Who do you say I am?

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi
The Heart of New York

August 27, 2017

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
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 - 8:30 AM; 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM; 4:00 - 5:30 PM

**Confesiones en español Martes**
11:00 - 12:00 y 4:15 - 5:15

**Saturday**
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM; 3:30 - 5:30 PM

**Sunday**
8:30 - 9:30 AM; 4:30 - 5:30 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 (*Via Lucis* during the Easter Season)

**Saturday**
The Rosary after the 11:00 Mass

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Lower Church)
The Pastor’s Corner

In today’s Gospel Jesus asks: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” There are a number of responses until Simon Peter says: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This is a positive moment in Peter’s encounter with Jesus. There are other times when he is not so positive and affirming. Rather than be critical of Peter, we have to admit that sometimes we fluctuate in our living out of our faith commitment; sometimes we are strong and at other times we may vary. The challenges of our lives are what influence the strength of our commitment, but no matter what they may be, we still are committed to the Lord. What would we do without our faith!

Next weekend we welcome members of the Blessed Sacrament Father and Brothers who will be here as part of the Archdiocese’s Missionary Cooperative Plan. The second collection at all Masses will be taken for the support of their ministries.

Finally, I want to share with you the statement from the U.S. Franciscan Friars on the recent violence in Charlottesville, Virginia:

As followers of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of peace, we, the Franciscans Friars of the United States join with the many public and religious leaders and fellow-citizens who have condemned the recent violence in Charlottesville, VA. We hold that all forms of racism, white supremacy, neo-nazism, xenophobia and hatred are wrong.

Because we believe that every person is created by God in love, we also hold that disrespect or diminishment of—or violence against—anyone offends not only that person but also the One who created that person.

As Franciscans, we strive to be bridge-builders. To avoid future instances of the tragic violence that tore not only the community of Charlottesville but also the fabric of our nation, we call for a renewed commitment to respectful dialogue by all, whereby our opinions and differences can be shared in constructive and illuminating ways that lead to the possibility of growth and conversion for all. Such dialogue might lead us beyond the overt displays of violence and intolerance into an understanding of the subtler and even unconscious forms of discrimination and intolerance that may still inhabit our hearts as well as our society.

We commit ourselves to the responsibility of respect for and dialogue with all who seem “other” than ourselves. And we pray that all the citizens of our nation will join in striving to attain respect and peace in our communities.

Saint Francis Bereavement Ministry

Each person has a unique experience of grief that needs to be respected and supported. While grief is a very private experience, people who have lost loved ones can benefit from the witness and support of others who have lost someone special in their lives. The St. Francis Bereavement Ministry offers an opportunity for the bereaved to connect with others who grieve, and to seek a path of healing as they come to terms with their loss. Please call Fr. Brian Smail, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500, Ext. 204 to inquire. Interested persons should be at least three months into the grieving process.

Help Sponsor ‘Sundae Sunday’

September is our last Sundae Sunday of the year! We still need a sponsor(s) for the month. You know how good the ice cream is, you know we are generous with the toppings…so help us continue this fun event through the last month.

Send your sponsorship in any amount to: Edward Trochimczuk, Church of St. Francis of Assisi, 135 West 31st Street, New York, 10001, or leave your donation at the reception desk in the Parish House.

Becoming a Catholic: The RCIA

Are you interested in exploring Catholicism for yourself? Do you know someone who might be interested in finding out more about our faith? Were you baptized in another Christian church and are thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Are you Catholic but never received Confirmation or Communion?

Our RCIA meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 PM beginning September 12th. These classes are designed for people who may or may not be sure that they want to join the Catholic church. We present a comprehensive overview of Catholic faith and traditions designed for adults. Anyone inquiring into the Catholic faith may attend these sessions with no obligations. The RCIA is free for anyone exploring Catholicism.

If you would like to find out more about our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, please contact: Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization, at 212-736-8500, Ext. 365, or send an email to: jnuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org.
The Canticle of the Creatures

As Franciscans, we are familiar with St. Francis’ Canticle of the Creatures. A newly published book with the same title focuses on just “creatures” unlike the Canticle that we know that focuses on the sun, the moon, the earth, the stars and plants. These “creatures” were probably ones that St. Francis met along the way in his travels: the larks, the dove, the nightingale, the falcon, fish, bees, a lamb, the wolf, the worm, and the ox. There are passages from St. Francis’ life where he met all of these creatures and the book allows us to see how these creatures were important to this saint. The book is beautifully illustrated with colorful drawings of the saint with the various creatures. One person who commented on this book says: “Nature is a book that reveals, to all who can see, God’s secrets” beauty, death and life.” St. Francis was certainly attuned to these “secrets.” The book can be purchased in the Lobby of the Parish House.

Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

10 Days: March 7-16, 2018 • $2,479 from New York
Hosted by Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.

To receive a detailed color brochure, please contact Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500, or email areitz@stfrancisnyc.org.

Please note: If you are interested in this pilgrimage, please note that it may not be for you since there is more walking than usual. In Assisi there are hills to be climbed that are generally not part of a pilgrimage to Assisi. Also, the ability to keep up with the group is important. Walking in New York is one thing, walking in Assisi is more challenging. In Rome also, there are some sites that are generally not part of most pilgrimages, e.g., the Franciscan Church of Santa Maria Aracoeli with 124 steps. Consider this when making your plans.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

‘Rocky’

I wonder how many men named Peter know that originally it was a nickname. Jesus gave Simon a name based on the word for “rock.” Like any good nickname, Jesus had a reason to give this one. Peter had just acknowledged Jesus to be the Son of God and the Messiah (Christ). Jesus used that as an opportunity to teach us about the importance of faith as the foundation of the church.

The church was initially the Jews who followed Jesus. For them, the tradition of a coming messiah was a symbol of their hope for the future. So believing that Jesus was the Messiah first meant that he was the reason to hope. But more importantly, it showed what “messiah” really means.

There were many variations on what people thought the messiah would be. Some expected a political leader who would unite the Jews and maybe even overthrow their Roman masters. Others thought he would be a wonder-worker, like a super-hero, who would use his power to make Israel a great and free nation. Or perhaps the messiah would provide food and riches in abundance.

By calling Jesus the Messiah, we see that he saves us not by royal leadership, or amazing feats or great riches, but by giving his life for us on the cross. He shows that love is a greater power than political power or wealth. And by learning about Jesus, we learn about the love of God for us. We learn that Jesus has fulfilled all messianic hopes. He unites not just the Jews, but all people who believe in him. He sets us free from sin and death. He feeds our spiritual hunger with his own Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

By commending Peter’s faith, Jesus shows us that faith is the foundation (rock) of the church. For the church is not just a social club of people who like to worship the same way; it is a family of people who believe all that Jesus taught because we believe in the person of Jesus. That is, we don’t just believe that Jesus was real. We affirm that he is alive and important to our lives. We have experienced him in his words, in the sacraments, and in each other. May our faith always be solid as a rock.

Tom Schmidt
**Staff Friars**

William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Adult Education  
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Michael Carnevale, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar  
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Joseph Cavoto, O.F.M., Counseling Center & Spiritual Director  
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Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Director of Migrant Center  
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Michael Kim, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry  
koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org

Paul Lostritto, O.F.M., Director of Franciscan Bread for the Poor  
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Fr. David McBriar, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

Michael McDonnell, O.F.M., Spanish Confessor

Felix McGrath, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Secular Franciscan Assistant

Andrew Reitz, O.F.M., Pastor  
areitz@stfrancisnyc.org

Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M., Director of Liturgy & Communications  
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Brian Smail, O.F.M., Vicar of the Friary & Parochial Vicar  
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Mikelek Wilk, O.F.M., Conv., Spanish Confessor

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**Pastoral Associates**

Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries  
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**Administration**

Carlos Farfan, Director of Finance  
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**Friars in Residence**

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

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

Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

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

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**Stewardship: Caring for God’s Creation**

**Gaudium Evangeli**

Chapter 2, Cultural Challenges

We need to learn to help others to realize that the only way is to encounter others with the right attitude, which is to accept and esteem them as companions along the way... Better yet, it means learning to find Jesus in the faces of others, in their voices, in their pleas... There indeed we find true healing, since the way to relate to others which truly heals instead of debilitating us, is a mystical fraternity, a contemplative fraternity. It is a fraternal love capable of seeing the sacred grandeur of our neighbor, of finding God in every human being, of tolerating the nuisances of life in common by clinging to the love of God, of opening the heart to divine love and seeking the happiness of others just as their heavenly Father does. Here and now, especially where we are a ‘little flock,’ the Lord’s disciples are called to live as a community which is the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We are called to bear witness to a constantly new way of living together in fidelity to the Gospel. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of community.

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**Immigration Assistance**

The Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi provides assistance to all immigrants regardless of status. If anyone needs assistance or has concerns about immigration matters, please contact the Migrant Center at 212-736-8500, Ext. 305/377 or email migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.

**Asistencia de Inmigración**

El Centro de Migrantes en la Iglesia de San Francisco de Asís ofrece asistencia a todos los inmigrantes sin importar su estatus. Si alguien necesita ayuda o tiene preocupaciones sobre asuntos de inmigración, por favor comuníquese con el Centro para Migrantes en la Iglesia al 212-736-8500, Ext. 305/377 o envíe un correo electrónico a migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.

**Aide aux Immigrants**

Le Centre des Migrants à l’Eglise de Saint-François d’Assise aide tous les immigrants sans égard pour leur statut legal. Si quelqu’un a besoin de l’aide ou est inquiet des matières de l’immigration, entrez en contact, s.v.p., avec le Centre des Migrants à l’Eglise de Saint-François d’Assise à 212-736-8500, poste 305/377 ou envoyez-nous un e-mail à migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.
Mass Intentions for the Week

The Bread & Wine for Masses this week have been given for the intentions of Joseph, Marie & Thomas Powers, Jr., and in memory of Thomas Powers, Sr. from Victorina Powers; and the intentions of Edgar Sullivan; and in thanksgiving from Eva Tobias.

If you would like to make a donation for bread and wine or the sanctuary lights, please go to the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House to reserve a date.

Saturday, August 26, 2017
8:00 AM Catalina Abuyo Melad (d.)
11:00 Eric A. Rivera (d.)
4:00 PM Kathleen Harris
5:15 Franciscan Mass League

Sunday, August 27, 2017
8:00 AM Olysar Garces
9:15 Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30 Rose Barbarito (d.)
11:00 Napoleon & Concepción Fernan (d.)
12:30 PM Sr. Joan Patricia Hernan (d.)
5:00 Victor & Fidencia Clapano (d.)
6:15 Alicia D’Rozario, for good health

Monday, August 28, 2017
7:00 AM Angela Ocheme
7:45 Ginevra & Francesco Marino (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Romulo C. Gines (d.)
12:15 PM Pat & Ann O’Reilly
4:30 Vicent Clapano (d.)
5:30 Salvacion Fernando Nunez (d.)

Tuesday, August 29, 2017
7:00 AM Eugene Thomas (d., anniversary)
7:45 Fe Mateo
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Juan Bacani (d., birthday)
12:15 PM Teofilo Sosa (d.)
1:15 Ambrosio Bansil (d.)
4:30 Emiliano & Teodosia Espacio (d.)
5:30 Francisca Villorejo (d.)

Wednesday, August 30, 2017
7:00 AM Ames & Jean D’Argenio
7:45 Marie Dowd
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Conelio Melendez
12:15 PM Rosendo Sosa (d.)
1:15 In honor of St. Anthony, Michemel
4:30 Mark Cioffari (d.)
5:30 Tiu Yee (d.)

Thursday, August 31, 2017
7:00 AM Santos Rodrigue-Pomares
7:45 Gabriel Pavlav
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Steve & Joan Healey (d.)
12:15 PM The Sick
1:15 Eulalia Sosa (d.)
4:30 Henry Regensteiner (d.)
5:30 Susa Bendor (d.)

Friday, September 1, 2017
7:00 AM Thomas & Edith Castellana (d.)
7:45 Maria del Pilar Blanco (d.)
8:30 St. Jude Novena
11:30 Patrick McCaffrey
12:15 PM Sheila Rooney (d.)
1:15 Pura Reyes (d.)
4:30 Frederique Francisque (d.)
5:30 Members of the Drury, Neenan, Cuellar Ayala Family (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. William Beaudin, 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 Losstritto, 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.

The Passion of St. John the Baptist, August 29

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If you would like to make a donation for bread and wine or the sanctuary lights, please go to the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House to reserve a date.
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. Michael Kim, 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
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.

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 worshiping God together in a way that feeds the spirit. For more information please email: youngadults@stfrancisnyc.org.

Save the Date!
Bonaventure Mass
honoring the 800th Anniversary
of the birth of St. Bonaventure
composed by Fabio Luisi,
Principal Conductor of the Metropolitan Opera
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 5:30 PM
The Cloisters at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
Tickets are $65 and are available from the Met Cloisters Box Office, 212-923-3700.

Is God calling you to be a Franciscan Friar?

Franciscan Friars
Vocation Minister of Holy Name Province
BeAFranciscan.org