

Do YOU fit in at St. Francis?  
Come and See!

2020



**St. Francis**  
Episcopal Church

*A Spirit of Warmth. A Sense of Belonging.*

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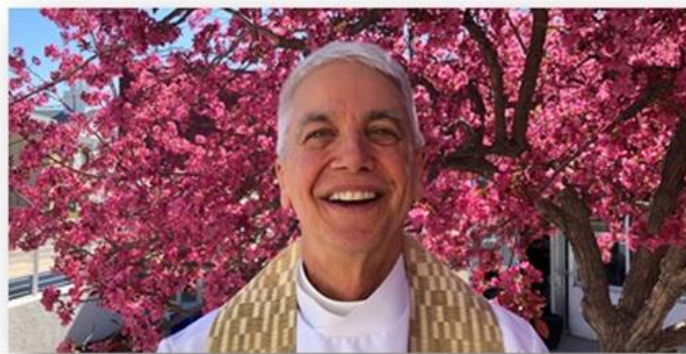
## Special Note

This introduction to St. Francis Episcopal Church for 2020 was prepared before the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. We cannot know at this writing how the programs described here will be affected when our congregation is allowed to meet together again. Until then, much of this description is perhaps what we hope to return to. We sense that many things will change as the world changes to adapt to this disease. Until the situation is resolved in some fashion, know that we hope to include you as we adapt to change in a creative and mission-supportive fashion. In the meantime, our Sunday worship is being live-streamed on Facebook at 10:00 a.m. and archived for later viewing. Search for our home page at “Saint Francis Episcopal Church” (no abbreviation). If you are new to St. Francis, please contact the office by email or phone to be placed on the contact list.

# Welcome!

We hope you enjoy this introduction to the values, facilities, services, opportunities, and some of the people of St. Francis Episcopal Church. Know that you are welcome – to worship with us, to study with us, to sing or make music with us, to serve our community with us, to enjoy fellowship with us. We welcome Episcopalians and other baptized Christians who wish to join us formally. We welcome those who want to learn about our beliefs and customs to decide if they would like to be baptized and confirmed into membership. We also welcome those who simply want to celebrate Christ's gospel of love as they worship with us without putting any kind of tag on their status.

We are strong believers in social justice, faithful practitioners of the Episcopal liturgy-based worship service and the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*, and partakers of the Holy Eucharist at each of our services. We offer many opportunities to get involved in a wide range of activities – from singing in a choir to meditating as you walk a labyrinth; from formal study of the Bible in small discussion groups to serving on one of the teams that lead our church in areas like visiting the sick and shut-ins; from putting together communications keeping everyone informed about what's going on to watching over the church's finances; from Christian education for youngsters through senior citizens to becoming a volunteer assisting the priests in worship services; from collecting food to help fill backpacks for school children to participating with other Scottsbluff churches and civic organizations in the Soup Kitchen program. You can probably fit in here!



The Reverend Mark Selvey

I am Father Mark Selvey, the Rector and Senior Priest at St. Francis. We welcome you. We will meet you where you are and hope you choose to become a contributing part of our congregation. Thanks for checking us out. All your questions may not be answered here, so just ask!

## St. Francis Episcopal Church

St. Francis came into being in 2006, the result of the merger of two Episcopal churches: St. Andrew's (1920) in Scottsbluff and St. Timothy's (1936) in Gering. St. Andrew's church was built in 1922, and that original church is now the St. Francis sanctuary. A major addition was completed in 1979 providing a parish hall, offices, meeting rooms, and a kitchen.



The Reverend Karen Anderson



The Reverend Robert Manasek

Our parish is headed by a Rector, who is supported by two Associate Priests—Mother Karen Anderson and Father Bob Manasek. Having three priests in a small parish is a real luxury, allowing St. Francis priests to divide many of the traditional tasks performed by priests and to provide support for other Panhandle parishes that are temporarily without a priest.

Within The Episcopal Church in the U.S., we are one of 53 churches in the Nebraska Diocese (<http://www.episcopal-ne.org>), which is headed by a Bishop – The Right Reverend J. Scott Barker – in Omaha. The Episcopal Church in the U.S. (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org>) is led by the Presiding Bishop – The Most Reverend Michael Curry – with offices in New York City.

The Episcopal Church (U.S.) is a member of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is represented in 17 nations and organized into provinces. The Anglican Church is headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in London.

The Episcopal churches in Nebraska's Panhandle are formed into a Deanery, a more informal relationship of the churches that focuses on sharing experiences and ideas – and worshipping together.



# St. Francis Core Values

The Episcopal Church values are at the core of St. Francis Episcopal values. Presiding Bishop Curry refers to us as “The Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement,” continuing to add, “We Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” We value:

- **Evangelism:** Episcopalians are passionate about proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in our words and actions. Through the spiritual practice of evangelism, we seek, name, and celebrate Jesus’ loving presence in the stories of all people – then invite everyone to MORE.
- **Reconciliation:** Reconciliation is the spiritual practice of seeking loving, liberating and life-giving relationship with God and one another, and striving to heal and transform injustice and brokenness in ourselves, our communities, institutions, and society – racial, gender, sexual orientation, age, people with disability – we welcome all!
- **Creation Care:** We seek to heal, defend, and work toward justice for all God’s creation and to respect the kinship and connection of all that God created through education, advocacy, and action.
- **What We Believe:** We believe in following the teachings of Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection saved the world. We have a legacy of inclusion, aspiring to tell and exemplify God’s love for every human being; women and men serve as bishops, priests, and deacons in our church. Lay people and clergy cooperate as leaders at all levels of our church. Leadership is a gift from God and can be expressed by all people in our church, regardless of sexual identity or orientation. We believe that God loves you – no exceptions. We study, use, and/or express our beliefs in:
  - The Bible
  - *The Book of Common Prayer*
  - The Creeds
  - The Catechism
  - The Sacraments
  - Holy Baptism
  - Holy Communion
  - The Baptismal Covenant



## Leadership and Contact Information

### Clergy

The Reverend Mark Selvey, Rector .....	308-765-1535
The Reverend Robert Manasek, Associate Rector .....	308-436-7767
The Reverend Karen Anderson, Associate Rector .....	308-641-8799

### Staff

Regina Swanson, Administrative Assistant.....	308-632-4626
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Office Hours: Tue. – Thu. 9:00-1:00

### 2020 Vestry

Father Mark Selvey, Chairperson.....	308-765-1535
Cory Foster, Senior Warden (2020) .....	308-765-2839
Rick Anderson, Junior Warden (2020).....	308-631-5341
Stacy Bach (2020) .....	308-631-2745
Ann Peterson (2020) .....	308-631-4634
John Selzer (2020) .....	402-540-4892
Charlie Kennedy (2021) .....	402-490-5886
Mary Kay Versen (2021) .....	303-704-6167
Jack Webb (2021).....	307-315-0966
Colleen Kelly (2022).....	308-641-2386
Scott Harvey (2022).....	308-631-7869
Jane Wisniewski (2022) .....	308-631-9954
Father Bob Manasek (non-voting) .....	308-436-7767
Mother Karen Anderson (non-voting).....	308-641-8799
Jen Baird (Treasurer, non-voting).....	308-631-1820

The Vestry (the Rector and 11 parishioners) is the governing board of the parish, as established by national and diocesan canons (rules). The Senior Warden acts as a sounding board and advisor to the Rector – and as Chairperson in the Rector's absence. The Junior Warden assumes responsibility for the building and grounds. The wardens are elected to one-year terms at the parish Annual Meeting in January of each year, and nine Vestry members are elected for three-year terms – three new members per year plus filling any vacancies. Vestry meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month (third Wednesday in November and December) at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall, and parishioners are welcome to attend.

# Episcopal Words and Titles – I

<b>Priest</b>	Ordained by the Church following extensive academic preparation, service, and evaluation. Solely authorized to perform specific sacraments.
<b>Rector</b>	A priest identified as the priest in charge.
<b>The Creeds</b>	Statements about our basic beliefs about God. We have two foundational creeds that we use during worship: The Apostles' Creed used at baptism and daily worship, and The Nicene Creed used at communion.
<b>The Catechism</b>	The essential truths of the Christian faith and how Episcopalians live those truths, found in our <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> , in question-and-answer format.
<b>The Sacraments</b>	Holy Baptism and the Eucharist (or Holy Communion) are the two great sacraments given by Christ to his Church. Our other spiritual markers are Confirmation (adult affirmation of Baptism), Reconciliation of a Penitent (private confession), Matrimony, Holy Orders (ordination to the diaconate, priesthood, or episcopacy), and Unction (anointing the sick or dying with holy oil).
<b>The Baptismal Covenant</b>	Promises made by the congregation during initiation of a person into the Church, expressing how the faithful will live their faith.
<b>Ministry team</b>	A “steering committee” (often a working committee) of church leaders and volunteers that addresses a broad mission in service to the parish.
<b>Liturgy</b>	We practice faithful use of a set of approved worship forms that are used by Episcopal parishes in the U.S. – modeling our worship after that of the Church of England (Anglican). Our worship service is in two parts: The Liturgy of the Word (scripture readings, a short homily/sermon, and prayers) followed by The Liturgy of the Table (Holy Eucharist/Communion/Lord's Supper).

## St. Francis Ministry Teams

Ministry teams (steering committees) coordinate and conduct many of the critical activities that contribute to the “quality of Christian life” at St. Francis. A member of the Vestry serves as a liaison to each ministry team so that all of the pieces fit together within the overall vision and priorities of the parish.

**Christian Formation** – This team guides and coordinates Christian education and growth activities of the parish: Godly Play for young children, youth group and summer camp through teen years, Bible studies and discipleship groups for adults. (Co-Captains: Father Mark, Jane Wisniewski)

**Pastoral Care and Visitation** – Clergy and volunteers interact to meet the spiritual needs of parishioners and others through hospital and other care facility visits, home visits, ongoing prayer support through a prayer chain for specific individuals. (Captain: Father Bob)

**Parish Life and Growth** – St. Francis constantly seeks to attract and serve the spiritual needs of visitors and encourage new memberships (Catechism, Sunday School, Youth Programming). This team also sponsors/encourages events that help parishioners get to know each other better than just sitting in the same pew. Activities include a Newcomers’ Welcome Dinner and fellowship/coffee hour following worship services. (Captain: Stacy Bach)

**Outreach and Community Service** – St. Francis looks for ways to be of service in the community and to come to the attention of people looking for a church home – often at the same time. Several programs are described elsewhere ranging from feeding the hungry to selling donated objects on eBay to fund outreach and service, to building houses, to making sure school children have food, to blessing the pets of local families. Many of these activities (Soup Kitchen) are shared among members of a cooperative group of local churches and civic organizations. (Co-Captains: John Selzer, Scott Harvey)



## St. Francis Ministry Teams

**Communication** – St. Francis employs many different techniques to keep parishioners informed about what's going on – when and where (and why) all of the various church's activities are taking place. Fr. Mark and Administrative Assistant Gina Swanson produce a Thursday online summary of near-term events via email and posted to the church website. The team generates posts for the church's presence on Facebook and a monthly calendar. Fr. Mark, Gina, and the team also keep the church website up-to-date. Much of the activity information is distributed in the bulletin that is distributed at each worship service. The ministry team produces a number of pamphlets/brochures to facilitate communication among parishioners and visitors (introduction to St. Francis, directory of members, meet the Vestry members, etc.). (Captain: Cory Foster)



**Finance** – St. Francis, like all churches, remains viable only to the extent that it can support the costs of having a staff, maintaining (and expanding) a building, and conducting worship services and the many other activities documented here. The ministry team supervises the counting, documentation, and depositing the offerings collected on Sundays – many meeting annual pledges made to help the church plan its fiscal year. The Vestry and Treasurer also work closely with the Rector in conducting an annual stewardship campaign to urge parishioners to carefully consider their pledge for annual giving and its impact on the church. Monthly reporting of the church's financial position is made to the Vestry in its monthly meeting. (Treasurer: Jen Baird)

## Worship Services

<b>Sunday</b>	8 a.m.	Holy Eucharist/Communion Service (Organist, infrequent singing)
	9 a.m.	Fellowship Hour (Volunteers provide refreshments, Church provides coffee)
	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service/Communion (Organist/pianist, singing, future choir, Children's sermon)
	11 a.m.	Fellowship Hour
<b>Tuesday</b>	9 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service with Unction in the Mary Chapel (Anointing with special blessing for healing)

Eucharist Services with Unction are also held at local senior citizen retirement homes. Pastoral care visits are also made to St. Francis members who are homebound, in a nursing home, or in the hospital. These visits can include the Holy Eucharist.

## Special Services

**Ash Wednesday:** At the beginning of Lent, we celebrate the Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m.

**Holy Week:** On Palm Sunday, our services include the reading of the Passion. We sometimes continue on Wednesdays with Stations of the Cross services (or other appropriate theme), a Maundy Thursday service with foot washing at 6 p.m., two Good Friday services are celebrated at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m., the Great Vigil on Saturday after sundown, and Easter Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

**Christmas Eve:** We have a Children and Family Holy Eucharist service at 5 p.m. and a Candlelight service with Holy Eucharist at 10:00 p.m. Both offer Christmas carols and joyous worship celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Youth Sundays:** On two Sundays each year during spring and fall, the members of the Youth Group take on the normal roles of clergy and lay volunteers for both worship services.

# Volunteer Roles in Worship Services

**Altar Guild** is a volunteer group of the parish that provides care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterward.

**Ushers/Greeters** are the first point of contact for visitors who attend services. They welcome all, distribute bulletins, pass the offering plates, and count attendance.

**Acolytes** assist the priest at the altar. During the procession they carry the cross and candles. In the service they ring bells or chimes, bring the offering plates to the altar, and help the celebrant prepare the Eucharist.

**Lectors** read the lessons from the lectionary during liturgical services – Eucharist, funerals, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer or occasional services.

**Intercessors** lead the Prayers of the People each Sunday at both the 8 and 10 a.m. services.

**Lay Eucharist Minsters** assist the priests during liturgical services – assisting with serving the elements during communion and carrying the Gospel Book during the processional and Gospel reading.

**Music** is generally a supportive part of liturgical services. We try to feature organ and/or piano support for all services. We try to feature a choir at the 10 a.m. service. A children's choir is now a reality. Special solos and small groups are featured from time-to-time. Singers and musicians are always needed to support our worship services.

**Altar Flowers** are supported by contributions in memory of and/or in honor of family members or others. Citations on or near the date of importance to the donors are made in the bulletin distributed at worship services. The flowers are part of all three main worship services.

# Christian Education/Growth

## Adult Bible Studies

Sunday	9 a.m.	Study the Lectionary of the day
Wednesday	7 a.m.	Men's
	3 p.m.	Women's
Thursday	12 p.m.	Discipleship Group
	6 p.m.	Open Study

## Youth (Teens)

Sunday (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	9 a.m.	Youth Group
Wednesday	5 p.m.	Catechism/Confirmation

## Young People

Sunday (0-4)	10 a.m.	Nursery
Sunday (5-12)	10 a.m.	Godly Play (Sunday School)

## Inquirer's Class

Times to be set with Father Mark (transfers, new to Episcopal Church, etc.).

## Confirmation Class



Our Bishop visits St. Francis once each year to confirm any youth or adults that wish to be confirmed as Episcopalians. Fr. Mark will schedule Catechism and lessons to prepare individuals to be confirmed – no age limit. If you have been confirmed as a Christian or are transferring an Episcopalian church membership, Fr. Mark will assist.

## Discernment Class

This is a process to discern if an individual is called to be ordained. Fr. Mark leads this process.



## Episcopal Words and Titles – II

<b>DIONE</b>	Shorthand reference for the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska
<b>Bishop</b>	Spiritual leader of the diocese. Arranges candidates for parish priest vacancies. Visits each parish at least annually. Performs confirmations in a worship service. Participates in parish visioning. Manages the diocese staff. Chairs the Annual Council.
<b>Canon</b>	(1) A law/rule of the Church. (2) The title of a priest who is a senior assistant to the Bishop.
<b>Annual Council</b>	Annual meeting of the Diocese in which legislation is considered affecting all parishes. Each parish is represented by clergy and lay representatives. The 151 <sup>st</sup> Annual Council was held at Gering Civic Center on October 25-27, 2018. St. Francis was the host church.

### **I'm interested. How do I get involved?**

- Stop by the church office (or call or email) and **chat with Fr. Mark or Gina Swanson**. They can connect you with your interest.
- If you know when/where something meets or happens, **just show up and introduce yourself**. We welcome all.
- **Introduce yourself to the person in your pew** (or in front or back of you). See if they have the information you are looking for.
- **Catch one of the priests or anyone who looks like they might know something during the fellowship hour** after Sunday services. Someone there probably knows details that will connect you to your interest.

## Outreach/Community Service

**Outreach/Community Service** is one of the St. Francis Ministry Teams. This team of volunteers reviews all requests for service commitments and recommends possible outreach opportunities to support.



**Cat Packs/Pup Packs Programs** are ministries started by St. Francis Episcopal Church. The local Cooperative Ministry group now oversees these programs in Scottsbluff and Gering. Scottsbluff's program is called Cat Packs. Packs are assembled weekly at First Presbyterian Church. Backpacks of food are given to students on a Friday, so food is available to those students in need over the weekend. Gering's program is called Pup Packs, and the packs are assembled at Gering First State Bank. Donations of money and food are made to the program for nutritional, easy-to-use foods.

**Habitat for Humanity** is a community effort to build a house each year. Generally, St. Francis will create a team of helpers for an assigned Saturday for St. Francis. All levels of skills are encouraged and appreciated.

**Prairied Treasures** is a volunteer group that formed to sell donated items on eBay. Many charities and ministries (inside and outside our church) have benefited from this wonderful group of volunteers. Volunteer to donate or to work on selling.

**Soup Kitchen** is a Scottsbluff/Gering effort by churches and civic groups to feed those who can't provide decent meals for themselves and/or their families. St. Francis assists by cooking and serving on all the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays in the year. We cook in our kitchen and serve in the Presbyterian Church.

**Blessing of the Animals** is an annual event on St. Francis Day. Our priests provide blessings for pets from throughout the area on or close to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in October. We partner with the Panhandle Humane Society and the Presbyterian Church for the event held in Centennial I Park (or in our parish hall if inclement weather).

**Cooperative Ministries** is a group of clergy/representatives from local, traditional churches (including St. Francis) that meets monthly to share resources, experiences, and ideas. The group also includes representatives from the Soup Kitchens, Salvation Army bell ringing, Crop Walk (hunger), Potter's Wheel, United Way, Monument Family Connects, Habitat for Humanity, Community Action of Western Nebraska, Lakota Lutheran Center, Backpack Program, and the Emergency Fund. They meet the third Thursday of the month at noon. Locations are scheduled with each church on a rotating basis.



## Fellowship

**Coffee Hour:** After each Sunday Service there is coffee/fellowship time in the parish hall. Coffee and wonderful snacks are available. Volunteers sign up to provide the goodies. All are welcome to join us!

**Choir:** We have a volunteer group that will practice prior to Christmas, Easter, or a special occasion. Do you have musical talent? Join us!

**Episcopal Church Women (ECW):** All women of St. Francis are invited to become members of ECW. They meet throughout the year and are involved in a variety of activities. ECW holds a Christmas cookie exchange and takes tins of cookies to our shut-ins, raises funds for needy families at Christmas, holds a Mother/Daughter Brunch in May, and holds a "Christmas in July" Bazaar. They support outreach groups locally, state-wide, and internationally. The ECW has teams that provide receptions for baptisms, funerals, and other special events.

**Bible Study/Discipleship Groups:** A great source of fellowship (and frequently wonderful homemade refreshments) are the various Bible studies and discipleship groups. In addition to learning and growth in your beliefs, you may just build strong friendships as well.

**Hospitality/Fellowship:** The Parish Life & Growth Ministry Team works with Fr. Mark to develop and implement visitor programs, greeting ministry, and other fellowship events.



## Yearly Gatherings

**Annual Meeting:** Held the last Sunday in January – a delicious brunch/lunch is provided featuring homemade dishes. The state of the parish and a look at the new year are shared. New Vestry are elected.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:** The tradition of this event is that the men of the church serve as the cooks and servers for a wonderful feast of pancakes, garlic sausage, eggs, and drinks. No one goes away hungry! It is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

**Lent:** Members and visitors come together during this solemn season for simple soup suppers, readings, and prayer. A Stations of the Cross service or an equivalent often follows the supper.

**ECW Mother/Daughter Brunch:** Held the first Saturday in May. See more in the entry for ECW. Join us!

**Thanksgiving Day:** All are welcome to share an amazing Thanksgiving dinner with Holy Apostles in Mitchell and St. Francis, alternating locations each year. 2020 site will be set later. It's a wonderful potluck meal and wonderful fellowship with old and new friends!

**Newcomer Events:** We try to have a special event at least annually for interested visitors and new members of the church. The activities vary but have included barbecues, picnics, potluck dinners, and a light evening meal for newcomer families. This is a great time to meet others and learn about the St. Francis family.

**Youth Group:** In addition to scheduled Sunday lessons, different youth group activities have included roller skating, bowling, climbing wall, Christmas caroling, and more.

**Parish Picnic:** A picnic in a Scottsbluff city park is a recent addition to parish activities. In addition to food with a picnic potluck, outdoor games and a dunk tank were big hits!

## Changing the Face of St. Francis

Over the years, many people have mentioned that some people in Scottsbluff didn't have any idea where our church was or that our building was even a church. Our white stucco walls, even with the name of the church clearly visible, didn't seem so "welcoming" to some. We may not have seemed so "open" to a passer-by. The entry to the church may not have been as visible as we would like to convey the message, "Come and See."

Our "20<sup>th</sup> Street Project" has most certainly changed our visual image by (1) removing the wall that closed us off visually from the street; (2) extending the entry doors into the narthex to the east in a small addition that seems more inviting and carries the message, "This is a church"; and (3) make appropriate changes as necessary to the courtyard area to accommodate the extended entry.

With the construction part of the project having been completed by early in 2019, the new letters mounted on all four sides of the church were added in 2019. During late 2019 and into 2020, we expanded our vision for completing this project by preparing to commission a custom cross to mount above the new entry and adding a large mosaic piece to the 20<sup>th</sup> Street face of the church.

Expanded Narthex, Wall Removed, New Identification Signage



## Narthex Interior



## Narthex Extension from Courtyard





Narthex Extension from 20<sup>th</sup> St.



*A Spirit of Warmth...  
...A Sense of Belonging  
St. Francis Episcopal  
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