



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

Second Sunday of Lent March 1, 2026



From the
shining cloud
the Father's
voice is heard:
"This is my
beloved Son,
hear him."
Mt 17:5



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.**

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

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.

Liturgy Schedule

Today, March 1, 11:15 am

Lector: Sharon Orton

Greeter: Carla Gauldin

Usher: Greg Songhurst

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: Sharon Orton

March Altar Linen: Maria Luisa Olivares

Next Sunday, March 8, 11:15 am

Lector: Laurel Wood

Greeter: Janet Newman

Usher: Mark Imbus

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: Marie-Claire Songhurst

March Altar Linen: Maria Luisa Olivares

Scripture Readings for Year A March 1 - 8

Sunday - Scripture: Gen 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
2 Tim 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9

Monday - Scripture: Dan 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8, 9, 11 & 13
Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday - Scripture: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21
& 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday - Scripture: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16
Mt 20:17-28

Thursday - Scripture: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6
Lk 16:19-31

Friday - Scripture: Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28 Ps 105:16-17,
18-19, 20-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday - Scripture: Mic 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4,
9-10, 11-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday - Scripture: Exod 17:3-7 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Rom
5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42



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, Kathi Schwing, Iveth Lugo, Francisco Sagaon, Gary Carlson, Chad Willis, Ezequiel Sanchez, Pini Perez and Joe Pokorney.

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 March

March 1 - *Radoslaw Kowalec+*

March 8 - *Mac McGowen+*

March 12 - *Krystyna Rozacka+*

March 15 - *Peter Wojcicki+*

March 19 - *Sylvester Tomaszewski+*

March 22 - *Lucy Owen+*

+ *Repose of the Soul*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 1

9:45 am - Adult Faith Formation w/John Ellison

10:50 am - Rosary, English

11:15 am - Mass, English

12:30 pm - Baptism

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, March 2

5:30 pm - Rosary, K of C

6:00 pm - Knights of Columbus Council meeting

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 pm - Apostles of the Word

Wednesday, March 4

3:30 pm - Parish Council meeting

4:45 pm - Adoration

4:50 - 5:20 pm - Confessions

6:00 pm - Mass, English

Thursday, March 5

10:30 am - Lenten Spirituality Study Group

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, March 6, World Day of Prayer

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 7

1:00 pm - Baptism class

7:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

Sunday, March 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.



St. Frances of Rome Feast Day

On Monday, March 9, we will celebrate St. Frances of Rome Feast Day, with a bilingual Mass at 6:00 pm, followed by a potluck dinner. Please make plans to attend, and honor our Patron Saint!

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

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



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. 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. Contact John Pokorney (336-757-1081) if you have any questions.



A Baptism Class in Spanish will be offered on Saturday, March 7, at 1:00 pm in the parish hall. Any parent preparing for a child's baptism within the next year is encouraged to attend. Godparents are not required to take the class. **Baptism paperwork packets can be picked up in the narthex, and should be completed prior to the class.**

Lenten Spirituality Study Group

The Spiritual Combat and *A Treatise on Peace of Soul*

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.

Saints and Feasts for the Week

Sunday - St. Albinus (540)
Monday - Bl. Charles the Good (1124)
Tuesday - St. Katharine Drexel (1955)
Wednesday - St. Lucius I (254)
Thursday - St. John Joseph of the Cross (1734)
Friday - Sts. Felicity & Perpetua (203)
Saturday - St. Thomas Aquinas (1274)
All Holy Angels and Saints, Pray For Us!

*"The Eucharist is a never-ending sacrifice.
It is the Sacrament of love, the supreme love, the act of love."
St. Katharine Drexel*



The Knights of Columbus will pray the rosary on Monday, March 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.



Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to move your clocks forward 1 hour.



The Parish Council will meet on Wednesday, March 4, at 3:30 pm in the parish hall.



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



St. Patrick's Day Dinner!

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

St. Frances of Rome parish hall

Dine-in or take-out

Tickets: Adults \$17 each

Kids age 6-12 \$10 each

Kids 5 & under eat free

Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, dessert, and fellowship.

Live music by the Alleghany Alligators!

Volunteers are needed to help prep food, decorate, serve, and clean up. If you can help, please see the sign up sheets on the narthex door.

To purchase tickets, see: Marsha Simon, Nancy McDowell, John Pokorney, Janet Pokorney, Alberto Bibiano, Maria Luisa Olivares, or Carla in the church office.



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.



Happy Birthday!

February 22 - March 8

February 23 - Azucena Limon
February 24 - Vera Keck
February 25 - Selma Guerrero
Eduardo Hernández
February 27 - Charlotte Flowers
February 28 - Nicolas Carranza
February 29 - Luciana Carranza
March 1 - Francisco Sagaon
Isidro Pérez
March 3 - Lucy Maravilla
Patricia Velarde
March 5 - Eusebio Sierra
March 7 - Verónica San German
March 8 - Ángel Velázquez

Financial Figures

Offertory February 22 \$ 3,157.00
Offertory received in February: \$ 11,632.00
Offertory needed in February: \$ 13,000.00

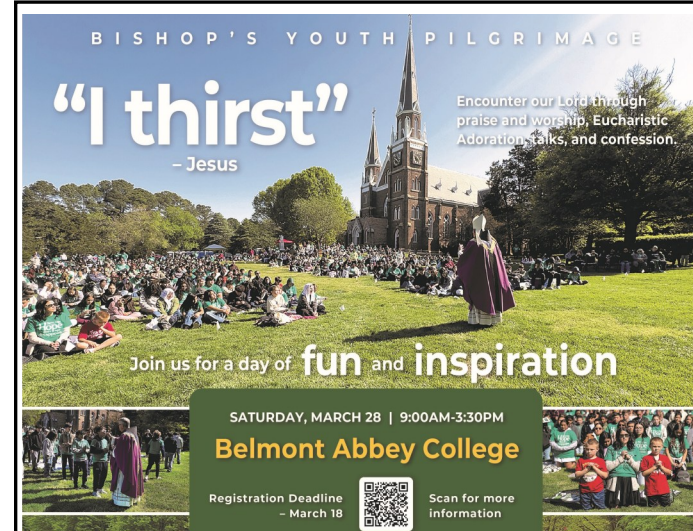
Second Collections for March

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.
Your contribution to the DSA is a way to act with love towards our sisters and brothers throughout the diocese and to continue the saving work begun by Jesus.

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



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 Solid Rock Food Closet.



Quarterly reports of St. Frances of Rome financial position are available in the narthex.



TENDING the VINEYARD

The theme for this year's Diocesan Support Appeal, "Tending the Vineyard", calls us to care for one another with charity and kindness and to live the teachings of our Catholic faith. Bishop Martin is asking for your generous support of the DSA. Please prayerfully reflect with grateful hearts and consider sharing your gifts to help transform lives throughout our diocese. When giving online, through the Diocese of Charlotte's DSA giving page, please choose St. Frances of Rome (042) as the parish so your donation will be credited to our annual assessment.



Rediscover Your Marriage –

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10's of 1000's headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering, but is anchored in Christian reconciliation, communication and healing. For confidential information about, or, to register for the program beginning with a weekend on May 1st- 3rd, 2026 in the Charlotte area, contact Bill and Lyn Folsom at 727-343-6701 or email: billlynfolsom@gmail.com (3 L's in a row) or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.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>