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# *THE LANTERIAN*



## **SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL STAFFED BY THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY**



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*St. Francis Chapel is open 365 days a year. It exists thanks to the generous support of countless visitors and regular attendees. Thank you for helping us continue this ministry which touches the lives of so many people every single day.*

**MARCH 9, 2025—FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

## CHAPEL STAFF

### Director:

Fr. Jeremy Paulin, OMV  
jpaulin@omvusa.org

Fr. Andy Huhtanen, OMV  
Fr. Victor Nwabueze, OMV

### Sundays:

Fr. James Walther, OMV  
Fr. Sean Morris, OMV  
Fr. Craig MacMahon, OMV  
Fr. Paul Kallal, OMV

### Music:

Celine Wynn, Saul Garcia,  
Cesar Garcia, Stacey Ibe

### Cleaning of Chapel

Environment: Nubia Viasus

St. Francis Chapel, 800 Boylston St.,  
Boston MA 02199 \* (617) 437-7117  
stfrancis@omvusa.org



  SFChapel  stfrancischapel

## SCHEDULE

### Sunday Masses:

**Saturday Vigil** 4:00PM,  
5:30 PM, (en español)

**Sun.** 8 AM, 9:15AM, 10:30AM, 11:45AM,  
1:15 PM (en español), 4:00PM, 5:30PM

### Weekday Masses:

**Mon.—Fri.** 8:00AM, 12:05PM, 4:45PM

**Saturday** 9:00AM, 12PM

### Confessions:

**Mon.—Fri.** 8:40 -11:40AM, 12:40-4:25PM;  
After 4:45PM Mass by request

**Saturday** 9:40 - 11:40 AM, 12:40-3:30PM

**Sunday** By request in-between Masses

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

**Mon.—Fri.** 8:30-11:50AM, 12:30-4:30PM

**Saturday** 9:30-11:30AM, 12:30-3:30PM

### Gift Shop Hours:

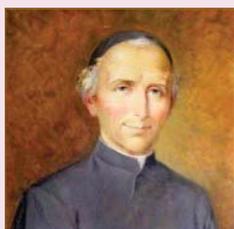
**Monday—Friday** 11:00AM - 5:30PM\*

**Saturday** 9:30AM - 6:30PM\*

**Sunday** 8:30AM - 6:30PM\*

(\*Closed during Masses)

St Francis Chapel here in the Prudential Center has been staffed by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary (OMV) since 1983. It is truly a place of mercy and peace. People attend and visit from all over Boston, the USA and the world. They attend Holy Mass, Adore the Lord Jesus, light a candle and oftentimes take advantage of our OMV Charism of Mercy, "beginning again" in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Miracles occur in the confessional. In addition to this Chapel, the OMV serve at St Clement Eucharistic Shrine a few blocks from here, which is also our US Seminary, in Milton MA at our St. Joseph Retreat House as well as in Los Angeles, CA, Denver, CO, Alton, IL and Venice, FL. Additionally OMV priests and brothers minister in Italy, where we were founded in 1826, Austria, France, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, The Philippines and England. Learn more at OMVUSA.org.



### *Prayer Before Mass by Venerable Bruno Lanteri, Founder of the OMV*

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to proclaim, honor and glorify your infinite greatness, and in recognition of the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration of him.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance. I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with all his virtues and with all the wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

Welcome to the Chapel! Whether you are one of our daily or weekly faithful or visiting from the other side of the globe, or anywhere in between, thank you for joining us in prayer! We are blessed by you all! Many comment on the blessing of Christ's Sacramental presence and the love, mercy and peace they encounter in "The Chapel in the Mall." The Chapel has remained open here since 1969, entirely due to God's Providence working through your prayers, goodness, gratitude and generosity. The payment of our monthly rent, utilities and all expenses depends on Mass collections, (including the box by the door), online donations (including the QR codes), major gifts, candles, the kiosks in the vestibule, the gift shop (check it out!) and the Benefactors Memorial Tree in the vestibule. Thank you for your support of our ministry here. We are not able to serve here without you! Pray for us! God bless you!

### *St. Clement Young Adult Group*

#### **AMICIZIA CRISTIANA**

**Every Monday from 7-8:30 pm**

**St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine**

**1105 Boylston St, Boston**

Amicizia Cristiana (Christian Friendship) is a young adult initiative in collaboration with the Oblates of the Virgin Mary at Saint Clement Eucharistic Shrine. The name comes from the group that was so integral to the life of Venerable Bruno Lanteri, founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.

Membership is limited to ages 20-29 to respect differences in practical life experience.

Reach out to stclementac@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### Sunday, March 9, 2025

8:00 AM - Mark Walsh  
9:15 AM - Adriana Gomez—in thanks  
10:30 AM - Maria Roy  
11:45 AM - Carmen Almonte  
1:15 PM - +Mario Araniz—cumpleaños  
4:00 PM - Pope Francis—health  
5:30 PM - Liliana Balbin—health

### Monday, March 10

8:00 AM - Jian Chen—health  
12:05 PM - Amparo Tobón—birthday  
4:00 PM - +Annette Zadotti

### Tuesday, March 11

8:00 AM - Amalia Brown  
12:05 PM - +Donald Oliver  
4:45 PM - Nguyen Kim

### Wednesday, March 12

8:00 AM - +Ivan Toic  
12:05 PM - +Fr. John Allard  
4:45 PM - Mary Ann Tocio

### Thursday, March 13

8:00 AM - +Auzilija Muzic  
12:05 PM - Fr. Romaine  
4:45 PM - +Cathy McGildary

### Friday, March 14

8:00 AM - Adam Martel—birthday  
12:05 PM - +Sharon Canale  
4:45 PM - +Frank Pompea

### Saturday, March 15

9:00 AM - +Alice May Molloy  
12:00 PM - +Giacomo Scarcciotti  
4:00 PM - Ken Kreinsen—health  
5:30 PM - +Paola Ledesma

## Reflection by Fr. Jeremy Paulin, OMV

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent has begun! Our Ash Wednesday was beautiful here at the Chapel. So many faithful came to Mass to worship the Lord and to receive Ashes, remembering that each one of us - is dust and that to dust we shall return, but also that we are dust destined for the Glory of God. We were very blessed this Ash Wednesday to have had a visit from our new Archbishop, Richard Henning. He preached about the Glory of God in Jesus Christ and the passing glory of the world. It's easy for us to settle for so much less than what God desires and plans for us. For me personally it was a joy to have the Archbishop here in the Chapel and for him to see and hear a little about the great work that God does here, especially in the confessional!



I conclude with a challenge and invitation from Pope Francis' Letter for Lent 2025: "This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance." (See full text on page 5 of this bulletin)



### *The Pope's Prayer Intention for March:*

#### **For families in Crisis**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

¡La Cuaresma ha comenzado! Nuestro Miércoles de Ceniza fue hermoso aquí en la Capilla. Tantos fieles vinieron a la Misa para adorar al Señor y recibir las Cenizas, recordando que cada uno de nosotros - es polvo y que al polvo volveremos, pero también que somos polvo destinado a la Gloria de Dios. Fuimos muy bendecidos este Miércoles de Ceniza por haber tenido la visita de nuestro nuevo Arzobispo, Richard Henning. Él predicó sobre la Gloria de Dios en Jesucristo y la gloria pasajera del mundo. Es fácil para nosotros conformarnos con mucho menos de lo que Dios desea y planea para nosotros. Para mí personalmente fue una alegría tener al Arzobispo aquí en la Capilla y que él viera y escuchara un poco sobre el gran trabajo que Dios hace aquí, ¡especialmente en el confesionario!

Concluyo con un desafío e invitación de la Carta del Papa Francisco para la Cuaresma 2025: "En esta cuaresma, Dios nos pide que comprobemos si en nuestra vida, en

*Continúa en la página siguiente*

De la página anterior

nuestras familias, en los lugares donde trabajamos, en las comunidades parroquiales o religiosas, somos capaces de caminar con los demás, de escuchar, de vencer la tentación de encerrarnos en nuestra autorreferencialidad, ocupándonos solamente de nuestras necesidades. Preguntémonos ante el Señor si somos capaces de trabajar juntos como obispos, presbíteros, consagrados y laicos, al servicio del Reino de Dios; si tenemos una actitud de acogida, con gestos concretos, hacia las personas que se acercan a nosotros y a cuantos están lejos; si hacemos que la gente se sienta parte de la comunidad o si la marginamos.” (Véase el texto completo en pagina 6)



L-R: Fr. Victor Nwabueze, Br. Joe O’Connor, Fr. Andy Huhtanen, Archbishop Richard Henning, Fr. Jeremy Paulin.  
Photo by Lucas Jablonski.



## St. Francis Chapel JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO GUADALUPE, MEXICO

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# Pope Francis Message for Lent

Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent in faith and hope with the penitential rite of the imposition of ashes. The Church, our mother and teacher, invites us to open our hearts to God's grace, so that we can celebrate with great joy the paschal victory of Christ the Lord over sin and death, which led Saint Paul to exclaim: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:54-55). Indeed, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the heart of our faith and the pledge of our hope in the Father's great promise, already fulfilled in his beloved Son: life eternal (cf. Jn 10:28; 17:3).<sup>[1]</sup>

This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means *to journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

First of all, *to journey*. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father. This would be a good "examination of conscience" for all of us wayfarers.

Second, *to journey together*. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal.<sup>[2]</sup> Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters.<sup>[3]</sup> Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (cf. Ga 3:26-28). It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience.

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance.<sup>[4]</sup> This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality.

Third, let us journey together *in hope*, for we have been given a promise. *May the hope that does not disappoint* (cf. Rom 5:5), the central message of the Jubilee,<sup>[5]</sup> be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. As Pope Benedict XVI taught us in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, "the human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: 'neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Rom 8:38-39)".<sup>[6]</sup> Christ, my hope, has risen!<sup>[7]</sup> He lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ!

This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

Sisters and brothers, thanks to God's love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5). Hope is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul".<sup>[8]</sup> It moves the Church to pray for "everyone to be saved" (1 Tim 2:4) and to look forward to her being united with Christ, her bridegroom, in the glory of heaven. This was the prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila: "Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one" (*The Exclamations of the Soul to God*, 15:3).<sup>[9]</sup>

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey.

*Queridos hermanos y hermanas:*

Con el signo penitencial de las cenizas en la cabeza, iniciamos la peregrinación anual de la santa cuaresma, en la fe y en la esperanza. La Iglesia, madre y maestra, nos invita a preparar nuestros corazones y a abrirnos a la gracia de Dios para poder celebrar con gran alegría el triunfo pascual de Cristo, el Señor, sobre el pecado y la muerte, como exclamaba san Pablo: «La muerte ha sido vencida. ¿Dónde está, muerte, tu victoria? ¿Dónde está tu aguijón?» ( *1 Co* 15,54-55). Jesucristo, muerto y resucitado es, en efecto, el centro de nuestra fe y el garante de nuestra esperanza en la gran promesa del Padre: la vida eterna, que ya realizó en Él, su Hijo amado (cf. *Jn* 10,28; 17,3).

En esta cuaresma, enriquecida por la gracia del Año jubilar, deseo ofrecerles algunas reflexiones sobre lo que significa *caminar juntos en la esperanza* y descubrir las llamadas a la conversión que la misericordia de Dios nos dirige a todos, de manera personal y comunitaria.

Antes que nada, *caminar*. El lema del Jubileo, “Peregrinos de esperanza”, evoca el largo viaje del pueblo de Israel hacia la tierra prometida, narrado en el libro del Éxodo; el difícil camino desde la esclavitud a la libertad, querido y guiado por el Señor, que ama a su pueblo y siempre le permanece fiel. No podemos recordar el éxodo bíblico sin pensar en tantos hermanos y hermanas que hoy huyen de situaciones de miseria y de violencia, buscando una vida mejor para ellos y sus seres queridos. Surge aquí una primera llamada a la conversión, porque todos somos peregrinos en la vida. Cada uno puede preguntarse: ¿cómo me dejo interpelar por esta condición? ¿Estoy realmente en camino o un poco paralizado, estático, con miedo y falta de esperanza; o satisfecho en mi zona de confort? ¿Busco caminos de liberación de las situaciones de pecado y falta de dignidad? Sería un buen ejercicio cuaresmal confrontarse con la realidad concreta de algún inmigrante o peregrino, dejando que nos interpele, para descubrir lo que Dios nos pide, para ser mejores caminantes hacia la casa del Padre. Este es un buen “examen” para el viandante.

En segundo lugar, hagamos este viaje *juntos*. La vocación de la Iglesia es caminar juntos, ser sinodales. Los cristianos están llamados a hacer camino juntos, nunca como viajeros solitarios. El Espíritu Santo nos impulsa a salir de nosotros mismos para ir hacia Dios y hacia los hermanos, y nunca a encerrarnos en nosotros mismos. Caminar juntos significa ser artesanos de unidad, partiendo de la dignidad común de hijos de Dios (cf. *Ga* 3,26-28); significa caminar codo a codo, sin pisotear o dominar al otro, sin albergar envidia o hipocresía, sin dejar que nadie se quede atrás o se sienta excluido. Vamos en la misma dirección, hacia la misma meta, escuchándonos los unos a los otros con amor y paciencia.

En esta cuaresma, Dios nos pide que comprobemos si en nuestra vida, en nuestras familias, en los lugares donde trabajamos, en las comunidades parroquiales o religiosas, somos capaces de caminar con los demás, de escuchar, de vencer la tentación de encerrarnos en nuestra autorreferencialidad, ocupándonos solamente de nuestras necesidades. Preguntémonos ante el Señor si somos capaces de trabajar juntos como obispos, presbíteros, consagrados y laicos, al servicio del Reino de Dios; si tenemos una actitud de acogida, con gestos concretos, hacia las personas que se acercan a nosotros y a cuantos están lejos; si hacemos que la gente se sienta parte de la comunidad o si la marginamos. Esta es una segunda llamada: la conversión a la sinodalidad.

En tercer lugar, recorramos este camino juntos *en la esperanza* de una promesa. La *esperanza que no defrauda* (cf. *Rm* 5,5), mensaje central del Jubileo, sea para nosotros el horizonte del camino cuaresmal hacia la victoria pascual. Como nos enseñó el Papa Benedicto XVI en la Encíclica *Spe salvi*, «el ser humano necesita un amor incondicionado. Necesita esa certeza que le hace decir: “Ni muerte, ni vida, ni ángeles, ni principados, ni presente, ni futuro, ni potencias, ni altura, ni profundidad, ni criatura alguna podrá apartarnos del amor de Dios, manifestado en Cristo Jesús, Señor nuestro” ( *Rm* 8,38-39)». Jesús, nuestro amor y nuestra esperanza, ha resucitado, y vive y reina glorioso. La muerte ha sido transformada en victoria y en esto radica la fe y la esperanza de los cristianos, en la resurrección de Cristo.

Esta es, por tanto, la tercera llamada a la conversión: la de la esperanza, la de la confianza en Dios y en su gran promesa, la vida eterna. Debemos preguntarnos: ¿poseo la convicción de que Dios perdona mis pecados, o me comporto como si pudiera salvarme solo? ¿Anhele la salvación e invoco la ayuda de Dios para recibirla? ¿Vivo concretamente la esperanza que me ayuda a leer los acontecimientos de la historia y me impulsa al compromiso por la justicia, la fraternidad y el cuidado de la casa común, actuando de manera que nadie quede atrás?

Hermanas y hermanos, gracias al amor de Dios en Jesucristo estamos protegidos por la esperanza que no defrauda (cf. *Rm* 5,5). La esperanza es “el ancla del alma”, segura y firme. En ella la Iglesia suplica para que «todos se salven» ( *1 Tm* 2,4) y espera estar un día en la gloria del cielo unida a Cristo, su esposo. Así se expresaba santa Teresa de Jesús: «Espera, espera, que no sabes cuándo vendrá el día ni la hora. Vela con cuidado, que todo se pasa con brevedad, aunque tu deseo hace lo cierto dudoso, y el tiempo breve largo» ( *Exclamaciones del alma a Dios*, 15, 3).

Que la Virgen María, Madre de la Esperanza, interceda por nosotros y nos acompañe en el camino cuaresmal.



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