

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS



MOUNT ST. FRANCIS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #12228

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

2026 August Edition



GRAND KNIGHT'S VIEW

Thanks to everyone for all the help and support during this transition period. August has been very active with the Bakhita Walk for survivors of sex trafficking which took place on the same day as our delivery of Palisade Peaches. Had to move the delivery area to the east end of the parking lot to avoid conflict with the walk/run – no shade! But we had a great group of guys who showed up despite the heat and did a great job of sorting and delivering the peaches. The peaches fundraiser was very successful this year despite not having pears available.

September is going to be even more hectic with the Membership drive taking place on the first two weekends of the month (5th -6th and 12th -13th), Parish Breakfast on the 13th, Oktoberfest Dinner on the 18th, Lake Manitou Family Outing on the 19th. A lot of planning going on for all these events.

Just a heads up, we will be looking for volunteers to man the tables in the narthex for the membership drive after all 4 Masses on both weekends, so if you are attending any of those Masses, please plan to stay after Mass for 20 or 30 minutes as necessary to answer questions and hopefully get some new members signed up. Information and guidelines will be provided for you, to help make it go smoothly.

A special thanks to all the new members who have stepped up to volunteer for all these activities – and especially their support of our cooking teams.

More next month.

A variety of events will be held in and around the church on Oct. 3-4 to celebrate the Saint Francis Jubilee, the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, the namesake of our parish. Pope Leo XIV declared 2026 the "Year of Saint Francis" to honor his life and legacy. The highlight of that celebration will begin on Saturday with a Diocesan Rosary Rally at 9 a.m. in the St. Francis of Assisi church that will feature a rosary, a processional of Our Lady of Fatima statue, Mass and guest speaker Father Michael Goodyear of St. Francis Parish in Castle Rock.

A mid-morning hike on the church grounds and surrounding area that represents the love of nature and environment by Saint Francis will begin at 10:30 a.m. Hikers will gather at the Grotto in the churchyard.

Saint Francis is the Patron Saint of Animals and to celebrate his love and passion, a pet blessing will be held in the church grotto at 1 p.m. Medallions will be presented to the various pets that in the past have included parakeets, dogs, cats and a few other two and four-legged critters.

There will be confessions at 4 p.m. in the church as part of a Plenary Indulgence, which will involve Mass, Eucharist and prayers for Pope Leo XIV.

After a 5 p.m. Mass in the church there will be an Italian meal coordinated by the St. Francis Youth to be held in the Hall.

The concluding event on Saturday will be the Transitus of Saint Francis Prayer Service in the church led by the 3rd Order of Franciscans. The service will be a reflection of the life and death of Saint Francis by his contemporaries in the 1200s. The service will begin at 7:45 p.m. to wrap up the day.

Sunday is the Feast Day of St. Francis and the Masses will be led by Father Erin honoring our Patron Saint. After the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses Saint Francis' favorite almond cookies, along with the regular coffee and donuts, will be provided in the hall by the 3rd Order of the Franciscan and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus.

With Saint Francis' care and passion for the poor and needy, a donation will be encouraged by the parishioners to the Sacred Heart Parish Food Drive and distribution. The request is for shelf stable items, including canned chili, hearty soups, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, tuna or other canned protein, rice, pasta sauce and pasta.

To set the stage for the Jubilee celebration there will be classes on the life and teachings of Saint Francis held after Sunday 5 p.m. Masses from Sept. 13-27 led by parishioner Larry Gray.

Pick your spots and come celebrate and honor our namesake Saint Francis on this important first weekend of October.



This fall season is shaping up to be a busy one, with our first CUF exemplification on July 19th.
The Bakhita Walk/Run on August 1st followed by our Peach deliveries in the parking lot.
The Parish Picnic on August 23rd. And that's just the beginning!
Vivat Jesus!

- Ben Davis, WGK Council 12228

LADIES' AUXILIARY NEWS JULY 2026

August flew by – the Ladies helped with the Bakhita Walk on the first. Lynnette and Bob Condron have been working to make the 800th Jubilee for St. Francis very special. Debra Korty and the planning committee have planned a very special Octoberfest for September 18th. The menu is fantastic and there will be a live band for musical entertainment.

We are looking forward to the annual Lake Manitou picnic, hiking, and fishing on September 19th.

The Parish Picnic was enjoyed by all – it seems to get better every year.

I hope we all have a very
ble rest of September.
Blessings! Becky

enjoya



FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The Council 12228 Family of the Month for August 2026 are Fran and Janet Pitaro.

Fran and Janet Pitaro have exemplified a lifetime of selfless service, unwavering faith, and commitment to their community. After moving to Colorado Springs in 2007, they became active members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, where they have faithfully served for the past 19 years through countless ministries and volunteer efforts that have enriched both the parish and the broader community.

Their service began as Monday morning cash counters, carefully ensuring the faithful stewardship of parish donations. When the parish introduced the Unbound Mission, they immediately embraced the opportunity to sponsor a child in India, providing years of financial support, encouragement, and hope. As their involvement grew, they expanded their service into numerous ministries that have touched countless lives.

Fran has served as a lector throughout his time at St. Francis and, for the past eight years, has been the Lead Lector, mentoring and training new ministers of the Word. His leadership has extended to serving four years as Secretary of the Men's Club, eight years as leader of the Parish Incident Management Team, and nine years on the Liturgy Committee. For the past four years, he has also volunteered with Common Spirit's No One Dies Alone (NODA) program, compassionately sitting with hospice patients who have no family or friends present, ensuring that no one faces life's final moments alone.

Following his retirement from the United States Army, Fran continued his distinguished legacy of service through volunteer roles at the federal, state, and local levels. He has served as a Rocky Mountain Performance Excellence Examiner, Civil Service Commissioner, member of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Citizen Advisory Committee, volunteer at the Pikes Peak Workforce Center, and mentor to Fort Carson soldiers transitioning from military service to civilian life. During the past three years, he has also brought comfort and companionship to hospital patients as a therapy dog handler, visiting with his beloved Goldendoodle, Chester.

Janet's own record of service is equally remarkable. Having participated in church ministries around the world, she continued her ministry at St. Francis by joining the St. Clare Quilt Guild, where she has shared her decades of quilting expertise by creating beautiful Prayer Quilts for those in need and contributing to numerous quilting projects that benefit both the parish and the local community. In addition Janet volunteers making cat beds for the Cat Rescue and Adoption Center through the Humane Society. She also serves faithfully on the Wedding Planning Committee and Funeral Services Committee and, for the past two years, has volunteered at Marian House, helping serve meals to those experiencing hardship.

Drawing on decades of experience as an American Red Cross volunteer and certified pharmacy technician supporting military personnel overseas and communities in Virginia, she resumed her Red Cross service by volunteering for several years at the Air Force Academy Community Pharmacy.

Together, Janet and Fran have also generously opened their home and hearts to others by hosting United States Air Force Academy cadets during Dooley Days and serving as proud sponsor parents to cadets over many years.

The Pitaros' lives reflect an extraordinary and enduring commitment to faith, family, military service, and community. Through their quiet leadership, generous spirits, and willingness to serve wherever there is a need, they have made an immeasurable difference in the lives of countless individuals. Their example embodies the highest ideals of servant leadership and leaves a lasting legacy that continues to inspire all who know them.

They fully deserve the designation as Family of the Month for August 2026.

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

The Council 12228 Knight of the Month for August 2026 is Brother Knight Boo Kwong. SK Boo is a 3rd degree member of council 12228, joining our order in November of 2016. SK Boo is also a Fourth-Degree member of assembly 0088 also joining the assembly in 2016. SK Boo is committed to serving his Church, community, and country through faithful leadership and volunteerism.

SK Boo currently serves as a 1st Lieutenant (1LT) Cyber Warfare Officer in the U.S. Army, Cyber Protection Team 185. After recently completing the Cyber Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC), he was promoted to 1LT. In his current assignment, he oversees the monthly tracking and management of NCOERs and OERs, ensuring timely completion of critical personnel evaluations within his unit.

Professionally, SK Boo works as a Network/Systems Administrator I for General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT). He supports Schriever Space Force Base while serving in the S4/6 shop for Delta 15, National Space Defense Center (NSDC), where he helps maintain mission-critical network and information systems in support of national defense.

SK Boo has remained active in the Knights of Columbus through his participation in council and Fourth Degree activities. Most recently, he served in the Fourth-Degree Honor Guard at St. Mary's Cathedral, where he had the honor of helping carry the Processional Canopy. He also volunteered his time assisting with the council's annual peach distribution, supporting one of the council's longstanding fundraising efforts.

Within his parish, SK Boo faithfully serves on the 10:30 a.m. Mass Incident Management Team and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMOHC), assisting at most 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses. His willingness to serve behind the scenes helps ensure the safety, reverence, and smooth operation of the parish liturgy.

Outside of his military, professional, and parish commitments, SK Boo enjoys country swing dancing, participating four nights each week. He also serves as the Branch Lead for the Colorado Springs Catholic Dance Crew, where he helps build fellowship among young adults and provides opportunities for Catholics to grow in community through social dance.

Whether serving in uniform, supporting our nation's space defense mission, volunteering with the Knights of Columbus, or ministering within his parish, SK Boo consistently demonstrates the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. His dedication to service and his willingness to answer the call wherever he is needed make him deserving to be Council 12228's Knight of the Month for August 2026.

NOVENA: Novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Christians look to Mary, the Mother of our Lord, as the first Christian and the model of holiness. This novena presents a profound opportunity for us to pray that Jesus may give us the Grace to be more and more like His mother and thus come closer to Him through His Immaculate Mother.

Read more at: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-immaculate-heart-mary>



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Immaculate Virgin, by the holy will of your Son my Lord Jesus Christ, you are my Mother in Heaven. Your Immaculate Heart is full of love, mercy and compassion for sinners like me. I ask that you intercede for me today for...
(mention your prayer intentions)

I trust in your intercession before the throne of God for my needs. Please pray also that if my requests are not in accordance with the will of God, that I may be, like you, conformed to His will and not my own.

Hail Mary...

Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pray for us!

Amen.

Act of Consecration

1. by Pope Pius XII

Most Holy Virgin Mary, tender Mother of men, to fulfill the desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the request of the Vicar of Your Son on earth, we consecrate ourselves and our families to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and we recommend to You, all the people of our country and all the world.

Please accept our consecration, dearest Mother, and use us as You wish to accomplish Your designs in the world.

O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and Queen of the World, rule over us, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, Our King. Save us from the spreading flood of modern paganism; kindle in our hearts and homes the love of purity, the practice of a virtuous life, an ardent zeal for souls, and a desire to pray the Rosary more faithfully.

We come with confidence to You, O Throne of Grace and Mother of Fair Love. Inflamm us with the same Divine Fire which has inflamed Your own Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. Make our hearts and homes Your shrine, and through us, make the Heart of Jesus, together with your rule, triumph in every heart and home.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Read more at: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-immaculate-heart-mary>

(Mention your request here...)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Friday Morning	Rachel Rosary at 9:30 am, 3420 Centennial Boulevard
September 3, Thursday	Knights Council Meeting, 6:45 p.m.; Rosary, 7:10 p.m., Rooms B & C
	Ladies Auxiliary meeting (Hall), followed by Social in Hall.
September 17, Thursday	Council Officers' Meeting, Rooms B and C, Time: 6:00 p.m.
September 27, Sunday	Sunday Rosary after 8:30 and 10:30 Mass
October 1, Thursday	Knights Council Meeting, 6:45 p.m.; Rosary, 7:10 p.m., Rooms B & C
	Ladies Auxiliary meeting (Hall), followed by Social in Hall.
October 15, Thursday	Council Officers' Meeting, Rooms B and C, Time: 6:00 p.m.
November 5, Thursday	Knights Council Meeting, 6:45 p.m.; Rosary, 7:10 p.m., Rooms B & C
	Ladies Auxiliary meeting (Hall), followed by Social in Hall.

COUNCIL #12228 OFFICERS		SERVICE PROGRAM DIRECTORS	
Grand Knight	Ben Davis	Program director	Ben davis
Chaplain	Fr. Erin Kochivar	Faith	Larry gray
Chaplain Emeritus	Fr. Ken Przybyla	Community	Joe shonka
Deputy Grand Knight	Robert Bogart	Family	Paul Lagatta
Chancellor	Patrick Baldwin	Life director	Harvey siegle
Advocate	John Heyne	Membership	Ron toman
Recording Secretary	Patrick Baldwin	Cooking team director	Mike ortiz
Treasurer	Ron Toman	Retention	Michael kindt
Warden	Michael Kindt	Public Relations	Robert Condron
Inside Guard	Walter Lamb	<u>Technical Support</u>	Paul Lagatta Michael Kindt
Outside Guard	Thomas Barr	<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Harvey Siegle
Lecturer	Joe Priester	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	
1st Year Trustee	Michael WOLFE	Brandon L. Nelson	719-565-8896 brandon.nelson@kofc.org
2nd Year Trustee	Robert Condron		
3rd Year Trustee	Frank Castellano		
Financial Secretary	Ron Born		
District Deputy	Al Batey		

EDITOR'S NOTE: SEND QUESTIONS, LETTERS, COMMENTS, OR ARTICLE IDEAS TO THE EDITOR. SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 26TH OF THE MONTH FOR INCLUSION IN THAT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

- HARVEY.SIEGLE@SAINTFRANCISKOFC.ORG

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MOUNT ST. FRANCIS COUNCIL #12228 WEBSITE: [HTTP://SAINTFRANCISKOFC.ORG/](http://SAINTFRANCISKOFC.ORG/)
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COLORADO STATE WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.COLORADOKOFC.ORG/](http://WWW.COLORADOKOFC.ORG/)
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPREME WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.KOFC.ORG](http://WWW.KOFC.ORG)

