



*Light of the
World,*

*Care for
Creation*

**DECEMBER 1, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi • 135 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001
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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 province of Our Lady of Guadalupe 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

Welcome  *Witness*
Worship

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

Sunday Masses

8:00 AM, 9:15 AM (Korean), 10:00 AM (en español),

11:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 5:00 PM

Please join us for our Sunday 11:00 AM or 5:00PM livestreamed Masses. Special events will also be livestreamed.

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday 7:30 AM; 12:00 PM, 5:00 PM; Saturday 11:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Monday - Friday 8:00 - 9:00 am; 11:00 am - 12:00 pm; 4:30 - 5:30 pm;

Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 am

DEVOTIONS

Monday: Devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother, after all Masses

Tuesday: St. Anthony Devotions, after all Masses

Wednesday: St. Jude Devotions, after all Masses

Thursday: The Sacrament of Anointing, after all Masses

Friday: Devotions in Honor of the Sacred Cross, after all Masses

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm (Lower Church)

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Our full Advent and Christmas schedule, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, parish events, and flower donation information is available at stfrancisnyc.org/advent-and-christmas

Dated Mass and weekly Bread and Wine or Sanctuary Lamp intentions may be reserved at our Hospitality desk in the Francis House where Mass cards are sold.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 30, 2024

11:00 AM Dorothy Gallagher (D); Daniel Hon Ho Lim (D)

4:00 PM Remedios A. Asuncion (D); Teodomiro Figueroa Navarro (D)

Sunday, December 1, 2024

8:00 AM Members Franciscan Mass League; Thomas & Edith Castellana

9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community

11:00 Birthday Mary Caulfield; Carlos Gabriel (D)

12:30 PM Glenn R. Evans (D); Ariston 'Ogie' Guzman (D)

5:00 Rev. Ronald Petrosk (D); World AIDS Day

Monday, December 2, 2024

7:30 AM Raphael, Ernst & Cecile (D)

12:00 PM Intention of Juan; Emmanuel, Nerette & Maurice (D)

5:30 Dennis & Margaret Sullivan; Nina "Bing" Delena (D)

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Carmen Maria Morales (D) & All Deceased; Rosario Rondinelli (D)

5:30 Charles A. Scalafani (D); Julie Mullane (D)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

7:30 AM Prpic Mirko (D)

12:00 PM Esther Medina (D); Thanksgiving Gerardo Calma

5:30 John Mullane; Nina "Bing" Delena (D)

Thursday, December 5, 2024

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Mary Cihanek & Mary Yost; Manuel Caragay (D)

5:30 Pat & Mae Mullane (D)

Friday, December 6, 2024

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Intention of Scott Turtur

5:30 Rev Edmond Hawley (D); Kathy Sullivan

This week's Bread and Wine: Catherine Puangco

This week's Sanctuary Lights: Catherine Puangco; In Memory of Dudley O. Menzies

Parish Staff

Father Brian Jordan, O.F.M., Pastor bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org

Father Frank Critch, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Adult Education Coordinator fcritch@stfrancisnyc.org

Father Jim Gannon, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar jgannon@stfrancisnyc.org

Father Carolo Kim, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry ckim@stfrancisnyc.org

Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries maugustin@stfrancisnyc.org

Julie Berwick, Director of St. Francis Counseling Center jberwick@stfrancisnyc.org

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Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office rperaza@stfrancisnyc.org

Tyler Mazza, Bookkeeper tmazza@stfrancisnyc.org

The Pastor's Corner



Dear sisters and brothers,

This weekend begins the new liturgical year (Cycle C) in our Roman Catholic calendar year. A number of our parishioners created an Advent theme which is pertinent to our living Franciscan tradition. The theme is "Light of the World, Care for Creation." This theme links our

Biblical readings for the season of Advent with Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si — In Praise Of." This encyclical is about humanity's obligation to take care of Holy Mother Earth. St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of ecology, and that is the reason why this Franciscan parish is greatly concerned about this seminal issue in our civilization.

The year 2025 is designated by the Catholic Church as a Jubilee Year of Hope for our precious Mother Earth. 2025 is also the 800th Anniversary of the oldest example of Italian literature, "The Canticle of the Creatures," a long poem composed by St. Francis of Assisi on the beauty of nature. This evocative poem is the inspiration for Pope Francis' encyclical

"Laudato Si." This Advent theme of "Light of the World, Care for Creation" will pave the way for the 800th anniversary of "The Canticles of the Creatures" during calendar year 2025.

The readings for the First Sunday of Advent talk of the second coming of Jesus Christ. The opening verse from the passage from the prophet Jeremiah says "The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise." The promise to be fulfilled is the birth of Jesus Christ on Earth. This is echoed in the final verse from the passage of the Gospel of Luke: "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

We are all called to be vigilant this Advent season as we are guided by the light of Christ and truly care for all of God's Creation on Earth.

Blessings to all,

Father Brian



CAROLS WITH THE CHOIR

Join us on Sunday, December 1, at 3pm for our annual Carols with the Choir! Featuring our talented music ministry and a guest performance from the renowned Empire City Men's Chorus, this promises to be an inspiring afternoon filled with cherished carols, stunning harmonies, and the warmth of our community.

Bring family, friends, and neighbors as we celebrate the Light of the World with song. We can't wait to see you there!

This event is free and open to the public. A Free Will donation will be taken up at the event.

CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE

Our 2024 Christmas cards are now available! You can get them at our Hospitality desk in the Francis House, or find them online at stfrancisnyc.org/st-francis-mass-cards-and-gifts



The soup is on! Our Advent Soup and Scripture will be held Monday evenings at 6:30 pm on December 2, December 9, and December 16. Join us for as many reflections as you'd like. All are welcome!

Join us as we break bread, drink soup, and open the Sunday Advent Gospels.

This is a free event, but since soup is being served, we are asking for free will donations to offset the costs of the meal. Please register below to let us know that you are coming. You can RSVP using this QR code, or at stfrancisnyc.org/advent-soup-and-scripture



LAUDATO SI

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY



“Beware That Your Hearts Do Not Become Drowsy”

Here are five things to remember about the climate crisis:

IT IS REAL. Conspiracy theories offer an easy way out, but don't be fooled by them.

IT IS US. Human beings, with our lifestyles of dependence on things and fossil fuels, are measurably the cause.

IT IS BAD. Sea levels have risen and the oceans are warmer and more acidic, causing more frequent and catastrophic extreme weather. Millions of people have been displaced because of it.

SCIENTISTS AGREE. There is near-unanimous consensus among scientists that the climate is changing and that it is a result of human activity.

THERE IS HOPE. It's not too late to set things right again. We have the know-how. What we need is the will of the people. We are who we're waiting for.

“Twenty-five years ago, people could be excused for not knowing much, or doing much, about climate change. Today we have no excuse.” — *Desmond Tutu*

To learn more about what you can do, email us at stfrancislaudatosi@gmail.com

The next in-person meeting of the Laudato Si Circle will be Thursday, December 26th 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the 1st Floor Conference Room of the St. Francis House. All are welcome.

SIMBANG GABI 9-DAY ADVENT NOVENA MASSES

The UGNAYAN Filipino Ministry will be sponsoring the 9-day Novena Mass (Simbang Gabi) as part of their Filipino tradition. All are welcome to attend.

The Novena Masses will be held Sunday, December 15 to Monday, December 23. Weekday Novena Masses are at 6:15 PM, and weekend Novena Masses are at 3:00 PM. All Simbang Gabi Masses will be in the Lower Church.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias will again adorn our sanctuary this Christmas. We offer them to honor the birth of Christ and to glorify God.



It is also a way to remember your loved ones and share the beauty of the season with the whole community. We invite you to memorialize members of your family, friends or other loved ones with a donation for our Christmas decorations.

You can make Christmas flower donations using the QR code here, or on our website at stfrancisnyc.org/christmas-flowers



Donations and the names of those received by December 20th will be posted on our parish website for Christmas.

WINTER PARISH RETREAT: JUBILEE — LIBERTY AND RENEWAL

Our Adult Education with the support of Converge Ministry will hold our Wappingers Falls winter retreat January 31-February 2, 2025. The retreat is open to all church ministers, volunteers, parishioners and friends.

In keeping with a centuries-old tradition of celebrating a Jubilee Year every 25 years, Pope Francis has proclaimed a Jubilee for 2025. The Jubilee has its roots in ancient Israelite tradition. During the ancient Jubilee, prisoners would be released, slaves would be set free, and justice would be restored. It was a time of remembering and living God's grace. On this retreat we will reflect on this special time of Jubilee and how God sets us free to be people of peace, justice and equality.

Join us to spend time with other parishioners to pray, reflect and reconnect with God and each other. Joseph Nuzzi, our former Director of Evangelization, will be joining us as retreat master.

Registration is \$300. If you would like to reserve your spot, you can register now with a deposit of \$100.00 and make partial payments so long as your payment is complete by January 15, 2025.

For more information and to register, go to stfrancisnyc.org/st-francis-weekend-retreat-2025