



NOVEMBER 16, 2025 | THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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Saint Elisabeth of Hungary, 1882. Sándor Liezen-Mayer. Hungarian National Collection, Budapest, Hungary.

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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 Franciscan Friars of 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 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.

Welcome  *Witness*
Worship

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.
Rosary Group

Weekday Masses

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

Rosary Group: Every second Wednesday, 6:30 pm Clare Room

Holy Hour: Every third Thursday, after 5:30 pm Mass

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-Friday: 8:15 am - 5:15 pm (Lower Church)

Parish Staff

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

Father James Bernard, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Business Manager
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Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office rperaza@stfrancisnyc.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 15, 2025

11:00 AM Arthur & Mary Bazzurro; Thomas Fahey (D)

4:00 PM Katherine Miranda; Helene Ashner (D)

Sunday, November 16, 2025

8:00 AM Members Franciscan Mass League; Gretta & Charles Duffy (D)

10:00 Carlos Rafael Santiago

11:00 Helen Flanagan (D)

12:30 PM Philomina Nirmola D'Costa (D)

5:00 Thanksgiving for St Joseph; Joseph & Lillian

Monday, November 17, 2025

7:30 AM Thanksgiving for St Joseph

12:00 PM Anibal Guerrero

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Feast of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

7:30 AM Poor Souls; Thanksgiving for St Joseph

12:00 PM Isabel Rivera Sanchez (D); Repose for All Souls in Purgatory

5:30 Jennifer McNulty (D); Mrs Ethel Hale 90th Birthday

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

7:30 AM Thanksgiving for St Joseph

12:00 PM J.J. Medina (D); T'giving Fr. Douglas D. Badong

Thursday, November 20, 2025

12:00 PM Joseph D'Alessandro (D); Giuseppe D'Alessandro (D)

5:30 Myrta Vargas (L)

Friday, November 21, 2025

12:00 PM Leonida G. Soresca (D); Antonio S. Tinio, Jr.

5:30 Turingan Siblings;
Manette Marie Duverglass & Francelia Sedme (D)

This week's Bread and Wine and Sanctuary Lights:

Catherine Puangco

Due to our bulletin print schedule, we were unable to include the following names for intentions in last week's bulletin:

- Mr Charlie & Mrs Chris McHugh (D)
- Esperanza Carreon
- Mr Aubrey & Aine Devere (D)
- Healing Julian Anthony Bobb
- Mrs Mary & Mr Frank Flynn (D)
- Mike Flynn (D)

The Pastor's Corner

Each month a parish staff member or a dedicated parishioner writes a reflection on an area of their expertise. This week, Emily Marcelli reflects upon the importance of Secular Franciscans in our parish.

What About Us? by Emily Marcelli, OFS

How did you discover the Secular Franciscan Order?

My experience begins in the 1950s and Thanksgiving dinner at my grandmother's. As usual, my family around the table were joined by two 'guests' of her brother, my great Uncle Joseph. My grandmother, slightly exasperated at the fact that he always seemed to find a few 'bums' to invite to family meals asked "...could we just have family for once- and not strangers?" To which Uncle Joseph replied- "...there are no 'strangers' here- these are our brothers." And so I learned that Uncle Joseph was a Third Order Franciscan, now referred to as a Secular Franciscan. I discovered the Seculars by seeing love in action. Some years later, my father would also join the Seculars, and so you might say, I am a third generation of Secular Franciscans in our family.

What is the Secular Franciscan Order?

It is a branch of the Franciscan family. St Francis founded three Orders: The Order of Friars Minor for his brothers, the Second with St Clare would be the Poor Clares and for us- people living in the world- the Third Order Secular now known as the Secular Franciscan Order. I can imagine the lay faithful in Francis' time asking him 'what about us?' St Francis established the Order in response to the many laypeople of his day who wanted to follow his way of life but were married or single and had lives in the world. Each Order has its own Rule- the Secular Franciscan Rule was written in 1221 and approved by Pope Honorius III in 1226. Since then, the Secular Franciscans have been an official order within the Catholic Church. Our Rule has had a few updates in its nearly 800 years, and the latest was by Pope Paul VI in 1978. As Pope St John Paul II observed- it is the first Rule written for lay faithful in a secular state. Today the Order has an estimated 300,000 Professed members worldwide, with 12,000 in the US in 600 Fraternities.

What is the purpose of the Secular Franciscan Order?

To live the Gospel life in the world. Not called to leave the world- but to stay and transform it. As Pope St John Paul II described us, "...you work in the world as leaven, filled with the Christian Spirit, conscious of the duty to walk generously in the life of holiness." We follow the charism of our founder, St Francis, to spread the peace and love of Christ through peacemaking and serving the marginalized.

How is the Secular Franciscan Order different from other groups in the Church?

Of the many groups and societies in the Church today, Secular Franciscans are unique in several ways. First, it is a Franciscan vocation. After a time of orientation and formation, we make a public and permanent profession to the Order. It is not a vow, but a commitment that is lifelong.

Secondly, our Franciscan life takes place within a local community called a Fraternity. Life in Fraternity is an essential aspect to being a Secular Franciscan. For example, here at St Francis of Assisi Church, there are three Secular Franciscan Fraternities. Each Fraternity meets monthly in person or by zoom, and we stay in touch with each other throughout the month through shared prayer and service opportunities.

Thirdly, our Rule mandates we participate in apostolic ministries. Whether it is working with the homeless, parish service, social justice issues or protecting the environment, every Secular Franciscan will find themselves called to action with a joyful heart.

How does someone know they are called to this vocation?

Well, the invitation to this or any vocation, is the call of the Holy Spirit. We don't do any recruitment since the call usually comes from experiencing someone who is a Franciscan and being led by the Spirit to find out more. For me, it was my father and Uncle Joseph. I could see in their lives there was something different about the way they followed the Lord and cared for other people.

Practically speaking, any Catholic 18 years or older could be invited to attend a Fraternity meeting as a visitor. After a few visits, the person may be considered an Inquirer and attend the monthly Fraternity meetings. If the decision is made to continue, the person would be considered a Candidate and begin 24-36 months of formal formation education and involvement in the Fraternity. This allows for plenty of time before Profession to get to know if this is the vocation you are being called to.

How can someone find out more about the Secular Franciscans in their area?

The easiest way to find out more about the Secular Franciscans or locate a Fraternity to visit would be to call 1-800-FRANCIS or info@secularfranciscansusa.org.

PASTORAL NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

1. After all the Masses during the weekend of November 21 and 22, all parishioners and friends are asked to sign a petition asking the Federal government to increase the budget of the US Department of Agriculture in order to distribute more food for the needy and for research studies on nutrition. There will be tables in both on the lobby in front of the church and by the 32nd Street entrance to sign this petition. The petitions will be sent to the Manhattan office of US Senator Kristin Gillibrand who is on the US Senate Appropriations Committee. This joint effort is sponsored by our Laudato Si Committee and our newly-formed Social Concerns Committee. Please sign the petition.
2. Please join us for an Advent Day of Recollection "Our Living Hope" which will be led by Professor Nathalie Imperatori-Lee, a theology professor at Fordham University. This will take place on Saturday afternoon, December 6 from 12 noon till 3:30 pm in San Damiano Hall. After light refreshments, Professor Imperatori-Lee will discuss the closing month of the Jubilee Year of Hope with the message of synodality both inspired during the papacy of the late Pope Francis. A free will donation is welcome at the door. All parishioners and friends of the parish are most welcome to join us on this day of Advent Spirituality.

NOTICE ABOUT UPCOMING NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

November 27 & 28: The office will be closed and there will be no confessions for Thanksgiving and the day after the holiday. There will be one Mass at 9 am on Thanksgiving Day.

WEEKDAY AND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

In-Pew Collections

First Collection:

Sunday, November 9 \$6,148.00

Second Collection:

Arcdiocese Military Contribution for Chaplains

Sunday, November 9 \$1,294.00

November 3-7 \$1,967.00

Online Collections

Updates will be provided in next Bulletin.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TO THE PARISH

Our parish relies on the support of our parishioners and community members to sustain and grow our programs, ministries, and community. You can make a one-time donation or set-up a recurring donation by scanning the QR code to the donation page.



We thank you for your continued support and generosity!