

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



## **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  
Agnes Miller  
Housekeeping  
Dominick Lomonaco  
Nicholas Norton  
Sacristans

## **Office Hours:**

Monday — Thursday:

7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Friday: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Parish Office Phone: 722-4388

Faith Formation Office Phone:  
722-4177

## **E-mail:**

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

## **Website:**

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

Follow us on FB & Twitter:

@stfrancisbing

## **Mass Schedule**

Monday-Thursday

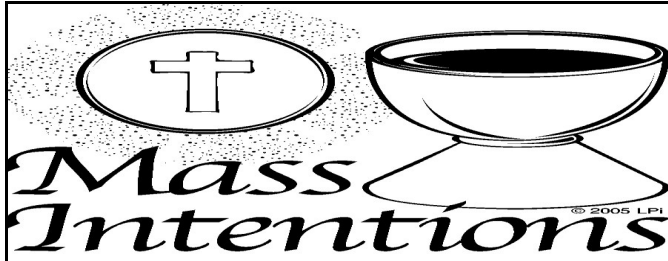
8:00 am at the Parish Center  
Chapel

Saturday Evening  
4:00 pm

Sunday Morning  
8:00 am & 11:00 am

## **Confession:**

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



**Saturday, February 22, Vigil of Sunday**  
4:00 p.m. Lillian Hidock by the Palmieri Family

**Sunday, February 23, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. Patty Ellis by Carol Breehey  
11:00 a.m. Marie Harding by Linda & Chuck Bucci

**Monday, February 24**

8:00 a.m. Rose Serafini by Dave & Lou Ann Sullivan

**Tuesday, February 25**

8:00 a.m. Richard Murphy by Carol Benjamin & Family

**Wednesday, February 26, Ash Wednesday (Liturgies will be held in Church)**

7:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family  
12:00 p.m. Gerald Davies by Barbara Kocak  
7:00 p.m. Prayer Service at Ogden Methodist Church

**Thursday, February 27**

8:00 a.m. Vincent Cavanagh by Family

**Friday, February 28**

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, February 29, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Patricia Dean by Son, Bill

**Sunday, March 1, First Sunday of Lent**

8:00 a.m. William Comstock by the Bible Babes

11:00 a.m. Jim Flynn by the Zulko 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 (2-16-20)**

Regular Envelopes.....\$4,939.00  
Loose Collection.....\$229.50  
Electronic Collection.....\$594.00  
Total Collection.....\$5,762.50

*Thank You for your generous contributions!*

### **Faith Formation**

**Faith Formation for grades K-9 will meet in the church at 9:30 AM for Opening Prayer.**

**Grades K-5 will participate in the Winter Carnival. All families are welcome to attend the Winter Carnival in the gym after Opening Prayer (9:45 AM) until FF is over at 10:45 AM. Contribution for Catherine's Cupboard are appreciated.**

### **Looking Ahead**

First Eucharist Rite of Belonging **Sunday, March 1st at the 11 AM Mass.** Mass may be a bit longer than usual. The first 2 pews on the Sacristy side of the church will be reserved for the children. Please plan accordingly.

First Eucharist Mini Retreat will take place on **Saturday, March 7th at 9:30 AM** in the church hall.

The Thrive event "How great the Father's Love" is on **Thursday March 12th, 6:30 PM--8 PM.** This family event is really appropriate for all ages but I am requesting that all families with children in **Grade 5 or older attend.**

### **Congratulations Avery Forst**

Congratulations to Avery Forst on winning the diocesan Safe Environment Poster Contest. Your poster was the winner of all 3rd grade entries in the diocese. Please go to the diocesan website ([www.syrdio.org](http://www.syrdio.org)) or the diocesan facebook page to see Avery's poster. It will also be published in the April 30th edition of the Catholic Sun. Good Job Avery!

### **Theology on Tap Upcoming Series**

In March 2020, the Office of Young Adult Ministry is launching a four-week speaker series. A different speaker will present each week in the series entitled, "What does the Church REALLY teach about..."

**March 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th @ 7:00PM**

**@ Dillinger's Celtic Pub & Eatery**  
**(77 State St, Binghamton, NY 13901)**

Theology on Tap is for Young Adults (married and single) in their 20's and 30's.

### **Children's Liturgy**

**February 29/March 1**

**4PM— Alison & Dan Brennan**

**8AM— Cindy & Lauren White**

### **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 Celia Worden and Gary Thompson.



## **Lent: A Time to be Born Again**

Some Christians use the phrase “born again”. While there is scriptural precedent and plenty of wonderful stories of lives turned totally around by grace, we Catholics seldom use the phrase for one primary reason— because we know conversion is ongoing. Lent emerged as a time for serious preparation for those entering the faith. It became clear that a similar time was needed for the people of God for renewal and re-renewal. Not born again just once, but again and again and again. So we are moving into the Lenten season this Ash Wednesday, to consciously take advantage of the next 40 days through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to be born again and be drawn closer to God. The question we need to ask ourselves is “what in our lives gets in the way of our relationship with God and God’s people? We are looking for self-denial that leads to communion with God and authentic community among us. So what is it? Our smart phones? Or the way they waste our time? What about our need for security? Does that keep us away from people we should be serving and enjoying? Maybe too many of our routines have become ruts and graves. What am I clinging to that keeps me from falling into the loving hands of God? This time of lent can also be used to clear out the debris that litters and impedes our path to God. What follows are the opportunities being offered here in our parish to make this Lenten season a time of grace. Our overall Lenten program is Living the Eucharist; it is the second phase of what we began last year in lent.

### **Living the Eucharist**

Living the Eucharist is a powerful Lenten ministry for the whole parish. Last year our parish had 9 groups that met each week to discuss the upcoming gospel reading and how it transforms us by encountering Christ. This year we hope to regather Christ and discover new ways to come alive and grow in our Catholic faith. The groups meet on Sunday at 9:30AM, or Monday at 1:30PM, Tuesday at 2PM & 7PM, Wednesday at 9AM, or Thursday at 2PM & 7PM. Like last year, Lenten devotional books will be available the Sunday before Lent begins for all parishioners. This is the last week to sign up, so please do so this week as well as pick up your book in the vestibule. Please join us!

### **Daily Liturgy**

Another way to live the Eucharist is to come to Daily Liturgy at the parish center chapel. Daily Liturgy is offered Monday—Thursday at 8AM. Make the Eucharist a part of your Lenten discipline.

### **Rice Bowl**

The Rice Bowl you receive with your bulletin is a way to put your faith in action. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent; prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During the next 40 days, you will encounter the stories of people in Kenya, Vietnam, and Honduras where Catholic Relief Services is at work. You’ll be invited to eat simple, meatless meals from these countries, and, through the

stories, you’ll learn about the principles of Catholic social teaching— and ways you can put them into action during Lent and beyond.

### **Thrive Event**

The Thrive event "How great the Father's Love" will take place on Thursday, March 12th, 6:30 PM--8 PM. Please make every effort to attend this evangelical event which focuses on Contemporary Music, Testimony, praise, and hospitality. I think it will be a very powerful evening. This family event is really appropriate for all ages but I am requesting that all families with children in Grade 5 or older attend. We have asked Roy Santa Croce to share the challenges he and his family faced during his daughter Megan's illness and passing as well as how his faith served as an anchor for him. Please save the date on your calendar and make it a priority to attend.

### **Stations of the Cross**

The Stations of the Cross are representations of the path Jesus bore on his way to the crucifixion. They involve Jesus enduring suffering, insults, moments of support, and relay the intense sacrifice that Jesus undertook for human salvation. The Scriptural significance of the Stations of the Cross is to detail the path Jesus walked on his way to eventual redemption of humanity. The path to spiritual paradise lies in the Station of the Cross when we recognize what Jesus endured and enable it as a call to action in our own lives. **We will be praying Stations of the Cross every Friday at 4PM from February 28th—April 3rd.**

### **Ash Wednesday**

We begin our Lenten season on **Wednesday, February 26th**, Ash Wednesday. There will be two masses with **distribution of ashes, at 7:00 A.M. and Noon. At 7:00 P.M.** we will have a **joint prayer service at Ogden Hillcrest United Methodist Church**. Join us to receive your ashes and pray to begin our holy Lenten season.

### **Sickness and the Communion Cup**

In the midst of the cold and flu season, each of us has the responsibility of taking precautions to prevent the spread of these and other illnesses. If you are feeling sick, please **refrain from receiving Holy Communion from the cup**, and receive **only the Sacred Host**. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping you and your fellow parishioners happy and healthy.

### **Special Collection**

This week, our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 20 countries still struggling to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous to the collection today. For more information, please visit [www.usccb.org/ceec](http://www.usccb.org/ceec).



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

### **Transportation**

Week of Feb. 23rd — Karen Dotson

Week of March 1st — Marie Giordano

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

February 24th — J. & K. Brady

March 2nd — C. Woodruff & M. Ryder

### **Distribution**

March 3rd — K. Dotson, M. Walsh, R. Rounds, AM.  
& S. Faughnan, J. Wyatt

# MARCH 12

## 6:30 PM



*How Great the  
Father's Love*



St. Francis of Assisi  
1049 Chenango Street, Binghamton NY

### **Catholic Sun**

The parish recently received a letter from Bishop Lucia regarding the Catholic Sun, our weekly diocesan newspaper. The Bishop was taken by surprise that his article, "Carrying the Light of Christ" was received so positively across the diocese and he sees the Catholic Sun as a tremendously effective vehicle for communicating with the Diocese as a whole. The Bishop's hope is that that during February, which is Catholic Press Month, each parish will promote the Catholic Sun, remind people that the publication exists and encourage them to subscribe. This effort will be multi-pronged, with efforts in the parishes, on Sun Platforms and via diocesan social media. Over the next few weeks there will be envelopes available in church for folks that wish to subscribe to the Catholic sun. We would encourage people to subscribe and take advantage of the information contained each week in the paper. Please note that if you receive the Catholic Sun and do NOT pay for it, the parish is responsible for the payment. So please consider paying for your own subscription.

### **Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Mass**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold their annual Mass in celebration of the Glorious Apostle of Ireland and to honor those members that have passed in the last year. The Mass will be held on **March 7th at 11:30AM at St. Mary's** on Court St. in Binghamton. We are honored to have the Most Reverend Bishop Douglas J. Lucia be our Celebrant for this occasion. All are welcome. Parade Day downtown will follow at 1:30PM. The celebration will continue with the annual party at Seton Catholic Central from 1PM to 6PM.

## **FEBRUARY: Fundraising for FOOD Pantry**

For the past few years, we have used the month of February to raise funds for our parish food pantry known as CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD. Founded in 2002, our pantry has grown and is well-known throughout the county. We serve on average 1,000 families each year. Our pantry is open the first and third Tuesday each month from 5:30pm until all are served. Our annual budget has grown to over \$30,000 and purchases from Southern Tier Food Bank the food needed to provide healthy meals for families, plus cleaning and personal items not included with SNAP (i.e., food stamps). Of the 1,000 families, one-third of them are senior citizens trying to get by on Social Security, food stamps, etc. Heating, electric and prescription bills take a bigger portion of their income each year. Many families that come are working, but due to their low wages cannot pay their basic expenses. We are the "helping hand" to them, allowing them to live in their home, with heat and lights, feed their kids and provide the best they can. Going to a food pantry and asking for help is very hard to do; we understand this and try to make it as stress-free as possible. The first week of February kicked off with the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING led by our students in Faith Formation. In December, 2 food drives were held for our pantry by the Hillcrest Fire Dept. and Chenango Forks Girl Scout Service Unit. Various food drives/collections are also held which support us at Nimmonsburg Methodist, Ogden Methodist and First Church of the Nazarene and in Chenango Valley schools. These drives plus generous donations from many of you are always deeply appreciated. This past year our pantry not only helped the many who came during our regular hours, but also helped a family after a major fire damaged their home. Back in September, during a neighborhood evacuation of about 100 families, we were able to help supply breakfast at the Red Cross shelter set up at the Hillcrest Fire Station. Another event in early December caught Father Tim and I by surprise, but we were so happy we could help – during an extremely cold weekend, the Homeless Coalition rescued 30 young adults who were living under a downtown bridge on the riverbank. Three went straight to the ER due to their condition, and the rest were given shelter at a local motel - but there was no food and being a weekend all "services" were closed until Monday. Our pantry provided the basics (soups, cereal, peanut butter & jelly, coffee, juice and bread & milk plus personal care items) to get them through a couple days until more permanent care was available. These 30 were only a small fraction of the hundreds of homeless who live in Broome County. Our pantry will ALWAYS serve those who are homeless. Some pantries may not give to the homeless, but that is not the case for Catherine's Cupboard. Our pantry serves all who ask for help. Cash is not given, but a gift card to Weis Grocery is available if needed. If you help to continue our pantry's mission during this campaign, your Pantry volunteers will be forever grateful. If you have questions, feel free to speak to or call Joe Carpenter at the Parish Center (607-722-4388) or Bev Krinik, Pantry Coordinator (607-723-2350).

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**  
**February 29th & March 1st, 2020**

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

Lector	Bob & Betsy Shields
EM Host	Barb Brozovic
EM Host	John Artman
EM Host	Brenda Artman
EM Cup	Larry Koch
EM Cup	Debby Carden
EM Cup	Jan Pandich
EM Cup	Terry Hanifin
Altar Server	Tyler Norton
Altar Server	Madelyn Strnatka
Altar Server	Calliope Brennan

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

Lector	Ed White
EM Host	Scott or Donna Igler
EM Host	Suzanne Carr
EM Host	Marie Iobst
EM Cup	Shirley McCray
EM Cup	Scott Klein
EM Cup	Mike Stricek
EM Cup	Melissa Kliment
Altar Server	Sydney Keough
Altar Server	Mary Bush
Altar Server	Sarah Bush

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

Lector	Tom Giblin
EM Host	Steve Guth
EM Host	Kerri Hamilton
EM Host	David Hanzes
EM Cup	Emily Ekstrom
EM Cup	Jules Furrer
EM Cup	Maria Lord
EM Cup	Rose O'Neil
Altar Server	Braeden Krisko
Altar Server	Brendan Heaney
Altar Server	

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** What can you do at home or at school to show that you follow Jesus' Commandments?

**Question for Youth:** Do you think Jesus was serious when he said to love your enemies? Why or why not?

**Question for Adults:** Have you ever told someone to do something for his/her own well being? Do you accept God's laws in the same spirit of love and concern

# *St. Francis of Assisi Parish*

## *Looking Forward in Faith – Vision 2020 Capital Campaign*

Volume V

Saturday-Sunday

February 22-23, 2020

### ***CAMPAIGN RECEPTIONS CONTINUE***

### ***PLEASE ATTEND AND LIGHTEN THE LOAD FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS***

All parishioners are invited to join Father Tim for refreshments and discussion for the next round of our *Looking Forward in Faith – Vision 2020 Capital Campaign* receptions this coming Tuesday, February 25. At these gatherings we will review our parish Capital Campaign plans and Father Tim will share his thoughts and vision for our Parish. **Those in attendance will receive their own campaign materials along with a pledge card and our volunteers will not contact them later in the campaign.** Please RSVP to the Parish Office by phoning 722-4388 or emailing [jcarpenter@syrdio.org](mailto:jcarpenter@syrdio.org) by Tuesday, March 3.

### ***RECEPTION DATES AND TIMES***

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Tuesday	February	25	12:00 PM	My Uncle's Place
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Tuesday	February	25	7:00 PM	My Uncle's Place
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Tuesday	March	3	12:00 PM	My Uncle's Place
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Tuesday	March	3	7:00 PM	My Uncle's Place
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Wednesday	March	4	7:00 PM	My Uncle's Place
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# LENT 2020

 = a day of fasting and  
abstinence from meat

 = a day of abstinence  
from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>February</b></p> <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>26 Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p>Get ashes on Ash Wednesday and keep them on all day.</p> 	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Choose something small but challenging: no snacking, rising early (or on time), etc. Let your sacrifice remind you of Christ's.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the Church. Learn how here: <a href="http://www.thedivinemercy.org">www.thedivinemercy.org</a>.</p> 	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>List some ways you can serve God at home, church, or work. Pick one to do before Easter.</p>
<p><b>1 March</b></p> <p>After Mass, decide what you need to change in your life in order to truly experience Jesus' love during Lent.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Pick a Lenten saint and learn about them. Ask him or her to be your patron. Think of a virtue of theirs to imitate.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Ask God to give you the grace to better know his love for you this Lent.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>"Take ten" and: pray, go for a walk, read a good book, or simply enjoy the quiet for ten minutes.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Read Galatians 2:20. Consider that Jesus gave himself up - sacrificing for you, personally. What can you do for him today?</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Share a meatless meal with friends and tell them why you are abstaining.</p> 	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Spring-clean like a saint. Donate clothes you haven't worn in a year. Pray for those who might use them in the future.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Pick a situation in the news and pray over it today.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Ask Jesus to heal whatever keeps you from feeling God's bountiful love.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Pope Francis said the mark of a saint is never speaking ill of another. Today, say only kind, encouraging things.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Do a screen fast. No texting while eating, driving, conversing, or praying. Chances are, it can wait.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Deal with anyone in your life who may be interfering with your relationship with God.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Scope out your parish fish fry. Yum! Go with a group of friends or make new ones while you're there.</p> 	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Visit Jesus who is truly present in the Eucharist. Pray before the tabernacle of your church. Speak to him as you would a friend.</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Take one idea from today's Gospel reading or homily to implement during the coming week.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>This week, practice the Heroic Minute. Get up when the alarm goes off. Offer your day to God's service.</p>	<p><b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b></p> <p>In St. Patrick's honor, evangelize silently by wearing a symbol of your faith (e.g. a cross or a medal).</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Make a fresh start on your Lenten journey today. Renew your Lenten observances.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS or <a href="http://www.crs.org">www.crs.org</a>) to see how you can help.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Enjoy pretzels - a traditional Lent snack. Recall that Catholics used to give up milk, eggs, and fat.</p> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Examine your conscience and attend Confession. Seek out God's loving forgiveness. Resolve to do better.</p>
<p><b>22 Laetare Sunday</b></p> <p>Celebrate the halfway point of Lent. Do something fun after Mass today.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Pick a topic in the <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>. Read what the Church teaches about it.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Do an act of kindness today without being asked. Do it for God's glory; it's really him you're serving.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Today, offer up not having everything perfect: room temperature, music, meals and more.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Consider tithing - giving 10% of your money to your church or donating it to a charity of your choice.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Attend a Stations of the Cross service. Otherwise, the Stations are listed here: <a href="http://www.usccb.org">www.usccb.org</a>.</p> 	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Visit a nursing home and read to a resident, take one for a walk, or pay someone some attention.</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Try to find the time to read an entire Gospel at one sitting. (Hint: St. Mark's Gospel is the shortest.)</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Show patience today. This is a work of mercy pleasing to God. Remember, be patient with yourself, too.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Resist "idle curiosity." Don't research every question or read every magazine. Unless it's crucial, it's OK not to know.</p>	<p><b>1 April</b></p> <p>Visit a Catholic/Christian bookstore and find some good spiritual reading.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Today, pray for someone you don't like.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>If possible, observe a prayerful silence from noon to 3 PM, the time Christ hung on the Cross.</p> 	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Look around your neighborhood today for signs of new life.</p>
<p><b>5 Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>Place palms around each image of Jesus in your home. Welcome the Messiah into your heart!</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Pray for all those who are preparing to enter the Church this Easter.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Ask God for a new grace today that will bring you closer to him.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Forgive someone who has hurt you.</p>	<p><b>9 Holy Thursday</b></p> <p>Look for someone who is poor or homeless and share your food.</p>	<p><b>10 Good Friday</b></p> <p>Meditate on the Stations of the Cross today. Try to imagine yourself at the scene of each one.</p> 	<p><b>11 Holy Saturday</b></p> <p>Think about a way in which you might have betrayed Jesus. Ask his pardon.</p>

# END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi  
CITY, STATE: Binghamton, NY  
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PHONE: **607-722-4388**  
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:  
Bulletin copy for **February 23rd, 2020**

**Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**