

st. francís of assísí

South End
93 Fourth Avenue, Albany

391 Delaware Avenue, Albany

stfrancisalbany.org
www.facebook.com/SaintFrancisAlbany

A Song in the Dark: The Peace that Held Francis

Dear Parish Family,
Near the end of his life, Francis of Assisi was in rough shape. His eyes, damaged by years of exposure and untreated infection, burned so badly that doctors had cauterized them with a hot iron — a treatment he endured without flinching, though it left him nearly blind. His stomach was failing. His body bore the wounds of the stigmata, received two years earlier at La Verna, which never fully healed and caused him constant pain. And beyond the physical suffering, his heart carried a deeper ache: the brothers he loved were beginning to argue over how strictly to live the Rule he had written from the depths of his own conversion. Francis, by any honest measure, had reason for despair.

It was in exactly this darkness — blind, in pain, watching his life's work strain under division — that Francis composed the Canticle of the Creatures. Lying in a small hut beside the sisters of San Damiano, he sang praise for Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Sister Water, Brother Fire, even Sister Bodily Death. He did not wait for his eyes to heal or for the brothers to reconcile before he found something worth singing about. He chose praise in the middle of the wound, not after it closed.

This is what I mean when I say peace is not the absence of ...

continued on p. 3



Love does no evil to the
neighbor;
hence, love is the fulfillment
of the law.

Un Canto en la Oscuridad: La Paz que Sostuvo a Francisco

Querida familia parroquial:
Cerca del final de su vida, Francisco de Asís se encontraba en muy mal estado. Sus ojos, dañados por años de exposición e infecciones sin tratar, le ardían tanto que los médicos se los cauterizaron con un hierro candente — un tratamiento que soportó sin quejarse, aunque lo dejó casi ciego. Su estómago fallaba. Su cuerpo llevaba las heridas de los estigmas, recibidos dos años antes en La Verna, que nunca sanaron por completo y le causaban dolor constante. Y más allá del sufrimiento físico, su corazón cargaba una herida más pro-

funda: los hermanos que tanto amaba comenzaban a discutir sobre cuán estrictamente vivir la Regla que él había escrito desde lo más hondo de su propia conversión. Francisco, con toda razón, tenía motivos para caer en la desesperación.

Fue precisamente en esa oscuridad — ciego, adolorido, viendo su obra de vida tensionarse por la división — que Francisco compuso el Cántico de las Criaturas. Recostado en una pequeña choza junto a las hermanas de San Damián, cantó alabanzas al hermano sol, a la hermana luna, a la hermana agua, al hermano fuego, e incluso a la hermana muerte corporal. No esperó a que sus ojos sanaran ni a que los hermanos se reconciliaran para encontrar algo por qué cantar...

continué en la página 2

St. James Food Pantry 518-441-1929
3391 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

Inside the Bulletin

Automate Your Giving! p. 2

Join the Parish Hallow account p. 2

Let's Help Evangelize the World! p. 3

Automate your church giving!

Never again worry where your envelopes might be... where your checkbook is... whether you remembered to donate this week!



With a single sign-up, your

ons

to the church will happen automatically and leave you free and relaxed.

Use the QR code or the url below to sign up for secure, consistent, and direct church donations.

StFrancisofAssisialbany.flocknote.com/give

In addition to automated payments, you can also sign up for the latest updates, event reminders, and parish news delivered straight to your phone or inbox!

<https://StFrancisofAssisialbany.flocknote.com>

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.

How to join with free access!

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

Join Hallow Today!

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



continuación de la p.1

Eligió la alabanza en medio de la herida, no después de que sanara.

Esto es lo que quiero decir cuando afirmo que la paz no es la ausencia de dificultades. Para Francisco, la paz nunca fue una recompensa que llegaba cuando las circunstancias mejoraban. Era una decisión tomada en medio de las circunstancias — un acto de confianza en que la bondad de Dios seguía siendo real bajo el dolor, aunque nada en la superficie hubiera cambiado. Esto se acerca a lo que Jesús promete en el Evangelio de Juan: «La paz les dejo, mi paz les doy. No se la doy como la da el mundo» (Juan 14, 27). La paz del mundo depende de que las cosas vayan bien. La paz que ofrece Cristo puede coexistir con el sufrimiento, porque no está enraizada en las circunstancias — está enraizada en Él.

Vemos la semilla de esto mucho antes en la historia de Francisco. Siendo joven, pasó un año como prisionero de guerra tras la batalla de Collestrada, seguido de una larga enfermedad que lo dejó débil y desorientado sobre su futuro. Esos meses de encierro y enfermedad podrían haberlo endurecido o quebrado. En cambio, en ese silencio despojado, comenzó a escuchar a Dios hablándole de una manera que el ruido de su vida anterior había ahogado. La desesperación, para Francisco, se convertía una y otra vez en puerta de entrada, no en callejón sin salida.

No digo esto para romantizar el sufrimiento, y tampoco Francisco lo hizo — nunca fingió que el dolor no fuera real. Pero su vida nos muestra que la desesperación y la paz no son opuestos que compiten por el mismo espacio en nuestro corazón. Podemos sostener ambas cosas: el peso honesto de lo que es difícil, y una confianza silenciosa de que no lo cargamos solos. Cuando la ansiedad por la salud, la familia, las finanzas o el estado del mundo los oprima esta semana, los invito a recordar a Francisco en esa pequeña choza — ciego, adolorido, dividido de quienes amaba — encontrando aún el camino hacia un canto.

continué en la página 3

continuación de la p. 2

Antes de terminar, quiero decirles un sincero gracias. Sus oraciones y su presencia sostienen a esta parroquia en cada temporada, fácil o difícil, y no lo doy por sentado. Ver a esta comunidad presentarse los unos por los otros, semana tras semana, es una de las grandes gracias de mi vida como su párroco.

Y los invito: cualquier desesperación que estén cargando en este momento, tráiganla aquí. Tráiganla a la Misa, a la Adoración, a un momento de silencio ante el sagrario, a un hermano o hermana de esta parroquia que se siente con ustedes en ella. La paz, como descubrió

Francisco, rara vez se encuentra escapando de nuestras dificultades — se encuentra llevándolas, con honestidad, a la presencia del Dios que nunca se aparta.

Con gratitud y bendiciones,

P. Daniel V — Parroquia San Francisco de Asís

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 who will be coming to your parish later this month. 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!

St. Vincent de Paul Society

We can participate in the work of God by helping the poor. When we all work together, 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 to learn more.



continued from p. 1

trouble. For Francis, peace was never a reward that arrived once the circumstances improved. It was a decision made in the thick of the circumstances — an act of trust that God's goodness was still real underneath the pain, even when nothing on the surface had changed. This is close to what Jesus promises in John's Gospel: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you" (John 14:27). The peace of the world depends on things going well. The peace Christ offers can coexist with suffering, because it isn't rooted in circumstances at all — it's rooted in him.

We see the seed of this much earlier in Francis's story too. As a young man he spent

a year as a prisoner of war after the battle of Collestrada, followed by a long illness that left him weak and disoriented about his future. Those months of confinement and sickness could have hardened him or broken him. Instead, in that stripped-down silence, he began to hear God speaking in a way the noise of his old life had drowned out. Desperation, for Francis, kept becoming the doorway rather than the dead end.

I don't say any of this to romanticize suffering, and neither did Francis — he never pretended the pain wasn't real. But his life shows us that desperation and peace are not opposites fighting for the same space in our hearts. We can hold both: the honest weight of what's hard, and a quiet trust that we are not carrying it alone. When anxiety about health, family, finances, or the state of the world presses in on you this week, I invite you to remember Francis in that small hut — blind, in pain, divided from those he loved — still finding his way to a song.

Before I close, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. Your prayers and your presence carry this parish through every season, easy and hard alike, and I don't take that for granted. Watching this community show up for one another, week after week, is one of the great graces of my life as your pastor.

And I invite you: whatever desperation you're carrying right now, bring it here. Bring it to the Mass, to Adoration, to a quiet moment before the tabernacle, to a brother or sister in this parish who will sit with you in it. Peace, like Francis discovered, is rarely found by escaping our troubles — it's found by bringing them, honestly, into the presence of the God who never leaves.

With gratitude and blessings,

Fr. Daniel V — St. Francis of Assisi Parish

mass intentions

<i>Delaware Ave.</i>		<i>Requested by:</i>
Sat., Sept. 12 4:00 pm	† Gloria Johnson, † Francis R. Johnson, † Francis J. Johnson	Gloria Moak
Sun., Sept. 13 9:00 am	Pro Populo	
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sat., Sept. 19 4:00 pm	Pro Populo	
Sun., Sept. 20 9:00 am	† Gail Catoggio	Family
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
<i>South End</i>		<i>Requested By:</i>
Sat., Sept. 13 10:30 am	† Mary Russo	Lucille Williams
Sat., Sept. 20 10:30 am	Pro Populo	

Readings for the Week of Sept. 13, 2026

Sun: Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/
Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35
Mon: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/
Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Tues: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/
Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Wed: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35
Thur: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50
Fri: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15/Lk 8:1-3
Sat: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday:

Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

st. francis of assisi parish

Clergy

Father Daniel Vallejo, Pastor VallejoD@rcda.org

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Emmanuel Udoh udohe@rcda.org

Rev. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM Parish

Operations Manager

Mrs. Barbara Koerner-Fox

Barbara.Koernerfox@rcda.org

Liturgical Coordinator & Sacristan

Mr. Patrick Buonacore,

Patrick.Buonacore@rcda.org

Music

Ms. Kristen Witham

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Kurt Schlachter, Facilities Manager

Cathedralfacilities@rcda.org

**St. Francis is currently being served
by The 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: Benediccion 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.



DANIEL KEENAN

Funeral Home

490 Delaware Ave., Albany, NY 12209

(518) 463-1594

www.danielkeenanfuneralhome.com

Serving the parish families since 1955!



**JAMES D. WARREN
& SON, INC.**

Heating • Plumbing
Air Conditioning • Refrigeration

ALBANY

518-434-6138 • 24 Hour Service

**Support 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



SafeStreets

833-287-3502

**Little
space.
Big
impact.**

Advertise here

Call 800-950-9952



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

**2 FREE
DONUTS
WITH ANY PURCHASE**

WARM, DELICIOUS & MADE TO ORDER

TO REWARD YOURSELF JUST BECAUSE
YOU ATTENDED THIS SERVICE TODAY

Valid only in-shop at duck Donuts Latham. Limit one coupon per person, per visit.

Not valid with any other offer. No cash value.

1 Coupon per family please.

**Never
miss our
bulletin!**

Get this bulletin
delivered straight
to your inbox
every week.



Scan to subscribe on
parishesonline.com



**catholicmatch®
New York**



CatholicMatch.com/NY

**Advertise in Our
Church Bulletin!**

Contact Victoria Russo

vrusso@4LPi.com

(800) 477-4574 x6283

**Let Go.
Let God.**



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Francis of Assisi, Albany, NY

04-0736