



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

### The Epiphany of the Lord January 4, 2026



“We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage.”  
Mt 2:2

### Administrative Assistant:

Carla Gauldin 336-372-8846 or 336-300-2177

### Finance Assistant:

Herb Maddock 336-372-8846

### Parish Operations Manager:

Greg Songhurst 860-428-1145

### Parish Council:

Chairperson: John Pokorney 336-757-1081

### Finance Council:

Chairperson: Marie-Claire Songhurst 860-428-4461

### Faith Formation Classes:

Coordinator: Guillermina Limon 336-596-6591

### Hispanic Ministry:

Coordinator: Maria Luisa Olivares 336-359-2139

### Stewardship Committee:

Chairperson: Marie-Claire Songhurst 860-428-4461

### 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.

**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](mailto:stfrances@skybest.com).

**Baptisms:** Parents and sponsors 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.



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, January 4, 11:15 am

Lector: Jim Smith

Greeter: Carla Gauldin

Usher: Mark Imbus

Server: Youth

Rosary: Marie-Claire Songhurst

January Altar Linen: Carla Gauldin

#### Next Sunday, January 11, 11:15 am

Lector: Laurel Wood

Greeter: Marie-Claire Songhurst

Usher: Greg Songhurst

Server: John Pokorney

Rosary: John Ellison

January Altar Linen: Carla Gauldin

### Scripture Readings for January 4 – 11

**Sunday - Scripture:** Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

**Monday - Scripture:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-11 Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday - Scripture:** 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

**Wednesday - Scripture:** 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday - Scripture:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14 & 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22

**Friday - Scripture:** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday - Scripture:** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 & 5a & 9b Jn 3:22-30

**Sunday - Scripture:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17



### 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, Susie Woodel,  
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 January

January 15 - *Sylvester Tomaszewski+*

January 22 - *Leonard Deal+*

January 29 - *Radoslaw Kowalec+*

+ *Rest of the Soul*

### Weekly Calendar

#### Sunday, January 4

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

10:50 am - Rosary, English

11:15 am - Mass, English

1:00 - 1:45 pm - Confessions

1:30 pm - Rosary

2:00 pm - Mass, Spanish

#### Monday, January 5

5:30 pm - Rosary with the Knights of Columbus

6:00 pm - Knights of Columbus Council meeting

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary

#### Tuesday, January 6

7:00 pm - Apostles of the Word

#### Wednesday, January 7

3:30 pm - Parish Council meeting

4:45 pm - Adoration

4:50 - 5:20 pm - Confessions

6:00 pm - Mass, English

#### Thursday, January 8

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, January 9

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

#### Saturday, January 10

7:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

#### Sunday, January 11

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 classes

1:00 - 1:45 pm - Confessions

1:30 pm - Rosary

2:00 pm - Mass, Spanish

3:30 pm - Confirmation II class

**Silence please.... As we come to church to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,** please remember that we are entering a place deserving of reverence and respect. Once we enter the worship space, we are in the presence of Our Lord. At the conclusion of Mass, we should continue to show that reverence until we leave the worship space. It is requested that all conversations be made before entering and after leaving the nave.



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



The Knights of Columbus will pray the rosary on Monday 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.



This week, the church office will be closed on Monday, but open on Wednesday and Thursday instead.



**Friday, January 9th**, join the annual Charlotte March for Life! Part prayer vigil, part public march, the event is meant to be a time of prayer to call attention to the more than 60 million lives lost to abortion since 1973, and the need to end the tragedy of abortion. The schedule is:

**10 a.m. Mass for Life** at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203

**12 p.m. March for Life** begins at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

**Marriage Help**

– For over 48 years, Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too, or a hurting couple you might know. For confidential information about the program or to register for the upcoming January 16-18, 2026 weekend in Charlotte area, call Bill and Lyn Folsom at 727-343-6701 or email: [3062R@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3062R@helpourmarriage.org) or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)



**Cycle Prep for Parents and Daughters**

Saturday, January 17, 2026  
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
St. Matthew Catholic Church  
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte

Cycle Prep introduces girls to menstrual cycles, periods and body literacy in a positive, adult-supported environment. This class is designed to help parents in preparing their daughters (recommended ages 9-11) to navigate puberty positively while building a foundation that will help them continue these important conversations as she grows. An introduction to St. John Paul II's catechesis on human love and the human body in the Divine Plan, called "Theology of the Body," is included. The class is instructor is Batrice Adcock, MSN, director of the Natural Family Planning program for the Diocese of Charlotte Family Life Office.

**RSVPs are required. Registration website:**  
<https://charlottediocese.org/form-cycle-prep-registration-nfp>

**Happy Birthday**

**Birthdays for December 28 – January 11**

- December 28 - Inocencia Reséndiz
- December 29 - Carla López– Eloy
- December 30 - Elvira Reyes  
Martha Hernandez
- January 5 - Valeria Carranza
- January 6 - Riena Mopardo
- January 8 - Juana Francisco
- January 9 - Mark Whittle
- January 11 - Bosco Keck  
Brooke Markevicius



**Financial Figures**

<b>Offertory December 28:</b>	\$ 4919.00
Offertory received in December:	\$ 13,303.00
Offertory needed in December:	\$ 15,200.00
Second collection - Facilities Fund	\$ 784.00
Christmas flower offering	\$ 145.00
Missal donation	\$ 60.00

**Second Collections for January**

TBA

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



**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.



*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.*



As winter approaches, 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, as well as WXII's new channel 12.



Offering envelopes are provided free of charge to parishioners who request them. If you would like to start receiving offertory envelopes, email the office or drop a request in the box on the office door.

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.

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.

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



If there have been any changes recently to your family status, address, phone number, email, or if you have moved or will be moving, please fill out a Parish Update Form located in the narthex. If you are a new parishioner and would like to register, please complete a New Parishioner Registration Form also located in the narthex. Forms can be returned to the usher or placed in the black box on the church office door. Accuracy and completeness of records on file enable Father Jacob and Carla to better serve you, whether it is in receiving sacraments, responding to urgent situations, or the dissemination of information. Thank you for your assistance.



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. A bookplate will be added inside the front cover, listing who gave the gift and if it was in honor or in memory of a loved one. Thank you to all who have made a donation!

**Events and Use of the Church Buildings**

For those who would like to have events in the church or parish hall, please contact Carla in the church office by email, [stfrances@skybest.com](mailto:stfrances@skybest.com), or via phone, 336-372-8846. Having your event on the church calendar helps to minimize conflicts in scheduling events. Also, due to insurance and liability issues, it is important that Father Jacob and the office know when the buildings are in use. Thank you.

**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](mailto:greg56@snet.net).



**Communion Guidelines for Catholics:**

1. To be in a state of grace, that is to say, to be free from any unconfessed mortal sin.
2. To abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food or drink, with the exception of water and medicine.
3. To understand you are receiving the Body of Christ and to approach the altar with reverence.
4. **Remember, the Holy Eucharist must be consumed in front of the priest or extraordinary minister before walking away.**

**For Non-Catholics:** Please feel free to participate by singing, standing, kneeling, etc. However, the reception of Holy Communion is reserved for Catholics in a state of grace. At the time of Communion, you may come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing or you may remain in your pew.

Parish Council will meet on Wednesday, January 7, at 3:30 pm in the parish hall.

**Youth Faith Formation classes resume next Sunday, January 11, at 12:30 pm. Confirmation II class resumes next Sunday, at 3:30 pm.**



Faith Formation

With the addition of the new missals, our pew book racks cannot hold two missals and two hymnals. Extra hymnals are now located in the book cart outside the sacristy door. The choir wants to encourage everyone to join in singing, so please feel free to pick up a hymnal as you enter for Sunday Mass or Holy Days of Obligation. Remember, when we sing, we pray twice!



Join us in celebrating National Marriage Week from February 7 to 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).

**Saints and Feasts for the Week**

- Sunday - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1821)
  - Monday - St. Telephorus (136)
  - Tuesday - Sts. Caspar, Balthasar, & Melchior (1st C.), the Three Wise Men
  - Wednesday - St. Lucian of Antioch (312)
  - Thursday - St. Apollinaris the Apologist (175)
  - Friday - St. Adrian of Canterbury (710)
  - Saturday - St. Nicanor (76)
- All Holy Angels and Saints, Pray For Us!

"Faith lifts the staggering soul on one side,  
Hope supports it on the other,  
Experience says it must be, and love says let it be."  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton