

*Church of*  
**Saint Francis of Assisi**  
*The Heart of New York*

February 16, 2020

Sixth 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:**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill them ... whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus Christ Pantocrator (detail from the deesis mosaic in Hagia Sophia, Istanbul).

### **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**

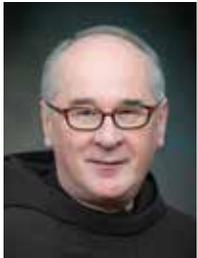
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

### **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 is the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We hear about the *commandments* in the readings today and it is important for us to observe them. Day to day choices are so important in our lives, and these choices either keep us on the right path or send us into confusion and darkness. Jesus sets before us several of the commandments and shows that each one is broader than just its wording. He adds the phrase: "But I say to you..." This illustrates the down-to-earth practicality of the commandment. Jesus is a good teacher and the examples he uses bring his teaching to a level that his followers can understand it easily.

Many of you have received a letter from the Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal asking for your support. Those who gave to Renew and Rebuild are excused from this Appeal. The funds from the Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal support some important causes in the Archdiocese of New York: aid to struggling and poor churches, aid to Catholic education, funds for seminarians and retired priests, assistance to Catholic Charities, and funds for support services offered to parishes. Our parish's goal is \$109,000. Our parish number is 068 which should be noted when making a pledge or giving a donation. Here is where we stand as of this week:

St. Francis of Assisi Church Goal: \$109,000  
Donations/Pledges as of February 7: \$4,800  
Number of Gifts: 9  
Average Gift: \$533.33

*Fr. Andrew*  
Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

## Adult Education Spring Semester



The St. Francis Adult Education Spring semester is now underway. There is still time to register for courses, including:

- *Reading Ezekiel*, taught by Fr. William Beaudin on Thursdays, from February 27 to March 19, 6:15-7:30 PM.
- *The Power of Letting Go*, taught by Christa Gesztesi on Tuesdays, from March 3 to April 28, 6:30-8:00 PM.
- *The Perils of Pornography*, coordinated by Fr. Brian Jordan on Friday, April 24, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

These courses and others, including one-day presentations, are open for registration. Please see the brochures at the entrances of the church, or our website, [stfrancisnyc.org](http://stfrancisnyc.org).

## Monday Holiday – Presidents' Day



St. Francis Church will observe Presidents' Day on Monday, February 17, with one Mass at 11:30 AM. There will be no confessions, and the church offices, switchboard and St. Francis Adult Education Center will be closed for the day.

## Book Review: *Let Go*

Our Franciscan brother, Fr. Casey Cole, begins his new book with the passage from Mark's Gospel where the man approaches Jesus and says: "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" While the man in the Gospel has an attachment to money and possessions, many Christians have different obstacles that hold them back from moving forward in their daily life and their spiritual life. In the Introduction he says: "What I want from this book is for people to look at their lives and ask themselves, 'What would Jesus tell me to let go of in order to follow him?'" The chapters that follow examine seven stumbling blocks. He says that these are not all the stumbling blocks that there are, but these are ones that are easily recognizable. They are: self, expectations, anxiety, comforts, wounds, enemies, and power. An interesting list, isn't it? Some are expected obstacles, but a few may surprise you. A predictable conclusion to any or all of these is: "Let go." Casey develops these topics in a way that it is easy to relate to them. The book is available in the lobby of the Parish House.

*Get Ready for Lent!*



**Ash Wednesday • February 26, 2020**  
**Masses in the upper church:**  
7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 11:30 AM, 12:30, 4:30, 5:30 & 6:30 PM

**Confessions in the lower church:**  
7:30 – 8:30 AM • 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

**Imposition of ashes in the lower church:**  
7:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
**and in the upper church following the 6:30 PM Mass**



## The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle *February 22*

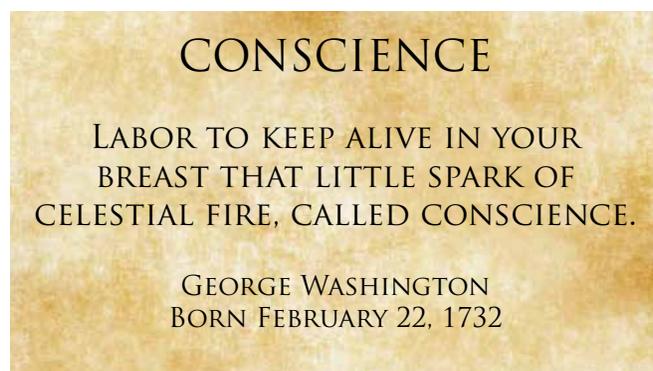
In brushing up for “Catholic Jeopardy,” it might help to know that there is only one feast on the calendar for a thing, rather than a person or mystery. It’s for a chair: Saint Peter’s chair in fact.

After the Resurrection, there can be no doubt that the disciples reserved a special place for Simon Peter in the upper room. Later, Peter became the bishop of Antioch in today’s Syria, the place where we were first called Christians. From there, he went to Rome, the center of the Empire, where it is said that Peter sat in a chair in the house of Priscilla and Aquila to instruct his flock. Jesus, in entrusting the keys of the Kingdom to Peter and his successors, entrusted his compassion and mercy to them, and charged them with pointing to the Kingdom of God. Compassion and mercy are to resonate through their teaching.

Since the ancient sign of a teacher is the chair (“disciple” literally means one who sits at the feet of a teacher), Peter’s chair has long been treasured. Today there is a symbolic shrine of Peter’s chair above the main altar of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. This monument is the last work of Bernini, a huge bronze throne supported by four doctors of the Church: Augustine and Ambrose from the Western Church, and Chrysostom and Athanasius from the East. High above it is the alabaster window of the descent of the Holy Spirit.

—Peter Scagnelli

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## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today’s readings draw us into ageless, vibrant depths. Followers of God’s law, we belong to ancient traditions. Children of God, we marvel at the freshness of creation. The Old Testament readings, from Sirach and the Psalms, celebrate the rich blessings we receive when we observe God’s commands – not because we are slaves to the law, but because the law gives life in abundance. Saint Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians confirms the glory of divine law, but warns that God’s ways tend to be unpopular and misunderstood in this world. Paul speaks of the ancient wisdom of God, which is mysteriously both “hidden” and “revealed.” God does not have secret codes that we earthly mortals cannot understand; in love, God reveals the glory of the divine way in Jesus. Saint Matthew’s Gospel emphasizes the importance of living in God’s law, enlivened by a deep and personal relationship with Jesus.

### The Rulers of this Age

Saint Paul speaks of both the “wisdom of this age” and the “rulers of this age.” He refers specifically to the so-called wise people and institutions responsible for unjustly condemning Jesus to death. As we mourn the human sin that killed Jesus two thousand years ago, we also consider contemporary errors and evils that wound the Body of Christ in our own age. We easily recognize the crimes of our leaders. Religious, corporate, and government institutions have inflicted suffering on countless innocent souls. The depth of our modern-day failures threatens us with despair. But Jesus calls us to renewed faithfulness and hope. Jesus tells us to “surpass” our leaders in righteousness. He instructs us to simplify our own lives: “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.” We are right to work against the sins of our leaders, but we must also scrutinize our own lives and make peace with our families, neighbors, and coworkers.

### Passing away

There is some urgency in Christ’s call to holiness. Everything in this age is passing away. Jesus’ call is timely and radical, pleading with us to drop other business and make reconciliation a priority. The Lord actually says to “leave your gift at the altar” and return to worship after making peace with the adversaries in our lives. Jesus is deadly serious about the need for reconciliation and righteousness, insisting that nothing – not even our eyes and arms – are worth more than love. All of today’s readings reflect on the deep connection between God’s law and healthy, peaceful love. As Saint Paul says in Romans 13:10, “love is the fulfillment of the law.” Here in the twenty-first century, we modern disciples of Christ can cultivate that mystery deep in our hearts, nurturing the tremendous twin gifts of God’s love and God’s law, offered to us freely to help us sustain a healthy and holy Body of Christ.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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...

Of course, racism will not end overnight. Still, we pledge these actions and hope that more actions will follow. We ask [all] to fight the evil of racism by educating themselves, reflecting on personal thoughts and actions, listening to those who have been affected by racism, and by developing and supporting programs that help repair the damages caused by racial discrimination. We need to educate ourselves and our people about the great cultural diversity within the church... So many of our parishes are richly diverse, composed of people from various cultures and ethnic groups, such that they can be a model for the whole church and for the country.

The roots of racism have extended deeply into the soil of our society. Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality – economic and social – that we still see all around us. With renewed vigor, we call on the members of the Body of Christ to join others in advocating and promoting policies at all levels that will combat racism and its effects in our civic and social institutions.

*(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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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

Michael Kim, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry

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David McBriar, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

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

Andrew Reitz, O.F.M., Pastor

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

[bsmail@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:bsmail@stfrancisnyc.org)

### Friars in Residence

Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

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

### Pastoral Associates & Administration

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Caelestine Kim, O.S.B., Pastoral Associate, Korean Ministry

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Edward A. Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry

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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; in memory of Marciano Jacela from Teresita Lopez; and for the intentions of Catherine B. Puangco.

The Sanctuary Lights are given for the healing of Roger Miller.

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 15, 2020

8:00 AM Rocco Mihaich (d.)  
11:00 Patience Marchetta (d.)  
4:00 PM A baby (d.)  
5:15 Michael C. Marchetta (d.)

### Sunday, February 16, 2020

8:00 AM Charlie & Joe McHugh (d.)  
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community  
9:30 Franciscan Mass League  
11:00 A baby (d.)  
12:30 PM Rose M. Zephirin, thanksgiving  
5:00 William A. ("Doc") Healey (d.)  
6:15 Thomas J. Nichols (d.)

### Monday, February 17, 2020 Presidents Day

11:30 St. Anthony Novena

### Tuesday, February 18, 2020

7:00 Annie Dooley (d.)  
7:45 A baby (d.)  
8:30 St. Anthony Novena  
11:30 Lucy Evangelista (d.)  
12:30 PM B. DiGiallonardo (d.)  
4:30 Souls in Purgatory  
5:30 Cornelio & Ignacio Pilleren  
Epefania & Rosalinda Perez (d.)

### Wednesday, February 19, 2020

7:00 AM Williams & Donohue Families  
7:45 Thanks. to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
8:30 St. Anthony Novena  
11:30 Noel Tugaff Ruiz (d.)  
12:30 PM Jean Belony  
4:30 Mathilda (d.)  
5:30 Declan & Lisa McHugh

### Thursday, February 20, 2020

7:00 AM Felicitas Ceniza (d.)  
7:45 In honor of St. Anthony of Padua  
8:30 St. Anthony Novena  
11:30 Kathleen Kilroy  
12:30 PM The Sick  
4:30 In honor of St. Clare  
5:30 Cora Dolor (d.)

### Friday, February 21, 2020

7:00 AM A. T. Abraham (d.)  
7:45 Felicita Ceniza (d.)  
8:30 St. Anthony Novena  
11:30 Braz Fernandes (d.)  
12:30 PM Marciano Jacela (d.)  
4:30 Leona George (d.)  
5:30 Demphy & Wong 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:youngadults@stfrancisnyc.org).

