

YOUR LIGHT MUST SHINE BEFORE OTHERS,
THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS
AND GLORIFY YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

MATTHEW 5:16

Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi
The Heart of New York

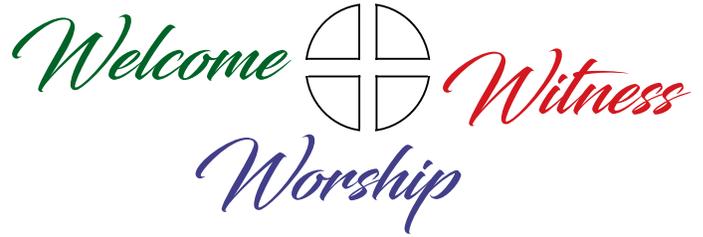
February 9, 2020

Fifth 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

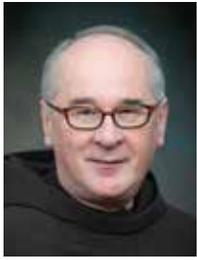
Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Lower Church)

Summer hours: 9:00 - 11:15 AM; 1:00 - 4:15 PM

On the cover:

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The Pastor's Corner



Jesus says to us: "You are the salt of the earth. . . You are the light of the world." He has great confidence in us to be 'salt' and 'light' because we are sharing in his being 'salt' and his being 'light.' Sometimes, we may doubt our value and our worth, but this tells us clearly who we are and what are meant to be. How have you experienced being 'salt' and 'light'? It may not be the easiest way to be in certain circumstances and with certain people, but don't put your "light under a bushel basket." We can be easily intimidated in today's world, but no one can take from us what the Lord has given to us.

Please keep in your prayers our Parish Retreat for those who volunteer in the various ministries. We are at Loyola Retreat Center in Morristown, NJ for the weekend. It is good to get out of the city and have time to be refreshed and renewed during a retreat. The theme for the retreat is "our thirst for God" and in the days that we have away, we will have many opportunities to allow God to satisfy our thirst.

Our Franciscan Brother, Roberto Gonzalez, Archbishop of San Juan, stayed at our Friary last week. He had been invited by Cardinal Dolan to preach at St. Patrick's Cathedral on behalf of the earthquake victims in Puerto Rico. This gave me the chance to present to him a check for \$3,000 that was collected a few weeks ago at Masses here. He was very grateful for our thinking of his people.

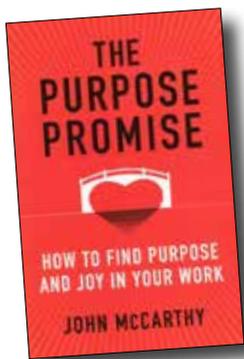
Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

Book Review: *The Purpose Promise*

The title of this book gives you no idea what the book is about until you read the subtitle: *How to Find Purpose and Joy in Your Work*.

You may ask: "Is this possible?" or "My work will have purpose if or when. . ." The author, John McCarthy, has devoted himself to The Purpose Promise Organization and this book gives you an idea what this organization is about. After the introductory chapters of the book is a Ten Day Renewal Journey. Each day he explores a theme that allows a person to explore some aspect of their life. There are graphs to work with, journal questions to respond to, and

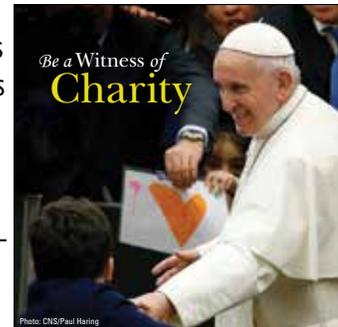


questionnaire to fill in. The thoroughness of each chapter will provide a person with much information to move forward. This is a workbook, but the result will be worth it. The book is available in the lobby of the Parish House.

Peter's Pence Appeal This Weekend

This 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 this weekend, a portion of which will be allocated for Peter's Pence.



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**. Everyone who is in need of healing and renewal is most welcome to receive this powerful sacrament.

New Carpet Installation in Lower Church

We will be installing new carpeting in the Sanctuary of the Lower Church this week. This project, which has been in the planning stages for several months, is being made possible through the generosity of a benefactor. Confessions will be held at the regular times each day but access to the lower church from the 32nd Street entrance will be limited. We encourage you to use the elevator or the 31st Street entrance. Also, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Upper Church from 9:00 to 11:15 AM, and 1:00 to 4:15 PM. Thank you for your cooperation while the work is in progress!

Adult Education Spring Semester

The St. Francis Adult Education Spring 2020 semester gets underway this week. 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.

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

Saint Josephine Bakhita (c. 1869-1947)

February 8

“Save Darfur!” That cry echoes around the world and in the heart of the Church, where a child of Darfur is one of our newest saints: Josephine (her baptismal name) Bakhita (“Lucky One,” the slave-traders’ nickname). Kidnapped at nine, sold in Sudan’s slave-



markets, flogged daily till covered with scars, Bakhita was finally bought by Italians and taken to Italy.

There Bakhita discovered a “Master” who had himself been flogged to redeem her from slavery! “I am truly loved,” she thought, “and awaited by this Love.” Baptized, she often kissed

the baptismal font, exclaiming, “Here I became a daughter of God!” For fifty years as a Daughter of Charity, Bakhita provided cheerful hospitality to all who knocked at the convent door. In her final illness, she relived slavery’s horror: “Please, loosen these chains,” she begged the nurse. “They are so heavy!” Her last words were: “Our Lady! Our Lady!” John Paul II canonized her in the Jubilee Year 2000, praising God for leading her “from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and the Bride of Christ.”

—Peter Scagnelli

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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!

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The prophet Isaiah inspires us with these words: “Light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.” All of us celebrating the liturgy today praise God for these words of encouragement. Surely each of us knows the gloomy side of life, but today’s readings propose a brilliant antidote to misery: the light of service. Isaiah focuses on physical suffering, telling us to provide food, clothing, housing, and equal opportunity to those with limited resources. Moving beyond material needs, Saint Paul demonstrates how to proceed humbly when attending to people’s spiritual needs. Saint Matthew’s Gospel stirs us to bold action: whatever gifts we have, we must put them at the service of our communities. As Christians, we must engage with one another without holding back, letting our light shine before all.

All In

Today’s readings leave no room for half-heartedness. As beneficiaries of God’s providence, we cannot hold back when serving others. When Isaiah instructs us to share our bread with the hungry, he offers no qualifications. He does not add, “if you think you can,” or “after all of your own needs have been met.” On the contrary, the prophet simply reports that God expects us to care for those in need. In a similar way, the Gospel call is unconditional. Like a city atop a mountain, the Christian life cannot be hidden. Followers of Jesus do not have the option to sit by and wish vaguely for someone else to take care of hunger, homelessness, oppression, and ignorance. God calls us into service. If we have heard the call, we must respond.



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Proceed with Prayer

We all agree that caring for others is important. Absolutely no one wants to see a child waste away from starvation. And yet, we often fear to donate time, talent, or money to charitable causes. What if recipients use the money poorly? What if donations promote helplessness and long-term dependence? What if my own situation isn’t very stable? How can I help others when my daily life is so difficult and the future so uncertain? These are legitimate questions. And God wants us to use our intellect when discerning how best to perform good deeds. But uncertainty must not lead to inaction. If we don’t know exactly how to proceed, we must spend a great deal of time in prayer. In prayer, we consider our options and ask the Lord to show us how to be salt and light in the world. As today’s psalm reminds us, God calls us to be gracious and merciful. Believing firmly that God will always care for us, we trust with steadfast hearts and share with others—not occasionally, guiltily, or provisionally, but “lavishly.”

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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

Overcoming racism...

A change of heart... cannot occur without strengthening spiritual convictions regarding respect for other races and ethnic groups. We must, therefore, explain the true teaching of Scripture and Tradition about the origin of all people in God, their final common destiny in the Kingdom of God, the value of the precept of fraternal love, and total incompatibility between racist exclusivism and the universal calling of all to the same salvation in Jesus Christ.

Our individual efforts to encounter, grow, and witness, to change our hearts about racism, must also find their way into our families. We urge each person to consider the dignity of others in the face of jokes, conversations, and complaints motivated by racial prejudice. We can provide experiences for children that expose them to different cultures and peoples. We can also draw upon the incredible diversity of the Church worldwide in providing education within the family and make it clear that God dwells in the equal dignity of each person.

(to be continued)

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

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Mass Intentions for the Week

Bread & Wine for Masses this week have been given for the intentions of Jaime Cervantes & Ramon Saint-Hilaire; and Catherine B. Puangco.

The Sanctuary Lights are given in memory of Manuel Cervantes, and for the intentions of Jessie U. Elezzar & Ma. Cristina Kho.

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 8, 2020

8:00 AM Josephina Lopez (d.)
11:00 Andrew (d.)
4:00 PM Mariano Lopingco (d.)
5:15 Holy Souls in Purgatory



Sunday, February 9, 2020

8:00 AM Franciscan Mass League
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Intentions of Carline Romain
11:00 Andrew (d.)
12:30 PM Letty Nitorreda (d.)
5:00 Concepcion Go Yu (d., 40th day)
6:15 Holy Souls (d.)

Monday, February 10, 2020

7:00 Michael McGovern (d.)
7:45 Franciscan Priests & Brothers
8:30 Andrew (d.)
11:30 Rita & Jack Castellano (d.)
12:30 PM Thanksgiving
4:30 Renzo Ventrella (d.)
5:30 Kenneth Winslow (d.)

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

7:00 Seamus Morris, for healing
7:45 Joseph Fierro
8:30 Anne & Joseph Hohnhorst (d.)
11:30 Esperanza Visbal & Carline Romain
12:30 PM Bishop Frank Caggiano
4:30 Alicia Flores (d.)
5:30 Intention of Noel Flynn

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

7:00 AM Roger J. Daly (d.)
7:45 Deliverance for the troubled
8:30 A baby (d.)
11:30 Noel Tugaff Ruiz (d.)
12:30 PM Michael Garnek (d.)
4:30 Chris McHugh (d.)
5:30 Ginevra & Francesco Marino (d.)

Thursday, February 13, 2020

7:00 AM Maureen Davis (d.)
7:45 Mary Flynn (d.)
8:30 Frank Flynn (d.)
11:30 A baby (d.)
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30 Peggy A. Milard
5:30 Gregory & Agnes, spiritual healing

Friday, February 14, 2020

7:00 AM Arthur & Mary Bazzurro (d.)
7:45 Maria La Franca (d.)
8:30 Margaret K. Schumo (d.)
11:30 Atif Muhammad & Family
12:30 PM A baby (d.)
4:30 Terence Hall (d.)
5:30 Chuck & Augusto Nitorreda (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.

