



Church of
S A I N T
F R A N C I S
O F A S S I S I
The Heart of
New York

FEBRUARY 26, 2012
FIRST 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 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 Holy Name Province 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 Masses

4:00, 5:15 PM (Organ & Cantor)

Sunday Masses

8:00 AM (Organ & Cantor), 9:15 AM (Korean),
9:30 AM (Organ & Cantor; Lower Church),
11:00 AM (Organ & Choir); 12:30 PM (Organ & Cantor),
5:00 & 6:15 PM (Contemporary Ensemble)

Weekday Masses

7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 11:30 AM;
12:15, 1:15, 4:30, 5:30 PM

Saturday Morning Masses

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM

First Friday Filipino Community Mass

6:00 PM (Lower Church)

Holidays

Consult the weekly bulletin and the posted notices for New Year's Day, January 2, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, Easter Monday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas, and December 26.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM; 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Confesiones en español Martes 11:30 - 1:00 y 4:30 - 6:00

Saturday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM; 4:30 - 6:00 PM

DEVOTIONS

Tuesday

St. Anthony Devotions, after all Masses starting at 8:00 AM

Wednesday

St. Jude Devotions, after 8:00 AM, 12:15 & 5:30 PM Masses

Thursday

Mass and Prayers for the Sick: 12:15 PM

Friday

Stations of the Cross after 12:15 & 5:30 PM Masses

First Friday

Sacred Heart Devotions after 12:15 & 5:30 PM Masses

Saturday

The Rosary after the 11:00 Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday-Saturday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Lower Church)

CONSULTATION

A member of the pastoral staff is available for consultation on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The Pastor's Corner



Temptations. The Gospel on the First Sunday of Lent tells of Jesus being tempted. Even Jesus was tempted. We cannot deny that there are many temptations around, and it is not easy to resist them because, at the moment, they may not appear to be harmful to us or divert us from what we really need to do. There are negative consequences to them if we give in, but we are strengthened in spirit and character when we resist and deal with them. What a way to begin Lent!

Congratulations to our Elect! On Sunday afternoon our Catechumens and Candidates will gather at St. Patrick's Cathedral with people from other RCIA Programs in the Archdiocese of New York for the Rite of Election led by Cardinal Dolan. This Rite shows how the church is growing as individuals respond to God's call to become a member of the Catholic Church. Our Catechumens now become the "Elect." Our prayers are with them as they journey through Lent to sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil.

I hope that you will find the Lenten booklet that was given out at Mass last weekend inspiring and helpful. It's good to have something to read each day to help us get the most out of the Lenten season. The brochure that you received lists the schedule of services throughout this season, so take time to drop in during the day. The church is a peaceful place in the midst of the busyness of Manhattan.

– Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE

Lent is a season that can be a time of renewal for how we are doing as God's stewards. It is a time for us to examine ourselves to see if we're going in the right direction and if we have used wisely all that God has given us.

Our day to day demands can prevent us from examining how we use the time that God gives us each day, how we use our talents and abilities and how we use the money that we earn. Any examination of this begins with prayer and how prayer is part of our lives.

A good steward is one who takes time every day to pray. Beginning the day by being aware that this day is a gift from God and ending the day by reviewing what we did with the hours that we had are good practices. During the day we try to continue to be aware that we are in God's presence. We also need to allow God to speak to us. It is not easy to find some quiet moments, yet they can be the most refreshing and calming moments of our day. Treat yourself to some quiet moments during Lent.

Up Front

ARCHDIOCESAN APPEAL

If you received a letter from Cardinal Dolan regarding a pledge to the Archdiocesan Appeal, we ask you to think what you'd like to give and make a pledge now. The funds received from the Appeal assist needy parishes and struggling Catholic schools, religious education, the training of seminarians, outreach to the needy, and more. There will be a Commitment Sunday next weekend for those who did not receive the letter from the Cardinal. Our parish goal is \$77,500. Help us reach our goal!

the
**STEWARDSHIP
APPEAL 2012**

LGBT LENTEN SCRIPTURE SERIES



Delve into the "Castle of Your Soul"... Break open the Lenten Gospels with fellow LGBT brothers and sisters.

We will gather in the Clare Room from 6:00 to 7:30 PM during the

Sundays of Lent: February 26 , March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25.

Join us at the 5:00 PM Mass and continue your prayer by taking a deeper look at the Gospel of the day and how it applies to your daily life and journey with God.

If you are interested or have questions please contact Meredith Augustin at maugustin@stfrancisc.org.

YOUNG ADULT SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Break open the Lenten Gospels with our pastor, Fr. Andrew, and other young adults in their 20's and 30's. Instead of giving up something for Lent this year, feed your soul with the richness of the Lenten Sunday gospel readings.



We will meet in the 3rd floor chapel of the St. Francis House from 6:30 to 8:00 PM on the Mondays of Lent from February 27th to March 26th.

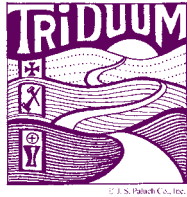
Join us for prayer, a deeper look at the Gospel and discussion of how it applies to our daily life and journey with God.

Build community... be grounded... get inspired.

If you are interested or have questions please contact Joseph Nuzzi at jnuzzi@stfrancisc.org.

Coming Events at St. Francis

LENT MORNING OF PRAYER



The Lent Morning of Prayer is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2012 in San Damiano Hall. It will be a meditation on the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter led by Fr Kevin Tortorelli, O.F.M. The day begins with morning prayer at 10:30. The fee is \$15 (including coffee and refreshments on arrival). Please register online or use the Adult Ed brochure registration form or at the hospitality desk in St. Francis House, or call 212-736-8500, Ext. 311 and leave a message.

DONATIONS FOR BREAD, WINE & SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Now you can donate the bread and wine used at Mass or a sanctuary light which burns for a week in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one or ones. Each weekend the bread and wine that is offered at nine Masses may be donated, and each week the three sanctuary lights in the Upper Church, Lower Church and Friary Chapel may be donated. The names of the person(s) being remembered will be printed in the bulletin. Call the reception desk of the church at 212-736-8500, Ext. 352 to reserve a date and time.

ST. FRANCIS ADULT EDUCATION: FOUNDATIONS OF LITURGICAL MUSIC

We are pleased to announce an additional course for the Spring session of the St. Francis Adult Education Program. This course will explore the foundations of Liturgical music with special attention given to the development of the structure of the Mass, the development of Gregorian chant and the beginnings of polyphony.

The classes will meet on Thursdays, 12:00–1:15 PM, from March 1 to May 3, 2012. The instructor is William Mulligan, M.Mus., an adjunct instructor of music at Manhattan College and also one of our cantors at St. Francis of Assisi.

Please fill out this form and return it with your check or money order to Fr. Kevin Tortorelli, O.F.M., Adult Education Center, 135 W. 31st Street, New York, NY 10001. The fee is \$25.00.

Name _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

ENHANCE YOUR INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP

As part of our ongoing “job search ministry”, The Church of St. Francis of Assisi will sponsor its third workshop, “Enhance Your Interviewing Skills” on Friday, March 16, 2012, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM in St. Francis House, 135 West 31st Street.

This workshop is designed to help you improve your skills and ultimately your performance during the interview. Nobody likes to interview but the better prepared you are, the better your chances of success. Do it now!

The workshop will address the interview protocol, preparation for the interview questions and practice interviews which will



prepare those who participate (volunteers) as well as observers. The program will offer the forum to exchange ideas and concerns about interviewing, the *do's* and *don'ts* as well as the tough questions like, “How much money do you want?” and “What have you been doing since your last job?”

This Workshop requires a reservation as space is limited. Please call Frances McPartland for an appointment at 212-736-8500, Ext. 357 and leave your name and phone number.

There is no cost to the participant other than placing your name ‘in the hat’ for a practice interview. These will be used only if we do not have the volunteers.

The workshop leader will be Paul A. Frank, a member of RENEW at St. Francis. He is a retired executive with an extensive background in management and business development. Now a consultant in the financial services industry, Paul is director of New Horizons, a ministry in support of people searching for new careers.

CLASSIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS TOUR

A pre-Christmas tour of Munich, Innsbruck, Wurzburg, Nuremburg, and Strasbourg featuring their Christmas markets will be held December 4-12, 2012. This is the first announcement of the tour that is being offered by St. Francis Church through Colette Vacations. The 9-day tour includes 11 meals, hotel accommodations, transfers, bus travel, and air fare for \$2,599 (double) or \$2,799 (single). This is a great way to see a number of famous cities as well as the opportunity to visit and shop at the famous Christmas Markets in each city. A deposit of \$250 holds a space and this must be done by July 5th. Final payment due October 5th. There will be more information available soon on the church’s website and there will be an information program to be announced. Interested? E-mail Fr. Andrew at areitz@stfrancisnyc.org.

Treasures from Our Tradition

By the First Sunday of Lent, many people have given up on “giving up.” Yet experiencing hunger for favorite things is a sign of a desire to face our deepest hungers. We do not embrace fasting as individuals, but rather as the community’s way of life in this season.

Sometimes it helps to see Sunday as an oasis in the Lenten desert, a place where fasting is not as strictly observed. If we count the days of the Lenten calendar, starting backward from the end of Lent on Holy Thursday, it is difficult to measure the forty days. Many are surprised to learn that the Sundays are counted as part of Lent, but are not counted in tallying the

forty days of the Lenten fast. For that, we count the fast backward into last week, beginning on Ash Wednesday. So, until today we have been in the Lenten fast, days that function as a kind of overture to a symphony of conversion.

Today Lent solemnly begins, marked in many places by the sending of catechumens and candidates to the bishop for the call to the Easter sacraments. Tomorrow with them, we embrace the Lenten fast again. Today we are exactly forty days from the opening of the Paschal Triduum on Holy Thursday.

—James Field



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The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

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Friars in Residence

David Convertino, O.F.M., Director of St. Anthony’s Guild

John Felice, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

Michael Harlan, O.F.M., Secretary of Holy Name Province

John McVean, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

Dominic Monti, O.F.M., Provincial Vicar, Holy Name Province

John F. O’Connor, O.F.M., Provincial Minister, Holy Name Province

Brian Smail, O.F.M., Director of Vocations, Holy Name Province

Thomas Walters, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

Dennis Wilson, O.F.M., Treasurer of Holy Name Province

Mass Intentions for the Week

According to an old tradition, Catholics may offer a contribution to the Church and request an intention for a particular Mass. This custom invites the faithful into a deeper celebration of the Eucharist by uniting their sacrifice with that of Christ. It also helps to support the work of the Church. Because of this latter reason, the contribution is called a "stipend." We encourage you to remember your deceased loved ones by making an offering. You may also make an offering for the living, especially for the sick, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries, or for any particular intention.

The offering or stipend for each Mass celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi is \$15 (this stipend is determined by the Archdiocese of New York). Please note that the intention is not announced verbally at Mass.

We have attractive Mass cards for both the living and the deceased for no extra charge. Please visit our reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House for more information.

Saturday, February 25, 2012

8:00 AM Thomas F. Cahill (D.)
9:30 Emanuel Family
11:00 Carolann Zani (D.)
4:00 PM Elizabeth & Thomas Mealey (D.)
5:15 Maureen Heins (D.)

Sunday, February 26, 2012

8:00 AM Franciscan Mass League
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Magdalena Vallozzi (D., Birthday)
11:00 Emanuel Family
12:30 PM Dory Mount, Birthday Thanksgiving
5:00 Anthony Greco, 3rd Birthday
6:15 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

Monday, February 27, 2012

7:00 AM Thomas F. Cahill (D.)
7:30 Scotty Ross, for speedy recovery
8:00 Marie C. Barbera (D., Birthday)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Adrian R. Hanna (D.)
12:15 PM William Glenn
1:15 José Hernandez (D.)
4:30 Romelia & Sergio Norena (D.)
5:30 Nick Petraglia (D.)

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

7:00 AM Members of St. Anthony's Guild (L&D)
7:30 Ludovic Kemmeth
8:00 Gary Rotella
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Cecilia M. Kearney (D.)
12:15 PM Michael Dellarena (D.)
1:15 In honor of St. Anthony
4:30 Simon & Bozica Dragulj (D.)
5:30 Mortimer Zuckerman, for health and healing

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

7:00 AM Thomas F. Cahill (D.)
7:30 Anna Severe (D.)
8:00 Angelo Petraglia (D.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Marie Chery, Thanksgiving
12:15 PM Angelo & Lucia Musto (D.)
1:15 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony for job obtained
4:30 Gerard Elie (D.)
5:30 Rose Petraglia (D.)

Thursday, March 1, 2012

7:00 AM Thomas & Edith Castellana (D.)
7:30 Thomas Bake (D.)
8:00 Nicholas & Maria Avansino (D.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Patrick Byrne (D.)
12:15 PM The Sick
1:15 The Meller Family (L&D)
4:30 In honor of St. Anthony
5:30 Lena Laurino (D.)

Friday, March 2, 2012

7:00 AM Ginevra & Francesco Marino (D.)
7:30 Mary C. Reilly (D.)
8:00 Helen Ausank (D.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Innocent Victims of Abortion (D.)
12:15 PM Floyd Klapper (D.)
1:15 In honor of the Blessed Mother
4:30 Patrick Quaranto, Sr. (D.)
5:30 Drury & Cuellar Ayala Families (D.)

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Directory

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE: 135 W. 31st Street • SAN DAMIANO HALL: 127 W. 31st Street

ST. FRANCIS ADULT EDUCATION CENTER: 139 W. 31st Street

Adult Education

A variety of courses in Scripture, church history, spirituality, personal growth, and other topics are offered at noon and in the evenings in the Fall and Spring months. Special brochures with course offerings are published prior to the start of each term and are available at the church entrances. Fr. Kevin Tortorelli, O.F.M., Director; 212-736-8500, Ext. 311.

Breadline for the Poor

The largest and oldest of St. Francis' social ministries, the Breadline provides food for hungry people every morning of the year at 7:00 AM. For more information, and to help support the Breadline, go to www.stfrancisbreadline.org. Fr. Michael Carnevale, O.F.M., Director; 212-736-8500, Ext. 304.

Our bulletin is supported through the generosity of the advertisers on the back page. During these difficult economic times, please support our advertisers with your patronage, and let them know that you appreciate their support of our parish.

Counseling Center

Counseling services are available on a short- or long-term basis by appointment only. Sliding scale fee structure. Call 212-736-8500, Ext. 290 for information or to make an appointment.

The Good Word

Each day a special message is given by one of the friars or Partners in Ministry of St. Francis Church. Call 212-736-9233.

Immigration Center

A welcome and referral center for newly-arrived immigrants and refugees to various social agencies. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 to 7:00 PM on the 2nd floor of St. Francis House by appointment only. Maria Clara Delgado, Director; 212-736-8500, Ext. 302.

Korean Ministry

The Korean Community worships in Korean regularly every Sunday at 9:15 AM. Fr. Andrew Hwang, O.F.M.; 212-736-8500, Ext. 355.

LGBT Outreach

Gay and lesbian people of faith are welcome to explore their spirituality and share their experience, strength, and hope with one another. We actively provide and promote faith opportunities to build community for those who have experienced spiritual disconnection. For more information, contact Meredith Augustin, liaison for the LGBT ministry, at 212-736-8500, Ext. 327.

Mass Cards & Perpetual Enrollments

Available at the Reception Desk in the lobby of St. Francis House. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM; Saturday: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday: 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Music Ministry

Using the best of traditional and contemporary liturgical music, we strive to raise our hearts and voices in praise to God. Our choir sings at the 11:00 Sunday Mass and the Contemporary Ensemble provides music at the 5:00 and 6:15 PM Sunday Masses. To become involved in our liturgical music ministry, please call Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries, at 212-736-8500, Ext. 327.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA is the process by which people can question, search, and inquire into the Catholic faith. It is a journey which leads many to seek full membership in our Church. The RCIA is for any unbaptized adult who is new to the Catholic faith or any unbaptized child usually over the age of 7. The RCIA is also for any adult or child over the age of 7 who was baptized in another Christian tradition and for baptized Catholic adults seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Contact Joseph Nuzzi at 212-736-8500, Ext. 365.

RENEW! Younger Retiree Program

Catholic retirees, age 55 and over, participate in spiritual, cultural, social, and service activities in the New York Metropolitan Area. For information, please contact RENEW at 212-736-8500, Ext. 389.

St. Francis on Facebook

St. Francis Church is on Facebook! Join the group "St. Francis of Assisi NYC" on Facebook to see who else is a member, be informed of news and events and keep in touch with what's going on in your parish community. Stay connected the way you like to stay connected. Join the group today and invite your friends.

Secular Franciscans

Lay men and women who strive to follow the Gospel way of life according to the ideals of St. Francis. For information please see our website <http://www.stfrancisnyc.org/secularfranciscans.htm>.

Senior Citizens

Meetings take place every Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Parish House. Fr. Patrick Fitzgerald, O.F.M., Moderator.

Self-Help Groups

St. Francis Church hosts numerous self-help groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Sex Addicts Anonymous, Survivors of Incest Anonymous, and others. Please consult the Self-Help and Support Groups brochure for times and locations of the meetings.

Separated, Divorced & Remarried Catholics

A group for mutual support for those who have been, or are in the process of divorce or separation. Widowed persons are also welcome. Meetings take place on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Gene Curry, Coordinator (718-392-0954).

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction as a means of spiritual growth and faith development is provided by the Center Staff. Contact Fr. Joseph Cavoto, S.A. at 212-736-8500 for more information.

Ugnayan Filipino Ministry

A home away from home for newly arrived Filipino immigrants. Meets 6:00-8:00 PM Thursdays in the St. Francis Adult Education Center. A monthly First Friday Mass is celebrated at 6:00 PM in the Lower Church. Email: filipinoministry@stfrancisnyc.org.

Volunteers

St. Francis Church invites individuals to give freely of their time and expertise in order to make a difference. Our volunteers participate in liturgical ministries as well as other forms of service to the church and the community. Edward Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteers; 212-736-8500, Ext. 361.