

st. francís of assísí

South End
93 Fourth Avenue, Albany

391 Delaware Avenue, Albany

stfrancisalbany.org
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The Vineyard Is Not Ours: Francis and the Basket of Fish

Dear Parish Family,

This week the Lord takes us back into the vineyard one more time, but the story has grown darker. In Matthew 21:33-43, a landowner plants a vineyard, puts a hedge around it, digs a winepress, builds a tower, leases it to tenants, and goes away. When harvest comes, he sends servants to collect his share of the fruit. The tenants beat one, kill another, stone a third. He sends more; they do the same. Finally he sends his son, thinking, "They will respect my son." Instead they say, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance." Isaiah sings the same sad song in this Sunday's first reading: God did everything for his vineyard — cleared it, planted the choicest vines — and looked for grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes (Isaiah 5:1-7). At the root of the tragedy is a simple forgetting. The tenants forgot they were tenants. They began to believe the vineyard was theirs.

This Sunday also falls on October 4, the day the Church remembers our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi. And it is hard to imagine a saint whose life answers this parable more directly. When the first brothers had grown in number and needed a place to pray, Francis went looking for a church. The Benedictine abbot of Mount Subasio offered him the tiny chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels, the Portiuncula, at the foot of Assisi.

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*"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
by the Lord has this been done,
and it is wonderful in our eyes?"*

Dos Hijos, Una Viña: Francisco y el Peso de Lo Que Hacemos

Querida familia parroquial:

Esta semana el Señor nos lleva una vez más a la viña, pero la historia se ha vuelto más oscura. En Mateo 21, 33-43, un propietario planta una viña, la rodea con una cerca, cava un lagar, construye una torre, la arrienda a unos viñadores y se va lejos. Cuando llega el tiempo de la cosecha, envía a sus criados a recoger su parte de los frutos. Los viñadores golpean a uno, matan a otro, apedrean a un tercero. Envía más criados; hacen lo mismo. Por último envía a su hijo, pensando: «A mi hijo lo respetarán». Pero ellos dicen: «Este es el heredero.

Vengan, matémoslo y nos quedaremos con su herencia». Isaías entona el mismo canto triste en la primera lectura de este domingo: Dios lo hizo todo por su viña — la limpió de piedras, plantó las mejores cepas — y esperaba uvas, pero dio agrazones (Isaías 5, 1-7). En la raíz de la tragedia hay un simple olvido. Los viñadores olvidaron que eran arrendatarios. Empezaron a creer que la viña era suya.

Este domingo, además, cae el 4 de octubre, el día en que la Iglesia recuerda a nuestro patrono, san Francisco de Asís. Y es difícil imaginar un santo cuya vida responda más directamente a esta parábola. Cuando los primeros hermanos habían crecido en número y necesitaban un lugar para orar, Francisco salió a

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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., Sat., 11:30 am — 1:00 pm

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a buscar una iglesia. El abad benedictino del monte Subasio le ofreció la pequeñísima capilla de Santa María de los Ángeles, la Porciúncula, al pie de Asís. Francisco la aceptó con alegría, pero no como un regalo para poseerla. Insistió en que siguiera siendo propiedad de los monjes. Y cada año, como renta, le enviaba al abad una canasta de pececillos pescados en el río cercano. Los monjes, conmovidos por el gesto, le devolvían una jarra de aceite. Una capillita, una canasta de peces, una jarra de aceite: toda una teología de la viña en un solo intercambio anual.

Francisco nunca dejó que sus hermanos lo olvidaran. En la Regla que escribió para ellos, dijo claramente que los frailes no debían apropiarse de nada — «ni casa, ni lugar, ni cosa alguna» — sino vivir en este mundo como peregrinos y forasteros. La Porciúncula se convirtió en el lugar que más amó en la tierra. Allí regresó, ciego y agotado, al final de su vida, y allí murió la tarde del 3 de octubre de 1226, pidiendo que lo pusieran sobre la tierra desnuda. Dejó la viña tal como la había recibido: no era suya.

¡Fíjense cómo esto invierte por completo la parábola. Los viñadores malvados querían convertirse en dueños, y por eso rechazaban a cada criado que venía a pedir frutos. Francisco quería seguir siendo arrendatario, y por eso cada año los frutos volvían al dueño, libremente, incluso con alegría, llevados en una canasta. Los viñadores mataron al hijo para apoderarse de la herencia. Francisco renunció a su herencia terrena para seguir al Hijo, y así lo recibió todo. «La piedra que desecharon los constructores es ahora la piedra angular» (Mateo 21, 42): el mismo Cristo a quien los viñadores echaron fuera de la viña es sobre quien Francisco construyó toda su vida.

Creo que la tentación de los viñadores es más silenciosa en nuestras vidas, pero es real. Nuestro tiempo, nuestros talentos, nuestras familias, nuestros hogares, incluso nuestra parroquia — todo es viña prestada. No la creamos; se nos confió. Pero poco a poco empezamos a hablar de «mi tiempo», «mi dinero», «mis planes», y cuando Dios envía a alguien a pedir una parte de los frutos — un vecino necesitado, una llamada a

servir, una hora para la oración — podemos descubrirnos defendiendo la cerca. San Pablo, en la segunda lectura de este domingo, nos señala un camino mejor: «No se inquieten por nada; más bien presenten en toda ocasión sus peticiones a Dios en la oración y la súplica, llenos de gratitud. Y la paz de Dios, que sobrepasa toda inteligencia, custodiará sus corazones» (Filipenses 4, 6-7). Hay una libertad que pertenece solo a quien sabe que es arrendatario. No tiene que defender lo que nunca fue suyo. Solo tiene que cuidarlo bien y devolver los frutos.

Antes de terminar, quiero decirles un sincero gracias. Mucho de lo que sucede en esta parroquia sucede porque ustedes devuelven los frutos — su tiempo, su generosidad, sus oraciones, su cuidado los unos por los otros. Cada uno de esos dones es una canasta de peces llevada al Dueño de la viña, y ninguno pasa desapercibido.

Y los invito esta semana: traigan su propia canasta. Escojan una manera concreta de devolverle a Dios algo de los frutos de su vida — una hora dedicada a alguien que la necesita, una ayuda para alguien en necesidad, una visita que han estado posponiendo. Y cada mañana, antes de que el día se les escape, recen la oración más sencilla del arrendatario: «Señor, este día es tuyo. Ayúdame a cuidarlo bien». San Francisco, ruega por nosotros.

Con gratitud y bendiciones,

P. Daniel Vallejo

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the twenty-seventh sunday in ordinary time – october 4, 2026

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Francis gladly accepted it, but not as a gift to own. He insisted that it remain the monks' property. And every year, as rent, he sent the abbot a basket of small fish caught in the nearby river. The monks, touched by the gesture, sent back a jar of oil. A little church, a basket of fish, a jar of oil: a whole theology of the vineyard in one yearly exchange.

Francis never let his brothers forget it. In the Rule he wrote for them, he said plainly that the friars should appropriate nothing to themselves — "neither a house, nor a place, nor anything at all" — but should live in this world as pilgrims and strangers. The Portiuncula became the place he loved most on earth. It was where he returned, blind and worn out, at the end of his life, and where he died on the evening of October 3, 1226, asking to be laid on the bare ground. He left the vineyard exactly as he had received it: not his.

Notice how completely this reverses the parable. The wicked tenants wanted to become owners, and so they turned away every servant who came asking for fruit. Francis wanted to remain a tenant, and so every year the fruit went back to the owner, freely, even joyfully. The tenants killed the son to seize the inheritance. Francis gave up his earthly inheritance to follow the Son, and in doing so received everything. "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" (Matthew 21:42) — the very Christ the tenants threw out of the vineyard is the one Francis built his whole life upon.

Be a Part of St. Francis Harvest Dinners 2026!

Please consider hosting a family-style dinner in your home to celebrate in harvest dinners for St. Francis. Hosts will choose a date that they are able to host fellow parishioners (or friends) in their home for a dinner and a night of hospitality and fun in support of our churches and communities at both the Delaware Avenue and South End sites.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Torelli either through email (amanda.torelli3@gmail.com) or phone/text (860-978-6703). Tell me:

- The date you would like to host in month of October
- How many people you can host
- Menu - Please breakdown for any appetizers, salads, main course and dessert
- If there are any pets in the home
- Any other special considerations

Please help the South End Food Pantry by Donating!

The South End Welcome Center is in particular need of the following items: canned tuna, cereal, peanut butter, and toiletries.

I think the temptation of the tenants is quieter in our lives, but it is real. Our time, our talents, our families, our homes, even our parish — all of it is vineyard on loan. We did not create it; we were entrusted with it. But slowly we begin to speak of "my time," "my money," "my plans," and when God sends someone to ask for a share of the fruit — a neighbor in need, a call to serve, an hour for prayer — we can find ourselves defending the fence. Saint Paul, in this Sunday's second reading, points to a better way: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts" (Philippians 4:6-7). There is a freedom that belongs only to the one who knows he is a tenant. He does not have to guard what was never his. He only has to tend it well and give back the fruit.

Before I close, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. So much of what happens in this parish happens because you bring back the fruit — your time, your generosity, your prayers, your care for one another. Every one of those gifts is a basket of fish carried to the Owner of the vineyard, and not one of them goes unseen.

And I invite you this week: bring your own basket. Choose one concrete way to return some of the fruit of your life to God — an hour given to someone who needs it, a gift to someone in need, a visit you have been putting off. And each morning, before the day gets away from you, pray the simplest tenant's prayer: "Lord, this day is yours. Help me tend it well." Saint Francis, pray for us.

With gratitude and blessings,

P. Daniel Vallejo

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The good news of this Gospel is that all we need to do is let God tend us and bring us to produce good fruit. All we need do is be faithful; God will take care of the rest.

Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those who feel left out and abandoned.

Please help those in need through almsgiving. 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.

mass intentions

<i>Delaware Ave.</i>		<i>Requested by:</i>
Sat., Oct. 3 4:00 pm	Doris Maloney	Family
Sun., Oct. 4 9:00 am	Pro Populo	
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sat., Oct. 10 4:00 pm	Pro Populo	
Sun., Oct. 11 9:00 am	Pro Populo	
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
South End		<i>Requested By:</i>
Sun., Oct. 4 10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sun., Oct. 11 10:30 am	Pro Populo	

Readings for the Week of Oct. 4, 2026

Sun: Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9 and 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20/
Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

Mon: Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c/
Lk 10:25-37

Tues: Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/
Lk 10:38-42

Wed: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1-4

Th: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/
Lk 11:5-13

Fri: Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Lk 11:15-26

Sat: Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

st. francis of assisi parish

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

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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.



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