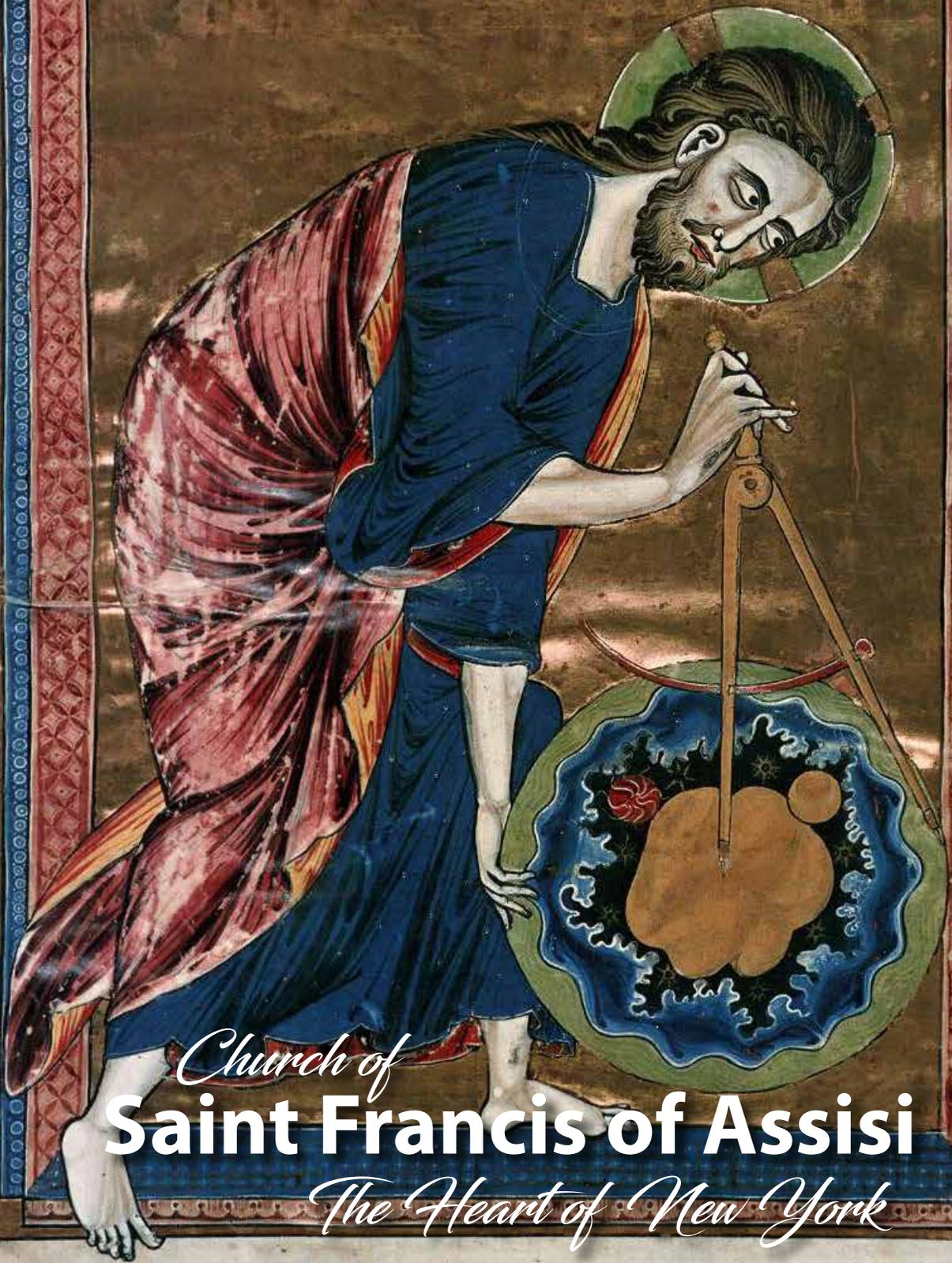


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Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi
The Heart of New York

January 26, 2020

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.

On the cover:

On this Sunday, now designated as "Word of God Sunday," we feature an illumination from a famous Bible known as a *Bible moralisée*. It is the Codex Vindobonensis 2554 which is maintained by Austria's National Library. (Romans referred to Vienna as "Vindobona.") The work was likely created in France, circa 1250. The artist depicted God in the process of creating the world, shaping the universe with the aid of a compass. Within the perfect circle already created are the spherical sun and moon and the unformed matter that will become the earth once God applies the same geometric principles to it.

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

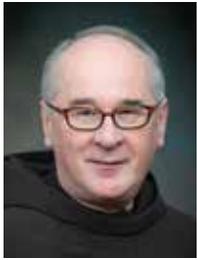
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

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



Today's Gospel presents this scene for us: "As he was walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and his brother, Andrew, who were casting nets into the sea. They were fisherman. He said to them, 'Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him."

There is much to think about in this calling of Simon and Andrew – such a radical move to leave what they were familiar with –and their father – to follow this itinerant preacher. We don't know what preceded this, but it seems that they were ready to begin this new life even though there were many unknowns and questions connected with their action. This gives us encouragement to follow Jesus even more closely and leave behind what are our doubts and insecurities.

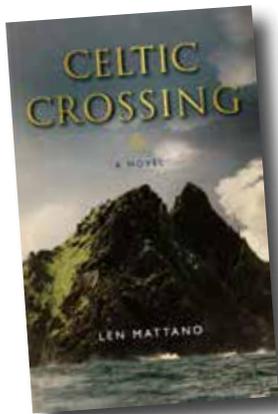
Next weekend, we will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast rarely falls on Sunday, but this year we will celebrate it over the weekend. In the Jewish culture, this was the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In the day's Gospel, we meet Simeon, in the temple, who declares that this child is to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel." A "light" for both Jew and Gentile is to be his vocation. This is a rather unusual statement: a light for the Gentiles? Simeon knew what he was saying. We celebrate this pronouncement this weekend. This feast was often called "Candlemas day." It occurs 40 days after Christmas and candles were blessed on this day for use in church and in homes. The lighted candle symbolizing Jesus the light of the world.

Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

Book Review: *Celtic Crossing*

This week our Book Review focuses on a novel, *Celtic Crossing*, by Len Mattano. The theme is the search for a sacred relic to be used in an effort to cure a young boy who is dying. This relic was used throughout history to cure various diseases, but it disappeared in the 1800's. Desperation causes the lead character, Aideen Callaghan, to search for this relic. The book is beautifully written and easily can capture your attention. Copies of



Celtic Crossing are available in the lobby of the Parish House.

Adult Education Spring Semester



Brochures are available with descriptions of the courses being offered in the St. Francis Adult Education Spring 2020 semester.

On Wednesdays from February 12 to April 15, Joseph Nuzzi will present "Deuteronomy and the Conquest of the Land." Noon-time and early evening sessions of this course will be available.

Fr. Brian Jordan, O.F.M. will offer a one-day presentation on "The Perils of Pornography" on Friday, April 24, 2020.

"Reading Ezekiel" will be taught by Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M. on Wednesdays, from February 27 to March 19.

These courses, along with several others, plus several one-day workshops will be presented during the coming months. You can also register on our website, stfrancisnyc.org.

Come and Join Us!
Uncork your creativity with a little paint, a little wine, and a whole lot of fun!
No experience necessary!
Paint and Sip with Father Michael Reyes, O.F.M.
Friday, February 21, 2020
6:30 to 8:30 PM
San Damiano Hall, 129 West 31st Street

\$25 per person
 (includes cost of paint supplies and wine)
 RSVP and cash payment due by Friday, February 6
 Space is limited; reservations are required
 Carla (718-503-4637)
 Princess (917-208-5370)

Thanks from the St. Francis Knitters

Thank you to all those who donated hand-made as well as purchased hats and scarves for the Breadline guests for Christmas. We do not need any yarn at this time as we have an ample supply. God bless you for your generosity!



Sunday of the Word of God

In an apostolic letter released September 30, 2019, Pope Francis declared that the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time will be devoted to the celebration and study of the Word of God. (September 30 is the feast day of St. Jerome, who is known especially for his translation of Scriptures into Latin.)

The document is called *Aperuit illis*, from its opening words, taken from St. Luke's Gospel, where the Evangelist describes how the Risen Jesus appeared to His disciples, and how "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

Recalling the importance given by the Second Vatican Council to rediscovering Sacred Scripture for the life of the Church, Pope Francis says he wrote this Apostolic Letter in response to requests from the faithful around the world to celebrate a Sunday of the Word of God.

A certain solemnity

Pope Francis invites local communities to find ways to "mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity." He suggests that the sacred text be enthroned "in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's Word." In highlighting the proclamation of the Word of the Lord, it would be appropriate "to emphasize in the homily the honor that it is due," writes the pope.

"Pastors can also find ways of giving a Bible, or one of its books, to the entire assembly as a way of showing the importance of learning how to read, appreciate and pray daily with Sacred Scripture."

The Bible is for all

The Bible is not meant for a privileged few, continues Pope Francis. It belongs "to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words." The Bible cannot be monopolized or restricted to select groups either, he writes, because it is "the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity."

"Pastors are primarily responsible for explaining Sacred Scripture and helping everyone to understand it," writes Pope

Francis. Which is why the homily possesses "a quasi-sacramental character." The pope warns against improvising or giving "long, pedantic homilies or wandering off into unrelated topics."

Rather, he suggests using simple and suitable language. For many of the faithful, he writes, "this is the only opportunity they have to grasp the beauty of God's Word and to see it applied to their daily lives."

The pope uses the scene of the Risen Lord appearing to the disciples at Emmaus to demonstrate what he calls "the unbreakable bond between Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist." Since the Scriptures everywhere speak of Christ, he writes, "they enable us to believe that His death and resurrection are not myth but history, and are central to the faith of His disciples."

When the sacraments are introduced and illumined by God's Word, explains the pope, "they become ever more clearly the goal of a process whereby Christ opens our minds and hearts to acknowledge His saving work."

"The role of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures is primordial," writes Pope Francis. "Without the work of the Spirit, there would always be a risk of remaining limited to the written text alone."

The pope continues: "This would open the way to a fundamentalist reading, which needs to be avoided, lest we betray the inspired, dynamic and spiritual character of the sacred text." It is the Holy Spirit who "makes Sacred Scripture the living word of God, experienced and handed down in the faith of His holy people."

Pope Francis invites us never to take God's Word for granted, "but instead to let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with Him and with our brothers and sisters."

Source: *Aleteia.org*

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 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/>.

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 work at ending racism, we need to engage the world and encounter others – to see maybe for the first time, those who are on the peripheries of our own limited view. Knowing that the Lord has taken the divine initiative by loving us first, we can boldly go forward, reaching out to others. We must invite into dialogue those we ordinarily would not seek out. We must work to form relationships with those we might regularly try to avoid. This demands that we go beyond ourselves, opening our minds and hearts to value and respect the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism. Love also requires us to a change of heart in those who may be dismissive of other's experiences or whose hearts may be hardened by prejudice or racism. Only by forging authentic relationships can we truly see each other as Christ sees us. Love should then move us to take what we learn from our encounters and examine where society continues to fail our brothers and sisters, or where it perpetuates inequity, and seek to address those problems.

(to be continued)

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

Staff Friars

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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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

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.

The Sanctuary Lights & Bread and Wine are given for the intentions of Stephan R. Ortiz from Rafaela A. Ortiz.

The Sanctuary Lights are given in honor of Claude Michael Higgins.

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 25, 2020

8:00 AM Marie Zhou (d.)
11:00 In honor of Mary, Untier of Knots
4:00 PM Franciscan Mass League
5:15 Maria Pagan (d.)

Sunday, January 26, 2020

8:00 AM Patience Marchetta (d.)
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Maria Zhou (d.)
11:00 Eileen Collins (d.)
12:30 PM Eric A. Rivera (d.)
5:00 Carmeni Disa (d.)
6:15 Lucy Brancato (d.)

Monday, January 27, 2020

7:00 Alexis Morales
7:45 Angela Skalamer (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Maria Zhou (d.)
12:30 PM Dominga Luna (d.)
4:30 John Brennen
5:30 Martin & Mary Mealey

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

7:00 Maria Zhou (d.)
7:45 Yul Jr. Catabran (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Thanksgiving to Virgin Mary
12:30 PM Han Family
4:30 Gotaco Lee Family
5:30 Tomas Frayna (d.)

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

7:00 AM Michael Brecciano
7:45 Aine Smallwood
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Minerva Magadia (d.)
12:30 PM Maria Zhou (d.)
4:30 Tifrière, Dufrière, Rebecca Piard
5:30 Immaculee Ilibagiza, birthday

Thursday, January 30, 2020

7:00 AM Rosa (d.)
7:45 Andrew (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Ophelia B. Farre (d.)
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30 Charles Janiak (d.)
5:30 Valeriano Lim (d.)

Friday, January 31, 2020

7:00 AM Patricia Abbiuscato
7:45 Ethel Aceti (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Andrew (d.)
12:30 PM A baby (d.)
4:30 Eileen Collins (d.)
5:30 Rosalie Lanzisera

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.

