



*“It may bear fruit in the future.” — Lk 13:9*

## **MARCH 23, 2025 • THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

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)

Carl Rahl (Austrian, 1812-1865). *The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree*. Collection of the Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Vienna, Austria.

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

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](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 James Bernard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar [jbernard@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:jbernard@stfrancisnyc.org)

Father Luke Lee, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry [luke0829ofm@gmail.com](mailto:luke0829ofm@gmail.com)

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

Julie Berwick, Director, St. Francis Counseling Center [jberwick@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:jberwick@stfrancisnyc.org)

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Tyler Mazza, Bookkeeper [tmazza@stfrancisnyc.org](mailto:tmazza@stfrancisnyc.org)

# Mass Intentions for the Week

## Saturday, March 22, 2025

11:00 AM Intention of Linda Lazaro; Birthday Liz Creaven

4:00 PM Audrey Ann Bauman (D)

## Sunday, March 23, 2025

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

9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community

10:00 No Intentions

11:00 Thanksgiving to St. Andrew; Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

12:30 PM Healing Mary Finuala Beale; Healing Teresa Mulrennan

5:00 Thomas & Edith Castellana; Orlando Gregorio (D)

## Monday, March 24, 2025

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Sung Hee Sophia Kim (D); Napoleon Luna (D)

5:30 Artemas Beattie (D); Thanksgiving Farrah Mabasa

## Tuesday, March 25, 2025

7:30 AM Amelia & Frank Bettua

12:00 PM Yolanda Fonseca (D); Verna & Salvatore Bronzo & Family Living & Deceased

5:30 Manuel G. Eslao (D)

## Wednesday, March 26, 2025

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM No Intentions

5:30 Jean Castellana; Eleuteria Amora (D)

## Thursday, March 27, 2025

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Jose Medina (D)

5:30 Vincent & Ann Castellana; Christopher Temple (D)

## Friday, March 28, 2025

7:30 AM No Intentions

12:00 PM Mathew Varkey (D)

5:30 Raul Rodrigo Paloma (D)

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

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

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,

During the next three Sundays — March 23 till April 6 — our catechumens (6 English, 18 Korean) in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) will go through the Rite of Scrutinies. The “Scrutinies” are for those preparing for full entrance into the Catholic Church, who are led through prayerful reflections designed to help them turn from sin and grow in holiness. These “scrutinies” prepare these catechumens for full initiation into the Church on the Easter Vigil, April 19, 2025.

Today’s readings “scrutinize” all faithful Catholics through the presence of Almighty God. In our first reading from the Book of Exodus, Moses is “scrutinized” by God. God initiated this encounter out of love for His people. In revealing himself to Moses through the burning bush, God twice proclaimed that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God entrusted to Moses that He “is to be remembered through all generations.”

This message is re-emphasized in today’s Gospel passage from Luke. Jesus presents a parable (a teaching device) on how the vulnerable fig tree is like our spiritual life. We are given a choice: we can accept this invitation to change our ways and bear fruit OR we can remain stagnant and perish spiritually.

Our 24 catechumens and 15 candidates have made a choice to follow Jesus through these upcoming Scrutinies. May we be spiritually edified by their example!

Blessings to all,

Father Brian

### WEEKDAY AND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Online Sunday Collections, 3/10-3/16: \$3,035

In-Person Collections, Weekend Masses 3/15-3/16: \$5,286

In-Person Collections, Weekday Masses 3/10-3/14: \$1,742

Pope Francis has shared an audio message from the hospital thanking and blessing his well-wishers from around the world. The Vatican reports that his condition is now stable, and time is needed to ensure that he continues to improve.

Please continue praying for our Holy Father’s health as he recovers. And please pray for unity and solidarity in our universal Roman Catholic Church!



### Living the Hope of the Cross

In a world often marked by uncertainty and loss, the Cross stands as a beacon of hope and renewal. This Lent, we are invited to journey with Christ, embracing the promise of transformation and redemption. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, let us open our hearts to the hope found in the Cross and become bearers of that hope for a world in need.

### Vivir la Esperanza de la Cruz

En un mundo marcado por la incertidumbre y la pérdida, la cruz es como un faro de esperanza y renovación. En esta Cuaresma, estamos invitados a caminar con Cristo, aceptando la promesa de transformación y redención. A través de la oración, el ayuno y la limosna, abramos nuestros corazones en la esperanza que se encuentra en la cruz y convirtámonos en portadores de esperanza para un mundo necesitado.

### ‘십자가를 희망하며’

불확실성과 상실로 점철된 세상 안에서, 십자가는 희망과 새로움의 표지로서 단락을 이룹니다. 이번 사순절에 우리는 그리스도와 함께하는 여정에 변화와 구속의 약속을 기꺼이 받아들입니다. 기도와 금식, 그리고 자선을 통해, 우리의 마음을 열고 십자가 안에서 희망을 발견하여 도움이 필요한 세상을 위해 희망의 전달자가 됩시다.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CHURCH AT LENT AND EASTER

In the sacred season of Lent, the Cross stands as a beacon of hope and renewal. And our church stands as a beacon of light and a welcoming community. Your financial support keeps our church thriving — give today!

Since its founding, our beloved Church of St. Francis of Assisi has remained steadfast in its mission: to proclaim the Good News of the Resurrection, to spread the love and mercy of Christ, and to walk in the footsteps of our holy father, St. Francis. In this spirit, we continue to be a church for all people — a place where the doors remain open to welcome everyone, regardless of background, gender, ethnicity, or financial means. Here, all who seek hope and renewal find a home.

These past winter months have been particularly challenging for us financially. As you know, maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all who seek solace and community at St. Francis of Assisi Church comes with significant costs. Despite our best efforts to conserve resources, our electricity, heat, and water bills remain exceptionally high.

As Easter approaches — a season of renewal and hope — I invite you to support our mission of faith, service, and unity through this year's Easter Appeal.

Your generosity directly sustains our church, enriches our vibrant liturgies, and strengthens our essential pastoral programs. You can give online at [stfrancisnyc.org/easter-donations](http://stfrancisnyc.org/easter-donations) or with the QR code here.



## 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](mailto:bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org) or call 212-736-8500 ext. 232.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday of Lent following our 12 noon and 5:30pm Masses. Please join us.

## 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.



Our Lent Soup and Scripture will be held Mondays throughout March 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/](http://stfrancisnyc.org/soup-and-scripture-lent-2025/)

