

March 19, 2017

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



Fernando dreams of becoming a businessman. He also dreams of a better future for his family, and this motivates him to sell cookbooks on San Salvador's buses. It's dangerous work for \$10 a day—gangs frequently stop and harass drivers and passengers—but he keeps going, determined to achieve his dreams. It was his dreams that led him to YouthBuild, a six-month, CRS-sponsored program that trains young people in business. There, he found a positive community to help him pursue his passion, despite the challenges of life in El Salvador. Training for six months with YouthBuild wasn't easy on Fernando or his family, but Fernando is now putting his newfound skills to work putting together a business plan and mentoring young people.

Staff

Rev. Timothy Taugher, Pastor
Deacon Stephen Blabac
Sr. Karen Gaube, CSJ
Pastoral Associate
Delores A. Farwell
Parish Administrative Assistant
Maria Kirk
Director of Faith Formation
Joseph Carpenter
Parish Business Administrator
Sue Ekstrom
Parish Media Manager
Edmund Savo
Organist

Office Hours:

7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Monday through Thursday
Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Parish Office: 722-4388

Fax: 722-1336

Faith Formation Office:
722-4177

E-mail:

stfrancisbing@syrдио.org

Website:

www.stfrancisbing.org

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 18, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00p.m. Kenneth Munney by Jean & Horace Julian

Sunday, March 19, Third Sunday Of Lent
 8:00 a.m. Edward Lawrence by Helen & Jack Lawrence
 11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

Monday, March 20
 8:00 a.m. Ray & Helen Tyczkowski by Family

Tuesday, March 21
 8:00 a.m. Andrea Dowling by Mirtie & Nelson Sessler

Wednesday, March 22
 8:00 a.m. Constantine Wiktorek, Sr. by Daughter, Cecilia Cermak

Thursday, March 23
 8:00 a.m. Trish De Castro by Family

Friday, March 24
NO MASS

Saturday, March 25, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Ethan Murphy by Selma Vinci & Family

Sunday, March 26, Fourth Sunday Of Lent
 8:00 a. m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Lloyd Woodruff by Jo & Gary Woodruff

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.

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

Weekend's Offering (03-12-17)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,440.00
Loose Collection.....	\$205.00
Electronic Donation.....	\$1,000.00
Total Collection.....	\$7,645.00

**Thank you to everyone for their donations.
 They are greatly appreciated!**

Faith Formation

Faith Formation meets today at 9:30a.m. for Grades K-9.

St. Francis of Assisi Winter Carnival and Planting for the Co-Garden is today, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend young, mature, and fun loving parish members!

Looking Ahead
 Our First Eucharist Sharing Meal will be held on Sunday, March 26th after regular Faith Formation classes. The children will make the pew banner for First Eucharist so please bring personal mementos for the banner. The Sharing Meal is meant for your family, grandparents and special people too. Please try to attend the 4:00p.m. Mass on Saturday or at 8:00a.m. We will make our pew banners during 11:00a.m. Mass. Please give your head count to Maria Kirk by March 22nd.

Catholic Relief Services Collection 3/26/17
 Next week, our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people here at home and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the CRSC and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Altar Servers, Lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers
 Once again we will be preparing the next schedule. The deadline for requests is Monday, March 20th. If you would like to be added to the list or make any long-term changes, please call Lynda Carpenter at 772-6732 or email at joseph.carpenter28@gmail.com.

Hooley Thank You & Breakfast with Bunny!
 A great big thank you from KOC 11403 to all who attended the Hooley it was a cold night but toasty warm inside the gym. The Knights of Columbus will host the upcoming Breakfast with Bunny on Palm Sunday, April 9th.

Operation Rice Bowl: Encounter Opportunity
 We encounter Fernando in El Salvador where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, youth are pursuing their dreams of building businesses to better the lives of their families. How have you worked to better the lives of others this Lent? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

IGNITE 2017 Catholic Men's Conference

Attention men of the parish, the theme for the 9th Annual IGNITE Men's Conference is It's All Possible with God. Almost 8,000 men have attended the previous conferences, and we are looking to make sure 2017 breaks the 9,000 mark! You can be part of it on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the SRC Arena & Event Center for an amazing day that will have a tremendous impact on you. You can register for the IGNITE 2017 Catholic Men's Conference, online at www.ignitecatholicmen.org. Any questions please contact Tom Kane at 768-4943. Limited seating available.

Ladies of Charity Scholarships

The Ladies of Charity will award three \$500 scholarships to high school seniors who plan to pursue a service-oriented career which specifically makes a difference in someone's life. The scholarship is based on academic achievement, financial need, and service to school, Church and community. Please see your school guidance counselor for an application. **Deadline is May 5, 2017.**

ETHNIC DINNER

Where: St. Cyril's Center, 148 Clinton St.
 When: Sunday, March 26th. 11:30—2:30
 Menu: Halupki, Pierogi, Kielbassa, Haluski and Homemade Dessert (Hotdogs for kids)
 Price: Adults \$12.00; Children (5-12) \$4.00
 Tickets: Available at door, takeout available

Mom's House Rocker-thon

Mom's House Rocker-thon will be held at the end of March. Volunteers will be collecting money for this wonderful non-profit agency on March 18th and March 19th at all masses. Mom's House is a non-profit agency that assists low income single parents with free child care allowing them to finish school.

Pocono Downs Bus Trip (Mohegan Sun)

Sponsor: St Joseph's Church
 When: Tuesday, April 25th
 Cost: \$35 (includes \$25 Free Play, \$5 Food)
 Information: Call Grace 761-2357

RCIA Announcement

We are entering the final stage for the reception of our two Catechumens, Logan Blakeslee and Paul McDaniels into our Faith Community at the Easter Vigil on April 15th at 8 pm. Beginning this year, we will begin a year—round RCIA Process meaning that our Catechumens and Candidates will be spending a complete Liturgical Year with us in preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation. I invite anyone interested in joining our Faith Community to begin the Inquiry stage during this Lenten Season. That way you will be able to enter the Church at Easter 2018. Contact Deacon Steve at 648-2155 or contact the Parish Office.

Lenten Reflection

Why Sand? You may have been surprised when you dipped your fingers into the holy water fonts to feel sand instead of water! Why? The sand is both a symbol and reminder of the Lenten Season as well as recalling Jesus' 40 days in the barren wilderness. Lent is also a time to prepare ourselves to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. So feel free to touch the sand and let it remind you to prepare for the renewal of the water of baptism in your life!

A Gospel Call: Becoming a Sanctuary People in Today's World. I'm not sure if you caught the graphic that was illustrated in our local PressConnects on February 28th. When I opened to the viewpoint section the graphic caught my attention and since seeing it, it has been a powerful reminder to me what is being lost in our current debate about immigration. The illustration portrayed a heavily equipped Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent with his hands strong arming a handcuffed man who is somewhat hunched over. Over the graphic in quotes it read: "Thirty-three year old male, brown skin, doesn't speak English, working as a carpenter...yes, we'll lock him up, Mr. President." Yes, the one in handcuffs is a person looking like Jesus. The graphic reminded me of two scripture quotes among so many in the scriptures. One from Leviticus 19:34, "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God." The other is from Matthew 25:35, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." At our Pastoral Council meeting this past Monday, we had a lengthy and informative discussion in how we as the faith community of St. Francis of Assisi can answer the gospel call in becoming a sanctuary people in the world and in our country today. From the earliest days of our faith tradition, believers have been taught to reach out and provide care for these groups of people who were recognized as being in particular need: the widow, the orphan, and the stranger in our midst. This thread is woven through the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, with Jesus himself among the strangers in our midst. It was decided among the Pastoral Council to do more teaching by putting information in the bulletin and possibly inviting a speaker to come and speak in our parish on the area of immigration and sanctuary. The challenge is before us today to answer the gospel call in becoming a sanctuary church. During these Lenten days I invite you to make the prayer below a daily prayer to guide us as a people of faith.

God of Yesterday and Today,

Women and men of generations past have suffered unthinkable acts of violence and discrimination. Time and time again, we shout the words, "Never again!" Never again will we become a people of indifference! Today, we recommit to transforming the words "Never again!" Into genuine action by being sanctuary people. We turn to you, God, to be our guide, as we become your voice in today's world. Be our hands as we welcome the stranger in our lands. Be our eyes as we remove the blindfolds that shade our vision From seeing you in the refugee, the immigrant, and the orphaned. Be our feet as we walk, side by side, with the tired and weary who journey treacherous roads in search of shelter. Be our tears as we anoint the widow and the orphan with tender care. And, as a people of faith, we join the generations of yesterday, today, and tomorrow and proclaim with one voice: "Injustice, exclusion, bigotry, never again! Not in this time!" Amen.

--Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule
Transportation

Week of March 19th — Karen Dotson
Week of March 26th — Nancy Oliver

Shelving (Mondays)

March 20th — E. & K. Corcoran
March 27th — J. & K. Brady

Distribution

March 21st — C. Danoski, L. Gildea, B. Grace, M. Ryder, C. Woodruff, R. Rounds

Fish Dinners

To support the Outreach Ministry of the Southern Tier (Mobile Van offering soup, hot chocolate, as well as socks, hats and gloves – Mobile Showers for the Homeless and those in need - in late spring) - to be held on the Fridays of Lent – March 3 – April 7 from 4:00 – 6:30 pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall, corner of Leroy and Oak St, Binghamton. Cost: Adults – \$8.00 – Children - \$5.00 (includes fish, cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, dessert, drink). (Pirogi's available – add \$1.00 each; Clam Chowder available - \$2.00 cup). Take outs available. Call in advance to help us plan for this event – 607 – 723-3239. Volunteers are needed and your assistance will be of great value. You could do 1 or as many Fridays you wish." Call Mary Giblin at 723-9208.

Confirmation Collection for Homeless

The Confirmation Class is collecting items for Binghamton Homeless Coalition kits until April 2.

These are the needed items:

Bottles of Water or Gatorade, Insulated Socks, Thermal Underwear (L/XL), Warm Gloves, Warm Hats, Hand/Foot Warmers, Ponchos, Toothbrushes, Wipes, Bus Passes, Fast Food Gift Cards, Clif Bars, Cracker Sandwiches, Oranges, Ziploc Bags. All clothing must be men's sizes, since women can wear them, too, and must be new.

We have a box just inside the front door of the school on Sundays during Faith Formation. There is also a box at the church and another at the Parish Center. THANK YOU to all the parishioners who have been contributing items and cash to our collection! We greatly appreciate your generosity!

DeBella College Scholarship

Each year the DeBella College Scholarship Committee awards \$500 scholarships to 4 seniors from our parish who plan to attend college in the fall. Applications for these scholarships are available on the tables in back of the church, or on the parish Website. Applications are due by **noon**, on **Friday, April 28th**. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be a registered member of the parish.

Volunteers Needed for Parish
Transportation Committee

Our Parish Transportation Committee is in need of more volunteers to drive parishioners to doctor appointments, for groceries, to the bank, etc. during the week. This committee has provided services to our parishioners since 1996, and we do hope it can continue. For more information, please call the Parish Center at 722-4388, Marge Mangan at 723-4044, or George Clark at 648-3385.

Special Event on Sunday, March 19th

Greg Santa Croce, parishioner and son of Roy and Molly, will be doing a special organ concert at **Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church**, 44 Main Street, Binghamton, across from Binghamton High School. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. and all are invited. The evening will feature not only Greg, but also soloists and other musicians in celebrating the birthday of J.S. Bach. Greg has been studying at the University of North Texas and has recently received a full scholarship to the University of Notre Dame to further his organ studies. Greg not only excels as an organist, but his artistic skills are also demonstrated in the area of jazz. The concert should be an excellent evening of music and our presence a great support to Greg.

Women's History Month and the Gospel

In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month to honor the extraordinary achievements of American women. The Gospel this weekend features the Samaritan Woman at the well and her encounter with Jesus. The woman at the well seems to be a fitting Gospel for: The ministry of Jesus is inclusive. The call of Jesus is inclusive. Jesus invites a woman. Jesus invites Samaritans. Jesus breaks with the cultural expectations. Jesus wants to invite everyone to the one community of God. This is clearly a message that we need to hear today in light of the tendency to exclude - to exclude women in our society and church - to exclude people that are different than ourselves - to close our borders to immigrants and refugees - to be afraid of people who are different. In today's gospel story Jesus talks with a woman. It is amazing to the disciples. Jewish rabbis did not talk to women and Samaritans. However, despite all the conventions of the time, Jesus talks to her and everything is changed. She experiences acceptance and love. She runs off in excitement to share with the whole village. She is the first follower in John's gospel to spread the good news. The whole town is changed. The Samaritan woman in some way represents all the women of the world, whose gifts are not recognized, who experience oppression, and who struggle for justice. Her encounter with Jesus is an encounter of liberation for her and then for the whole village. We are invited to apply the gospel to the situation of all excluded women in our modern world. God is concerned to bring together people of all genders, all ethnic groups, all ages, all levels of wealth, and all social classes.

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

March 25th & 26th, 2017

4:00 P.M. Mass

Lector	Marge Mangan
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Barb Brozovic
EM Host	John Pierce
EM Cup	Larry Koch
EM Cup	Jan Pandich
EM Cup	Teresa Creeden
EM Cup	Carol Danoski
Altar Server	Mary Katherine Doyle
Altar Server	Bryan Heller
Altar Server	Tyler Norton

8:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Dom Lomonaco
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Scott Iglar
EM Host	Joanne Horoschak
EM Cup	Donna Iglar
EM Cup	Marie Iobst
EM Cup	Shirley McCray
EM Cup	Mike Stricek
Altar Server	Brigid Birtch
Altar Server	Brendan Kliment
Altar Server	Mikayla Bucci

11:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Charles Linfear
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Sue Jones
EM Host	David Hanzes
EM Cup	Maria Lord
EM Cup	Kerri Hamilton
EM Cup	David Gill
EM Cup	Chris Gill
Altar Server	Brendan Heaney
Altar Server	John Michael Frissora
Altar Server	Zachary Carr

Question of the Week

Question for Children: How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you?

Question for Youth: Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be “living water” to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world?

Question for Adults: When you are tempted to try to satisfy your “thirst for meaning” through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ’s power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?

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 19th, 2016**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.