



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 Mainz Gospels was created around 1250 for the cathedral in the German city of Mainz. This incredible manuscript contains the text of the four Gospels all written in gold. This particular folio is from the 11th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, and it shows the scene described in today's passage of John the Baptist in prison. He sends his disciples to inquire if Jesus is the one who is to come. In the lower panel, Jesus tells the disciples to tell John what they have seen and heard – that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises of God.

### **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**

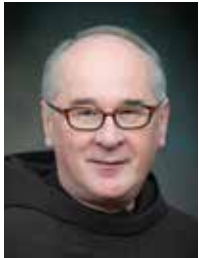
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

### **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



The second reading for this Third Sunday of Advent says: "Be patient, brothers and sisters." If this isn't enough, it is repeated again. Then the example of the farmer is given, showing how he has to be patient as his crops grow. This doesn't happen overnight. Our own maturing in the Lord doesn't take

place overnight either. Answers to our prayers don't happen overnight either, at least most of the time. In today's society, people are more impatient than ever. I hear it all the time in the confessional. We can get fast food, fast service through such companies as Amazon, quick relief by taking certain pills and yet there is so much of life that takes time: becoming mature, being pregnant, getting job experience, getting an education. When life moves so fast, we miss out on significant events or we do not know how to relax and enjoy the ordinary. I love the custom in many countries of taking a siesta at midday. We have much to learn.

One of our church's favorite events is this Sunday afternoon at 3 PM – Carols with the Choir. We have many talented musicians here at St. Francis and you will have the opportunity to hear them as well as join them in song. This is a relaxing and inspiration hour to help you enter more deeply in the spirit of the season. A free will offering will be accepted for our music program.

Have you stopped at our Christmas Market in the lobby of the Parish House? There are many beautiful items on sale from Fair Trade countries.

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

## Bereavement Support Group

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.

A Bereavement Support Group will meet on six Tuesdays from January 28 to March 3, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Please call Fr. Brian Smail, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500, Ext. 204 to inquire. Interested persons should be at least three months into the grieving process. Pre-registration is required.

## News from the St. Francis Knitters

The St. Francis Knitters are accepting **new** hand-made or purchased hats. They are also accepting donations of yarn (dark colors are preferred). All donations can be dropped off at the reception desk in the lobby of the Parish House. Would you like to join them? New members are always welcome. Just send an email to Nancy Zavoluk at nanzavoluk@aol.com.



## Collection for Retired Religious This Weekend



The annual appeal for retired religious priests, brothers and sisters takes place this weekend, December 14-15. This appeal assists retired members of religious orders and communities who have given so much to the church over the years. Your gift will make a real difference in the lives of thousands of men and women religious, especially in the area of health care.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH THE CHOIR

Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 PM

Join in with our choir and music ministry to sing some favorite music of the season, both old and new! A free will offering to support our music ministry will be received.

## Advent Novena of "Simbang Gabi" Masses

The traditional novena of Masses before Christmas ("Simbang Gabi") are celebrated in the Lower Church from Sunday, December 15 to Monday, December 23. The Masses are sponsored by the Ugnayan Filipino Ministry and Friends. Everyone is invited!

Sunday, December 15, at 4:30 PM

Monday, December 16 to

Saturday, December 21 at 6:15 PM

Sunday, December 22 at 4:30 PM

Monday, December 23, at 6:15 PM

Sunday, December 23 at 4:00 PM

# CHRISTMAS

at Saint Francis of Assisi

## CHRISTMAS EVE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019

Vigil Masses of Christmas at 4:30 & 5:30 PM

Vigil Mass in Korean at 7:30 PM

Carol singing at 11:30 PM followed by

Mass at 12:00 Midnight

**There will be no Confessions on Christmas Eve.**

## CHRISTMAS DAY: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019

Masses at 8:00, 9:15 (Korean), 9:30 (Lower Church),

11:00 AM and 12:30 PM

There will be no Confessions.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019

Mass at 11:30 AM. There will be no Confessions.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019

Vigil Masses at 4:30 & 5:30 PM

There will be no confessions.

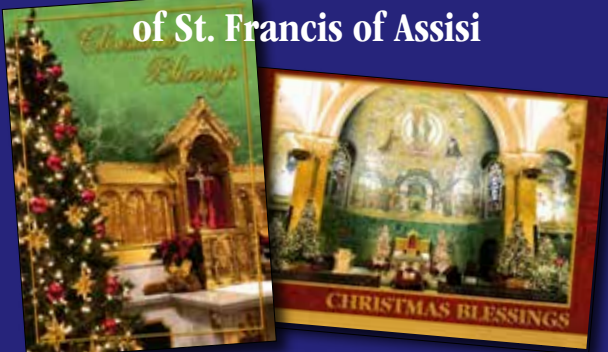
## NEW YEAR'S DAY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass in Korean at 9:15 AM • Mass in English at 11:30 AM

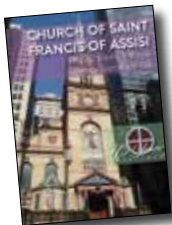
There will be no Confessions.

## Christmas Cards from the Church of St. Francis of Assisi



Remember your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses. Beautiful cards are available at the reception desk for \$5.00 each.

## 175th Anniversary Book



Our Commemorative Anniversary Book would make a perfect Christmas gift! Purchase yours now in the lobby of the Parish House for \$20.

## Open Wide Our Hearts, A Pastoral Letter on Racism from the United States Catholic Bishops

... Experiencing racism is not limited to African or Native Americans. Many different groups have encountered "in varying degrees the evil of discrimination, racial prejudice, and oppression that endangers the very fabric of American society."

... We would be remiss not to highlight the experience of Hispanics in our country. Since the Mexican-American War, Hispanics from various countries have experienced discrimination in housing, employment, healthcare, and education. Hispanics have been referred to by countless derogatory names, have encountered negative assumptions made about them because of their ethnicity, have suffered discrimination in applying for college, for housing, and in registering to vote...

Today, many Hispanics are often assumed to be in this country illegally. These attitudes of cultural superiority, indifference and racism need to be confronted; they are unworthy of any follower of Christ. After all, a large part of our nation consists of immigrants and their descendants.

*(to be continued)*

## Visit the St. Francis Christmas Market!

While you are St. Francis, stop by the lobby of the Parish House and take in all the Christmas items on sale. Most items come from countries that have Fair Trade policies. The craftsmanship in many of the items from Peru or Kenya or India is amazing. Some of the small nativities have details so small that you wonder how anyone could make these ornaments. The ornaments from Kenya are made from straw. There are different styles of nativity sets on display, but they are selling quickly since we have a limited supply. The Christmas Market is open every day. Don't miss out on this opportunity.





**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.



**¿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.

**Christmas Flower Donations**



We invite you to memorialize members of your family or other loved ones with a donation to help defray the costs of our Advent and Christmas expenses. Please fill out the form below and return it with your donation by Wednesday, December 18, to: Church of St. Francis of Assisi, 135 W. 31st Street, New York, NY 10001 (Attention: Christmas Flowers).

The names received by December 18 will be included in a special Christmas bulletin. Donations can also be made online at [stfrancisnyc.org](http://stfrancisnyc.org) under "Cards and Gifts."

Please print clearly. **In Memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email (phone # if no email)

Donation: \$20.\_\_\_\_ \$30.\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi*

**Staff Friars**

- William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Adult Education  
[wbeaudin@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:wbeaudin@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Michael Carnevale, O.F.M.
- Joseph Cavoto, O.F.M., Counseling Center & Spiritual Direction  
[jcavoto@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:jcavoto@stfrancisnyc.org)
- John Felice, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar
- Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Director of Migrant Center  
[jjagudilla@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:jjagudilla@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Brian Jordan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar
- Michael Kim, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry  
[koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org)
- David McBriar, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar
- John McVean, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar
- Andrew Reitz, O.F.M., Pastor  
[areitz@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:areitz@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Liturgy  
[tshreenan@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:tshreenan@stfrancisnyc.org)
- 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**

- Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries  
[maugustin@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:maugustin@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Julie Berwick, Director of St. Francis Counseling Center  
[jberwick@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:jberwick@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Carlos Farfan, Director of Finance  
[cfarfan@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:cfarfan@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Chala Hill, F.H.M., Spiritual Direction  
[chill@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:chill@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Caelestine Kim, O.S.B., Pastoral Associate, Korean Ministry  
[koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization  
[jnuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:jnuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office  
[development@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:development@stfrancisnyc.org)
- Edward A. Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry  
[etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org)

## Mass Intentions for the Week

The Bread & Wine for Masses this week have been given for the intentions of for Joseph, Marie & Thomas Powers, Jr., and in memory of Thomas Powers, Sr. from Victorina Powers; and in thanksgiving for Nellande Desmoulins.

The Sanctuary Lights have been given for the intentions of Adelaida Carlos from Cheryl and Adelaida Carlos.

### Saturday, December 14, 2019

8:00 AM Dieu Suste & Trazaide Paraison (d.)  
 11:00 Secular Institute of Missionaries of Kingship of Christ (d.)  
 4:00 PM Samuel & Mary Nasoff (d.)  
 5:15 Franciscan Mass League

### Sunday, December 15, 2018

8:00 AM Franciscan Mass League  
 9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community  
 9:30 Orlando Soingco (d.)  
 11:00 Juana Mazuelos (d.)  
 12:30 PM Hugh A. Canavan (d.)  
 5:00 Elizabeth C. Weese (d.)  
 6:15 Emerson Go (d.)

### Monday, December 16, 2019

7:00 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
 7:45 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
 8:30 St. Jude Novena  
 11:30 Clara M. Castora (d.)  
 12:30 PM Donald Hoffman (d.)  
 4:30 Orlando Soingco (d.)  
 5:30 Souls in Purgatory

### Tuesday, December 17, 2019

7:00 Gina McPartland  
 7:45 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
 8:30 St. Jude Novena  
 11:30 Owen McCorry (d.)  
 12:30 PM Debora Benedon, thanksgiving  
 4:30 Muriel, Scott, Ross & Ryan  
 5:30 Sor Blanca Cordova (d.)

### Wednesday, December 18, 2019

7:00 AM Nheila Garces, birthday  
 7:45 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
 8:30 St. Jude Novena  
 11:30 Dec. of Tramontano & Fringo Fams.  
 12:30 PM Stephen & Frances Rosty (d.)  
 4:30 Jean & John Boyle  
 5:30 Chong Seo



### Thursday, December 19, 2019

7:00 AM Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
 7:45 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
 8:30 St. Jude Novena  
 11:30 Carole & Theodore Bardy (d.)  
 12:30 PM The Sick  
 4:30 Amelia Siochi (d.)  
 5:30 Esilda Aranguren (d.)

### Friday, December 20, 2019

7:00 AM Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
 7:45 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
 8:30 St. Jude Novena  
 11:30 Judy Mahoney  
 12:30 PM Amalia Diosomito Caturay (d.)  
 4:30 Marie & Tom Finnerty  
 5:30 Liberato Magsombol (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](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 Thursdays 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).

