



Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi
The Heart of New York

December 29, 2019

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

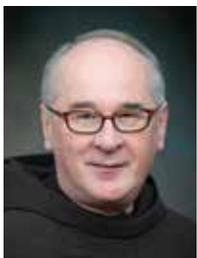
Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Lower Church)
Summer hours: 9:00 - 11:15 AM; 1:00 - 4:15 PM

On the cover:

"The Miracle of the Palm Tree on the Flight to Egypt"
ca. 1490-1510; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

This walnut sculpture, probably from a retable (decoration behind an altar) depicting Jesus commanding the palm tree to bend down so that the Holy Family could eat its fruit, is based upon New Testament Apocrypha, episodes from the life of Jesus not recounted in the Gospels. The composition is derived from an engraving by Martin Schongauer, dated about 1476.

The Pastor's Corner



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is the Feast that we celebrate this Sunday after Christmas. We can easily over-romanticize their life together, forgetting that Jesus' birth too place in a stable and his parents had to flee to Egypt to escape the threat of Herod who was searching for the child "to destroy him." We need to think about not only the physical discomforts that this family had to endure, but also – when you think of the emotional challenge of these days – their ability to think quickly and take the appropriate action. They offer us much inspiration whenever we may ask ourselves what we need to do and how to go about doing it. We might wish that an angel would appear to us and tell us what to do, but God endows us with much to help us know what to do when we need help.

I hope that you had a Blessed and Merry Christmas! I'm sure there were large family gatherings as well as simple, quiet observances of the day. This season seems to provide us with many opportunities to get together and enjoy one another's company; however, everyone is different in the way that they celebrate this Christmas season. Many are blessed to have extended families to spend time. The Christmas-Epiphany season continues until the Baptism of the Lord on January 12th.

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

Bereavement Support Group

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.

A Bereavement Support Group will meet on six Tuesdays from January 28 to March 3, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Please call Fr. Brian Smail, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500, Ext. 204 to inquire. Interested persons should be at least three months into the grieving process. Pre-registration is required.

News from the St. Francis Knitters

The St. Francis Knitters are accepting **new** hand-made or purchased hats. They are also accepting donations of yarn (dark colors are preferred). All donations can be dropped off at the reception desk in the lobby of the Parish House. Would you like to join them? New members are always welcome. Just send an email to Nancy Zavoluk at nanzavoluk@aol.com.



NEW YEAR'S at Saint Francis of Assisi

NEW YEAR'S EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019

Vigil Masses at 4:30 & 5:30 PM

There will be no confessions.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass in Korean at 9:15 AM • Mass in English at 11:30 AM

There will be no Confessions.

Collection for Communications Next Week

Next weekend, January 4-5, we will take up the Collection for the Catholic Communications Campaign.



**Catholic
Communication
Campaign**
CONNECT WITH CHRIST

This Collection serves all of the Catholic dioceses of our nation by producing outstanding spiritual

programs for radio and television.

The Catholic Communications Campaign provides ongoing support for the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org), USCCB video productions including the reflections on the daily readings, and content development for many of the USCCB's media platforms.

One half of your gift will sustain the campaign, and the other half will assist us here in the Archdiocese of New York in our Communications Office.

Book Review: *Wandering and Welcome*

Although this may seem like a strange name for a book, the full title continues with these words: *Meditations for Finding Peace*. This is an appropriate book for the beginning of a new year that will happen in a few days. Each chapter focuses on a topic that is familiar to us and the use of short Scripture passages followed by a meditation in a poetic style that explores the meaning of the Scripture. Chapter topics are familiar: Darkness and Light, Love and Loss, Simplicity and Slowing, Wholeness and Holiness, Cycles and Seasons, Wandering and Welcome, Earth and Spirit. What he does in the words after the Scripture is open up the experience of these in our lives, inserting quotations from contemporary spiritual authors. His thoughts are simple, yet profound, ordinary, yet extraordinary in the context of his writing. The book is available in the Lobby of the Parish House.

Saint Thomas Becket (1118-1170)

December 29

To anyone who imagines conflict between religion and politics to be a modern phenomenon, history witnesses otherwise. Martyred under Henry VIII in 1535, Thomas More declared, "I die the king's good servant, but God's first!" Thomas Becket could have said the same four centuries earlier. As Henry II's closest friend and trusted chancellor, Becket, the king presumed, could be counted on, if made archbishop, to deliver the church to royal control. But Becket experienced a profound conversion, confirmed by the ordination



liturgy's rich symbolism of the bishop as Good Shepherd and the church as Bride of Christ. Renouncing secular responsibilities, distributing his wealth to the poor, Thomas became the church's uncompromising champion. Faced with this "new" Becket, the king's previous friendship

turned into a ferocious, almost irrational hatred. As eight centuries later, Archbishop Romero would be martyred at the altar of Christ's sacrifice, Becket was slain before the altar of Canterbury Cathedral by royal agents, neither the first nor last good shepherd to lay down his life as the price of freedom for Christ's church and justice for Christ's sheep.

—Peter Scagnelli

© J. S. Paluch Co.



Top: The murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral on December 29, 1170. Above: The spot in the cathedral where the murder took place.

The Feast of the Holy Family

It seems appropriate that we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph during the Christmas season, just after families have gathered for Christmas, frequently with stress over gift-giving, travel drama, and the intricacies of meal preparation for people with their various dietary needs and preferences. Today's readings ask us to put family and life in their sacred and holy perspective. When we take care of aging parents we care for Christ, who is with all and in all. When we approach one another with compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience, we communicate Christ's love. Even when the Lord leads in ways we cannot quite appreciate or understand, we must follow God's will, knowing that in doing so, we cooperate with God's grace in our midst. Every family is called to be a holy family.

Your Holy Family

Families come in all shapes and sizes. When asked to describe your family, you might begin by telling people about a parent, sibling, or extended family members. You might even describe what you have learned from a genealogical study. You are unlikely, however, no matter how wonderful your family may be, to describe your family as "holy." And yet, this is our primary call. Each of us as people of God, and each of our families, is called to be holy. We are called to live as God's people in the world, to communicate God's love and presence through the way that we live together and in relationship with others. Every family, no matter what their circumstances, is called to be a holy family. Even Mary, Joseph, and Jesus faced challenges and trials. And yet they rose to the occasion, listened to and followed God's will, and were assured of the love of the Lord through it all.

Listen to Your Angel

Have you ever found yourself at a crossroads? One direction may be momentarily advantageous or easy, another more challenging but right or good. It is not always easy to know which direction to choose. Discerning our path of life necessarily involves prayer, the guidance of others whom we trust, and the promptings of the Holy Spirit within us. The example of the Holy Family is that they followed the will of God, trusting in God's abiding presence even when they knew that doing so involved risk and uncertainty. Mary trusted the voice of the angel, although the message was beyond comprehension; Joseph listened to the voice of the Lord in dreams and proceeded, assured of God's guiding spirit in the midst of troubling circumstances. This is what our families must do as well. Being Christian people in today's world is not always easy, even when we know it is right. This is the meaning of holiness. This is what it means to be a holy family.



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.

Open Wide Our Hearts, A Pastoral Letter on Racism from the United States Catholic Bishops

The Urgent Call of Love

Love compels each of us to resist racism courageously. It requires us to reach out generously to the victims of this evil, to assist the conversion needed to those who still harbor evil, and to begin to change policies and structures that allow racism to persist. Overcoming racism is a demand of justice, but because Christian love transcends justice, the end of racism will mean that our community will bear fruit beyond simply the fair treatment of all. After all, "Within the [human] family," as St. John Paul II said, "each people preserves and expresses its own identity and enriches others with its gifts of culture."

Our faith gives us a treasury of inspiring holy men and women who courageously worked toward racial reconciliation, showing us the way forward. . . St. Katharine Drexel. . . dedicated her life working closely with Native Americans and African Americans, exhibiting genuine respect and concern. . . As she said, "If you wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing." *(to be continued)*

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

Staff Friars

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

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

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Edward A. Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry

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Mass Intentions for the Week

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

The Sanctuary Lights have been given for the intentions of Tim & Christina Mercandetti and Ruth Mercandetti.

Saturday, December 28, 2019

8:00 AM Christmas Novena
11:00 D. Bottex
4:00 PM Kathleen Harris
5:15 Vincent Erving (d.)

Sunday, December 29, 2018

8:00 AM Christmas Novena
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Olha
11:00 Franciscan Mass League
12:30 PM Thanksgiving to the Holy Family
5:00 Nam Hee Kim (d.)
6:15 Thanksgiving, the Reseno & Rodillo Families

Monday, December 30, 2019

7:00 Christmas Novena
7:45 Soledad Paccarangan & Margarito Gunsay (d.)
8:30 Remedios Jakosalem Ponting (d.)
11:30 William Fichera
12:30 PM Ricky Dreyfus & Frank Mendiola (d.)
4:30 Fredericque Francisque, thanks.
5:30 John Marsic (d.)

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

7:00 Christmas Novena
7:45 Viafara-Lopez Family (d.)
8:30 Viafara-Lopez Family
11:30 Marcel & Claudina & Family (d.)
12:30 PM Constance Schulz
4:30 Victoria Quinola (d.)
5:30 John Caulfield (d.)

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

11:30 AM Christmas Novena



Thursday, January 2, 2020

7:00 AM Christmas Novena
7:45 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bazzurro (d.)
8:30 Nicholas & Elena Daconta (d.)
11:30 Joseph Zhou
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30 Rose M. Zephirin, thanksgiving
5:30 Greta & Charles Duffy (d.)

Friday, January 3, 2020

7:00 AM Eileen Collins (d.)
7:45 María del Pilar Blanco (d.)
8:30 Barbio & Gloria Cebedo (d.)
11:30 Carmen Maria Morales (d.)
12:30 PM Joseph Zhou (d.)
4:30 John & Julie Mullane
5:30 Cecilia Ayala & Family

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.

