

Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi

175 Years
1844-2019

"Strive to enter through
the narrow door."
Lk 13:24

August 25, 2019

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi
135 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001
tel 212.736.8500 • www.stfrancisnyc.org

The Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Midtown Manhattan is a parish in the Archdiocese of New York and an urban ministry center staffed by the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province and their partners in ministry.

Inspired by our faith in Jesus Christ, and rooted in the charism of St. Francis of Assisi, we actively WELCOME all people.



We WORSHIP God through prayerful and inspiring liturgies, the celebration of the sacraments, and the devotional life of the Church. We WITNESS to our faith by ministering to everyone, especially those who are poor, alienated or oppressed.

Our Weekly Schedule

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Evening Vigil Masses

4:00, 5:15 PM (Organ & Cantor)

Sunday Masses

8:00 AM (Organ & Cantor), 9:15 AM (Korean),
9:30 AM (Organ & Cantor; Lower Church),
11:00 AM (Organ & Choir); 12:30 PM (Organ & Cantor),
5:00 & 6:15 PM (Contemporary Ensemble)

Weekday Masses

7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 11:30 AM; 12:30, 4:30, 5:30 PM

Saturday Morning Masses

8:00, 11:00 AM

First Friday Filipino Community Mass

6:15 PM (Lower Church)

Holidays

Consult the weekly bulletin and the posted notices for federal and other holidays.

On the cover:

Someone asked Jesus, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." (Luke 13: 23-24)

Photo © depositphotos.com.

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 8:30 AM; 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM; 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Saturday 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM; 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Sunday 8:30 - 9:30 AM; 4:30 - 5:30 PM

Devotions

Monday

Devotions in Honor of St. Monica after 8:30 AM, 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses

Tuesday

Devotions in Honor of St. Anthony after all Masses starting at 7:45 AM

Wednesday

Devotions in Honor of St. Jude after 8:30 AM, 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses

Thursday

Devotions in Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes for the Sick after 8:30 AM, 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses

Friday

Devotions in Honor of the Sacred Heart after 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses
Lenten Season: Stations of the Cross
Easter Season: Stations of the Resurrection

Saturday

The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Lower Church)

Summer hours: 9:00 - 11:15 AM; 1:00 - 4:15 PM

The Pastor's Corner



St. Luke's Gospel for today says: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate..." Jesus was responding to a question from his disciples when they asked: "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Jesus invites us all to listen to him, to pay attention to him, to learn from him, and ultimately to choose to follow him and to have that choice show forth in our day to day living. It is a choice; it is a day-to-day choice. This choice makes us who we are. We know, as Jesus knew, that not all people have made that choice, or that they are lukewarm in their following of him. The gate is not narrow for those who have chosen Jesus as their way, their truth and their life. It is interesting that the Lord's call "Come, follow me" is not a call given only once. Throughout our lives he repeats it, especially when we may find life confusing or difficult or even when we are getting lukewarm. The call is there when we listen.

Please join me in welcoming Bro. James Hamilton, C.F.C., who will be speaking at all Masses for the Society for the Propagation of Faith. This Office assists missionaries in bringing the Good News of the Gospel to people throughout the world.

Congratulations to our Franciscan Brothers, Javier del Angel de los Santos, and Roberto Serrano, who made their solemn profession of vows at St. Francis Church this weekend. This is a commitment to live the Franciscan way of life for the rest of their lives.

A new feature in our weekly bulletin for the next few weeks will be Themes from Catholic Social Teaching. These themes come from a treasure of documents that go back to the late 1800's on various themes that have been dealt with by each of the Popes. They respond to various issues in society from the point of view of what the Scriptures and church tradition have to say. The principles contained in these documents are based on Sacred Scripture. The first of these themes is included in today's bulletin.

Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

175th Anniversary Raffle

\$1,000 First Prize \$500 Second Prize

\$250 Third Prize

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

On sale at the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House

Drawing will be held at the Gala on September 20

You do not have to be present to win

Collection This Week for Society for the Propagation of the Faith

This weekend there will be a second collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Brother Jim Hamilton, a Christian Brother, will be here to speak at all Masses on the importance of continuing to support the work of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to places that are unaware of the message of the Gospel. This is the effort to bring light into places where atheism and other cults have a strong influence and to build places where faith may be weak. Thank you for your generosity!

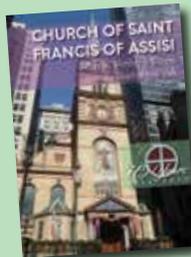
Saint Francis Walks



Here's a new opportunity to witness our faith in the public square: **Saint Francis Walks**. Friars, staff and parishioners of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi plan to walk in solidarity with the people of New York City in Breast Cancer Walk, Multiple Sclerosis Walk, Alzheimer's Walk, AIDS Walk, as well as many other opportunities to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers. For more information, contact Fr. Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M. at jjagudilla@stfrancisnyc.org.



SAVE THE DATE!



**175th Anniversary Gala Cocktail Party
September 20, 2019 7:00 PM**

Enjoy time with friars, other parishioners and friends of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi with food, music and cocktails as we celebrate this momentous moment in the life of our beloved church. Our commemorative anniversary book will be introduced, and our anniversary raffle will be drawn.

Come Explore the Catholic Faith!

Are you interested in exploring Catholicism for yourself? Do you know someone who might be interested in finding out more about our faith? Were you baptized in another Christian church and are thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Are you Catholic but never received Confirmation or First Communion?



Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 PM starting in September. These classes are designed for people who may or may not be sure that they want to join the Catholic church. We present a comprehensive overview of Catholic faith and traditions designed for adults. Anyone inquiring into the Catholic faith may attend these sessions with no obligations. The RCIA is free for anyone exploring Catholicism.

If you would like to find out more about our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, please contact: Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization; 212-736-8500, Ext. 365 or jnuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org.

Book Review: *Make Today Matter*

All of us have certain habits that are part of our daily life. Some help us and bring out the best in us; others have the opposite effect and bring out the worst in us. In Chris Lowney's book, *Make Today Matter*, he examines a number of habits that are helpful in having us get the most of each day. He focuses on ten habits and once you see their importance, it makes sense to incorporate them into your daily life if you haven't already done that. He deals with "heart, winning, inner demons, little changes, being grateful, hurts, and listening." All of these are important for a healthy spiritual life and for "making today matter." There are interesting stories throughout the book and suggestions on how to make these habits personal. The book is available in the lobby of the Parish House.

The Friars of Thirty-First Street, Part 15

The vacancy created by the death of Father Anselm Kennedy on June 12, 1929 was soon filled by the appointment of Father Mathias Faust, who was the Guardian of the Franciscan community at 31st Street since 1925. In 1931 he would be elected



The Lower Church in 1931 shortly after its dedication as the National Shrine of Saint Anthony.

to serve as Minister Provincial for a third term, but during his two short years as Pastor he managed to plan and complete the lower church known as the National Shrine of Saint Anthony of Padua.

When the construction of the lower church was first conceived by Father Mathias, there immediately arose among the artists the idea of bringing to American soil something of the style of the medieval Franciscan sanctuaries. The execution of this idea in the crypt of St. Francis of Assisi was proclaimed as a work of art unequalled in its beauty.

Shortly after the lower church was dedicated on November 1, 1931, a perpetual Christmas Crib was installed. The glass-encased shrine reproduces three distinct scenes in the life of the infant Jesus: the Nativity, the Flight into Egypt, and the Hidden Life of the Holy Family in Nazareth. In a vault of blue sky over the crib are hundreds of twinkling stars. The alcove in which the crib is set is separated by a large glass panel with a kneeling bench placed before it. Within the crib is a relic taken from the grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The statues of the crib were made by the Liturgical Art Company of Munich, Germany. While it is common for all Catholic churches to have a Nativity scene during the Christmas season, many of the Franciscan churches in Europe have a year-round crib as a permanent reminder of St. Francis' devotion to the Christ Child and the first Christmas Crib he built at Greccio in 1223. The Incarnation remains central to Franciscan spirituality and devotion, and this is symbolized by the presence of the perpetual crib in the lower church.



This series of articles on the history of our parish is adapted from the writings of Fr. Flavian Walsh, O.F.M., Pastor from 1985-87.

STAND UP, IMMIGRANTS! BUILD THE NETWORK

A Network of Information, Support & Protection of Immigrants



Are you without immigration status?

Here's a possible solution!

STAND UP! is a campaign to protect the rights and welfare of immigrants, especially the undocumented. It is confidential, dependable and secure. For more information, contact us at standupimmigrants@gmail.com or 212-736-8500, Ext. 305.

INMIGRANTES, LEVÁNTENSE CONSTRUYAMOS LA RED

La Red de Información, Apoyo y Protección de Inmigrantes



¿Está sin estatus de inmigración?

¡Aquí hay una solución posible!

¡LEVÁNTENSE! es una campaña para proteger los derechos y el bienestar de los inmigrantes, especialmente los indocumentados. La campaña es confidencial, confiable y seguro. Para más información, contáctenos a standupimmigrants@gmail.com o 212-736-8500, Ext. 305.

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

#1: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and the dignity of the human person.

Gaudium et Spes 1965: Whatever insults human dignity such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children as well as disgraceful working conditions where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons, all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society. . .

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

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Friars in Residence

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Thomas Walters, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

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Mass Intentions for the Week

The Bread & Wine for Masses this week have been given for the intentions of: John & Vivienne Family; Joseph, Marie & Thomas Powers, Jr., and in memory of Thomas Powers, Sr. from Victorina Powers.

The Sanctuary Lights have been given for the intentions of Sylvia Reyes, and in memory of Amb. Bartolome Umayam & Genoveva Umayam.

Saturday, August 24, 2019

8:00 AM Frances & Stephen Rosty (d.)
11:00 Joseph & Mildred Wozniak (d.)
4:00 PM Kathleen Harris
5:15 Providencia Castro

Sunday, August 25, 2018

8:00 AM Franciscan Mass League
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Luis A. Carreon, Sr. (d.)
11:00 Bisquera Family, in thanksgiving
12:30 PM Frances & Stephen Rosty (d.)
5:00 Jo Laurienzo (d.)
6:15 Annabelle Skoglund

Monday, August 26, 2019

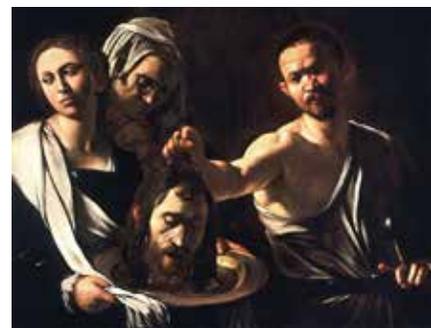
7:00 Karen Skoglund & Family
7:45 Consuelo Zegarra (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Donald & Marianne Tela
12:30 PM Mary O'Sullivan
4:30 Eric A. Rivera (d.)
5:30 Helen Sisco (d.)

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

7:00 Olysar Garces, birthday
7:45 Suzanne Dory (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Eusebio S. Uy (d.)
12:30 PM Stan Morales
4:30 Elisa Crisostomo (d.)
5:30 Benedieta & Conrad Menezes, 25th anniversary

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

7:00 AM Albert Duncan (d.)
7:45 Gregory & Paul Conyers (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Leony Alberto (d.)
12:30 PM Irene Zetlmeir-Lenardson (d.)
4:30 Vincenzo D'Alessandro (d.)
5:30 Aldo Arcomano, for healing



The Passion of St. John the Baptist, August 29

Thursday, August 29, 2019

7:00 Eugene Thomas (d.)
7:45 Bruno Mitera (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Josephine Layon
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30 Prior Family (d.)
5:30 Sean Murray (d.)

Friday, August 30, 2019

7:00 Romeo Dorillo (d.)
7:45 Sally de Guzman & Family
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Charlie Cihanek (d.)
12:30 PM Michael J. Driscoll (d.)
4:30 Catherine Lee Bernauer (d.)
5:30 Md. Kula Sesay Wai (d.)

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Directory

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE: 135 W. 31st Street • SAN DAMIANO HALL: 127 W. 31st Street
ST. FRANCIS ADULT EDUCATION CENTER: 139 W. 31st Street

Adult Education

A variety of courses in Scripture, church history, spirituality, personal growth, and other topics are offered at noon and in the evenings in the Fall and Spring months. Special brochures with course offerings are published prior to the start of each term and are available at the church entrances. Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., Director; 212-736-8500, Ext. 311.

Franciscan Bread for the Poor

The St. Francis Breadline provides food for hungry people every morning of the year at 7:00 AM. Franciscans Deliver brings groceries to area shut-ins on a weekly basis. For more information, go to www.stfrancisbreadline.org.

Counseling Center

Counseling services are available on a short- or long-term basis by appointment only. Sliding scale fee structure. Call 212-736-8500, Ext. 290 for information or to make an appointment.

Saint Francis Bereavement Ministry

While grief is a very private experience, people who have lost loved ones can benefit from the witness and support of others who have lost someone special in their lives. The St. Francis Bereavement Ministry offers an opportunity for the bereaved to connect with others who grieve, and to seek a path of healing as they come to terms with their loss. Call Fr. Brian Smail, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500, Ext. 204 to inquire.



Immigration Assistance

The Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi provides assistance to all immigrants regardless of status. If anyone needs assistance or has concerns about immigration matters, please contact the Migrant Center at 212-736-8500, Ext. 305/377 or email migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.

Korean Ministry

The Korean Community worships in Korean every Sunday at 9:15 AM. A Mass for young adults is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6:00 PM in the lower church. Fr. Michael Kim, O.F.M.; 212-736-8500, Ext. 384.

LGBT Outreach

Our LGBT ministry is very active in our community. The ministry provides various spiritual, social, and educational events from September through June. For more information, please visit the website to sign up for our mailing list. For more information, contact Meredith Augustin, liaison for the LGBT ministry, at 212-736-8500, Ext. 327.

Mass Cards & Perpetual Enrollments

Available at the Reception Desk in the lobby of St. Francis House. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM; Saturday: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday: 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Music Ministry

To become involved in our liturgical music ministry, please call Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries, at 212-736-8500, Ext. 327.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA is the process by which people can question, search, and inquire into the Catholic faith. The RCIA is for any unbaptized adult who is new to the Catholic faith or any unbaptized child usually over the age of 7. The RCIA is also for any adult or child over the age of 7 who was baptized in another Christian tradition and for baptized Catholic adults seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Contact Joseph Nuzzi at 212-736-8500, Ext. 365.

RENEW! Younger Retiree Program

Catholic retirees, age 55 and over, participate in spiritual, cultural, social, and service activities in the New York Metropolitan Area. For information, please contact RENEW at 212-736-8500, Ext. 389.

Secular Franciscans

Lay men and women who strive to follow the Gospel way of life according to the ideals of St. Francis. For information please see our website <http://www.stfrancisnyc.org/secularfranciscans.htm>.

St. Francis on Facebook

St. Francis Church is on Facebook! Join the group "St. Francis of Assisi NYC" on Facebook to see who else is a member, be informed of news and events and keep in touch with what's going on in your parish community. Stay connected the way you like to stay connected. Join the group today and invite your friends.

Self-Help Groups

St. Francis Church hosts numerous self-help groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Sex Addicts Anonymous, Survivors of Incest Anonymous, and others. Please consult the Self-Help and Support Groups brochure for times and locations of the meetings.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction as a means of spiritual growth and faith development is provided by the Center Staff. Contact Fr. Joseph Cavoto, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500 for more information.

Ugnayan Filipino Ministry

A home away from home for newly arrived Filipino immigrants. Our ministry sponsors the Sacred Heart devotion during the 6:15 PM First Friday Mass with fellowship afterwards. We conduct Lectio Divina every Third Friday of the month. The ministry also welcomes interested individuals to join their music ministry. Rehearsals are on two consecutive Thursdays before the First Friday. Email: flipinoministry@stfrancisnyc.org.

Volunteers

St. Francis Church invites individuals to give freely of their time and expertise in order to make a difference. Our volunteers participate in liturgical ministries as well as other forms of service to the church and the community. Edward Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteers. Email: etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org.

Young Adult Ministry

This is a ministry of, by, and for Catholic men and women in their 20's and 30's. At St. Francis we believe that ministering to young adults begins by creating an environment where people feel welcome, especially by worshipping God together in a way that feeds the spirit. For more information please email: youngadults@stfrancisnyc.org.



Is God calling you to be a Franciscan Friar?

Vocation Ministry of Holy Name Province • BeAFranciscan.org