

March 15, 2020

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
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@syrdio.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 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

Monday, March 16
 8:00 a.m. Arlene Johnson by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Tuesday, March 17
 8:00 a.m. Richard Murphy by Alissa Gardos

Wednesday, March 18
 8:00 a.m. Peg Feheley by Bonnie Mando

Thursday, March 19
 8:00 a.m. Frank Valenta by J. Moffitt

Friday, March 20
NO MASS

Saturday, March 21, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Margaret Feheley by Daughter, Christine

Sunday, March 22, Fourth Sunday of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Carol Shiffner by Fina & Vincenzo Altadonna

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 (03-08-20)

Regular Envelopes.....\$6,010.00
 Loose Collection.....\$194.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$2,177.00
 Total Collection.....\$8,381.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

Faith Formation

There will be **NO** Faith Formation this weekend

Looking Ahead

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.

Samaritan House Needs Help!

Samaritan house is located at 11 Fayette St. in Binghamton. They opened back in 1997 with the mission to help those in need. To date, they have served over 16,000 families. These clients, for whatever their reason, have come to Samaritan House for help. Asking for items like furniture, small appliances (TV, microwave, coffee maker, toaster, etc.), household goods (dishes, linen, pots, pans, silverware, curtains), children's clothing and person hygiene items. Monetary donations are used to help keep Samaritan House going. They do weekly pick-up for furniture (no beds) and ask that you consider dropping off your household and smaller items to Samaritan House. **Donations can be dropped off Monday—Thursday from 8:30AM—11:00AM and 1:00PM—3:00PM.** To help their mission, they also have an annual Spring Sale at St. Thomas Aquinas (this year the **Spring Sale is April 18th & 19th**). The proceeds from the sale go towards their operating expenses. **Also, volunteers are always needed!**

Children's Liturgy

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.



Lenten Reflection

Did you know that our word “Lent” comes from the Old-English word for “springtime?” This gives us a wonderful insight into what the days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday are all about: a season when faith and the virtues of the Christian life grow and flower within our hearts and souls. But, as Ash Wednesday approaches each year, one of the first questions we Catholics ask is, “What should I give up for Lent?” And it’s a fair question because, as we know, penance is a part of Lent. But, there’s more at stake because, we have to remember that Lent isn’t an end. The purpose of the season of Lent is to help us prepare for Easter when we will renew our baptismal commitment. In the first centuries after Jesus, those individuals who wanted to become Christians spent months and even years preparing for Baptism, which almost always took place in a special ceremony on the night before Easter. That night was anticipated by a time of prayer and fasting so that the soon-to-be Christians would be as ready as they could to receive the gifts of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. This is the origin of Lent. (Our contemporary process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is built around this model of initiation.) Those Christians who were already baptized would also pray and fast as they prepared to renew their own commitment to Christ by renewing their baptismal promises on Easter Sunday. If we keep the themes of Baptism and discipleship in mind as we consider the value of fasting and sacrifice, we quickly realize that fasting isn’t about just giving up something we enjoy. After all, there isn’t any real spiritual value in giving up chocolate. The point of fasting is that we give up something that we enjoy to help us pay better attention to our deeper selves. Each one of us lives with needs—physical needs and the need for love, security, and community—that we often bury or try to hide by filling our lives with “stuff” and relationships that can never really give us peace. And so, Lenten fasting means that we set aside those things with which we self-medicate so that we can be free to recognize what our real hungers and desires are—including our desire for God. Only God can truly satisfy the deepest desires and needs of our hearts. These ideas of baptismal renewal and our deepest hungers are at the heart of our readings on this 3rd Sunday of Lent. As we hear the story of the woman at the well, we are being invited to remember our own Baptism and to think about how our lives have been—and are being—transformed by the Living Water of Jesus. Our prayer, fasting, and works of charity and mercy should be helping us become more aware of how the grace of Baptism is at work within us. In the end, every Easter Sunday we are given an opportunity to renew the promises of our Baptism. This means rededicating ourselves to live as Christians in the world, and to continuing the mission of Jesus, especially for the poor and those in need. The 40 days of Lent are a time for us to get back to the basics of who we are as followers of Jesus.

Sunday: A Day of Rest (Irish Humor)

Many people know that Sunday in Ireland is a day of rest, and in the countryside few places open. Liam had left Dublin to go up to Belfast for a bit of skydiving. Late on Sunday evening, he was found in a tree by a farmer. “What happened?” asked the farmer. Liam replied, “My parachute failed to open!”. “Well...” said the farmer, “If you had asked the locals before you jumped, they would have told you...nothing opens here on Sunday.”

The Land Sings Its Own Song

In Ireland the earth speaks and sings!

My flesh comes from this land,

*just as sure as the daisies, as sure as the grass,
from the reek’s high brow, to the fertile valleys.*

*My blood from the holy wells,
my spirit from soaring birds.*

And my beautiful words

*from the orchids springing up,
’tween cracks of Burren rock!*



(Burren is a region of County Clare in the southwest of Ireland, It’s a karst landscape of bedrock incorporating a vast cracked pavement of glacial-era limestone)

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Lent 2020

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.

Stations of the Cross

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.

Meet Yvone

Meet Yvone from Kenya. She learned proper nutrition and hygiene practices to help keep her healthy and in school. Yvone now has a chance to dream and the strength to follow those dreams. How can you ensure that young people in your community receive proper nutrition? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Lenten Prayer Service

Please join Father Tim at **Ogden Methodist at 7:00PM on Wednesday, March 18th** for a joint Lenten Prayer Service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of March 15th — Karen Dotson

Week of March 22nd — Michelle Warne

Shelving (Mondays)

March 16th — Alex Hayes & Carol

March 23rd — A. Short

Distribution

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

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.

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).

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 everyone healthy.

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 De-lores at the Parish Center (722-4388) for questions.

Congratulations CV Swimmers

Eli Lanfear, placed first among public schools swimmers and second overall in the 100-yard freestyle at the NYS Boys Swimming and Diving Championships. Michael Schultz impressively contributed to three relay race podium finishes and won Section 4's "Good Sports Award". Congratulations to our parish's amazing swimmers!

Save The Date

**Hooley in Hillcrest
will return...
Saturday March 20th, 2021**



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 our website stfrancisbing.org.

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 or view on our website.

Deadline is April 17, 2020.

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



older than
14
years old



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

March 21st & 22nd, 2020

4:00 P.M. Mass

Lector Catherine Shafer
EM Host Dc. Steve
EM Host Debbie Carden
EM Host Ron Scales
EM Cup Rosemary Rounds
EM Cup Daniel Minch
EM Cup Mary Frances Charsky
EM Cup Peggy Munson
Altar Server
Altar Server Calliope Brennan
Altar Server Madelyn Strnatka

8:00 A.M. Mass

Lector Scott Klein
EM Host Dc. Steve
EM Host Steve Baxter
EM Host Maureen Mizzoni
EM Cup Marie Iobst
EM Cup Denise Baxter
EM Cup Mary Ellen Vaverchak
EM Cup Tim Vaverchak
Altar Server
Altar Server Mary Bush
Altar Server Sarah Bush

11:00 A.M. Mass

Lector John Klepfer
EM Host Dc. Steve
EM Host Virginia Thompson
EM Host Jules Furrer
EM Cup Sue Jones
EM Cup Maria Lord
EM Cup Steve Guth
EM Cup Kerri Hamilton
Altar Server Brendan Heaney
Altar Server Jessica Wojnar
Altar Server Josie Wojnar

***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 VIII
2020

Sunday

March 15,

“COMMITMENT SUNDAY ” PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY

As part of our “Commitment Sunday”, Marge Mangan and Pat Doyle, capital campaign co-chairpersons, will explain our campaign process at each Mass today and also review the manner in which you can help. In addition, every registered household in the Parish has received their campaign brochure and commitment form in the mail or at one of the campaign receptions. Your brochure explains the details of our campaign and how you can help St. Francis of Assisi Parish. **At this time, we are asking all parishioners to return their completed pledge form in today’s offertory collection or you may return it to the parish office during the week.**

THE GIFT YOU ARE ASKED TO CONSIDER

Reaching our goal of \$500,000 requires gifts of sacrifice and few can give as much in one payment as could be given over a period of 60 months. Therefore, for the success of our campaign we are asking all parishioners to "pledge" to the best of their ability. This is the only way we can raise a large capital sum. With God's help and your generosity, we will succeed.

Your pledge also provides an accounting of how you plan to contribute, and this will help the parish properly anticipate the amount of funds available for our project over the next few years. We ask all parishioners to consider the various gift categories and plan to budget for them accordingly, **realizing that a substantial pledge of \$4,000 to \$5,000 can be made on a sacrifice of approximately than \$15 to \$20 per week.**

Please Remember:

*Not everyone can make the same gift but
everyone can make the same sacrifice!*

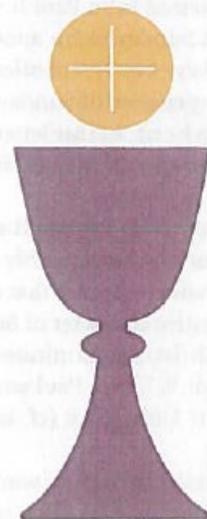
Easter Every Sunday

"What wonderful times we shared." "Hurry up, you're late!"

"Time stood still." "I'm counting the days 'til the kids come home."

"Will tomorrow never come?" "I know my days are numbered."

"She's watching the clock." "Relax—we have all the time in the world!"



Human life exists in time. Each person's life unfolds over time, made up of a finite number of days, weeks, months, and years. Yet all time is not the same. There are moments when we are impatient and eager for time to pass. On other occasions time seems to "stand still": the moment is full of serenity, complete and whole. In daily life we may struggle to manage time, organize time, keep up with the passage of time, and use time wisely. Yet there are also occasions when time seems to be pure gift. Time is the subject of some of our deepest anxieties and regrets, but also the vessel of our joys, promises, and hopes.

ETERNITY, CREATION, AND TIME

To be human is to live in time, but also to long for eternity. Built into our very nature is the capacity to know that our contingent, time-bound life is not all there is. God is eternal; he exists outside of time. To be in relationship with God is therefore to touch eternity. Faith changes the landscape of our imagination, allowing us to discover time in new ways—not as a mere procession of days, but as a gift of our Creator.

In the story of creation, from the Book of Genesis, we read that day and night take shape under God's guiding hand. When the biblical account says, "Evening came, and morning followed," this refrain is not simply a statement of fact. It stands as witness to the beauty and order that God has ordained for our world. As day after day unfolds, and the world comes into being, "God saw that it was good."

It is not surprising, therefore, that believers understand and perceive time in light of faith. The patterns by which we organize and live out our time are not merely functional or practical, but express a faith-filled perspective on the meaning of life.

THE ORIGINS OF SUNDAY

Christians inherited from their Jewish forebears a seven-day week, corresponding to the seven days described in the creation story in the Bible (Genesis 1:1–2:1). What the early Church brought to this experience of time, however, was a striking new element: the resurrection of Jesus. Christ was raised from the dead on "the first day of the week"—Sunday. So, whereas the Jewish people centered their week on Saturday, the day on which God rested, in the Christian week Sunday became the high point, because of the Resurrection. Sunday was—and remains—our weekly celebration of Easter.

For the Fathers of the Church, Sunday also had a mystical significance. It was "the eighth day," pointing to the future fulfillment of all God's promises at the end of time. Knowing that God created light on the first day of creation, they noted the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead on the "day of light." On Sunday, in this mystical view, creation and redemption met. Hope of future glory filled the hearts of the faithful. They touched eternity.

A RENEWAL OF SUNDAY

Blessed John Paul II explored the rich theological meaning of Sunday in his apostolic letter *On Keeping the Lord's Day Holy* (1998). He offered pastoral guidance to strengthen our experience of Sunday—with the celebration of Eucharist at its heart. In this letter, he called for Sunday to be renewed in the lives of the faithful as a “day of joy, rest, and solidarity.”

Sunday is the day the whole Church comes together for the eucharistic assembly. It is a day of joy, when we are more than ever aware that the Risen Lord is in our midst. “The festive character of Sunday Eucharist expresses the joy that Christ communicates to his Church through the gift of the Spirit,” John Paul wrote, “Joy is precisely one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (cf. Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22)” (56).

In the rhythm of work and rest, Sunday also plays an essential role. “Rest is something sacred, because it is a way for men and women to withdraw from the sometimes excessively demanding cycle of earthly tasks in order to renew an awareness that everything is the work of God” (65).

Finally, Sunday is a day for works of mercy, love, and service. Sharing what we have with the very poor has been part of Christianity from the beginning, as John Paul explained: “Far from trying to create a narrow ‘gift’ mentality, [St.] Paul calls rather for a demanding culture of sharing, to be lived not only among the members of the community itself, but also in society as a whole” (70).

To keep the Lord's Day holy is to honor basic Christian values: worship of God is central, while care for ourselves and solidarity with others complete the picture.

SUNDAY MASS

Eucharist may be celebrated on other days too, of course. Yet the unique qualities of Sunday make it the premier setting for celebrating the Eucharist (Saturday evening

Mass is included as part of Sunday, in the Church's calendar). Eucharist, in turn, imparts to Sunday its deepest significance. Christ is risen. He is in our midst.

For people today who lead busy and often stress-filled lives, Sunday can be a true gift. Participation in Sunday Mass, to celebrate the Lord's Day, calls us back to an awareness of God, of salvation in Christ, and of the eternal horizon of our faith.

REFLECT

Take an inventory of things you typically do on Sunday. What are the high points? Low points? What could make this day more truly a “day of light” for you?

ACT

Put more joy into your Sunday. Choose one action that brings you joy and treat yourself to it on Sunday. Could that action be one of sharing?

PRAY

O God of Creation, thank you for the gift of time. Help me to cherish the rhythms of my life, and to honor you through all of them. Keep me ever mindful of the resurrection of your Son, who illumines our days and draws us into his own, wonderful life.

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 15th, 2020**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.