

February 25, 2018

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



Cesia Hernandez, 21, is seen with her mother Haydeé Gómez, 53, and her sister Loyda, 18, at their kitchen in Aguas Calientes Community, Somoto, Nicaragua. Cesia and Loyda are graduates from YouthBuild program. Cesia Lea Gomez dreamed of being a business owner. Near the Honduran border, few opportunities exist for young people like her in the rural setting. After high school, she like many others stayed home. With the YouthBuild program, she learned the animal health skills necessary to mitigate the veterinary needs of smallholder ranchers. She has started a thriving business to sell bricks, fortified cow feed, nutritional blocks, and vegetables. Her self-confidence soared, transforming her into a successful woman in a male-dominated field.

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
Dave Bollinger
Parish Pastoral Care Coordinator
Sue Ekstrom
Parish Media Manager
Edmund Savo
Organist

Office Hours:
7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Monday through Thursday
Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Parish Office: 722-4388
Fax: 722-1336
Faith Formation Office:
722-4177

E-mail:
stfrancisbing@syrдио.org

Website:
www.stfrancisbing.org

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 24, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Bill Quinn by Ruthie Cole

Sunday, February 25, Second Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Daniel Berry by the Lyons Family
 11:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family

Monday, February 26
 8:00 a.m. Patricia Ellis by Norma K. Lombard

Tuesday, February 27
 8:00 a.m. Mildred Grace by Family

Wednesday, February 28 (Liturgy will be held in Church)
 7:00 p.m. Vincent Cavanagh by Family

Thursday, March 1
 8:00 a.m. Mannino Vita by Daughter, Fina & Family

Friday, March 2
NO MASS

Saturday, March 3, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Betty Maume by J. Moffitt

Sunday, March 4, Third Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Patricia Ellis by Norma K. Lombard
 11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

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 (02-18-18)

Regular Envelopes.....\$5,765.00
 Loose Collection.....\$305.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$553.00
 Total Collection.....\$6,623.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Faith Formation

Faith Formation for grades K-9 meet at 9:30 AM this week. Grades K-5 go directly to your rooms. Grades 6-9 meet in the Parish Hall to set up the Winter Carnival. No opening Prayer this week.

All classes will participate in the Carnival. Games can be played for 25 cents per game. Face Painting will be available. All money raised will go to the Homeless Coalition Collection Drive for the purchase of bus passes.

Looking Ahead:

LEAP Event— March 18th— in the church at 9:30 AM. The Spoon Man will be here to present a memorable mission about Lent "There's More to Lent than Giving Up Candy". This event is for all Families, especially the families participating in Faith Formation, as well as any of our parishioners. Don't miss this fun and faith-filled event!

Parish Book Club

Book Club is this Tuesday, February 27th at 2:00PM and at 7:00PM. Please read Chapter 3 for this session.

First Sunday of Lent: Encounter Cesia

We encounter Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit csrcicebowl.org for more

Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet

The Knights of Columbus will be having a Breakfast Buffet on **Sunday, March 4th** from 8:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. in the Church Hall. Please join us for a truly wonderful breakfast! **Proceeds to benefit "Catherine's Cupboard February Fundraiser".**

Stations Of The Cross

Stations of the cross will be held every Friday during Lent (except for Good Friday) at 3:00PM in the church. All are invited and encouraged to attend. For any questions call Delores at the parish center (722-4388).

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 Samuel Tarreto.

Gun Violence:

Will Change emerge from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy?

The tragic shootings of the 15 students and 3 faculty staff in Parkland, Florida, Valentine's Day, have inspired new discussion on gun violence and firearm control. But will it become a turning point, a tipping point in a national debate that pits individual freedom against public safety and see the activism that has evolved from the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. They and thousands of students around the country are mobilizing to hold men and women in Congress and State Capital accountable—we hope they listen to these innocent voices and not the lobby of the NRA.

Gun Control advocates see this as a moment to strike while the iron is hot, or perhaps rather while the cooling of an automatic assault weapon (AR-15) might be beaten into some sort of pruning hook. This tragedy happened on Valentine's Day that was also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. As we begin the season of repentance, let us repent for the violence in our society that has accommodated legislation that justifies the proliferation of guns in our country. Lent is also a time to change—to turn around—do we or do our representatives in Washington have the moral courage to turn around and act in legislation that will bring sanity to this awful scourge in our country. How many Columbine's, Newtown's, Virginia Tech's, Binghamton's, Charleston's, Orlando's, Las Vegas', and the list could go on, do we have to witness the anguish of parents, teachers, children for change to take place?

As Catholics we are called to be engaged in the public debate on gun violence prevention. We need to urge our Senators (Schumer & Gillebrand) and Representative (Claudia Tenney) to support policy and legislative measures that A.) ban assault weapons; B.) require in depth background checks for all gun purchased; C.) improve access to mental health care for those who may be prone to violence.

Our churches, schools, malls, movie theatres, dance clubs, concerts, civic associations, should be safe places where people can gather without fear of being victim of gun violence. **IT IS TIME FOR THIS TO END!**

A Special Birthday

Mildred Brush, a longtime parishioner, will be celebrating her **100th Birthday** on Tuesday, March 13th. Over the last few years she has been a resident at **Willow Point Nursing Home**. If you wish to remember her special day with a card you may drop it off at the parish center or drop it into the collection. However, if you wish to send your birthday wishes personally, her address is:

3700 Vestal Road, Vestal NY 13850

Let us make it a special day for Mildred!

Lent 2018

Lent & Family Life

This week at our Wednesday, 7 PM Liturgy we will focus on **Reconciliation in Family Relationships**. Our guest will be **Kathleen Colligan**, a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was married for 56 years to John Colligan until his death 3 years ago. They worked together in Family Life Ministry in the diocese of Syracuse for over 20 years, and traveled extensively throughout the US and Canada offering parish missions and retreats dealing with reconciliation and healing in the family. Kathleen has a BA in Sociology from Binghamton University and an MS in Adult Christian Community Development for Regis University in Denver. She continues to work in Family Life for the diocese of Syracuse.

Prayer for Peace and Comfort After Gun Violence

God, comforter of the broken and disheartened, we come to you plagued with an agonized grief after yet one more outbreak of senseless gun violence. We come to you, people of all ages, ethnicities, and walks of life. We represent one voice, the voice of bitter weeping, echoing throughout our cities and resounding in communities throughout the world. As violence abounds, we sit in the darkness, sitting alongside the suffering on the mourner's bench. We are Rachel, mourning with wordless sobs, the lives of those sacrificed on the altar of violence. We are Rachel, weeping for the wounded, for those whose minds and bodies are etched with painful memories of men's unjustifiable rage. We are Rachel, lamenting with the families who have lost loved ones whose cries of despair join with those from tragedies of gun violence. We are Rachel, perplexed with troubled souls, and searching for answers, seeking to understand what would cause humans to inflict pain on their fellow sisters and brothers. We are Rachel, exasperated, grasping—crying out: How long will this wave of violence consume your people? How long, O God, must we succumb to this perverse violence that crushes the breath and life of countless innocent people? How long, O God, will it take for us to beat our swords into plowshares, And spears into pruning hooks? Compassionate God, we turn to you in our grief. Provide comfort to the broken-hearted, all those who are frightened, despairing, and who are hoping for peace. Help us to become deeply aware of the shared humanity that comes when a sister or brother falls victim to violence. Guide us on a path of understanding and peaceful dialogue. Show us rightful ways to rid our homes, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our cities, and our world of weapons that destroy lives. Grant us the courage to stand together, to join with Rachel in her strident protest of lament calling for an end to gun violence. Empower us to be people of light and hope amid a world painted with darkness and violence. Amen.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of February 25th — Michelle Warne

Week of March 4th — Nancy Oliver

Shelving (Mondays)

February 26th — N. Minch & N.J. Mirabito

March 5th — E. & K. Corcoran

Distribution

March 6th — A. & S. Faughnan, J. Wyatt, M. Quinn,
R. & P. Scales

DeBella Scholarship Information

St. Francis of Assisi Finance Committee, in conjunction with the DeBella Oversight Committee has set aside a sum of money to establish the John M. DeBella College Scholarships. Four, \$500 scholarships will be awarded to four seniors from the parish who plan to attend college in the fall. Applications for these scholarships are available on the tables at the rear of the church. The application is also available on the website. Applications are due by noon, on Friday April 27th. In order to be eligible, applicants must be REGISTERED members of the parish.

February: Fundraising for our food pantry

Why do we have a pantry? Many families are living on the edge and a drop in food stamps (SNAP), high heating bills, loss of a job or illness can push families over the edge, creating a need for assistance. Our pantry and the other 30+ pantries in our county catch them and relieve some of their stress. Our pantry serves people from their early 20s to their mid-80s. NO ONE is ever refused and we try to give them as much as possible without judging and always with a smile. NOT EVERYONE HAS A SAFETY NET OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT. **THANK YOU for all you do for the pantry and those we serve.**

Your name is Trudy Louis and you are 62. You live in a one-room apartment in Sunville. You do not have a kitchen to prepare meals. Your niece and her baby were just evicted from their apartment and they have come to live with you. You just purchased a small microwave to heat milk for the baby, but you do not have a stove or hot plate. You have been living on a \$400 monthly Social Security check, and you are hoping that having your niece around will help to pay some of the bills. The apartment costs \$280 per month and the utilities cost around \$80. Your phone is \$40 a month, and your cable bill is \$45. Your niece makes \$500 a month working at a restaurant. She has to take three buses to get there, and three buses to get back. This costs her about \$210 per month in transportation. You have a medical co-pay of \$100 per month, and the baby's medicines have been costing about \$45.

Disclaimer: This is an example and does not depict a specific family living in Broome County, but provides a representation of many living under similar conditions.

Collection for Homeless Coalition

Faith Formation will be collecting items for the Homeless Coalition again **from now until April 15th.**

These are the needed items:

Bottles of Water or Gatorade

Insulated Socks

Thermal Underwear (L/XL)

Warm Gloves/Hats

Hand/Feet Warmers

Ponchos

Toothbrushes

Wipes

Fast Food Gift Cards

Clif Bars

Cracker Sandwiches

Raisins (or other dried fruit)

Ziploc Bags

Drawstring Bags

Bicycle Cable Locks

* All clothing must be new and must be men's sizes
There is a box just inside the front door of the school on Sundays during Faith Formation. Another box is be at the church and another at the Parish Center.

We added a new item to the list above, "Bicycle Cable Locks". As many homeless have nowhere to put their belongings they are in need of a way to keep their few precious items from being taken.

IGNITE 2018 Catholic Men's Conference

Attention men of the parish, the theme for the 10th Annual IGNITE Men's Conference is 10 Years of Building Your Faith. Again we have 3 tremendous speakers that will challenge all who attend. You can be part of it on **Saturday, March 24, 2018** at the SRC Arena & Event Center in Syracuse, NY for an amazing day that will have a tremendous impact on you. You can register for the IGNITE 2018 Catholic Men's Conference online at www.ignitecatholicmen.org or contact Delores at the Parish Center (607-722-4388). Sign up now. Limited seating is available.

Healing Mass

Fr. Amedeo Guida will celebrate a Healing Mass on **Thursday, March 8th at St. Mary's of the Assumption** (Corner of Court and Fayette St., Binghamton NY) at **7:00PM**. All are welcome!

Ladies of Charity Scholarships

The Ladies of Charity will award two \$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 27, 2018.**

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

March 3rd & 4th, 2018

4:00 P.M. Mass

Lector	Bob & Betsy Shields
EM Host	Dc.Steve
EM Host	John Artman
EM Host	Brenda Artman
EM Cup	Larry Koch
EM Cup	Debby Carden
EM Cup	Dom Lomonaco
EM Cup	Terry Hanifin
Altar Server	Vincent Williams
Altar Server	Madelyn Strnatka
Altar Server	Sarah Shafer

8:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Roy Santa Croce
EM Host	Dc.Steve
EM Host	Shirley McCray
EM Host	Steve Baxter
EM Cup	Kurt or Kelly Mohney
EM Cup	Denise Baxter
EM Cup	Mike Stricek
EM Cup	Tom Phalen
Altar Server	Delaney Wood
Altar Server	Liam Wood
Altar Server	Braeden Krisko

11:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Barb Novitsky
EM Host	Dc.Steve
EM Host	Steve Guth
EM Host	Jim Lewis
EM Cup	Stephanie Stracuzzi
EM Cup	Rose O'Neil
EM Cup	Jules Furrer
EM Cup	Kerri Hamilton
Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
Altar Server	Katelyn Church
Altar Server	Alexander Watkins

Question of the Week

Question for Children: Name or draw a picture of a time you knew that Jesus was with you.

Question for Youth: The disciples had a very intense experience of Jesus on the mountain. Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience? What was it like for you?

Question for Adults: In what ways does Jesus speak today, ways in which you can truly "listen to him?"

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 25th, 2018**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.