

Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi

175 Years
1844 - 2019

Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.'

Luke 14:28-30

September 8, 2019

Twenty-Third 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.

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

On the cover:

Ruins of Lichnice Castle, Czech Republic.
© depositphotos.com.

The Pastor's Corner



Today we hear Jesus say: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Many of Jesus' words are challenging and can easily upset us, but after you think about them for a while, they begin to make sense. Each of our lives has many crosses

and rather than let them conquer us, with Jesus we can reach goals that we may never have thought that we could achieve. In the previous sentence, when we hear Jesus saying about "hating" certain people, we need to look at what Jesus "means" by this. He wants us to have priorities in our lives- everything does not have the same value. Jesus wants us to have him as the center of our lives. He realizes that we are people pulled in many directions and it is important for us to continue to refocus ourselves to what is important and life giving. We always need to keep in mind that, whenever we encounter Scriptures that may seem strange, we should ask ourselves "what does this mean" and not take them "literally."

Today is the annual Walk in Memory of Fr. Mychal Judge. We are grateful for the many people who have travelled distances to join in this walk. On September 11th we will have our annual Mass for the 9/11 victims; many of whom are still dealing with health situations. Please join us in this tribute to all those who suffered from this tragic event in our history.

Today is also the commemoration of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

Fr. Andrew
Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

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 September 10. 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.



175th Anniversary Gala

September 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM, San Damiano Hall

Enjoy time with friars, parishioners and friends of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi with food, music and cocktails as we celebrate this memorable moment in the life of our church.

Tickets: \$50, available at the reception desk

175th Anniversary Commemorative Book

Our Commemorative Book will be released during the Gala on September 20 and will be available for sale at the reception desk for \$20.

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 St. Francis House. The drawing will be held at the Gala on September 20. You don't have to be present to win.

175th Anniversary Festive Mass

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, 2019, 5:30 PM

Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, will be the presider at the Mass which will close our anniversary year. He will be joined by Fr. Kevin Mullen, O.F.M., Provincial Minister of Holy Name Province, as well as our friars at St. Francis and visiting friars from the Province.

More information can be found at stfrancisnyc.org.

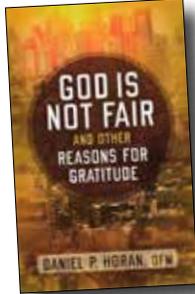
Saint Francis Walks



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.

Book Review: *God Is Not Fair... And Other Reasons for Gratitude*

Does the title of this book by Fr. Daniel Horan, O.F.M. make sense? Our Franciscan brother, Fr. Dan, comes up with clever titles for his publications and this title made me pick up the book and look it over. In the Introduction he speaks about the title that he has



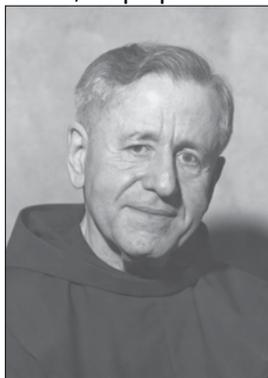
chosen, he says: "The simple premise here is that God's way is not our way, God's love is not conditioned like ours, God's mercy is not bound as ours is and God does not discriminate or reward a person according to the standards of a given society. . . "The three chapters of reflections in this book focus on: following Christ in the modern world,

the Gospel and culture and the vowed life today. His reflections touch on many topics and they are short and thoughtful. He deals with the confrontations that our faith encounters: daily pressures, temptations and challenges in the first chapter. The second chapter is an invitation to give a fresh look at various parts of the Gospel. The third chapter considers the reality of our vocation – not just religious and priestly vocations – but our response to Jesus' call to follow him. This book is available in the lobby of the Parish House.

The Friars of Thirty-First Street, Part 17

Fr. Samuel Grega was succeeded as pastor by Fr. Capistran Petrie, who served from 1937 until 1943. A former professor at St. Bonaventure College, his character and pastoral zeal would guide St. Francis Church towards its one-hundredth year of service in New York City.

Fr. Capistran enlarged the parlor facilities to develop the ministry of pastoral counselling. He also introduced Friday devotions in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows, bringing three Servite Fathers from Chicago to begin the new devotion here. It was estimated that 30,000 people attended the 23 devotions offered on the first



day. in the course of time, however, as the devotion was introduced into other New York churches, Fr. Capistran reduced the number of Friday services at St. Francis Church, and he initiated the popular and traditional devotion of the Way of the Cross.

In the early years of World War II, Fr. Capistran had a special place in his heart for the many service men and



women. In 1941 he obtained permission from the Military Vicar of the Armed Forces, Archbishop Francis Spellman, to offer Mass on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 PM for the exclusive convenience of men and women in the uniform of the country's service. During one of the Masses, Archbishop Spellman slipped quietly into the back pew to observe the Mass. The faith and devotion of the congregation so impressed him that, at the end of the Mass, he went to the altar and asked the priest's permission to speak to the congregation. His concluding words were, "What I have seen here today, I shall not quickly forget." The fact that he performed this quasi-liturgical act attired in street clothes, a daringly unepiscopal gesture in 1941, heightened the significance of the moment for the friars and people alike.

Brothers were stationed at each of the church's entrances with strict instructions to deny entrance to any person not in military uniform. Even the determined Massachusetts politician, James Michael Curley, was unable to elicit an assenting "Hurrah" from Fr. Capistran's vigilant porters. Unaccustomed to being denied exemption, the former governor of Massachusetts reported his exclusion to Archbishop Spellman, and he expected his fellow Bostonian to vindicate him and admonish the friars. When Spellman later brought the complaint to Fr. Capistran, the Archbishop congratulated him for exercising due vigilance and for perpetrating the year's most humorous "teapot tempest." "How did you find out?" Fr. Capistran asked. The Archbishop replied: "His Honor came up here and complained to me. I told him he will have to join the Army if he wants to get in."

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.



All young adults in their 20's and 30's are welcome to join us for our annual Young Adult Retreat at the Mt. Alvernia Franciscan Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, NY. The retreat is from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, September 27-29, 2019.

Join us for prayer, reflection, inspiration and sharing. This retreat is a great way to enter the fall season reconnecting with God and with other young adults in our community. Registration will open soon, so save the date! The cost is \$200 per person and includes use of the retreat house, retreat materials, meals, and Saturday evening social. Transportation is not included, but details will be provided.

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!

¡LEVANTENSE! 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

#3: Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Laudato Sí of Pope Francis: Underlying the principle of the common good is respect for the human person as such, endowed with basic and inalienable rights ordered to his or her integral development. It has also to do with the overall welfare of society and the development of a variety of intermediate groups, applying the principle of subsidiarity. Outstanding among those groups is the family, as the basic cell of society. Finally, the common good calls for social peace, the stability and security provided by a certain order which cannot be achieved without particular concern for distributive justice; whenever this is violated, violence always ensues. Society as a whole, and the state in particular, are obliged to defend and promote the common good.

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

Staff Friars

William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Adult Education

wbeaudin@stfrancisnyc.org

Michael Carnevale, O.F.M.

Joseph Cavoto, O.F.M., Counseling Center & Spiritual Direction

jcavoto@stfrancisnyc.org

John Felice, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Director of Migrant Center

jjagudilla@stfrancisnyc.org

Brian Jordan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

Michael Kim, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry

koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org

David McBriar, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

John McVean, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

Andrew Reitz, O.F.M., Pastor

areitz@stfrancisnyc.org

Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Liturgy

tshreenan@stfrancisnyc.org

Brian Smail, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Spiritual Direction

bsmail@stfrancisnyc.org

Friars in Residence

Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

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

Pastoral Associates & Administration

Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries

maugustin@stfrancisnyc.org

Julie Berwick, Director of St. Francis Counseling Center

jberwick@stfrancisnyc.org

Carlos Farfan, Director of Finance

cfarfan@stfrancisnyc.org

Chala Hill, F.H.M., Spiritual Direction

chill@stfrancisnyc.org

Caelestine Kim, O.S.B., Pastoral Associate, Korean Ministry

koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org

Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization

jnuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org

Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office

development@stfrancisnyc.org

Edward A. Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry

etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

The Bread & Wine for Masses this week have been given for the intentions of Catherine B. Puangco; for the intentions of Joseph, Marie & Thomas Powers, Jr., and in memory of Thomas Powers, Sr. from Victorina Powers; and in memory of Manuel.

The Sanctuary Lights have been given in memory of Fr. John P. McGuire, O.P., and for the intentions of Elizabeth & Ramon.

Saturday, September 7, 2019

8:00 AM Isaiah Ozomek
11:00 Albert Carol (d.)
4:00 PM Kathleen Harris
5:15 Providencia Castro

Sunday, September 8, 2018

8:00 AM Arthur & Mary Bazzurro (d.)
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Alexander Duncan (d.)
11:00 Franciscan Mass League
12:30 PM Celestin Lawson
5:00 Praxedes Maquiran (d.)
6:15 Alejandro Duncan (d.)

Monday, September 9, 2019

7:00 Gerald & Raymond Sampson
7:45 Alfonso Duncan (d.)
8:30 John Gordon (d.)
11:30 Patricia Connor (d.)
12:30 PM Paulino Prado (d.)
4:30 James Vella (d.)
5:30 Jenny & Louis Castellano (d.)

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

7:00 Angelo & Rita Valla (d.)
7:45 The Master Family
8:30 The Wallner Family
11:30 John Garry
12:30 PM Mary Young Kim
4:30 Bridgid Connolly
5:30 Cornelia Harrington Toffolo (d.)

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

7:00 AM Thomas Fennessy (d.)
7:45 Eugene Dymowski (d.)
8:30 Peace for Arebalr Family
11:30 Lourdes L. Sievert (d.)
12:30 PM Matthew Wanger (d.)
4:30 Caryl D. Forte, for healing
5:30 Birthday & Anniversary thank you

Thursday, September 12, 2019

7:00 Cornelius Cremin
7:45 Elizabeth C. Weese (d.)
8:30 Danny Megino (d.)
11:30 Ginevra & Francesco Marino (d.)
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30 Jennie Pacelli
5:30 Elizabeth C. Weese (d.)

Friday, September 13, 2019

7:00 Colleen & Nicholas Kerwick
7:45 Elizabeth C. Weese (d.)
8:30 Emilia Lauro
11:30 Mary Cihanek (d.)
12:30 PM Pol Lee (d.)
4:30 Thanksgiving to St. Joseph
5:30 Patricia Castellano (d.)



St. John Chrysostom, September 13

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