

Church of
Saint Francis of Assisi
175 Years
1844 - 2019

January 6, 2019

The Epiphany of the Lord

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.

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)

On the Cover

The Adoration of the Magi from the Grimani Breviary, one of the most important works of Flemish Renaissance. It was made for Cardinal Domenico Grimani between 1515 and 1520 in Ghent and Bruges. Today it is housed in the Biblioteca Marciana in Venice.

The Pastor's Corner



On this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we hear Isaiah say: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come. The glory of the Lord shines upon you. See darkness cover the earth and thick clouds cover the people, but upon you the Lord shines and over you appears his glory."

Although this was written centuries before Jesus, we can easily see that our light has come in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the one that is our light in the darkness of his world and this day and age that threatens us. The Epiphany shows us that Jesus is this for all people, all ages, all places. We say to Jesus: "Let your light shine on me."

You may remember that we had our church elevator rebuilt last year. So, you may ask, why isn't it working? Unfortunately, we found a small leak dripping from somewhere into the elevator that threatens to shut down the electrical system. We are trying to find that "somewhere" and have had engineers and maintenance personnel tracking down possibilities. Several ducts with rust may have to be removed and new ones installed. This means that they have to be custom made to our setting. All of this is in progress. We regret the inability of being able of using the elevator over these past weeks. Thank the good Lord that we will be receiving funds from Renew and Rebuild that you so generosity contributed to and this will pay for the project.

Fr. Andrew

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

Collection for Communications Next Week

Next weekend, January 12-13, we will take up the Collection for the Catholic Communications Campaign.



**Catholic
Communication
Campaign**
CONNECT WITH CHRIST

This Collection serves all of the Catholic dioceses of our nation by producing

outstanding spiritual programs for radio and television.

The Catholic Communications Campaign provides ongoing support for the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org), USCCB video productions including the reflections on the daily readings, and content development for many of the USCCB's media platforms.

One half of your gift will sustain the campaign, and the other half will assist us here in the Archdiocese of New York in our Communications Office.

Renew and Rebuild: Good News!

We have almost reached our goal of \$1,022,000. We are now at \$1,014,000 in pledges and donations. Your pledge or donation



**RENEW +
REBUILD**

can push us over the top! You may have the distinct privilege of being the person to do this, so NOW is your opportunity. There are pledge forms at the doors of the church. You don't have to start paying for your pledge now; you can write on the form when you want to begin. Pledge now!

Check Out Our New Website

The website of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi has recently undergone a facelift with a whole new look! Be sure to check it out by going to stfrancisnyc.org and let us know what you think!

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

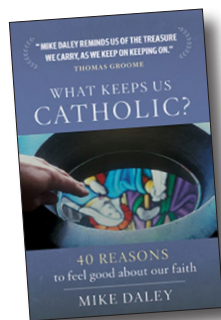
Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

\$3,199 from New York



Book Review: *What Keeps Us Catholic?*

The sexual abuse scandal and many others reasons have given people reason to leave the Catholic Church. You may be asked the



question: Why are you Catholic or do you still go to church? This book's 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 in his writing this book is that "we can confirm our commitment to this imperfect but very beautiful tradition." The book is very readable. It is available in the lobby of the Parish House.

The Friars of Thirty-First Street, Part 7

Fr. Polycarp Guerth was assigned as pastor of Saint Francis, but he died in December 1882. Fr. John Roser, a professor at Saint Bonaventure College, provided temporary coverage from March 1844 - 2019 to July of 1883 when Fr. Cornelius Praetori was named pastor of Saint Francis. In 1888 he was replaced by Fr. Ludger Beck, who had 16 years of pastoral experience in Munich and Ratisbon in Germany, as well as a dozen years of missionary experience in America at the time of his appointment.



Fr. Ludger was born in Ursulapoppenricht, Germany in 1832 and joined the Franciscan Order at the age of 23. Fearful that the May Laws which exiled their Prussian confreres would be extended to Bavaria, the Franciscan Provincial Minister sent Fr. Ludger to America to find a suitable place for the relocation of the friars in case of repression. Fr. Ludger served for a short time at St. Francis of Assisi in New York, and eventually moved

on to Louisville, Kentucky where he found a potential home for his brothers back in Bavaria. The May Laws were never promulgated and the expected expulsion never materialized. Fr. Ludger worked in a German parish in Louisville where he was pastor of Saint Martin Church for 12 years. The parish was taken over by the diocese and Fr. Ludger returned to the friars of the Allegany Custody.

In 1888 Fr. Ludger was appointed to succeed Fr. Cornelius Praetori, who had served as pastor since 1883. Fr. Ludger immediately liquidated the parish debt of \$14,000 and began to plan for the construction of a new parish church which would bring his people into the 20th century.

This series of articles on the history of our parish is adapted from the writings of Fr. Flavian Walsh, O.F.M., Pastor from 1985-87.

Treasures from Our Tradition

Monday of this week is Christmas Day in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in schedule has a lot to do with how calendars have been developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Caesar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called "pontiffs" were able to tweak the calendar by adding in extra days as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the empire in what he named "The Last Year of Confusion." The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years.

Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1582, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France;

JULIAN 1582		October			Gregorian 1582	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia's Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end!

James Field

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



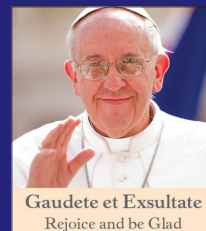
¿Está sin estatus de inmigración?

¡Aquí hay una solución posible!

¡LEVÁNTENSE! 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 3: In the Light of the Master

Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the beatitudes. The beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card. So, if anyone asks, "What must one do to be a good Christian?" The answer is clear. We have



Gaudete et Exsultate
Rejoice and be Glad

to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount. In the beatitudes we find a portrait of the Master that we are called to reflect in our daily lives.

The word "happy" or "blessed" thus becomes a synonym for "holy." It expresses the fact that those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness.

Although Jesus' words may strike us as poetic, they clearly run counter to the way things are usually done in our world. Even if we find Jesus' words attractive, the world pushes us toward another way of living. The beatitudes are in no way trite or undemanding, quite the opposite. We can only practice them if the Holy Spirit fills us with his power and frees us from our weakness, our selfishness, our complacency and our pride.

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

Staff Friars

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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

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Administration

Carlos Farfan, Director of Finance

cfarfan@stfrancisnyc.org

Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office

Mass Intentions for the Week

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.

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

Saturday, January 5, 2019

8:00 AM Constantine & Adelena D'Argenio (d.)
11:00 Regina Moreno, for healing
4:00 PM Franciscan Mass League
5:15 Dolores Abbang (d.)

Sunday, January 6, 2019

8:00 AM Intentions of the donor
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Frances & Stephen Rosty (d.)
11:00 Andrew "Butch" Wozniak (d.)
12:30 PM Beloved mother Vilma Arthur (d.)
5:00 Ryan Mullen (d.)
6:15 Joe Castora

Monday, January 7, 2019

7:00 AM Intentions of the donor
7:45 Hotel Pennsylvania Baby (d.)
8:30 Hotel Pennsylvania Baby (d.)
11:30 Rebecca Alfonso (d.)
12:30 PM Hotel Pennsylvania Baby (d.)
4:30 Anna Zheng (d.)
5:30 Jonathan Butler, for healing

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

7:00 AM Intentions of the donor
7:45 Intentions of the donor
8:30 Robert S. Wikowitz (d.)
11:30 Sean Murray (d.)
12:30 PM Nora F. Smith, for healing
4:30 Jeremiah, Bridget & Michael Daly (d.)
5:30 Intentions of the donor

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

7:00 AM Intentions of the donor
7:45 Intentions of the donor
8:30 Fe Tumlos
11:30 Elizabeth & Josefina Alfonso & Family
12:30 PM Jane & Francis Murphy (D.)
4:30 Sharon E. Itliong, special intention
5:30 Ann Marie Mulrennan (d.)

Thursday, January 10, 2019

7:00 AM Anthony Milano (d.)
7:45 In honor of the Holy Family
8:30 Family of Endaya & Arciaga (d.)
11:30 Solange Simon
12:30 PM The Sick
4:30 Stella & Philomena Ward
5:30 In honor of the Holy Family

Friday, January 11, 2019

7:00 AM Fr. Stephen Okeke
7:45 Cynthia Gordon
8:30 Hylla Fatima Rebello (d.)
11:30 Mary Ann Burbage (d.)
12:30 PM Ania & Miss T. Cihanek (d.)
4:30 James & Josephine Ward (d.)
5:30 Dec. Membs. of Drury, Neenan, Cuellar & Ayala Families (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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Is God calling you to be a Franciscan Friar?

Vocation Ministry of Holy Name Province • BeAFranciscan.org