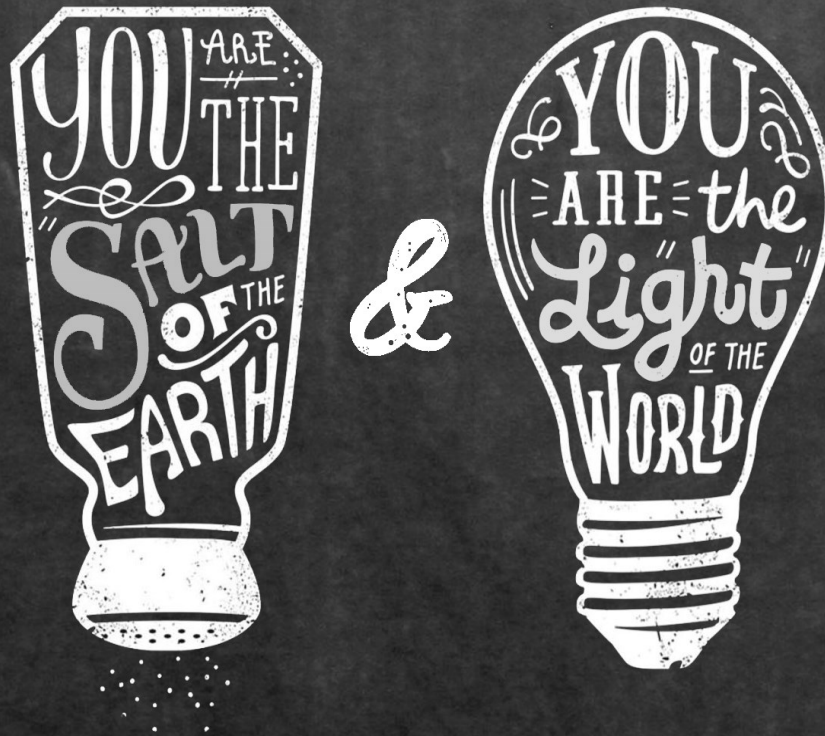


February 05, 2023

# 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  
Nick Norton  
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](http://www.stfrancisbing.org)

Please go online to  
**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)

**Follow us on FB & Twitter:**  
**@stfrancisbing**



**Saturday, February 4, Vigil of Sunday**  
4:00 p.m. Frances Hazen by Jan & Mike Pandich

**Sunday, February 5, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10:30 a.m. Antonio De Luca by Family

**Monday, February 6**

12:00 p.m. Bob Shields by Wife, Betsy & Family

**Tuesday, February 7**

8:00 a.m. Alice Cavanagh by Jim & Rose O'Neil

**Wednesday, February 8**

12:00 p.m. Mary Savo by Mary Ann Russik & Bernie O'Neil

**Thursday, February 9**

8:00 a.m. Jean Paone by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Friday, February 10**

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, February 11, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Dick Talbut by Wife, Doris & Family

**Sunday, February 12, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10:30 a.m. Dick Murphy by Wife, Judy & Family

### **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 (01-29-23)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$4,803.00
Loose Collection.....	\$231.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,787.00
Total Collection.....	\$6,821.00

### **Faith Formation**

**Faith Formation Grades K-Confirmation today.**

**9 AM--10:15 AM for K-9**

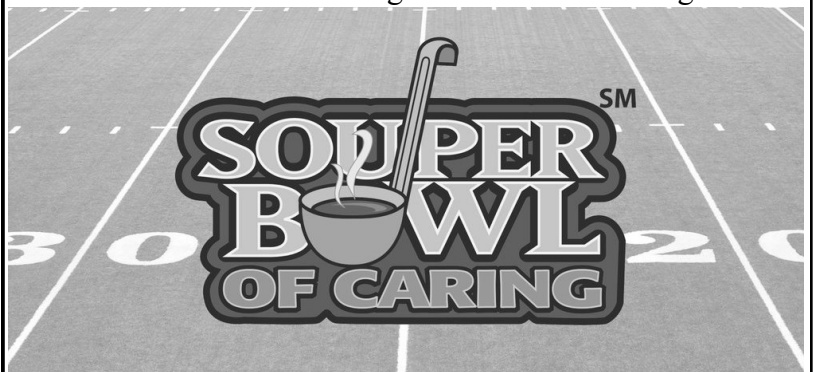
**9 AM--1:30 PM for Confirmation.**

### **Looking Ahead:**

† **Confirmation 2023 Service Retreat Friday, February 17th** at 9:00 AM--12:30 PM. Candidates meet at the Parish Center (1031 Chenango Street), at 9:00 AM.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring February 12th**

Join our parish in collecting funds for Catherine's Cupboard on Super Bowl Sunday! Did you know that more than 112 million pounds of snacks and 1.2 BILLION chicken wings will be eaten during the Super Bowl. Thirty years ago a group of teens wanted to help their neighbors in need, have soup for their bowls. They started a nationwide day of donating. Groups around the country collect donations on Super Bowl Sunday to tackle hunger. Children in our Faith Formation program will be collecting money after Mass on Saturday, February 11th and Sunday February 12th. These monetary funds will go directly to Catherine's Cupboard to serve those in need in our neighborhood. Please be generous.



### **Pastoral/Financial Council Meeting...**

**Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00PM**

**All members are encouraged to attend!**

### **Rosary and Religious Item Donations**

The Sisters of St. Joseph are helping the immigrants, homeless, and those who need a Christian reminder by giving them rosaries and religious items. If anyone would like to donate rosaries or other religious items, there is a basket on the back table of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

### **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, Dominic Lomonaco and Louise Martin.



## Lent 2023

We are just a few weeks away from the start of the Lenten Season. To start on Ash Wednesday, there will be **TWO LITURGIES** with the distribution of ashes at 8:00AM and 12 Noon. There will be a joint prayer service at 7:00PM with our neighbors, Ogden Hillcrest Methodist Church, and they will be hosting the service. Lent is a season for personal and social conversion to live our lives with greater authenticity, depth, and meaning. A time to change from old ways of living to New Life in and with the Risen Christ. The Lenten Season focuses on the three spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This 40 day period of grace is a time for sacrifice and spiritual reflection preparing us for the joyful celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

**Prayer** in the Lenten Season can be taking time more regularly for personal prayer. An aid in this attempt can be using the **Black Books** that have a reflection for each day of Lent. These books will be available in the church on the weekend of February 18/19th.

One simple way to enhance your Lenten experience is to participate in the CRS Rice Bowl Program. During Lent, families across the United States use a Rice Bowl—a small cardboard box—to collect alms/donations. Each Rice Bowl also comes with a calendar that guides you through the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections, recipes, and stories from communities and people around the world.

As Catholics, the spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving guide us in daily reflection on our own lives as we strive to deepen our relationship with God and neighbor—no matter where in the world our neighbor may live. Lent is a time of personal and spiritual growth, a time to look outward and inward. It is a journey in mercy.

Our **parish Lenten focus** will be on the reality of social sin. The concept of social sin is rooted in personal sin. The real danger of social sin or structural sin is that our blindness prevents us from recognizing it. How can we recognize structural/social sin? We will be addressing this during this Lenten Season. We will begin with the addressing the sins that effect our environment and climate. These sins would be any “action or omission against God, against others, the community, and the environment. It is a sin against future generations and is manifested in the acts and habits of pollution and destruction of the harmony of the environment.” (Pope Francis)

This year during Lent instead of a book club or Bible study, our parish invites you to examine social sin in our world. We will meet in-person to watch 4 documentaries:

- **The Letter**, which deals with the encyclical Laudato Si and follows the work of 4 different people in trying to protect the environment.
- **Going Home Like a Shooting Star** follows the life of Sr. Thea Bowman, who lovingly showed the church and the world the ways that racism is entrenched in our social systems.

**CONTINUED**—>

And 2 Georgetown University documentaries,

- **After Buffalo, After Uvalde, After Tulsa**, this conversation on gun violence responds to the question: What does Catholic Social teaching require to change racist attitudes and structures in our country.

- **“Who is my Neighbor?”** addressing the encyclical Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis’ personal call to encounter, friendship and solidarity to all in our lives, community, and world.

All of these video presentations will take place in our parish hall on Tuesday’s at 2 and 7 pm and will be followed by group discussion. For more information as well as the video links look on our website.

**All are welcome and encouraged to join us!**

Let us make this Lenten Season a season of reflection, education, and spiritual growth.

## Special Guest Visiting

The **St. Anuarite African Choir** from All Saints Church in Syracuse will be with us on **February 19th for our 10:30AM Liturgy**. A choir membership of 20 members were once refugees from African countries, and formed choirs in refugee camps. They will bring a wonderful spirit with their music and ethnic dress. So set aside time to come to this liturgy and welcome our guests to the parish.

## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

### Creation Care Tip

*“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”* —Matthew 5:16

Do you ever tire of trying to do the right things for the environment while wondering if it’s making any difference? Jesus urged his followers to keep doing the right things so that others might notice what they were doing and be inspired themselves. This week, be conscious that whatever good you do to care for the earth may be setting an example for others to follow, even if you’ll never know it. Keep using public transit instead of driving, bring your cloth bag to the grocery store or your reusable mug to the coffee shop, refuse the plastic straw at the restaurant, or put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat at home. Turn your efforts over to God and ask that they inspire others.

## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

### Justice Challenge

The First Reading for Sunday is from the prophet Isaiah. We are challenged by God’s Word: “Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own” (Isaiah 58:7-8). Your challenge this week is to choose one of the following works of mercy to live out God’s Word in the world: 1) go through your closets and donate good clothes to a homeless shelter; 2) go grocery shopping and buy several extra foodstuffs, then donate them to the local food bank or Catholic Charities; or 3) volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity build or donate money or resources to a homeless shelter.

## Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

February 7th— K. Dotson, C. Danoski, A. Smilnak

### DeBella Scholarship: Due April 27th

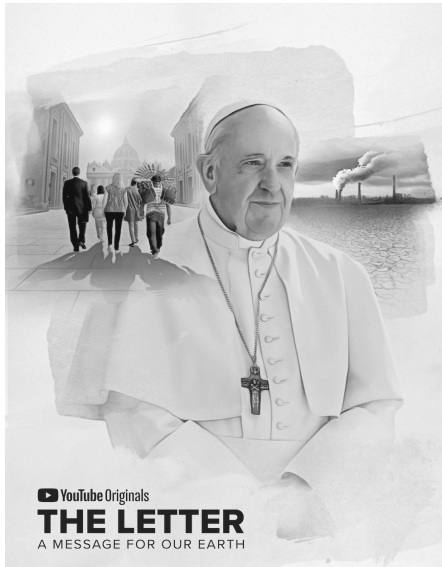
DeBella Scholarship Applications are available on the website. Graduating Seniors are encouraged to fill out and return an application for a grant. **Applications are due 4 PM, Thursday, April 27th.** Applications are available on our website,

[stfrancisbing.org/scholarship-forms-and-contests](http://stfrancisbing.org/scholarship-forms-and-contests)

### Ladies of Charity Scholarships

The Ladies of Charity will award three \$500 scholarships to high school seniors who plan to pursue a service-oriented career which specifically makes a difference in someone's life. The scholarship is based on academic achievement, financial need, and service to school, Church and community. Please see your school guidance counselor for an application. **Deadline is April 19, 2023.**

### St. Francis of Assisi Screening of "The Letter: A Message for our Earth"



We are happy to announce that next month we will be holding community screenings of "The Letter", an 80-minute documentary film produced by Oscar-winning Off the Fence Productions in collaboration with the Laudato Si' Movement and the Vatican. The film brings to life the transformative vision of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical letter on the environment, to inspire lasting action for our common home. It features Pope Francis and diverse stories from India, Senegal, Hawaii, and the Brazilian Amazon. Each of these local leaders represents a voice that is not being heard—the voice of wildlife, the voice of the Indigenous, the voice of the youth, and the voice of the poor. The film follows these people coming together in dialogue with each other and with Pope Francis as they find unity in their distinct worldviews and strength in our common values.

The screenings will take place at St. Francis of Assisi's Parish Hall (1049 Chenango Street in Binghamton) on **Tuesday, February 28th at 2:00PM and at 7:00PM.**

It is well worth watching as a faith community!  
All are welcome, so please join us!

## 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.



American  
Red Cross

**BE AWESOME. GIVE BLOOD.**



Donate blood at the **LIFESAVER** blood drives!

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall  
Tuesday, February 21  
1:00PM—6:00PM

Give the gift of health and hope and give blood!  
Please consider giving a power red cell donation if you are type O-, O+, A-, or B-



### Fenton Free Library

Moody Memorial Building  
1062 Chenango Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
607-724-8649

## Doughnut Fundraiser

FUNDS RAISED WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S PROGRAMING

**PRE-ORDER Krispy Kreme Doughnuts**



**Orders due by Wednesday, February 8th**

**Pickup on Saturday, February 11th, 8 am to Noon**

**5 Choices to Pre-Order**

**Krispy Kreme ORDER FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Variety	Quantity	Amount Due
Glazed (\$12/dozen)		
Chocolate Iced Glazed (\$12/half doz)		
Glazed / Lemon filled (\$12/half doz)		
Glazed / Raspberry filled (\$12/half doz)		
Glazed / Cream filled (\$12/half doz)		
+Additional Donation to Library		
		Grand Total

**Make Checks Payable to "Fenton Free Library"**  
**DROP OFF OR MAIL FORM TO LIBRARY**  
1062 Chenango Street, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**  
**February 11th & 12th, 2023**

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Thalia Brennan
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Calliope Brennan
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Mackenzie Murphy
4:00 Mass	Lector	Betsy A Shields
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Marge Mangan
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Maria Kirk
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Rosemary Rounds
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Jonah Rice
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Juliana Rice
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Lector	Jules Furrer
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Scott Igler
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Donna Igler
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Maureen Mizzoni

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

**10:30 AM Mass**

**February 5: Cindy & Kathryn or Lauren White**

**February 12: Ede & Sarah White**

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**VIRTUAL LITURGIES**

Please go online to  
**stfrancisbing.org**  
to watch our latest Sunday Mass or Liturgy  
of the Word as well as Children's Liturgy  
videos.

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:** What can you do to bring the light of Jesus into the lives of your family, friends, and people you meet?

**Question for Youth:** How do you feel when Jesus says that YOU are the salt of the earth and that YOU are called to be the light for others?

**Question for Adults:** What specific efforts do you take to maintain your light? Do you let your light dim? Why?

# 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 **February 5th, 2023**

**Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Rev. Timothy J. Taugher, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Flee temptation

Christians are meant for Heaven.

Yet, the world can work against our efforts for holiness. St. Peter tells us to "escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" (2 Peter 1:4). Ask God often to protect you from sin, to give you the wisdom and courage to make good choices and, become sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God will reveal when you've messed up, and rejoice with you when you get it right.

### Serve without complaint

Every job has aspects about it that are tedious, messy, and unrewarding, yet they are necessary. However, they can be opportunities to grow in virtue: humility, patience, self-discipline, etc. When you dread doing your work, smile and say a prayer, "and your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you" (Matthew 6:4).

"The works of God are all of them good; in its own time every need is supplied" (Sirach 39:16).



## Take steps to share your faith during Lent

Jesus didn't intend for the Great Commission – "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) – to be a heavy burden.

He meant witnessing to His love to come through the natural course of living a Christ-inspired life. Consider making more disciples this Lent:

**Live a Catholic life.** Non-believers may hear what we say about Jesus, but they are persuaded by seeing how our love for Him shapes our lives. It is critical that worship – Sunday Mass, Confession, Scripture – informs our life choices. When we spend time in Jesus' presence, His character rubs off on us.

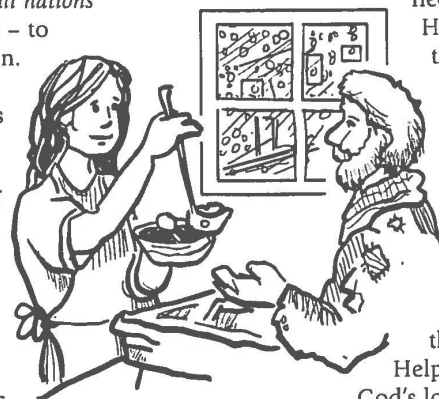
**Bring Christ out into the world.** Jesus asked that we care for the poor and needy, thus acting as

His hands and feet in the world. We may not be able to solve all of their problems, but we can show them the reality of Christ's love in their lives.

Talk about God's plan. God wants us each to experience the peace He offers.

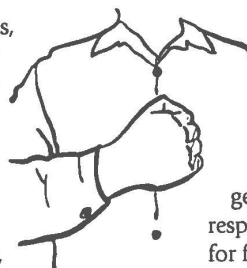
Help others know that God's love is personal and He has a specific plan for each of us.

Invite. Some people will be ready to "come and see," so consider inviting seekers to Mass. Others might be ready to "take up and read." Share your favorite inspirational reading. If you need other suggestions, ask your pastor or favorite religious.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

When we use our voices, our minds, and even our bodies during prayer, we pray with deeper meaning and enthusiasm. During the Confiteor at Mass, for example, we strike our chest three times, saying,



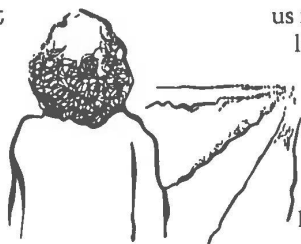
## Why do Catholics strike their chests?

"through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." It's an ancient symbol of sorrow and repentance for having offended God or hurting our neighbor. Such a gesture reminds us to take responsibility for our actions and pray for forgiveness and grace to change.

## Lent leads us back to God

*"For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment"* (Joel 2:13). Lent may be a penitential season, but it is also a wonderful reminder that no matter how we let sin interfere in our relationship with God, He always wants us back. Gracious and merciful is He.

*"Return to me with your whole heart."* Throughout the year, sin creeps into our daily lives almost without our noticing. A bad habit such as using bad language or gossiping can keep



us from loving God fully. Lent is a time to examine our lives and sweep aside whatever keeps us from giving God our whole heart.

*"Rend your hearts, not your garments."* God doesn't just want outward acts of repentance. Our Father wants a change of heart. Start with Confession and then practice virtues such as prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

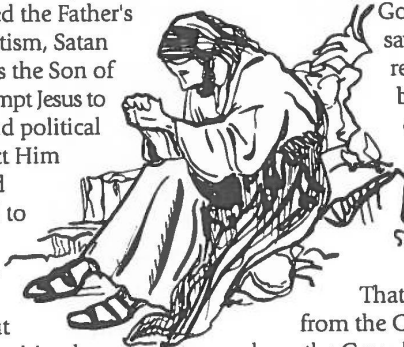
*"Gather the people, notify the congregation."* Become more active in your parish to build it up. Consider attending Mass more often than just once a week.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 4:1-11, Victory in the wilderness

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the devil. Having witnessed the Father's declaration at His baptism, Satan tested Jesus' identity as the Son of God. His goal was to tempt Jesus to embrace an earthly and political mission and to distract Him from the suffering and death that would lead to the world's salvation.

Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. In His response, Jesus taught us to put spiritual needs first and to entrust both body and soul to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from



the temple roof in an effort to force God to miraculously save Him. Again, Jesus refused. God is not to be forced or controlled.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. That would save Jesus from the Cross. Instead, Jesus chose the Cross because it was the only way to save us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

### Q & A

#### What's a simple way to explain the Faith, if asked?

St. Peter says to be ready to *"account for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15). Consider using this simple, five-point explanation, inspired by Bishop Michael Jackels:

**Pinky:** The smallest finger recalls our weakness and need for a Savior.



Although Jesus redeemed us, we're still weak and must pray for God's graces daily.

**Ring finger:** To save us, Jesus took on our human nature, "wedding"

Himself to us. At Sunday Mass, we worship God and become one with Him in Holy Communion.

**Middle finger:** Jesus was raised up on the Cross for sins, then raised from the dead. We attend Confession monthly and receive the saving graces. We hope to be raised to eternal life.

**Pointer:** Jesus' call is universal, yet personal. He singled you out and chose you to follow Him; only you can give Jesus your "Yes" – in word and deed.

**Thumb:** Lastly, hitchhikers point their thumbs to ask, "Are you on my way?" Likewise, we're called to ask, "Are you going His Way?" (John 14:6).

### Feasts & Celebrations

Lent begins February 22, and is devoted to the Passion of Our Lord. One form of observance is to pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on Jesus' walk to Calvary.

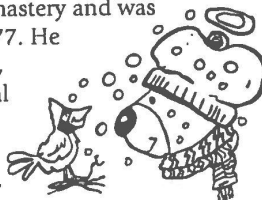
**February 1 – St. Brigid of Ireland** (525). Born to an Irish chieftain and an enslaved mother in Ireland, St. Brigid founded a monastery for monks and nuns at Kildare and served as abbess until her death.

**February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes** (1858). A heavenly "lady" appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl

from a village in France and a miraculous spring emerged from a nearby cave. The "lady" revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception," the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**February 22 – Ash Wednesday.** The first day of Lent. Ashes are placed on the foreheads as a sign of penance.

**February 27 – St. Gregory of Narek** (1003). Born in Armenia to a devout Christian family, St. Gregory entered the Narek Monastery and was ordained in 977. He wrote treatises, letters, mystical poems, and Scripture commentaries.



#### Our Mission

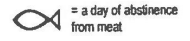
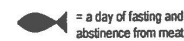
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# LENT 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>).</p>			<p><b>22 Ash Wednesday</b> Wear ashes today as a sign that you are seeking both forgiveness and eternal life from Christ.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Start a prayer book and record those for whom you pray or for what you pray. Also keep track of how God answers your prayers.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Catholics are required to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent as a form of penance.</p>	<p><b>25</b> The Bible teaches us to deny ourselves and give instead to those in need. Read Matthew 6:1-4 to learn more about sacrificial almsgiving.</p>
<p><b>26</b> Imagine being responsible for all the souls in the world. Offer a Rosary for the intentions of the pope.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Ask God to show you what is keeping you from experiencing His love fully—worry, fears, sin. Resolve to deal with it by Easter.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Offer an extra small sacrifice for God, just for today - coffee without cream, lukewarm shower, no snacking, etc.</p>	<p><b>I March</b> Enjoy pretzels -- a traditional Lenten snack. The "crossed" arms of the pretzel recalled monks at prayer.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Today, look for opportunities to practice the virtues humility, patience, and kindness.</p>	<p><b>3 First Friday</b> Attend Mass or visit the Blessed Sacrament (find the red candle). Be present to Him who is present to you.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Set up an empty box or bin. Throughout Lent, fill it with gently used clothes. Bring it to a local charity at the end of Lent.</p>
<p><b>5</b> After Mass today, go out to eat with other parishioners from church.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Dive deeper into your faith. Skim the glossary in the Catechism for an unfamiliar term and learn the Church's teaching about it.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Pick an issue in the news and pray over it today.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Figure out on which luxuries you spend the most money. Take a tenth of that amount and put it in the poor box at church.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for those who have no one to pray for them. Look here: <a href="https://www.usccb.org/prayers/divine-mercy-chaplet">https://www.usccb.org/prayers/divine-mercy-chaplet</a>.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Resist "idle curiosity." Don't research trivial questions or follow every browser thread. Unless it's important, it's okay not knowing.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Pray for pregnant mothers and their babies. Consider donating to pro-life charities that help women in crisis.</p>
<p><b>12</b> Reread John 4:5-30. How is Christ calling you closer to Him? What "jug" would you leave behind?</p>	<p><b>13</b> Refuse to gossip, either in person or on screen. Affirm every person or keep silent.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Write down your worries. Place the list under a statue or image of Jesus. Pray, "Jesus, I surrender this to You. Take care of everything."</p>	<p><b>15</b> Attend Confession and experience God's mercy. Resolve to make amends where you can.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Check out Catholic Relief Services to see how you can support their projects. Look here: <a href="https://www.crs.org">https://www.crs.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b> In honor of St. Patrick, evangelize silently by wearing a symbol of your faith (e.g. a cross, medal).</p>	<p><b>18</b> Contact local shelters and soup kitchens and ask if they need volunteers.</p>
<p><b>19 Laetare Sunday</b> Unless it's sinful, enjoy something you gave up for Lent in joyful anticipation of Easter!</p>	<p><b>20 St. Joseph's Day</b> St. Joseph silently, selflessly cared for Mary and Jesus. Pray for fathers and entrust them to St. Joseph's care.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Do an act of kindness. Whether openly or secretly, do it for God's glory. It's really Him you're serving.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Take the box of clothes you set up on March 4 to a clothing drive.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Pray for an increased faith throughout the Church in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Practice patience... patiently. "Be patient with everyone, but first of all with yourself" (St. Francis de Sales).</p>	<p><b>25 Annunciation of the Lord</b> Mary said "Yes!" to God's plan. Pray three Hail Marys, for the grace to give your "Yes" to Him, too.</p>
<p><b>26</b> Fast from unnecessary screen use today. Use the time to read a book, walk outside, pray.</p>	<p><b>27</b> This week, get up when the alarm goes off and offer your day to God's service.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Send your parish priests a "spiritual bouquet" — listing the prayers you'll offer for them (e.g. three Hail Marys, an Our Father).</p>	<p><b>29</b> Today, complete an errand or chore you've been putting off.</p>	<p><b>30</b> The Our Father is the prayer given to us by Jesus. Pray each line slowly. Really think about what you are saying.</p>	<p><b>31</b> Today, fast from complaining. Cultivate gratitude instead.</p>	<p><b>I April</b> Declutter, dust, and clean the house in preparation for Holy Week — the holiest time of the year.</p>
<p><b>2 Palm Sunday</b> Display blessed palms around your home. "that the King of Glory may come in!" (Psalm 24:7)</p>	<p><b>3</b> Holy Week is a busy time for parishes. Stop by your parish office and ask how you can help.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Pray for those who are coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Judas betrayed Christ. Consider how our sins betray Jesus and make a sincere Act of Contrition.</p>	<p><b>6 Holy Thursday</b> Visit the Blessed Sacrament. Offer Him your love for the "lost hour" of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:40).</p>	<p><b>7 Good Friday</b> Read the Passion Narrative, John 18, 19. See Jesus' offering of love for you. How will you respond?</p>	<p><b>8 Holy Saturday</b> Renew your baptismal vows and commit to living your faith more fully this year.</p>