



Saint Frances of Rome
1384-1440

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:

Wednesday 4:45pm - 5:45pm

Thursday 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Wednesday 4:50pm - 5:20pm

Thursday 5:40pm - 6:10pm

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8, 2026



"Light shines through the darkness for the upright."
Ps 112:4

Administrative Assistant:
Carla Gauldin 336-372-8846 or 336-300-2177

Finance Assistant:
Marie-Claire Songhurst 860-428-4461

Parish Operations Manager:
Greg Songhurst 860-428-1145

Parish Council:
Chairperson: John Pokorney 336-757-1081

Finance Council:
Chairperson:

Faith Formation Classes:
Coordinator: Guillermina Limon 336-596-6591

Hispanic Ministry:
Coordinator: Maria Luisa Olivares 336-359-2139

Stewardship Committee:
Chairperson:

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.

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 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. Godparents are not required to attend this class.



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.**

Liturgy Schedule

Today, February 8, 11:15 am

Lector: Jim Smith
Greeter: Janet Newman
Usher: Greg Songhurst
Server: John Pokorney
Rosary: John Ellison
February Altar Linen: Mayra Marin

Next Sunday, February 15, 11:15 am

Lector: Laurel Wood
Greeter: Marie-Claire Songhurst
Usher: Mark Imbus
Server: John Pokorney
Rosary: Nancy McDowell
February Altar Linen: Mayra Marin

Scripture Readings for Year A February 8 - 15

Sunday - Scripture: Is 58:7-10 Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 1 Cor 2:1-5 Mt 5:13-16

Monday - Scripture: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Ps 132:6-7, 8-10 Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday - Scripture: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Ps 84:3, 4, 5 & 10, 11 Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday - Scripture: 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40 Mk 7:14-23

Thursday - Scripture: 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 & 40 Mk 7:24-30

Friday - Scripture: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15 Mk 7:31-37

Saturday - Scripture: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22 Mk 8:1-10

Sunday - Scripture: Sir 15:15-20 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37



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 Cortes, Marcos Nordelo, Vilma Torrentes, Ed Golden, Frank Duncan, Dotty Maddock, Kathi Schwing, Iveth Lugo, Francisco Sagaon, Gary Carlson, 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.

We would like to welcome all visitors and newcomers to our mission church! We hope that you find St. Frances of Rome to be a place of warmth and witness to God's love for one another.

Mass Intentions for February

February 8 - Vocations to the priesthood and religious life
February 11 - Katrina Poirier
February 12 - Krystyna Rozacka+
February 26 - Sylvester Tomaszewski+

+ *Repose of the Soul*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 8

9:45 am - Adult Faith Formation w/John Ellison
10:50 am - Rosary, English
11:15 am - Mass, English
12:30 pm - Youth Faith Formation class
1:00 - 1:45 pm - Confessions
1:30 pm - Rosary
2:00 pm - Mass, Spanish
3:30 pm - Confirmation II class

Monday, February 9

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary

Tuesday, February 10

7:00 pm - Apostles of the Word

Wednesday, February 11

4:45 pm - Adoration
4:50 - 5:20 pm - Confessions
6:00 pm - Mass, English
6:45 pm - Stewardship Committee meeting

Thursday, February 12

12:00 noon - Mass, English
5:30 - 6:30 pm - Adoration
5:40 - 6:10 pm - Confessions
6:45 pm - Mass, Spanish
7:15 pm - Spanish choir practice

Friday, February 13

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

Saturday, February 14

11:00 am - Quinceañera
7:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

Sunday, February 15

9:45 am - Adult Faith Formation w/John Ellison
10:50 am - Rosary, English
11:15 am - Mass, English
12:30 pm - Youth Faith Formation class
1:00 - 1:45 pm - Confessions
1:30 pm - Rosary
2:00 pm - Mass, Spanish
3:30 pm - Confirmation II class



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.



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



The Stewardship Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 11, at 6:45 pm. **Anyone interested in joining the Stewardship Committee is welcome to attend.**

What is Stewardship...?

Stewardship is described as the sharing of one's *Time, Talent, and Treasure* for the greater glory of God. While increasing our church's monetary *Treasure* is necessary, sometimes the *Treasure* can be the gift of oneself. Sometimes, one's *Time and Talent* are all one has to give and, therefore it is their *Treasure*, and the sharing of that is their gift to God. At St. Frances of Rome, sharing of *Time and Talent* includes volunteer opportunities, from the humble and out-of-view cleaning of the church to the very public appearance of liturgical ministry during Mass, and many, many more in between. For a vibrant and lively church, it takes the participation and help of many. Everyone has something they can share, and we ask you to please pray and consider where you might like to volunteer and share your *Time, Talent and Treasure*.



Allegheny Pregnancy Care Center 2026 Baby Bottle Campaign is underway. Baby bottles are in the narthex and can be taken home and filled with change, dollar bills, or a check, and returned by February 22. By supporting the Allegheny Pregnancy Care Center, you help provide a safe place for young women to go when facing an unplanned pregnancy. APCC offers over 200 classes through its Earn While You Learn and Bright Course Programs. **Please make checks payable to Allegheny Pregnancy Care Center or APCC.**

Save the date for our annual

St. Patrick's Day Dinner!



Saturday, March 14
4:00 - 7:00 pm

St. Frances of Rome parish hall
Dine-in or take-out

Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots,
Irish soda bread, dessert, and fellowship!
Tickets available next Sunday

Saints and Feasts for the Week

Sunday - St. Jerome Emiliana (1537)
Monday - St. Apollonia (249)
Tuesday - St. Scholastica (543)
Wednesday - Our Lady of Lourdes (1858)
Thursday - St. Eulalia (304)
Friday - St. Catherine de Ricci (1589)
Saturday - St. Valentine (269)
All Holy Angels and Saints, Pray For Us!

"I do not promise to make you happy in this world,
but in the next."
Our Lady of Lourdes to St. Bernadette



Please remember to silence your cell phone before entering the church!



February 18, Ash Wednesday schedule:
4:45 pm Adoration
4:50 - 5:20 pm Confessions
6:00 pm Mass, bilingual

For those who are unable to attend Wednesday evening, ashes will also be distributed on Sunday, February 22.



Our parish will be praying the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 4:00 PM in English and 6:00 PM in Spanish. We will host a meal consisting of bread and a simple meatless soup in the hall following the 4:00 PM Stations. We are asking parishioners to provide bread and/or soup for the meal. There is a sign-up sheet on the door in the narthex. Plan on attending. Contact John Pokorney (336-757-1081) if you have any questions.



Thank you to the volunteers who scraped our parking lots and sidewalks of the ice and snow recently. We greatly appreciate your taking the time, energy, and use of your own equipment to do so.

Today, February 8, is World Marriage Day.

Marriage is the bedrock of our society. When that crumbles, our homes and families crumble, our children then struggle, and our communities deal with the ripple effect. During National Marriage Week, February 7—14, commit to praying for marriages every day. Pray for those who want to get married, those who are recently engaged, those experiencing struggles in their marriage, those who have entered the empty nest, those who are experiencing the loss of a spouse, our young adults who are beginning to date, and those who are facing trauma or major life transitions in their homes and lives. Pray for the marital union between a man and a woman, and the beauty of being a lawfully wedded couple in the eyes of Christ.



Happy Birthday!

February 1 - 15

- February 1 - Edlyn Zavalza
Norma Mota
- February 3 - Jaime López
- February 4 - Jack Rollins
- February 6 - Caleb Sánchez
Adolfo Martínez
- February 8 - Lily Markevicius
- February 11 - Giovanni Torres
Broca Lourdes
Ángeles Villa
- February 12 - Benita Pérez
- February 13 - Mauro Carranza
Mauricio Toribio



Financial Figures

Offertory February 1: \$ 0.00
Offertory received in February: \$ 0.00
Offertory needed in February: \$ 13,000.00

Second Collections for February

February 8 - Catholic News Herald (rescheduled)
February 15 - Altar Flower Fund

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



When Sunday Mass is canceled or when you are unable to attend Mass, please remember to bring in your previous week's offertory envelopes on the Sunday you return. Our monthly financial budget is dependent on your generous offertory donations.

St. Frances of Rome Cemetery: Plots are available in the cemetery expansion for \$500.00 each. For more information, please stop by or call the office.



Lenten Spirituality Study Group

The Spiritual Combat and A Treatise on Peace of Soul

The Italian priest Dom Lorenzo Scupoli (c. 1530–1610) wrote these timeless classics *The Spiritual Combat* and *A Treatise on Peace of Soul* in the spirit of the Catholic reform movements of the 16th century. Praised by St. Francis de Sales (who carried *The Spiritual Combat* daily), they offer practical, encouraging guidance for growing in holiness. *The Spiritual Combat* (66 short chapters) uses the vivid biblical metaphor of spiritual "battle" to describe the everyday effort to overcome passions, grow in virtue, and rely more fully on God's grace. It is especially appropriate reading during Lent, when the Church calls us to fasting, prayer, and almsgiving as we turn from sin toward Christ. Yet this "combat" is only one aspect of the spiritual journey; it leads to the tranquil peace explored in *A Treatise on Peace of Soul* (15 short chapters), which shows how surrender to God brings interior calm and joyful union with Him. Our group's purpose is to grow together in the spiritual life during Lent through reading, sharing, prayer, and mutual support.

Five Thursdays • 10:30 AM • Parish Hall
February 26; March 5; March 12; March 19; March 26
(Optional: Stay for 12:00 Noon Mass)

Meeting 1: February 26
We will discuss: *The Spiritual Combat* Chapters 1–16
Meeting 2: March 5
We will discuss: *The Spiritual Combat* Chapters 17–33
Meeting 3: March 12
We will discuss: *The Spiritual Combat* Chapters 34–49
Meeting 4: March 19
We will discuss: *The Spiritual Combat* Chapters 50–66
Meeting 5: March 26
We will discuss: *A Treatise on Peace of Soul* (all 15 chapters)
Feel free to get the TAN edition, read the digital version, or let Father Jacob know if you would like a copy.



The Second Collection for the Catholic News Herald has been rescheduled for today.

If you are a registered, full-time parishioner, you should be receiving a copy of this newspaper in the mail. To help offset the cost of production and mailing, the Diocese asks that we take up a collection each year. If you are registered with the church but are not receiving the Catholic News Herald and would like to, please contact the office. If you are currently receiving the newspaper but would like to be removed from the mailing list, please call or email the church office.

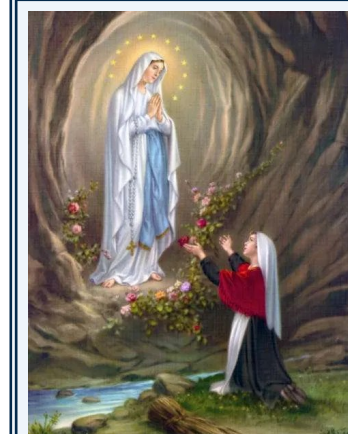


When severe weather forces the cancellation of Sunday Mass, Father Jacob will do his best to record the Mass from his rectory chapel and post it on our YouTube channel, which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@st.francesofromespartanc1971/streams>

Job opportunity: St. Francis of Assisi in Jefferson is looking for a Facilities Manager.



Brief Description: The Facilities Manager coordinates and oversees all aspects of property at the church and rectory (including the cemetery), building upkeep, and maintenance. Other duties would include janitorial and light repair work. This position is part-time at 20-hours per week. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office at stfrancis@skybest.com or 336-246-9151. Application and Job Description are available upon request from the office.



Our Lady of Lourdes

Prayer for Healing

O ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; look with mercy on me. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests (mention your petition). Through gratitude for your favours, I will endeavour to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity. Amen.