



The Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi

The Cathedral Church of the Immaculate Conception

Welcome! - Bienvenido! - Mabuhay!

*From wherever you have traveled or have been led on your spiritual journey,
we, the Catholic communities of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Saint Francis of Assisi,
welcome you to our parishes.*

*We are located on the land of the Mohawk People of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Mohican People
who were the first stewards of the land upon which our Churches were built in what we now call the City of Albany.*

*We invite you to make yourself at home in one of our parish communities
and consider joining our Christian way of life, worship and service in Jesus Christ.*

Welcome College Students!

Central Offices & Mailing Address:

125 Eagle Street Albany, New York 12202

Offices Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00am—3:00pm

Office Phone: 518.463.4447

Email: CICALban@rcda.org

SFAAlbany@rcda.org

**The Cathedral
Saint Francis of Assisi**

125 Eagle Street, Albany, NY 12202

Delaware Site: 391 Delaware Avenue, Albany, NY 12209

South End Site: 93 Fourth Avenue, Albany, NY 12202



CONNECT WITH US!

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@saintfrancisalbany

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JOIN US FOR
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS | 5:15 PM
March 7 through Good Friday

CONFESSIONS AFTER STATIONS
And Before Sunday Masses

Additional Confession times during Lent, will be available after weekday Masses at Historic St. Mary's (and 11:30 am before Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Masses, and at 3:30 on Saturdays before Mass); at the Cathedral on Fridays 4-5 pm and after Fridays' 5:15 pm Stations of the Cross, and after Sunday's 5 pm Mass (as well as 30 minutes before both Sunday Masses). Confessions are available by request at St. Francis, Delaware Avenue, before and after the Saturday 4 p.m. Mass.



PROTECTING CROPS FROM NATURAL DISASTERS IN BANGLADESH

Shahadat's village, and much of Bangladesh, is located on flat lowlands. The intense rainy season causes flooding that often destroys farms and crops. Find out how Shahadat learned new farming skills from a Catholic Relief Services program that enabled him to increase the yield of his vegetable crops despite the challenges of climate change.

Visit crsricebowl.org/week-4 to read this week's Story of Hope.

Catholic Relief Services

This week our parish will take up the **Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Please give generously to the Collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need.

For more information visit: www.crs.org

Pastor's Reflection
(March 30, 2025, Fourth Sunday of Lent)

"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." (Luke 15: 20)

Jesus's story about the prodigal son reveals the mercy and patience of the father, who represents God the Father, especially when a person is reconciled with God in sacramental Confession. The prodigal son decides to return home because he remembered his father's goodness toward his hired workers, and so plans to return as one of them. Yet his father sees him approaching home, runs to him, and embraces and kisses him, restoring him as his beloved son.

The older brother is angered by his father's mercy the father explains, **"Your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."** (Luke 15: 32) Through God's merciful and healing grace in Confession, a dead soul comes back to life, a lost soul is found, or a shackled soul is set free. I invite you to experience the miraculous healing embrace of God the Father's mercy during Confession, offered within our parish network and around our area.

We also continue to accompany and pray for our catechumens (the "elect") who are preparing for Baptism and undergoing their second Scrutiny this Sunday. The Church invites us to pray that they "be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God." As this Sunday's Gospel for the Scrutinies presents the healing of the man born blind, so too does the Church pray for catechumens to be freed from false values that blind us, to rejoice in God's light of truth, and become a fearless witness to faith in Jesus Christ.

Peace in Jesus through Mary,

"The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion of sinners. Know, My daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered" (Jesus to St. Faustina, *Diary*, 1397).

Great Food! Fantastic Service!
Enjoy breakfast with your friends and neighbors.
Super prizes donated by local businesses!

Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Adults: \$7 Children under 12: \$3 Under 5: Free

Pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, tea, cocoa.
Special Order Omelets \$5 Extra
(Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.)

Albany Med Daycare Gym
16 St. James Place, Albany
(Entrance through parking lot)

Presented by: St. Francis of Assisi Parish
BSA Scout Troop 11, Troop 54 & Cub Pack 211

And a FOOD DRIVE for our St. James Pantry. Please bring canned/boxed food or personal care items to donate; we'll be collecting them in the gym during the breakfast.

2025 Annual Parish Picnic
Saturday, September 6

The Annual joint Parish Picnic, St. Francis of Assisi, along with the Cathedral folks, and the Historic St. Mary's folks will be held on Saturday, September 6th, 2025 at the Elm Ave. 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 and 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 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!

Fourth Sunday of Lent — 30 March 2025

GIVE US THIS DAY NOW AVAILABLE!

Pick up your copy of Give Us This Day at the back of church!

Mass Intentions

Saint Francis (Delaware)

Saturday, March 22 4:00 PM	Open for Mass intentions	
Sunday, March 23 9:00 AM	Open for Mass intentions	

Saint Francis (South End)

Sunday, March 23 10:30 AM	Open for Mass intentions	
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The Cathedral

Sunday, March 23 11:00 AM	Thomas Fowler	Requested By Pilar Dell
Sunday, March 23 5:00 PM	Open for Mass intentions	

Why request Mass intentions? The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “From the beginning, the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the **Eucharistic sacrifice [the Mass]**, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God” (CCC 1032).

The dead in purgatory can no longer pray for themselves. Pope Francis said that offering Masses for the dead “is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to the most abandoned ones.” Masses can also be offered a living person who is sick or suffering; a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment in their life; in thanksgiving to God; in thanksgiving for a prayer from a saint; or for a prayer intention (that does not contradict Church teaching). The efficacy or fruitfulness of a Mass in a person's life depends on that person's interior openness to God's will and not merely on the external performance of a sacrament (CCC 2111). We allow normally one intention per Mass, except that two Masses per week may have two intentions.

Our Parish Network Mass Times:

Historic Saint Mary's	Saint Francis	The Cathedral
Saturday 4:00 PM	Saturday 4:00 PM (Delaware)	
Sunday 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Sunday 9:00 AM (Delaware) 10:30 AM (Delaware) Spanish 10:30 AM (South End)	Sunday 11:00 AM 5:00 PM
Mon-Fri 12:05 PM		

ADORATION offered on Thursday evenings at Historic St. Mary's 6:30-7:30 and, during Lent, on Fridays at the Cathedral 4-5 pm before Stations of the Cross at 5:15; and First Fridays at the Cathedral 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., and St. Francis Delaware Ave. 7:15-8:15 pm.

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

STEWARDSHIP

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Weekly Offering—March 22 & 23

Regular Offertory	\$2,786.90
PayPal	\$525.00
Maintenance & Utilities	\$60.00
TOTAL	\$3,371.90
Average Weekly Need	\$8,200.00
SHORTFALL	(\$4,828.00)

The average weekly need is based on Total Expenses (2024-25)

Attendance

11:00 AM 149	5:00 PM 115
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Saint Francis of Assisi Weekly Offering—March 22 & 23

Regular Offertory	\$4,168.50
PayPal	\$505.00
Maintenance & Utilities	\$0.00
Food Pantry	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$4,873.50
Average Weekly Need	\$10,500.00
SHORTFALL	(\$5,626.50)

The average weekly need is based on Total Expenses (2024-25)

Attendance

Delaware	4:00 PM 39	9:00 AM 92	10:30 AM 170
South End	10:30 AM 73		



Saint James FOOD PANTRY

Corner of St. James Place & Summit Avenue, Albany, NY 12209

518.414.1929

Monday & Wednesday: 10:00am—12:30pm

Saint John's/Saint Ann's Center

88 Fourth Avenue, Albany, NY 12202

518.472.9091

CENTER

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 10:am—12pm; 1:pm 3pm

WELCOME TABLE

Tuesday and Saturday: 11:30am—1:00pm

In need of juice and hygiene products

Reminder: We cannot accept outdated, opened or used items.

Other Area Food Pantries include:

Saint Mary

10 Lodge Street, Albany, New York

518.462.4357

Trinity Alliance

15 Trinity Place, Albany, New York

518.364.1103

www.trinityalliancealbany.org/food-pantries

FOCUS Churches of Albany

275 State Street, Albany, New York

518.443.0460

www.focuschurches.net



Thank you for your generous support!

*If you would like to make a financial contribution to your parish
through your smartphone, please point your
camera at the QR codes below and tap the link.*



The Cathedral



St. Francis

Prayers for...

Jon Collins, Nathan Williams, Harold LaMountain, Rev. Frank O'Connor, Sue Moss, Cynthia Notaro, Honey Kausar, Mary VanSchiack Agnew, Maria Aricipa, Mary Dolan, Charles Duffy, Church Dyer, John Fanning, Joyce Flanagan, Gina Garrison, Katherine Gilligan, Chris Godfrey, Marge Hepp, Michael Horgan, Alison Horgan-Zepeda, Rev. David Jones, Alice LaChapelle, Betty McSweeney, Joe O'Clair, Jaxson Rivera, Sr. Natalie Runfola, Michele Sloman, Rev. Paul Smith.

The Cathedral & Saint Francis of Assisi Staff



The Most Rev'd Edward B. Scharfenberger, D.D.
Bishop of Albany

Cathedral Clergy

The Very Rev'd. Rendell Torres, Rector

Rendell.Torres@rcda.org

Mr. James M. Agnew, Deacon

James.Agnew@rcda.org

Mr. Timothy J. Kosto, II, Deacon

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Rev. William Persia, CSC

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Mr. Patrick Buonacore, Liturgical Coordinator & Sacristan

Patrick.Buonacore@rcda.org

Saint Francis Music

Kristen Witham

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Kurt Schlachter, Facilities Manager

Cathedralfacilities@rcda.org

Mr. Tim Balfe, Campus Maintenance

Cathedralmaintenance@rcda.org

Saint James Food Pantry

Linda Cruz, Director

518.414.1929

Central Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Cathedral Church Hours

The Cathedral is open daily.

Sunday: 9:00am – 6:00pm

Monday—Saturday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

The Cathedral Church and Parish Offices will be closed on National Holidays and other days throughout the year as noted in the bulletin.

DANIEL KEENAN

Funeral Home

490 Delaware Ave., Albany, NY 12209

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www.danielkeenanfuneralhome.com

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