



*Church of*  
**Saint Francis of Assisi**

*75 Years*  
1844 - 2019

December 23, 2018

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 Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth*, a detail of the stained glass window of the Visitation in Misericordia Church, Braga, Portugal.

### Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation

**Monday - Friday** 7:30 - 8:30 AM; 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM; 4:00 - 5:30 PM

**Confesiones en español Martes** 11:00 - 12:00

**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: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Lower Church)

## The Pastor's Corner



In today's Gospel we see Mary's love and concern for her cousin Elizabeth, as she travels the rough route to spend time her aged relative. There is a strength that is shown in Mary's desire to face the danger of travel in order to be with Elizabeth. We may overlook the strength that Mary showed throughout her life, especially as she witnessed the rejection of her Son and finally his crucifixion. We see this strength at this early time in her life. Advent gives us time to consider the full life of Mary and its significance. In addition to Elizabeth, we also encounter Joseph, John the Baptist and Zechariah. Each in his or her own way had an important role in the coming of the Messiah. God uses us human beings in a marvelous way.

### Renew and Rebuild Update!

We are very close to meeting our goal of \$1,022,000 and your pledge or donation could be the one to push us over the top. With only \$50,000 to go, a \$1,500 or \$2,000 or \$3,000 pledge made by a number of people can help us reach a goal that seemed so enormous when we began this Campaign. Blessings and thanks to all who have given...but we're not there yet! Pledge forms are in church.

### Christmas Blessings

On behalf of the Friars and the Church Staff, we wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas! We are grateful for the blessing that you are to us and for all that you do for St. Francis Church! Be assured of our prayers during this holy season.

*Fr. Andrew*

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.



### Advent Novena of "Simbang Gabi" Masses

The traditional novena of Masses before Christmas are celebrated in the lower church beginning from Saturday, December 15 to Sunday, December 23. The Masses are sponsored by the Ugnayan Filipino Ministry and Friends. Everyone is invited!

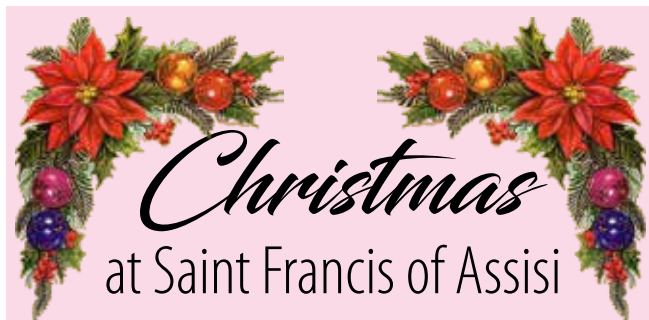
Saturday, December 15, at 6:15 PM

Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 PM

Monday-Friday, December 17-21 at 6:15 PM

Saturday, December 22, at 6:15 PM

Sunday, December 23 at 4:00 PM



### Confessions

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

### Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve

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

Choral Music at 11:30 PM followed

by Mass at 12:00 Midnight

There are no confessions on Christmas Eve.

### Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day

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

11:00 AM and 12:30 PM

There are no Confessions on Christmas Day.

### Wednesday, December 26: Christmas Holiday

Masses at 8:30 & 11:30 AM

There are no Confessions.

### Visit the St. Francis Christmas Market!

If you're looking for some last-minute Christmas gifts or decorations for your home, our Christmas Market in the lobby of the Parish House is open! We have Christmas tree ornaments from Central and South America, from India and other countries as well as a variety of Nativity sets, some large and some small, from various countries.



We also have specially designed Christmas tree ornaments to commemorate the 175th Anniversary year of the founding of the parish of Saint Francis of Assisi. They are available for \$5 each.

## Collections for November 2017 & 2018

### November 2017

Offertory Sunday Collections in church:	\$43,567
Online Sunday Collections:	9,366
Total Sunday Collections:	52,933
Total Weekday Collections:	25,833
<b>Total Sundays and Weekdays:</b>	<b>78,766</b>
Budgeted for November 2017:	(-4,567) 83,333

### 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:	(-14,214) 90,000

*(The Church's fiscal year is September 1 to August 31.)*

## The Shrines of France

**11 Days: November 6-16, 2019**

visiting

Geneva • Annecy • Lyon • Tours

Loire Valley • Chartres • Mont St. Michel

Bayeux • Normandy • Caen • Lisieux • Paris

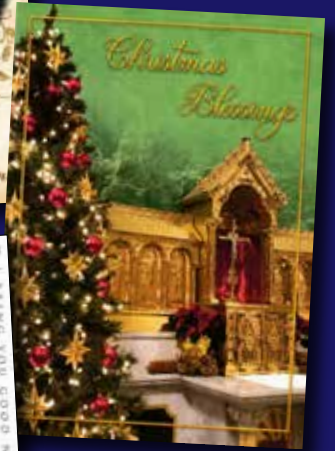
hosted by

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

\$3,199 from New York



## 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.



## Book Review: *What Keeps Us Catholic?*

The abuse scandal and many other issues have given people reason to leave the Catholic Church. You may be asked the questions: Why are you Catholic, or Do you still go to church? Author Mike Daley gives "40 reasons to feel good about our faith." In the 40 short chapters in his book, he presents a variety of topics such as: we're all sinners, interpreting Scripture, some priests, gratitude, laughter, stability, the question of suffering, Catholic social teaching, conscience, and more. Each chapter concludes with questions for discussion or reflection. The book focuses on the strengths of the Catholic Church and the author's hope that "we can confirm our commitment to this imperfect but very beautiful tradition." *What Keeps Us Catholic* is very readable and is available in the lobby of the Parish House.

## 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.

## *Gaudete et Exsultate:* Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis

### Chapter 1: The Call to Holiness

Anything done out of anxiety, pride or the need to impress others will not lead to holiness. We are challenged to show our commitment in such a way that everything we do has evangelical meaning and identifies us all the more with Jesus Christ.



This does not mean ignoring the need for moments of quiet, solitude, and silence before God. Quite the contrary. The presence of constantly new gadgets, the excitement of travel, and an endless array of consumer goods at times leave no room for God's voice to be heard. We are overwhelmed by words, by superficial pleasures, and by an increasing din, filled not by joy but rather discontent of those whose lives have lost meaning.

How can we fail to realize the need to stop this rat race and to recover the personal space needed to carry on a healthy dialogue with God? Finding that space may prove painful, but it is always fruitful.

## *The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi*

### Staff Friars

William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Adult Education

wbeaudin@stfrancisnyc.org

Michael Carnevale, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

mjcofm@earthlink.net

Joseph Cavoto, O.F.M., Counseling Center & Spiritual Direction

jcavoto@stfrancisnyc.org

Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Director of Migrant Center

jjagudilla@stfrancisnyc.org

Michael Kim, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry

koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org

Paul Lostritto, O.F.M., Director of Franciscan Bread for the Poor

plostritto@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

Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Liturgy

tshreenan@stfrancisnyc.org

Brian Smail, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Spiritual Direction

bsmail@stfrancisnyc.org

### Friars in Residence

John Felice, O.F.M.

Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

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

### Pastoral Associates

Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries

maugustin@stfrancisnyc.org

Julie Berwick, Director of St. Francis Counseling Center

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Chala Hill, F.H.M., Spiritual Direction

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Caelestine Kim, O.S.B., Pastoral Associate, Korean Ministry

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Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization

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Edward A. Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry

etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org

### Administration

Carlos Farfan, Director of Finance

cfarfan@stfrancisnyc.org

Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office

# Mass Intentions for the Week

The Sanctuary Lights this week have been given for the intentions of Daniella Evangelista.

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

If you would like to made a donation for the bread and wine or sanctuary lights, please go to the reception desk.

## Saturday, December 22, 2018

- 8:00 AM Anthony Rozier (d.)
- 11:00 Kathleen Gillette (d.)
- 4:00 PM Roberto Ghan (d., 1st anniversary)
- 5:15 Kathleen Harris



## Sunday, December 23, 2018

- 8:00 AM Elvira Miranda & Family
- 9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
- 9:30 Hank & Martha
- 11:00 Helen & Harry
- 12:30 PM Franciscan Mass League
- 5:00 Maria, Mike, Gavin & Claire
- 6:15 Alexander Lapinski (d.)

## Monday, December 24, 2018

- 7:00 AM Sr. Mary Patrick McSherry (d.)
- 7:45 Agnes Giordano (d.)
- 8:30 St. Jude Novena
- 11:30 Caroline Miskic (d.)
- 12:30 PM Cristina & Alfonso Mejia (d.)
- 4:30 Diane & Gardy Zafiros
- 5:30 Ginevra & Francesco Marino (d.)

## Tuesday, December 25, 2018

- 8:00 AM Christmas Novena
- 9:30 Arthur & Mary Bazzurro (d.)
- 11:00 Cornelius & Kathleen Kilcommons (d.)
- 12:30 PM John Mattessich (d.)

## Wednesday, December 26, 2018

- 8:30 Christmas Novena
- 11:30 St. Jude Novena

## Thursday, December 27, 2018

- 7:00 AM Christmas Novena
- 7:45 John Movisso (d.)
- 8:30 St. Jude Novena
- 11:30 Deceased of James Beattie Family
- 12:30 PM The Sick
- 4:30 Eric A. Rivera (d.)
- 5:30 Eugene Jacques Clerveaux (d.)

## Friday, December 28, 2018

- 7:00 AM Christmas Novena
- 7:45 Keith Lavacchi (d.)
- 8:30 St. Jude Novena
- 11:30 Ania & Miss T. Cihanek (d.)
- 12:30 PM Pol Lee (d.)
- 4:30 Muriel, Scott, Ross & Ryan
- 5:30 Anne DeRiso (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).



**Is God calling you to be a Franciscan Friar?**

Vocation Ministry of Holy Name Province • [BeAFranciscan.org](http://BeAFranciscan.org)