

Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi
The Heart of New York

March 1, 2020

First Sunday of Lent

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:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.

Matthew 4: 1-2

Christ In the Desert, painted in 1872 by the Russian artist Ivan Kramskoi (1837-1887).

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

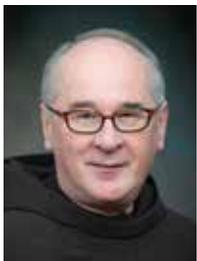
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

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



On this First Sunday of Lent we are presented with the temptations of Jesus in the desert. We all know that Jesus wasn't the only person to be tempted; we face temptations every day of our lives. They come at different times and in different forms. Many times they may appear to be "short cuts" and we can achieve a goal by taking some steps that might not be exactly moral or ethical, but they get us where we want to go. Other times temptations present an untruth as a real option. Or, we may look better if we act this way rather than another way. When we sit and consider seriously the consequences of giving in to a temptation, we know that in the long run, it affects our conscience and our way of handling ourselves and being responsible to ourselves... and to God!

So, what are you doing to make Lent a growth filled time in your life? Are you giving up something or are you taking on something this Lent? Remember, begin now; don't wait until tomorrow or next week... or never.

Congratulations to our catechumens who are now "The Elect" after being enrolled in the Book of the Elect at the Cathedral of St. Patrick before Cardinal Dolan today. Please keep them in your prayers as they move through Lent in preparation for their baptism, confirmation and reception of holy communion at the Easter Vigil.

Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.



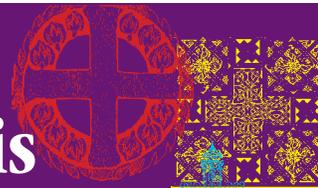
This is **our** church.
This is **our** mission.

Stewardship 2020

Online Giving to Saint Francis of Assisi

The easiest and best way to give is by signing up online for a recurring donation. You can sign up at www.stfrancisnyc.org/giving, where you can give by credit card, debit card, or set up a direct donation from your bank account. You can set the frequency to be weekly or monthly.

Lent at St. Francis



Stations of the Cross
Every Friday after the 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses

"Pardon & Peace" Service of Reconciliation
Friday, March 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM

A Lenten Afternoon of Prayer
Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM
San Damiano Hall

Matthew the Evangelist added his own unique touches to the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. These particular insights will form the basis of meditations on Matthew's Passion narrative, interspersed with selections from J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion – the work of a faith-filled musical genius and one of the towering achievements of Western culture. The afternoon will include communal prayer and conclude, for those who wish to participate, with our 5:15 Mass for Palm Sunday.

Presenters: Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M. & Charles Powell
Fee: \$20. Register online at stfrancisnyc.org.

JOIN US FOR GOSPEL BREAK

LOOK DEEPER INTO
THE SUNDAY GOSPELS OF LENT
MARCH 1 - 8 - 15 - 22 - 29
3:30 PM CLARE ROOM



the **CARDINAL'S**
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
Sharing God's Gifts

Goal for the Church of St. Francis of Assisi: **\$109,000**
Pledges & Donations as of February 21: **\$6,785**
Last week: **\$4,935**
Number of Gifts: **13** (Last week: **11**)



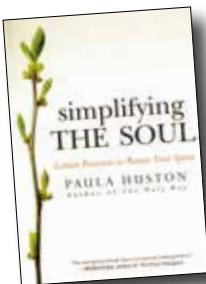
Second Annual St. Francis Volunteer Retreat

This past February 7-9, 2020, marked the 2nd Annual Retreat for Volunteers and Ministers at St. Francis of Assisi. Thirty-three members of our parish, including the RCIA team, hospitality ministers, lectors, eucharistic ministers, and other St. Francis volunteers met at the Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, N.J. for a weekend of prayer and community. Our pastor, Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M., and Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization, led the event, along with Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries, and Ed Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry.

The program was structured around the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours with Night Prayer on Friday, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer on Saturday, and Morning Prayer and Mass on Sunday. Inspired by St. Augustine's writings, the weekend's theme of "Restless Hearts" asked those in attendance to reflect on the ways we can strengthen our faith in a materialistic world. Participants shared in small groups how their faith informs their lives and guides their relationships. Special thanks to volunteer Jennifer Wiler, who helped organize the event, and to all those who attended.

Book Review: *Simplifying the Soul*

This book is one of many Lenten books available in the lobby of the Parish House. Its subtitle is "Lenten Practices to Renew Your Spirit."



There is constant talk today about living more simply. We realize that we all have a lot of clutter in our lives and demands on various aspects of our lives, whether these are material goods, things demanding our time, relationships, and more. The chapters focus on simplifying space, our use of money, the care of our bodies, the care of

our minds, our schedules, our relationships and our prayer. There is a helpful Introduction and then day by day some aspect of our lives is examined through a meditation and a practice. The "practices" are very down to earth and touch on some areas of your life that need some overhaul.

First Sunday of Lent

The Lenten season is a fresh invitation to explore again who God is, who we are, and what it means to be human. We begin by hearing the tragic story of the first humans in the book of Genesis. As Paul describes in Romans, our struggles started when our ancestors broke the bond of unity with God, sought self-sufficiency, and grew apart from their true purpose and identity. In Matthew's Gospel, we see how Jesus resists the lure of living outside of unity with God. Jesus rejects false promises of possessions, power, and status. Instead, he puts his life in his Father's hands. As our model for living as a fully human person, Jesus demonstrates that we are created to live in relationship with and trust in God, and in harmony with and for all of creation.

Being like God

The story of Adam and Eve, in Genesis 2 and 3, considers the origins of the trials and sufferings that we experience in human life. Part of the problem, the story suggests, is the human effort to be like God. Humans are therefore forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The story is quite a contrast from Genesis 1, which proclaims that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and called to seek to become more like God. This creates a tension that points to a challenge in our life of faith: we are created both to embody God by developing our God-given human capacities, and also to live in radical trust and dependence on God. We are called to embrace and to live into this tension.



God's Beloved

When the people of Israel were freed from Egypt, they were declared to be God's chosen and beloved people. They wandered in the desert for forty years, often with great resistance, as God prepared them to enter the Promised Land.

Jesus' forty days in the desert echoes their story, and offer a contrast. At his baptism, just before being led into the desert by the Spirit, Jesus was declared by a voice from the heavens to be God's "beloved Son." So, twice in today's passage, he is lured with the words "If you are the Son of God . . ." The devil tempts Jesus to re-define his sonship of God on his own terms, instead of following his Father. Israel had failed to understand its identity as God's people, but Jesus demonstrates how to live as God's Beloved.

These contrasting stories of Israel and of Jesus present us with a challenge. We are regularly tempted to redefine our identity as Christians on our own terms, to make faith comfortable and non-threatening. This Lenten season can re-mind us to allow God to transform our minds and hearts on God's terms.

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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

Our Commitment to Life

The injustice and harm racism causes are an attack on human life. The church in the United States has spoken out consistently and forcefully, against abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and other forms of violence that threaten human life. It is not a secret that these attacks on human life have severely affected people of color, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, targeted for abortion, have less access to healthcare, have the greatest numbers on death row, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives when facing serious illness. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue. Accordingly, we will not cease to speak forcefully against and work toward ending racism. Racism directly places brother and sister against each other, violating the dignity inherent on each person. The Apostle James commands the Christian: "show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ."

(to be continued)

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

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

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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
Catherine B. Puangco, Edgar Sullivan,
and John & Mary Capellan for blessings
on their 47th Wedding Anniversary.

The Sanctuary Lights are given
by John & Mary Capellan for blessings
on their 47th Wedding Anniversary.

If you would like to make a donation for
bread and wine used at Masses each week,
or for the Sanctuary Lights,
please go to the reception desk in the
lobby of St. Francis House.

Sunday, March 1, 2020

8:00 AM Edward Ward (d.)
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Fam. of Virgie Winston & Joseph Bell
11:00 Mr. & Mrs. Sebastian Loredo (d.)
12:30 PM Franciscan Mass League
5:00 Francesco Spadavecchia
6:15 Geronimo Mendes de Silva (d.)

Monday, March 2, 2020

7:00 For employment
7:45 In honor of St. Jude, Anna J. Kampil
8:30 Thomas & Edith Castellana (d.)
11:30 Elizabeth Brennan
12:30 PM Rebecca Ali
4:30 Mark S. Kolich (d.)
5:30 Williams & Donohue Families

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

7:00 AM In honor of Our Lady, Anna J. Kampil
7:45 Fredeswinda Antang-Himbing (d.)
8:30 All Souls in Purgatory
11:30 Amelia Bettua (d.)
12:30 PM John & Mary Capellan,
47th Wedding Anniversary
4:30 Isaias Gumboc-Himbing (d.)
5:30 Dolores A. Korz (d.)

Thursday, March 5, 2020

7:00 AM Dino Paulo Principe
7:45 Margaret Miller
8:30 Emma & Michael
11:30 Helen & Francis Cunningham (d.)
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30
5:30 Regina Sibiri, for healing

Saturday, February 29, 2020

8:00 AM In honor of St. Jude, Anna J. Kampil
11:00 Jemima Andan
4:00 PM Francis Tayengco (d.)
5:15 Peggy Glynn (d.)



Tuesday, March 3, 2020

7:00 In honor of Our Lady, Anna J. Kampil
7:45 Ruby Blair
8:30 A. B. Lopez-Viafara Family (d.)
11:30 Carmen Marie Morales (d.)
12:30 PM Thanksgiving to St. Anthony
4:30 Ilona Szucs (d.)
5:30 Maruja Pestarino

Friday, March 6, 2020

7:00 AM Lourdes Cabutin-Ligon (d., birthday)
7:45 Maria del Pilar Blanco (d.)
8:30 Jude Egbosi
11:30 Poe Lee (d.)
12:30 PM Charlie Cihanek (d.)
4:30 Joseph V. Paccarangan, birthday
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.

