



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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 15, 2026



*"Blessed are they who observe his decrees,
who seek him with all their heart."
Ps 119:2*



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, February 15, 11:15 am

Lector: Jim Smith

Greeter: Marie-Claire Songhurst

Usher: Mark Imbus

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: Nancy McDowell

February Altar Linen: Mayra Marin

Next Sunday, February 22, 11:15 am

Lector: John Ellison

Greeter: Marie-Claire Songhurst

Usher: Janet Pokorney

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: Pat Flattery

February Altar Linen: Mayra Marin

Scripture Readings for Year A February 15 - 22

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

Monday - Scripture: Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday - Scripture: Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday - Scripture: Joel 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday - Scripture: Duet 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6 Lk 9:22-25

Friday - Scripture: Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15

Saturday - Scripture: Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Lk 5:27-32

Sunday - Scripture: Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 & 17 Rom 5, 12-19 Mt 4:1-11



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+*

+ *Rest of the Soul*

Weekly Calendar

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

Monday, February 16

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary

6:00 pm - Knights of Columbus planning meeting

Tuesday, February 17

7:00 pm - Apostles of the Word

Ash Wednesday, February 18

4:45 pm - Adoration

4:50 - 5:20 pm - Confessions

6:00 pm - Mass, English

Thursday, February 19

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 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, February 21

7:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

Sunday, February 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

3:30 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.

Contribution Statements
 If you gave \$250 or more in contributions to the church last year, your 2025 annual giving statement is ready. You will find the envelopes labeled alphabetically, in the narthex, on the display stand to the left as you enter the church.

Please return your baby bottles for the Alleghany Pregnancy Care Center campaign by next **Sunday, February 22**. Checks should be made payable to Alleghany Pregnancy Care Center or APCC.


40DAYSFORLIFE 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>

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 under age 6 eat free
 Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, dessert, and fellowship!
 To purchase tickets, see: John Pokorney, Janet Pokorney, Alberto Bibiano, Maria Luisa Olivares, or Carla Gauldin


 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. Claude de la Colombiere (1682)
 Monday - St. Juliana (305)
 Tuesday - Holy Face of Jesus (Shrove Tuesday)
 Wednesday - St. Simeon (107), 1st cousin of Jesus
 Thursday - St. Gabinus (296)
 Friday - Sts. Francisco Marto & Jacinta Marto, seers of Fatima
 Saturday - St. Peter Damian (1072)
 All Holy Angels and Saints, Pray For Us!

“The worst thing would be if Our Lady never came back again!
 That is what hurts me the most.”
 St. Francisco Marto (age 9)

 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.

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. 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.

 Prayer
 Fasting
 Almsgiving

Fasting and Abstinence during Lent
 Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence. Fasting is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed, or a combination of two small meals that together do not equal one full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed. Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, there is a dispensation. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the Parish Priest should be consulted.


Happy Birthday!
February 8 - 22
 February 8 - Lily Markevicius
 February 11 - Giovanni Torres
 Broca Lourdes
 Ángeles Villa
 February 12 - Benita Pérez
 February 13 - Mauro Carranza
 Mauricio Toribio
 February 16 - Rodrigo Martínez
 February 17 - Linda Ortega
 February 18 - Susan Wellen
 February 21 - Carlos Velázquez
 Richard Happy




Financial Figures
Offertory February 8: \$ 4,836.00
 Offertory received in February: \$ 4,836.00
 Offertory needed in February: \$ 13,000.00
 2nd Collection: Catholic News Herald \$ 455.00

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 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>




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 Altar Flower Fund. Thank you for your donations!


Online Giving
 Would you rather make contributions online? Scan the QR Code or visit the St. Frances of Rome website at stfrancesofrome-sparta.org. The Online Giving tile is located on the home page. Weekly Sunday offerings, DSA, Cemetery Fund, Altar Flower Fund, Priest Retirement & Benefits Collection, and Seminarian Education Collection donations are available through Vanco, a secure online payment organization.




DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL 2026 **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. Last week, you should have received a letter from Bishop Martin asking for your generous support of the DSA. The appeal supports more than 50 ministries and programs across the diocese, including Vocations, Family Life, Education Ministries, Multicultural Ministries, and the Eucharistic Congress. 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. Thank you for your generosity.



 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.

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.

 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.