

January 10, 2021

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



## *The Baptism of the Lord*

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 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

### **E-mail:**

[stfrancisbing@syrдио.org](mailto:stfrancisbing@syrдио.org)

### **Website:**

[www.stfrancisbing.org](http://www.stfrancisbing.org)

Follow us on FB & Twitter:

[@stfrancisbing](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisbing)

Please go online to

**[stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)** to view  
our latest Sunday mass.

We will be posting new  
videos of our weekend  
liturgies by 4:00PM on  
Saturdays **even after our  
reopening.**

Also find the videos on our

Facebook (search  
“@stfrancisbing”)

Twitter (search  
“@stfrancisbing”)

YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi  
Binghamton)

**You can still attend  
weekend mass virtually!**



**Saturday, January 9, Vigil of Sunday**  
4:00 p.m. Jim Foran by Nick & Rosalie Roth

**Sunday, January 10, Baptism of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People  
11:00 a.m. Bob Shields by Dick & Pat Paden

**Monday, January 11**

12:00 p.m. Eleanor Taugher by Family

**Tuesday, January 12**

8:00 a.m. Mike Lynch by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Rounds

**Wednesday, January 13**

12:00 p.m. Theresa Fox by Mary Kacher

**Thursday, January 14**

8:00 a.m. James Igler by Rose & Jim O'Neil

**Friday, January 15**

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, January 16, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Michael Pandich by Mike & Jan Pandich

**Sunday, January 17, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People  
11:00 a.m. Rose Serafini by Dave & Lou Ann Sullivan

### **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 (01-03-21)**

Regular/Holy Day Envelopes.....\$3,317.00  
Loose Collection.....\$147.00  
Electronic Collection.....\$2,372.00  
Total Collection.....\$5,836.00

*Thank You for your generous contributions!*

### **FAITH FORMATION**

Faith Formation for Grades K-Confirmation will meet today at 9:30 AM in the school.

**Congratulations to our young parishioners who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this weekend:**

*Harrison Blaise*

*John Eisele*

*Elena Kirk*

*Kennedy Maurer*

*Emily Miller*

*Lincoln Morey*

*Lexi Podhayski*

### **Looking Ahead:**

**No Faith Formation next weekend, January 17th as we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

**First Eucharist Parent Meeting, Sunday, January 24th at 9:45AM in the Emmaus Room. Please attend.** We will be discussing the diocesan and local guidelines for the reception of the Sacrament. If your child was not baptized at St Francis of Assisi, please bring a copy of their Baptismal Certificate to this meeting if you have not already done so.

Faith Formation will be participating in the **"Souper Bowl of Caring" on Super Bowl Sunday weekend, February 6th & 7th** collecting monetary donations for Catherine's Cupboard. Please be generous.

### **This Day**

*I'll never see this day again... the seconds or the hours. Now's the time to take the time to stop and smell the flowers. Today's the day to give that smile and happiness away that you were saving for a friend some rainy, gloomy day. This day is golden, priceless God made this day for you. The deed you do for someone else may just come back to you. So tough a heart, hold a hand call that lonely friend. Don't postpone the love you have. This day won't come again.*

### **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, Martha Kuras & Shirley Casiuk.

## **National Migration Week 2021**

**(January 3-10)**

Immigrants who come to the United States, and particularly those who are undocumented, are a particularly vulnerable population who have often fled violence and persecution and are often seeking safety, family reunification, and economic opportunity. Given the trauma many have endured, community efforts to accompany, assist, and stand in solidarity are vital. Our moral tradition calls on all people of faith and goodwill to stand up in defense of life and human dignity—regardless of one’s immigration status; it is a fundamental calling for us as Catholics. Scripture speaks repeatedly of the migration experience, from Abraham who was sent out from his homeland in the Old Testament, to the Holy Family who fled Herod and lived their lives for a time as refugees in a foreign land. As Catholics we recognize that our earthly existence is temporary as we look toward with hope our return to the presence of God. In recalling the temporal nature and recognizing the relative character of the goods of the earth, we must also guard against identifying too closely with the artificial divisions that separate one person from another, divisions that become visible too often with respect to things like economic class or national origin. We must always behave towards others in such a way that respects their human dignity and respects their image made in God’s likeness. We are called on to follow the path that God laid out for us and heed to the example of Christ, who “endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart” (Heb 12:1-4).

Welcoming the migrant and migration more broadly has a central place in the development of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Stories in both the Old and the New Testament highlight the fact that in providing hospitality to the stranger we might also be unknowingly entertaining angels (Heb 13:2; Gen 18:1-15). Abraham provides hospitality to the Lord in Mamre and the Lord helped secure he and Sara a child. Not only did Abraham show such hospitality freely, but he himself was once a migrant. The Letter to the Hebrews, highlights the story of Abraham who, by faith, “obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing exactly where he was called to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country.” (Heb 11). Too often the media messages that we hear in relation to migrants is distorted and provides a false understanding of who migrants are and why they come. The rhetoric surrounding this issue can easily bias people in ways that do not properly appreciate the benefits that migrants can bring to our communities, so let us “welcome the stranger among us.”

## **Baptism of the Lord: Justice Challenge**

Justice Challenge: The first reading on Sunday talks about the mission of the Messiah, and Isaiah clearly proclaims that it includes bringing justice to the earth. Isaiah writes, “Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations...” Your challenge this week is to reflect on how important justice is in YOUR life. **Do you seek it, not just for yourselves and your family, but for all those who suffer from injustice—in the local community, in the U.S., and across the world? Do you speak out when you see someone being treated unjustly?** Pray that you can be a person of justice in whom God can be well-pleased as He was with his Son.

## **Reflection: Baptism of the Lord/ Caring for our Waters**

We all know that water is essential for life. We humans are currently spending lots of money and lots of time searching our solar system, and even planets beyond in our universe, to find water. Water covers most of our earth, but it is proving hard to find in the great beyond. Unfortunately while we are searching for that basic liquid elsewhere, we are polluting it here with plastics and oils, mine filings and coal ash, chemicals and trash. If water is essential for physical life, it is also central to life in Christ through the sacrament of baptism. Clean river and lake water washes our bodies outside. When taken in, it nourishes our organs inside and enables their life-giving processes. Water slakes the thirst of our planet and our bodies, making them fertile and fruitful. Because Jesus came to bring us abundant life, it is no wonder than he insisted on being baptized himself, not so much to be cleansed as to be filled with joy and ready to share life with others by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Appreciation of those we baptize brings us great joy. Among the many dimensions of care for our common home, water is basic. As careful as we are about all the details of preparing for baptism, we need to be equally attentive to the quality of earth’s water. Our responsibility to make clean water available all our brothers and sisters is not unlike Jesus’ final command to his disciples: make disciples of all nations, baptize them, enable them to draw water joyfully for both body and soul from the springs of salvation. As John the Baptist baptized Jesus, so we are all baptized in Christ by his love. Part of our responsibility as disciples is a call to baptize others with water, clean water, body- and soul-healthy water.



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

### **Transportation**

NO TRANSPORTATION

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

NO SHELIVING

### **Distribution**

January 19th— P. Peters, K. & T. Barnhart

## **Instructions for Celebration of Sacraments**

### **In order to permit Mass each parishioner must:**

- † Seek information for registration for Mass, and procedures
- † Remain home if sick, symptomatic, or at risk
- † Wear a face mask in church (required) and, if possible, bring personal hand sanitizer
- † Observe the commands on the posted signage and follow the directives of ushers

### **Prepare for the reception of Holy Communion:**

- † Masks will be worn by ALL
- † Direction will be provided for those receiving
- † The Precious Blood will NOT be offered
- † Reception will involve: receiving the Body of Christ in the hand **ONLY**, stepping aside, lifting the mask, consuming the Eucharist, returning the mask..
- † Please maintain social distancing of 6 feet!

## **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.

### **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** 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. Check it out!

### **Are You Hurting in Your Marriage?**

If your marriage has become troubled or stressed, unloving, or uncaring; if your relationship has grown cold and distant; if you are thinking of separation or divorce, or if you are already separated or divorced but want to try again, then the Retrouvaille Program can help you.

**For more information call: 1-800-470-2230**  
**Or visit: <http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com>**

## **Thank you from Children's Home**

Thank you for your recent donation of more than 75 gift cards to businesses such as Aldi's, Target, Walmart, and Wegmans to Children's Home this holiday season! Though the process for purchasing gifts this year looked different from years past, the impact you make on our youth through your generosity means so much!

This year, we have been given the opportunity to find a deeper meaning in the simple things in our lives. Thank you for helping us get one step closer to creating healthier, stronger family units in our community.

Also, our sincere gratitude to Bev Krinik and all who coordinated and participated... we were overwhelmed by the generosity!

We wish you a safe, healthy, and blessed New Year!

### **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!**

## **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 16th & 17th, 2021**

**4:00 P.M. Mass**

Designation ONLY

**8:00 A.M. Mass**

Designation ONLY

**11:00 A.M. Mass**

Designation ONLY

Please go online to  
**stfrancisbing.org**  
to view our latest Sunday mass.

We will continue to post new videos of our weekend liturgies by 4:00PM on Saturdays, for those who wish to stay home for health and safety concerns.

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

**You can still attend weekend mass  
virtually!**

**Children’s Liturgy of The Word will be  
posted by Noon on Saturdays!**

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** Why does Baptism make you special?

**Question for Youth:** You were baptized as a member of the Christian community. What does it mean to you to belong to this community? How is it a support in your life?

**Question for Adults:** What meaning does your Baptism have for your everyday life?



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2021

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

## One Minute Meditations

### Tough times?

Throughout history, God has proven his faithfulness and care over and over again. He promises that He will help you through whatever tough times you face. *"God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13). Lean on Him.



### Tune out the world and tune into Go

In our noisy world, it can be hard to hear God's voice over the din. Yet, listening is as important as talking during prayer. *"By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies"* (Isaiah 30:15). Talk to Him often, but make a point of listening for God's voice.

*"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"* (Philippians 4:6).



## Give the gift of friendship in the New Year

When times are tough, it can be our family and friends who help us through. There wasn't much Jesus wouldn't do for His friends. In fact, He was more concerned with being a good friend than with having one. In our current pandemic situation, we can care for our loved ones as Jesus would:

**Make spending time together a priority.** Connections between loved ones are critical now. When meeting in person isn't possible, phone calls, letters, and emails can keep us connected. Video conferencing has become a staple of daily life; consider organizing regular get togethers with friends and family using your favorite conferencing program.

**Help other people feel important.** No matter how you interact, give the other person your full attention in conversation, and show appreciation and understanding for what he is saying.

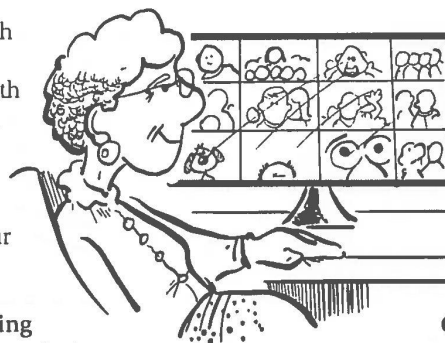
**Celebrate your friends' successes.** A true friend is genuinely happy when something good happens in the other's life.

**Value differences.** Don't try to change your loved ones.

**Celebrate their diversity.**

Be willing to apologize. You may let each other down but a sincere apology can bring friends closer together.

**Don't forget old friends.** Call someone you haven't been in touch with for a long time. Don't know what to say? Try, "I don't want another moment to go by without being in touch. I've missed you."



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics honor the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of Christ's love for us. It is often a heart surrounded by flame, pierced by a lance, topped by a cross, and circled by a crown of thorns.



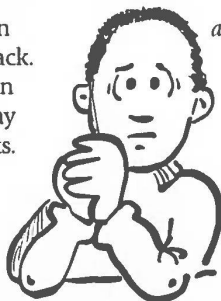
Jesus' love for us burns bright and intense like a flame. His heart is pierced by the lance representing our sins and the crown of thorns and the cross remind us of the death he suffered to bring us life.

## "What do you want from me, Lord?"

God gives to us freely, but what does he want in return? Simply put, God wants us to love Him back.

**Know Him.** God made each of us with a space in our heart just for Him. Until we discover it, we may try to fill it with earthly things, but nothing else fits. When we turn to Him, the reward is beyond our dreams.

**Love Him.** Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul,



and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). He wants us to surrender to his infinite love. Show your love by praying frequently, seeking Communion with Him often, and praising Him continually.

**Serve Him.** "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). When we make sure everyone has enough to eat, warm clothes to wear, and a place to stay, Jesus takes it personally. It's what he wants from us.

### from Scripture

#### Mark 1:21-28, God's authority is not a formality

In this Gospel passage, Jesus and his apostles entered the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus taught those gathered at 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 & A How can I choose Catholic references that are accurate and faithful?

One good way to determine whether or not a book or pamphlet accurately reflects Catholic doctrine is to look for an "imprimatur" printed in the first few pages of the book. The presence of an



imprimatur generally means that a bishop's office has determined it to be free of doctrinal or moral errors. It may be accompanied by a "nihil obstat" (Latin for "nothing stands in the way") which means that someone well-versed in Catholic theology has reviewed the contents and found the same thing. Keep in mind that neither the imprimatur nor the nihil obstat imply agreement with the content or opinions.

It is particularly important for a book that purports to teach about the faith of the Church to carry the approval of the Catholic Church. There are many well-meaning people who intend to educate others about God's infinite love but may have an imperfect understanding of Catholic doctrine. When choosing materials to learn more about our religion, you will want to be sure that they are accurate.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**Jan. 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.** Today, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. In their honor, pray a Rosary. Because this feast day is on a Monday, Mass attendance is optional (but encouraged) this year.

**Jan. 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (1st Century).** Setting out for Damascus to carry on the persecution of the Christians, he encountered Christ (Acts 9:1-19; 22:5-16; 26:12-18) while on the road to Damascus. He was struck blind from

the experience until he was baptized by Ananias three days later. He converted and began preaching the faith as he travelled around the Mediterranean.

**Jan. 26 – Sts. Timothy and Titus (1st Century).** Timothy was a convert of St. Paul's and later became his trusted friend, joining him in apostolic work. He was with Paul at the founding of the Church in Corinth. Titus, also a friend of Paul's, served the early Church as a peacemaker and administrator to a community on Crete.



#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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# END OF BULLETIN

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Bulletin copy for **January 10th, 2021**

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