



How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
to God, the living God.

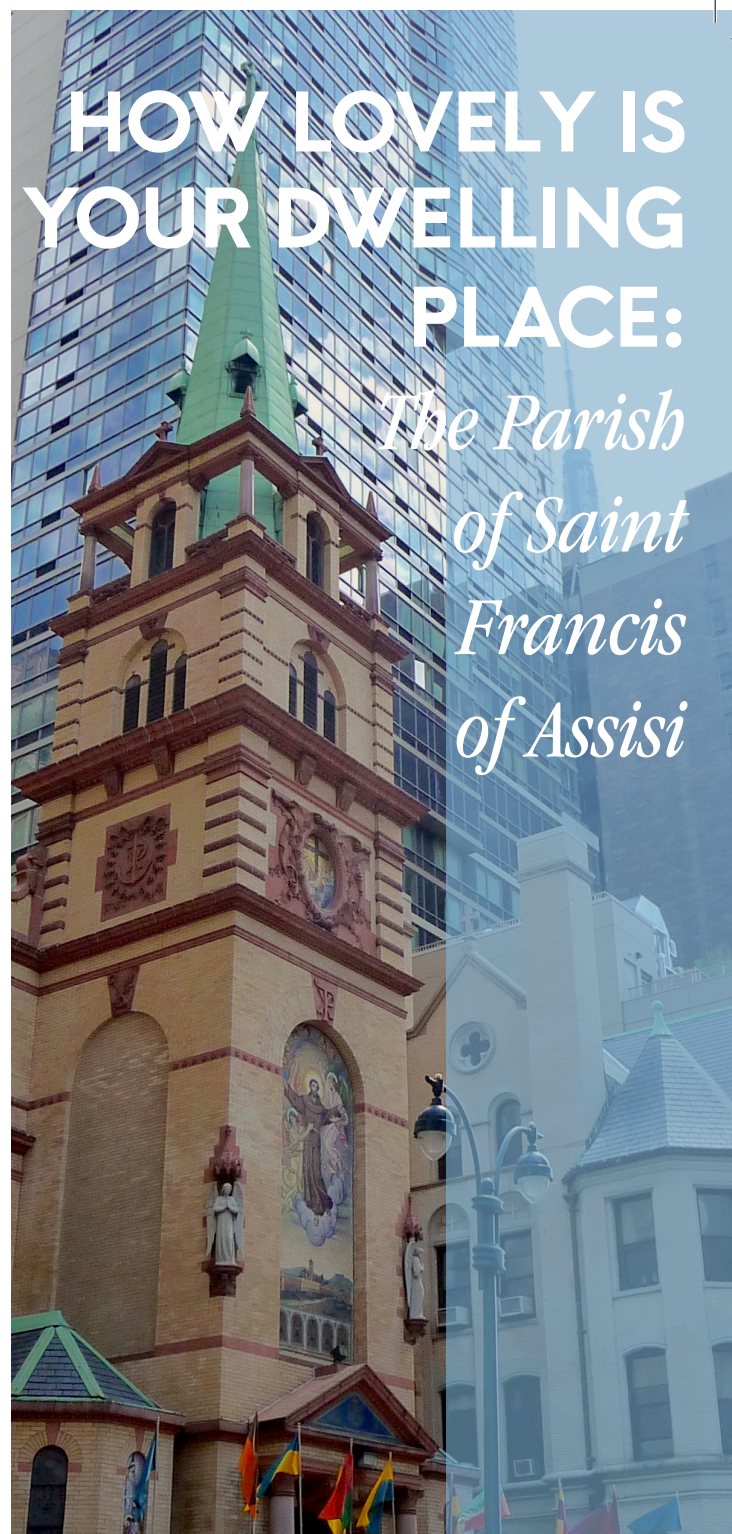
They are happy, who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

(Psalm 84:2-3, 5)

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi  
135 W. 31st Street  
New York, NY 10001

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# HOW LOVELY IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE: *The Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi*



**SUMMER LECTURE SERIES  
JULY 17-31, 2019**

In 1844, West 31st Street in Manhattan was a quiet neighborhood of mostly German immigrants. Over the next 175 years, it would become a night town of bars and far less reputable establishments; a commercial center of sweatshops and small businesses; a busy, gritty thoroughfare to Penn Station and the Lincoln Tunnel; and an increasingly vertical landscape of hotels and high-rise apartment buildings. But through all the shifts in demographics, zoning ordinances and real estate development, one institution on the street has remained constant, even as it has responded to the changing needs of the people it has served for nearly two centuries. That institution is St. Francis of Assisi Parish, “The Heart of New York.”

As part of the parish’s year-long jubilee celebration, the St. Francis Adult Education Center is offering a three-week summer program that will look at our parish’s past and present through several lenses: the biblical, the historical, the theological and the artistic. St. Francis of Assisi Parish offers a case study in what it means to be the Catholic Church in America and an oasis of spirituality in the secular city.

**Week One: July 17-18 (Wednesday-Thursday)**

**Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M.**

***Biblical Perspectives***

For centuries, God’s holy temple in Jerusalem was the central shrine of Israel’s faith. It was thought to be God’s dwelling place on earth, God’s “headquarters” for governing his good creation, the meeting ground between God’s space and human space. How did the biblical writers understand the complex inter-relationship between a sacred building, the God to whom it was dedicated, the community of faith that worshiped there, and the larger world which that community was sent out to transform? How might this biblical understanding of temple inform our own understanding of the relationship between a parish church, a parish community, and a parish’s mission to and for the world?

**Week Two: July 22, 23, 24 (Tues.-Wed.-Thurs.)**

**Fr. Dominic Monti, O.F.M.**

***Historical Perspectives***

The 175-year history of St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a microcosm of the Catholic Church in America. From its roots as an immigrant church, through its many adaptations to the shifting fortunes of the neighborhood in which it is inserted, to its pastoral response to radical changes in the Church and society, our parish has endeared itself to millions of New Yorkers as a place of refuge and welcome, of healing and reconciliation, of lively worship and direct service to the poor. Few historians in the United States are more qualified to tell the story and trace the history of the parish within the wider context of American church history than Fr. Dominic Monti, O.F.M., and even fewer can do so in as lively and engaging a way.

**Week Three: July 30-31 (Tuesday-Wednesday)**

**Joseph Nuzzi and Fr. Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M.**

***Theological and Artistic Perspectives***

What does it mean to be a parish today? What does it mean to be the Church in a specific place like West 31st Street in Manhattan, at a specific time in human history like 2019? Whether you are or are not a parishioner at St. Francis, these questions about the role and relevance a local Catholic Christian community offer stimulating points for reflection and discussion about your own experience of welcome, worship and witness in the parish of your choice. The course will conclude with an exploration of the art and architecture of St. Francis Church and how what we see in this church building challenges us to be the church in New York City and beyond.

**12:00–1:15 PM OR 6:15–7:30 PM**  
**San Damiano Hall, 129 West 31st Street**  
**Fee: \$60**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

(You can also register online at [stfrancisnyc.org](http://stfrancisnyc.org))

Mail to: Church of St. Francis of Assisi  
Adult Education Center,  
135 W. 31st Street, New York, NY 10001.

Please print clearly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

New participant  Returning participant

Registering for NOON sessions

Registering for EVENING sessions

Payment enclosed

Cash  Check

Checks should be made payable to St. Francis Adult Education Center. Credit card payments may only be made at the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House.

Please try to pre-register at least one week in advance by mail, online, or at the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House. No acknowledgement of pre-registration will be made by mail. Include the fee with the registration form. Confidential scholarship aid is available upon request.

For more information contact: St. Francis Adult Education Center at 212-736-8500, Ext. 277 or visit [www.stfrancisnyc.org](http://www.stfrancisnyc.org).