

Liturgy Schedule

Today, December 28, 11:15 am

Lector: Sharon Orton
Greeter: Carla Gauldin
Usher: Greg Songhurst
Server: Youth
Rosary: Marie-Claire Songhurst
December Altar Linen: Laura Reyes

January 1, 2026, 11:15 am

Lector: John Ellison
Usher: Greg Songhurst
Server: As available
Rosary: John Ellison

Next Sunday, January 4, 11:15 am

Lector: Jim Smith
Greeter: Carla Gauldin
Usher: Mark Imbus
Server: Youth
Rosary: Marie-Claire Songhurst
January Altar Linen: Carla Gauldin

Scripture Readings for December 28, 2025 - January 4, 2026

Sunday - *Scripture:* Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Col 3:12-21 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday - *Scripture:* 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6
Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday - *Scripture:* 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk
2:36-40

Wednesday - *Scripture:* 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13
Jn 1:1-18

Thursday - *Scripture:* Num 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

Friday - *Scripture:* 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn
1:19-28

Saturday - *Scripture:* 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 Jn
1:29-34

Sunday - *Scripture:* Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12



Parishioners, Family Members and Friends in need of Special Prayer:



Pam Chapman, Marie Carlson,
Rick Gauldin, Jack Rollins, Sharon Peterson,
Nancy Songhurst, Laurel Wood, Patrick Fulkerson,
Lesbia Aguilar, Natalie Yambo, Miguel Honma,
Maverick Flattery, Leslie Choate, Kara Harris, Manuel Cor-
tes, Marcos Nordelo, Vilma Torrentes, Ed Golden, Frank
Duncan, Dotty Maddock, Kathi Schwing, Iveth Lugo,
Francisco Sagaon, Gary Carlson, Susie Woodel,
Marie Roznowski, Chad Willis, Ezequiel Sanchez,
and Pini Perez.

Parishioners in Assisted Living Facilities The Landings at Chestnut Grove, Sparta

Liz Hart

If you know someone who needs prayer and would like to
add them to this list, please contact the office.

Mass Intentions for December

December 3 - Gary and Marie Carlson
December 4 - *Radoslaw Kowalec+*
December 14 - Edgar and Brooke Markevicius
December 17 - Katrina Poirier
December 18 - *Krystyna Rozacka+*
December 21 - *Jacob Thomas+*
December 24 - Our Parish Children
December 28 - *Julian Markevicius+*

+ *Repose of the Soul*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 28, Feast of the Holy Family

9:45 am - Adult Faith Formation w/John Ellison
10:50 am - Rosary, English
11:15 am - Mass, English
12:30 pm - Spanish Marriage Prep Class
1:00 - 1:45 pm - Confessions
1:30 pm - Rosary
2:00 pm - Mass, Spanish

Monday, December 29

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary

Tuesday, December 30

7:00 pm - Apostles of the Word

Wednesday, December 31

No daily Mass

Thursday, January 1

11:15 am - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God,
English
2:00 pm - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God,
Spanish

Friday, January 2

7:00 pm - Children's music practice, Spanish

Saturday, January 3

7:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

Sunday, January 4, The Epiphany of the Lord

9:45 am - Adult Faith Formation w/John Ellison
10:50 am - Rosary, English
11:15 am - Mass, English
12:30 pm - Spanish Marriage Prep Class
1:00 - 1:45 pm - Confessions
1:30 pm - Rosary
2:00 pm - Mass, Spanish

Become a registered member

Though a rather simple act, registration
is a sign of one's commitment and re-
sponsibility to the parish, and provides a sense of belonging
that enables you to officially participate in parish life and the
sacraments. Parish registration forms can be found in the
church narthex or received from the church office.



Adult Faith Formation with John Ellison
meets each Sunday at 9:45 am.

Welcome!



Mass schedule for New Years' Day

Thursday, Jan 1 at 11:15 am, English
2:00 pm, Spanish

*The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
(January 1), is a Holy Day of Obligation.*



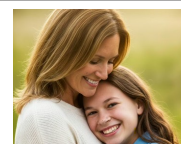
There will be no confessions, or daily Mass
on Wednesday, December 31.

Faith Formation and
Confirmation class resume
Sunday, January 11.



The Diocese of Charlotte is offering 3 opportunities to attend
a *Mass of Hope and Close of the Jubilee Year.*

- ◆ Saturday, January 3 at 5:00 pm
St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville
- ◆ Sunday, January 4 at 1:30 pm
St. Pius X Church in Greensboro
- ◆ Sunday, January 5 at 5:00 pm
St. Mark Church in Huntersville



Cycle Prep for Parents and Daughters

Saturday, January 17, 2026
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
St. Matthew Catholic Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte

Cycle Prep introduces girls to menstrual cycles, periods and
body literacy in a positive, adult-supported environment. This
class is designed to help parents in preparing their daughters
(recommended ages 9-11) to navigate puberty positively
while building a foundation that will help them continue
these important conversations as she grows. An introduction
to St. John Paul II's catechesis on human love and the human
body in the Divine Plan, called "Theology of the Body," is
included. The class is instructor is Batrice Adcock, MSN,
director of the Natural Family Planning program for the Dio-
cese of Charlotte Family Life Office.

RSVPs are required. Registration website:
<https://charlottediocese.org/form-cycle-prep-registration-nfp>

Saints and Feasts for the Week

Sunday - St. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph
Monday - St. David the King (973 B.C.)
Tuesday - St. Sabinus (303)
Wednesday - St. Sylvester I (335), 33rd Pope
Thursday - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Mother
of God
Friday - St. Macarius the Younger (394)
Saturday - Most Holy Name of Jesus

All Holy Angels and Saints, Pray For Us!

*"Look for opportunities to help someone else,
but don't give expecting something in return.
Give knowing that if we give we receive."
St. David the King*



New Year's Eve Adoration

On Wednesday, December 31, the church
will open at 10:00 PM for adoration, and
close at 12:30 AM. All are welcome to
come and enjoy a silent celebration with Our
Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.



Friday, January 9th, join the annual Charlotte
March for Life! Part prayer vigil, part public
march, the event is meant to be a time of prayer
to call attention to the more than 60 million lives
lost to abortion since 1973, and the need to end
the tragedy of abortion. The schedule is:

10 a.m. Mass for Life at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dil-
worth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203

12 p.m. March for Life begins at the Diocesan Pastoral
Center, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

Marriage Help – For over 48
years, Retrouvaille (pronounced
retro-vi) has helped tens of thou-
sands of couples at all stages of
disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can
help you too, or a hurting couple you might know. For confi-
dential information about the program or to register for the
upcoming January 16-18, 2026 weekend in Charlotte area,
call Bill and Lyn Folsom at 727-343-6701 or
email: 3062R@helpourmarriage.org or visit the web site
at www.HelpOurMarriage.org



Thank you to all who gave Christmas flower dona-
tions this season. We also thank those who donated
the beautiful Christmas trees, roping, wreaths, bows,
and gave of their time to help decorate the church.
Merry Christmas!



Meal Ministry

St. Frances of Rome Meal Ministry provides meals
to any fellow parishioner who is experiencing an
illness, surgery, or facing other challenging situations. If you
are interested in helping with the meal ministry or if you are
in need of meal support, contact Marie-Claire Songhurst at
860-428-4461 or greg56@snet.net.

Happy Birthday

Birthdays for December 21 – January 4



December 22 - Linda Feeney
Francisco Sagaon

December 26 - Gabriela de la Cruz
John Feeney

December 27 - Laurel Wood
December 28 - Inocencia Reséndiz

December 29 - Carla López- Eloy
December 30 - Elvira Reyes




Martha Hernandez



Financial Figures	
Offertory December 21:	\$ 3,207.00
Offertory received in December:	\$ 8,384.00
Offertory needed in December:	\$ 15,200.00
Christmas flower offering	\$ 305.00
Missal donation	\$ 100.00


Second Collections for December	
December 14 - Retirement Fund for Religious	
December 28 - Facilities Fund	

Your offertory donations can be mailed to:
St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church
P.O. Box 367, Sparta, NC 28675




The Second Collection today is for the Facilities Fund. This fund is used for ongoing repairs, maintenance, and upgrades to the church, parish hall, and rectory. Thank you for your donations!



Job Opening at St. Francis of Assisi
Finance Assistant - Brief Description: The Finance Assistant supports the financial operations of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Frances of Rome. This position is part-time at 20 hours per week. If you are interested, please contact the St. Francis of Assisi church office at stfrancis@skybest.com or 336-246-9151. Applications and Job Descriptions are available upon request from the office.
The Facilities Manager position at St. Francis of Assisi has been filled.



Mass Intentions are special intentions offered to God as prayers of intercession and thanksgiving in and through the Eucharist. If you would like to request a Mass intention for someone living or deceased, please contact the office or write your request on a Mass intention envelope located in the narthex. A stipend of \$10 is typically offered to the celebrant priest.



It's not too late to make a gift donation to help cover the cost of the new missals. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex. A bookplate will be added inside the front cover, listing who gave the gift and if it was in honor or in memory of a loved one. Thank you to all who have made a donation!


 Thank you to all who made a donation toward our Christmas flowers!
 

<i>Christmas flower donation in memory or honor of ...</i> <i>Donación de flores de Navidad en memoria u honor de ...</i>	<i>By ...</i> <i>Por ...</i>
In honor of our baby Jesus, and our Lord for his great love	The Olivares Family
In honor of Justino Contreras	Estela Contreras
In honor of Victoria Cardenache Martinez and in memory of Orlando Martinez, Dr. Frank Ochoa, and Marianne DeRock	David & Maria Ochoa
In memory of all the souls in purgatory	Veronica San German
In memory of Christopher Gozzi	Stacy Rose
In memory of Mary R Karhn, Gladys Wade, Lori Krahn-Neivas, Karen Passarello, and Mary C. Krahn	Paula & Glenn Therrien
In memory of Thomas & Shirley Blake, and Joyce Lewis	Nancy McDowell
In memory deceased members of the Pokorney & DeClaire families	John & Janet Pokorney
In memory of The Schwing & Zigors families	Kathi Schwing
In memory of The Papp and McGlynn families	Mary Papp
In memory of Richard Bergeron	Ed & Chris Carter
In memory of deceased members of the Kovacich and Kearnes families	John & Debbie Kovacich
In memory of Suzanne Irwin	Carla & Rick Gauldin



Saint Frances of Rome
1384-1440


Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 28, 2025



"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
Col 3:17

Flocknote is another way of getting information out to the parish. Weekly emails, schedule changes or cancelations are sent out to those on the contact list. Submission forms for the Flocknote list are available in the narthex. You can also be added by calling the office or email your request to stfrances@skybest.com.

Baptisms: Parents and sponsors must attend Baptismal Prep class prior to scheduling a baptism. Please contact the office or call Maria Luisa Olivares at 704-351-1400 for more information.

 **The Rite of Anointing** tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient. Please do not hesitate to call Fr. Jacob if you believe anointing is needed. **In the case of this emergency call 336-372-8846, option 3.**

St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church
P.O. Box 367, 29 Highland Dr., Sparta, North Carolina 28675


Pastor: Father Jacob Mlakar

Phone: 336-372-8846
Office hours: Monday and Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Email: stfrances@skybest.com
Website: <http://stfrancesofrome-sparta.org>

Mass Schedule:
Sunday 11:15 am, English & 2:00 pm, Spanish
Wednesday 6:00 pm, English
Thursday 12:00 Noon, English & 6:45 pm, Spanish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday 4:45pm - 5:45pm	Sunday 1:00pm - 1:45pm
Thursday 5:30pm - 6:30pm	Wednesday 4:50pm - 5:20pm
	Thursday 5:40pm - 6:10pm

Administrative Assistant:
Carla Gauldin 336-372-8846 or 336-300-2177
Finance Assistant:
Herb Maddock 336-372-8846
Parish Operations Manager:
Greg Songhurst 860-428-1145
Parish Council:
Chairperson: John Pokorney 336-757-1081
Finance Council:
Chairperson: Marie-Claire Songhurst 860-428-4461
Faith Formation Classes:
Coordinator: Guillermina Limon 336-596-6591
Hispanic Ministry:
Coordinator: Maria Luisa Olivares 336-359-2139
Stewardship Committee:
Chairperson: Marie-Claire Songhurst 860-428-4461
Meal Ministry:
Coordinator: Marie-Claire Songhurst 860-428-4461
Homebound Ministry:
Please call the church office at 336-372-8846
Vicariate Hispanic Ministry:
Coordinator: Aleksandra Banasika, 336-428-6909

 Fr. Jacob has office hours in Sparta on Thursdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. If you would like to schedule an appointment to meet with Father, please call the office at 336-372-8846 or call/text Carla at 336-300-2177.

Online Giving
Would you rather make contributions online?
Visit the St. Frances of Rome website at stfrancesofrome-sparta.org and click on the Online Giving tile located on the home page. Weekly Sunday offerings as well as other collections are available.