



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 & 7:00 pm, Spanish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Wednesday 4:45pm - 5:30pm

Thursday 5:30pm - 6:30pm

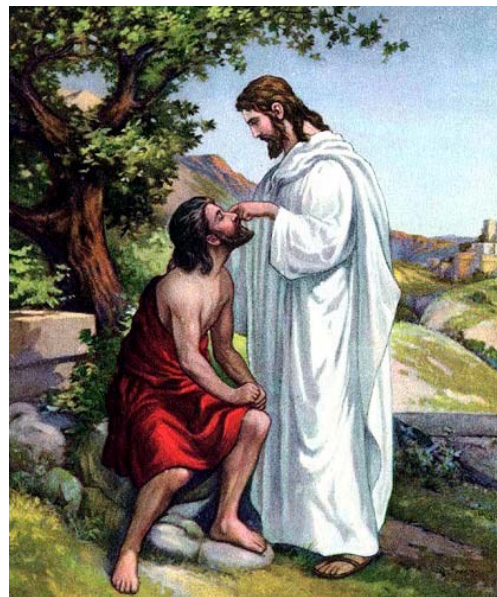
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Wednesday 4:45pm - 5:30pm

Thursday 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday March 15, 2026



Jesus said,
"I came into
this world for
judgment,
so that those
who do not see
might see, and
those who do see
might become
blind."
Jn 9:39

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: Herb Maddock

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

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.



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.



Adult Faith Formation with John Ellison meets each Sunday at 9:45 am in the parish hall.



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.



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, March 15, 11:15 am

Lector: Nancy McDowell

Greeter: Marie-Claire Songhurst

Usher: Greg Songhurst

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: Nancy McDowell

March Altar Linen: Maria Luisa Olivares

Next Sunday, March 22, 11:15 am

Lector: John Ellison

Greeter: Janet Newman

Usher: Mark Imbus

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: John Ellison

March Altar Linen: Maria Luisa Olivares

Scripture Readings for Year A March 15 - 22

Sunday - Scripture: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

Monday - Scripture: Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday - Scripture: Ezek 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday - Scripture: Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

Thursday - Scripture: 2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24

Friday - Scripture: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34: 17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday - Scripture: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 Jn 7:40-53

Sunday - Scripture: Ezek 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45



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

Pam Chapman, Marie Carlson, 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, Iveth Lugo, Francisco Sagaon, Gary Carlson, Chad Willis, Ezequiel Sanchez, Pini Perez, Joe Pokorney, and Mart Fowler.

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

Liz Hart, Victoria Cardenache Martinez

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 March

March 1 - *Radoslaw Kowalec+*

March 8 - *Mac McGowen+*

March 9 - St. Frances of Rome parish family

March 12 - *Krystyna Rozacka+*

March 15 - *Peter Wojcicki+*

March 19 - *Sylvester Tomaszewski+*

March 22 - *Lucy Owen+*

March 25 - *Katrina Poirier*

March 29 - *Bruce Harrison+*

+ *Repose of the Soul*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 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

3:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

3:30 pm - Confirmation II class

Monday, March 16

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary

6:00 pm - Knights of Columbus planning meeting

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 pm - Apostles of the Word

Wednesday, March 18

4:45 pm - Adoration

4:45 - 5:30 pm - Confessions

5:30 pm - Vespers

6:00 pm - Mass, English

Thursday, March 19

10:30 am - Lenten Spirituality Study Group

12:00 noon - Mass, English

5:30 - 6:30 pm - Adoration

5:30 - 6:30 pm - Confessions

6:30 pm - Vespers

7:00 pm - Mass, Spanish

7:30 pm - Spanish choir practice

Friday, March 20

4:00 pm - Stations of the Cross, English

5:00 pm - K of C Soup and Bread

6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross, Spanish

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

Saturday, March 21

12:00 pm - Spanish Lenten Retreat

Sunday, March 22

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

3:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

3:00 pm - Hispanic altar servers/parents meeting

3:30 pm - Confirmation II class

Join us to pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent

4:00 pm - English
6:00 pm - Spanish



Stations of the Cross



On Fridays during Lent, a meal consisting of bread and a simple meatless soup will be served in the hall following the 4:00 PM Stations.



Laetare Sunday is the popular name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Laetare means "Rejoice" in Latin. Because the midpoint of Lent is the Thursday of the third week, Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened. Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday or Refreshment Sunday, when purple vestments are exchanged for rose ones. The point of this Sunday is to provide us encouragement as we progress toward the end of the penitential season of Lent.

Lenten Spirituality Study Group

The Spiritual Combat and A Treatise on Peace of Soul

Thursdays • 10:30 AM • Parish Hall
(Optional: Stay for 12:00 Noon Mass)

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.

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.



Saints and Feasts for the Week

Sunday - St. Louise de Marillac (1660)

Monday - St. Herbert (1021)

Tuesday - St. Patrick (461)

Wednesday - Our Lady of Mercy

Thursday - St. Joseph (1st C.)

Friday - St. Photina (1st C.)

Saturday - St. Benedict (543)

All Holy Angels and Saints, Pray For Us!

*"Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me."
St. Patrick*



During the Lenten Season envelopes are available for parishioners to donate money for flowers to decorate the church on Easter. If you would like to make a donation in "honor of" or "memory of" your loved ones, please pick up an envelope on the table in the narthex. Place the envelopes in the box on the office door or in the offertory basket by **Sunday, March 29th** as the names will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday

No daily Mass

Holy Thursday

6:00 pm - Mass, bilingual

Good Friday

3:00 pm - Passion Service, English

No Stations of the Cross in English

6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross, Spanish

Holy Saturday

8:00 pm - *Easter Vigil Mass in Jefferson*

Easter Sunday

11:15 am - Mass, English

2:00 pm - Mass, Spanish



Holy Week



A big thank you to our Stewardship Committee for all their hard work putting together the St. Patrick's Day dinner fundraiser. It takes lots of planning and many hands to sell tickets, prepare the food, bake desserts, decorate the hall, and clean up after it's all over. If you bought a ticket, donated money, or volunteered your time, please know how much St. Frances of Rome appreciates you! The final total of money raised will be posted at a later date.



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



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 the envelope to the office or offertory basket. A monetary offering of \$10.00 is suggested.



Happy Birthday!

March 8 - 22

- March 8 - Ángel Velázquez
- March 9 - Marcus Iglesias
- March 11 - Jessy Trujillo
- March 12 - Joseph Flowers
Mary Uhrbrock
- March 15 - Nancy Schiener
Juan Torres
- March 16 - Abraham Santos
- March 17 - Marian Robertson
- March 18 - Alejandra Chavez
- March 20 - Edward Carter
- March 21 - Bonnie McLaughlin
- March 22 - Denise Arias-Pérez



Financial Figures

Offertory March 8:	\$ 2,187.00
Offertory received in March:	\$ 4,496.00
Offertory needed in March:	\$ 14,500.00
New missal donation	\$ 30.00
Tabernacle candle offering	\$ 100.00
Easter flower donations	\$ 50.00

Second Collections for March

March 1 - Solid Rock Food Closet

March 15 - Cemetery Fund

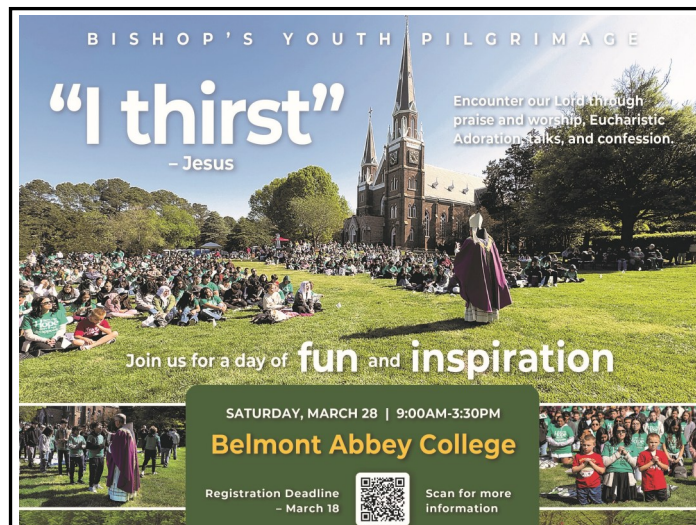
March 29 - SFOR Classroom Addition Project

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

The 2026 Diocesan Support Appeal is underway.

Pledges and donations given through St. Frances of Rome are sent directly to the Diocese. If you have already made a donation, the figures below will be updated as soon as we are notified. Thank you!

Our Fair Share	\$ 14,149.86
Amount given	\$ 0.00
Amount pledged	\$ 0.00
Amount needed	\$ 0.00
Number of donors	0
% of Goal Reached	0



Bishop's Youth Pilgrimage 2026

The Bishop's Youth Pilgrimage is a day-long event held each spring on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. Youth enjoy live music, games, lunch, a vocations fair and motivational speakers as well as Mass, a Eucharistic Procession through the historic Belmont Abbey campus, and the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation. There are separate program tracks for middle and high school students. The Bishop's Youth Pilgrimage is a key event for young people as part of the Diocese of Charlotte's annual Eucharistic Congress. To register, scan the QR code above, or visit <https://goeucharist.com/bishops-youth-pilgrimage/>



The second collection today is for the Cemetery Fund.



Tickets are available for the 2026 Knights of Columbus State Raffle.

Tickets are \$5 each. 7 winning tickets will be drawn for cash prizes at the K of C State Convention on Saturday, May 16.

First Prize - \$5,000

Second Prize - \$4,000

Third and Fourth Prizes - \$500 each

Fifth and Sixth Prizes - \$400 each

Seventh Prize - \$200

50% of ticket sales remain with our local K of C Council.

Tickets can be purchased from any council member.

Thank you for your support!

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION (CGA)

3/28/26 | 10:00-11:30am | Meeting @ St. Ann's Catholic Church

Does Gen Z Have a Future Without Religion? We will view a Faith Café presentation featuring David Quinn, prominent Irish national newspaper columnist and founder of the Iona Institute. We begin 2026 with a Faith Café of exceptional importance—one that speaks directly to the future of our grandchildren and the future of the Church itself. We strongly encourage you not to miss this presentation, as it will help us better understand the challenges facing Gen Z and how Grandparents can respond with faith, hope, and courage. The meeting will take place in St Ann's Activity Center. Register by March 24th @ cgakac24@gmail.com with your name and number attending. For more information on CGA visit: www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/



Join the Spring 2026 40 Days for Life campaign of prayer, fasting and community outreach to stop abortion! This peaceful, prayerful and law-abiding effort involves spending time in prayer outside a local abortion facility. The campaign goes from Ash Wednesday, February 18 to Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. Our closest facility is Winston-Salem Planned Parenthood, 3010 Maplewood Ave, Winston-Salem, NC. For more information or to sign up, visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/winstonsalem>

Lenten Resources

Hallow - Excellent Catholic app currently offering 3 months of their premium subscription for free. The app offers the Lent Pray40 challenge with daily reflections, and Father Mike Schmitz's Top 10 Lent Tips. Visit try.hallow.com

St. Paul Center Bible Study - Lenten Bible Study and other incredible Scripture resources, subscription available for free until after Easter. Visit stpaulcenter.com/lent

St. Michael's Abbey Great Fast - Free Lenten program with the Norbertines of St. Michael's Abbey in California. Their emphasis is on traditional prayer and the practice of fasting. Visit <https://theabbotscircle.com/the-great-fast-join>