

March 10, 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



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
Sarah & Mary Bush
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 Children's Liturgy.
We post new videos by
4:00PM on Saturdays.

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**Saturday, March 9, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Annie Connor by Dottie Davies

Sunday, March 10, Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m. Patrick Fitzgerald by Aunt Sally & Uncle Dick

Monday, March 11

12:00 p.m. Paul Savo by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Tuesday, March 12

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

Wednesday, March 13

12:00 p.m. Louise Martin by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Thursday, March 14

8:00 a.m. Robert Moore by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Friday, March 15**NO MASS****Saturday, March 16, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Anthony Versace, Jr. by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D'Angelis

Sunday, March 17, Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m. Kerri Hamilton by Marge Mangan

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 5 till 7 (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 1200 people, requiring a budget of close to \$50,000 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 stfrancisbing.org**

Weekend's Offering (03-03-24)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,700.00
Loose Collection.....	\$300.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$2,455.00
Total Collection.....	\$9,455.00

*Thank you for your generosity!***FAITH FORMATION**

Faith Formation Lenten Event today for Grades K-9
Confirmation meets today 11:15AM—2:00PM

Looking Ahead:

- † Rice Bowl closing Prayer Service at the start of Faith Formation on March 24th in the Parish Hall.
- † First Eucharist Sharing Meal and Pew Banner Project Sunday, April 14th after class.
- † Area Wide Grade 7-8-9 Gathering on April 21st from 1:00—5:00PM at Our Lady of Good Counsel. (see flyer)



2nd Grade Mini-Retreat on March 2nd. They made and tasted bread, toured the church, and watched a movie called "The Weight of the Mass"

**Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross take place **every Friday during Lent**. Stations **start at 12:00 NOON** in the church and are **followed by a Communion Service**.
 Join us! All are welcome!

ATTENTION: Lectors, EMs & Altar Servers

It is time again to make the schedule for April, May, and June 2024. 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 607-648-2784 or by cell 607-206-3469 **BEFORE MARCH 11TH!**

Update: Confirmation Plastic Collection

Thank you for all who have been bringing in your soft plastic. When this initiative started in late October we thought it would take a year to collect 1,000 pounds to be able to acquire a bench from TREX, but we met the goal sometime ago. Recently, I was told that we are at 1,700 lbs. with the collection. Nora Bush has been in touch with Trex to see where we go from here. We are still collecting specific lightweight plastics (see the collection bin for details) so continue to bring them in. Our collection of plastic may look large but consider these facts...

Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.

(Recycle Across America)

Of the approximately 6.3 billion tons of plastic waste that has been generated, around 9% has been recycled, 12% incinerated, and 79% was accumulated in landfills or the natural environment.

(Science Advances)

If current production and waste management trends continue, roughly 12 billion tons of plastic waste will be in landfills or in the natural environment by 2050.

(Science Advances)

Everywhere we look in our culture you will find plastic. It surrounds our food, it makes up our technology and it is a standard element in our household items. Unfortunately, it is also overflowing from our landfills, floating in our waters and polluting our soil. More and more, you can even find it in our own bodies and those of other living creatures. There have even been traces of plastic found in breast milk. Despite the fact that we have learned the harms of plastics, we are steadily increasing our production of the material and integrating it into more and more items. Plastic is everywhere!

However, making good choices and doing your part to limit and recycle plastics can make a difference and sets a good example for others to follow suit. By recycling our materials, we create a healthier planet for ourselves and more importantly, for future generations.

Important Meetings for Financial Council and Pastoral Council Members

It has been quite a while since these two committees met, and it is important to reconnect. So, on **Tuesday, March 12th, at 7:00PM** the FINANCIAL COUNCIL will meet. On **Wednesday, March 13th, at 7:00PM** the PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet. Both will be at the Parish Center. Please note that these are separate meetings. Please make every effort to attend. Your presence is very important.

4th Sunday in Lent: Justice Challenge

The Gospel reading this week teaches us that God loved us so much that he sent his only Son into the world. The Son brought light into the darkness of sin in our lives. Jesus told us that we also are the light of the world. Your challenge this week is to look at where in our world sin has brought darkness—through greed or hate or violence or prejudice. The reflect on how you can be and bring light into this ugly situation. Can you be the light of the world for those who live in darkness?

4th Sunday in Lent: Creation Care Tip

March 14th is International Day of Action for Rivers. Rivers, streams, and creeks were of paramount importance to Jesus, his friends and family, and his entire society. Rivers are essential for the survival of billions of people today who need access to clean and flowing water for drinking, washing, fishing, irrigation, and transportation. What is the nearest river or body of fresh-water to you? Consider doing a trash pickup along its banks or shoreline this week, then enjoy some quiet time with God there.

Growing Community Roots

Eight Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) from St. Francis of Assisi Parish are working on an endeavor in Kenya! They're collaborating with the non-profit Growing Community Roots (GCR), established 10 years ago by CSJ Sisters and Associates. GCR helps Kenyan students in the Homa Bay area, fulfill their hopes and dreams! GCR supports children- by meeting the basic needs identified in the region's schools in 3 very important ways:

1. GCR installs water catchment systems that provide safe water for drinking and bathing.
2. GCR builds new latrines that offer privacy.
3. GCR also establishes community gardens ensuring students have nutritious meals at school and plant tree farms which help address the area's deforestation problem.

In 2024, GCR plans on addressing issues at 2 additional schools (14 thus far!) and asks for your help. There will be a special collection for Growing Community Roots, at the weekend Masses on March 9 & 10, 2024. During this Lenten season we grow closer to God by helping the poor and caring for our common home- supporting the planting of trees and gardens.



Penance Service

**Palm Sunday, March 24th
4:00PM**

St. Francis of Assisi Church

CRS Rice Bowl: Increasing Disasters, Increasing Resilience

Located in Southeast Asia between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has beautiful beaches, diverse cultures and the world's fourth largest population. Many of the country's more than 17,000 islands are in the Ring of Fire, where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones are also becoming more frequent and destructive. Find out how-with the support of Catholic Relief Services and generous communities like yours-Evita and her disaster preparedness group are working to keep their community safe. To learn more and read this week's Story of Hope visit crsricebowl.org

Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

March 19th: M. Lyons, M. Mizzoni & Emma, and D. Dobish

Catherine's Cupboard Will Take Your Gift Cards!

Do you have a few dollars left over on some of your gift cards? Catherine's Cupboard can use them! If you have gift card dollars left over from a store that sells pantry items, we'll take it! Lighten your wallet and do something good with that card that you keep forgetting to use or still have a few bucks on. We'll put it toward adding items to our food pantry to serve those in need in the community. (Drop them off at Parish Center 1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton NY)



Ladies of Charity Scholarships

The Ladies of Charity will award three \$1,000 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, 2024.**

"Unique" Spring Sale

Samaritan House will be having the "UNIQUE" Spring Sale on **Friday April 5, 2024 from 9 AM to 2PM and Saturday April 6, 2024 from 9 AM to 2 PM.** The sale will be held at **St. Mary of the Assumption Recreation Center** located at 152 Hawley Street Binghamton. We thank you all for your support in efforts to assist those in our community that are less fortunate.

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.

PLEASE TELL US THE NAMES & ADDRESSES OF SHUT-INS, WE WOULD LOVE TO REACH OUT! CALL DELORES AT THE PARISH CENTER (607)722-4388 TO LET US KNOW! THANK YOU!

CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD

PANTRY UPDATE:

In April, we celebrate another year of feeding others. The pantry was started by members of our parish over 20 years ago and has grown to serve thousands of people over time. Currently, we are helping 70+ families every time we are open, coming from all over our county and also from various countries around the world. Some are homeless (living along the riverbanks or local motels as shelters) others come between work hours to stretch a pay check and a third are retired living on their Social Security check. None of this would be possible if not for YOU, our parishioners and the local community. THANK YOU for supporting this parish program, we are independent and not connected with CHOW or Catholic Charities, thus are able to feed those in need when they need help without questions. Our motto is simple "IF THEY ASK, WE GIVE"

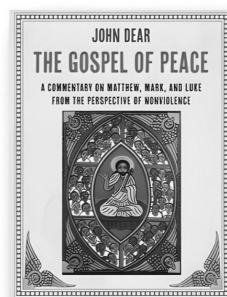
SPRING CLEAN OUT:

We will be collecting working small household appliances to give away on April 16th. They can be dropped off on or after April 3rd to the pantry area (Parish Center) only.

An Evening with JOHN DEAR

on his new book:

"THE GOSPEL OF PEACE"



Peacemaker, author, and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Father John Dear, will be with us to talk about and sign copies of his new book, his life's work: *The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence*. It is the first ever commentary on the Synoptic Gospels from the perspective of active nonviolence in the tradition of Gandhi and Dr. King. In this original work, Fr. John walks us through every line of the three synoptic Gospels pointing out Jesus' practice and teachings on nonviolence, peace, and universal love and invites us to follow him. Join us!

DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH @ 7:00PM

LOCATION: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI—BINGHAMTON

CONTACT: FR. TIM TAUGHER 607-722-4388

For further information, visit www.johndear.org and www.beatitudescenter.org where he is the executive director and offers online programs.

Are You Hurting in Your Marriage?

Has your marriage become troubled or stressed, unloving, or uncaring; has it grown cold and distant; are you thinking of or already separated or divorced but want to try again, then the Retrouvaille Program can help you. Call 1-800-470-2230 or visit HelpOurMarriage.com

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

March 16th & 17th, 2024

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Logan Kliment
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Kathleen Tait
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Judy Daniels
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Beatrice Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Robert Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Peggy Munson
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Maria Kirk
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Alexander Watkins
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Lector	Maureen Mizzoni
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Shirley McCray
10:30 Mass	EM Host	
10:30 Mass	EM Host	
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Catherine Shafer
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Virginia Thompson

Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule

March 10– Amy Drake and Maria Kirk

March 17– Patti Klepfer and Toni Robinson

March 24– Ede and Sarah Blabac

March 31– ONLINE ONLY

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 signup form (on table in the back of the church) and drop it in a collection basket.

Question of the Week

Question for Children: Who is one person in your life who supports your faith and helps it to grow?

Question for Youth: The Gospel speaks of following God as coming toward the light. How can you move towards the light in your own life? What is the darkness that needs Jesus' healing in your life?

Question for Adults: When is it difficult for you to believe? What particular line in this reading helps your faith?

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 10th, 2024**

Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

March 2024

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

One Minute Meditations

Pope St. Zachary

Born to a Greek family in Calabria, Italy, St.

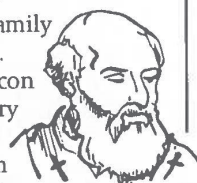
Zachary was deacon to Pope Gregory III before succeeding him as pope in 741.

As pope, St. Zachary skillfully negotiated peace for Italy several times, most notably with the Lombards and the Franks. St. Zachary supported St. Boniface's German mission, ransomed slaves sold by Venetian merchants, and supported the restoration of churches. He carried the Church through troubled times with charity, prudence, and skillful leadership.

Trust

St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta refused donations beyond the current needs of her community. Accepting such help would mean she didn't trust God to provide for their needs. When we rely on God, we demonstrate our faith, just as Mother Teresa did.

"God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it"
(1 Corinthians 10:13).



Finish Lent strong

The last weeks of Lent can feel like the last yards of a marathon. We're just pushing ourselves to reach the finish line of Easter. Instead, think of Lent as a time of silence, simplicity, and sacrifice that helps us become the people God wants us to be. That's the real point of Lent.

Silence:

Prayer is oxygen for the soul. It is during prayer when God speaks to our hearts. Lent done right removes distractions so that our prayer is richer and our focus more attentive. It is critical to find time to be with Him in attentive silence each day.

Simplicity: Avoid material clutter. Consider the six month rule – if you haven't worn it or used it in the last

six months – give it away. Not only will you help those in need, decluttering creates room in our homes and hearts for God.

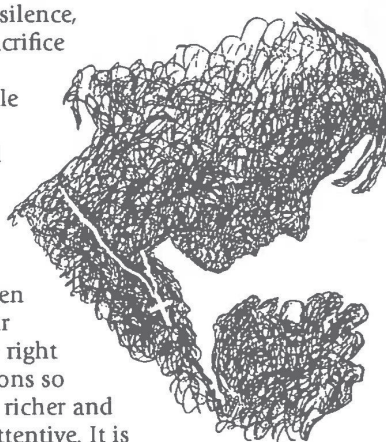
Sacrifice:

Through sacrifice we give back to God what we owe Him. While we can't repay Him for His gifts in equal measure, we can express gratitude with small sacrifices that show our return back to Him in gratitude and love.

Sacraments:

Sacraments are the fuel for fighting evil. During Lent, these spiritual battles intensify. Weekly

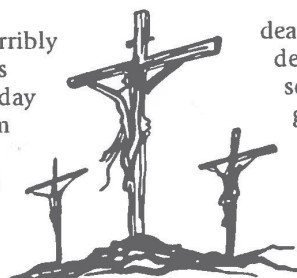
Mass and monthly Confession keep up our spiritual strength. Don't fight on fumes. Fuel up with the Sacraments.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Good Friday "good"?

Although it recalls a terribly sad event, Good Friday is "good" because it is the day when Jesus saved us from our sins, reconciled us with God, and reopened Heaven. Out of what seemed like defeat, God brought victory. By His

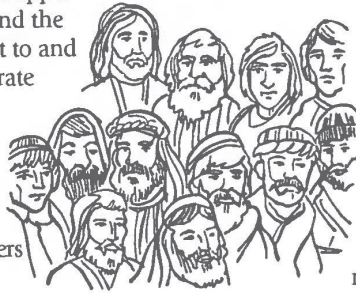


death, Jesus conquered sin and death. On Good Friday, we see more clearly God's goodness, justice, wisdom, power, and love. "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples..."

Each Triduum begins by recalling the Last Supper during which Jesus gave us the priesthood and the Eucharist as His means of remaining present to and in His Church. On Holy Thursday, we celebrate discipleship and are all asked to renew our commitment to following Jesus.

Disciples act with love. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). True followers of Jesus know that how we treat others proves that we know Him and follow Him.



Disciples answer the call. God chooses us first, but we must answer the call. If Peter had not dropped his nets and followed Jesus, he would not have been a disciple. Discipleship involves a choice to drop everything for Him.

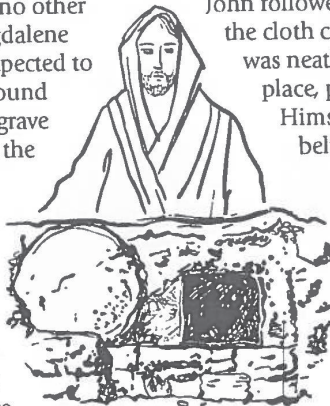
Disciples make other disciples. Ultimately, we need to do what Jesus did, which is to make more disciples. This was His final command, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). The Catholic Church's mission is to make disciples who make disciples.

from Scripture

John 20:1-9, Jesus - not death - has the last word

The Resurrection is the keystone of our Faith, making a claim no other faith can. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb, she expected to find a body. Instead, she found the stone rolled back, the grave clothes neatly folded, and the tomb empty. She concluded, wrongly, that thieves had taken the Lord's body, and she ran to tell Peter and John.

When Peter and John arrived, Peter entered first and also saw that the grave clothes had been left behind, not left in a heap, but neatly arranged. No grave robber would have taken the



body and left the clothes behind.

John followed Peter and saw that the cloth covering Christ's face was neatly folded in a separate place, perhaps by Christ Himself. He saw and believed.

The Resurrection proves that Christ is who He says He is. Therefore, we must give Him our final allegiance. Because Jesus rose from the dead in glory, we also have the hope of rising

in glory with Him on the Last Day. Christ - not death, sin, or evil - has the last word.

Q & A What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?

As followers of Christ, we're encouraged to care for each other. Jesus' parable of the judgment of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46) lists the ways we can care for those in physical need: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." (Matthew 25:35).



These are the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to shelter the homeless and to bury the dead. Essentially, "it is by what they have done for the poor that Jesus Christ will recognize His chosen ones" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2443).

The Corporal Works of Mercy are about being aware of others' needs and responding to them. Living the Corporal Works of Mercy is how we can make our love for God and others visible and effective. "Whatever you did for one of these...you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

Feasts & Celebrations

March 8 - John of God (1550). Moved to repentance by a homily of St. John of Ávila, St. John left his career in the Portuguese military to establish a hospital for the sick and poor. After his death, his assistants formed the Brothers Hospitallers.

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 24 - 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 cheering crowds waving palms. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

March 26 - St. Margaret Clitherow (1586). St. Margaret converted to Catholicism soon after she married, when Catholicism was illegal in England. Margaret continued to practice her faith, even hiding priests in her house so they could say Mass. She remained joyful, faithful, and peaceful until her martyrdom.



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