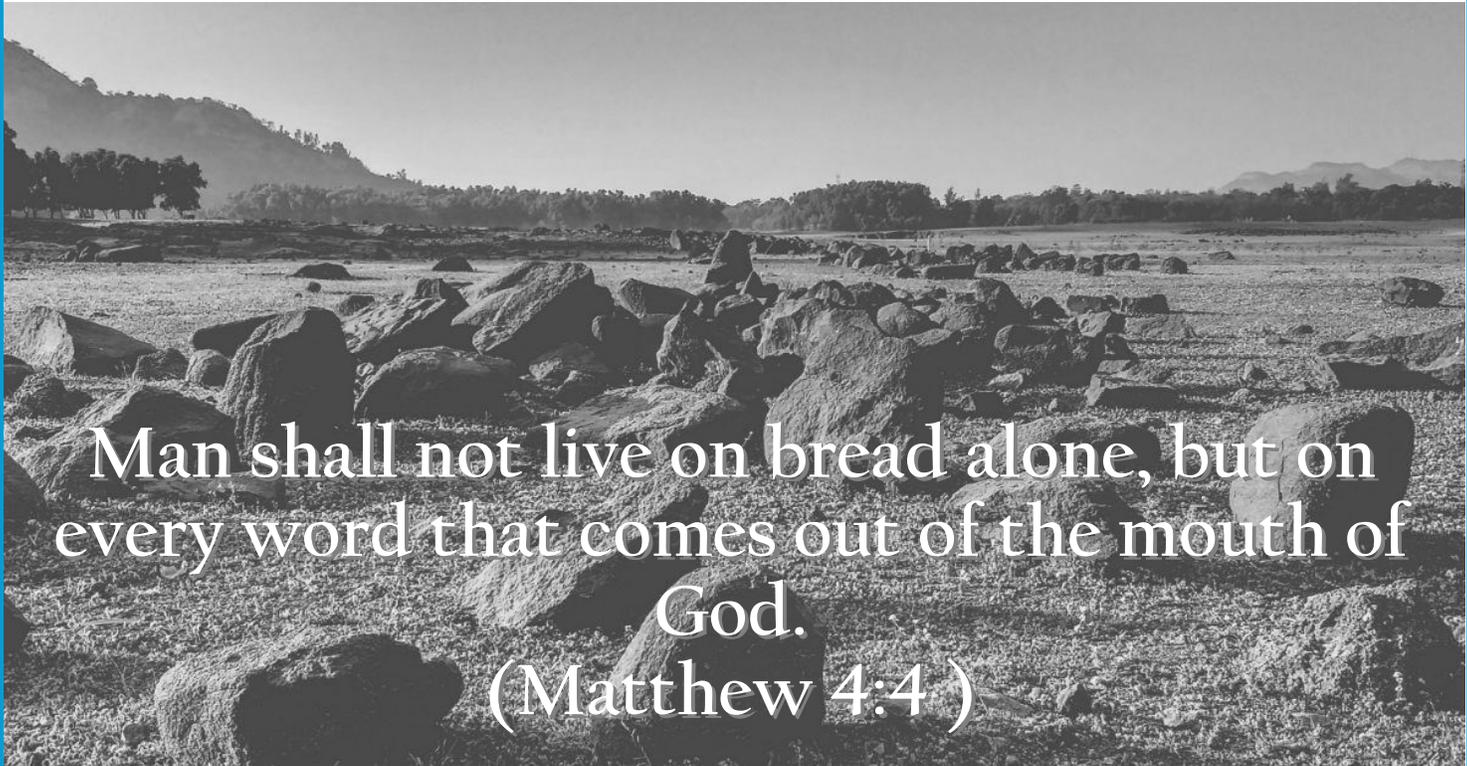


February 21, 2021

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.
(Matthew 4:4)

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

Website:
www.stfrancisbing.org
Follow us on FB & Twitter:
[@stfrancisbing](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisbing)

Please go online to 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, February 20, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Gerald Davies by Wife & Family

Sunday, February 21, First Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Kay Lynch by Family

Monday, February 22
 12:00 p.m. Dick Murphy by Kathy & Glen Tait

Tuesday, February 23
 8:00 a.m. Pam Bried by Melissa Glenn

Wednesday, February 24
 12:00 p.m. Mildred Brush by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Thursday, February 25
 8:00 a.m. Robert Quinlivan by Bob & Bea Grace

Friday, February 26
NO MASS

Saturday, February 27, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. 28th Anniv. Vincent Cavanagh by Wife, Alice

Sunday, February 28, Second Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by 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 (02-14-21)
 Regular/Holy Day Envelopes.....\$3,126.00
 Loose Collection.....\$128.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$1,720.00
 Total Collection.....\$4,974.00
Thank You for your generous contributions!

FAITH FORMATION
Faith Formation K-9 in the school from 9:30—10:45AM!

Looking ahead:
 No Winter Carnival this year!
Saturday March 6th 9:30AM—12:00PM First Eucharist mini-retreat "Grandma's Bread" in the Parish Hall.

NEED HELP GETTING VACCINATED?
 Joe Carpenter will be available to help with setting up COVID vaccine appointments from 10:00am to 12-noon Monday through Thursday at the Parish Center. Call ahead to schedule 722-4388.

1st Week of Lent: Justice Challenge
 Justice Challenge: We are entering 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 the weight of 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 our donating to our food pantry, Catherine's Cupboard, our local St. Vincent de Paul chapter, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities of Broome County (or outside Broome County), or Catholic Relief Services. There are many catholic organizations that do good work in providing for those in need; so do your research and find one that most fits with what you desire to change most in the world.

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.

Lent 2021

Yes, the Lenten season has begun. With this in mind I want to put before you how our parish will be embracing this season of renewal and grace. Lent cannot be separated from Easter. Just as it was for the early Christians, it is a time for us to prepare our hearts and reflect more deeply on our baptismal call to continuing conversion. Last year the Lenten season was abruptly interrupted by our unexpected shutdown due to the coronavirus. The virus is still with us, and hopefully the months ahead will show improvements to minimizing its spread. However, this lent we are going to do the best we can to make this Lenten season a grace-filled time of hope and renewal, as we continue to live through this coronavirus time.

The Grace of Les Miserables

Our focus and series for our parish this Lent is in the powerful story of Les Miserables. Like Lent, Les Miserables too, is a story of transformation and redemption. The gift of grace makes this all possible in each of our lives. Jean Valjean experiences transformation following an encounter with Bishop Myriel. The Bishop's generous words and actions became an experience of grace for Jean Valjean. We, too, like the Bishop can be agents of God's grace for one another. The popular musical based on Hugo's story suggests that Valjean's conversion from criminal to saint happens in the blink of an eye, and his commitment to following a holy path becomes an almost instinctual action. The original story, however, suggests that choosing the good is a daily and often difficult choice. Much like a recovering addict, Valjean struggles with dampening his personal demons for the sake of making holy choices. If we are honest, our story is similar. Always choosing the good would be easy if the good were obvious. Jean Valjean's journey helps us recognize how difficult accepting grace can be, and how sharing grace can sometimes be even more difficult. How have you experienced the gift of God's grace in your life? Where is God calling to deeper transformation? In what way can I bring the gift of God's grace to another person?

Daily Reflection Book

Lent also is an opportunity to pray through this crisis with hope. For your daily prayer and reflection we will have available a daily reflection book entitled, *Words for the Weary: Embracing the Lenten Season after a Challenging Pandemic Year*. After a tumultuous year, their words will help you reflect on where we have come and where we are headed this Lenten season. The author of this book, Ann Naffziger, draws from her experience as a mother, wife, and spiritual director in these honest reflections on a year of pandemic challenges and how they can guide us in our discipleship journey. She guides us in embracing the difficulties, frustrations, and sorrows of this time, but also graces that continue to break through. These books will be available at church, or call the parish center to have a copy sent out.

The Stations of the Cross are a ritual of prayer during lent. We are planning to make Stations of the Cross available to you virtually on our website and Facebook page. The Stations this year will be entitled Stations of Hope. This past year has been a challenge to be hopeful as this health crisis has evolved. In this fresh approach to the Stations of the Cross, Fr. David Knight reminds us that hope can be found in the darkest of places and the true power of the Crucifixion is the opportunity to transform unimaginable pain and suffering into faith, hope, and love. Stations are available now.

Virtual Retreat Opportunity

Also, well-known Jesuit author Fr. James Martin, S.J., will preach for a weekend virtual retreat that will draw upon material from his latest book *Learning To Pray: A Guide for Everyone*. Fr. Martin will do virtual-only format due to the current Covid-pandemic realities. The good news is that we can register for this retreat. This "new" virtual retreat will be offered over the Zoom platform. It will include 45-60 minute presentations by Fr. Martin on Friday, March 26th 7:30pm on the Ignatian Examen, on Saturday, March 27th at 10:00am on Ignatian Contemplation, on Saturday afternoon at 1:00pm on Lectio Divina, a "Q&A" open-forum session focused on prayer practices on Saturday evening at 7:30pm, and a final presentation on Sunday, March 28th at 10:00am on "what happens in prayer" followed immediately by the celebration of the Eucharist to conclude this weekend retreat. The cost is \$100. Go to easternpoint.org, click "retreats", scroll down to "weekend" to register for the retreat or contact rvereecke@jesuits.org for more info. The cost to participate in this virtual program (any or all of the sessions) is \$100.

A form Zoom invitation will be sent to the email address listed on your registration page in advance the start of the retreat.

Please feel welcome to spread word of this retreat opportunity.

Hunger in Our World

Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger—it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world?

Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

NO TRANSPORTATION

Shelving (Mondays)

NO SHELIVING

Distribution

March 2nd— Mary Walsh, Rose O'Neil, Priscilla Covey

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!

When Receiving 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!

Fenton Free Library



**FUND
RAISING**

Existing Building Improvements
PRE-ORDER Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Orders due by Wednesday, Feb. 24th
Pickup on Saturday, Feb. 27th, 8 am to 12 pm
FIVE Choices to Pre-Order

ORDER FORM

Name _____

Phone # _____

Variety _____ Quantity _____ Amount _____

Due _____

Glazed (\$8/dozen) _____

Chocolate Iced Glazed (\$7/half doz) _____

Glazed / Lemon filled (\$7/half doz) _____

Glazed / Rasbery filled (\$7/half doz) _____

Glazed / Cream filled (\$7/half doz) _____

Additional Donation to Library \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Make check payable to "Fenton Free Library"
Drop off or mail form to Library,
1062 Chenango St, Binghamton, NY 13901

Have you had enough of COVID? Plan a cruise to the Land of the Midnight Sun in July 2022.

Berkshire Travel Agency Presents

A 14-Day Best of Norway

Aboard the Rotterdam

July 9 — 24, 2022

Hosted by Fathers:

John Yonkovig, Don Henry, Tom Ryan, and Tim Taugher

Cruise Itinerary

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
Sat	Overnight flight to Amsterdam, Netherlands		
Sun	Depart Amsterdam		5:00PM
Mon	Sea Day		
Tue	Scenic cruising Oslofjord		
Tue	Oslo, Norway	8:00AM	4:00PM
Wed	Kristiansand, Norway	8:00AM	5:00PM
Thu	Stavanger, Norway	8:00AM	3:00PM
Fri	Scenic cruising Sognefjord		
Fri	Flam, Norway	7:00AM	7:00PM
Sat	Sea Day		
Sun	Amsterdam, Netherlands		
Mon	Sea Day		
Tue	Eidfjord, Norway	7:00AM	3:00PM
Tue	Scenic cruising Hardangerfjord		
Wed	Alesund, Norway	8:00AM	5:00PM
Thu	Geiranger, Norway	7:00AM	5:00PM
Thu	Cruising Geirangerfjord		
Fri	Bergen, Norway	8:00AM	5:00PM
Sat	Sea Day		
Sun	Debark Amsterdam	7:00AM	

Valid U.S Passports Required

Berkshire Travel Group Rates

(Per person/double Occupancy)

Category	Stateroom Description	Berkshire Rate
J	Inside Stateroom	\$2,855.00
E	Outside Stateroom	\$3,454.00
VD	Verandah Stateroom	\$3,805.00

Rate includes: Cruise accommodations as desired, port taxes and government fees, meals and entertainment on board ship, cocktail party for group

Not included: personal items, gratuities on board ship, airfare and transfers

Cancellation insurance is available and recommended

Deposit: \$600 per person is required to secure a room.

Contact Kathy Coll (610)372-4652 for more information!

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
February 27th & 28th, 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: 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
FILE NAME: 06-168
PHONE: **607-722-4388**
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:
Bulletin copy for **February 21st, 2021**

Deliver 250 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.