

st. francís of assísí

South End
93 Fourth Avenue, Albany

391 Delaware Avenue, Albany

stfrancisalbany.org
www.facebook.com/SaintFrancisAlbany

Two Sons, One Vineyard: Francis and the Weight of What We Do

Dear Parish Family,

This week's Gospel is a story that lands like a splinter, small but hard to ignore once you feel it. Matthew 21:28-32: a father asks two sons to work in the vineyard. The first says, "I will not," but later changes his mind and goes. The second says, "Yes, sir," and never goes at all. Jesus turns to the chief priests and elders — men who kept every religious formality — and asks them plainly which son did his father's will. They can only answer: the first. Then comes the line that must have landed like a slap: "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." Not because of their sin, but because, unlike the second son, they eventually went. Ezekiel says something almost identical in this Sunday's first reading: the one who turns away from wickedness and does what is right shall live (Ezekiel 18:27-28). What matters, in the end, is not the promise we made at the start but the road we actually walked.

Francis of Assisi's own conversion is, in a sense, the story of the first son. As a young man, he was, by every outward account, the picture of someone who had said yes to his father's plan. Pietro di Bernardone was a wealthy cloth merchant, and Francis was groomed to inherit the business — fine fabrics, profitable trade, and eventually, Francis hoped, the greater glory



"Which of the two did his father's will?"

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

Querida familia parroquial:

El Evangelio de esta semana es una historia que se clava como una astilla, pequeña pero imposible de ignorar una vez que la sientes. Mateo 21, 28-32: un padre les pide a sus dos hijos que vayan a trabajar en la viña. El primero le dice «no quiero», pero después cambia de parecer y va. El segundo le dice «sí, señor», y nunca va. Jesús se dirige a los sumos sacerdotes y a los ancianos — hombres que cumplían cada formalidad religiosa — y les pregunta sin rodeos cuál de los dos hizo la voluntad de su padre. Solo pueden responder: el primero. Entonces llega la frase que debió caerles como una bofetada: «En verdad les digo que los publicanos y las prostitutas los preceden a ustedes en el Reino de Dios». No por su pecado, sino porque, a diferencia del segundo hijo, terminaron yendo. Ezequiel dice algo casi idéntico en la primera lectura de este domingo: el que se aparta de la maldad y hace lo que es justo, vivirá (Ezequiel 18, 27-28). Lo que importa, al final, no es la promesa que hicimos al principio, sino el camino que realmente recorrimos.

La propia conversión de Francisco de Asís es, en cierto sentido, la historia del primer hijo. De joven, por todas las apariencias, era la imagen de alguien que le había dicho sí al

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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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plan de su padre. Pietro di Bernardone era un rico comerciante de telas, y Francisco fue criado para heredar el negocio — telas finas, comercio próspero y, eventualmente, esperaba Francisco, la gloria mayor de la caballería. Se vestía según ese papel. Gastaba con libertad. Soñaba, literalmente, con armadura y batalla. En la superficie, nada en él parecía un rechazo. Pero nada de eso era en realidad la viña del Padre. Todo ese «sí» era, en el fondo, un «no» disfrazado de seda.

Luego llegó el giro. Después de su cautiverio en Perugia, de su enfermedad y de un largo desmoronamiento de sus antiguas ambiciones, Francisco comenzó a repartir dinero en las puertas de las iglesias y a pasar largas horas en la capilla en ruinas de San Damián. Un día vendió, sin permiso, una pieza de la tela más fina de su padre, y entregó el dinero al sacerdote de allí. Pietro, furioso y humillado, arrastró a su hijo ante el obispo de Asís para forzarlo a renunciar a cualquier derecho sobre su herencia, esperando, seguramente, alguna escena de súplicas o negociación. Francisco le dio algo completamente distinto. Sin una palabra de discusión, se quitó la ropa — toda — y se la entregó a su padre, hasta quedar en la plaza pública vistiendo solamente un cilicio. «Hasta ahora te he llamado padre mío en la tierra», dijo. «Desde ahora puedo decir sin reserva: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos». El obispo, conmovido, lo cubrió con su propia capa.

Así se ve cuando el «no quiero» finalmente se convierte en «voy». Fíjense que Francisco no convenció a su padre con argumentos, ni pronunció un discurso sobre sus nuevas convicciones. Actuó. Vacío sus manos de todo lo que Pietro le había dado, tal como dice san Pablo que Cristo mismo «se despojó de sí mismo, tomando la condición de esclavo» (Filipenses 2, 7) — la segunda lectura de este domingo. El despojo es lo que importa. Lo que Francisco haya dicho «sí» de joven con la boca no significaba nada frente a lo que sus manos realmente soltaron en aquella plaza.

Creo que la mayoría de nosotros vivimos en algún

punto entre estos dos hijos, a veces en la misma semana. Decimos que sí con facilidad en la oración — sí a amar al prójimo, sí a perdonar, sí a dar — y luego la viña queda sin tocar mientras atendemos todo lo demás. O nos resistimos durante mucho tiempo, seguros de que cierta parte de la vida cristiana no es para nosotros, solo para descubrir que cambiamos de rumbo cuando menos lo esperamos, entrando precisamente a la obra que jurábamos nunca hacer. Jesús no avergüenza a ninguno de los dos hijos por dónde comenzó. Solo pregunta cuál de ellos, al final, fue.

Antes de terminar, quiero decirles un sincero gracias. Muchos de ustedes son, en silencio, el primer hijo — los que se presentan a servir, a ser voluntarios, a sentarse junto a alguien que está sufriendo, sin nunca hacer alarde de su «sí». Ese tipo de fidelidad rara vez se nota, y yo la noto.

Y los invito esta semana: miren con honestidad dónde su «sí» y su «ir» se han separado. Tal vez sea una reconciliación que han dicho que harán algún día. Tal vez sea una persona a quien han prometido perdonar, o un regreso a los sacramentos que han estado posponiendo. Sea lo que sea, la puerta de vuelta a la viña nunca está cerrada con llave. Francisco lo descubrió de pie, casi desnudo, en una plaza. Ustedes pueden descubrirlo en algo mucho más pequeño — solo hace falta ir.

Con gratitud y bendiciones,

P. Daniel Vallejo

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twenty-sixth sunday in ordinary time — september 27, 2026

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knighthood. He dressed the part. He spent freely. He dreamed, quite literally, of armor and battle. On the surface, nothing about him looked like refusal. But none of it was actually the Father's vineyard. All of that "yes" was really a "no" dressed up in silk.

Then came the turning. After his captivity in Perugia, his illness, and a long unraveling of his old ambitions, Francis began giving away money at church doors and spending long hours in the crumbling chapel of San Damiano. One day he sold a bolt of his father's finest cloth — without permission — and gave the proceeds to the priest there. Pietro, furious and humiliated, dragged his son before the Bishop of Assisi to force him to renounce any claim to his inheritance, expecting, presumably, some scene of pleading or negotiation. Francis gave him something else entirely. Without a word of argument, he took off his clothes — every piece — and handed them to his father, until he stood in the public square wearing nothing but a hair shirt underneath. "Until now I have called you my father on earth," he said. "From now on I can say without reserve, 'Our Father, who art in heaven.'" The bishop, moved, wrapped his own cloak around him.

That is what it looks like when "I will not" finally becomes "I will go." Notice that Francis didn't argue his father into agreement, and he didn't offer a speech about his new convictions. He acted. He emptied his hands of everything Pietro had given him, the way Saint Paul says Christ himself "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" (Philippians 2:7) — this Sunday's second reading. The emptying is the point.

Whatever Francis said "yes" to with his mouth as a young man meant nothing next to what his hands actually let go of in that square.

I think most of us live somewhere between these two sons, sometimes in the same week. We say yes easily in prayer — yes to loving our neighbor, yes to forgiving, yes to giving — and then the vineyard sits untouched while we tend to everything else. Or we resist for a long time, certain that some part of the Christian life is not for us, only to find ourselves changing course when we least expect it, walking into the very work we swore we'd never do. Jesus doesn't shame either son for where he started. He asks only which one, in the end, went.

Before I close, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. So many of you are quietly the first son — the ones who show up to serve, to volunteer, to sit with someone who is struggling, without ever making a show of your "yes." That kind of faithfulness rarely gets noticed, and I notice it.

And I invite you this week: look honestly at where your yes and your going have come apart. Maybe it's a reconciliation you've said you'll get to. Maybe it's a person you've promised to forgive, or a return to the sacraments you've been meaning to make. Whatever it is, the door back into the vineyard is never locked. Francis found that out standing nearly naked in a piazza. You can find it in something much smaller — just go.

With gratitude and blessings,

P. Daniel Vallejo

St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Vincent's disciples are called to enter into the following of Christ in the very terms with which, in Luke's gospel, Jesus opens his public ministry: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings of joy to the poor...'

We can participate in this work 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. 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.



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.

mass intentions

<i>Delaware Ave.</i>		<i>Requested by:</i>
Sat., Sept. 26 4:00 pm	† Alicia & Jorge Constantino	Graciela & James DeSemone
Sun., Sept. 27 9:00 am	Pro Populo	
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sat., Oct. 3 4:00 pm	Doris Maloney	Family
Sun., Oct. 4 9:00 am	Pro Populo	
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
<i>South End</i>		<i>Requested By:</i>
Sun., Sept. 27 10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sun., Oct. 4 10:30 am	Pro Populo	

Readings for the Week of Sept. 27, 2026

Sun: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32
Mon: Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7/Lk 9:46-50
Tues: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/
Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
Wed: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15/
Lk 9:57-62
Thurs: Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14/
Lk 10:1-12
Fri: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/
Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab/ Mt 18:1-5, 10
Sat: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/
Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130/Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday:

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

st. francis of assisi parish

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Rev. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM Parish

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Ms. Kristen Witham

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Kurt Schlachter, Facilities Manager

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**St. Francis is currently being served
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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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