



*Be merciful,
just as
your Father
is merciful.*

— Lk 6:36

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 • SEVENTH 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 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 Mass

4:00 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 5:00 PM livestreamed Masses. Special events will also be livestreamed.

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday 7:30 AM; 12:00 PM, 5:30 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: Our Lady of Lourdes, after the 7:30 am and 5:30 pm Masses; The Sacrament of Anointing, after the 12pm Mass

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)

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

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Tyler Mazza, Bookkeeper tmazza@stfrancisnyc.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 22, 2025

11:00 AM Natalie Yeh; Thanksgiving To St. Anthony

4:00 PM William R. Cipriani (D); Nenita Octavio Malan (D)

Sunday, February 23, 2025

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

9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community

11:00 Poor Souls; Celestin Lawson

12:30 PM Thanksgiving To St. Andrew

5:00 Healing Providencia Castro Gilbride; Rolando O. Paulino (D)

Monday, February 24, 2025

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Veneracion Czobor

5:30 No Intentions

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Verna & Salvatore Bronzo & Family Living & Deceased; Jessie Q. Sotto (D)

5:30 No Intentions

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

7:30 AM Healing Mary Finuala Beale

12:00 PM No Intentions

5:30 No Intentions

Thursday, February 27, 2025

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM No Intentions

5:30 No Intentions

Friday, February 28, 2025

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM MATHEW VARKEY (D)

5:30 No Intentions

This week's Bread and Wine: Catherine Puangco

This week's Sanctuary Lights: Catherine Puangco; Carmelite & Victor Maynard (D); Healing Buenaventura Carlos

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.

The Pastor's Corner



Dear sisters and brothers,

A famous poet once wrote "A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes." There have been so many confusing changes in the past month both in our city and our country. Our US Constitution has been questioned, and many wonder where is the truth of the future of a

Constitution that has lasted over two hundred years.

Also, what does it mean to act from one's best self and not as a dictator. Today's readings imply that such integrity is best exemplified in moments of testing, whether the test is part of an unfolding divine plan or simply the integrity required to be a steadfast disciple of the Gospel.

In today's reading from the first Book of Samuel, David respects the authority of the leader of Israel, Saul, and does not vanquish him. David proclaims from the hilltop that "The Lord will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness." This just leadership of David is echoed by our first President of the USA, George Washington who told future leaders to "Observe good faith and justice towards all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony among all."

Today's Gospel passage from Luke maintains the just leadership of King David when Jesus provides three components:

1. Responding in love to enemies and opponents. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."
3. A transitional verse for mercy: "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."
3. Cautions against judging others: "Stop judging and you will not be judged... Forgive and you will be forgiven."

Our first Catholic president, John F. Kennedy once wrote about just leadership that "Leadership and learning are indispensable to one another."

These bold readings this weekend not only teach us to love our so-called enemies from without us. More importantly, we must learn to identify the enemies within us that requires true healing and humility.

America, please wake up!

Blessings to all,

Father Brian

WEEKDAY AND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Online Sunday Collections, 2/10-2/16: \$2,978.06

Figures for the In-Person Collections 2/10-2/16 will be included in next week's bulletin.

WILL AND ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR FEBRUARY 23

All parishioners and friends are invited to attend a will and estate planning seminar on Sunday, February 23 at 11 am in the St. Clare Room in the Parish House. The purpose of this seminar is to educate parishioners about how to include the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in your own will or estate planning. This seminar is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Father Brian at bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org or call him at 212-736-8500 ext. 232.

SUPPORT LENTEN PRAYER BOOKS

As we have in previous years, the Church of St. Francis of Assisi plans to offer Lenten daily prayer books to all parishioners and visitors. As the cost of printing rises, we need more support for outreach literature like this. Donate using this QR code to help bring the word to all!



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Wednesday will be March 5, 2025. The schedule for Mass, the Distribution of Ashes, and Confessions is as follows:

Masses: 7:30am; 12:00pm; 4:30pm (en español); 5:30pm; 6:30pm

Confessions: 8:00am - 9:00am; 11:00am - 1:00pm; 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Distribution of Ashes: 7:00am - 6:30pm; Lower Church

SYNOD SPIRITUALITY

The new Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe recently convened a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri to discuss various aspects of the worldwide Synod that recently took place in Rome, Italy. They have asked that each Franciscan placement of our new Province form a synodal group. Since Father Brian has been here for the last six months, he has formed a finance council and is in the process of forming a parish council and a Development Committee. Once all those three committees are fully formed, select members of those three committees will comprise the synodal group. This may take a few months, but it will help us to truly listen to voice of the laity through our newly-charged lay leaders. For more information, please contact Father Brian at bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org or call 212-736-8500 ext. 232.

LAUDATO SI

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY



A Pilgrimage Is Not A Vacation

Even if an appliance is “off,” if it’s plugged in, it’s still using electricity, and you’re still paying for it. It’s called Phantom Power, and we all use it. Think about your toaster not toasting all day long. Or the cell phone charger plugged in with the end dangling, waiting for us to come along. One simple way to start saving energy and money is in the kitchen. Get a surge protector and plug in anything that doesn’t require a clock — toaster, kettle, coffee grinder, charger. When you leave for the day or for any other extended period, you can turn it all off with a flip of a switch. When you do, you could say a little prayer for all those currently without electricity.

Inconvenient? Yes.

“What’s the use of a fine house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on.” — Henry David Thoreau

For more information about the Laudato Si Circle here at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, email stfrancislaudatosi@gmail.com

JOIN RENEW PROGRAM

Come join St. Francis of Assisi’s RENEW program, a group of retirees from throughout the metropolitan area. We tour museums, share holiday luncheons, visit exhibits, participate in spiritual activities, and make new friendships. If you are interested in joining, or for more information, call us on our Hotline, 212-736-8500, ext. 389. Please leave your name and number and someone will get back to you shortly.

SPRING ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Join us for our Spring Adult Education classes! This term’s courses include:

- Lent Soup and Scripture
- Jane Austen: A Writer and her Enduring Legacy
- Jane Hirshfield: Questions and Observations
- Jesus
- The Life and Spiritual Theology of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity
- The Life and Spiritual Theology of St. Titus Brandsma
- Saints, Anchorites, Mystics, and Holy Women from the Middle Ages

You can find course information and register at stfrancisnyc.org/courses

While we try to keep our registration fees low (generally about \$10 per hour of instruction) we understand that for some this can be a burden. We do not want anyone who wants to attend a class to be prohibited by economic hardship. If the fee is a financial burden, please email Fr. Brian Jordan, OFM at bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org for information on full or partial scholarships.

CARDINAL’S APPEAL

The pledge project for the Annual Cardinal’s Appeal will during the weekend of March 8/9. Our goal this calendar year 2025 is \$65,000. The parish finance council has granted permission to the pastor to cut a check out for the Cardinal’s Appeal for \$10,000. Before the check is sent out, we are seeking your input for how we will designate this check. There will be three choices: 1. Catholic education 2. Charitable Outreach or 3. Pastoral Administration, Grants and Services (we truly benefitted from the Archdiocesan Offices of Real Estate and Insurance. Their advice was invaluable.)

Please indicate your preference to Father Brian, our pastor by email at bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org, by phone at 212-736-8500 ext. 232, OR in person by February 23. Once again, your funds will go to a worthwhile cause. We truly mean that.



Our Lent Soup and Scripture will be held Mondays March 3 – March 31 at 6:30pm-8pm in the Francis Room. Together we will break bread, drink soup, and open the Sunday Lent Gospels. Join us for as many reflections as you’d like.

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 RSVP using this QR code, or at stfrancisnyc.org/soup-and-scripture-lent-2025/

