



MARCH 22, 2026 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

The annunciation, University of Gladzor. 1323. Toros Taronatsi. Matenadaran, Yerevan, Armenia. Matenadaran, Public domain, 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.

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.

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 Holy 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

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Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 21, 2026

4:00 PM Charles A. Sclafani (D); Ana Zuluaga (D)

Sunday, March 22, 2026

8:00 AM Members Franciscan Mass League

12:30 PM Patria Fausto (L); John Roxas (L)

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

5:30 PM Artemas Beattie (D); Catherine J. Gastador (D)

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | The Annunciation of the Lord

7:30 AM Arthur & Mary Bazzurro (D);

Healing Anne Mellier Luguia

12:00 PM Soul of Salvatore & Verna Bronzo (D);

Yolanda Fonseca (D)

5:30 Healing Anne Mellier Luguia

Thursdays, March 26, 2026

12:00 PM Sr. Mary Burns (D); Albert & Venera Costabile (D)

Friday, March 27, 2026

7:30 AM Franciscan Friars; Bok Cho (D)

12:00 PM Jose Medina (D)

5:30 Christopher Temple (D); John Rojas (L)

This week's Bread and Wine and Sanctuary Lights:

Catherine Puangco

The following names were not included in previous bulletins at time of printing submission:

Blessing for Nkem Mabamelu; For Guidance Arinze M. Mbamelu;

Healing Jean McPhillip; Jean Castellana (D); Sarah Coyne (L);

Blessings for Immaculate Egboosi; Intention of Alexander Egboosi

The Pastor's Corner

Dear sisters and brothers,

Greetings! How is this war in Iran justified from a Catholic point of view? MY heart goes out for the 175 Iranian girls killed in an accidental bombing by US weapons in the early days of the war. This is more than collateral damage. This is immoral—these were children going to school!! Also, I am equally grieved by the loss of US military personnel who were engaged in the war. What about their families and loved ones? They did not die in vain. As Plato once wrote, “only the dead know the end of war!”



Recent remarks by the Holy Father, Pope Leo and leading Cardinals in the US calling for the end of this inspires me to examine the just war theory from Catholic Social Teaching. The just war theory was first addressed by St. Augustine of Hippo, a theologian and philosopher from the 4th and 5th century. The hierarchy gradually developed this theory into four conditions for a war to be just. 1.) The war must be declared by a lawful authority; 2.) There must be a just cause, a serious grievance for going to war; 3.) There must be a right intention such as true self-defense—not mere vengeance and 4.) There must be a right use of means. That is, the war must be carried out in a moral manner. If these four conditions are met, then the war is just. If not, then it is unjust. Many ethicists and theologians believe the last just war was World War Two.

Why am I writing about this issue? I minister among many New Yorkers and among them are NYPD and other law enforcement agencies. They are preparing for a possible retaliatory attack here in the New York City area from those sympathetic to the previous leadership in Iran. My God! Two wrongs do not make a right. What we need is a cease fire agreement and sit down for peace talks.

Today's Gospel from John literally and figuratively deals with the issue of life and death. The passage also deals with Lazarus rising from the dead. Jesus calls us to rise to the occasion “This illness is not to end in death but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Through his self-revelation, Jesus proclaims “I AM the resurrection and the life.” Jesus challenges all who believe in Him to a trusting faith that goes beyond human categories and messianic titles.

Let us all abide by the teachings of the Prince of Peace—Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessings to all,

Father Brian

TUESDAY, APRIL 28: 2026 GALA TO END HUNGER

The 2026 Gala to End Hunger will take place in St. Ignatius Loyola's Wallace House on Park Avenue in Manhattan on Tuesday, April 28 at 6 pm. Tickets are available by visiting bread.org/gala for more information. The program will feature Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Capuchin, Archbishop Emeritus of Boston. To become a member of Bread for the World and supporter of ending hunger, visit www.bread.org.

CELEBRATE & SUPPORT THE PARISH THIS EASTER SEASON

HOLY WEEK 2026

Thursday, April 2

Confessions: 8 am-10 am | 11am-1 pm
Multicultural Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7 pm

Friday, April 3

Confessions: 8 am-11 am
Seven Last Words: 12 pm
Liturgy of the Passion: 3 pm | 7 pm (Korean)
Stations of the Cross: 5 pm

Saturday, April 4

The Great Vigil of Easter: 5 pm | 8 pm (Korean)

Sunday, April 5

Mass of the Lord’s Resurrection:
8 am | 9:15 am (Korean) | 10 am (Español)
11 am | 12:30 pm | 5 pm



Read Fr. Brian’s Easter letter and make your Easter contribution online by scanning the QR code.



Celebrate Easter by honoring your loved ones through flowers that will decorate the parish this Easter season and with special intentions.



WEEKDAY AND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

In-Pew Collections

Sunday, March 15	\$4,500.00
March 9-13	\$2,253.00

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!