

March 07, 2021

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

LEN
fast . pray . give



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 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, 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 De Luca by Family

Monday, March 8
 12:00 p.m. Joe Di Mascio by the Stracuzzi Family

Tuesday, March 9
 8:00 a.m. Barbara Townsend by Florence Kakusian

Wednesday, March 10
 12:00 p.m. Angie Ritter by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Thursday, March 11
 8:00 a.m. Betty Smith by Joan McManus & Family

Friday, March 12
NO MASS

Saturday, March 13, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Lucille Marsili by St. Francis' Bible Babes

Sunday, March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Celia Worden by St. Francis

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 for grades K-Confirmation meets this weekend 9:30-10:45.

Looking ahead:

March 14th there is no LEAP event this year. Faith Formation for grades K-9 will meet as usual next weekend March 14th 9:30-10:45 AM.

Congratulations to Our Talented Swimmers!

Congratulations to Chenango Valley swim team who placed second overall in their Section IV Class B meet winning 10 of 12 events.

Specifically, we wish to congratulate our young parishioners who participated including; Tyler Schultz, Eli Lanfear, Peyton Broderick, Andrew Rice, and Jonah Rice.

Congratulations to Chenango Forks swim team who WON their Section IV Class C Championship.

Congratulations to our talented parishioners; Brendan Heaney and Thomas Kapinus!

We have some gifted people here at our Parish and we are proud of your accomplishments!

RCIA Announcement

The Pandemic is almost a year old and we are still masking and distancing (Good on those two things!) And some of us have been lucky enough to get both shots (but that doesn't make us invulnerable!) However, we must keep going and RCIA is one of those things we need to do. So, if anyone has heard from anyone that they have decided to explore the Catholic Faith, please don't keep it hidden! Let Deacon Steve, or Father Tim, or Mrs. Kirk or Delores in the office know. Any of us would be most happy to talk about the Faith and answer questions. Deacon Steve, 607-648-2155 or steveblabac@yahoo.com
 Thank you.

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.

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.

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 have made Stations of the Cross available to you virtually on our website and Facebook page. The Stations this year will be entitled Stations of Hope and are available now whenever you wish to view them. Visit our website or find the Stations of the Cross video on our Facebook "St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton".

Sacrament of Reconciliation

As we journey through this Lenten Season, it is an opportunity to reflect on the state of affairs in our lives. It is a penitential season, an opportunity to examine our consciences, and embrace the gift of God's Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I realize it has been difficult over the course of this year to take advantage of this sacrament because of our restrictions due to COVID-19. I am offering two options for you to receive this Sacrament: the first is that I will be available every Saturday at 3PM in the church; or second, you can call the Parish Center (722-4388) to arrange for another time that works best for you. I have received both shots of the vaccination so I feel good to offer this now. As we prepare to renew the vows of our baptism, and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, take time to share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

— Fr. Tim

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 rvereecke@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.

3rd Sunday of Lent: Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: In the First Reading (Exodus 20:1-17) for this Sunday, we hear the story of God giving the Ten Commandments to the Israelites. Did you know that many, if not most, of the justice teachings in the Catechism of the Catholic Church are found in the section on the commandments, particularly commandment seven—you shall not steal? This is because the Seventh Commandment reminds us of how important it is to be other-centered and to respect their rights and property. Jesus' whole life was a witness to living for others. As disciples, we are called to follow Jesus' example. Your challenge this week is to choose one thing you can do each day which is totally other-centered, something which has no direct benefits for you. Do it not because it makes you feel good or makes you proud, but simply because it's what God is calling you to do.

CRS Collection Next Week

Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and help **Jesus in disguise**.

Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

NO TRANSPORTATION

Shelving (Mondays)

NO SHELIVING

Distribution

March 16th— R Rounds, B Grace, M Lyons

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 13th & 14th, 2021

4:00 P.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

8:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

11:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

Please go online to
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We will continue to post new videos of our weekend liturgies by 4:00PM on Saturdays, for those who wish to stay home for health and safety concerns.

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!**

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

Question of the Week

Question for Children: Share one way in which you “honor your father and mother.”

Question for Youth: Jesus was angry – as we all get at times. When is your anger a good thing? When is it not?

Question for Adults: As you hear the Commandments proclaimed today, which one of them really strikes you?

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 7th, 2021**

Deliver 250 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

March 2021

St. Francis of Assisi Church
Rev. Timothy J. Taugher, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

The Eucharist is now

During the celebration of the Eucharist, the past action of



Jesus becomes present. It is a liturgical representation of His sacrifice. Not merely a commemoration, Mass makes the sacrifice truly present. When we participate in the Eucharist, the past becomes present to us and we are present at the saving event.

Live generously

In a world that judges people based on their accumulated wealth, it is easy to notice what we don't have and to wish for it. Lent, however, invites us to live in gratitude for what we do have. Gratitude then gives rise to generosity – sharing God's love and gifts with others. Generous people are encouraging, positive, and appreciative. During Lent, notice and appreciate God's gifts and share them with others.

Always ready

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy"
(Pope Francis).



Refocus in the desert

Lent may be a time of penance and sacrifice but it doesn't have to be a time of sadness. In fact, the season brings an opportunity to become the people God created us to be.

This time in our spiritual desert can be a chance to simplify, focus, and concentrate.

Simplify. Look for areas in your life where there are excesses. When we have too much of something, it can take extra time to sort, store, and maintain the supply beyond what we need.

For example, is your clothes closet packed too tightly? Is your pantry overstocked? Can you clean out and give some gently used items to the poor? You'll spend less mental and physical energy

if you keep only what you need.

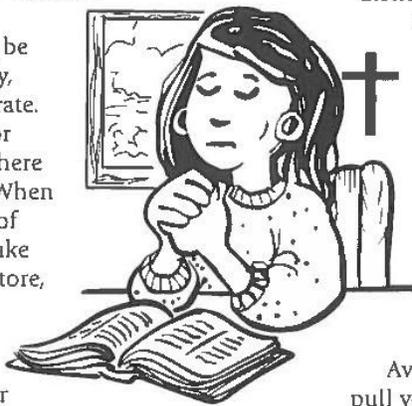
Focus. During Lent, we are called to spend more intentional time with God. To help, consider fasting from

distractions. Limiting social media exposure, controlling time spent working, or turning off the cell phone for periods of time can help you find space to add more prayer and Scripture reading to your day.

Concentrate.

Avoid influences that pull you away from God.

"... But worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the Word, and it bears no fruit" (Mark 4:19). Resolve to live a life that pleases God.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics fast and abstain?

In preparing to begin His public ministry, Jesus spent forty days and nights in the wilderness of the desert. In the starkness of the desert, He strengthened His connection to his Father. God's love was all Jesus needed.



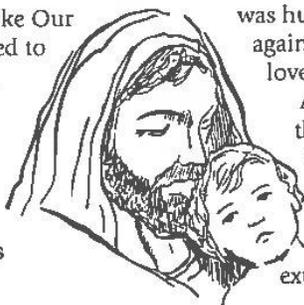
Fasting and abstinence also help us strengthen our connection to

God. They are ways of expressing sorrow for the ways we stray from God's friendship. By denying ourselves material comforts, we increase our dependence on God and our appreciation for His gifts.

St. Joseph – ordinary or extraordinary?

Why did Jesus choose Joseph to be His father on Earth? St. Joseph wasn't rich, powerful, or even sinless like Our Lady. Born ordinary, virtue and grace combined to make Joseph remarkable. In fact, by choosing him, Jesus gave us a model we can follow.

A man of faith. In spite of persecution and societal pressure, Joseph answered the call to live the two greatest commandments. He put God first and did all that He asked, no matter how incredible. And, Joseph put his family's needs before his own.



A husband. He respected that his primary vocation was husband to Mary. In fact, public opinion was against him when took pregnant Mary as his wife. He loved her anyway.

A father. As a devout Jew, he knew the psalms and the law of Moses. He didn't just teach his son a trade, Jesus was taught to be a faithful Son of God.

Like us, St. Joseph began ordinary but cooperated with God's grace to become extraordinary. That is possible for us, too.

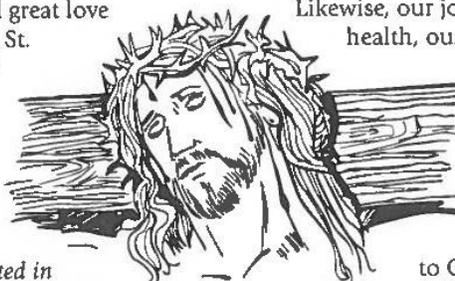
from Scripture

Mark 14:1-15, 47, Make Jesus' Passion our own.

It's even more important to share in his suffering and great love during his Passion. St. Paul said, *"We hold this treasure in earthen vessels ... always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body"* (2 Corinthians 4:7-10).

He means that everything that happens in our lives – the good and the bad – can be part of our bond with Jesus.

Every day our frustrations, our fears, our loneliness and temptations can become ways in which we share in the



suffering and death of Christ.

Likewise, our joys, our good health, our family and friends are all important ways to share in the joy of his Resurrection. The point is to offer everything to Christ.

St. Alphonsus wrote, "We should consider not so much the sorrows Jesus suffered as the love with which he bore them." Disciples of Jesus can have the same attitude toward suffering as he did and can share in his joy of Resurrection.

Q & A What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Wouldn't it be amazing to be face to face with Jesus? Imagine sitting with Him, talking together, thanking Him for His gifts, asking for favors. In many churches throughout the world,

Catholics are able to do just that in Perpetual Adoration.

Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion that offers the opportunity to be in the presence of Jesus, under the appearance of the Eucharistic Host – the Blessed Sacrament.

Placed in a monstrance for display, all can see and pray in the presence of Our Lord. Parishes with Perpetual Adoration chapels are able to host adoration twenty-four hours a day. Other parishes offer periods of time adorers can worship in person.

"Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator. It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Savior who sets us free from evil" (CCC, #2628). There are many ways to adore God, but in Adoration, we are truly in Jesus' presence adoring him in person.



Feasts & Celebrations

March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 600). St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy.

March 17 – St. Patrick of Ireland (c.461). Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but later returned to become the bishop of Ireland and is credited for having

established the Church there.

March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 25 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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