



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

Stewardship 2020

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

February 23, 2020

Seventh 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**

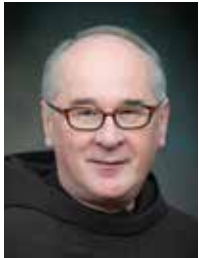
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

#### **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



In today's Gospel we hear: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." In fact, when you look at all the readings for Mass, you will notice the same theme of how we should deal with our "neighbor." The Gospel speaks about ways to deal with various situations and some of the ways of

dealing with those who harm us go against our normal response of paying back or getting even. These may be challenges to any of us who try to live as Christians, but Jesus doesn't want us to be like him as difficult as it may be. After all, there is enough hatred in the world, why add more through our negative behavior?

Today, you will an encouraging message about everyone doing his/her share to support our mission here at St. Francis Church. Online Giving has had a great impact on our Sunday collections and it is an easy way to do your share. Many have joined in the One Hour way – giving what one earns in one hour at work. At times when I am taking up the collection, I notice that people are going through their pockets trying to find something for the collection; often it is a dollar or change or nothing. A conscientious decision on how much to support the church is important rather than hunting through one's pockets whenever there is a collection. This is so important to the life and vitality and mission of our church and any church. Our collections have not been meeting the budget, as can be seen in January's financial report for 2019 and 2020 (see the follow page). We bring this to your attention now, so that the trend can change and we can move into a better financial situation. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

*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 Geszteski 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).

## Ash Wednesday at St. Francis

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 from  
7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, and in the upper church  
following the 6:30 PM Mass.



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 14): **\$4,935**

Number of Gifts: **11**

## FAQ's About Finances at St. Francis of Assisi

**Q:** I thought the Archdiocese of New York gives the parish money. How much do we receive from the Archdiocese?

**A:** We receive no money from the Archdiocese. It's the other way around: as a parish of the Archdiocese we are required to support archdiocesan endeavors. We pay to support the regular functioning of the Archdiocese and our Catholic schools.

**Q:** I thought this is a rich parish because the church is always so beautifully maintained. Doesn't St. Francis have a lot of money?

**A:** We are rich in faith, love and good people, but we are not financially rich. St. Francis struggles each year to meet our budget. We survive because of people financially supporting the church on a regular basis.

**Q:** Has online giving affected our income?

**A:** Absolutely! Online giving is the best way to make your contributions, and our online givers are our best supporters. The average in-pew donation per week is only \$4.00, while the average per-week donation online is about \$25.00.

**Q:** I give to the St. Francis Breadline – doesn't that support the Church too?

**A:** No. Breadline donations only support the Breadline, not the Church. Giving to the Breadline is great, but we need people to contribute to the Church.

**Q:** I put a dollar in the basket each week. Isn't that enough?

**A:** If that is all you can afford, of course it is enough! But we would not be able to keep this Church open if everyone gave just a dollar each week. If you are earning a decent salary in New York, actually, a dollar is not enough. The Bible calls us to a 10% tithe. We are asking a 2.5% tithe because we know that it is expensive to live in New York. Our giving should be a sacrificial support of the Church's mission, not a symbolic offering of just one dollar.

**Q:** Why does the church need money?

**A:** Like everyone else, we have expenses to make the work we do here happen. Just our monthly electric bill is about \$8,000 to \$10,000! We have bills to keep the church heated and clean and well maintained. The music at Mass costs money. We have to pay for security services because we are open every day, all day. We also have staff that we must pay to keep our Church running as well as all the ministries and services we provide.

**Q:** How much does St. Francis need from each person to meet our budget?

**A:** About 2,500 people attend Mass at St. Francis each week. If all of us contributed \$25.00 each week, we would just be able to

cover our budget. In other words, if we all commit to contributing \$100 per month, our Parish would be okay. Our membership in the church is worth at least that much.

### Collections for January 2019 & 2020

#### January 2019

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Offertory Sunday Collections in church: | \$34,376       |
| Online Sunday Collections:              | 13,207         |
| Total Sunday Collections:               | 47,583         |
| Total Weekday Collections:              | 24,342         |
| <b>Total Sundays and Weekdays:</b>      | <b>71,925</b>  |
| Budgeted for January 2019:              | 90,000         |
| <b>Difference</b>                       | <b>-19,075</b> |

#### January 2020

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Offertory Sunday Collections in church: | \$32,936       |
| Online Sunday Collections:              | 13,116         |
| Total Sunday Collections:               | 46,052         |
| Total Weekday Collections:              | 20,445         |
| <b>Total Sundays and Weekdays:</b>      | <b>66,497</b>  |
| Budgeted for January 2020:              | 90,000         |
| <b>Difference</b>                       | <b>-23,503</b> |

## Book Review: *Give Up Worry for Lent*

This is one of a number of Lenten books that are available in the lobby of the Parish. Now is the time to choose a book to accompany you through Lent.

*Give Up Worry for Lent* suggest something that you may have never thought of "giving up" for Lent. Why not? Let's take a look.

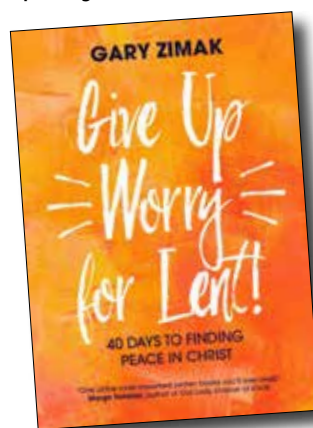
In the Introduction, author Gary Zimak writes about giving up things for Lent. He then asks the question: "But how many of

those things have changed your life and brought you closer to God?" He continues to explain that "worry" is one habit that prevents him from getting closer to God.

Each day in this book begins with one sentence from the Scriptures. It is well chosen and a new one for each day. Then there is a reflection (not too long), a response and a prayer. You can

spend a few minutes with each day or take the thought with you during the course of a day.

Sounds interesting... and spending time each day with the book may make this Lent a little different.



**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**

**Conversion of all...**

As St. Paul proclaimed, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost. But for that reason, I was mercifully treated, so that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life."

St. Paul's own conversion is a powerful reminder of how God's grace can transform even the hardest hearts. Prayer and working toward conversion must be our first response in the face of evil actions. . . Therefore, we must never limit our understanding of God's power to bring about the conversion of even those whose hearts appear completely frozen by the sin of racism. Our communities must never cease to invite and encourage them in love to abandon these sinful thoughts and destructive ways.

*(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 have been given for the intentions of Joseph, Marie & Thomas Powers, Jr., and in memory of Thomas Powers, Sr. from Victorina Powers; and for the intentions of Catherine B. Puangco.

The Sanctuary Lights are given in memory of Roger Miller, and for the healing of Denise Festa.

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 22, 2020

- 8:00 AM Special Intention
- 11:00 Dec. Members of Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ (d.)
- 4:00 PM Kathleen Harris
- 5:15 Intentions of Wilfrid Junior LaBossiere

### Sunday, February 23, 2020

- 8:00 AM All Souls in Purgatory
- 9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
- 9:30 Zosima Friala & Family, thanksgiving
- 11:00 Franciscan Mass League
- 12:30 PM José Mayo (d.)
- 5:00 Lagrimas Madrid (d.)
- 6:15 Fe Pareja, special intention

### Monday, February 24, 2020

- 7:00 In honor of Sts. Teresa of Calcutta & Rita deCassia
- 7:45 Louis LaBosco (d.)
- 8:30 St. Jude Novena
- 11:30 Marijanna Kustera
- 12:30 PM Maureen Thompson
- 4:30 In honor of Infant Jesus
- 5:30 Ginevra & Francesco Marino (d.)

### Tuesday, February 25, 2020

- 7:00 Elena LaBosco (d.)
- 7:45 Alexis Morales
- 8:30 St. Jude Novena
- 11:30 Ernesto J. Salazar (d.)
- 12:30 PM Patrick Duane (d.)
- 4:30 Intention of Marion Henry
- 5:30 Griselda Auiles & Clara Mackey (d.)

### Wednesday, February 26, 2020

- 7:00 AM Joseph LaBosco (d.)
- 7:45 Cornelia Melendez
- 8:30 St. Jude Novena
- 11:30 Mary & Michael Duane
- 12:30 PM Eric A. Rivera (d.)
- 4:30 Brian Cremin
- 5:30 Williams & Donohue Families
- 6:30 James Mitchell (d.)

### Thursday, February 27, 2020

- 7:00 AM Ints. of Francis & Teresa LaBosco
- 7:45 Magdalena Vallozzi (d.)
- 8:30 St. Jude Novena
- 11:30 Marie C. Barbera (d.)
- 12:30 PM The Sick
- 4:30 Raymond Tauthill (d.)
- 5:30 Louis Cauvin (d.)

### Friday, February 28, 2020

- 7:00 AM John Collins
- 7:45 Maria LaFranca (d.)
- 8:30 St. Jude Novena
- 11:30 Dolores Garcia (d.)
- 12:30 PM Nora Smith
- 4:30 Ludi Murray
- 5:30 Alice Hale (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 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).

