

January 07, 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Eucharistic faith community committed to living and sharing the Gospel life.

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 Kliment
Sarah & Mary Bush
Sacristans

Office Hours:

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

Confession:

2nd & 4th Saturday of every
month at 3:00 pm in the Church

Parish Office Phone: 722-4388

Faith Formation Office Phone:
722-4177

E-mail:

stfrancisbing@syrdio.org

Website:

www.stfrancisbing.org

Please go online to
stfrancisbing.org to view
our latest Children's Liturgy.
We post new videos by
4:00PM on Saturdays.

Follow us on Facebook



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**Subscribe to our YouTube
Channel:**



[youtube.com/
@stfrancisbing](https://youtube.com/stfrancisbing)

**Saturday, January 6, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Pat Fitzgerald by Linda & Chuck Bucci

Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord

10:30 a.m. Marion Di Pasquale by John & Maureen Mizzoni

Monday, January 8**NO MASS****Tuesday, January 9****NO MASS****Wednesday, January 10****NO MASS****Thursday, January 11****NO MASS****Friday, January 12****NO MASS****Saturday, January 13, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Dan McGarry by the Danoski Family

Sunday, January 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 a.m. Bill Murray by Family

Catherine's Cupboard

CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD has been serving our community for the past 20+ years, it's **open the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month from 5 till 7 (or until all are served)**. We serve anyone who comes, asking only for ID, if they have any. As members of SOUTHERN TIER FOOD BANK, we purchase at wholesale (or less), providing **basic dry or canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy, and frozen meats**. We try to provide **5 days of meals** and include **personal care items** also. We operate on **100% donations or grants**. Our location at the parish center means we have most overhead costs covered. However, we serve over 1200 people, requiring a budget of close to \$50,000 a year. PLEASE tell anyone you know who is feeling food insecure to stop in. **If you would like to donate food items, they can be left at parish center or food barrel in church foyer. Monetary donations can be mailed to our parish office or via the online giving tab at stfrancisbing.org**

Weekend's Offering (12-31-23)

Regular Envelopes.....\$10,113.00
 Loose Collection.....\$454.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$1,605.00
 Total Collection.....\$12,172.00

*Thank you for your generosity!***FAITH FORMATION****K-9 Faith Formation today from 9:00—10:15AM.****No Faith Formation until January 14th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day****Looking Ahead:**

†Confirmation Winter Retreat will take place this Sunday from 11AM—5:30PM at Newman House on BU Campus.

†January 21st at 9AM First Eucharist Parent Coaching Session and Information Handouts. Meet in the Parish Hall.

URGENT

*Eucharistic Ministers
 needed for all
 10:30 AM Sunday
 Masses
 Please call the parish
 center at 607-722-4388
 to sign up!*

URGENT**Thank You from Birthright!**

Dear Fr. Tim, Bev, and St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners, Once again you have astounded us with your generosity! We thank you so much for the wonderful donations of diapers, onesies, outfits, toys formula and beyond. We are very well stocked now in our new office, and ready to help many moms and babies. Please, if you hear of any pregnant woman or a mom who needs some help, ask them to call us at 607 798-7661. —Pat McCoy and Diane Yajko

Prayers . . .

Please remember all of our parishioners who are in hospitals and nursing homes and our home-bound. Also, please pray for our deceased parishioners and loved ones especially, Jackie Chantel and Tim Giblin.



Epiphany Lectionary Reflection

In an age of globalization, the celebration of Epiphany takes on more importance than ever. The magi are not Jews, but they seek the Christ as do the Jewish people. Christ is a light for the whole world. Christ calls together the whole world and all its peoples. Christ calls for a healing of divisions and openness to learn from all people. Christ calls for a just world order—trade policies that respect the economic opportunities of all people especially the poor; environmental policies that respect the world that we all share together; spending policies that respond to human needs; investment in human needs rather than the weapons of war; a world that lives in an environmentally sustainable way; a greater equality in sharing the fruits of our work and our earth; an end to racism and exclusion. The Feast of the Epiphany invites us to celebrate the wonderful reality that Jesus came as a light to all people, not just to some subset of the human race. Thus, the categorical exclusion of anyone contradicts the good news of Jesus Christ. Racism, stereotyping, discrimination, xenophobia, islamophobia, ethnic violence, extreme income and asset inequality are all wrong. The behavior of Herod reflects the behavior of one who is afraid. The news about a new child to be king threatens his kingship. He is not only afraid of change, but afraid of real community. Rather than learning from the wisdom of the foreign visitors, he is afraid, and seeks to destroy what they came to discover. The behavior of the foreign visitors or magi is the behavior of those who seek the truth at great cost. The child offers a vision that is worth traveling a long distance to experience. Jesus offers a light that is worth sharing. In the wisdom of a child born in humble circumstances, they find a wonderful light, a powerful good news, and a liberation from sin, injustice, and prejudice. The foreigners experience the power and the gift of Christ. They also bring gifts with them. Gifts that are given to the child but also gifts that open our eyes to the experience of the light of Christ as a gift for the whole world. This mutuality is part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Giving and receiving happen at the same time. This must be true in our ministry for justice. No one is to be excluded from the light of Christ. Whether we are young or old, female or male, gay or straight, rich or poor, black or white, from the south or the north, from the east or the west, from a famous school or a very ordinary one, employed or unemployed, healthy or sick, born in the United States or elsewhere, all are invited to experience the epiphany.

Prayer for the Epiphany

*May we continue to search for the Light,
The Bright Star which guides us
To places we did not plan to go,
To people we did not plan to encounter.
We have been moving through darkness,
Through pain and fear;
Like the ancient Wise Ones
We had hoped for an easier journey.
But grace opens us in new ways:
We are called to move beyond darkness,
To a deeper sense of the possibilities
Of the kingdom of God, of justice, of peace.
May we become wise in our journeys,
May we follow the traces of the Light,
Glimpsed in the night, always returning,
To recognize its brilliance in our encounters
with the least of these,
To see it illuminate the connecting web
That binds us together on this fragile planet.
We give thanks for this journey, for this new year,
For the Love that moves us
towards wisdom,
For the Light that brings
us healing and peace.
Amen.*



Epiphany Sunday: Justice Challenge

In this Sunday's Gospel we hear the story of the "astrologers from the east" who came to pay homage to the Infant Jesus. They remind us that Jesus was a universal Savior. He came to redeem all of us, including the lepers and tax collectors and prostitutes. He even reached out to the hated Samaritans, although it was forbidden by law to have any type of contact with them. Your challenge this week is to explore how open you are to the "Samaritans" in your life—those people who are different from you in their faith, their ethnicity, their politics, or their lifestyles. Then do two things. First, find something you share in common with this group. Recognize your common humanity. Second, learn one new thing about this group that you didn't know before which is worth celebrating. It might be a prayer practice you could embrace, or a recipe for their food which you could try. It could even be a new way of caring for God's creation. Open your heart to be stretched, get out of your comfort zone, and discover the face of God in the Samaritans around you!

Epiphany Sunday: Creation Care Tip

"Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you." —Isaiah 60:5. Approximately 3 billion people worldwide rely on seafood as an essential source of nutrition. Sadly, wild fish populations are declining rapidly due to overfishing, poor resource management, and climate change. Before buying or ordering seafood, check the Seafood Watch consumer guide to help you identify the most sustainable choices: SeafoodWatch.org or download the mobile app.

**PLEASE, LET US KNOW THE NAMES AND
THE ADDRESSES OF ANY SHUT-INS AT
HOME OR IN NURSING HOMES. WE WOULD
LOVE TO REACH OUT IN ANY WAY WE CAN!
CALL DELORES AT THE PARISH CENTER
(607)722-4388 TO LET US KNOW! THANK YOU!**

Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

January 16th: B. Grace, M. Lyons, and K. & T. Barnhart

UPDATE: 2023 Annual HOPE Appeal

We are in the midst of our annual Hope Appeal Campaign. The theme of this year's campaign is the Fabric of our Faith. Each year the Hope Appeal provides funding for over 25 different organizations within the diocese. Each of these organizations depend on the Hope Appeal Campaign to fund operational costs.

Advancing Social Justice

†Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Broome County is dedicated to caring for those in need while promoting human development, collaboration, and the elimination of poverty and injustice. They empower people to transform their lives in the spirit of God's love and compassion.

Cultivating Catholic Leadership

†Tuition Assistance

Students attending Catholic Schools of Broome County receive support in paying tuition costs.

†Seminarian & Clergy Education

†Lay Leadership

†Evangelization Efforts

These are just a few of the organizations benefiting from our donations to the Hope Appeal. This year our parish goal for the 2023 Hope Appeal is \$42,826. One-time donations and pledges received to date total just over \$25,000. Please consider donating to the Hope Appeal in support of all these important initiatives. We can donate to the Hope Appeal using online giving found on the parish website (stfrancisbing.org).

Confirmation Service Project



Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



The 2024 confirmation class service project is to collect 1000 pounds of clean recyclable light weight plastics. **(NOT PLASTIC JUGS, BOTTLES OR CUPS)**

Upon completion of this goal the Next-Trex decking company will donate a bench to the confirmation class. We have collection bins for the plastics at the church entrance, as well as at the Parish Center.

Please refer to the list of acceptable materials on the usher's tables. Please do not put the paper collection bags in the bins, use them to collect additional plastics. Thank you, for your support!

Thank You for Your Donations!

THANK YOU!! Packages have been delivered and many, many people had brighter Christmas celebrations thanks to all of you. There was extra food & turkey left from Thanksgiving so we were able to offer a holiday meal to visitors at the pantry. Extra gift cards were graciously put under our Giving Tree, so they were given to families at a day care center along with some makings for cookies (thanks to Church of Nazarene) and new holiday books (thanks to Fenton and Your Home Public Library in Johnson City) to share. As you can see, many people give and many receive at this time of year which is why Christmas is such a gift to all.

Off Broadway Show Experience

Church of the Holy Family Ladies Guild is sponsoring a trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see a new show DANIEL on May 8, 2024 and there are still some seats available. Lunch after the show will be at Diener's Country Restaurant. The cost of the trip is \$180 which includes the cost of the bus ride, ticket to the show, lunch after the show, and gratuity for the lunch and the bus driver. This is the perfect holiday gift. Please call Ann at 607-754-8727 with any questions or to reserve a seat.

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.

TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH

7 PM-10 PM

ST. THOMAS GYM

\$12/PERSON

INCLUDES BEER, WINE, SODA & SNACKS
(OR YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS)

PRIZES FOR THE TOP 3 TEAMS

TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM:

SUE MILLER-607-343-1040

MILLIE COUGHLIN-607-778-0102

Why Return to the Church? Reflection

1. Can you think of any time in your life that you returned to something you had given up? What made it easy? What made it hard?
2. People find that the church supports many treasured human values, e.g., family, inner peace, personal dignity, integrity, and hope. What values may the church support in your life?
3. What's the most important thing you received from your Catholic heritage? How do you see that continuing in your present and future life?

If you have questions about coming back to church or joining RCIA please contact us at 607-722-4388.

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**

January 13th & 14th, 2024

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Kylie Murphy
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	McKenzie Murphy
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Mike Stricek
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Judy Daniels
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Kurt Mohny
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Kelly Mohny
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Maria Kirk
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Betsy Shields

10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Michaela Wood
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Mary Bush
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Lector	Scott Igler
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Catherine Shafer
10:30 Mass	EM Host	
10:30 Mass	EM Host	
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Ede Blabac
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Shirley McCray

Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule

January 7– Ede and Sarah Blabac

January 14– ONLINE ONLY—MLK DAY

January 21– Amy Drake and Maria Kirk

January 28– Patti Klepfer and Toni Robinson

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

Do you have a child or grandchild who has already received their First Eucharist? If so, they can be altar servers! **We are in desperate need of more altar servers** as we barely have enough to cover the masses alone week to week.

Why altar serve?

1.) It is a good way to get actively involved in the mechanics of mass. Some kids who find it hard to sit still may benefit from the activity that it provides.
2.) It allows for kids to be a closer part of the church community and make connections.

3.) Direct religious education learning opportunity

4.) Gives kids a sense of purpose and pride Church

Call the parish center (607)722-4388 or fill out a liturgical signup form (on table in the back of the church) and drop it in a collection basket.

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
FILE NAME: 06-168
PHONE: **607-722-4388**
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:
Bulletin copy for **January 7th, 2024**

Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2024

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Born at Troyes, France in 1620, St.

Marguerite

consecrated

herself to God

and became

a missionary.

A friend

introduced her to the mayor

of Ville Marie (now Montreal)

in Canada and, on his

invitation, traveled to the New

World to teach. With several

others, she founded the

Congregation of Notre-Dame

de Montreal – a

non-cloistered teaching order

that was formally approved in

1676. By her death in 1700,

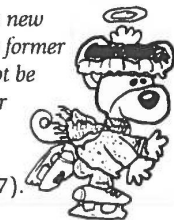
she was called "Mother of the

Colony."

Celebrate life

January is the month during which our Church celebrates life. This is when we take time to recognize that we are all reflections of God and have great value in His eyes from the moment of conception to a natural death. Celebrating life means being pro-human every day of the year.

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind" (Isaiah 65:17).



This year, don't neglect "the one thing needful"

When St. Martha complained to Jesus that her sister, Mary, was sitting at His feet instead of helping to host Him, He corrected Martha for neglecting the "one thing ...

needful" (Luke 10:42)

– intimacy with

Him. In the New

Year, resolve not to

neglect the "one

thing needful"

and remain

intimate with

Him.

Build an "inner chapel."

While on mission

in the world, St.

Catherine of Siena

maintained an "inner chapel" in her

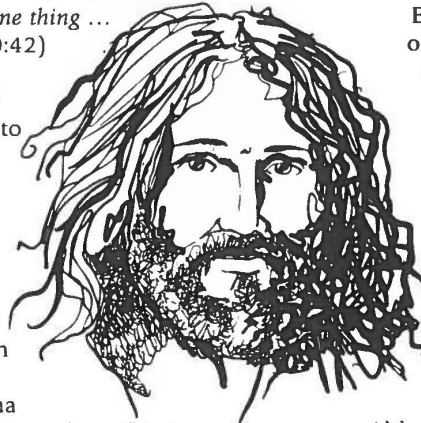
soul to speak with God, heart to

heart. Jesus urged us to do the same

(Matthew 6:6). Shut out the world for

a while and take refuge in your inner

chapel every day.



Sit at His feet. Mary believed in Jesus and gave Him her best. He must be our hope, our salvation, our all.

This is absolutely necessary.

Encounter Him in

others. Mother Teresa

said, "Until you can

hear Jesus in the

silence of your own

heart, you will not

be able to hear Him

saying 'I thirst' in

the hearts of the

poor." The closer we

grow to God, the

better we'll "see"

and love Him in

others.

Serve Him.

Although Mary wasn't

waiting on Christ like Martha, she was

ministering to him in a deeper and

truer sense. No one serves Christ better

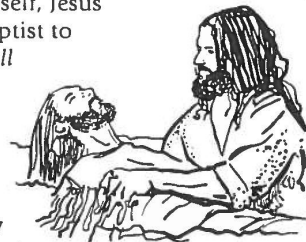
than by hearing His Words and doing

His will.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why was Jesus was baptized?

Although sinless Himself, Jesus allowed St. John the Baptist to baptize Him to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). By this action, Jesus signaled His willingness to take away our sins by His death and bring us new life by His Resurrection. It



was also by His baptism

that Jesus instituted

Baptism as a Sacrament –

the Sacrament by which

we're sanctified and

recreated as children of

God. We are mystically

baptized into Jesus'

death, to be raised by

Him in glory.

Reclaim the Name

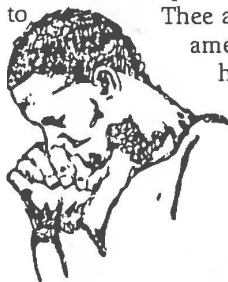
January is the month traditionally devoted to honoring the holy name of Jesus. What can we do to reclaim reverence for His name in a culture that considers it to be just another word?

Bow your head. *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Philippians 2:10). Make a slight, reverent nod whenever you hear Jesus' name in public, in conversation, on TV or in movies.

Offer a prayer. Don't hesitate to ask others not to misuse God's or Jesus' names. If they don't

respond, offer a prayer of reparation: "I kneel before Thee and offer Thee reparation; I would make amends for all the blasphemies uttered against Thy holy name."

Don't normalize blasphemy. Curate the media you watch, listen to, or sing along with. Avoid songs, shows, or movies in which Jesus's name is disrespected. We are called to strive for holiness, not worldliness. More importantly, it's a way to give Christ the reverence and love He is due.

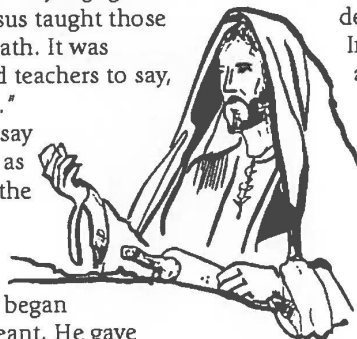


from Scripture

Mark 1:21-28, What God says happens

In this Gospel passage, Jesus and His apostles entered the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus taught those gathered on the Sabbath. It was customary for learned teachers to say, "Thus says the Lord..." Instead Jesus said, "I say to you ..." He taught as one who spoke with the authority of God.

His calm authority astounded Jesus' listeners. Just as they began to wonder what it meant, He gave them a sign. He further demonstrated His authority by performing an exorcism. Spirits that bedeviled an unfortunate man at the synagogue recognized who Jesus was.



They were forced to obey Him when He commanded them to depart, despite their reluctance. In fact, God's power and authority isn't just a formality. What God says, happens.

Our kind and gentle Savior is also our powerful and awesome Lord. As the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus has supreme majesty and we will one day appear before Him to be judged. Yes, He is our divine savior and mediator. But if we say, "Jesus is Lord," then we give Him our loyalty and obedience.

Q What to do & when prayer A feels flat.

"I just don't feel close to God." "Is He really listening?" In fact, God is constantly pursuing us in love, wanting to share His joy with us (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1). Yet, even the most passionate prayer life can feel flat sometimes. Try these tips to keep prayer fresh:



Cultivate gratitude.

Although God never abandons us, factors like health or mood can affect our prayer. St. Alphonsus Liguori recommended, "Often recall the loving way in which [God] has acted toward you." Reviewing our blessings helps us appreciate God's love for us over time.

Don't wait to ask for help. God's heart is always opened to us. "Good" prayer happens when we're honest with Him. This is an exercise of faith, which He generously rewards.

Treat Him with love. God wants a relationship of love, respect, and faithfulness with each of us. If prayer feels empty, try treating God with the love, consideration, and tenderness you give and receive from those closest to you. It will make a difference!

Feasts & Celebrations

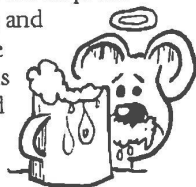
January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man.

January 8 – Baptism of the Lord (1st Century). Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His "beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17).

January 26 – St. Paula (404). After

her husband – a Roman senator named Toxotius – died, St. Paula gave up her wealthy lifestyle for the Gospel, devoting herself to prayer, poverty, and charitable works. She also befriended and supported St. Jerome in translating the Vulgate.

January 31 – St. John Bosco (1888). Moved by the plight of the young, abandoned boys in Rome, St. John opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales and provided workshops for them in shoemaking and tailoring. In 1859, he founded the Salesians who were committed to education and mission work.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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