

March 22, 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

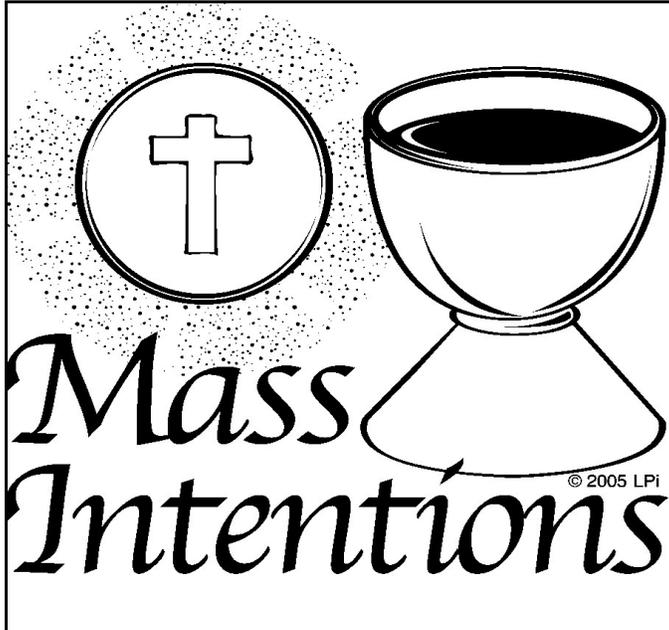
8:00 am at the Parish Center
Chapel

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 21, Vigil of Sunday
NO MASS

Sunday, March 22, Fourth Sunday of Lent
NO MASS

Monday, March 23
NO MASS

Tuesday, March 24
NO MASS

Wednesday, March 25
NO MASS

Thursday, March 26
NO MASS

Friday, March 27
NO MASS

Saturday, March 28, Vigil of Sunday
NO MASS

Sunday, March 29, Fifth Sunday of Lent
NO MASS

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

Faith Formation for the rest of this year has been suspended. We do this to insure the safety of the families that so wonderfully support the catechetical ministry. Schools are currently closed until after Easter, we would have had only two more classes after that. While your children are home for the next month please take the opportunity to share your faith and pray together for the safety of all. The link for the Pflaum Weekly readers and additional resources has been sent to your email address. If you did not receive it contact Maria Kirk at mkirk@syrdio.org Bishop Lucia has asked that all people to pray this novena to end the Coronavirus. A novena is a prayer that is said daily for 9 days.

Novena Prayer for an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Parents with children in First Eucharist classes are asked to continue to coach the lessons. During the next two months you should have completed your child's text. We will reschedule First Eucharist. I will keep you posted on all updates, but I beg you to continue to keep current on the lessons.

Confirmation Candidates will NOT meet on April 19th. They should have their assignments completed. We will meet one more time before they celebrate the Sacrament in the fall. I will be keeping candidates and parents updated by email and Remind.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time. I pray that you stay healthy and strong. Please call my cell (607)222-1477 if you or your family needs anything, or if you have any question or problems logging onto the Pflaum website.

Thank you, Maria Kirk

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 Helen Tarreto.



Lockdown by Brother Richard Hendrick

Yes there is fear.
 Yes there is isolation.
 Yes there is panic buying.
 Yes there is sickness.
 Yes there is even death.
 But,
 They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
 You can hear the birds again.
 They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
 The sky is no longer thick with fumes
 But blue and grey and clear.
 They say that in the streets of Assisi
 People are singing to each other
 across the empty squares,
 keeping their windows open
 so that those who are alone
 may hear the sounds of family around them.
 They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
 Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
 Today a young woman I know
 is busy spreading fliers with her number
 through the neighborhood
 So that the elders may have someone to call on.
 Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
 are preparing to welcome
 and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
 All over the world people are slowing down and
 reflecting
 All over the world people are looking at their neighbors
 in a new way
 All over the world people are waking up to a new
 reality
 To how big we really are.
 To how little control we really have.
 To what really matters.
 To Love.
 So we pray and we remember that
 Yes there is fear.
 But there does not have to be hate.
 Yes there is isolation.
 But there does not have to be loneliness.
 Yes there is panic buying.
 But there does not have to be meanness.
 Yes there is sickness.
 But there does not have to be disease of the soul
 Yes there is even death.
 But there can always be a rebirth of love.
 Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
 Today, breathe.
 Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
 The birds are singing again
 The sky is clearing,
 Spring is coming,
 And we are always encompassed by Love.
 Open the windows of your soul
 And though you may not be able
 to touch across the empty square,
 Sing

Dear Parishioners:

On Monday March 16th, Bishop Lucia made the difficult decision of suspending all masses (except funerals and weddings) in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse until further notice. Although I will not be celebrating mass for the next several weeks, our church building will be open during daily business hours (Mon-Fri from 8AM—5PM) as well as Sunday from 8AM—Noon for private prayer. **We will be posting videos on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube for you to experience Mass with Father Tim and our parish virtually.** With Bishop Lucia, I encourage you to pray together as a family, read, and meditate over the weekly scriptures, watch mass online, and to pray for those suffering from the Coronavirus. These acts of faith nurture your relationship with the Lord during this tough time and unite our community in prayer and thanksgiving. If able, I kindly ask that you please remember to mail, drop-off, or contribute online your weekly monetary contribution to our parish. Your giving will ensure that our parish will continue to operate during this trying time. Tough times, too, are ahead for our Greater Binghamton Community; it will be particularly tough for our elderly and most vulnerable community members, for families suffering from economic hardship, small businesses and restaurants, and centers for community outreach. Please do what you can to safely assist your neighbors and to prayer for them. Remember the book of Proverbs says: “Worry weighs down the heart, but a kind word gives it joy.” (Proverbs 12:25) We will all need a kind word in the coming days, and God’s love, hope, and compassion will be our steadfast guide. If I may be of any assistance to you during this trying time, please call our parish office (722-4388). We will do our best to assist you. Please look to our website (www.stfrancisbing.org) and bulletin for any future announcements (the bulletin is online as well). I will continue to pray for your well-being and the well-being of your loved ones.

With every best wish in Christ,

Fr. Tim

Meet Maria Ana

Maria Ana and her brothers receive one meal a day at school, so that they can focus on achieving their dreams. How was education important for your future? How can we ensure that all young people have a chance to be educated? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.



Save The Date
Hooley in Hillcrest
will return...
Saturday March 20th, 2021



Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of March 22nd — Michelle Warne

Week of March 29th — Nancy Oliver

Shelving (Mondays)

March 23rd — A. Short

March 30th — N. & D. Minch

Distribution

April 7th — D. Kellett & Team #1

Facing the COVID-19 Crisis

The first move toward facing this crisis like a true Christian is to move from "I" to "we". This is a frightening situation that we face together. The **common good** must be given first place; within the common good, we find our own good.

Second is an attitude of **concern and compassion**.

Even if we must be isolated in our homes, choose to stay in contact using modern communication so people don't feel abandoned.

Third is respect for **truth**. Pay attention to science not rumors or opinions.

Lastly, as Catholics, we can **pray**. Pray for scientists, medical personnel, friends, family, and neighbors.

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 or 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.**

Laimons and Sylvia Drupa Scholarship

The Binghamton Garden Club is offering this scholarship in the amount of \$10,000 to a graduating senior in a Broome County high school. The selected senior must major in a university undergraduate program in horticulture, environmental studies, botany, landscape architecture, biology (not pre-med) or other directly related fields. This award is not just a one-year award but has the potential of multiple years if all requirements are met. Interested applicants should contact their school Guidance Counselor.

Submissions must be received by **May 1st.**

Contact M. Rankin, at 773-8959 for more information

Catherine Cupboard Pantry Announcement!

This past week we were open and gave food to 61 families. We are taking as many precautions as possible and still meet the needs of those we serve. At this time our shelves are empty as planned so we can do a complete cleaning of the space. There are some who LOVE to Clean please JOIN US! Starting at 9:30AM on Tuesday, March 24th we will start this major cleaning. Shelves need to be wiped down, appliances cleaned, chairs disinfected, etc. We have disinfectant, sponges and gloves but you can bring your own. Then March 31st we will stock shelves. This is a great volunteer opportunity for students (again 9:30AM until done). Thanks to all the support for our pantry as it is making a difference in people's lives now and year round.

What Can You Do During This Outbreak?

- ◆ **Stop the spread.** Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect *others* who may be more vulnerable. Many of us will carry the virus before having any symptoms (and may never develop any).
 - ◆ **Wash your hands well** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sign the refrain from Michael Joncas' son "On Eagles Wings" ("And he will raise you up...") while you wash.
 - ◆ **Avoid touching your face**
 - ◆ **Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.**
 - ◆ **Follow the guidance of local and state officials**
 - ◆ **Stay home if it is not absolutely necessary to leave**
- ◆ **Don't take what you don't need.** Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the most vulnerable.
 - ◆ **Leave the masks to others.** Masks only make sense for health care workers and those who are infected. They are not guaranteed to prevent transmission anyway.
 - ◆ **Do not overbuy supplies.** Retailers are being wiped out of disinfectants and other supplies, leaving some who most need them without. Be prepared, but be thoughtful and reasonable.
- ◆ **Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted**
 - ◆ **Have compassion for those most at risk.** Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they are being cared for, without judgment.
 - ◆ **Fight racism.** Discrimination against those with an Asian background only hurts this situation
- ◆ **Proactively love your neighbor!**
 - ◆ **Call those who are isolated or vulnerable** and offer whatever help you can.
 - ◆ **If you are in a position of power,** use that power for good. Allow workers to work from home or take time off.
 - ◆ **Thank those on the front lines** who are protecting and treating us.
 - ◆ **Pray** for all those affected by this crisis.

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
March 28th & 29th, 2020

4:00 P.M. Mass

NO MASS

8:00 A.M. Mass

NO MASS

11:00 A.M. Mass

NO MASS

STAY TUNED TO OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE TO VIEW MASS ONLINE CELEBRATED BY FR. TIM. VIDEOS WILL BE POSTED ON SATURDAY NIGHTS.

Question of the Week

Question for Children: What are the things that Jesus wants you to do as his friend?

Question for Youth: Jesus helped a blind man see—and he helps each of us see the world differently. How do you see differently because you believe?

Question for Adults: Share how you, as a child of the light, in the power of Christ, produce goodness, justice, and truth for the world. What specific actions do you take to do this?

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 22nd, 2020**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.