



They shall beat  
their swords  
into plowshares...  
...One nation shall  
not raise the sword  
against another.

Isaiah 2:4

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

December 1, 2019

First 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:**

Two New York City images that illustrate Isaiah 2:4: They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

"Let Us Beat Swords into Plowshares" is a bronze statue created in 1959 by Evgeniy Vuchetich. It was donated by the former Soviet Union to the United Nations. The second image is a bas-relief carving by Lee Lawrie above the entrance to the International Building in Rockefeller Center.

### **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**

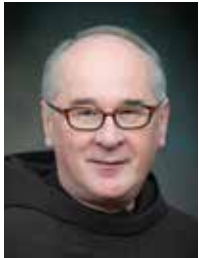
The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

### **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 this First Sunday of Advent says: "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come...so, stay awake." Although this is primarily meant when Jesus comes at the end of time, it is also something to keep in mind for our daily lives... now. Jesus comes to us everyday and we

are those people that make time for him to be a strong part of our lives: our thoughts, our words, our actions. When we concentrate on the "now" of our lives, we become transformed into Jesus so that he is not a stranger to us, but someone whom we have gotten to know over the course of time. It is important to "stay awake," otherwise we take Jesus for granted and miss out on opportunities to grow in his likeness.

While Advent is a special time of the year, it isn't an easy time of the year. There is a uniqueness about it with the daily readings, the lighting of the Advent wreath, and the peacefulness of the liturgies. But, for many people there is much to be done, especially within families. Shopping is always a challenge. For many others, Advent is not easy because they may have lost a loved one or may not have a large family. In the midst of all this is our availability of moments to allow God to touch us and to experience the presence of the Lord in all that we do. If possible, try to take a few moments each day to remember what this season means.

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

## Poems-R-Us

Come and listen to original poems by members of the Adult Education Program and friends of the parish. This free program will take place from **6:00 to 8:00 PM, Tuesday, December 3**, in the conference room of the St. Francis Parish House.



## 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](mailto:nanzavoluk@aol.com).



# ADVENT 2019

**LO, HE COMES! ADVENT VESPERS**  
Thursday, December 5, 2019 • 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Solemn Sung Vespers is one of the pillars of the official prayer of the Church. Come and celebrate the holy season of Advent by chanting the psalms—the hymns of ancient Israel; by listening to the Advent message proclaimed in God's Word; and by reflecting on that Word with the help of a homily and sacred silence.

**AN ADVENT AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**  
Saturday, December 14, 2019  
2:00 – 5:00 PM; San Damiano Hall • Fee: \$20.00

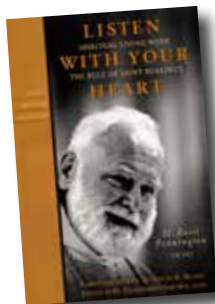
The biblical stories of Advent and Christmas have inspired some of the world's finest artists. Fr. Michael Reyes, O.F.M., a visual artist currently completing a Master of Fine Arts degree at New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture, will draw on his knowledge of art and the process of painting to help participants reflect on the characters and themes of Advent. The afternoon will include Fr. Michael's presentations, communal prayer, time for quiet meditation and the opportunity to celebrate our parish's 5:15 PM Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent.

**ADVENT NOVENA OF "SIMBANG GABI" MASSES**  
The traditional novena of Masses before Christmas ("Simbang Gabi Misa de Agui-naldo") will be celebrated in the lower church on the following days:  
Sunday, December 15, at 4:30 PM  
Monday to Saturday, December 16-21, at 6:15 PM  
Sunday, December 22, at 4:30 PM  
Monday, December 23, at 6:15 PM  
For more information and choir participation in these Masses, please email [filipinoministry@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:filipinoministry@stfrancisnyc.org)

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH THE CHOIR**  
Sunday, December 15, at 3:00 PM  
Join in with our choir to sing some favorite music of the season, both old and new! A free will offering to support our music ministry will be received.

**Book Review: *Listen with Your Heart***

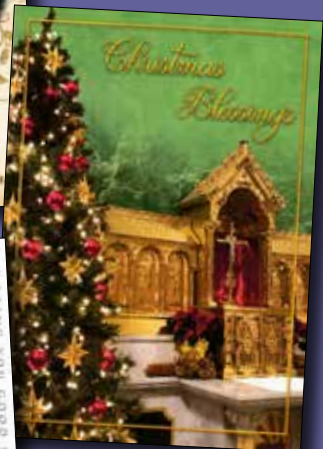
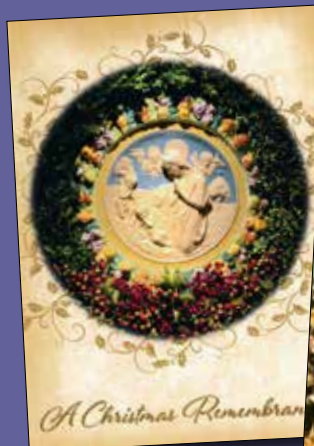
M. Basil Pennington was a Trappist monk who was elected Abbot of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Monastery in the year 2000. Even with his duties as Abbot, he wanted to continue to share the Cistercian experience with others through his writings, talks, and homilies. He continually opened up the Rule of St. Benedict, the written description of how the monks were to live, showing how it was not just for monks or those in the cloister. This book, *Listen with Your Heart*, was put together by his secretary. The various chapters come from Basil's collection and his use of the Rule of St. Benedict and he shows how they speak to the desires, the longings, and the encounter with the living God. The chapters deal with listening, turning to the Lord, letting God speak to you, seeking and pursuing peace, the glory of work, joy in the Holy Spirit and more. Isn't it interesting that a Franciscan is recommending this book? There is much in this book for everyone. *Listen with Your Heart* is available in the lobby of the Parish House.



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

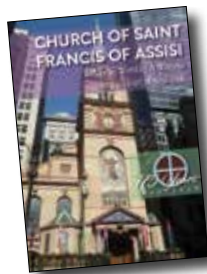
As this country was forming, Africans were bought and sold as mere property, often beaten, raped, and literally worked to death. This form of slavery, known as chattel slavery, was different from and far more brutal than the slavery known in ancient times. Racial categories, which classified different ethnic communities as different races, some even as subhuman, were used to justify this new form of slavery. The injustices of chattel slavery were horrifying and lasted for generations. Families were separated, marriages were forbidden or dishonored, and children were maltreated and forced to work. After slavery ended, many former slaves faced continued servitude in the evolving economies that once relied upon their labor, and blacks encountered new forms of resentment and violence. . . . Consistently, African Americans have been branded, by individuals, by society and even at times, by members of the church, with the message that they are inferior. Likewise, this message has been imprinted into the U.S. social subconscious. African Americans continue to struggle against perceptions that they do not fully bear the image of God, that they embody less intelligence, beauty and goodness. *(to be continued)*

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



Help support the Franciscan Friars at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi by giving a card in honor of a friend or loved one or have them remembered in a novena of Masses at Christmas. Our cards are available at the reception desk for an offering of \$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!*

Our Christmas Market is open for your Christmas shopping in the lobby of the Parish House! We have Christmas tree ornaments from around the world, plus a variety of Nativity sets, as well as gift items unique to St. Francis Church. You will also find Advent books to accompany you through this beautiful season and keep you focused on its real meaning. Stop by today!



**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 19 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 in thanksgiving for Randy, Emmanuel & Louisa; for the intentions of Edgar Sullivan; for Joseph, Marie & Thomas Powers, Jr., and in memory of Thomas Powers, Sr. from Victorina Powers.

If you would like to make a donation for bread and wine used at Masses each week, please go to the reception desk.

### Saturday, November 30, 2019

8:00 AM Sara Gonzales de Goycochea (d.)  
11:00 Aurora Gutierrez (d.)  
4:00 PM Franciscan Mass League  
5:15 Eric A. Rivera (d.)

### Sunday, December 1, 2018

8:00 AM Anite Vilbrun & Family  
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community  
9:30 John P. Irizarry  
11:00 Mario D'Agostino (d.)  
12:30 PM Carlos Gabriel (d.)  
5:00 Giovanina Irizarry  
6:15 Jenny & Louis Castellano (d.)

### Monday, December 2, 2019

7:00 Maria Antoinette G. Curioso (d.)  
7:45 Gerald McCarthy  
8:30 Maria Angeles G. Soresca, thanks.  
11:30 Donald Jordan (d.)  
12:30 PM Marianne & Donald Tela  
4:30 Anna Cremin  
5:30 Jonathan Butler

### Tuesday, December 3, 2019

7:00 Milton Smith (d.)  
7:45 Estervina Green  
8:30 Ross Rondinelli (d.)  
11:30 Carmen Maria Morales (d.)  
12:30 PM Carl Michel Sabbat, thanksgiving  
4:30 Jimmy Morris  
5:30 Candida Corral (d.)

### Wednesday, December 4, 2019

7:00 AM Martin & Lucy Pacelli  
7:45 Rose M. Zephirin  
8:30 Victor Auda (d.)  
11:30 Mirko Prpic (d.)  
12:30 PM Erma Banik (d.)  
4:30 Isabel Vasquez (d.)  
5:30 Frank & Amelia Bettua (d.)

### Thursday, December 5, 2019

7:00 AM Derick Hoover, thanksgiving  
7:45 Moya Lalor (d.)  
8:30 Charles C. Castora (d.)  
11:30 Jack & Rita Castellano (d.)  
12:30 PM The Sick  
4:30 Virginia O'Shea  
5:30 José T. Bobiles (d.)

### Friday, December 6, 2019

7:00 AM Raymond Dolce (d.)  
7:45 María del Pilar Blanco (d.)  
8:30 Jacky Zephirin  
11:30 Mary Cihanek (d.)  
12:30 PM Mary Ann Burbage (d.)  
4:30 Isabel Vasquez (d.)  
5:30 Dec. memb. of Drury, Neenan, Cuellar & Ayala Family (d.)



Saint Nicholas – December 6

## 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).

