jr.+ Michael & Ellery Reilly + Elizabeth & John Gale + James Simaner +	First: 1Samuel 1:20-22 Second: 1John 3:1-2m 21-24 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

*Please Note:* We have added a new feature to our "Current Mass and Funeral Schedule" on our website. You may now click the link on the date of a funeral to view the obituary (when available).



# CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24th: 4:00pm | 5:30pm | 8:00pm

# **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Saturday, December 25th: 9:00am | 11:00am | 7:00pm (en Español)

# FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday, December 26th: 7:30am | 9:00am | 10:30am

# **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Saturday, January 1st: 4:45pm Vigil Sunday, January 2nd: 7:30am | 9:00am | 10:30am | Noon

## Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

## **Gospel Teaching:**

In this last Sunday of Advent, we hear a Gospel that specifically mentions that Jesus will be born. Mary, young and pregnant, travels to assist her relative Elizabeth, who is old and pregnant. When Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting, she is filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaims the blessing shown above. Both women find themselves in a difficult position due to their age and condition, but God has worked wonders for both. Together they share the experience of the birth of sons, and those sons will change the world. The first part of Elizabeth's proclamation has

been incorporated into the "Hail Mary" prayer, but the last part is also important, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." May the Joy of Christmas be with us all.



# Stewardship

## **OFFERTORY ENVELOPES WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK**

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving your offertory envelopes for the first part of 2022. They will have a new look to them, but your parishioner giving number will remain the same. In addition, if you are already giving online via WeShare, that will also remain the same.

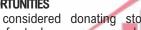
Below is a sample of what the weekly offertory envelope will look like:



### YEAR-END DONATIONS

In order for contributions to qualify as charitable deductions for 2021, they must be in the parish office or postmarked by December 31, 2021. Contributions that do not meet these requirements will be recorded in 2022.

### **GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**



Have you considered donating stock to St. Francis? All donations of stock are processed through the Diocese of Charleston. Please contact Kelsey Shooter at 843-261-0468 or kshooter@charlestondiocese.org to facilitate your gift.

# Weekly Giving

## Week of December 8–14, 2021

Weekly Offertory Envelopes Loose Christmas Immaculate Conception Online Contributions	\$37,877 \$3,913 \$6,118 \$4,838 \$19,384
Total Offertory	\$72,130
Repair & Replacement	\$5,595
Envelopes Issued	1240
Envelopes Used	356
Electronic Giving	205
Percentage of Envelopes & Electronic Giving	45%

## **December Charitable Giving News**

Charitable Giving represents 10% of the planned offertory

Home Works of America	\$1,000
Monks of Mepkin Abbey	\$1,500
Solidarity Fund Church in Africa	\$3,000
Retired Religious	\$5,000
St. Francis Outreach	\$5,350

# **Faith Formation**



## PSALMS: The School of Prayer

Meeting Times: Thursday from 9:30-11:00am Format: In-Person Sessions run until March (No sessions from 12/16/2021-1/6/2022)

> How to Join: Text "BibleHHI" to 84576, or call the Parish Office

All sessions are held in the Family Center and ALL are welcome-no prior Bible Study required



It has come to our attention that the barricades on the school-side of our parking lot have been moved recently during school hours.

Please note that these barricades on the school-side of our parking lot are put up during school hours for the protection of our students and staff. If you see barricades up during the hours of 7:00am-3:30pm, Monday thru Friday, please turn around and use the front entrance of the St. Francis parking lot on Beach City Road.



We also ask that you please use extreme caution while driving and parking on the campus.

> Thank you, Colleen Rzeczycki St. Francis Catholic Church Safe Environment Coordinator



To nurture students' spiritual and intellectual growth in an authentically Catholic community committed to academic excellence.

# NEWS

The Family School Association (FSA) hosted its first annual Christmas Tree Festival on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. There was caroling, games, cookie decorating, crepes and trees to bid on. We even had a living manger. Thank you to everyone who decorated a Christmas tree and thank you to all our parent and student volunteers for a wonderful event. We look forward to next year!



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

12/20-12/24 12/25 School Closed for Christmas Break Merry Christmas

# FUNDRAISING

## AMAZON SMILE

Consider supporting our school by shopping on www.smile.amazon.com and entering "St. Francis Catholic School" as your charity of choice. You receive the same benefits of shopping on Amazon, but Amazon will donate a portion of your purchases back to the school.

### ST. FRANCIS ISLAND VALUE CARD

The Island Value Card is a great way to support our school and local businesses while receiving a discount! Purchase one for your family now! The card makes great gifts for family, friends, and co-workers. Present your card each time you visit any of the restaurants and retailers listed on the card. Cards may be purchased at the School or Parish Offices.

## **GROCERY STORES**

The **Publix** keychain cards have been discontinued. Please take a few minutes to link your phone number to the school so we will continue to receive donations from Publix. Create an account with your phone number at <a href="http://corporate.publix.com/community/corporatecampaigns/publix-partners">http://corporate.publix.com/community/corporatecampaigns/publix-partners</a> and link to the school on the "Publix Partners" page. For Harris Teeter shoppers, please re-link your VIC account annually online or at the Customer Service Desk with our school code, 1685.

# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT SCREENING

To volunteer at St. Francis Catholic School or many of our ministries at St. Francis Catholic Church that have incidental contact with minors, vulnerable adults or money, you will need to complete Screening Paperwork that is required by our Diocese and take the Safe Haven, "It's Up To You" online class. If your ministry requires you to drive, you are also required to be screened for driving and take a Safe Haven Online Driving course. For questions and registration, please contact Colleen Rzeczycki or Melissa Markey, Safe Environment Coordinators.

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The school is looking for substitutes for this school year. Please e-mail Brian Pope if you are interested.



St. Francis is a Pre-K-4 through 8th grade Catholic School that is fully accredited through

AdvanceEd & Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information or to tour the school, please contact the School Office.

# Prayer & Worship

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION: SATURDAY, JANUARY 1ST

The Women of St. Francis will be sponsoring their *First Saturday Devotion to Our Blessed Mother* after the 8:30am Mass on Saturday, January 1st. We pray the Fatima prayers and the Rosary in reparation for the sins against Our Blessed Mother and her Immaculate Heart. The Rosary at 8:00am on First Saturdays will be deferred to be included in this devotion. All parishioners are welcome, so please join us on the First Saturday of the month.



### LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place January 20-21, 2022, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The opening Mass will be January 20, 2022, at 5:30 pm and immediately followed by a 7:00—8:00pm Holy Hour for Life. The Closing Mass on January 21st will also be at the Basilica at 8:00 am. Both will be televised live by EWTN.

For more information, please visit: www.usccb.org/national-prayer-events-for-life

#### DAILY ROSARY

The Rosary is prayed each morning at 8:00am, except for Sundays.



The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed each Friday at 3:00 pm in the church. *DIVINE MERCY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH AND DECEMBER 31ST.* 

### BENEDICTION & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Thursday from 3:00—4:00pm, there will be a Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the church. While the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, Father Max will be available for confession. THERE WILL NOT BE BENEDICTION AND ADORATION ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30TH.



### **CENTERING PRAYER/LECTO DIVINA**

Centering Prayer always welcomes new participants. The group offers beginning, ongoing instruction and practice in prayer and



sacred reading (Lectio Divina) from the Bible in a group setting. Centering Prayer is a remarkably simple method that opens one to the presence and activity of God in one's life. Sessions take place on Mondays from 11:00am—Noon in the Family Center.

CENTERING PRAYER WILL NOT TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 27TH.

### PARISH PRAYER CHAIN

Whenever emergency prayers are needed, or if you are interested in being a member of the Prayer Chain Team, please contact Kathy Sheehan at 843-422-3565 or kayshee@aol.com.



# Parish Life



Today in Luke's Gospel we read about the iconic meeting of two pregnant women. When Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, the older woman declares, "At the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped

for joy" (Luke 1: 44). Did you know that unborn babies can hear by the 18th week of pregnancy, yet it is legal to abort them? As we make our final preparations to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us remember that an unborn child -- John the Baptist -- was the first person to leap for joy at His coming. May our Christmas joy inspire us to cherish every human life, regardless of age, intelligence, or ability!

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. ~ Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

### **BOOK OF INTENTIONS**

The Book of Intentions, a special book of prayer and petitions, is located on a stand near the baptismal font. Parishioners may write their special intentions in the book to be remembered during the Mass, such as safe travels for family; end to abortion; healing; repose of recently deceased; special intentions for the living.



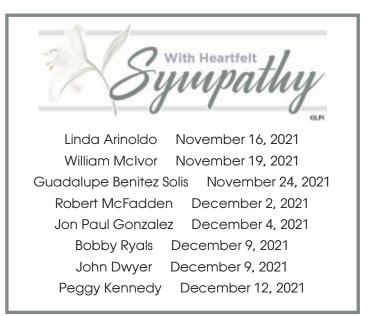
#### IN MEMORY OF ... OR IN HONOR OF ...

For \$150, parishioners can contribute to the two altar flower arrangements in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion. Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.



### SYNOD 2021-2023

The next listening session for the SYNOD will be January 8, 2022 from 9:30—Noon in the Family Center. If you would like to participate, please contact Colleen at c-rzec@stfrancishhi.org





#### **AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE!**

The Polish Christmas tradition of Oplatki (Christmas Wafer), is a beautiful and important one. The Breaking of Bread is a sign of charity, unity and fellowship. The wafer is blessed by the eldest family member, offering a prayer for God's grace and blessing for health, happiness, and forgiveness.

The Oplatki are distributed to all the family members. Then each person shares their Oplatki with every other person present, wishing them a Merry Christmas. Often a piece of the Oplatki is mailed to absent family members.

#### **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

The St. Francis by the Sea Bereavement Group will meet in the Family Center on Sunday, January 2nd at 1:00pm. All who are dealing with loss issues are welcomed to participate in an atmosphere of love and support. If you would like to attend or for further information, please contact Georgeanne Schopp at 912-658-6728 or georgeanne.schopp@gmail.com



The Women of St. Francis would like you to continue bringing your cell phones to the Parish Office or to the WOSF General Meetings in the Family Center on the second Monday of each month. Any questions, please contact Kathy Struna at her new number: 843-341-2071. Thank you!

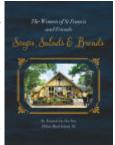




2022 CALENDARS Stay organized in 2022 with your parish calendar! Calendars are available in the narthex - get yours now!

#### SOUPS, SALADS & BOWLS

The Women of St. Francis still have their fabulous "SOUPS, SALADS, & BREADS" cookbook available for only \$10. All proceeds go to support the SOUP FOR SCHOLARSHIPS program for St. Francis school students. You may pick up a cookbook at the parish office, the school office, or by calling Mary E. Sullivan at 843-715-0075.



### SHARING THY BOUNTY

Dear St. Francis Community,

Your support of our friends and neighbors through Sharing Thy Bounty in 2021 has been amazing. Together we have provided food and supplies for those in need, who would go to bed hungry without your support. We are grateful for all you have contributed and ask for your continued support in 2022.



For those who have not participated, we invite you to become part of this important ministry. All you need to do I to bring a non-perishable item to the monthly collection and know that your contribution will make a difference.

Our January, 2022 collection will be the weekend of January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and will benefit Holy Family and Palmetto Breeze. Their ask is for canned vegetables, jelly, spam, Vienna sausage, Oreo cookies and snack bars.

#### A THANK YOU FROM THE WOMEN OF ST. FRANCIS!

A large thank you to all the parishioners who generously donated 47 assorted slumber bags to the Women of St. Francis Blanket Drive. Deep Well will distribute them as part of their Toy Drive. That means 47 children will be warm and snuggly thanks to you!

The November Blanket Drive collected 66 blankets for the Veterans and Operation Morale Support. Some of these blankets were given to the Veteran Hospital in Beaufort County, some were distributed to returning Marines at Parris Island and the rest were sent overseas to US Troops.



FROM THE WOMEN OF ST. FRANCIS!

# Dear St. Francis Parish Community,

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus Christ, may we give thanks for all the blessings in our life.

I myself, would like to take this opportunity to recognize the generosity of our parish. Generosity can be defined as putting others before one's self, and our parish exemplifies that virtue. Our community's giving nature is visible through the many outreach programs of our ministries, the time given by our volunteers, and strong financial support to our parish. Thank you all for your dedication to St. Francis by the Sea, and most importantly—your faith in God.

May you all find peace and joy with family and friends this Christmas season.

**In (hrist,** Father Michael Oenbrink Pastor

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# MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO – ALENTAR UN ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA (GOSPEL MEDITATIONS)

#### 19 de diciembre de 2021 4º Domingo de Adviento

Tomar decisiones siempre es difícil; por muy simples que sean, lleva su tiempo de discernimiento. Hoy, la Liturgia se centra en María, y el Evangelio nos dice que: "Por entonces María tomó su decisión y se fue, sin más demora, a una ciudad ubicada en los cerros de Judá" (Lucas 1:39). Hacer la voluntad de Dios, como lo hizo la Madre del Señor, no fue cosa fácil. Al pronunciar su "si", trajo consecuencias de fidelidad y servicio. "¿Cuáles eran sus pensamientos durante los meses de espera?" La respuesta proviene del pasaje de la visita de María a su pariente anciana, Isabel. "Entró en casa de Zacarías y saludó a Isabel". María estaba feliz por su maternidad, y a su vez, Isabel saludó a María diciendo: "¿Cómo he merecido yo que venga a mí la madre de mi Señor?" (Papa Francisco 12-23-2018).

Un diálogo de amor, entre estas dos mujeres, estalla en las montañas de Judea por el Mesías esperado. María acudió con prontitud, no con ansiedad, sino actuando como una verdadera discípula a su corta edad. La visita de María a su parienta Isabel debe ser un ejemplo vivo para prepararnos a vivir una Navidad de dinamismo, fe y servicio hacia el más necesitado. Un encuentro de alegría auténtica, que manifieste la compasión y la ternura de Dios hacia los que nos rodean a través de nosotros. ¿Cuántos miembros de la familia sufren por falta de una visita, de un saludo? A tan solo unos días del nacimiento del Salvador, es el momento oportuno para las obras de caridad. ¡No pierdas la oportunidad! Camina presuroso al encuentro del Señor.





Los calendarios de 2022 St. Francis están disponibles en español.

¡Consiga el suyo pronto!





