



Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi
The Heart of New York

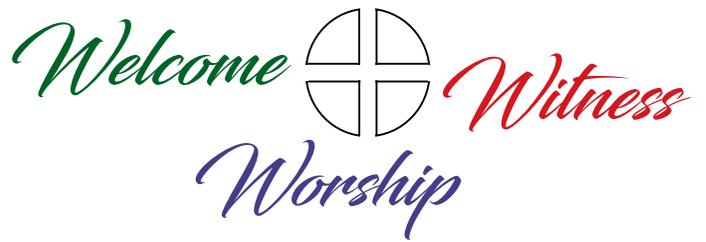
February 2, 2020

The Presentation of the Lord

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:

"The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple" from the *Turin-Milan Hours*, commissioned by the Burgundian Duke Jean de Berry, was made between 1380 and 1440. It is currently housed in the Museo Civico d'Arte Antica in Turin, Italy.

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

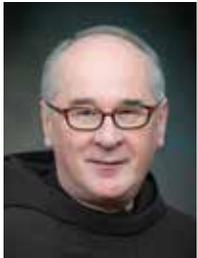
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

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, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. According to Jewish custom, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to be presented to the Lord. In the temple was a devout man, Simeon, to whom it had been revealed that he would not die until he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

Simeon declares that the child is "a light for the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel." He also added the startling statement: "This child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel and (will) be a sign that will be contradicted." You can only imagine what thoughts were going through Mary and Joseph's minds as they returned home.

Monday, February 3, is the Feast of St. Blaise, and we will have the traditional Blessing of Throats after each Mass. Two candles are held near the throat of each person as the prayer is said and a blessing given. St. Blaise had saved the life of a young man who was choking on a fish bone. All are invited to receive this blessing.

Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.



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)



Blessing of Throats

Monday, February 3rd, is the Feast of St. Blaise, the 4th-century bishop and martyr who is the patron saint against illnesses of the throat because he is said to have instantly cured a young boy who was choking on a fish bone. **The traditional blessing of throats will take place after all Masses.**

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.

Week of Prayer to Mary, Untier of Knots and Anointing of the Sick



A Week of Prayer to Mary, Untier of Knots will be held from **Monday to Friday, February 10-14, after the 11:30 and 4:30 Masses.**

On **Saturday, February 15**, we will celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during the 11:00 AM Mass.

Book Review: *15 Days of Prayer with...*

We have a series of prayer books that invites a person to have 15 days of prayer with a saint. Among the saints included in this series are Francis of Assisi, Clare of Assisi, Benedict, Francis de Sales, Catherine of Siena, plus the famous spiritual authors Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen, and others. There is a "How to Use This Book" at the beginning and a chronology of the particular saint or holy person. Each day has a theme with a focus, a text to further draw you into the theme, quotations from the saint and reflection questions. The series is available in the lobby of the Parish House and they are selling fast.

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/>.

Peter's Pence Appeal Next Weekend

Next week the Archdiocese of New York will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides the Holy Father with the funds he needs to carry out his most important charitable works. The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. However, we will not take a second collection, but ask that you be a bit more generous in the ONE collection next weekend, and a portion of that collection will be allocated for Peter's Pence.

12th Edition of New York Encounter

The 2020 New York Encounter, themed *Crossing the Divide*, will take place February 14-16 at the Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18th Street in Manhattan. The Encounter is a three-day cultural event organized by members of Communion and Liberation featuring panel discussions, artistic performances and unique exhibits.

Some highlights include: Witnesses on the enduring importance of family with J. D. Flynn, editor-in-chief of the Catholic News Agency. A presentation of *Where is God?*, with its author Fr. Julián Carrón, leader of Communion and Liberation. A conversation on what can overcome racial ideology with Daryl Davis, musician, and Christian Piccolini, founder of the Free Radical Projects global network. A remembrance of the martyrdom of 40 Burundians killed by Hutu rebels, and 21 Copts killed by ISIS extremists.

These events and many others can be found at newyorkencounter.org. All events are FREE and no registration is required. All are invited!

The Presentation of the Lord

Today's feast is both magnificent and mysterious: magnificent because the very first contemporaries of Jesus begin to recognize him as Christ, the anointed Savior of the world; mysterious, because this King is still a child, an obscure boy obedient to his earthly parents. The prophet Malachi—living and dying before the coming of Christ—points toward the arrival of the Messiah and encourages God's people to prepare themselves by living generous, holy lives. The Letter to the Hebrews—written after Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection—renews the prophetic call to holiness, reminding us that the Lord will always help us: "Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested." The Gospel reading overflows with examples of joyful men and women living God's call to holiness. Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna show us, in their own ways, how to love Christ.

The List Goes On

Today's readings reflect on something close to the heart of every human person: the fulfillment of our deepest desires. Without exception, each of us feels unfulfilled in some way. Despite advances in law, technology, and medicine, every person experiences the frustration of "not yet" or "not enough." Our hearts always want more.

God plants this desire in our hearts. God knows how we ache. What most of us fail to believe, deep down, is that God alone satisfies all our longing. We know, theoretically, that the Creator of the universe provides everything we need, but we could all use more quality time with God to consider the question, "What exactly do I need to be happy, Lord?" Perhaps we can spend more time in prayer and service, asking the Lord to show us what is truly important in life.

Always Ready for Jesus

We often think, "Once I get this, or once that happens, then I will be happy." But the Gospel shows a better way. All four adults in today's Gospel long deeply for the Messiah and "the consolation of Israel" he will bring. Human temptation might obsess over the promise of future peace and prosperity, leaving only anxiety and resentment for present suffering. But Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna leave the saving of the world to God; for their part, they focus on Jesus. Each of them keeps busy with daily details of the various lifestyles they have chosen. Mary and Joseph concern themselves with raising a family, while Simeon and Anna dedicate their lives to prayer in the temple. They find peace enough in fulfilling the obligations of their stations in life, maintaining a lively prayer life to be attentive to God's action in the world. In today's Gospel, their focus is literally and spiritually on Jesus. They model for us how to be happy and holy: performing their daily duties peacefully, always ready to recognize Jesus as he reveals himself.

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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 overcome discrimination, a community must interiorize the values that inspire just laws and live out, in day-to-day life, the conviction of equal dignity of all." Therefore, we affirm that participating in or fostering organizations that are built on racist ideology (for instance neo-Nazi movements and the Ku Klux Klan) is also sinful – they corrupt individuals and corrode communities. None of these organizations have a place in a just society.

As bishops, we encourage . . . visits to institutions of culture and learning . . . in Washington, DC . . . and in Atlanta . . . By listening to one another's experiences we can come to understand and to empathize, which leads to those right relationships that unite us as brothers and sisters. This justice finds its source and strength in the love of Christ who laid down his life for his friends.

(to be continued)

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

Staff Friars

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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 memory of Josefina Lopez, from Teresita L. Jacela.

The Sanctuary Lights are given in memory of Father John P. McGuire, O.P.

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

Saturday, February 1, 2020

8:00 AM A baby (d.)
11:00 Valley Hufnagel Family
4:00 PM Thomas & Edith Castellana (d.)
5:15 Franciscan Mass League



Sunday, February 2, 2020

8:00 AM Alexander Egbose (d.)
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Eric Castellana (d.)
11:00 A baby (d.)
12:30 PM Justyna & Luis, in thanksgiving
5:00 Anna, Nicola & Giovanna Lucignano (d.)
6:15 Victoire Jerome (d.)

Monday, February 3, 2020

7:00 A baby (d.)
7:45 Rosaria DeLeone (d.)
8:30 Andrew (d.)
11:30 Carmen Maria Morales (d.)
12:30 PM Thomas Castellana (d.)
4:30 Pedro Solano Guilamo (d.)
5:30 Rosalie Lanzisera

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

7:00 Annie Dell Johnson (d.)
7:45 Andrew (d.)
8:30 Ida Niemiec (d.)
11:30 Mary O'Sullivan
12:30 PM Carline Romain, in thanksgiving
4:30 Helen & Harry Downs (d.)
5:30 Kyung Suk Eun

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

7:00 AM Evelyn Sacedor (d.)
7:45 For employment
8:30 Andrew (d.)
11:30 James H. Neelan (d.)
12:30 PM Aurelia & José Esporas (d.)
4:30 Isabell Grippo (d.)
5:30 Fivos Antonopoulos (d.)

Thursday, February 6, 2020

7:00 AM Andrew (d.)
7:45 Intentions of Esperanza Visbal
8:30 Romain-Zephyr Families
11:30 Virgie Lee, Lorio Winston (d.)
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30 Diane Bardy Zafiros
5:30 Carol Cattani

Friday, February 7, 2020

7:00 AM Romeus-St. Fleur Families (d.)
7:45 María del Pilar Blanco (d.)
8:30 Andrew (d.)
11:30 Miss T. and Ania Cihanek (d.)
12:30 PM Mary Yost (d.)
4:30 Cesar Nitorreda (d.)
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

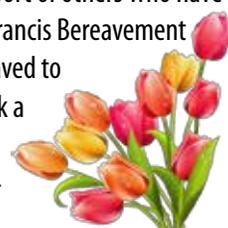
The St. Francis Breadline provides food for hungry people every morning of the year at 7:00 AM. Franciscans Deliver brings groceries to area shut-ins on a weekly basis. For more information, go to www.stfrancisbreadline.org.

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 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.

