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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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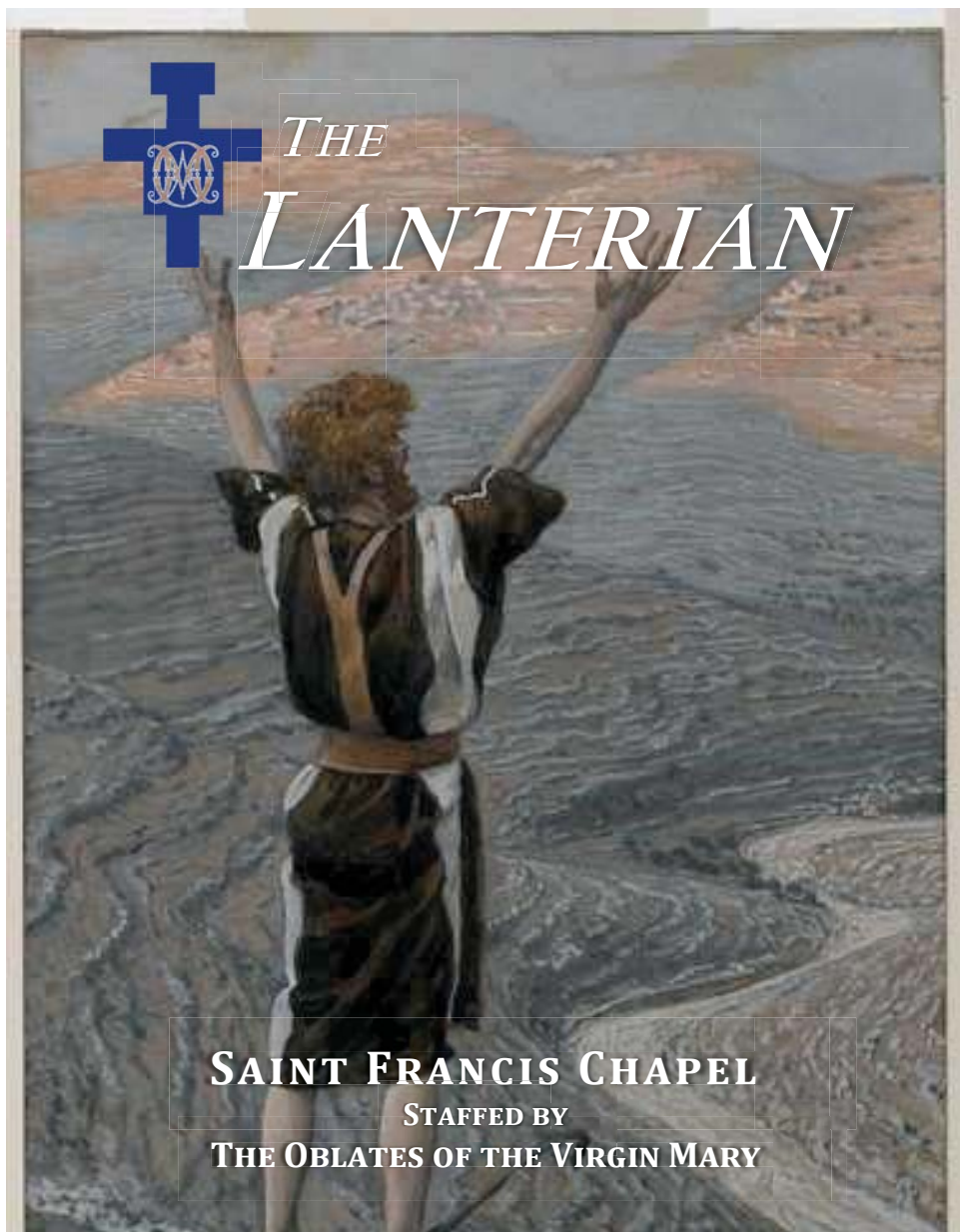
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*THE*  
**LANTERIAN**

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

*ENCOUNTER THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON*

**DECEMBER 17, 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



## CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV  
Fr. Victor Nwabueze, OMV  
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV  
Fr. John Wykes, OMV

## Sundays:

Fr. James Walther, OMV  
Fr. Sean Morris, OMV

**Music:** Saul Garcia, Cesar Garcia, Stacey Ngozi, Celine Wynn

## Cleaning of Chapel

**Environment:** Nubia Viasus

## The Pope's Prayer Intention for December:

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



## Cover Art:

*A Voice Crying Out in the Desert.* Public Domain.

## 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.** 8:30 -11:50AM, 12:30-4:40PM  
**Saturday** 9:30 - 11:45 AM, 12:30-3:30PM

### Devotions:

**Tuesday** after Mass: Our Lady  
**Wednesday** after Mass: St. Joseph  
**Thursday** after Mass: St. Jude

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

**Mon.—Fri.** 8:30-11:50AM, 12:30-4:30PM;  
**Sat.** 9:30-11:30AM, 12:30-3:30PM;  
**Sunday** 2:30-3:30PM

### Gift Shop Hours:

**Monday—Friday** 10:00AM - 4:30PM\*;  
**Saturday** 9:30AM - 6:00PM\*;  
**Sunday** 8:45AM - 6:00PM\*  
(\*Closed during Masses)

## CONTACT US

St. Francis Chapel  
800 Boylston St., Boston MA 02199

617-437-7117  
stfrancis@omvusa.org



SFChapel



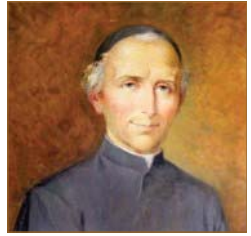
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[omvusa/st-francis-chapel.org](http://omvusa/st-francis-chapel.org)



## Reflection by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

Spiritual joy is a joyous affection of heart produced through sufficient thought about present spiritual goods. What are these goods? Participation in the divine nature (as children of God), union with Jesus Christ, being in the bosom of the Church as her sons, God's special



protection, the gifts of the theological virtues, the sacraments, the communion of the saints, grace, friendship with God, the merits of our actions, the glory of heaven that is already almost ours because of the firm hope we have, as a son already almost possesses the heritage that awaits him from his father.

Such is the grace of God, the relations with God which we have through grace, and also the consequences that flow from grace. God is our divine Father: we are his children, heirs to his Kingdom.

Actions that participate in the infinite, the communion of the Saints, the protection of the Angels, the goods we have through the Church. This is the joy that we must seek, and few possess it, because they make little use of their memory and their intellect to know and prize these goods enough. They are like someone who does not look at a painting, does not listen to music, or does not take delight in these objects, like children who possess precious things, and do not know it. Such are they who do not enjoy and take delight in the state of grace. Spiritual joy is true joy because unlike the joys of the world it is not founded upon any false notion, such as a dream.

1. It is preferable to anything else because it is good, holy, and preferable to any other temporal good.
2. It is angelic, because it is properly of the Angels themselves.
3. It is true, and it strengthens.

How can we enjoy spiritual goods, and be thankful for them if we are sad and melancholy? One enjoys being favored by a prince, and receiving temporal riches, with hope for yet more. And will we be pardoned if we do not rejoice in being favored by God, with having spiritual riches and a well-founded hope of eternal riches yet to come?



*And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it."  
(Isaiah 30:21)*

## Day of Discernment for Young Men



**January 20, 2024**

St. Joseph's Retreat House  
65 Father Carney Dr.  
Milton, MA 02186

- Learn skills for Ignatian Discernment
- Learn How to Choose God's Will
- Hear from Layman, Priest and Brother about life in each vocation
- Time for Prayer
- No Cost and Lunch Provided

**To Register: [stfrancis@omvusa.org](mailto:stfrancis@omvusa.org)**

### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

#### Sunday, Dec. 17

8:00 AM Chona Neuman  
 9:15 AM +Cheryl Callahan  
 10:30 AM +Linda LeBlanc  
 11:45 AM +Charles Beretsos  
 1:15 PM +Juliu Carcamu  
 4:00 PM Therese Belfort  
 5:30 PM +Edgar & +Odilia Castillo

#### Monday, Dec. 18

8:00 AM +Lina Luchetta  
 12:05 PM +Fermin & +Gaethan Belfort & Nellie Dulieppe  
 4:45 PM +Bernard Marion

#### Tuesday, Dec. 19

8:00 AM +William Butler  
 12:05 PM +Joanne Alger  
 4:45 PM +Donna Marie Wallace

#### Wednesday, Dec. 20

8:00 AM +Dodji Mireille Codjia  
 12:05 PM Deceased members of Biagio DeSesa Family  
 4:45 PM +Rudolph & Maureen Zlody

#### Thursday, Dec. 21

8:00 AM +Dodji Mireille Codjia  
 12:05 PM Diane Flavin—birthday  
 4:45 PM +Adelle Rice

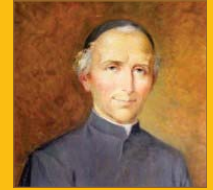
#### Friday, Dec. 22

8:00 AM +Dodji Mireille Codjia  
 12:05 PM Diane Martel—birthday  
 4:45 PM +Joseph Timilty

#### Saturday, Dec. 23

9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory  
 12:00 PM +John Aceto  
 4:00 PM Adriana Fernando—birthday  
 5:30 PM Cesar David Calderon—accion de gracias

### Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

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.

## Jessee Tree Advent Tradition

**Day 15: Scripture:** 1 Kings 8:17-18 **Theme:** Solomon **Symbol:** The Temple  
*Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.'*

**Reflection:** Though it would be Solomon who would build the Temple to God, it was first in the heart of David to do so. The Temple is the place of sacrifice, the place where God and his people come close and exchange gifts of intimacy and fidelity. The true Temple is always the heart. It is in a heart filled with the Holy Spirit, following Jesus, that true sacrifice is made to God. The true sacrifice is your self, your destiny, your plans. Share them with God. Let the doors of your temple open for God that he may have room in your heart to share his designs for all he wishes to build within you.

**Day 16: Scripture:** 2 Kings 2:9-11 **Theme:** Elijah **Symbol:** Chariot of Fire  
*When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Request whatever I might do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha answered, "May I receive a double portion of your spirit." He replied, "You have asked something that is not easy. Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not." As they walked on still conversing, a fiery chariot and fiery horses came between the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.*

**Reflection:** Elijah was the greatest of the prophets who defended the honor of the Lord on Mt. Carmel. It is in his spirit that the precursor of the Lord was to come. And Elisha dared to ask for a *double* portion of his spirit. Elisha's request was very bold. Do you ask bold things of God? Do you have the confidence to ask big things of God? The Lord is generous and wants a heart big enough to ask for things in accord with his desire to grant them.

**Day 17: Scripture:** Isaiah 6:1-7 **Theme:** Isaiah **Symbol:** Burning Coals  
*In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple. Seraphim were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they hovered. One cried out to the other: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!" At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it. "See," he said, "now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged."*

**Reflection:** The glory of the Lord shines forth in the depth of things. Whenever we can see deeper than the mere appearance we can experience God's glory, as in the Eucharist or in the smile and laughter of a baby. The glory of the Lord indeed fills the earth, are you looking for it today?

**Day 18: Scripture:** Matthew 12:39-40 **Theme:** Jonah **Symbol:** Whale

*[Jesus] said to them in reply, "An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights."*

**Reflection:** Most of us know what it is like to be swallowed up in some darkness. Whether grief at the loss of friends and family, failure at a job or project, or the pain of a relationship lost, or a loved one who has abandoned us, the darkness may well feel like being caught in the belly of Jonah's whale. How did we get here, and how do we get out? Jesus knows this darkness too. He descended into the heart of the earth and descends into any heart experiencing darkness to bring his life, his light, his resurrection. Do you call out to Jesus in times of darkness, doubt or confusion? Jonah's time in the darkness led him to greater wisdom and understanding. Might your times of darkness be the same?

**Day 19: Scripture:** Jeremiah 14:17 **Theme:** Jeremiah **Symbol:** Tears  
*Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.*

**Reflection:** Tears manifest the disposition of a person. When Peter heard the cock crow after he had denied Christ three times he shed tears. He was contrite of heart. This was practically missing in Judas who went and committed suicide. Christ's coming is so near, the demand for sincere and heart felt tears night and day is high. Christ needs a living tabernacle in which to dwell. He was denied at the inn and animals accepted and shared with him their abode. He is asking for a suitable dwelling place.

**Day 20: Scripture:** Luke 1:57 **Theme:** Elizabeth **Symbol:** Mother and Child  
*When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.*

**Reflection:** To every event or problem that exists on earth, there is usually an appointed time for the event to occur or for the problem to be solved. To many that doubt the power of God, a baby in the hands of the elder and infertile Elizabeth could be at best described as a dream or a mirage. But it is real, God has done it; her shame is gone. Those who were laughing at her, now have no choice but to laugh with her. To many who are in agony waiting on God for a favor, your appointed time will come. It calls for patience and an attentive listening to God.

**Day 21: Scripture:** Matthew 3: 1-3 **Theme:** John the Baptist **Symbol:** Sea Shell  
*In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea [and] saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"*

**Reflection:** Before a major event takes place or special guest comes to visit, there is usually some form of preparation to be done. Our long expected Visitor is close by. He is comfortable with places that are low. He yearns to be accommodated in hearts that stay low. John the Baptist is therefore asking a room for him, because we have a lot to gain if he finds a suitable abode in us. A critical self examination is needed to check areas in our spiritual life that need finishing touches in preparation.