




*Try out with joy  
and gladness:  
for among you is  
the great and Holy One  
of Israel.*  
— *Is 12*

## DECEMBER 15, 2024 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi • 135 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001  
tel 212.736.8500 • [www.stfrancisnyc.org](http://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 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

Please note that the 5:15 PM Saturday Mass will be discontinued as of December 22.

### 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](http://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, December 14, 2024

11:00 AM Thanksgiving Babut Talusan; Healing Dorothea Hogarth

4:00 PM Catherine & Edward Jacob (D); Rosalind Romero

## Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:00 AM Members Franciscan Mass League; Elizabeth Carole Michels (D)

9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community

11:00 John Caulfield (D); Ronald Paskewitz (D)

12:30 PM The Earth and for All of Us That We May Become Better Stewards of God's Creation; Lelina G. Torres (D)

5:00 Rufinita Moscaya (D)

## Monday, December 16, 2024

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM James Pratap (D); Aida Nery Sotto (D)

5:30 Petronila C. Diaz (D); Michael Padua (D)

## Tuesday, December 17, 2024

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Hugh A. Canavan (D); Hugh Canavan (D)

5:30 Guillermo Garrido (D)

## Wednesday, December 18, 2024

7:30 AM St. Francis of Assisi

12:00 PM Nheila Garces; Albert & Venera Costabile (D)

5:30 Pasquina D'Sa (D); Milagros Lopez (D)

## Thursday, December 19, 2024

7:30 AM St. Jude; Luis Torres & Juan R. Torres

12:00 PM Carole & Theodore Bardy (D); Eloy Sanchez & Virgilio R. Vegas

5:30 Amelia Siochi (D); Salvador Valenzona (D)

## Friday, December 20, 2024

7:30 AM Marie Claire Veriquin (D); Kevin Mulrennan

12:00 PM Muriel, Scott, Ross & Ryan; Teresa Mulrennan

5:30 Diane Bardy Zafiros; Alfredo & Dolores Tirona (D)

**This week's Bread and Wine:** Catherine Puangco

**This week's Sanctuary Lights:** Catherine Puangco; Adelaida Carlos; Intention of Dolores Henry

**Advent wreath donated by:** Dolores Henry in memory of Carmelite and Victor Maynard

## Parish Staff

Father Brian Jordan, O.F.M., Pastor [bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org)

Father Frank Critch, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Adult Education Coordinator [fcritch@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:fcritch@stfrancisnyc.org)

Father Jim Gannon, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar [jgannon@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:jgannon@stfrancisnyc.org)

Father Carolo Kim, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry [ckim@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:ckim@stfrancisnyc.org)

Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries [maugustin@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:maugustin@stfrancisnyc.org)

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## The Pastor's Corner



Dear sisters and brothers,

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate "Gaudete" Sunday (Latin for "rejoice.") All the readings remind us to rejoice in all circumstances over what God has done and what He will accomplish. Our Advent theme of "Light for the World, Care for Creation" calls us to

rejoice over God's magnificent gift of Creation by sending His only Son among us, fully human and fully divine!

Proof of my claim is the opening verse of today's first reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah: "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!, sing joyfully O Israel!" That is also echoed in today's second reading from St. Paul to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice!"

We are also called to rejoice in the prophetic stands taken by Catholics for justice and peace. Sister Dorothy Stang comes to mind as I

reflect on the words of John the Baptist. Sister Dorothy stood up to unscrupulous landowners in the rainforest of Brazil. She challenged all these nefarious characters on their damage of the precious rainforests regarding the Church's teaching on the care of creation. Due to her successful efforts, she was shot to death by henchmen of these landowners on February 12, 2005. Dorothy Stang, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, was 73 years old. The words from St. John the Baptist in today's Gospel of Luke are: "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed... Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone and be satisfied with your wages."

Let us rejoice this Advent this season, especially in memory of a heroic sister and martyr, Dorothy Stang.

Blessings to all,

Father Brian



### 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.

### REASSESSMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

After a careful reflection with the friars, staff members and fellow parishioners, we are making a pastoral change on how we administer the anointing of the sick on Thursdays. Beginning on Thursday, January 2, the communal anointing of the sick will be administered at the 12 noon Mass only for the seriously sick, the elderly, those preparing for a medical procedure, and those suffering from mental illness.

The US Catholic Catechism for Adults teaches of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick that "this sacrament of healing is given to a person who is seriously ill or in danger of death due to sickness or old age. Elderly people may be anointed if they are in a weak condition though no dangerous illness is present." We ask that everyone at

the 12 noon Mass on Thursdays to abide by this church teaching. The parish staff will plan 4 communal anointing of the sick ceremonies on weekends during the calendar year.



Join us for our final Advent Soup and Scripture reflection Monday December 16 at 6:30 pm. 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](http://stfrancisnyc.org/advent-soup-and-scripture)



# LAUDATO SI

## ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY



### Stop Collecting More Than What Is Prescribed

Pope Francis talks about the need to “break with the logic of self-ishness... a world of exacerbated consumption is at the same time a world which mistreats life in all its forms.”

Caring about the climate crisis is not a new and radical idea that started with Pope Francis. It is an essential part of Catholic social teaching, not an optional add-on. What might be radical is our understanding that everything is interconnected and that caring for the Earth is linked to caring for others. God is near. We don't need to collect more than what is prescribed.

“Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them.” — Pope Francis (LS209)

To learn more about the Laudato Si Circle at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, email [stfrancislaudatosi@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE 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](http://stfrancisnyc.org/st-francis-mass-cards-and-gifts)



### 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](http://stfrancisnyc.org/christmas-flowers)



Donations and the names of those received by December 20th will 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. During the ancient Jubilee, prisoners would be released, slaves would be set free, and justice would be restored. 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](http://stfrancisnyc.org/st-francis-weekend-retreat-2025)