

January 02, 2022

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



## **Staff**

Rev. Timothy Taugher, Pastor  
Deacon Stephen Blabac  
Delores A. Farwell  
Parish Administrative Assistant  
Maria Kirk  
Director of Faith Formation  
Joseph Carpenter  
Parish Business Administrator  
Suzanne Ekstrom  
Parish Media Manager  
Edmund Savo  
Organist  
Fred Hazlett  
Maintenance/Groundskeeper  
Tina Silvestri  
Housekeeper  
Brendan Heaney  
Nicholas Norton  
Sacristans

Office Hours:  
Monday — Thursday:  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Friday: Closed

Parish Office Phone: 722-4388  
Faith Formation Office Phone:  
722-4177

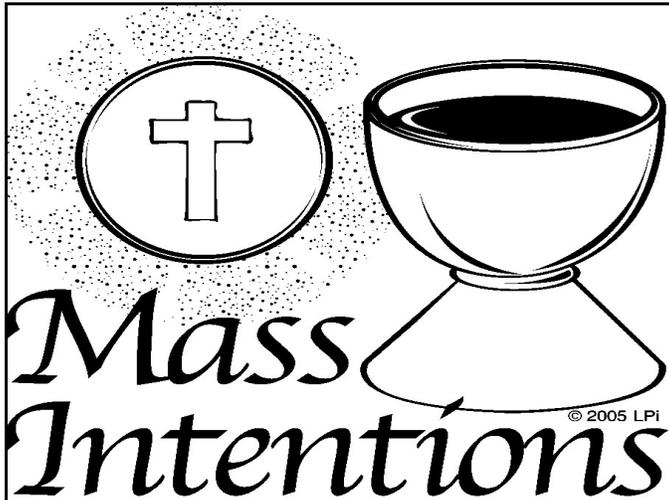
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Please go online to  
[stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org) to view  
our latest weekend reflection.  
We will be posting new  
videos by 4:00PM on  
Saturdays.

Also find the videos on our  
Facebook (search  
"@stfrancisbing")  
Twitter (search  
"@stfrancisbing")  
YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi  
Binghamton)



**Saturday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

9:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

4:00 p.m. Tom Giblin by Family

**Sunday, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord**

10:30 a.m. Bernadette Keough by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Monday, January 3**

12:00 p.m. Robert Blabac by St. Francis Fraternity

**Tuesday, January 4**

**NO MASS**

**Wednesday, January 5**

**NO MASS**

**Thursday, January 6**

**NO MASS**

**Friday, January 7**

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, January 8, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Joyce Jeuck by Barbara Kocak

**Sunday, January 9, Baptism of the Lord**

10:30 a.m. Liturgy for the People

**Catherine's Cupboard**

Our parish pantry is open to anyone in need of food. We are open on the **1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** No requirements except to show ID showing who you are. A person can come as often as needed. We are here to help, not to judge. So please pass the word to anyone you think may need assistance. Canned or dry goods, plus paper & personal care products (**toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap, baby diapers, women's personal items**) are always needed and welcome. Drop off in the barrel at the church foyer or leave the items in the Parish Center.

**Weekend's Offering (12-19-21)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$3,071.00
Loose Collection.....	\$376.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,501.00
Total Collection.....	\$4,948.00

*Thank You for your generous contributions!*

**Faith Formation**

**No Faith Formation this weekend!**

**Faith Formation for Grades K-Confirmation will start up again on January 9th.**

**There will no longer be Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 4:00PM Mass. However, you can still have your children come at 10:30AM or watch it on our website.**

**Hope you have a safe and Happy New Year.**

**A Christmas Thank you.....**

To **all** who were generous with their time in assisting to decorate both inside & outside of the church, all reflected the beauty of the season.

To **Ed Savo** and **the choir**, for the liturgies. Your music lifted our spirits with the wonderful sounds of Christmas.

To **all** of you who were so generous in the gifts of cards, cookies and so many other sweet goodies.

For all of this and much more, I express much appreciation and gratitude.

May this sacred season of Christmas gift us with the magic power to stop the clock, so as to keep God alive within the world. For if God is love, then God may be found in the mystery of love exchanged. May we be holy messengers of the mystery.

**Why Return to the Church?**

**Question Reflection**

1. Can you think of any time in your life that you returned to something you had given up? How did you feel? What made it easy? What made it hard?
2. Many people find that the church supports a lot of the basic human values they treasure, e.g., family, inner peace, personal dignity, integrity, and hope. What values do you think the church can best support in your life?
3. If you were to name the most important thing you received from your Catholic heritage, what would you say that it was? How do you see that continuing in your present and future life?

**Prayers . . .**

Please remember all of our parishioners who are in hospitals and nursing homes and our homebound. Also, please pray for our deceased parishioners and loved ones especially Anita Pasquale and Rebecca Mercik.

**Prayer: In This New Year**

*In this New Year,  
We look to an end to violence and war.  
We pray for peace, understanding and reconciliation.*

*In this New Year,  
We hope for a future where all can have enough.  
We pray for prophetic voices to speak for the poor and the marginalized.*

*In this New Year,  
We will feel the pain of those dying from preventable diseases.  
We pray that vaccines and medicines can be available to all.*

*In this New Year,  
We will breathe air and feel alive.  
We pray to improve our stewardship of God’s creation.*

*In this New Year,  
We wish to start anew.  
We pray for wisdom to acknowledge mistakes and move on.*

*In this New Year,  
We believe that with God’s help, it is possible.  
We pray for justice to reign and dignity for all people.*

**Happy New Year**

**Epiphany Sunday: Creation Care Tips**

It’s time once again for New Year’s resolutions. Quite a noble time, really, when we look ahead to ways we can improve ourselves. Consider embracing a resolution related to the environment this year. As Pope Francis wrote, “We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread” (Laudato Si’, 211). So pick something, large or small, that will be manageable but a good challenge for you or your family to care for creation this year

**Pope Francis on Getting Vaccinated**

“Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the vulnerable.” “Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love.”

**Hospital Visitation**

Please remember, if you or another parishioner gets admitted to either Binghamton General Hospital or UHS Wilson Medical Center and you wish to be visited by Fr. Tim you need to tell someone. You should indicate that you are Catholic and belong to St. Francis of Assisi parish and that you wish to be visited by Fr. Tim or another Clergy member if you wish.

**Epiphany Prayer**

*May this holy season be for each of us  
A time of moving beyond what is “reasonable”  
And toward the star of wonder;  
Moving beyond grasping tight to what we have  
To unclenching our hands and letting go,  
Following the Light where it leads;  
Moving beyond competition toward cooperation,  
Seeing that all humans are sisters and brothers.  
Moving beyond the anxiety of small concerns  
Towards the joys of justice and peace.  
May the transforming acceptance of Mary and Joseph,  
The imagination of the shepherds,  
And the persistence of the wise men  
Guide us as we seek the Truth,  
Always moving toward the Divine promise.  
Always aware God can be hidden in the frailest among us,  
Always open to the unexpected flash of Grace,  
To the showing forth of that Love that embraces us all.*

*Epiphany*



**Epiphany Sunday: Justice Challenge**

We celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord this week. This feast reminds us that Jesus was a universal savior—for all people, not just the Jews. The Magi who brought special gifts to the infant Jesus came from distant lands. They recognized the Messiah in the tiny baby more than most of Jesus’ own people did. Sometimes it’s easy to forget that our Catholic faith is open to everyone. But the word “catholic” means universal—for everyone, everywhere, all the time. Your challenge this week is to give a special gift to someone who has been left out, someone who hasn’t been invited into the inner circle of friendship, someone who really needs an unexpected gift. It might be something material, but it could also be the gift of conversation, listening, paying attention.

## **Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule**

### **Transportation**

NO TRANSPORTATION

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

NO SHELIVING

### **Distribution**

January 4th— K. & T. Barnhart, C. Botting, and D. Dobish

## **Why Volunteer?**

**There are so many reasons to volunteer:**

- † *Lets you share your knowledge and talents.*
- † *Provides opportunities for making many new friends.*
- † *Brings the special fulfillment that comes only from helping others.*
- † *Helps you "get outside" yourself and put your own problems — even grief — in perspective.*
- † *Allows you to polish old skills and learn new ones.*
- † *Lets you "repay" an organization that has helped you or someone you love.*

**So, go out and give volunteering a try!**

## **Bereavement Support Group**

### **A journey from grief to healing**

For those who are living through the loss of a loved one, our highly successful support group provides a safe space to share ideas, thoughts and experiences that can lead to healing. This is one of life's most difficult journeys and there is no need to travel it alone. New knowledge, skills and perceptions can ease your way to move on without your loved one. This 9 week program will begin on January 6th 2022 from 1:30PM—3:00PM and from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center. For more information and to register, please call Ginny Thompson at 607-222-1621.

## **Birthright Giving Tree: Thank you!**

Dear Fr. Tim and Giving Tree volunteers and parishioners of St Francis Church. Thank you so much for the amazing outpouring of love that you gave to Birthright. The huge amount of diapers, formula, and the so soft and cozy sleepers and blankets, along with other mom and baby items will be a tremendous help to many moms. This will keep our suppliers up for several months. Thank you.

—Pat McCoy and Diane Yajko and all the volunteers

## **For Potential Godparents and Sponsors for Baptisms or Confirmation**

Anyone looking to be a Godparent or Sponsor to a Confirmation Candidate **MUST** be a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi to be able to get a letter of certification.

This is the only way that the Church can verify you are a practicing Catholic. Please call Delores at the Parish Center (722-4388) for questions.

## **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

Would you like to be a fully initiated Catholic, but have yet to complete sacraments? This is just to let you know that on any Sunday that we have Faith Formation, Deacon Steve will be in the Emmaus Room in the school basement available to talk about the RCIA Rite. If you have a desire to join our Parish Community as a full member of the Catholic Church or just learn more about the RCIA, please drop in anytime between **9:15AM and 10:00AM** to talk about what the RCIA is all about.

## **St. Francis of Assisi Prayer Chain**

Our Parish Prayer Chain welcomes requests for prayers for those who are ill or experiencing other important needs. If you have a prayer request or would like to become a part of the Prayer Chain, please call Delores at the Parish Center (607-722-4388). She will provide you with more information about the Prayer Chain.

## **Online Giving**

Would you like to save paper and time when giving monetary donations to us? We have the option of online giving for your convenience. Visit our website [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org) and click "**online giving**" in the menu. It's easy to set up using your checking account, credit, or debit card for automatic or one-time donation options and you can choose where the money goes.

- Ordinary Contribution*
- Repair, Maint. & Utilities*
- Catholic School Support*
- Catherine's Cupboard*
- Special Sunshine*
- Capital Campaign*

Check it out!

## **PARISH REGISTRATION**

Our warmest welcome to all! We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you, celebrating with us, whether you're a long-time resident or newly arrived in the Parish. Please check the appropriate box and place in the collection basket or return to the Parish Center. *We thank God that you're with us.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- New Parishioner, send registration form
- Change of address or phone number
- Temporarily away. Stop envelopes
- Moving, please remove from Parish Roster

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**  
**January 9th & 8th, 2022**

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	NA
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Brendan Kliment
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Logan Kliment
4:00 Mass	Lector	Barb Brozovic
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Steve Baxter
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Denise Baxter
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Lawrence Koch

10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Mary Bush
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Sarah Bush
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Jessica Wojnar
10:30 Mass	Lector	Corcorans
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Ede Blabac
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Jules Furrer
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Nancy Oliver

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**Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule**

**4:00PM**

**NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

**10:30**

**NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

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Please go online to  
**[stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)**  
to view our latest Sunday mass and  
Children's Liturgy.

We will continue to post new videos for  
reflection by 4:00PM on Saturdays.

Also find the videos on our  
Facebook (search "@stfrancisbing")  
YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton)

**You can still view children's liturgy  
virtually!**

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**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** In your life,  
who helps you to see Jesus in other  
people such as a classmate or a friend?

**Question for Youth:** The star guided  
the Magi to Jesus. What are the people  
or events who have guided you in your  
relationship with Jesus?

**Question for Adults:** How this past  
week did you demonstrate God's love  
at home and at work

# END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi  
CITY, STATE: Binghamton, NY  
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PHONE: **607-722-4388**  
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:  
Bulletin copy for **January 2nd, 2022**

**Deliver 250 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

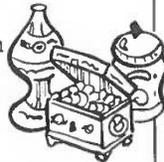
January 2022

St. Francis of Assisi Church  
Rev. Timothy J. Taugher, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Laying our gifts at the feet of the King

The three Wise Men gave Jesus gifts worthy of a king. We can also present Him with our own royal gifts. While ours may not be actual gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we can still give to Him the best we have. Give God the first and the best of what you have and He will give you more than you can imagine in return.



### Fall in love with God

From the moment God created you, he has been deeply in love with you. He made you deliberately so he could love you. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5). He waits for you like a parent anticipates the return of a beloved child. Don't let Him wait long.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5).



## Who needs Jesus?

Many today say that they don't have a need for Jesus. They go to work, have homes, put food on their tables, raise families without His help. In fact, daily activities go on but the world can't really make sense without Him.

**Truth.** The truth is in Christ, "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). We cannot understand the truth without Him. To make sense of the world, we need Jesus to lead us.

**Life.** The life we have will eventually end. To keep living, we need Jesus. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father,

but by me" (John 14:6). Eternal life comes through Him.

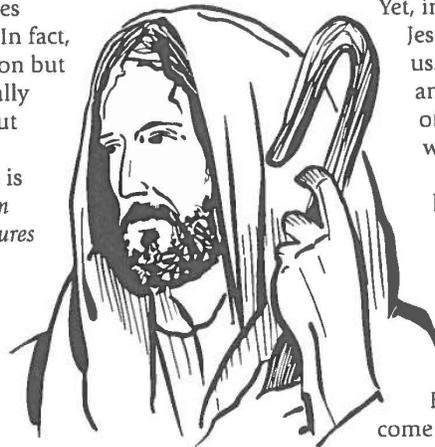
**Death.** None of us escapes death.

Yet, in the Resurrection, Jesus defeated death for us. It didn't hold Him and He offers the gift of life to each of us if we live in Him.

**Sin.** Even the holiest of us sins. Without Jesus, what becomes of us? He "gave himself as a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:6). If we don't accept

His price, our sins come back to us for eternity.

**Suffering.** Modern science can alleviate but not eliminate some of the world's suffering. Jesus provides comfort and healing to those who trust Him and surrender to Him.

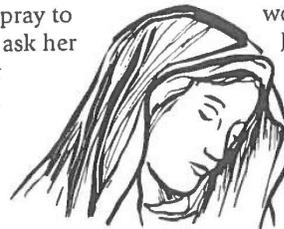


## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics pray to Mary?

Catholics don't pray to Mary, but instead ask her to pray for us. For example, the Hail Mary prayer asks the Mother of God to stay close to us in prayer. While we don't

worship Mary, we honor her as Jesus' mother. On the Cross, Jesus gave her to us as our own mother (John 19:27). We can approach her with our needs and concerns and ask her to present them to Her Son. Mary always leads us to Him.



## Three tips to boost your prayer

Prayer fuels our spiritual life, but praying effectively can be challenging. Even the saints had dry spells. Among these was the mystic and Carmelite reformer, St. Teresa of Avila. Try these suggestions from her to enliven your prayer:

**Become aware of God's presence.** It may feel as if God is distant, but He is so close. St. Teresa began by enjoying God's nearness. Know that He is with you and wants your company.

**Bring a good book.** St. Teresa, who struggled with dryness in prayer, kept a book with her. Scripture,



Lives of the Saints, or a book about the Faith can help us focus and spark conversation with Him.

**Be honest.** It is said that St. Teresa once fell into the mud and told God bluntly, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" God wants you to share all your experiences with Him – good and bad. Entrust your cares to Him and "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

### from Scripture

### Luke 4:21-30, God's will is unexpected

In this Gospel, Jesus returns to Nazareth after launching His public ministry. He announced He is the Messiah of Isaiah's prophecy. But then comes a twist: Jesus recounts a time when great prophets were sent to call Israel to repentance and were ignored and persecuted.

The response of faith God was looking for in His Chosen People was found elsewhere, in the Gentiles. Jesus' listeners doubted that He was really the Messiah and were deeply insulted at being reminded that "foreigners" had received God's favor instead of them. In anger, they threw Jesus out of the synagogue and tried to



cast Him off a cliff. He passed unharmed through their midst.

God's will can surprise us. For example, He willed that the Messiah-King be a local carpenter. God's favor extended beyond the Chosen People to include Gentiles, who were considered outsiders. Sometimes, we assume we know how God works, and lose faith when He does something that seems illogical. We can pray for the faith to see Jesus as He really is and trust Him, even if He does the unexpected.

### Q & A Can you suggest a New Year's resolution to grow in Holiness?

All Christians are called to holiness. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). There are three tools on which every Catholic can rely to attain greater holiness.



**Daily prayer.** God meets us in a very real and present way when we come to him in prayer. Start in the morning and pray throughout the day.

**Weekly Mass.** The Mass is a sacrifice and a meal. We receive Jesus' body and blood as real food for our souls. He said, "For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:55-56). That's why we call it, "Communion."

**Monthly Confession.** Jesus created the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession) because he knew we would stray. He also knew we would want to come back. Frequent participation in this Sacrament sharpens our sense of sin, holds us accountable for our errors, and gives us the grace to keep trying for holiness.

### Feasts & Celebrations

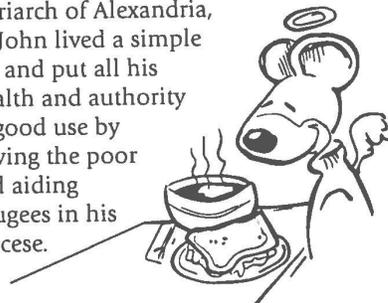
**Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.** When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, and also Jesus, as true God and true Man.

**Jan. 9 – Baptism of the Lord.** Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. The Heavens opened up and God the Father spoke, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

**Jan. 14 – St. Macrina the Elder (340).** St. Macrina was related to St. Basil the Elder and St. Macrina the

Younger. She and her husband were forced to flee during the Diocletian persecutions and endured many hardships. After her return, she helped raise her grandchildren Saints Gregory of Nyssa and Basil the Great.

**Jan. 23 – St. John the Almsgiver (616).** Despite being a noble and the Patriarch of Alexandria, St. John lived a simple life and put all his wealth and authority to good use by serving the poor and aiding refugees in his diocese.



**Our Mission**

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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