Be vigilant at all times!
Luke 21:36

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi
The Heart of New York

November 29, 2015 First Sunday of Advent
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, 7:45, 8:30, 11:30 AM;
12:15, 1:15, 4:30, 5:30 PM

Saturday Morning Masses
8:00, 11:00 AM

First Friday Filipino Community Mass
6:15 PM (Lower Church)

Holidays
Consult the weekly bulletin and the posted notices for federal and other holidays.

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM; 4:00 - 5:30 PM
Confesiones en español Martes 11:30 - 1:00 y 4:00 - 5:30
Saturday 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM; 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Devotions

Monday
Devotions in Honor of St. Monica, after 8:30 AM, 12:15 & 5:30 PM Masses

Tuesday
Devotions in Honor of St. Anthony, after all Masses starting at 7:45 AM

Wednesday
Devotions in Honor of St. Jude, after 8:30 AM, 12:15 & 5:30 PM Masses

Thursday
Devotions in Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes for the Sick, after 8:30 AM,
12:15 & 5:30 PM Masses

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-Friday: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Upper Church)

Online Giving at St. Francis Church

Online giving to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi is easy and secure! Just go to our website, stfrancisnyc.org and click on the Support St. Francis link on the right side of the home page for more information. Online giving offers you many options to customize your giving in a way that best fits you. We are grateful for the support you give to us!
Advent at Saint Francis of Assisi

The Opening of the Year of Mercy

“Today is a time of mercy!” Pope Francis has announced a special year to recall God’s great mercy and love for all. We begin the Year of Mercy with a special presentation by the renowned spiritual writer and speaker Fr. Richard Rohr, O.F.M. on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Upper Church. All are welcome!

Advent Novena of “Simbang Gabi” Masses

The traditional novena of Masses before Christmas (“Simbang Gabi Misa de Aguinaldo”) will be celebrated in the lower church beginning on Tuesday, December 15. The Masses are sponsored by the Ugayan Filipino Ministry and Friends.

- Tuesday-Saturday, December 15-19 at 6:15 PM
- Sunday, December 20 at 4:30 PM
- Monday-Wednesday, December 21-23 at 6:15 PM

For more information and choir participation in these Masses, please email filipinoministry@stfrancisnyc.org.

A Shoot Shall Spout: Advent and the Jesse Tree

12:00 to 3:30 PM, Saturday, December 12, 2015

present by Fr. Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M.

One of the oldest and most enduring symbols of the Advent season is the Jesse Tree. Based on a verse from the book of Isaiah — “A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse” (11:1) — the Jesse Tree has lent itself to many forms of artistic interpretation.

In the first part of our program we will take a journey back in time to see how the Jesse Tree has been used in illuminated manuscripts, stained glass windows, sculpture, and wall painting.

The second part of our program will be a service of music, prayer and Scripture as we create our own Jesse Tree using 25 specially designed ornaments spanning the ages from Creation to the Incarnation.

Please register for this event at our website, stfrancisnyc.org, or at the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House.

Christmas Carols with the Choir

Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 3:00 PM

Get into the spirit of the season with your favorite carols led by the St. Francis Choir. A free-will offering will be received for the support of the music ministry.

Advent Pardon & Peace

Monday, December 21, 2015

During this special Year of Mercy, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, we invite you to join us in a celebration of Penance and Reconciliation beginning at 7:00 PM in the upper church.

The Pastor’s Corner

A special welcome to all those who are visiting New York. We are happy that you have chosen to worship with us here at St. Francis Church on this First Sunday of Advent.

The season of Advent begins a new church year and it begins with hope. The readings remind us to stay alert, to recognize that even now God’s presence is among us. Pope Benedict once wrote: “Advent invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention He has for each one of us.” It is not easy to “pause in silence” during this time of the year when so much needs to be done and we have much to attend to. As we begin this season, I believe that it is important to consciously look for some time and space to allow God’s presence to deepen within each of us: daily Mass, a visit to church, a quiet moment away from others. We are providing you with a special booklet on “mercy” so that as we begin this Jubilee of Mercy, this holy virtue will come to mean more and more to you.

I want to invite you to hear Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM speak on “A Time for Mercy” on Tuesday, December 8th at 7 PM in the Upper Church. This is how we here at St. Francis will begin this special Jubilee Year.

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.
Join Our Advent Scripture Reflection Group

Advent is a time of preparation and the scripture readings put much emphasis on spiritual and personal preparation. The St. Francis Migrant Center invites you to a Scripture Reflection which will meet on Saturdays during the Advent Season, November 28 to December 19, from 2:00-3:30 PM in the first-floor conference room of the Parish House. Come, join us and explore God’s Word in a deeper and personal way. All are welcome! For more information and to register, please contact Sr. Echo Perry, C.D.P. at echo.perry@yahoo.com.

Keep Someone Warm at Christmas

The Breadline at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi serves about 300 people each day. With your help we will be distribute brand new hoodies to them for Christmas. If you would like to participate, please bring a brand new large or extra-large hooded sweatshirt and drop it off in the large white boxes in the upper church between Friday, November 27th, and Thursday, December 17th.

The St. Francis Knitters would like to thank the many people who have donated yarn for their knitting projects. An assortment of hand made articles are also on sale in the lobby of St. Francis House. All of the proceeds will go to the Breadline. And if you would like to donate hats, scarves or gloves in addition to the hoodies, you may do so. Thanks for your generosity!

LABOR RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Public Forum on Workers’ Rights

Join us for a public forum in celebration of the International Human Rights Day and the 25th Anniversary of the International Convention on the protection of migrant workers and their families: Monday, December 7, 2015 at 6:00 PM in San Damiano Hall, 127 West 31st Street. For more information, email: migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.

Las Posadas & Lantern Festival

Celebrating International Migrants’ Day

Las Posadas is a dramatization of the search for an inn by the Holy Family. The Lantern Festival reminds us of the guiding star. Let us march together celebrating Las Posadas & Lantern Festival honoring migrants from all over the world. Their search for life and security imitates Las Posadas and our presence and support are their guiding stars.

Join us on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 5:00 PM in Union Square, and we will walk to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Be in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters!

For more information and to participate, call us at 212-736-8500, Ext. 305 or email us at migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.

Are You Available?

The author of many books on spirituality, Robert Wicks, wrote a book titled Availability several years ago. It has recently been republished with the subtitle “The Challenge and the Gift of Being Present.” While this may not capture your attention, it deals with the problem that many people have of “focusing.” It is so easy to get distracted, to pray and realize that you mind was elsewhere, to go to Mass and miss the readings or another part of Mass.

The chapters in this book are simple, yet they each contain some profound insights: Being Available to. . . Ourselves, Being Available to. . . Others, and Being Available to. . . God. In the Preface we read: “Availability is indeed a simple but great gift.”

This book is worth spending time with and can be purchased in the lobby of the Parish House.

Stewardship: Caring for God’s Creation

Laudato si’ Chapter 2: The Gospel of Creation

The work of the Church seeks not only to remind everyone of the duty to care for nature, but at the same time “she must above all protect mankind from self-destruction.”

Yet, God, who wishes to work with us and who counts on our cooperation, can also bring good out of the evil we have done.
The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

**Staff Friars**
- Michael Carnevale, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar
  mjcofm@earthlink.net
- Joseph Cavoto, O.F.M., Counseling Center & Spiritual Director
  jcavoto@stfrancisnyc.org
- Stephen Cho, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry
  koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org
- Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Director of Migrant Center
  jjagudilla@stfrancisnyc.org
- Paul Lostritto, O.F.M., Director of Franciscan Bread for the Poor
  plostritto@stfrancisnyc.org
- Michael McDonnell, O.F.M., Spanish Confessor
- Felix McGrath, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Secular Franciscan Assistant
- Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M., Director of Service & Advocacy
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- Andrew Reitz, O.F.M., Pastor
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- Xavier Seubert, O.F.M., Guardian & Director of Adult Education
  xseubert@stfrancisnyc.org
- Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M., Director of Liturgy & Communications
  tshreenan@stfrancisnyc.org
- Brian Smail, O.F.M., Vicar of the Friary & Parochial Vicar
  bsmail@stfrancisnyc.org
- Mikelek Wilk, O.F.M., Conv., Spanish Confessor

**Pastoral Associates**
- Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries
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- Julie Berwick, Director of St. Francis Counseling Center
  jberwick@stfrancisnyc.org
- Chala Hill, F.H.M., Spiritual Director
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- Hasang Chong, O.S.B., Pastoral Associate, Korean Ministry
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- Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization
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- Edward A. Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry
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**Administration**
- Carlos Farfan, Director of Finance
  cfarfan@stfrancisnyc.org
- Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office
  stfrabread@stfrancisnyc.org

**Friars in Residence**
- John Felice, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor
- John McVean, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor
- Thomas Walters, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

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**Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy**

11 Days: November 9-19, 2016
hosted by Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

Only $2,799 per person from New York
Tour price includes:
- Roundtrip airfare from New York
- $630 gov’t taxes/airline surcharges
- First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals
- Services of a professional tour director and comprehensive sightseeing
- All hotel service charges, porterage and entrance fees

**Visit Venice, Florence, Assisi, and Rome**
with Vatican City and a Papal Audience

For a brochure and more information, please contact Fr. Andrew Reitz at 212-736-8500 or email areitz@stfrancisnyc.org
Space is limited! Book early to avoid disappointment!

**Christmas Cards Support the Ministries of the Franciscan Friars**

New this year is “Christmas Blessings” – a beautiful card with a photo of a hand-carved German nativity scene which graces the Friars’ chapel during the Christmas season. This card is available at the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House for a offering of $5.00 each which supports the ministries of the Franciscan Friars.

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- All hotel service charges, porterage and entrance fees
Saturday, November 28, 2015
8:00 AM  Anna, Nicola & Giovanna Lucignano (d.)
11:00  Thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity
4:00 PM  Franciscan Mass League
5:15  Herman Perez (d.)

Sunday, November 29, 2015
8:00 AM  Anna, Nicola & Giovanna Lucignano (d.)
9:15  Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30  Marcelo DaSilva, birthday
11:00  Aurora Gutierrez (d.)
12:30 PM  Aida De Jesus Maypa
5:00  Thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity
6:15  Thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity

Monday, November 30, 2015
7:00 AM  All Souls in Purgatory
7:45  Blas Hernandez, thanksgiving
8:30  Thanksgiving to All Saints
11:30  Sursufie Dorvil (d.)
12:15 PM  Barney Hlatvy (d.)
1:15  C. Ephraim (d.)
4:30  Eric A. Rivera (d.)
5:30  Lola & Illia Vargas (d.)

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
7:00 AM  Milton Smith (d.)
7:45  Poor Souls in Purgatory
8:30  Thomas & Edith Castellana (d.)
11:30  Carmen Cecilia Noguera, for healing
12:15 PM  Thanksgiving to God the Father
1:15  Calista M. Gorman (d.)
4:30  Thomas Hayes (d.)
5:30  Clara M. Castora (d., 7th anniversary)

Wednesday, December 2, 2015
7:00 AM  Blasich Family
7:45  Angelina F. Manisera (d.)
8:30  NYC Police Officers (L & D)
11:30  M. C. Enriquez, thanksgiving
12:15 PM  Antonio Aquino (d.)
1:15  Jim Dillon
4:30  Marilyn Scialdone (d.)
5:30  Donald Jordan (d.)

Thursday, December 3, 2015
7:00 AM  Lina & Ubaldo Libra (d.)
7:45  Mary Jane McNamara (d.)
8:30  George Albert Jean
11:30  Ernst Patrick Jean
12:15 PM  The Sick
1:15  LaFerriere, Charles and Nelson (d.)
4:30  In honor of St. John the Baptist
5:30  Manuel N. Chan (d.)

December 3: St. Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary

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. Xavier Seubert, O.F.M., Director; 212-736-8500, Ext. 311.

Franciscan Bread for the Poor
The St. Francis Breadline provides food for hungry people every morning of the year at 7:00 AM. Franciscans Deliver brings groceries to area shut-ins on a weekly basis. For more information, and to volunteer, contact Fr. Paul Lostritto, O.F.M., Director; 212-736-8500, Ext. 324, or go to www.stfrancisbreadline.org.

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.

Immigration Assistance
The Immigration Information Service of The Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi provides legal assistance. For more information, contact Fr. Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500, Ext. 377.
Korean Ministry
The Korean Community worships in Korean every Sunday at 9:15 AM. A Mass for young adults is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6:00 PM in the lower church. Fr. Stephen Cho, O.F.M.; 212-736-8500, Ext. 384.

LGBT Outreach
Our LGBT ministry is very active in our community. The ministry provides various spiritual, social, and educational events from September through June. For more information, please visit the website to sign up for our mailing list. 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
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. 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.

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, O.F.M. 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. 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. Email: etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org.

Young Adult Ministry
This is a ministry of, by, and for Catholic men and women in their 20’s and 30’s. At St. Francis we believe that ministering to young adults begins by creating an environment where people feel welcome, especially by worshipping God together in a way that feeds the spirit. For more information please email: youngadults@stfrancisnyc.org.

Is God Calling You to Become a Franciscan Friar?
Contact our Vocation Director, Br. Basil Valente, at bvalente@hnp.org, visit: BeAFranciscan.org or scan this symbol with your smartphone: