



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

Third Sunday of Lent March 8, 2026



*"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst".
Jn 4:13*



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: 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.

Liturgy Schedule

Today, 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

Next Sunday, 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

Scripture Readings for Year A March 8 - 15

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

Monday - Scripture: 2 Kgs 5:1-15 Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday - Scripture: Dan 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday - Scripture: Deut 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday - Scripture: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday - Scripture: Hosea 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17 Mt 12:28-34

Saturday - Scripture: Hosea 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab Lk 18:9-14

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



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+

March 25 - Katrina Poirier

+ *Repose of the Soul*

Weekly Calendar

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

3:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

3:30 pm - Confirmation II class

Monday, March 9, St. Frances of Rome Feast Day

6:00 pm Mass, bilingual

7:00 pm - Potluck dinner

Tuesday, March 10

7:00 pm - Apostles of the Word

Wednesday, March 11

4:45 pm - Adoration

4:45 - 5:30 pm - Confessions

5:30 pm - Vespers

6:00 pm - Mass, English

6:45 pm - Stewardship Committee meeting

Thursday, March 12

10:30 am - Lenten Spirituality Study Group

12:00 noon - Mass, English

4:00 pm - Cemetery Committee meeting

5:30 - 6:30 pm - Adoration

5:30 - 6:30 pm - Confessions

7:00 pm - Mass, Spanish

7:30 pm - Spanish choir practice

Friday, March 13

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 14

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm - St. Patrick's Day Dinner Fundraiser

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

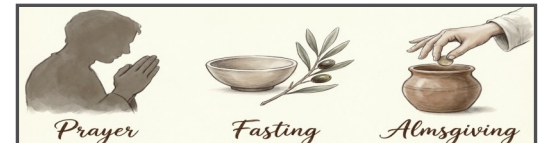
1:00 - 1:45 pm - Confessions

1:30 pm - Rosary

2:00 pm - Mass, Spanish

3:00 pm - OCIA, Spanish

3:30 pm - Confirmation II class





St. Frances of Rome Feast Day
 Tomorrow, 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 joyfully announce the following members of St. Frances of Rome received the Sacrament of Baptism last Sunday:

Maria Luisa and Abigail Palacios Francisco daughters of Librado Palacios and Juana Francisco
Emmanuel Guzmán Ramos son of Jorge Guzmán and Guadalupe Ramos
 May we pray for God's continued blessings upon Maria Luisa, Abigail, Emmanuel, and their families.

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 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.

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

Saints and Feasts for the Week

Sunday - St. John of God (1550)
 Monday - St. Frances of Rome (1440)
 Tuesday - St. Macarius (334)
 Wednesday - St. Eulogius (859)
 Thursday - St. Gregory the Great (604), 64th Pope
 Friday - St. Roderick (857)
 Saturday - St. Matilda (968)
All Holy Angels and Saints, Pray For Us!

*"It is most laudable in a married woman to be devout, but she must never forget that she is a housewife. And sometimes she must leave God at the altar to find Him in her housekeeping."
 St. Frances of Rome*



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.



The Stewardship Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 11, at 6:45 pm. Anyone interested in joining the Stewardship Committee is invited to attend.



The Cemetery Committee will meet on Thursday, March 12, at 4:00 pm.



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.



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 1 - 15
 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
 March 9 - Xavier Iglesias
 March 11 - Jessy Trujillo
 March 12 - Joseph Flowers
 Mary Uhrbrock
 March 15 - Nancy Schiener
 Juan Torres

Financial Figures

Offertory March 1: \$ 2,309.00
 Offertory received in March: \$ 2,309.00
 Offertory needed in March: \$ 14,500.00
 2nd Collection - Solid Rock Food Closet: \$ 546.00

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



TENDING the VINEYARD

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



St. Frances of Rome was born in 1384 to a wealthy Roman family and felt called from childhood to become a nun. However, at 12 years old, her father arranged her marriage to a young nobleman, Lorenzo Ponziani. Though she accepted this reluctantly, she struggled deeply with her new social obligations and nearly died from the emotional strain. After a vision of St. Alexis, she chose to embrace God's will and recovered. Frances devoted herself to prayer and charity while faithfully fulfilling her duties as a wife and mother. With her sister-in-law Vannoza, she served the poor, visited prisons and hospitals, and gave generously to those in need — even during famine. Miracles were attributed to her, including the multiplication of food and wine, which helped convert her husband and father-in-law to support her charitable work. During civil war and plague in Rome, Frances endured immense suffering: her home was destroyed, her husband was wounded, her daughter, Agnes, and son Evangelista died of plague, and her other son, Battista, was taken hostage. Despite these hardships, she turned her ruined house into a hospital and continued serving the poor. She was granted visions and the guidance of a guardian angel. After her husband's death, Frances founded the Oblates of Mary, a lay religious community for women dedicated to prayer and service while living in the world. Eventually, she entered community life herself and became its superior. She died on March 9, 1440, at age 56, remembered for her holiness, charity, humility, and unwavering trust in God's will. She was so beloved, she was named the co-patron saint of Rome.



Next Sunday, the second collection will be for the Cemetery Fund.



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



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!



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>