

March 26, 2017

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



Maria de la Luz Lugo Martínez remembers what it was like growing up in Ejido Hidalgo, Mexico. “We said we were rich because we had a lot of corn, beans and animals.” But now, with few jobs and even less rain, young people—including Maria’s children—are leaving the community in search of a better life. To help families like Maria’s, CRS launched a greenhouse project empowering women with meaningful work and community. Women visit their community greenhouses to grow cactuses to sell—but they also go for so much more. “At the greenhouses, we laugh, we talk, we spend time together. Sometimes we leave our homes angry or sad. But then we start working with the plants, and we forget. Talking, laughing—we forget our problems for a while,” says Maria.

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

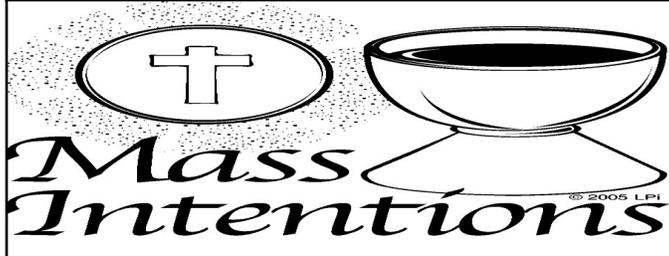
Mass Schedule

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 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

Monday, March 27
 8:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family

Tuesday, March 28
 8:00 a.m. Mark Simonis by Family

Wednesday, March 29
 8:00 a.m. Mary Stone by Jim & Rose O'Neil

Thursday, March 30
 8:00 a.m. Rob Loftus, by Wife, Sheila

Friday, March 31
NO MASS

Saturday, April 1, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Mannino Vita by Daughter, Fina & Family

Sunday, April 2, Fifth Sunday Of Lent
 8:00 a. m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Madeline Benke by Jules Furrer

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 (03-19-17)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,892.25
Loose Collection.....	\$348.00
Electronic Donation.....	\$562.00
Total Collection.....	\$7,802.25

**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.**

Our First Eucharist Sharing Meal will be held today, March 26th after regular Faith Formation classes.

Looking Ahead:

CRS Rice Bowl Ending Prayer Service will be on April 30th at 10 AM in the church. This is also the last day of Faith Formation for this year! We will collect the Rice Bowls at that time. Please make a family event of counting up the change and place paper money or checks in an envelope for the closing prayer service. Thank you for your participation in CRS Rice Bowls!

Please note: Our Lenten Penance Service will be held on Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 PM. Please make an effort to prepare your family for Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Winter Carnival; a HUGE success!

Many thanks to all the volunteers and families who participated in our Winter Carnival last weekend. Over \$323 was collected for the Homeless Coalition in addition to the generous donations of food



Operation Rice Bowl: Encounter Community

We encounter Maria in Mexico, where a community of hard-working women share joys, sorrows and fellowship while growing economic opportunity at a greenhouse. How have your communities helped you encounter Christ anew this Lent? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Congratulations to Gregg Santa Croce and Marina Maerkl...

It was a big week-end last week for Gregg and Marina. For Gregg, he gave a wonderful concert last Sunday evening at Trinity Episcopal Church. He was featured along with other musicians in a celebration of Bach's birthday. His three organ pieces exhibited his skill as an organist and why he was recently accepted at the University Of Notre Dame to begin a Master's Degree in sacred music and also to serve as an organ scholar at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus in South Bend.

Also, last weekend the Seton Catholic Central High School Girls Basketball team won their game against the Irvington girls, in a 86-67 victory to win the title of state champions. Marina Maerkl, a parishioner and a candidate for Confirmation has been a key player on the team and has contributed greatly to the success SCC girls had this season. Three cheers to Marina and her team on a successful basketball season.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet

The Knights of Columbus' "Breakfast with Bunny" Buffet is scheduled for Sunday, April 9th from 8:30-11:00a.m. in the Church Hall. Please join us for a great breakfast!

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

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.

Lent: A time to open our eyes

As we reflect on the experience of the man born blind, we might reflect on the millions of people in our world who experience actual physical blindness. In light of Catholic Social Teaching, we might also look at the spiritual or cultural blindness that we all encounter in our world and the desire of Christ to heal us and our world.

22% of children in the United States live in families below the official poverty line, yet many of us don't see them. 45% of the children in the United States live in low income Families, yet most of us are unaware. Billions of people throughout the world experience poverty, yet many people of the world don't notice them. Millions of people in the United States have lived here for decades as productive members of our society, yet we are not aware of their lack of legal status. They are forced to "hide" in fear of deportation.

We live in a marvelous world and in a creation that is filled with goodness and gifts to be shared and respected. Yet, so many people miss the beauty and goodness. Corporations see resources to be exploited for profit. Nations see materials and lands to be controlled in a spirit of power and greed. In Laudato Si, Pope Francis challenges us to see things differently.

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by all the problems, and we do not see the hopeful possibilities that can unfold by the power of God. Sometimes we see people, not as they are, but through the lens of our prejudice and stereotypes. Racism, xenophobia, prejudice and other attitudes can affect our vision.

How we see is often affected by the media and other cultural forces in our society. Thus, we experience a certain blindness even though our eyes are working. We hear what people tell us and what they show us, but we don't see for ourselves, and we don't always see what is there.

Christ wants us to have open eyes and ready hearts, so that we can see and then have the freedom to act with justice and love. As we reflect on today's Scriptures, we might reflect on our need to see things in a new way – outside of the box of our culture – outside of the limits of our American way of looking at things – outside of the ideologies of our age – outside of the propaganda of our world – outside of the ideological perspectives of politics.

The story of John 9 is a powerful story about how one person comes to see while so many other people continue to be trapped by their own blindness. We all have our personal blind spots and prejudices. Our cultures have their blind spots and prejudices as well. Christ calls us to be free. Christ calls us to see in a new way, just as Samuel learned to see "not as man sees but as God sees."

Only when we see clearly can we respect our neighbors and begin to work for justice.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule
Transportation

Week of March 26th — Nancy Oliver
Week of April 2nd — Marie Giordano

Shelving (Mondays)

March 27th — J. & K. Brady
April 3rd — A. Short & S. Vinci

Distribution

April 4th — M. Peters, K. Dotson, A. Smilnak, R. Serafini, A. Short, M. Hayes

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! And a special THANK YOU to the Winter Carnival organizers and participants for their generous donations to the homeless coalition! We collected many of the required items and \$323.30 in cash! We greatly appreciate your generosity!

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

Volunteers Needed for Transport 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.

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.**

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.

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 last weekend featured the Samaritan Woman at the well and her encounter with Jesus. The woman at the well seemed 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 the 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 that 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**

April 1st & 2nd, 2017

4:00 Mass	Lector	Betsy & Bob Shields
4:00 Mass	Lector	Rick Allabough
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Dc. Steve
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Bob Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Mary Franes Charsky
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Kelly Benjamin
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Mary Cooney
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Terry Hanifin
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Bea Grace
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Bryan Heller
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Mikey Schultz
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Sarah Shafer
8:00 Mass	Lector	Kurt Mohney
8:00 Mass	Lector	Kelly Mohney
8:00 Mass	EM Host	Dc. Steve
8:00 Mass	EM Host	Suzanne Tierno
8:00 Mass	EM Host	Maureen Mizzoni
8:00 Mass	EM Cup	Mary Ellen Vaverchak
8:00 Mass	EM Cup	Tim Vaverchak
8:00 Mass	EM Cup	Ed White
8:00 Mass	EM Cup	Tom Phalen
8:00 Mass	Altar Server	James Bush
8:00 Mass	Altar Server	Sarah Bush
8:00 Mass	Altar Server	Mary Bush
11:00 Mass	Lector	Mary Jo Albee
11:00 Mass	Lector	George Clark
11:00 Mass	EM Host	Dc. Steve
11:00 Mass	EM Host	Karyn Church
11:00 Mass	EM Host	Steve Church
11:00 Mass	EM Cup	Sr. Karen Gaube
11:00 Mass	EM Cup	Pat Clark
11:00 Mass	EM Cup	Dave Bollinger
11:00 Mass	EM Cup	Jules Furrer
11:00 Mass	Altar Server	Brendan Heaney
11:00 Mass	Altar Server	John Michael Frissora
11:00 Mass	Altar Server	Katelyn Church

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

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Comments:

Bulletin copy for **March 26th, 2016**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.