



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor Fr. Roger Abadano

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi is a Roman Catholic church striving to be an instrument of peace and love through the sacramental life of Jesus Christ and service to others.

VISION STATEMENT

Through the grace of God, the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Francis of Assisi aspires to be a family-oriented and Christ-centered community.

CORE VALUES

- Spiritual devotion
- Devotion to the family unit and church family
- Charity work
- Respect for and promotion of human dignity
- Offering fellowship and help to our community in God's name

Pastor's Message

I extend a warm welcome to our parishioners and visitors. St. Francis of Assisi is where we work, pray and journey as one united family. Together we create an environment that is Christ-centered and full of spirit. May you always feel welcome and find your place in our parish.

Rev. Fr. Roger Abadano
Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi

Readings

First: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Second: Ephesians 5:8-14

Responsorial Psalm: 23

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Parishioner Prayers for:

David Swift, Maria Infante Brabo, Sandy Brown, Jerry Sanita, Karen Baxter

ST. FRANCIS NEWS AND NOTES...

March

- 26 No Weekday Mass
- 27 Adoration and Benediction at 6 pm
- 28 Mass and Stations of the Cross at 1 pm

April

- 02 No Weekday Mass
- 03 Adoration and Benediction at 6 pm
- 04 Mass and Stations of the Cross at 1 pm
- 05 Lenten Retreat at 2pm and Family Dinner
- 09 Mass & Lenten Reconciliation
- 10 Adoration and Benediction at 6 pm
- 11 Mass and Stations of the Cross at 1 pm
- 15 Sedar Meal @ 6pm
- 19 Wine and Cheese
- 23 1pm Weekday Mass
- 24 Adoration and Benediction at 6 pm
- 30 No Weekday Mass

Please Note: The Holy Week Schedule for 2025 is listed after the announcements.

Mass Intentions

- Saturday March 1st:** Repose of the Soul of Greg Seely. Requested by Pam Gouldthorpe.
- Sunday March 9th:** Repose of the Soul of Leonardo Infante. Requested by Marlene Swift.
- Saturday March 22nd:** Repose of the Soul of Sue Hunnicutt. Requested by Marlene Swift.
- Sunday March 23rd:** Repose of the Soul of Bill Chesney. Requested by Maureen Chesney

Announcements:

Daily Mass and Stations of the Cross will be held at 1 pm every Friday during the season of Lent.

Easter Lilies: A sign-up sheet for Easter Lilies is available in the Narthex! Each lily costs \$15. Please specify if you would like the lilies to be dedicated "In Honor" or "In Memory" of a loved one. Make checks payable to St. Francis and remember to note "lily" in the Memo line. You can either drop them off in the office or place them in the collection basket.

We invite you to sign up for reservations to the **Seder Meal** on Tuesday, April 15th at 6 p.m. in our Social Hall. Reservations for the Seder are necessary for us to be properly prepared. The Seder is an opportunity to experience a representation of the Passover meal which Jesus and his disciples shared between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday. The script we use includes 5

recommended recipes for the dinner. We are looking for volunteers to prepare these dishes. The production of The Blind Man written and produced by Peter Coleman will precede the Seder Meal. We look forward to seeing you there.

Men's Group! We are looking to bring men together for an hour on Saturday mornings at 8am beginning March 8th during Lent. As a group, we will review the readings for Sunday and share our reflections on the texts. Early birds for coffee and doughnuts at 7:30 are encouraged. For additional information please contact Frank Watkins at fwatkins55@gmail.com or cell: (301) 922-4331.

Bishop's Lenten Appeal: Sharing His Love with Others

The Annual Bishop's Appeal is part of our Lenten traditions. On the table in the narthex, you will find brochures and envelopes for making a donation as well as QR codes to scan and make direct donations on the secure diocesan website. Please consider making a donation! St. Francis has been blessed by the Bishop's Appeal on multiple occasions, including grant monies for our food boxes through the Fuel and Hunger fund and support for our new HVAC system through the Diocesan Missions fund. And a portion of your donation comes back directly to our parish as part of our operating budget!

Welcome and thank you to Raquel Garcia who will be filling in while Jennifer is on maternity leave. The office hours will temporarily change to Tuesday 1 to 3, Wednesday 1 to 2:15, and Thursday 1 to 3. You can reach Raquel at St. Mary's between the hours of 8 am and 12 pm if necessary.

To all St. Francis' ministers that have an announcement be in the bulletin, please give your announcement on or before Wednesday.

Holy Week Activities and Mass Schedules—2025

April 5 (Lenten Retreat)

Lenten Retreat— 12 Noon-4pm

Vigil Mass—5 pm

April 12 (Blessing of Palms on Saturday)

Vigil Mass and Blessing of Palms—5 pm

April 13 (Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord)

Sunday Mass and Blessing of Palms— 8 am

April 14 (Holy Monday)

Chrism Mass—Sacred Heart Cathedral— Richmond 6 pm

April 15 (Tuesday)

Seder Meal— 6 pm

April 16 (Wednesday)

Lenten Reconciliation & Healing Mass (using the new blessed oil)

Healing Mass—1 pm followed by Lenten Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

April 17 (Holy Thursday)

Commemoration of Jesus Christ's institution of the Eucharist and

Washing of the Feet— 4 pm Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament— 5-8 pm

April 18 (Good Friday) (No Mass)

The Lord's Passion and Veneration of The Holy Cross — 3 pm

April 19 (Holy Saturday)

Easter Vigil— 5 pm Mass

April 20 (Easter Sunday)

The Lord's Passion and Veneration of The Holy Cross — 8 am Mass

March Birthdays

Ron Horwege 5
 Mark Leuck 8
 Carol Meade 9
 Norman Carson 9
 Joan Thompson 10
 Rosanne Leuck 11
 Christine Furlong 12
 Ruth Morton 29
 Ann Tucker 30

Collections Report FY 2024-25**February**

Weekly totals \$ 3,494.26
 E- giving \$ 2,906.49
 Christmas \$ 2198.00
 Parish Partnership \$ 155.00
 Annual Budget
 YTD Budget
 YTD Surplus/(Shortfall)

Fiscal Year to Date

\$ 43,331.97
 \$ 12,356.63
 \$ 70,000.00
 \$ 46,666.68
 \$ 9,021.92

Mass Times: Wed., 1 pm and Sat., 5 pm & Sun. 8 am (except the 1st Sunday of the month)

Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: 1st Wednesday of the month after 1 pm Mass and every Thursday of each month at 6 pm.

Reconciliation: Sat., 4:30 pm –4:50 pm & by appt.

Office Hours: Tues. 1:00-3 pm; Wed. 1:00-2:15 pm; Thurs. 1:00-3 pm

Office phone: 434.946.2053 **Email:** parish@stfrancisamherst.org

Website: <http://www.stfrancisamherst.org> **Facebook:** stfrancis/amherst/va

Parish mailing address: POB 663, Amherst, VA 24521

Support our parish with online recurring giving or a one-time gift! Simply click here

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stfran> or text the word 'Give' to **434-577-8700**. You can also call Donor Support at 866-930-4774 option 6.