

February 18, 2024

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

## LENT

PRAY



FAST



GIVE



### 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@syradio.org

### Website:

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

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

**Saturday, February 17, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Daniel Mc Garry by Marge Mangan

**Sunday, February 18, First Sunday of Lent**

10:30 a.m. Jackie Chantel by Maureen Mizzoni

**Monday, February 19**

12:00 p.m. Roberta Cushing by St. Francis Secular Fraternity

**Tuesday, February 20**

8:00 a.m. Vita Mannino by Family

**Wednesday, February 21**

12:00 p.m. Kathleen Foley by Sally &amp; Bill Orband

**Thursday, February 22**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

**Friday, February 23****NO MASS****Saturday, February 24, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Sophia &amp; Joseph Patsko by the Danoski Family

**Sunday, February 25, Second Sunday of Lent**

10:30 a.m. Kerri Hamilton by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**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](http://stfrancisbing.org)**

**Weekend's Offering (02-04-24)**

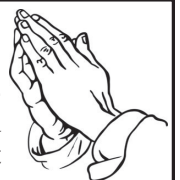
Regular Envelopes.....	\$4,000.00
Loose Collection.....	\$300.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$2,300.00
Total Collection.....	\$6,600.00

*Thank you for your generosity!***FAITH FORMATION****No Faith Formation, President's Weekend****Faith Formation February 25th for Grades K-9 at 9 AM in the Parish Hall****Looking Ahead:**

† Saturday March 2nd 9:30AM—12Noon First Eucharist Mini-Retreat in the Parish Hall.

**Pictures from last week's 5th & 6th Grade mini-retreat****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 Robert Moore and Antonio Versace.





## **Prayer for Black History Month**

*Good and Gracious God,*

*Thank you for the opportunity to come together once again to praise your name.*

*We know and understand that it is through your grace that all of our people's blessings have come forth. It is with awe, wonder, and humility that we ask you to continue to hear our prayers, raise our spirits, and heal our wounds.*

*We pray that with open hearts we can recognize and realize that Black history is part of all of our histories.*

*We ask your favor in guiding us so that we can one day celebrate Black history in ways that move beyond one month and become part of our everyday lives.*

*We pray and uphold the stories and histories of individuals that have been lost to history but whose lives impacted others and left imprints in small ways.*

*In our prayer, we recognize that these stories and this history may divide us.*

*Help us hear our truth in this history.*

*We pray that our sisters and brothers Thea Bowman, Mary Lange, Pierre Toussaint, Julia Greely, Henriette DeLille, and Augustus Tolton will soon be recognized as saints for their individual and collective contributions to our Church.*

*Open our eyes and hearts so that what we hear and learn this month can become part of our histories moving forward into the days and weeks ahead.*

*Come into our lives and breathe in us the grace of your wisdom and understanding.*

*We ask this in your name, Amen.*



## **Growing Community Roots**

Eight Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) from St. Francis of Assisi Parish are working on an endeavor in Kenya! They're collaborating with the non-profit Growing Community Roots (GCR), established 10 years ago by CSJ Sisters and Associates. GCR helps Kenyan students in the Homa Bay area, fulfill their hopes and dreams! GCR supports children- by meeting the basic needs identified in the region's schools in 3 very important ways:

1. GCR installs water catchment systems that provide safe water for drinking and bathing.
2. GCR builds new latrines that offer privacy.
3. GCR also establishes community gardens ensuring students have nutritious meals at school and plant tree farms which help address the area's deforestation problem.

In 2024, GCR plans on addressing issues at 2 additional schools (14 thus far!) and asks for your help. There will be a special collection for Growing Community Roots, at the weekend Masses on March 9 & 10, 2024. During this Lenten season we grow closer to God by helping the poor and caring for our common home-supporting the planting of trees and gardens.

GCR website: [www.growingcommunityroots.org](http://www.growingcommunityroots.org)

## **Lent 2024**

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 40 day Lenten Season is a period of grace and 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 **Journey Together Through Lent**. This reflection book for Lent weaved in the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Ann Naffziger's reflections for Lent remind us that faith is not something we do alone. We worship together, learn from each other, and serve those in need. Together we are the Body of Christ. Together, we are the church. Books are available in the church.

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 with activities, reflections, recipes, and stories from 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.

**Our parish focus this Lent** will be on the Eucharist. Our Lenten Book Club selection is a **Pastoral Guide to Pope Francis's Desiderio Desideravi** written by Rita Ferrone. The text will be divided into 6 sections to read, reflect, and discuss each week. Books are available at the Parish Center for \$10 each. Book Club will meet on Tuesdays at 2:00PM and 7:00PM in the church hall beginning on February 20th. Please join us!

## **Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross will take place **every Friday of Lent**. Stations will **start at 12:00 NOON** in the church and **followed by a Communion Service**. Join us!

## **CRS Rice Bowl: Lent is Coming**

During this holy time, we are called to pause and pay closer attention to our relationship with God and our neighbors. Reflect on how the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving can guide your journey and how the Eucharist helps us to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. To learn more and read this week's Story of Hope visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org)

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

Has your marriage become troubled or stressed, unloving, or uncaring; has it grown cold and distant; are you thinking of or already separated or divorced but want to try again, then the Retrouvaille Program can help you. 1-800-470-2230 or [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com)

## Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

**February 20th:** M. Hayes, K. Dotson, and A. & S. Faughnan

### Presentation/Discussion on Global Warming by Diane Stefani

**Sunday, February 25th  
after 10:30AM Mass**

**St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall**

Join us for a personal discussion about how global warming is changing our environment. Consider the changes we see right here in the Southern Tier. Engage in conversation about what we can do to create a better future for ourselves, our families and our friends. Facilitator, Diane Stefani, is an active community volunteer. She is a trained Climate Reality Project leader and co-chair of the Finger Lakes Greater Region chapter. She serves on the executive committee of Tier Energy Network, a regional network of industry, community and higher education representatives supporting the development of energy strategy for New York State. She is a former chair and on-going member of the Broome County Environmental Management Council.

**All are welcome. Please join us!**

### Ladies of Charity Scholarships

The Ladies of Charity will award three \$1,000 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 17, 2024.**

# URGENT

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

# URGENT

### 1st Sunday in Lent: Creation Care Tip

Catholics traditionally abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays in Lent. This is done as a form of penance (in recognition for all that we have done wrong) and asceticism (giving something up so we can grow in holiness). Beyond these reasons, a plant-based diet drastically reduces our impact on our common home and brings us into closer solidarity with those around the world who do not have the option to eat meat as frequently as we do.

### 1st Sunday in Lent: Justice Challenge

This week we enter into the first full week of our Lenten journey—a journey to the Cross and then to Resurrection. We know we can't go straight to Resurrection. As with Jesus, the sacrifice of the Cross is a necessary part of our journey. Your challenge this week, but really for all of Lent, is to think of someone in the world who is experiencing their own cross. It might be the cross of hunger, of human trafficking, of living in a war-torn village or city, or of being denied freedom of expression. Even though you don't know this person's name, imagine how this person looks, how old they might be, and even where they live. Then choose something to give up this Lent, something which may cause a bit of suffering and sacrifice on your part, to stand in solidarity with the brother or sister whose pain is—and should be—our pain. Offer up your sacrifice on their behalf. Every day, as members of our one human family, say a prayer for this person. Use the time or the money you would have spent on whatever you give up to support an organization in your parish or in our universal Catholic Church which works to end injustice for those who suffer. Some possible choices include your local St. Vincent de Paul chapter, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities, or Catholic Relief Services.

### Chenango Bridge Community Blood Drives

**Tuesday, February 20th  
1:00PM—6:00PM**

**Proudly Sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi Church  
Held in the Church Hall  
1049 Chenango St. Binghamton, NY 13901**

**ALSO**

**Friday, February 23rd  
1:00PM—6:00PM**

**Sponsored by Fenton Free Library  
1062 Chenango St. Binghamton, NY 13901**

D O N A T E

**BLOOD DRIVES SAVE LIVES!**

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

**February 24th & 25th, 2024**

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Logan Kliment
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Mike Gaetani
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Beatrice Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Robert Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Judy Daniels
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Jan Pandich
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Mike Stricek
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Sydney Keough
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	William Keough
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Lector	Anne Wolanski
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Catherine Shafer
10:30 Mass	EM Host	
10:30 Mass	EM Host	
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Shirley McCray
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Virginia Thompson

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

**February 18– ONLINE ONLY**

**February 25– Ede and Sarah Blabac**

**March 3– Ede and Sarah Blabac**

**\*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:** What will you do this Lent to become more like Jesus

**Question for Youth:** Lent gives us a chance to do things differently – to "go to the desert." How can you make Lent a time for growing in faith?

**Question for Adults:** What is the one area of your life which you most want to "reform" as you get ready to embrace the Gospel, what is it?

# END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi  
CITY, STATE: Binghamton, NY  
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Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:  
Bulletin copy for **February 18th, 2024**

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