

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

South End
93 Fourth Avenue, Albany

St. Francis of Assisi
391 Delaware Avenue, Albany

@saintfrancisalbany
www.facebook.com/SaintFrancisAlbany

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field." He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in his ordinary life, his teaching, his suffering, his Church.

This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and his Church. After all, He never ceases seeking his treasure in us.

— *Father John Muir*



MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

La Exhortación Apostólica *Evangelii Gaudium* (La alegría del Evangelio), del Santo Padre Francisco, nos habla de la alegría que llena el corazón del cristiano al escuchar la Palabra de Dios y ponerla en práctica. "La alegría del Evangelio llena el corazón y la vida entera de los que se encuentran con Jesús. Quienes se dejan salvar por Él son liberados del pecado, de la tristeza, del vacío interior y del aislamiento. Con Jesucristo siempre nace y renace la alegría" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 1). Sin embargo, por el otro lado de la moneda, es decir, desde la lógica del mundo, se nos dice que la alegría es algo material, y es tener muchas cosas

para alcanzar la felicidad. Pero todo eso es vano y pasajero; la verdadera alegría se encuentra en otro lugar y hay que poner empeño para buscarla. El Evangelio de hoy nos habla de un tesoro escondido en un campo, de perlas finas y de una red lanzada al mar. Dejar todo lo que se tiene para obtener lo encontrado y luchar por conservarlo es un reto difícil. Esto se obtiene solo cuando se le encuentra sentido a lo encontrado y se reconoce que vale más que todo lo que ya se posee. ¡Qué felices somos cuando descubrimos algo que realmente vale la pena, que da sentido y dirección a nuestra vida! Entonces nos decimos: "Esto sí vale la pena". Jesús no se cansa de invitarnos a la búsqueda de su Reino: a encontrar el tesoro de su gracia en nuestro corazón, a valorar la perla preciosa de sus sacramentos y a lanzar la red de la paz y la alegría en nuestro entorno familiar y comunitario. ¡Señor, que tu Reino sea nuestra esperanza!

INSIDE THE BULLETIN:

St. Francis and the Leper — A Conversion of the Heart	p. 2
Parish Picnic Announced	p. 2
Choosing Heaven	p. 3
Why Pray for the Pope's Intentions?	p. 3

St. James Food Pantry (518) 414-1929
391 Delaware Ave., (rear) Mon. & Wed. 10:00 am—12:30 pm

St. John's/St. Anne's Center (518) 472-9091
88 Fourth Ave. Mon, Wed, Th: 10:00 am—12:00 pm
1:00 pm—3:00 pm
Welcome Table Tues. Th: 11:30 am—1:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE FOR PARISH PICNIC!!!

The Annual Parish Picnic of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and the Cathedral, including Historic St. Mary's, will be held on Saturday, September 12th, 2026 at the Elm Avenue Town Park in Bethlehem between 11:30 and 3:00 PM.

We'll have kid's games, a 50/50 drawing, a kid's raffle, raffle for door prizes, games for kids and adults, and great food, fun, and fellowship! Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and paper products will be provided by the Parishes. All we need is YOU and whatever tasty salads, side dishes, or desserts you decide to bring to share!

No sign-ups yet. Just go home and save this date on your calendar, or on your cell phone calendar, if you haven't done so already for this great Parish Picnic!!!

We hope everyone decides to attend. We had great weather last year and a great time was had by all. Save the date!!!!



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI MASS AND CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Weekend Confession and Mass Schedule:

Saturday:	Confession	3:15–3:50 pm	St. Francis (Del. Ave.)
	Mass	4:00 pm	St. Francis (Del. Ave.)
Sunday:	Mass	9:00 am	St. Francis (Del. Ave.)
	Mass	10:30 am	St. Francis (Del. Ave.)
	Mass	10:30 am	St. Francis (South)

COMUNIDAD HISPANA

391 DELAWARE AVE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Santa Misa: Domingo 10:30 AM

Confesiones: Domingo 10:00 AM

Primer Domingo del mes: Bendición a todos los niños y jóvenes al final de la Santa Misa

- **Hora Santa:** Todos los primeros Sábados de cada mes a las 5:15pm.

FRANCIS AND THE LEPER:

A CONVERSION OF THE HEART

St. Francis' spiritual journey began in a chapel, but his real conversion came on a dusty road outside Assisi where he met a leper—someone he once admitted “*seemed extremely bitter to me to look at.*” Moved by



grace, Francis dismounted his horse, embraced and kissed the man.

The moment changed Francis completely, filling him with what he called, “*sweetness of soul and body.*” He began serving lepers daily, washing wounds and offering compassion. In loving those society rejected, Francis discovered Christ's presence and mercy in a new way. The leper became a symbol of everything God desired to heal within him.

In this Year of St. Francis, marking the 800th anniversary of the Saint's death, we can follow our friend's example and ask, *Who are the lepers in my life?* the poor? homeless? elderly? sick? immigrants? and recognize that, while our call is not to *fix* others, we can offer acceptance, compassion and presence.

—Peace and all good.

JOIN US ON FLOCKNOTE TODAY!

STAY CONNECTED. SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

Get the latest updates, event reminders, and parish news delivered straight to your phone or inbox.

We are moving our community updates and digital giving over to Flocknote - and we want you with us!

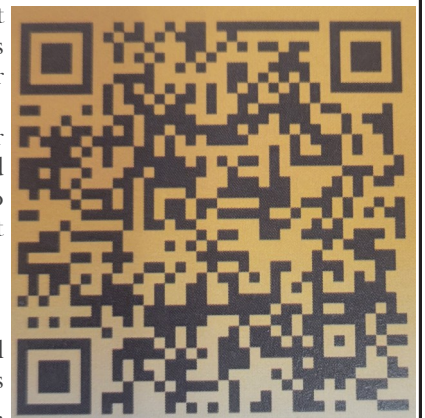
Why Sign Up?

- Stay in the Loop: Get real-time text or email updates about mass schedules, events, and ministries.

No spam, we promise.

- Safe & Easy Giving: Securely set up one-time or recurring donations to support our church community in just a few taps!

Use this link: <https://stfrancisofassisialbany.flocknote.com> or the QR code above.



CHOOSING HEAVEN

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

My children often ask me questions about Heaven. What does Heaven look like? Is there nighttime in Heaven? Do you get hungry in Heaven? Are there oceans in Heaven? Will we feel bored in Heaven?

My answer is almost always the same: “I can’t tell you for sure.” I guess I didn’t realize how little we actually know about Heaven until I had kids who were obsessed with hearing the details.

But accepting human ignorance is liberating in a way, because it allows me to see clearly — and cling wholeheartedly to — the three things I do know for sure: Heaven is where God is, and Hell is where He isn’t, and it’s completely my decision where I want to be.

The choice, you see, is everything.

We need to pay attention to how Jesus describes the kingdom of Heaven in his parables. It is, he tells us, a treasure — but a treasure buried in a field owned by someone else. It is a beautiful pearl — and a very expensive pearl. It is a bountiful yield — one which must be carefully, even painstakingly sifted through.



It’s so easy to imagine the delight of the man who finds the treasure, who encounters the pearl, who hauls the bursting net aboard, just as it is easy to call ourselves followers of Christ, to hang a Rosary from our windshield and go to Mass.

It’s less easy, and a great deal more uncomfortable, to contemplate what comes next: the sacrifice, the commitment, the perseverance through uncertainty.

Heaven is an incredible stroke of luck — one that requires a good deal of follow-through. We can never earn it, but we must choose it. Again and again and again, we must choose it.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

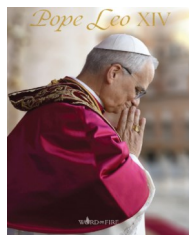
“We ought to have confidence in God that he will look after us since we know for certain that as long as we are grounded in that sort of love and trust we will be always under the protection of God in heaven, we will remain unaffected by evil and never lack what we need even when everything we possess seems headed for disaster.”—St. Vincent de Paul (*McKenna, Praying with Vincent, p.47*)

With your help, we are able to help bring God’s aid and hope to those in need.

Please help those in need through almsgiving. Either place your gift in one of the poor boxes near the church entrance, or place a check made out to “The St. Vincent de Paul Society” in the collection basket.

You can also help by joining us.

Call the Cathedral at 518-463-4447 for more information.



BE A PRAYER PARTNER

WITH POPE LEO

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

WHY PRAY FOR THE POPE’S INTENTIONS?

There are three main reasons we pray for the pope’s intentions.

- ♦ The first is that we receive spiritual graces, extra help from God, when we do this. The Church clarifies this by teaching that praying for his intentions is a necessary condition for receiving a plenary indulgence.
- ♦ The second is to support the Church as a whole, such as to pray for the welfare of Christians around the world, for the success of missionary efforts, and for the conversion of sinners.
- ♦ And last but not least, the Pope’s monthly intention generates prayer for specific widespread issues of the day.



LET’S HELP EVANGELIZE THE WORLD!

Pope Leo XIV has called us to be a church of missionaries. And there is no better way to do that than supporting the missionary that will be coming to your parish this summer.

It makes a tremendous difference in the communities and the good work we support.

Last year, through the Mission Cooperative Program, our Diocese raised \$258,793.28.

Thank you for your generosity and let’s continue to support the great work of the Church around the world!

Join Hallow today!

We have a network-wide subscription, so enjoy all the benefits of Hallow including joining with our entire community!

Helps set and maintain a prayer routine and includes audio Bible stories, prayers, meditations, Lectio Divina, Christian music and so much more!



Sunday Mass Intentions

As of July 20, 2026

Saint Francis (Delaware)

Requested by:

Sat, July 25 4:00 PM	† Hannah Acampora	Denise Buckley
	† Graziella Gertrude Carbone	Family
Sun, July 26 9:00 AM	† Aurelio and Teresa Giglio	Daughter
Sun, July 26 10:30 AM	<i>Pro Populo</i>	
Sat, July 25 4:00 PM	<i>Pro Populo</i>	
Sun, July 26 9:00 AM	<i>Pro Populo</i>	
Sun, July 26 10:30 AM	<i>Pro Populo</i>	
Saint Francis (South End)		
Requested by:		
Sun, July 26 10:30 AM	† Vincent Giordano	Joe Keller
Sun, July 26 10:30 AM	<i>Pro Populo</i>	

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Clergy

Father Daniel Vallejo, Pastor
VallejoD@rcda.org

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Emmanuel Udoh
udohie@rcda.org
Rev. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM

Parish Operations Manager

Mrs. Barbara Koerner-Fox
Barbara.Koernerfox@rcda.org

Liturgy

Mr. Patrick Buonacore, Liturgical Coordinator & Sacristan
Patrick.Buonacore@rcda.org

Music

Ms. Kristen Witham

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Kurt Schlachter, Facilities Manager
Cathedralfacilities@rcda.org

SECOND COLLECTION JULY 26TH

There will be a second collection on July 26th for Peter's Pence, whereby individual Catholics contribute to the work of the Pope, from helping those in need around the world to educational and missionary work to administrative needs of the Vatican.

WHERE ARE OUR ENVELOPES?

Cathedral Letter Concepts will not be sending monthly envelopes for July in order to catch up production for its 3,000-plus customers.

Please use a previous month's envelope you still have available and write the correct date on it.

ST. FRANCIS IS CURRENTLY BEING SERVED BY THE ALBANY PARISHES OFFICE

Mailing Address:

125 Eagle St.
Albany, NY 12202

Phone Number:

(518) 463-4447

Office Hours: M–F: 9:00 am–4:00 pm (Closed for national holidays and as noted in the bulletin)

Email:

Cathedral: CICAlban@rcda.org



Benefits of Formed!

Formed is an app which provides users access to a wide range of Catholic video-based study programs, movies, documentaries, audio talks, and audio books. Deepen your understanding, strengthen your faith, and share your Catholic beliefs. Join through our parish network subscription for improved access!

How to join:

1. Go to formed.org
2. Click on "Find Your Parish Subscription"
3. Enter your email address and click "Next"
4. On the sign in page, enter the code they will sent to your email
5. Click "Next"
6. Enter your parish's zip code and click on your parish name
7. Click "Sign up" and you are in!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 26, 2026

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday: Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21

DANIEL KEENAN
Funeral Home
 490 Delaware Ave., Albany, NY 12209
 (518) 463-1594
www.danielkeenanfuneralhome.com
Serving the parish families since 1955!

Since 1906
J D W
 Plumbing, Heating, Cooling
JAMES D. WARREN & SON, INC.
 Heating • Plumbing
 Air Conditioning • Refrigeration
 ALBANY
 518-434-6138 • 24 Hour Service

WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!

MOORE FIRE EQUIPMENT
 Sales & Service
 Professional Recharging & Service At Your Location
 Randy Moore - President
 462 Orange Street • Albany
 518-438-1927

ADT-Monitored Home Security
 Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | 833-287-3502



DUCK DONUTS
 Our Donuts — ARE — HOLEY!
 Order Online at duckdonuts.com | Open 7 days from 8am - 6pm
 VISIT US! Latham Farms near Dick's Sporting Goods

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!
 Instantly create and purchase an ad with
AD CREATOR STUDIO
 4lpi.com/adcreator

SUPPORT OUR PARISH

DUCK DONUTS **2 FREE DONUTS**
 WARM, DELICIOUS & MADE TO ORDER
 TO REWARD YOURSELF JUST BECAUSE YOU ATTENDED THIS SERVICE TODAY
 1 Coupon per family please.

DOES YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NEED A NEWSLETTER?

Engaging, ad-supported print and digital newsletters to reach your community.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
 OCTOBER EDITION

Scan to contact us!

Visit lpicommunities.com

catholicmatch® New York

CatholicMatch.com/NY

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Victoria Russo

vrusso@4LPi.com
 (800) 477-4574 x6283