

March 8, 2020

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



 CRS RICE BOWL
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

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
Agnes Miller
Housekeeping
Dominick Lomonaco
Nicholas Norton
Sacristans

Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday:

7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Friday: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

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, March 7, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Chris Brown by Annie Connor

Sunday, March 8, Second Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Raymond James Denniston by Ron & Catherine Hamilton

Monday, March 9
 8:00 a.m. Dick Murphy by Marge Mangan

Tuesday, March 10
 8:00 a.m. Mike Lynch by the Jeanson Family

Wednesday, March 11
 8:00 a.m. William Murray by Dorothy Pecha

Thursday, March 12
 8:00 a.m. Yvette Heath by Sandra Brick

Friday, March 13
NO MASS

Saturday, March 14, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Maurice Nash by Mirtie & Nelson Sessler

Sunday, March 15, Third Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Ann Haskell 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 (03-01-20)

Regular Envelopes.....\$5,341.00
 Loose Collection.....\$376.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$482.00
 Total Collection.....\$6,199.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

Faith Formation

Faith Formation for Grades K-9 will meet in the church at 9:30 for Opening Prayer/Announcements.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Faith Formation March 15th. Our Thrive Event on Thursday, March 12th will replace Faith Formation next weekend.

Looking Ahead

The Thrive event "How great the Father's Love" will take place on **Thursday, March 12th, 6:30-8 PM**. Families with children in Grades 5 and older should plan to attend this evangelical evening which focuses on Contemporary music, testimony, praise and hospitality. It will be a powerful evening. Make it a priority to attend.

On **Sunday, March 29th** (after Faith Formation class) the First Eucharist Family Sharing Meal (which includes making your family's Pew Banner) will take place in the Parish Hall. Lunch is ziti, meatballs, salad, bread/butter and cookies. **Please RSVP** the number of family members attending **by March 22**. Also remember to bring photos and other memorabilia for your child's banner to this event. The boards and general craft materials will be provided. Feel free to include grandparents and other important people in your child's life to this lunch.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Don't forget that today, Sunday, March 8th we spring ahead. So please remember to adjust your clocks **forward one hour**.

Children's Liturgy

March 14/15

4PM— Sue Lee/Catherine Shafer
8AM— Ede Blabac/Bridget Vavra

March 21/22

4PM— Maria Kirk/Sue Lee
8AM— Ed & Kay Corcoran

March 28/29

4PM— Alison & Dan Brennan
8AM— Shirley McCray/Marie Iobst

April 4/5

4PM— Alison & Dan Brennan
8AM— Cindy & Lauren White

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.



Lent 2020

Transfiguration Sunday

We are in perennial need of transformation. There are parts of ourselves that continually remain captive to the ego and which need to die. It depends on the durability and inflexibility of the many illusions with which and under which we live. Transformation requires that we seriously attend to the signs and signals that come to us from the people and circumstances in our lives. Are we stubborn, deaf, and blind to all this or do we hear the many challenges to our complacency and our self-centeredness? It is here, in response to the Spirit, that the slow, painful, but inevitable process of transformation begins. Transformation in Christ is a life-long process.

Daily Liturgy

One way to live the Eucharist is to come to Daily Liturgy at the parish center chapel. Daily Liturgy is offered Monday—Thursday at 8AM. Make the Eucharist a part of your Lenten discipline.

Thrive Event

The Thrive event "How great the Father's Love" will take place on Thursday, March 12th, 6:30 PM--8 PM. Please make every effort to attend this evangelical event which focuses on Contemporary Music, Testimony, praise, and hospitality. I think it will be a very powerful evening. This family event is really appropriate for all ages but I am requesting that all families with children in Grade 5 or older attend. We have asked Roy Santa Croce to share the challenges he and his family faced during his daughter Megan's illness and passing as well as how his faith served as an anchor for him. Please save the date on your calendar and make it a priority to attend.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are representations of the path Jesus bore on his way to the crucifixion. They involve Jesus enduring suffering, insults, moments of support, and relay the intense sacrifice that Jesus undertook for human salvation. The Scriptural significance of the Stations of the Cross is to detail the path Jesus walked on his way to eventual redemption of humanity. The path to spiritual paradise lies in the Station of the Cross when we recognize what Jesus endured and enable it as a call to action in our own lives. **We will be praying Stations of the Cross every Friday at 4PM from February 28th—April 3rd.**

Best Lent Ever

Please join us for Dynamic Catholic's Best Lent Ever, which is all about how the saints are ready to help you create holy moments and become the best version of yourself. Every day during Lent, you'll receive and email with a short video from Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team. It's FREE and easy to sign up. All you have to do is go to DynamicCatholic.com/best-lent-ever and enter your name and email address. I encourage you to invite family and friends to sign up, too.

Board of Visitors

All Office of Mental Health State Psychiatric Centers are seeking interested volunteers to serve as Board of Visitors Members. If you have a commitment to and interest in advocating for people with mental illness, your involvement would be a great asset to the Board of Visitors. If interested please call Fr. Tim at the parish center (607-722-4388).

Congratulations to TWO Remarkable Women

For the last couple of weeks Channel 34 News in Binghamton has been featuring a segment on their evening news highlighting remarkable women of Binghamton. Two women featured recently were from our parish community, Alice Cavanagh and Molly Santa Croce. Both of these wonderful women encountered some enormous challenges in their lives. Alice's life changed very quickly when her husband had a life changing accident while continuing to raise their four children. Molly, mother of Megan, whose life had a great impact on our community, is keeping Megan's memory alive as a source of inspiration. If you didn't see these segments when featured they may be viewed at <https://www.binghamtonhomepage.com/remarkable-women-2020/>. Congratulations, Alice and Molly, your families, friends, and all of us here at the parish knew you were remarkable women!

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 or info.

Sickness and the Communion Cup

In the midst of the cold and flu season, each of us has the responsibility of taking precautions to prevent the spread of these and other illnesses. If you are feeling sick or may have been exposed to sickness, please **refrain from receiving Holy Communion from the cup, and receive only the Sacred Host.** We appreciate your cooperation in keeping you and your fellow parishioners happy and healthy.

Meet Trinh

Trinh's family are farmers in Vietnam who have been affected by climate change. What would you do if your source of nutrition was threatened? How can we support those whose livelihoods are vulnerable to weather? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.



Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of March 8th — Pat & George Clark

Week of March 15th — Karen Dotson

Shelving (Mondays)

March 9th — K. Mohney

March 16th — Alex Hayes & Carol

Distribution

March 17th — A. Short, S. Lee, B. Graces,
L. Gildea, R. & C. Parga

MARCH 12

6:30 PM



*How Great the
Father's Love*



St. Francis of Assisi
1049 Chenango Street, Binghamton NY

John M. DeBella Scholarship

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 24th.** In order to be eligible for a scholarship, applicants **must** be a registered member of the parish.

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 17, 2020.**

Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Mass

The Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold their annual Mass in celebration of the Glorious Apostle of Ireland and to honor those members that have passed in the last year. The Mass will be held on **March 7th at 11:30AM at St. Mary's** on Court St. in Binghamton. We are honored to have the Most Reverend Bishop Douglas J. Lucia be our Celebrant for this occasion. All are welcome. Parade Day downtown will follow at 1:30PM. The celebration will continue with the annual party at Seton Catholic Central from 1PM to 6PM.

February Fundraising: Catherine's Cupboard

Fundraising for Catherine Cupboard this month was FABULOUS!!!! A grand total of about \$7,000 including a nice check of almost \$600 from the Dance Connection "The Big Gift Giving" event held a couple weeks ago. Food donation has also be over the top with BIG LOTS donating over 1,000lbs of just expired items (it would go to the dump if we did not accept it) all perfectly fine to eat and our visitor's love it. Our Faith Formation dropped off a wonderful supply of cake & frosting fixing from their Winter Carnival event and some of our Confirmation Candidates sorted the food from BIG LOTS. THANK YOU to all who support our pantry.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The Annual Mass in Honor of St. Patrick will be held Tuesday, March 17, at 3:00PM at St. Patrick's Church, 9 Leroy Street, Binghamton. An Irish party from 4:00-8:00PM will be held in St. Patrick's Gym following Mass. Cost of the party is: Adults \$3 and includes admission, entertainment and soda, Under 18-\$1; Children under 5-free. Food will be available at a cost of \$6.00. Tickets are available at the door.

WHAT IS LENT

The *40-day period* from Ash Wednesday and before Easter Sunday. It is marked by praying, fasting, abstinence, and other acts of penance.

PRAYING | FASTING | ABSTINENCE



WHAT IS FASTING



One meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed one full meal

WHAT IS ABSTINENCE



Abstinence is refraining from eating meat. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl.

DAYS OF FAST

Ash
Wednesday

Good Friday

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE

Ash
Wednesday

All Fridays
of Lent

Good
Friday

WHO ARE REQUIRED

Catholics aged
18 to 59



The sick are excused
from fasting

WHO ARE REQUIRED

Mandatory for everyone



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

March 14th & 15th, 2020

4:00 P.M. Mass

Lector	Carole Parga
EM Host	Marge Mangan
EM Host	Catherine Shafer
EM Host	Betsy Shields
EM Cup	Jan Pandich
EM Cup	Bob Shields
EM Cup	Ethan Glenn
EM Cup	Sue Lee
Altar Server	Anna Ginalski
Altar Server	Ian Ginalski
Altar Server	

8:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Logan Blakeslee
EM Host	Melissa Kliment
EM Host	Debbie Davis
EM Host	Scott Klein
EM Cup	Ed White
EM Cup	Donna or Scott Iglar
EM Cup	Mike Stricek
EM Cup	Kurt or Kelly Mohny
Altar Server	Lauren White
Altar Server	Brigid Birtch
Altar Server	Kathryn White

11:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Jules Furrer
EM Host	Emily Ekstrom
EM Host	Chris Gill
EM Host	David Gill
EM Cup	Steve Guth
EM Cup	Rose O'Neil
EM Cup	Kerri Hamilton
EM Cup	David Hanzes
Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
Altar Server	Alexander Watkins
Altar Server	Braeden Krisko

***Attention: Eucharistic Ministers,
Lectors, Altar Servers***

Lent has begun and so is the time for another ministry schedule. This schedule covers April, May & June of 2020. If you have any special requests please let us know **before March 15th.**

Again, let us know about those special requests, especially if you will be out of town or will not be able to attend certain masses. Call Lynda & Joe Carpenter @ 772-6732 or email joseph.carpenter28@gmail.com. Thanks... see you in church.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Looking Forward in Faith – Vision 2020 Capital Campaign

Volume VII

Sunday

March 8, 2020

NEXT WEEKEND IS “COMMITMENT SUNDAY” PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE

In response to our *Looking Forward in Faith – Vision 2020 Capital Campaign* we are asking all of our parishioners to return their commitment form at Mass next weekend March 14-15. With the exception of those who attended a campaign reception or have already been visited, **the remaining households in the parish will receive their own campaign brochure and pledge form in the mail this week.** The brochure explains the details of our campaign and the important work taking place in our parish.

We ask that you help us by doing the following:

1. Read your brochure thoroughly.
2. Return your pledge form at Mass next weekend.
3. Please be generous. We need your support.
4. Remember, it is your sacrificial gift that will make us successful.

PLANNING YOUR GIFT

To reach our goal of \$500,000, we will need to consider larger gifts than are routinely given in the weekly collections. Major commitments will be needed in order to realize our goal. We are really asking for “**equal sacrifice not equal giving**”. For some, making a significant commitment becomes easier when it is considered as a pledge to be paid over 60 months or longer.

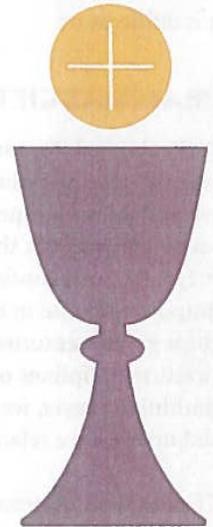
WHY PLEDGING IS IMPORTANT

Asking each family to prayerfully consider a **sacrificial pledge**, over five years if possible, is **central to a successful campaign.**

Pledging accomplishes many things:

- A pledge allows one to consider a gift, which they may not have thought possible
- A pledge makes payments less of a burden than a one-time gift
- A pledge provides the parish with an estimate on the availability of funds when planning the various phases of our project over the next five years

Eucharist, Anchor of My Prayer Life



Prayer, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us, is the "vital and personal relationship with the living and true God" (2558). Prayer can happen anywhere, and at any time. In the celebration of the Eucharist, however, we pray in an incomparable way.

JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

Jesus modeled prayer. Throughout his earthly life, his intimate and loving relationship with God the Father could be seen by how he prayed. His disciples witnessed him praising and thanking God and calling upon "Abba," his heavenly Father, for help. Frequently he took time to go to "a lonely place" and pray. He also went to the synagogue and the Temple, and shared in the prayerful rituals of the Jewish people.

Jesus formed his followers in the way of prayer. He urged them to be persistent in prayer and to avoid showing off their piety to gain recognition from others. He taught them that humility is essential to prayer. They were to use few words, but pray from the heart. When his disciples asked him, "Teach us to pray," Jesus gave them the Lord's Prayer—the touchstone of all Christian prayer.

Before his Passion and death, Jesus spent the night in intense prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. From the Cross, he cried out in the words of Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" These words of prayer from the Scriptures carried his anguish to God at the moment of his greatest pain and desolation.

After the Resurrection, the two disciples at Emmaus recognized Jesus as he "said the blessing" and broke the bread. Through this simple ritual of blessing the food they were about to eat, they knew him as the Risen Christ.

What does the example and teaching of Jesus on prayer show us about Eucharist?

THREE LESSONS FOR OUR PRAYER

First of all, *Eucharist cannot be the sum total of our prayer*. Just as Jesus went to "a lonely place" to pray, and recommended that his disciples spend time praying "in secret," so we must continue to find time, outside of Mass, for personal prayer. In moments of immense suffering and times of great joy, passionate prayer may arise spontaneously. At other times, habits of prayer help us to remain attuned to God's nearness and care for us.

Nevertheless, Jesus also treasured ritual prayer, communal prayer. Regular ritual prayer was part of the very fabric of his life, as it continues to be part of ours as Catholics. In the Eucharist we remember what Jesus said and did at a ritual meal—the Last Supper. Thus, second: *private personal prayer is no substitute for liturgy*. Sometimes one hears people say "I can pray at home. Why should I go to Mass?" Such an attitude finds no basis in the life of Jesus. Indeed, we encounter Jesus, as Risen Lord, when we break the bread of Eucharist.

Third, the prayerful approach to Eucharist is one of *heartfelt humility as we enter into the presence of God*. The movements of prayer found in the Mass—praising and adoring God, praying for our own needs or the needs of others, offering

thanks, or responding with gratitude after receiving Holy Communion—flow most freely when they are prayed with a humble heart.

PRAYER AS GIFT

St. Paul urged the community of believers to “pray constantly” and pointed to the action of the Holy Spirit, who enables us to pray. When we cannot pray, or do not know how to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us (see Romans 8:26-27). Such confidence in God’s initiative and God’s empowering role in our prayer has enabled Christians through the centuries to regard prayer as a gift. Even as we practice disciplines of prayer and strive to be constant and faithful in prayer, we know this would be useless if God did not desire a relationship with us first.

“The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depth of God’s desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2560).

EUCHARIST, THE SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S PRESENCE

The Eucharist is the great liturgical prayer of the Church. Within the celebration, the sacrament of Christ’s presence, offered and received in Holy Communion, can have a profound effect on our whole life of prayer.

What happens when we receive Holy Communion? On the physical level we have eaten a bit of bread and taken a sip of wine from a common cup. Yet in faith we believe something more profound has taken place: the Risen Christ comes to us. The living and true God has given himself to us. God has taken the initiative. When we receive the Eucharist in faith, we respond to that initiative, saying yes: “Amen.”

The Eucharist anchors us each week, or even daily if that is our practice, in what is most important in life: our relationship with the Risen Lord. He continually seeks us. Despite our sins, he longs to “enter our house” and dwell with us. It says in the Book of Revelation: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). And when we leave Mass strengthened in faith, we have confidence that the Spirit of the Risen Lord, whom we have encountered in the Eucharist, will continue to guide and strengthen us each day of the week.

REFLECT

What moment in the liturgy do you find most prayerful? When you say “Amen” to the body and blood of Christ, what does that mean to you?

ACT

Take a few moments to pray before and after Mass. By preparing to celebrate Eucharist, we allow the celebration to blossom. After Mass, take a moment to be thankful for the ways you have experienced Christ’s presence in the liturgy.

PRAY

Loving God, thank you for giving us the Eucharist to anchor all our prayer in the gift of Jesus. Open my heart to a deeper relationship with him. Help us, through the Holy Spirit, to experience your nearness and say “Amen” to the life you alone can give.

AUTHOR ■ Rita Ferrone is an award-winning writer and speaker in the areas of liturgy, catechesis, and renewal in the Roman Catholic Church.

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END OF BULLETIN

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Comments:
Bulletin copy for **March 8th, 2020**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.