

March 01, 2026

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

## Parish Mission

# Quenching the Deepest Thirst:

Pope Leo's Call to Become Witnesses of Hope in a World Longing for Living Water



With Guest Speaker Denise Utter

Monday, March 9th  
7:00PM

Tuesday, March 10th  
7:00PM

Tuesday, March 10th Mass at 8:00AM  
9:00AM (Abbreviated Mission)

St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall

### 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  
Sarah Bush/ Calliope Brennan /  
Logan Kliment  
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@syrдио.org

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

Please go online to  
[stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org) to view  
our latest Children's Liturgy.  
We post new videos by  
4:00PM on Saturdays.

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[youtube.com/  
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**Saturday, February 28, Vigil of Sunday**  
 4:00 p.m. Stephen Lucas by Family

**Sunday, March 1, Second Sunday of Lent**  
 10:30 a.m. Michael Brown by Michael & Nancy Hogan

**Monday, March 2**  
 12:00 p.m. Robert Fitzgerald by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Tuesday, March 3**  
 8:00 a.m. Thomas Kerila by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Wednesday, March 4**  
 12:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

**Thursday, March 5**  
 5:00 p.m.. Brian Berry by Marilyn Cashman

**Friday, March 6**  
**NO MASS**

**Saturday, March 7, Vigil of Sunday**  
 4:00 p.m. Milo De Castro by Jeffrey Conklin & Marianne Purcell

**Sunday, March 8, Third Sunday of Lent**  
 10:30 a.m. Kathryn Healy by Family

**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 1PM—3PM and 5PM till 7PM (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 6200 people, requiring a budget of close to \$90,000 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 [stfrancising.org](http://stfrancising.org)**

**Profit & Loss Weekly Summary (02-22-26)**

Ordinary Contributions.....	\$4,807
Loose Cash.....	\$781
Repair & Maintenance.....	\$320
Catherine's Cupboard.....	\$2,334
Catholic Schools.....	\$105
Other.....	\$2,663
Capital Campaign.....	\$75
<b>Total Contributions.....</b>	<b>\$11,085</b>
Ordinary Expenses.....	\$9,784
Repair & Maintenance.....	\$544
Catherine's Cupboard.....	\$970
Capital Improvements.....	\$236
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$11,534</b>
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>(Loss) --449</b>

*Please help keep our Parish going!*

**Faith Formation**

Faith Formation meets as this weekend for Grades K-8

**Next Sunday: Faith Formation for Grades K-8 meet at 9 AM, Confirmation meets 11:30--2 PM in the Parish Hall**

**\*Calendar Update:** March 15th Faith Formation will meet as usual, there will **NOT** be a Family Event.

**Looking Ahead:**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**5th & 6th Grade Mini-Retreat**  
**March 22nd from 1:00—3:00PM**  
**in the Parish Hall.**  
**Registration will be required.**  
**More information to follow.**

**Children's Choir Schedule**

**Sunday Rehearsals (11:45am-12:30pm):**  
 February 22nd  
 March 1st    March 8th    March 15th

**Saturday Rehearsals (3:00pm-3:45pm):**  
 March 21st    March 28th

**Deacon Steve's Reminders**

1. The Holy Hour is continuing each Friday in Lent at Noon to 1PM in the Church.
2. The Stations of the Cross will be offered on the Fridays of Lent at 7 pm in the Church. A 6 pm pot-luck dinner will be held at 6 pm each week before the Stations in the Church Hall. Please no meat dishes.
3. Any child who has made his/her First Communion is eligible to be an Altar Server. Please contact Deacon Steve at either 607-648-2155 or [Steveblabac@yahoo.com](mailto:Steveblabac@yahoo.com) for training.

**\*ATTENTION: Lectors, EMs & Altar Servers\***

It is time again to make the schedule for April, May, and June. If there are weekends when you are **not** available to Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Serve, let us know. Call Ed and Cindy White at 607-222-4703 or 607-206-3469 **BEFORE MARCH 23RD!**

## Lenten Liturgies of Repentance and Lamentation

**Thursdays in March  
5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th  
5:00PM in the Church**

Lent is a time to examine not only personal sin but also the reality of social sin. Lent is time dedicated to evaluation and reflection, conversion, and return to God. But what does it mean to truly embrace an examination of conscience at a time and in a country where the social sins of deportation of immigrants, poverty, racism, and war are so present? As we journey through this season let us come together as people of faith to recognize our social sins, lament the pain and suffering, and seek God's healing reconciliation. It is time to have a HOLY awakening to JUSTICE anew this Lent. It is time to live the EASTER life of promise and HOPE.

### March 5th

**Liturgy of Lament for the Injustice  
to our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters**

### March 12th

**Liturgy of Lament for the Sin of Poverty**

### March 19th

**Liturgy of Lament for the Sin of Racism**

### March 26th

**Liturgy of Lament for the Sin of Violence and War**

Beginning this coming Thursday, March 5th and for the following Thursdays until March 26th, we will be celebrating liturgies in spirit of lament and repentance. In this Lenten season we are called to take time to lament and repent especially where we see injustice and the suffering of God's people. Lament and repent are deeply rooted in the biblical tradition and something we may not deeply appreciate. We see this regularly in the Prophets as they raise their voices and cry out to God. Biblical lament almost always rises from injustice: The poor exploited; The stranger rejected; The innocent suffering; Violence unanswered. With the prophets we cry out, "How long, Lord?!" Lament refuses to normalize injustice. It says: This is not how God intends the world to be.

So, in this spirit our liturgies will focus on this theme praying with the focus on the injustices before us. Our first of our four Liturgies will focus on the unjust deportation of immigrants. Sr. Brigid has been very involved with many of immigrants in our area and will share about her experience and how we can be involved.

Our liturgy will be here in the church, Thursday March 5th 5pm Lament is to express sorrow, but it also leads to Hope. Lament is the beginning of justice because it breaks our indifference. If we as Church do not lament, we risk becoming comfortable where God is not comfortable.

In this spirit and hope let us come together to pray!



## FAITH & FORGIVENESS

A Conversation with Diane Foley

mother of slain journalist James Foley and  
author, with National Book Award winner Colum McCann.

**MARCH  
24TH**

**7:00PM**

AMERICAN MOTHER IS THE HEART-RENDING STORY OF DIANE FOLEY WHO, IN THE COURSE OF CONFRONTING HER SON'S KILLER, BRAVES HER WAY INTO THE ELEMENTAL HEART OF VIOLENCE AND FORGIVENESS, BRINGING US ON A JOURNEY OF STRENGTH, RESILIENCE, AND RECONCILIATION.

"A BOOK THAT WILL SHAKE YOUR SOUL OUT." -- STING

"ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS I HAVE READ IN MANY, MANY YEARS, IF NOT MY LIFE."  
--ANDERSON COOPER

"A SPECTACULAR TALE OF VIOLENCE AND FORGIVENESS." -- SALMAN RUSHDIE



**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH HALL**  
1049 CHENANGO STREET, BINGHAMTON, NY 13901

## Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl

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. When you put the money you would have spent on that mocha latte you crave into your Rice Bowl box, you participate 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 across the world. Your challenge this week is to adopt Operation Rice Bowl if you haven't already. Give up the extra energy drink, candy bar, or movie. Put the money in your Rice Bowl. You will be walking with Jesus while making a difference in the lives of others.

### Empowering Growth in Ghana

By supporting CRS Rice Bowl, you help parents and caregivers in Ghana to receive training in health, nutrition and early childhood development. That means, young children in these communities are better able to thrive and meet critical milestones in their growth. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to read this week's Story of Hope.

**Catherine's Cupboard Distribution  
Volunteer Schedule  
March 3rd**

**1:00—3:00PM**                      **5:00PM—Until Served**

M. & D. Cole, and  
K. & T. Barnhart

K. Dotson, G. Pendleton,  
G. Thompson, M. Peters



CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD

**DONATION  
PAMPHLET**

Please feel free to take a Catherine's Cupboard donation pamphlet in the back of the church or at the parish center. This pamphlet has some great information about our food pantry as well as many easy ways to contribute to the pantry. There are numerous ways YOU can help those in need right here in our community. The pantry relies on people like you to do your part! Take or request one to be sent to you!

**Hospital Visitation**

Please remember, if you or another parishioner gets admitted to one of the local hospitals and you wish to be visited by Fr. Tim you **MUST tell someone or call the parish center**. You should indicate that you are belong to St. Francis of Assisi parish and that you wish to be visited by Fr. Tim or any Clergy member.

**When Planning for your Funeral...**

Please be sure to share with your children or whom-ever may be overseeing your funeral arrangements when you pass that you wish to have a funeral liturgy in the church. Even though your son/daughter may not be active, participating Catholics does not mean that you should not have a proper funeral at church.

**Tax Information For Donations**

Those who made a \$250 or more donation to St. Francis of Assisi will be receiving a tax document in the mail to claim your donations. If you have already received a document just disregard.

**Online Giving**

Would you like to save paper and time when giving monetary donations to us? We have the option of online giving for your convenience. Visit our website [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org) and click "online giving" in the menu. It's easy to set up using your checking account, credit, or debit card for automatic or one-time donation options and you choose where the money goes. The following accounts are available for donations:

***Ordinary Contribution, HOPE Appeal  
Repair, Maintenance, & Utilities,  
Catholic School Support, Catherine's Cupboard,  
Special Sunshine, Capital Campaign, STAR Fund,  
Sound System and Creation Care Team***

**Check it out!**

**For Potential Godparents and Sponsors  
for Baptisms or Confirmation**

Anyone looking to be a Godparent or Sponsor to a Confirmation Candidate **MUST** be a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi to be able to get a letter of certification. This is the only way that the Church can verify you are a practicing Catholic. Please call Delores at the Parish Center (722-4388) for questions.

**\*IMPORTANT\***

**ATTENTION PARISHIONERS:  
Safe Environment Training**

**AS OF DECEMBER 2025, YOU MAY NOT SERVE  
AS A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER IF YOU ARE  
NOT SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINED**

**All choir members, cantors and musicians must be  
Safe Environment trained by March 31, 2026.  
You must register online for this training.**

**Upcoming Safe Environment Trainings**

**Initial Safe Environment Training**

† **Wednesday, March 18th: 6:00PM @ St. James, Johnson City**

**Recertification Training**

† **Monday, March 16th: 6:00PM @ Our Lady of Sorrows, Vestal**

† **Wednesday, April 15th: 6:00PM @ St. James, Johnson City**

**Pre-registration is required** for all sessions. Walk-ins and late arrivals **will not be permitted**. Registration for training sessions will close one (1) business day prior to the training session.

**Register:** ([www.syracusediocese.org/safe-environment/](http://www.syracusediocese.org/safe-environment/))

**PARISH REGISTRATION**

Our warmest welcome to all! We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you, celebrating with us, whether you're a long-time resident or newly arrived in the Parish. Please check the appropriate box and place in the collection basket or return to the Parish Center. *We thank God that you're with us.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- New Parishioner, send registration form
- Change of address or phone number
- Temporarily away. Stop envelopes
- Moving, please remove from Parish Roster

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

**March 7th & 8th, 2026**

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Kylie Murphy
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	McKenzie Murphy
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Tim Heller
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Marge Mangan
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Judy Daniels
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Anne Smilnak
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	TBD
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Patrick Doyle
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	William Keough
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Everette Ciaccio
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Natalie Miller
10:30 Mass	Lector	George Clark
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Mary Mullaney
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Jim Clune
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Ann Clune
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Adam Colvin
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Nick Norton

**Children's Liturgy Schedule**

**March 1st**— Ede & Sarah Blabac

**March 8th**— Dorene Alecia & Amy Drake

**March 15th**— Ashley Cook & Maria Kirk

**March 22nd**— Ede Blabac & Melissa Weber

**\*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 sign up form (on table in the back of the church) and drop it in a collection basket.**

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** Share about a time when you felt especially close to God or Jesus.

**Question for Youth:** Have you ever had a “mountain top” experience where you felt exceptionally close to God? How was your life changed by that experience?

**Question for Adults:** Perhaps this reading calls us, not to cling to the familiar, but to leave the comforts of the parish and reach out to the world around us. In your neighborhood or community, who is waiting to hear the Good News?