st. francis of assisi

South End
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391 Delaware Avenue, Albany

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Keep Your Lamps Trimmed: Francis and the Wise Virgins



"Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Dear Parish Family,

This Sunday Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). Ten young women take their lamps and go out to meet the bridegroom. Five are wise and bring extra oil; five are foolish and bring none. The bridegroom is delayed, and everyone falls asleep. At midnight the cry rings out: "Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." The foolish virgins ask the wise ones for oil, but there is none to share, and by the time they return, the door is shut. Jesus closes with a sentence that is easy to hear and hard to live: "Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Notice that all ten fell asleep. The parable is not really about who was sleepy and who was not. It is about who had prepared before the waiting began. The oil cannot be borrowed at midnight. Faith, prayer, and love are like that too: they are built slowly, in ordinary days, so that when the unexpected hour comes we are not scrambling.

The first reading (Wisdom 6:12-16) says that wisdom "is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her." The wise virgins were not only prepared; they

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Mantengan Encendidas Sus Lámparas: Francisco y las Vírgenes Prudentes

Querida familia parroquial:

Este domingo Jesús nos cuenta la parábola de las diez vírgenes (Mateo 25, 1-13). Diez jóvenes toman sus lámparas y salen al encuentro del esposo. Cinco son prudentes y llevan aceite de reserva; cinco son necias y no llevan nada. El esposo tarda, y todas se quedan dormidas. A medianoche se oye el grito: «¡Ya viene el esposo! ¡Salid a recibirlo!». Las necias piden aceite a las prudentes, pero no hay para compartir, y cuando regresan, la puerta ya está cerrada. Jesús termina con una frase fácil de escuchar y difícil de vivir: «Velen, porque no saben ni el día ni la hora».

Fíjense que todas se durmieron. La parábola no trata realmente de quién tenía sueño y quién no. Trata de quién se preparó antes de que empezara la espera. El aceite no se puede pedir prestado a medianoche. La fe, la oración y el amor también son así: se construyen despacio, en los días ordinarios, para que cuando llegue la hora inesperada no tengamos que correr a buscarlos.

La primera lectura (Sabiduría 6, 12-16) dice que la sabiduría «se deja ver fácilmente por los que la aman, y se deja encontrar por los que la buscan». Las vírgenes prudentes no solo estaban

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Food Pantry Needs:
Both Food Pantries have the same needs!

Pancake mix, syrup, cereal, fruit cocktail, canned tuna, spaghetti, and peanut butter, toilet paper, bar soap, and toiletries.

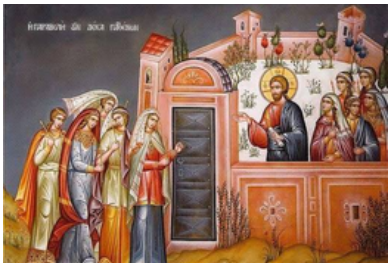
Times and locations on page 2

Necesidades del Banco de Alimentos:
¡Ambos bancos de alimentos tienen las mismas necesidades!

Mezcla para panqueques, jarabe, cereales, cóctel de frutas, atún en lata, espaguetis, mantequilla de maní, papel higiénico, jabón en barra y artículos de aseo personal.

Horarios y ubicaciones en la página 2

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preparadas; estaban atentas. Deseaban tanto la fiesta que mantuvieron sus lámparas encendidas durante la demora.

San Francisco entendía esta disposición. Al comienzo de su conversión, después de años de andar sin rumbo, reunió a sus primeros compañeros y les dijo, en esencia: comencemos, hermanos, a servir al Señor Dios, porque hasta ahora hemos hecho poco o nada. No esperó un momento perfecto para vivir el Evangelio. Comenzó, y siguió comenzando cada día hasta sumuerte. Francisco sabía que el Esposo podía llegar a cualquier hora, y eligió vivir como quien lo espera. Incluso su último pedido, ser puesto sobre la tierra desnuda en la Porciúncula, fue el de un hombre cuya lámpara ya estaba llena.

La segunda lectura, de la primera carta a los Tesalonicenses, habla de una pregunta especialmente cercana esta semana, pues oramos por nuestros difuntos en la conmemoración de los fieles difuntos: «Estaremos siempre con el Señor». Pablo nos dice que no nos entristezcamos como los que no tienen esperanza. Nuestra disposición no es miedo a una puerta cerrada. Es confianza en quien viene a encontrarnos.

Entonces, ¿de dónde sale nuestro aceite? Sale de hábitos pequeños y fieles: unos minutos de oración antes de que el día nos arrastre, la Misa del domingo, la reconciliación cuando la necesitamos, una palabra amable a alguien con quien hemos estado distanciados. Nada de eso se puede guardar de último momento. Se mantiene encendido un día a la vez.

Antes de terminar, quiero decirles un sincero gracias. Semana tras semana, ustedes mantienen sus lámparas encendidas. Traen a sus hijos, acompañan a los enfermos, oran por la parroquia y los unos por los otros. Son, en silencio, las vírgenes prudentes de esta comunidad, y les estoy agradecido.

Y los invito esta semana a revisar su aceite. Escojan una práctica diaria para fortalecer: una oración en la mañana, un misterio del Rosario, una visita al Santísimo. Luego busquen a alguien que se ha alejado de la parroquia y háganle saber que lo extrañamos. Que seamos una comunidad despierta y lista, para que, cuando venga el Esposo, salgamos a recibirlo con alegría.

San Francisco, ruega por nosotros.

Con gratitud y bendiciones,

P. Daniel Vallejo

P. Daniel V–Parroquia San Francisco de Asís

Holiday Food Needs

As we plan for the Holidays, please remember those in need and help provide food baskets for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. We will need donations of:

Instant Mashed Potatoes	Stuffing Mix
Turkey Gravy	Canned Vegetables
Canned Sweet Potatoes	Canned Cranberry Sauce
Brownie Mix	Cookies
Snack Items	Jello and/or Pudding

You can drop off donations in the Food Pantry food boxes at the entrances of the Church, or at the Food Pantry during our normal hours, Monday and Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Truly, thank you for your generosity.

Location and Hours of St. Francis Food Pantries
Horarios y Ubicaciones de los Bancos de Alimentos

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., Sat., 11:30 am —1:00 pm

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The Holidays are Coming!

The St. James Food Pantry Gift Card Fundraiser has returned!

Buy all of your Holiday gift cards from the Food Pantry to support the Pantry. A portion of the proceeds from purchasing gift cards is donated directly to the Food Pantry.

Order forms are located at both the Delaware Ave and South End sites. Drop off your order form by Nov. 29th with a check made payable to St. Francis of Assisi Church. Note on the memo line the check is for Gift Cards.

Gift cards will be available for pick-up after Mass on Dec. 5th and Dec. 6th at the site you placed your order form.
Call or email Linda Cruz if you need other arrangements.

Thank you for your support!!!

Questions? Contact Linda Cruz at Lindac2009@msn.com or by phone at 518-605-8740.

40 Days for Life Vigil

How to take part locally:

Staying always on the public right-of-way or sidewalks

Albany: Gather next to the bus shelter in front of 855 Central Avenue / Contact Mike at alb40days@gmail.com for times.

Troy: Gather in front of Hudson River Commons, 120 Hoosick Street / Contact Margaret at 518-698-9057 for times.

Learn more... get involved... and sign up at the sites listed below

https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/albany
https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/troy

St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to "stay awake" by taking time to seriously look at ourselves, the priorities of our lives, and how we are growing spiritually.

Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" and then put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box so that those who are suffering will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Place a check made out to "St. Vincent de Paul Society" in the collection basket.

You can also help by joining us!
Call the Cathedral at 518-463-4447 to learn more.

Join Hallow today!

We have a network-wide subscription, so enjoy all the benefits of Hallow : set and maintain a prayer routine includes audio Bible stories, prayers, meditations, Lectio Divina, Christian music and much more!

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were attentive. They wanted the feast enough to keep their lamps burning through the delay.

Saint Francis understood this readiness. Early in his conversion, after years of drifting, he gathered his first companions and said, in effect: let us begin, brothers, to serve the Lord God, for until now we have done little or nothing. He did not wait for a perfect moment to start living the Gospel. He began, and he kept beginning, every day, until his death. Francis knew that the Bridegroom could come at any hour, and he chose to live as someone who was expecting him. Even his last request, to be laid on the bare ground at the Portiuncula, was the request of a man whose lamp was already full.

The second reading, from First Thessalonians, speaks to a question that is especially near us this week, since we prayed for our beloved dead on All Souls: "We shall always be with the Lord." Paul tells us not to grieve like those who have no hope. Our readiness is not fear of a locked door. It is trust in the one who is coming to meet us.

So where does our oil come from? It comes from small, faithful habits: a few minutes of prayer before the day rushes in, Sunday Mass, reconciliation when we need it, a kind word to someone we have been avoiding. None of these can be stored up at the last minute. They are kept burning one day at a time.

Before I close, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. Week after week, you keep your lamps lit. You bring your children, you sit with the sick, you pray for the parish and for one another. You are, quietly, the wise virgins of this community, and I am grateful for you.

And I invite you this week to check your oil. Choose one daily practice to strengthen: a morning prayer, a decade of the Rosary, a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Then reach out to someone who has drifted from the parish and let them know they are missed. Let us be a community that is awake and ready, so that when the Bridegroom comes, we walk out to meet him with joy. Saint Francis, pray for us.

With gratitude and blessings,

Daniel Vallejo

Fr. Daniel V — St. Francis of Assisi Parish

pray with pope leo



Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

mass intentions

Del. Ave.		*Requested by:*
Sat., Nov. 7 4:00 pm	Pro Populo	
Sun., Nov. 8 9:00 am	Pro Populo	
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sat., Nov. 14 4:00 pm	+ Ena Keenan	Denise Buckley
Sun., Nov. 15 9:00 am	Pro Populo	
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
South End		*Requested By:*
Sun., Nov. 8 10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sun., Nov. 15 10:30 am	Pro Populo	

Readings for the Week of Nov. 8, 2026

Sun: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/
1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13

Mon: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22

Tues: Ti 2:1-8, 11-14/Ps 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27 and 29/
Lk 17:7-10

Wed: Ti 3:1-7/Ps 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6/Lk 17:11-19

Thurs: Phlm 7-20/Ps 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Lk 17:20-25

Fri: 2 Jn 4-9/Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18/Lk 17:26-37

Sat: 3 Jn 5-8/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 18:1-8

Next Sunday:
Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/
1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

st. francis of assisi parish

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Music
Ms. Kristen Witham

Buildings & Grounds
Mr. Kurt Schlachter, Facilities Manager
Cathedralfacilities@rcda.org

St. Francis is currently being served by The Historic Albany Parishes office

Mailing Address: 125 Eagle St., Albany, NY 12202
Phone Number: (518) 463-4447
Email: Cathedral: CICAlban@rcda.org

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

st. francis of assisi
Mass and Confessions Schedule

Confession and Mass Schedule

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

Comunidad Hispana

391 DELAWARE AVE. ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Santa Misa: Domingo 10:30 am
Confesiones: Domingo 10:00 am

Primer Domingo del mes: Benedicion a todos los ninos y jovenes al final de la Santa Misa.

Hora Santa:
Todos los primeros Sabados de cada mes a las 5:15 pm.

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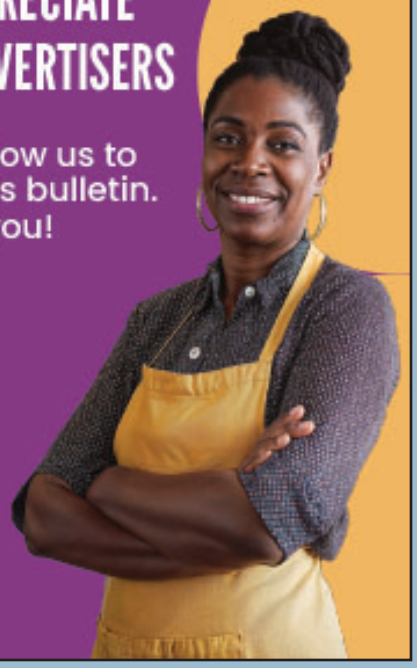
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