

March 05, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

LENTEN VIDEO SERIES (#2)

March 14th

Screenings
at 2:00PM
& 7:00PM

St. Francis of Assisi
Parish Hall
(1049 Chenango St.,
Binghamton)



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 Kliment
Nick Norton
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@syrdio.org

Website:

www.stfrancisbing.org

Please go online to
stfrancisbing.org to view
our latest weekend reflection.
We will be posting new
videos by 4:00PM on
Saturdays.

Also find the videos on our
Facebook (search
"@stfrancisbing")
Twitter (search
"@stfrancisbing")
YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi
Binghamton)

Follow us on FB & Twitter:
@stfrancisbing



Saturday, March 4, Vigil of Sunday
4:00 p.m. Kathy Tinder by Kathy Dwyer & Friends

Sunday, March 5, Second Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m. Liturgy for the People

Monday, March 6

12:00 p.m. Mary Savo by St. Francis' Choir

Tuesday, March 7

NO MASS

Wednesday, March 8

12:00 p.m. Dominic Lomonaco by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Thursday, March 9

8:00 a.m. Peg Youket by Arlene Peters

Friday, March 10

NO MASS

Saturday, March 11, Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. 2nd Anniv. John Krinik by Mary Jane & John Paske

Sunday, March 12, Third Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m. John Bertussi by Ginny Thompson

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 (02-19-23)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$3,098.00
Loose Collection.....	\$202.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,711.00
Total Collection.....	\$5,011.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Faith Formation

Faith Formation this week for grades K-Confirmation with opening prayer at 9:00AM in the Parish Hall.

Looking Ahead:

- † Sunday, March 12th Lenten Faith Formation Program for grades K-9, parents are invited to attend.
- † Sunday, March 19th after 10:30 Mass, First Eucharist Sharing Meal and Pew Banner project. Please be sure to bring personal mementos for the pew banner that will serve as your family pew marker at First Eucharist. Sharing lunch will be after pew banners are completed.
- † Sunday, March 19th NO Faith Formation at St Francis for grades 7-8-9. There will be a mini-retreat at St. Patrick's for everyone in these grades from 1PM--5PM, which includes mass at 4PM. Please refer to the flyer that was sent home and emailed for registration information.

Earthquake Relief Collection

An earthquake relief collection will be taken on the weekend of March 18th/19th. The death toll has reached over 46,000 people in Turkey and Syria since earthquakes shattered these countries nearly 2 weeks ago. The recovery efforts have been slow and the devastation is overwhelming. The generous people of our diocese have been asking, how can we help? Catholic Relief Services will support emergency relief efforts led by local partners in both Syria and Turkey with Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Syria in Aleppo and Lattakia—where extensive damage has been reported—and other local partners. Already in Turkey, Caritas Internationalis, in cooperation with authorities, is bringing displaced people to safe, open spaces, and distributing hot meals and clothing. Parishes are invited to take up a second collection for relief efforts. Checks of your total collection should be made out to the Diocese of Syracuse or St. Francis of Assisi with Earthquake Relief-CRS in the memo.

ATTENTION: Lectors, EMs & Altar Servers

It is time again to submit your dates of unavailability for the months of April, May, and June. If there are weekends when you are not available to Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Serve, please let us know. Please call Ed and Cindy White at 607-648-2784 or by cell 607-206-3469 **BEFORE MARCH 13TH!** Thank You!

Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday at 3:00PM throughout Lent

Prayers . . .

Please remember all of our parishioners who are in hospitals and nursing homes and our home-bound. Also, please pray for our deceased parishioners and loved ones.



Lent 2023

Lent is a season for personal and social conversion to live our lives with greater authenticity, depth, and meaning. A time to change from old ways of living to New Life in and with the Risen Christ. The Lenten Season focuses on the three spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This period of grace is a time for sacrifice and spiritual reflection preparing us for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Prayer in the Lenten Season can be taking time more regularly for personal prayer. An aid in this attempt can be using the **Black Books** that have a reflection for each day of Lent. These books will be available in the church. One simple way to enhance your Lenten experience is to participate in the CRS Rice Bowl Program. During Lent, families across the United States use a Rice Bowl—a small cardboard box—to collect alms/donations. Each Rice Bowl also comes with a calendar that guides you through the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections, recipes, and stories from communities and people around the world.

As Catholics, the spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving guide us in daily reflection on our own lives as we strive to deepen our relationship with God and neighbor. Lent is a time to look outward and inward. It is a journey in mercy.

Our **parish Lenten focus** will be on the reality of social sin. The real danger of social sin or structural sin is that our blindness prevents us from recognizing it. How can we recognize structural/social sin?

These sins would be any “action or omission against God, against others, the community, and the environment. It is a sin against future generations and is manifested in the acts and habits of pollution and destruction of the harmony of the environment.” (Pope Francis)

This year during Lent instead of a book club or Bible study, our parish invites you to examine social sin in our world via our video series. We have already examined our first documentary, “*The Letter*”, on February 28th.

The next 3 video screenings will take place soon!

- ***Going Home Like a Shooting Star*** follows the life of Sr. Thea Bowman, who lovingly showed the church and the world the ways that racism is entrenched in our social systems.

- ***After Buffalo, After Uvalde, After Tulsa***, this conversation on gun violence responds to the question: What does Catholic Social teaching require to change racist attitudes and structures in our country.

- ***“Who is my Neighbor?”*** addressing the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis’ personal call to encounter, friendship and solidarity to all in our lives, community, and world.

Video presentations will take place in our parish hall on Tuesday’s **March 14th, March 28th, and April 4th** at 2 and 7 pm and will be followed by group discussion. stfrancisbing.org for more.

Congratulations

A number of our High School students have had some great success as well as state-wide recognition to their accomplishments on stage, in the water, and on the mat. On the mat for wrestling, Chenango Forks senior, Tyler Ferrara, retained his place becoming a 2-time NYS Champion. He has an undefeated season, and also was the champion in the prestigious Beast of the East Tournament. Wrestling runs in the family with his brother, Ryan, showing impressive results as well in Albany.

In the water the Chenango Valley Swim Team had impressive results in Watkins Glen for the NYS Championship. Tyler Schultz set records in both events he swam as well as breaking his own record for the breaststroke. Also, Jonah Rice, Gabe Tallant, and Brendan Kliment showed impressive time in their meets.

On stage was last weekend’s Chenango Valley HS play, *Freaky Friday*. It was a great show with good music, and a wonderful cast. Three of our parishioners has significant roles, Olivia Santa Croce, Kaida Warwick, and Mary Bush. Their performance was fantastic in the roles they each played. This play was the end of an era for the Santa Croce family as Olivia graduates this year. Fulfilling important roles were the crew members who made it all happen for each scene. Olivia Blaise and Abraham Watkins were right on hand to see it was done. Congratulations to all of you! We are all proud of you!

2nd Sunday of Lent: Creation Care Tip

During the Lenten season, we traditionally focus on three aspects of our faith: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Consider how these could be oriented toward care for creation. Pray for those impacted by pollution, drought, and other negative impacts on the environment. Fast from some behaviors that contribute to these kinds of impacts. Give alms to an organization that works for the care of the environment or serves those in need because of environmental changes.

2nd Sunday of Lent: 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, Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). When you put the money you would have spent on that mocha latte you crave into your Rice Bowl, you participate in Jesus’ sacrifice. It uses the money you would have spent on yourself to help people in need across the world. 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. Give up the extra drink, candy bar, or movie, or trip to the mall. Put the money in your Rice Bowl, knowing it will be sent to CRS. You will be walking with Jesus while making a difference in the lives of others.

Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

March 7th— B. Grace, R. O'Neil, and R. Rounds

DeBella Scholarship: Due April 27th

DeBella Scholarship Applications are available on the website. Graduating Seniors are encouraged to fill out and return an application for a grant. **Applications are due 4 PM, Thursday, April 27th.** Applications are available on our website,

stfrancisbing.org/scholarship-forms-and-contests

Ladies of Charity Scholarships

The Ladies of Charity will award three \$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 19, 2023.**

Rosary and Religious Item Donations

The Sisters of St. Joseph are helping the immigrants, homeless, and those who need a Christian reminder by giving them rosaries and religious items. If anyone would like to donate rosaries or other religious items, there is a basket on the back table of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

A day of Fun, Learning and Sacraments!

LORD

OPEN MY EYES

Sunday, March 19

1:00pm to 5:00pm including 4:00pm Mass

7th, 8th & 9th Grade

(Please register by March 5th)

St. Patrick's Church

58 Oak St., Binghamton 13905

Drop off & pick-up: Use gym entrance.

Contact Maria Kirk Mkirk@syrdio.org for more info!

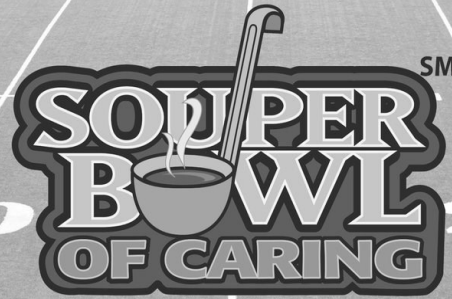
COST IS FREE!

Register here:



SCAN ME

WE RAISED



\$1,423.50

THANK YOU FROM CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Catherine's Cupboard would like to acknowledge and give thanks for all who donated during the "Souper bowl of Caring". Also, a huge thank you to Chenango Valley's 5th & 6th grade basketball teams who recently has a food drive. Finally, thank you to those who continue to donate throughout the year; it really helps us feed our neighbors. Without YOUR HELP we could not do what we do. SO THANK YOU!!!

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 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 are the accounts we have available for donation:

*Ordinary Contribution,
Repair, Maint. & Utilities,
Catholic School Support,
Catherine's Cupboard,
Special Sunshine,
Capital Campaign,
the Southern Tier Afghan Resettlement Fund,
and Creation Care Team*

Hospital Visitation

Please remember, if you or another parishioner gets admitted to either Binghamton General Hospital or UHS Wilson Medical Center and you wish to be visited by Fr. Tim you need to tell someone. You should indicate that you are Catholic and belong to St. Francis of Assisi parish and that you wish to be visited by Fr. Tim or another Clergy member if you wish.

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.

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
March 11th & 12th, 2023

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Logan Kliment
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Mackenzie Murphy
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Ed White
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Peggy Munson
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Steve Baxter
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Denise Baxter
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Sydney Keough
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	William Keough
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Lector	Roy Santa Croce Jr.
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Pat Clark
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Virginia Thompson
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Jules Furrer

Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule

10:30 AM Mass

March 5: Ede & Sarah Blabac

March 12: Cindy & Kathryn or Lauren White

VIRTUAL LITURGIES

Please go online to
stfrancisbing.org
to watch our latest Sunday Mass or Liturgy
of the Word as well as Children's Liturgy
videos.

We will continue to post new videos for
reflection by 4:00PM on Saturdays.

Also find the videos on our
Facebook (search "@stfrancisbing")
YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton)

**You can still view children's liturgy
virtually!**

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 ex-
ceptionally 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?

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 **March 5th, 2023**

Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

March 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Rev. Timothy J. Taugher, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Fasting to detach

"Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their 'shame.'"

Their minds are occupied with earthly things"

(Philippians 3:19). We tend to eat and drink so freely that we forget God, who gives us that which we eat and drink.

Fasting, especially during Lent, helps us to detach from the things of this world and remember Him. Catholics are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on Fridays.

Believe in God

Believing in God means more than just saying He exists. Believers serve God, give time to Him, and put Him first. Spend more time in prayer this Lent, shed some possessions, perform works of charity and you will act on your baptismal promises.

"Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments!"

(Joel 2:12).



Preparing hearts for Easter joy

Lent is the Church's gift to us to help prepare our hearts for Easter by purifying our hearts, opening up to love, and putting love into action.

Purifying our hearts: Every heart yearns for love, yet only God's love can truly satisfy that yearning. The goal of Lenten penance is to purify ourselves of whatever blocks us from God's love or closes our heart to others. This can include excessive social media, materialism, gossip, or sinful habits like lust or deceit. From what does your heart need to detach so there's room for God and others?

Opening up to love: Mother Teresa

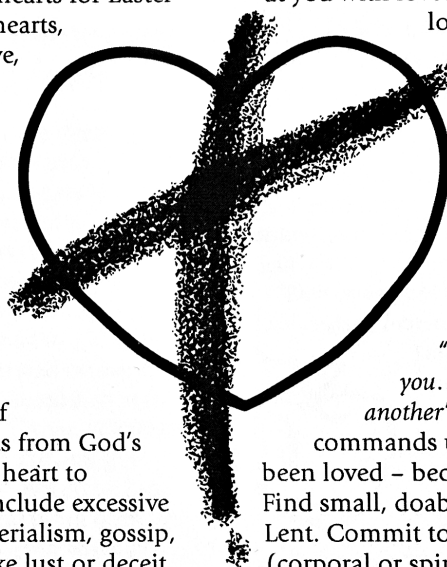
wrote, "Have you seen...how [Jesus] looks at you with love?... Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you?" Strive to know God's heart.

Seek Him, not just His gifts. Only by receiving God's love first, beginning with prayer, can we share it with others.

Put love in action:

"Even as I have loved you...you also love one another" (John 13:34). God

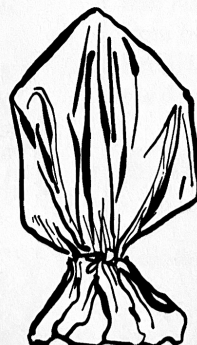
commands us to love as we've been loved – because we are loved. Find small, doable ways to serve during Lent. Commit to a Work of Mercy (corporal or spiritual). Practice patience. Give the gift of listening. True joy at Easter comes from loving Christ and imitating Him. Strive to do this throughout Lent and beyond.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Many churches cover statues and crucifixes in red or purple cloth for the final weeks in Lent, traditionally known as "Passiontide." The veils are visual cues that we're entering into a solemn time and remind us that sin separates us from God.

Why do Catholics cover statues during Lent?



This helps to build anticipation for Easter when the statues are unveiled and we are restored to Him.

Lastly, the veils symbolize that heavenly glories are hidden in this life, but will be revealed when we enter eternity.

Cultivating a "holy hospitality"

Jesus asked us to make others feel welcome, seen and loved while they're with us. "Holy hospitality" is vital to building community around Christ. Try these tips:

Sit and listen: When Jesus visited with his dear friends, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, He observed that Martha was so distracted and focused on her own concerns that she merely served Jesus instead of connecting with Him personally (Luke 10:41-42). Prepare for guests like Martha did, but enjoy them like Mary – with complete attention.



Fill your conversations with faith: A "holy hospitality" is a faith-informed one. The Samaritan woman's life changed when she encountered Christ (John 4:14-15) because He told her the Good News of salvation. Ensure your conversations are uplifting and reflect your hope and optimism for eternity.

Open your circle: Jesus ate with tax collectors and public sinners – those considered unpleasant.

"Holy hospitality" means your social circle is open to the socially awkward, the frustrating coworker, the elderly neighbor who lives alone, because Christ is in all we serve (Matthew 25:40).

from Scripture

John 11:1-45, Generous trust, generous faith

In this Gospel passage, a beloved friend of Jesus' was fatally ill and his sisters sent urgent word to Jesus to come immediately. Jesus delayed, and Lazarus died, but this would not be His ultimate fate. Jesus had something else in mind for Lazarus and his family.

When He finally arrived, Martha didn't demand Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, although she acknowledged His power to do so. Even though her brother's body had been in the tomb for days and the decay had begun in earnest, her trust in Jesus was complete. She knew that God's love

is more powerful than death and left the outcome in His hands.

God never leaves us in our troubles but uses them to draw us closer to Him.

Martha's generous trust in God's will rested on her close friendship with Christ. Whatever He thought would be best

was best. God's timing is not ours, yet everything He does – even when He does it – is for our good. Martha's trust in Jesus was rewarded in the most magnificent way. Ours will be, too.



Q & A How can I overcome the temptations in my life?

Jesus knows that the battle for holiness is challenging in a fallen world, so He gave St. Faustina Kowalska twenty-five strategies to help (*Divine Mercy in My Soul*, #1760). Here is a sample:

"Do not bargain with any temptation; lock yourself immediately in My Heart."



Don't assume you are strong enough for a "little" temptation. Run immediately to the refuge of Jesus' sacred heart for protection.

"Bear with yourself with great patience." Saints aren't made overnight. See yourself as God does – beloved. Be patient and keep trying.

"Do not neglect interior mortifications." Withhold a biting remark, give up a luxury for the day, cut down on screen time. Sacrifices for love are powerful.

"Shun murmurs like a plague." Gossip is never in God's service. False accusations and rumors that hurt reputations are Satan's favorite tools. Don't indulge.

"Always fight with the deep conviction that I am with you." Our courage comes from being rooted in God (John 15:5). Recall God's loving presence throughout the day: "Jesus, I trust in you!"

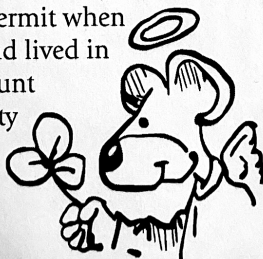
Feasts & Celebrations

March 9 – St. Frances of Rome (1440). Although she preferred a life of service, St. Frances' wealthy parents required that she marry. With her sister-in-law, Vannoza, St. Frances formed a group of women dedicated to serving the poor, all while caring for her family.

March 22 – St. Deogratias of Carthage (456): As Bishop of Carthage, St. Deogratias is best known for aiding slaves captured by the Vandal king, Geiseric. He ransomed hundreds of captives and sheltered them in two large cathedrals.

March 25 – The Annunciation of the Lord (1st century). The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the mother of God. Even at her young age, she had confidence in God's grace and trusted in His wisdom.

March 30 – St. John Climacus (606): Born in 525 near Syria, St. John became a hermit when he was sixteen and lived in the region of Mount Sinai. A community of monks formed around him and elected him abbot.



Our Mission

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