

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

December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 Dream of Saint Joseph" by Anton Raphael Mengs (1728–1779), a German painter who was active in Dresden, Rome and Madrid. This painting is the collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria).

In today's Gospel from Matthew, we hear how an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and is told not be afraid to take Mary as his wife, because she has conceived by the Holy Spirit.

### **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**

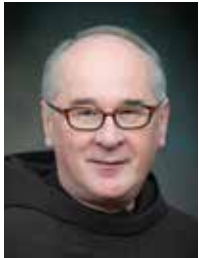
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

### **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 Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent begins: "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." Joseph is the hero of this section of Matthew's Gospel. We do not know much about Joseph except for a few references to him in the Gospels, but what we read is amazing. This is not only a compassionate man, but a brave man who is willing take this pregnant woman as his wife. Everything in the culture of those times said: "She should be stoned. Stay away from that woman." Joseph has a dream and is given an assurance that what his heart is telling him is what he will do. Although we may not have an angel appear in our dreams, many times we should listen to our hearts. They can draw us closer to others that we may not understand. Joseph is strong example for us to consider when we want to understand another person or situation.

I hope you attended the Carols with the Choir last Sunday. It was inspiring, moving, spirit filled. Congratulations to Meredith, the choir, our cantors, organists, and musicians for drawing us closer into the Advent/ Christmas spirit. We are blessed to have such talent here at St. Francis.

Check the schedule for our Christmas Masses!

*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.



### 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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2019**

All Masses in the Lower Church

Confessions: 7:30-8:30 AM; 11:00 AM-1:00 PM; 4:00-5:30 PM

**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.**

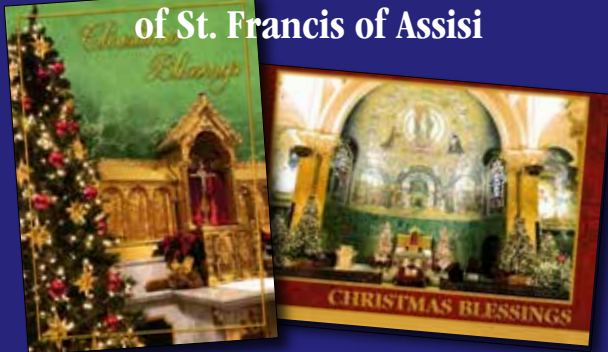
**NEW YEAR'S DAY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

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

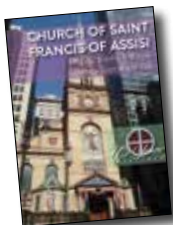
**There will be no Confessions.**

## 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.

## 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.



## Book Review: *The Friendly Beasts*

This is the perfect book for children for Christmas; they will enjoy this story of the animals in the stable where Jesus was born and what each of them gave Him as their way of helping Mary care for the Infant. This particular version of the nativity began as an ancient French Christmas carol in the 12th century and the melody is printed at the end of the book. Each animal is featured on a colorful page, telling what they did for the baby Jesus.



The book is a delight and can be found in the lobby of the Parish House.

## Other Children's Christmas Books Available in the Parish House Lobby

*The Jesse Tree*: As a Jesse Tree is carved in a church, the carver tells the story of the various symbols that he is carving and how they relate to the lineage of Christ.

*Good King Wenceslas*: This well known carol tells of a good hearted king and how he helped a poor man on a cold winter's night.

*Manger*: The voices of various animals come together to celebrate Jesus' birth.

*The Legend of St. Nicholas*: Read about the life and miracles of this saint... and the real origins of Santa Claus.

## Collections for November 2018 & 2019

### November 2018

Offertory Sunday Collections in church:	\$38,300
Online Sunday Collections:	14,169
Total Sunday Collections:	52,469
Total Weekday Collections:	23,317
<b>Total Sundays and Weekdays:</b>	<b>75,786</b>
Budgeted for November 2018:	<u>90,000</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-14,214</b>

### November 2019

Offertory Sunday Collections in church (5 Sundays):	\$37,347
Online Sunday Collections:	12,188
Total Sunday Collections:	49,535
Total Weekday Collections:	13,148
<b>Total Sundays and Weekdays:</b>	<b>62,683</b>
Budgeted for November 2019:	<u>90,000</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-28,317</b>

The Church's Fiscal Year runs September 1 to August 31

## 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*

Most people would not consider themselves to be racist. A person might admit to being prejudiced but certainly not racist. As Christians, we know it is our duty to love others. St. Paul reminds us that we live by the Spirit and the "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." We must be honest with ourselves. Each of us should examine our conscience and ask if these fruits are really present in our attitudes about race. Or, rather, do our attitudes reflect mistrust, impatience, anger, distress, discomfort or rancor?

When we begin to separate people in our thoughts for unjust reasons, when we start to see some people as "them" and others as "us", we fail love. Yet love is at the heart of the Christian life. . . This command of love can never be "live and let others be." The command of love requires us to make room for others in our hearts. It means that we are indeed our brother's keeper.

*(to be continued)*

## *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

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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

Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries

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

Julie Berwick, Director of St. Francis Counseling Center

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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

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Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization

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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 and Bread and Wine have been given for the intentions of Rosario de la Pena from Adelaida Carlos.

### Saturday, December 21, 2019

8:00 AM Helen Marsic (d.)  
11:00 Ana Prpic (d.)  
4:00 PM Kathleen Harris  
5:15 Reigna Concepcion (d.)

### Sunday, December 22, 2018

8:00 AM Talty & Moloney Family (d.)  
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community  
9:30 Franciscan Mass League  
11:00 The Wang Family  
12:30 PM Maria, Mike, Gavin & Claire  
5:00 Danny Stoops (d.)  
6:15 Elizabeth C. Weese (d.)

### Monday, December 23, 2019

7:00 Alexander J. Lapinski (d.)  
7:45 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony  
8:30 The Cormican Family (d.)  
11:30 Keith Lavacchi (d.)  
12:30 PM John & Catherine Devlin (d.)  
4:30 Diane Bardy Zafiros  
5:30 Dennis & Margaret Sullivan (d.)

### Tuesday, December 24, 2019

7:00 Minne Roland (d.)  
7:45 Anthony Rocier (d.)  
8:30 Irene Zetlmeir-Lenardson (d.)  
11:30 Caroline Miskic (d.)  
12:30 PM John Mattessich (d.)  
4:30 Richard Paul Kim  
5:30 Ginevra & Francesco Marino (d.)

### Wednesday, December 25, 2019

12:00 AM For the People of St. Francis of Assisi  
8:00 Christmas Novena  
9:30 Arthur & Mary Bazzurro (d.)  
11:00 Shardon E. Itliong, thanksgiving  
12:30 PM Lillian De Paris (d.)



### Thursday, December 26, 2019

11:30 AM Christmas Novena

### Friday, December 27, 2019

7:00 AM Christmas Novena  
7:45 John Movizzo (d.)  
8:30 In honor of Mary, Untier of Knots  
11:30 Hank & Martha  
12:30 PM James A. Beattie & Family: Mary, Joseph & James, Jr. (d.)  
4:30 Eric A. Rivera (d.)  
5:30 Teri & Barry Tilman

## 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).

