

February 28, 2021

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

The Transfiguration of Jesus

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 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

Monday, March 1

12:00 p.m. Vita Mannino by Daughter,
 Fina & Family

Tuesday, March 2

8:00 a.m. Mary Stone by Rita Kocak &
 Kyle Bush

Wednesday, March 3

12:00 p.m. Yvette Heath by St. Francis
 Special Sunshine Committee

Thursday, March 4

8:00 a.m. Sandy Sardella by Family

Friday, March 5

NO MASS

Saturday, March 6, Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. Jim Collins by John & Peg
 Munson

Sunday, March 7, Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Antonio DeLuca 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 (02-22-21)

Regular/Holy Day Envelopes.....\$2,882.00
 Loose Collection.....\$99.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$1,696.00
 Total Collection.....\$4,677.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

FAITH FORMATION

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

Please Note: there is No Winter Carnival or Rice Bowl Prayer Service this year!

Looking ahead:

First Eucharist Mini-Retreat Saturday, March 6th in the Parish Hall 9:30-Noon. We will be baking bread, each child needs an adult with them.

2021 Confirmation will meet Sunday, March 7th 9:30--10:45 AM 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.

2nd Sunday of Lent: Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: Sometimes we think about making big plans for Lenten sacrificing, only to fall behind with work, family, and other responsibilities. We find ourselves in the second week of Lent with no commitment to better prayer lives, doing good deeds, or practicing acts of self-denial. But it is never too late. Catholic Relief Services offers a great resource to parishes and families for praying, fasting, and charitable giving— all in one simple project. What is so great about this project, known as Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), is that it makes all the right connections. When you put the money you would have spent on a new app or that mocha latte you crave into your Rice Bowl box, you participate in a small yet significant way in Jesus' sacrifice. CRS provides prayers to accompany your giving, and it uses the money you would have spent on yourself to help people in need. Participating in ORB is an act of solidarity— standing with your brothers and sisters as one human family. Your challenge this week is to adopt Operation Rice Bowl (which is available in the church or at the parish center). Give up the extra energy drink, candy bar, movie, or trip to the mall. Put the money in your Rice Bowl, knowing it will be sent to CRS. You will be walking the Jesus while making a difference in the lives of others.

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 Dick Talbut.

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 second session in our Lenten series of The Grace of Les Miserables is *“When Grace and Justice Collide: The Story of Javert”*. Last Week the focus was on the *“Grace Well Received”*, with Jean Valjean’s role portraying the power of grace in a person’s life. Now we see how Javert struggles with grace because of his narrow living of justice.

Christians should have firm convictions about justice, just like Javert. But our pursuit of justice differs because of Jesus. Justice is one of the great themes of the Bible, and the commandments were given so the people of God would live “set apart,” or holy before God. Holiness is far more than keeping and enforcing rules. “Righteousness” involves living in a way that honors God in all of our circumstances, even in complex situations where it is difficult to decide what is right. The Scriptures, prayer, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the example of Jesus help us discern the way forward. Our pursuit of justice is recast by a collision with grace.

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 rverecke@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.

Better Meals in Madagascar

In Madagascar, half of all children are undernourished. That means 50% of kids won’t grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. What role has food played in your life? How can you help those who lack access to enough nutritious food.

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

Is it Safe to Return to Church?

It has certainly been a difficult and, at the same time, interesting 12 months. Last year we were just beginning to see the early ripples of the COVID pandemic begin to arrive at St. Francis. The church closed for all activities shortly after St. Patrick's Day last year and did not reopen until well into June. The precautions that we took to allow for our June re-opening were significant, one half of the pews were closed to maintain the required social distancing, masks were required for all entering the church and the building was disinfected after each service. It has certainly been a challenge for everyone associated with the parish.

We have now begun to enter a little different phase of the pandemic, that is, people are now being vaccinated against to COVID-19 virus. The vaccines currently available have been developed by Pfizer and Moderna and have been shown to be 90 plus percent (94.5%) effective against COVID-19. In addition, the side effects of the vaccine generally quite mild. The early availability of the vaccine has been quite limited and people have struggled to find appointments. However the availability is beginning to increase as more and more commercial pharmacies (CVS, RiteAid, Walgreens, Weis Pharmacy and Wegmans) begin to receive vaccine and the hope is that by year end we will have returned to a more normal life style. It is with this hope in mind, that St. Francis would encourage those who have been reluctant to attend Mass at the church to consider a return to both the weekday and weekend Masses. Our attendance at the weekend Masses has been between 50 and 60 people at each of the 3 Masses (150-180 total). We are continuing all of our safety measures at church and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. A good number of us have had a least the first dose of the vaccine and some have had the second dose. This, in addition to the continuation of the safety measures listed above, provides an increasingly safe environment for Mass attendance.

Jesus has said to us many times, "BE NOT AFRAID" and with the arrival of the Lenten season, it is an opportunity for many of us to return to Mass in an increasingly safe environment.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OUR VIRTUAL MASS ONLINE EACH WEEK FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE; AS WE HAVE SINCE THE START OF THIS PANDEMIC!

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

Valid U.S Passports Required

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	

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**

March 6th & 7th, 2021

4:00 P.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

8:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

11:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

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YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton)

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virtually!**

**Children's Liturgy of The Word will be
posted by Noon on Saturdays!**

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
FILE NAME: 06-168
PHONE: **607-722-4388**
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:
Bulletin copy for **February 28th, 2021**

Deliver 250 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.