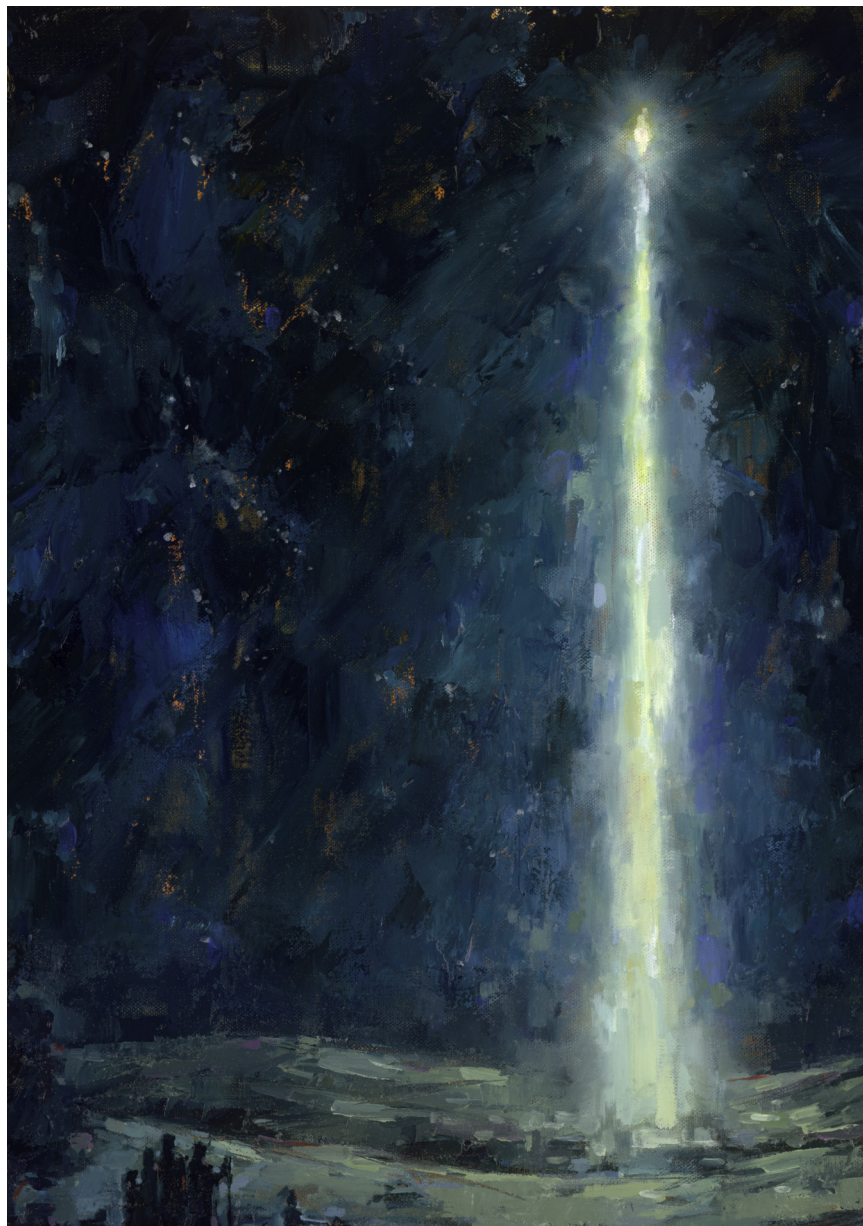


*The Lord
has done
great things
for us; we are
filled with
joy.*

— Ps. 126



**DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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 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, December 7, 2024

11:00 AM Eleanor's Friends & Family; Kathryn, Patrick Jr. & Patrick McManus, Sr.

4:00 PM Esther & Jose Medina (D); Teresa & Frank Badami (D)

Sunday, December 8, 2024

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

9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community

11:00 Kusganon Isidor Garces; Frank & Amelia Bettua

12:30 PM Arthur & Mary Bazzurro; Dr. Sarah Flanagan (D)

5:00 Teresa Veronica Badami (D); Thanksgiving For Carreon-Jenosa Family

Monday, December 9, 2024

7:30 AM Poor Souls

12:00 PM Thanksgiving Baltazar Miranda

5:30 Josefina Magno (D); Jim & Noreen Dowd (D)

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM No Intentions

5:30 Rodolfo Demafiles (D)

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

7:30 AM Constantine & Adelena D'Argenio

12:00 PM No Intentions

5:30 Pulquerio & Anastasia Tampos (D)

Thursday, December 12, 2024

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM No Intentions

5:30 Birthday/Thanksgiving - Edmon M. Kwan; Providencia Castro Gilbride

Friday, December 13, 2024

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Myra, Adele & Pastor (D)

5:30 Rosita Magno (D); Reynaldo Reyes (D)

This week's Bread and Wine, Sanctuary Lights: Catherine Puangco
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

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,

There seems to be a chill in the air in New York City! Not just a weather chill, but how we as a City deal with mental health illness. Back on November 20, a troubled young man robbed a gold-plated rose from our beloved 9/11 Memorial Shrine. He eventually was arrested and was

indicted for grand larceny. As a Franciscan parish, we hope and pray for psychiatric care for this young man. All New Yorkers should face up to mental health illness as a challenge and not just a societal blight. Whatever happened to good citizen groups who prophesy for justice in our streets?

In today's first reading from the prophet Baruch, we hear the words "Wrapped in a cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre, that displays the glory of the eternal name." Our Advent theme "Light of the World, Care of Creation" illuminates the need for improved mental health services in our great city. There should be a public-private partnership in which local government works with the private sector of non-profit groups to meet the challenge of mental health delivery of services.

Advent is a season of preparation for the second coming of the Lord. The words from the prophet Isaiah are included in today's Gospel passage of Luke: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his pathways." New York needs to prepare itself with this mental health crisis with care, compassion and professional expertise. It appears that this stolen rose sculpture will not return to our parish soon, if at all. Meanwhile, I will ask a committee including our Secular Franciscans to prepare a plan on how to replace this stolen relic with a meaningful replacement. No need to rush this month. We are preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace!

Blessings to all!

Father Brian

Additional Pastoral Notes

1. Sad to say, we will remove the 5:15 pm Saturday evening Mass from our weekend schedule as of December 21. Evidently, there was not a great response.
2. Please be generous in our upcoming Christmas collection. And please remember the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in your wills or estate planning.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

We will observe the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, December 10. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception usually falls on December 8th. This year, December 8th is the Second Sunday of Advent. In general, when a solemnity falls on a Sunday, the observation is moved to Monday. Because we will observe the feast of Saint Juan Diego on Monday, December 9th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be observed on December 10. Masses will be held at 7:30am, 12:00pm, and 5:30pm.

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.



Our Advent Soup and Scripture will be held Monday evenings at 6:30 pm on 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



“Look to the East and See Your Children”

Some day this week, get up extra early while it’s still dark. Sit in the dark and wait. Watch the way God’s light comes into the world — slowly and generously.

Let this be our cue to slow down, consume less, and conserve more for our children and for those who will come after us. Let this be our new tradition, to unplug a little more each day. Take advantage of the dark to enjoy a few hours of living by candlelight. Meditate on the beauty of lights in windows and on trees.

“Come Emmanuel! Make us ever more hopeful people for a hopeful planet. Let us be part of Your light of hope to the world.” — *from the Laudato Si advent prayer*

To learn more about the Laudato Si Circle at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, email 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 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



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 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