



DECEMBER 14, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi • 135 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001
tel 212.736.8500 • www.stfranciscnyc.org

Advent wreath with violet and rose candles - 3 lights (17 December 20). PHILIP János. PHILIP János, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.

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.



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

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
jbernard@stfrancisnyc.org

Father Jim Gannon, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar jgannon@stfrancisnyc.org

Father Luke Lee, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry
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Julie Berwick, Director, St. Francis Counseling Center jberwick@stfrancisnyc.org

Edward A. Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org

Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office rperaza@stfrancisnyc.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 13, 2025

11:00 AM Arthur & Mary Bazzurro; Luz E. Arroyo (D)

4:00 PM Catherine & Edward Jacob (D); Hector Steffani (D)

Sunday, December 14, 2025

8:00 AM Members Franciscan Mass League;
Deceased Members of the Valenciano Family

10:00 Ponciano Reyes Sr. (D)

11:00 Thanksgiving Babot S. Talusan;
Thanksgiving Baltazar Miranda Family

12:30 PM Jeffrey Israel (D); Leo Alexander Sarzabal (D)

5:00 Amelia Lao & Wingco Family (D); Anthony Greco (D)

Monday, December 15, 2025

7:30 AM John Caulfield (D)

12:30 PM Anne Gallagher (D)

5:30 Birthday of Rufinita A. Moscaya (D); Bday Catharine G. Lee

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

7:30 AM All Deceased of the Bazzurro Family

12:00 PM James Pratap (D)

5:30 Khodada Farmanfarmaian (D); Aurora Dominguez (D)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

12:00 PM Hugh A. Canavan; Allan Norman Deshield Vernon Sr. (D)

5:30 Anibel Guerrero

Thursday, December 18, 2025

7:30 AM Nheila Garces Birthday

12:00 PM Jim Broe (D)

Friday, December 12, 2025

7:30 AM Birthday Johanna Villa

12:00 PM Maria Carnelli (D); Carole & Theodore Bardy (D)

5:30 Amelia Siochi (D); Petronila "Baby" Bernardo Enriquez (D)

This week's Bread and Wine and Sanctuary Lights:

Catherine Puangco

Advent Candles: The Advent wreath candles were donated by Cassandra Smith in honor of her two sons, Jay D. Smith and Lester B. Edwards and their families.

SPECIAL NOTE ON UPPER CHURCH (M-F)

Please note that the Upper Church will open at 11:30 am Mondays through Friday starting December 15.

The Pastor's Corner

Dear sisters and brothers,

Greetings!

This third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday which in Latin means "rejoice." The candle will be pink to represent communal joy. The first reading from Isaiah intones our call to rejoice with the prophecy that God overcomes a variety of challenges to nature. As the wasteland changes to lush land, the people rejoice. Isaiah weaves together a tapestry of people and things who rejoice in God's transformative work. The last verse from this passage of Isaiah reads "they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee."

In today's Gospel passage from Matthew, John the Baptist has a prominent role as the last of the Old Testament of the prophets. While preaching and preparing the way for Jesus Christ, John suddenly finds himself in prison. Jesus begins his public ministry while acknowledging the mission of John the Baptist, his earthly cousin. However, Jesus reveals to the People of God, his messianic mission to serve those both on Earth and in Heaven. Jesus proclaims at the end of the Gospel passage "there has been none greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

There are many prophets in our world today. The late Alexei Navalny was a dedicated prophet for freedom in Russia. It cost him his life. Maria Machado, this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner is a prophet for democracy and free elections in Venezuela. Doctors and nurses in Gaza are prophets for peace while bringing food and medical care to that war-stricken region. Imprisoned priests in Cameroon are prophets for religious liberty in Cameroon. Fired workers trying to organize labor unions in Amazon facilities are prophets for workers' rights. Protestors advocating for immigrants, asylees and refugees are prophets of the rule of law. The list goes on! We rejoice with them to bring the Kingdom of God here on Earth!

Blessings to all,

Father Brian



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

December 15-December 23: Simbang Gabi Nine-Day Advent Novena Masses

The Ugnayan Filipino Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi is hosting its Simbang Gabi Nine-Day Advent Masses. Weekday Masses at 6:15 pm in the Lower Church and Weekend Masses at 3:00 pm in the Lower Church.

Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Confessions at 8:00 am - 9:30 am and 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Masses at 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm (Korean), and 10:00 pm

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day

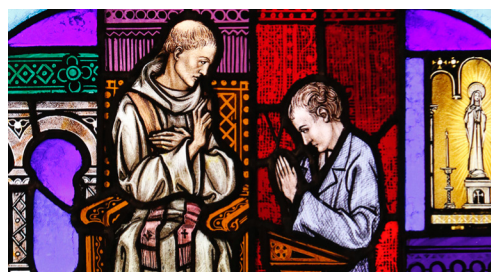
Masses at 8:00 am, 9:15 am (Korean), 11:00 am, and 12:30 pm

Friday, December 26: Day After Christmas

Parish office will be closed and there will be no confessions. There will be one Mass at 12 noon.



Scan the QR code to read Father Brian's letter for Christmas with the theme of Holy Night. You will also be able to make your Christmas gift to the parish via the QR code. We thank you for supporting the Franciscan Friars and the parish this Christmas season.



DECEMBER 15: RECONCILIATION MONDAY

Reconciliation Monday will be observed throughout the Archdiocese of New York on Monday, December 15th. Our confession schedule that day is as follows: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please plan accordingly.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABILITY

Reach out to family and friends with
*St. Francis of Assisi Christmas
Cards!*

These cards are the perfect way to
share the joy of Christmas while
helping support the ministries and
outreach programs. Each card you

To order cards, visit
www.stfrancisnyc.org
or call 212.736-



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHRISTMAS CARDS

Share the joy of Christmas with loved ones while helping to support our parish ministries and outreach programs with St. Francis of Assisi Christmas cards. To order cards, visit www.stfrancisnyc.org (scroll to "St. Francis Mass Cards and Gifts" and click "Visit Store") or call 212-736-8500, ext 307.

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1: ANNUAL PARISH WINTER RETREAT

The Church of St. Francis of Assisi is again offering a WINTER RETREAT FOR MINISTERS, VOLUNTEERS & PARISHIONERS. Step away from the busyness of life and find renewal in God's presence. Join us for our parish retreat—a time to rest, reflect, and reconnect in faith.

This retreat is a chance for parishioners to escape the city for a couple of days to connect with one another and reconnect with God. There will be time to pray, hear talks, discuss the faith, and enjoy quiet time on the beautiful property of the Mt. Alvernia Franciscan Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, NY. Scan QR code for more information, fees, and to register.



PASTORAL NOTES

1. Father Brian Jordan, our pastor, has had his email account "bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org" hacked by predatory thieves. They pose as Father Brian asking for money through gift cards in case of a fake emergency. **Please ignore for it is a vicious scam. Father Brian will only ask for money for the parish from the pulpit, the bulletin, the website or in-person.** Never by emails! Many other pastors from the Archdiocese of New York and other local dioceses are also victims of these vicious scams.

2. Our January 1st Mass schedule for New Year's Day is as follows: Korean Mass at 9:15 am and a 12 noon Mass in English. Both will take place in the Upper Church. All are welcome!

WEEKDAY AND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Due to early deadlines for our bulletin print schedule for the Christmas season, we are unable to include up-to-date information for our collections in this bulletin. We will provide updates as they become available each bulletin being drafted.

In-Pew Collections

Sunday, November 30	\$3,648.00
November 24-28	\$1,252.00

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!