

Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.



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

*175 Years*  
1844 - 2019

July 28, 2019

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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:**

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, and encourages them by saying, "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Luke 10:9).

### **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



We learn a lot about God in today's readings. First, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah have never had a good reputation, and Abraham tests God to see how far God will go in sparing these places. . . if there are still innocent people there. Abraham starts with 50 innocent people, then 45, then 40, then 30, then 20, and finally only ten. God does not change and replies that even if there are only 10, they will not be destroyed. What an amazing and merciful God! The Gospel presents us with the Lord's Prayer and then the famous "ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." In the midst of any age and culture that is evil and cruel and heartless, God wants to remind us that we stand for something positive, life giving and selfless because this is how God has been throughout history and remains the same for us.

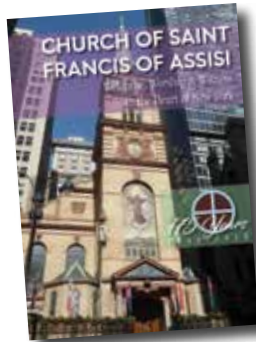
On Friday, August 2, we Franciscans celebrate a Feast day that is important to us: the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula. This little chapel is regarded as our Franciscan home. Portiuncula, "little portion", describes the small piece of land that was given to the Benedictines and later St. Francis spent time physically restoring this chapel. He prayed there with his followers; he received St. Clare into his way of life there and it remains a sacred place that Franciscans return to frequently. When you go to Assisi, you will be surprised that this small chapel is surrounded by a large basilica, St. Mary of the Angels. Yes, in the center of this large basilica is the small chapel. When you go there, you cannot help but think of all that has happened in that sacred space over the centuries.

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

## Review: St. Anthony Messenger

The August issue of St. Anthony Messenger has an interesting variety of feature articles: Facing the Opioid Crisis, Spirituality and the 12 Steps, the Martyr of Auschwitz and Assisi's Most Dangerous Citizens. This is quite a variety, but they touch on topics that are worth your time reading. A Catholic Response to the Opioid Crisis is very timely. So many people have lost a loved one, a young person. This article gives you information that you may not know. Richard Rohr is the author of *Breathing Under Water* which is also the title of one of his books. This deals with addictions and 12 Step Programs. There is also a short article about the Patron Saint of Addicts, St. Maximilian Kolbe and finally, you find out why St. Francis and St. Clare are called Assisi's most dangerous citizens. There is always more in each monthly issue of St. Anthony Messenger that you can purchase in the lobby of the Parish House.

## Last Call for Sponsors of Our 175th Anniversary Commemorative Journal!



You can be part of our parish's anniversary celebration by becoming a sponsor for our beautiful commemorative journal which will capture the highlights of the past 175 years!

Full-page, half-page and quarter-page ads are available, as well as memorial and donor inscriptions. Just go to our website: <https://stfrancisnyc.org/journal175>

for more information.

The deadline for submission Wednesday, July 31, so don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this exciting project!

## Come Explore the Catholic Faith!

Are you interested in exploring Catholicism for yourself? Do you know someone who might be interested in finding out more about our faith? Were you baptized in another Christian church and are thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Are you Catholic but never received Confirmation or First Communion?

Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 PM starting in September. These classes are designed for people who may or may not be sure that they want to join the Catholic church. We present a comprehensive overview of Catholic faith and traditions designed for adults. Anyone inquiring into the Catholic faith may attend these sessions with no obligations. The RCIA is free for anyone exploring Catholicism.

If you would like to find out more about our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, please contact: Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization; 212-736-8500, Ext. 365 or [jnuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:jnuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org).



## 175th Anniversary Raffle

**\$1,000 First Prize** **\$500 Second Prize**

**\$250 Third Prize**

**Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00**

**On sale at the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House**

**Drawing will be held at the Gala on September 20**

**You do not have to be present to win**

## The Friars of Thirty-First Street, Part 11

Fr. Francis Koch's pastoral sense and understanding of changing times was shared by his successor, Fr. Eusebius Schlingmann, O.F.M., who led St. Francis of Assisi as Pastor from 1903 to 1907.



On the first anniversary of the Nightworkers' Mass in 1905, Archbishop John M. Farley wrote the following letter to Fr. Eusebius:

I am pleased to hear of the success attending the half-past two A.M. Sunday Mass at St. Francis Church. Among the many things which I had to communicate to the Holy Father and which he assured me was a great consolation to him, was the request of the night workers in your neighborhood to have Mass at half-past two o'clock on Sunday mornings, to enable them to comply with the duty of hearing Mass. He desired me in the most affectionate manner to convey to yourself and to all those good and zealous Catholics who at such inconvenience comply with the precept of the Church by assisting at that early Mass his apostolic benediction, which I hereby empower you to bestow on that congregation on Easter morning. Praying for you and for them every blessing and all Easter joys, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
+John M. Farley, Archbishop of New York

Fr. Eusebius also asked permission for a Mass at noon during Lent. The first midday Mass was offered on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 1907. In the Catholic News of that day, Fr. Eusebius wrote:

"For several year past I have been thinking of celebrating Mass at high noon. I have noticed very many people in the church at this hour every day of Lent, making a visit or saying the Stations. Even if only forty or fifty people could hear Mass at that hour who otherwise would be deprived of that blessing, we should feel amply repaid for the sacrifice."

The noon Mass attracted such crowds that it was decided to continue the Mass on a daily basis. The Church of St. Francis of Assisi was the first church in the United States to have a daily Mass as late as 12:15 P.M., and the little church on 31st Street became known as a convenient spiritual oasis for busy travelers, shoppers and workers.

Grand hotels began to appear in the neighborhood, and visitors to New York found the church convenient and uplifting. In 1910 the Pennsylvania Railroad Station became a main terminal on the corner of 7th Avenue, and travelers began to worship and pray in the beautiful St.



Fr. Eusebius Schlingmann, O.F.M.



In this photo, taken from atop Pennsylvania Station in the 1920's, shows the neighborhood surrounding St. Francis Church (seen in the upper left).

Francis Church. Department stores and businesses in the neighborhood were booming, and shoppers and workers found the church a warm welcoming spiritual center. St. Francis Parish had few remaining parishioners, but thousands of devotees were finding their way to the Franciscan church between 6th and 7th Avenues. The attractive sanctuary developed into a Service Church for the people, a new model of urban ministry.

Fr. Eusebius managed to pay off the remaining debt on the church. In the space of four short years he raised \$52,000. During those years attendance at Mass had triples, and the number of people at devotions continued to increase. Fr. Eusebius reconstructed the church school, and raised its standards to such a degree that in 1906 the pupils won first prize for being the best of all parochial schools in New York City.



The earliest photo of the interior of the present church, shows the central window in the apse directly behind the altar before the installation of the Great Mosaic in the 1920's. That window, St. Francis in Glory, can now be seen in the 31st Street vestibule of the church.

*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.*

## 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!

¡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](mailto:standupimmigrants@gmail.com) o 212-736-8500, Ext. 305.

### *Gaudete et Exsultate:*

#### Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis

#### Chapter 5: Spiritual Combat, Vigilance and Discernment

The gift of discernment has become all the more necessary today, since contemporary life offers immense possibilities for action and distraction, and the world presents all of them as valid and good. All of us, especially the young, are immersed in a culture of zapping. We can navigate simultaneously on two or more screens and interact at the same time with two or three virtual scenarios. Without the wisdom of discernment, we can easily become prey to every passing trend.



This is all the more important when some novelty presents itself in our lives. Then we have to decide whether it is new wine brought by God or an illusion created by the spirit of this world or the spirit of the devil. At other times, the opposite can happen, when the forces of evil induce us not to change, to leave things as they are, to opt for rigid resistance to change. Yet that would be to block the working of the Spirit. We are free, with the freedom of Christ. Still, he asks us to examine what is within us—our desires, anxieties, fears and questions—and what takes place all around us—“the signs of the times”—and thus to recognize the paths that lead to complete freedom. “Test everything: hold fast to what is good.”

## *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

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John Felice, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

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

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Brian Jordan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

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

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David McBriar, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

John McVean, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

Andrew Reitz, O.F.M., Pastor

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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

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Julie Berwick, Director of St. Francis Counseling Center

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Carlos Farfan, Director of Finance

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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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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 Joseph, Marie & Thomas Powers, Jr., and in memory of Thomas Powers, Sr. from Victorina Powers; for the intentions of Edgar Sullivan; and for the forgiveness of sins.

The Sanctuary Lights have been given in memory of Nancy Mattis.

### Saturday, July 27, 2019

8:00 AM Michele & Rico Porco (d.)  
11:00 Constantino Presto (d.)  
4:00 PM Kathleen Harris  
5:15 Providencia Castro

### Sunday, July 28, 2018

8:00 AM Arthur & Mary Bazzurro (d.)  
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community  
9:30 Claudette Gaurmett (d.)  
11:00 Hugo Riveras (d.)  
12:30 PM Hugh A. Canavan (d.)  
5:00 Franciscan Mass League  
6:15 Margaret & Daniel Kelly (d.)

### Monday, July 29, 2019

7:00 Val Pouponeau  
7:45 Pouponeau Family  
8:30 Wilfrid Laboissiere, thanksgiving  
11:30 Ofelia Romano, for health  
12:30 PM Marie Morgan, birthday  
4:30 Lucille Barnes  
5:30 Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart



### Tuesday, July 30, 2019

7:00 Romulo Lim Ayanting (d.)  
7:45 Thanksgiving  
8:30 Emilia Santos Dizon (d.)  
11:30 Lucie Clerie  
12:30 PM Julia St. Clair (d.)  
4:30 Ivrose craft  
5:30 Yurose, Joan, Ronald Martinez

### Wednesday, July 31, 2019

7:00 AM Mike Pecora (d.)  
7:45 Ernesto Sun, Sr. (d.)  
8:30 Bert Victa (d.)  
11:30 Maureen Thompson  
12:30 PM Michael Duane  
4:30 Marva Joseph, thanksgiving  
5:30 Thomas & Edith Castellano (d.)

### Thursday, August 1, 2019

7:00 Rosemarie Duena & Family  
7:45 Iluminada Esmejarda (d.)  
8:30 Thanks. to St. Anthony, M. Soloman  
11:30 Judith Douglas (d.)  
12:30 PM The Sick  
4:30 John Ynayan  
5:30 Helen Hanlon (d.)

### Friday, August 2, 2019

7:00 Saturnino B. Gapuz (d.)  
7:45 Maria del Pilar Blanco (d.)  
8:30 Mildred Ziminski (d.)  
11:30 Maddelena S. Novak (d.)  
12:30 PM Leonor C. Gapuz (d.)  
4:30 Thanksgiving to St. Jude  
5:30 Members of the Drury, Neenan, Cuellar & Ayala Family (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)