

Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi
The Heart of New York

January 19, 2020

Second 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:

Saint John the Baptist Bearing Witness by Annibale Carracci
(born in Bologna in 1560; died in Rome in 1609).

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

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

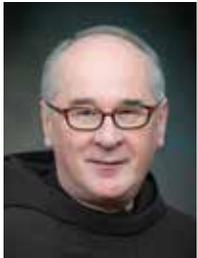
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

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



This weekend is the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. The Christmas season has ended and now we move into Ordinary Time until Lent begins. The Gospel begins with John the Baptist seeing Jesus and saying: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World." Earlier we heard Isaiah say: "You are my servant, Israel, ...I will make it a light to the nations." It is time for Jesus to begin his mission. John speaks about seeing "the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain(ing) on him." Yes, it is time for Jesus to heal, to teach, to forgive and to gather in the "lost sheep."

The letter from our Provincial Minister, Fr. Kevin Mullen, that was in the bulletin last week was disturbing, yet it was easy to see that the reality of the number of working Friars has decreased significantly. There are nine of our current ministries that we will be withdrawing from later this year. Two of them are near us: Holy Name of Jesus Church on 96th Street, and Assumption Church in Woodridge, New Jersey. Also, on the list are churches in Orlando, FL, Anderson, SC, Greenville, SC, Raleigh, NC, Campus Ministry in Athens, GA, churches in Wilmington, DE, and a chapel in a mall in Albany, NY. There was much discussion, consultation, study and prayer before these decisions were made. All of these ministries will return to the various dioceses or archdioceses where they are located. Please keep us in your prayers.

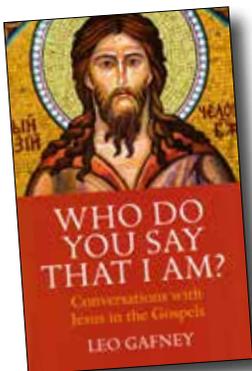
Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

Book Review: *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

This question of Jesus is the focus of this book by Leo Gafney that is subtitled: "Conversations with Jesus in the Gospels." The book is divided into three sections: Jesus Asks a Question, Jesus Responds, and Jesus Is in Charge. These are rather plain descriptions of the sections but each is divided into short chapters with a Scripture quote to begin, a reflection, our Christian experience and a weekly practice. Each chapter includes insight from famous saints and holy people: St. Francis, St. Therese, St. Ignatius, Martin Luther, Pope Francis, the Prophets.

There is much in each chapter to provide "spiritual food" for the day. The chapters are readable and easy to relate to. *Who Do You Say That I Am?* is available in the lobby of the Parish House.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Schedule



On Monday, January 20, 2020 our nation will commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 AM. There will be no confessions, and the church offices will be closed for the day.

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.



THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS PRESENTS

SANCTUARY

Join us for an Evening of Chamber Music
Featuring the works of:

BEETHOVEN (String Quartet #16 in F major)
TAVENER (The Hidden Treasure for Strings)

135 WEST 31 STREET
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020
6:30 PM

Suggested Donation \$10-\$20



Winter Retreat for Ministers & Volunteers

Join committed members of our St. Francis of Assisi Community for a weekend away at the beautiful Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, New Jersey, February 7-9, 2020 (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon).

This is a great opportunity for our liturgical ministers and volunteers to get away and refresh your spirit with a weekend of prayer, reflections, and sharing of our faith. It is also a great way to get to know others in your church community better.

The weekend is structured around the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours: Night prayer on Friday, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer on Saturday, and Morning Prayer and Mass on Sunday. Between the times of prayer are five reflections on different aspects of our faith and we leave free time for individual reflection and prayer as well as time on Saturday evening for a social.

The weekend costs \$225.00 which includes everything but your transportation to Morristown. (NJ transit goes directly from Penn Station to Morristown).

To register, go to <https://stfrancisnyc.org/winter2020retreat/>.

Treasures from Our Tradition

Every year, close to the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25, the cause of Church unity is commended to Christians everywhere. Sadly, Protestants, Orthodox, and Catholics have settled to a status quo of separation. When baptized people become Catholic, we speak of them as being received into “full communion.” That means we already share a communion in faith in many ways, including the Word of God. Many Protestant denominations have received and revised the three-year cycle of readings first arranged by Catholics in the early 1970s. Therefore, many of your neighbors who are not Catholic are celebrating and reflecting on the same readings we are savoring on most Sundays of the year. This makes for a new spirit of cooperation among preachers of the gospel, and gives hope that the cause of reunion, desired by Christ, has great vitality at the table of God’s Word, and will one day lead to unity at the table of the Lord’s Body and Blood. *James Field*

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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

As a Church, we now move into Ordinary Time. “Ordinary” comes from the Latin root for “order,” which is why we line the Sundays up on the calendar and count them—with “ordinal” numbers—one by one. The orderly way we proceed through the liturgical year reminds us that our faith offers a strategic goal for our lives: eternal happiness with God, who is love. Today’s readings share stories of believers who order their daily activities toward the goal of sharing God’s love. Isaiah embraces his role as God’s servant and works to bring glory not only to Israel, but to the entire world. In a similar way, Saint Paul identifies himself as Christ’s witness in the world and reminds the Corinthians of their life goal: “to be holy.” The Gospel shows us John the Baptist, servant and witness, attentive to God’s loving orders, the divine plan for salvation.

Too Little

Today’s first reading reveals the Lord’s super-sized heart. “It is too little,” according to God, to protect and guide only the tribes of Jacob. The enormity of God’s love cannot limit itself to one nation; divine love overflows, spilling liberally over all people everywhere. Isaiah, prophet of the long-suffering Israelites, might have been surprised to hear that the salvation of his people is not enough for God. But God always wants more than what we want. God’s passion outstrips all of our deepest desires. We are merely creatures. Compared to the hugeness of our Creator’s designs, we will always want too little, have too little, know too little, love too little. This littleness frustrates us throughout life. But exactly when we admit our littleness, we make room for Christ.

Never Too Late

John the Baptist models for us the grace of littleness. Twice in today’s Gospel reading, John admits, “I did not know.” Even though John has ordered his entire life toward the goal of preparing the world for the Messiah, he does not, on his own, recognize Christ when he sees him. The Gospel insists John “did not know” Jesus; in his humility, John relies entirely on God for direction. John waits and waits—baptizing, praying, preaching—until, finally, the Holy Spirit reveals the Messiah.

John had waited his whole life for this confirmation from the Spirit. God’s chosen people, the Israelites, had waited much, much longer. Surely many wondered if God would ever send the Messiah as promised. But God is never late. In our littleness, we cannot see the arc of all human history with God’s clarity and love. Each of us aches deeply for some good thing: a cure, a resolution, a rest, a fair break. When we are made to wait for what seems obviously beneficial, we sometimes wonder if God is really as all-powerful and all-loving as people say. Today’s readings invite us to trust.

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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*

Being Open to Encounter and New Relationships

"To walk humbly with God" requires even more. We know that we do not have all the answers, but a missionary disciple is one who willingly meets every problem and every sinful attitude with the confidence that comes from a deep love of Jesus. As Pope Benedict XVI has said, "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

The Christian community should draw from this central, ongoing encounter with Christ and seek to combat racism with love, recalling the insight of Pope Francis that "if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?" With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this wellspring of strength and courage must move us to act. Consequently, we all need to take responsibility for correcting the injustices of racism and healing the harms it has caused.

(to be continued)

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

Staff Friars

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

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Mass Intentions for the Week

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; for the intentions of Catherine Puangco; and in honor of the birthday of Philome Zephirin from Carol Blot.

The Sanctuary Lights are given for the intentions of Alicia M. Aledo from Rafaela Ortiz.

If you would like to make a donation for bread and wine used at Masses each week, please go to the reception desk.

Saturday, January 18, 2020

8:00 AM Joseph Zhou (d.)
11:00 Hope Parrenas Pendon (d.)
4:00 PM Alvin Schettler (d.)
5:15 In honor of St. Jude

Sunday, January 19, 2020

8:00 AM Joseph Zhou (d.)
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Barbio & Gloria Cebedo (d.)
11:00 Fr. Brian Smail, O.F.M.
12:30 PM Marijan Kustera (d.)
5:00 Olivia Madrid Elia (d.)
6:15 Franciscan Mass League

Monday, January 20, 2020

11:30 St. Anthony Novena

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

7:00 John Francis McConnell (d.)
7:45 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony
8:30 St. Anthony Novena
11:30 Joseph Zhou (d.)
12:30 PM Maria Zhou (d.)
4:30 Concepcion C. Butal (d.)
5:30



Wednesday, January 22, 2020

7:00 AM Constantine & Adelena D'Argenio (d.)
7:45 Maria Zhou (d.)
8:30 St. Anthony Novena
11:30 Mark Miranda
12:30 PM Marijana Kustera
4:30 John Collins
5:30 Carmen Rodriguez (d.)

Thursday, January 23, 2020

7:00 AM Olympio DeLeone (d.)
7:45 Frank Bettua (d.)
8:30 St. Anthony Novena
11:30 Maria Zhou (d.)
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30 Mr. & Mrs. Dalmissa Francisque (d.)
5:30 Angelica Davis Williams (d.)

Friday, January 24, 2020

7:00 AM Thanksgiving
7:45 Rita Castellano (d.)
8:30 St. Anthony Novena
11:30 William J. Ryan & Children
12:30 PM Maria Zhou (d.)
4:30 Francis & Mary Huand
5:30 Marie Clare Ferdinand (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 Wednesdays 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.

