



Christmas 2023

As we gather in the spirit of Christmas, I and all the friars here at St. Francis are filled with gratitude and hope.
We extend our warmest and most heartfelt Christmas blessing to you and your loved ones!

I love Christmas in New York City! Store windows decorated with Christmas delights and children outside watching in wonder, the tree in Rockefeller Center, the lights and decorations adorning street lamps, and a chorus of Christmas music filling the air. I have heard people say New York is Christmas.



Fr. Michael's candid approach to the Sacrament of Reconciliation makes him a popular confessor.

Let me tell you a related story. I was walking through the church the other day when I came upon a young man sitting in a pew crying. I stopped to ask if he was all right. He said, "Father, I haven't been to confession in 15 or so years, and to be honest, I have done some pretty horrible things. I felt so burdened and ashamed. The priest who heard my confession was so kind, gentle, and supportive. I cried and cried, and I could feel something in me lighten, something new being born in me. Father, I feel like Christmas is happening inside me. Thank you and the friars for being here.

The friars hear confessions 16 hours a week here at Saint Francis; we are well-known throughout the city for this ministry.

over, please

▼ Please remove at perforations and return the slip below in the enclosed postage paid envelope. ▼

Dear Father Joe, I gladly share with you my gift in the celebration of Christmas to keep this beautiful House of Prayer and continue the Franciscan legacy to serve all with love and benevolence.

Enclosed is my gift: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$ _____ Other

Charge my offering to my Master Card VISA Am Exp.

Card No. _____ Exp. Date. ____ / ____ CID# _____

Signed _____

148350

My Special Intentions are written on the reverse.

To donate online,
 please visit our website:
www.stfrancisnyc.org

*Remember St. Francis
 Church in your Will*

Please make check payable to St. Francis of Assisi Church.

For over 175 years, the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi has worked to make sure that Christ's light and love can be felt even in the concrete jungle that is New York City.

Our Church, being as old as it is, is in constant need of repair; it seems that the 179-year-old steam pipes have decided they have served the Church long enough and have decided to leak, rust out, and break open. As usual, when one pipe decides to blow, so does its neighbor.

This causes heat loss in the upper church, which now stays around 50 degrees. We want to raise the temperature a little. We are now in the season of hope and rebuilding and trying to raise \$200,000.00 in our Christmas appeal. This is the cost of repairing the pipes in our church and raising the temperature so that you and others can be comfortable praying and worshipping together, seeking God's love and mercy. **The friars and staff are committed to preaching the gospel message of faith, hope, and love, but we need your help now. We need a little Christmas, and you can help make this happen! Please continue with your wonderful generosity and help us reach our goal of \$200,000.00 to keep the church safe, warm, and in good health.**

If the friars and I can impose on you again, please pray for us here at the Church of Saint Francis. Pray that we can grow in our witness to Jesus and be good midwives to bring Jesus into the hearts of the good people who worship here.

The friars will remember you and your loved ones in our Christmas Masses.

Peace and All Good.



Fr. Joseph Juracek, OFM
Pastor

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son
and they shall name him Emmanuel
which means "God is with us".*



Matt 1:23

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*Dear Fr. Joe, Please include the following Special Intentions in your prayers
and those of the Franciscan Friars during this holy season of Christmas.*



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