



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

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 1, 2026**



*"Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven."  
Mt 5:12*

**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](http://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.



*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 1, 11:15 am**

Lector: Sharon Orton

Greeter: Carla Gauldin

Usher: Greg Songhurst

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: Sharon Orton

February Altar Linen: Mayra Marín

### Liturgy Schedule

**Today, February 8, 11:15 am**

Lector: John Ellison

Greeter: Janet Newman

Usher: Greg Songhurst

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: John Ellison

February Altar Linen: Mayra Marín

### Scripture Readings for Year A February 1- 8

**Sunday - Scripture:** Zeph 2:3; Zeph 3:12-13 Ps 146:6-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

**Monday - Scripture:** Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 Heb 2, 14-18 Lk 2:22-40

**Tuesday - Scripture:** 2 Sam 18:9-10, 14, 24-25a, 30—19:3 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday - Scripture:** 2 Sam 24:2, 9-17 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday - Scripture:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 Ps - 1 Chron 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd Mk 6:7-13

**Friday - Scripture:** Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:21, 47 & 50, 51 Mk 6:14-29

**Saturday - Scripture:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Mk 6:30-34

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



### 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 11 - Karina Poirier

February 12 - *Krystyna Rozacka+*

February 26 - *Sylvester Tomaszewski+*

*+ Repose of the Soul*

### Weekly Calendar

#### Sunday, February 1

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 2

5:30 pm - Rosary, Knights of Columbus

6:00 pm - Knights of Columbus Council meeting

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary

#### Tuesday, February 3

7:00 pm - Apostles of the Word

#### Wednesday, February 4

No daily Mass

#### Thursday, February 5

No daily Mass

7:15 pm - Spanish choir practice

#### Friday, February 6

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

#### Saturday, February 7

7:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

#### 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





*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.*




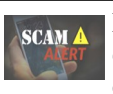
Adult Faith Formation with John Ellison meets each Sunday at 9:45 am.

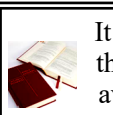
 **Weather permitting**, the Knights of Columbus will pray the rosary on Monday, February 2, at 5:30 pm in the church. All are invited to join. Following the rosary, the Knights will meet in the parish hall for their council meeting.


 The Parish Council will not meet in February. The next PC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, at 3:30 pm.

 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.


 Please be aware of scam emails and/or text messages circulating again, impersonating Fr. Jacob. The content of the message typically appears urgent, implying Fr. Jacob needs help right away. The scammer asks that you send money, usually by gift card. If you receive one of these messages, please do not reply, do not click on any type of link within the message, simply delete it.


 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. Thank you to all who have made a donation!


 The Tabernacle candle can be lit in memory or in honor of a loved one. In the narthex, you will find an envelope for every week throughout the year. Simply choose the week you want, fill out the information, and return it to the office or offertory basket. A monetary offering of \$10.00 is suggested.


**Saints and Feasts for the Week**  
 Sunday - St. Brigid of Ireland (525)  
 Monday - The Presentation of the Lord  
 Tuesday - St. Blaise (316)  
 Wednesday - St. Andrew Corsini (1373)  
 Thursday - St. Agatha (251)  
 Friday - St. Dorothy (303)  
 Saturday - St. Richard of Lucca (722)  
 All Holy Angels and Saints, Pray For Us!

"Jesus Christ, Lord of all things!  
 You see my heart, You know my desires.  
 Possess all that I am - You alone.  
 I am Your sheep. Make me worthy to overcome the devil."  
 St. Agatha


 **Mass Schedule Change**  
 There will be no daily Mass, adoration, or confessions this week as Father Jacob will be away.

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

 Just a reminder that in the event of severe weather, it is advised that common sense prevail. If the weather and road conditions are dangerous for travel, please stay home. A dispensation is given for those who cannot make Mass because of the road conditions in their area. Postponement or cancellation announcements of Mass will be sent via text message and email, posted on WXII News Channel 12, and stfrancesofrome-sparta.org.

 **Alleghany 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 Alleghany 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 Alleghany Pregnancy Care Center or APCC.**

 Next Saturday, February 7, the Alleghany Ministerium is holding its annual **Souper Bowl Food Drive** for the Solid Rock Food Closet. The food drive is at Food Lion in Sparta from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. They are in need of non-perishable foods such as canned meats (chicken, beef, tuna, corned beef), soups, stews, dry pasta and pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, and shelf-stable milk. Volunteers are needed to greet shoppers at Food Lion and provide them with a list of food items needed. If you would like to sign up to volunteer, visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EA5AE23A4FFC25-61935732-souper>

If you would like to volunteer to lead the rosary on a Sunday morning, please contact the office. 


**Happy Birthday!**  
**January 25 - February 8**  
 January 27 - Ana Marina  
 Maria Serrano  
 Héctor San German  
 January 28 - Theresa Poirier  
 January 29 - Ariana Limon  
 January 30 - Elizabeth Nuevo  
 February 1 - Edlyn Zavalza  
 Norma Mota  
 February 3 - Jaime López  
 February 4 - Jack Rollins  
 February 6 - Caleb Sánchez  
 Adolfo Martínez  
 February 8 - Lily Markevicius




**Financial Figures**  
**Offertory January 25:** \$ 0.00  
 Offertory received in January: \$ 8,575.00  
 Offertory needed in January: \$ 10,000.00

**Second Collections for February**  
 February 1 - Catholic News Herald  
 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 today is for the Catholic News Herald.**  
 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>

Honor or remember a loved one by donating sanctuary flowers for Sunday Mass. To cover the cost of fresh flowers each week, we request a donation of \$75. The name of the donor and the person being honored will be published in the weekly bulletin. Envelopes for the weekly floral offering are available in the narthex. 

 Join us in celebrating National Marriage Week from February 7 - 14! World Marriage Sunday will be celebrated February 8th. National Marriage Week is a special time to reflect on the beautiful gift of the sacrament of matrimony. This year's theme from the USCCB is Man and Woman, He Created Them: Together with Purpose, inviting couples to recognize their unique gifts and how they might use them to build one another up in joy and complementarity. The USCCB Secretariat on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth is offering a variety of resources for those discerning marriage, engaged couples, and those already living out the vocation of marriage. These include an at-home week-long retreat, a marriage-centered Lectio Divina, and social media graphics. For more information visit [foryourmarriage.org](http://foryourmarriage.org).

**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](mailto:stfrancis@skybest.com) or 336-246-9151. Application and Job Description are available upon request from the office.