

March 29, 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@syrдио.org

Website:
www.stfrancisbing.org
Follow us on FB & Twitter:
[@stfrancisbing](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisbing)

NO MASS in person
Please go online to
stfrancisbing.org to view
our latest Sunday mass.
We will be posting new
videos of our weekend
liturgies by 4:00PM on
Saturdays for the foreseeable
future.

Also find the videos on our
Facebook (search
"@stfrancisbing")
Twitter (search
"@stfrancisbing")
YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi
Binghamton)

**You can still attend
weekend mass virtually!**

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.
 - ◆ **Wash your hands well** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sing the refrain from "On Eagles Wings" ("And he will raise you up...") while you wash.
 - ◆ **Avoid touching your face**
 - ◆ **Cough/Sneeze into your elbow or tissue.**
 - ◆ **Follow the guidance of local/state officials**
 - ◆ **Stay home unless absolutely necessary.**
- ◆ **Don't take what you don't need.** Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the 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.
- ◆ **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**
 - ◆ **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.

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 (03-15-20)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$3,715.00
Loose Collection.....	\$123.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$604.00
Total Collection.....	\$4,442.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

Next Sunday: Palm Sunday

Blessed Palm branches and/or palm crosses will be available in the church on a table from 8AM—1PM on Palm Sunday (04/05/2020). Feel free to come and pick yours up!

Faith Formation

Faith Formation will not meet for the rest of the school year.

Parents are encouraged to use the online link for the Pflaum Weeklies as talking points with their children. Talking about our faith, especially during this challenging time, is important for your children. You can also download the Children's Liturgy of the Word for use with your family. If you have trouble finding the website contact Maria Kirk, the links have been emailed to you.

Children preparing for First Eucharist are to be "coached" weekly by their parents. As soon as possible we will schedule one final class and rehearsal for First Eucharist. Parents are encouraged to go to our website stfrancisbing.org and click on Faith Formation and First Eucharist for additional information to help you prepare your child for First Eucharist.

Confirmation 2020 candidates should be finishing all Reflection questions in Decision Point, finishing up your Personal Beliefs Statements as well as your year-long community service projects. We will meet in September for a final class with Sponsors. A mailing will be coming out soon with final information.

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.

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.



Dear Parishioners: 5th Sunday of Lent

Given the challenging time we are all experiencing, I hope this letter finds you well and coping to the best of your ability to our new reality in our country. Together we can get through this with God's grace sustaining us in hope.

Suffering is a great equalizer and unifier; in this time of suffering with the coronavirus, we are all one before God. In these final weeks of Lent; may we see our lives and world in the light of Easter, especially during this health crisis.

The Gospel for this 5th Sunday of Lent is Lazarus being called out of his tomb, and Jesus telling Martha "I am the resurrection and the life", powerful words we need to hear today and something that gives us great hope no matter how dark things can become. Jesus calls us out of the tombs we dig for ourselves in order to walk in the light of hope and possibility. He calls us to live life to the fullest; to bring the love of God into our world today being plagued by this pandemic. As Jesus instructs Lazarus' friends to roll away the stone and free Lazarus from his tomb, Jesus calls us to the work of Easter healing and transformation, the work of freeing one another from our graves of hopelessness, alienation, and fear. We can do this today by keeping one another in prayer as we go through this difficult time in our lives.

We will continue posting videos on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube for you to experience this weekend's liturgy in our parish..

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. We appreciate and would like to thank all those who continue to contribute to our parish. If you would like, you may call the parish center for help in setting up electronic giving on our website. 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 pray for them.

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 on our website as well). I will continue to pray for your well-being and the well-being of your loved ones.

Let us also in a special way keep all doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and medical personnel in our prayers, that God's grace may sustain them in the challenges COVID-19 is presenting. May they be protected and be compassionate caregivers.

With every best wish in Christ,



Caring for Spiritual and Sacramental Lives While Public Gatherings are Suspended

The Holy Father recognized that before Easter, many faithful go to Confession to meet with God again. "However," he acknowledged, "many will say to me today: 'But, Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because one can't leave home? And I want to make peace with the Lord, I want Him to embrace me, that my Papa embrace me . . . What can I do if I can't find priests?' "Do what the Catechism says," the Jesuit Pope stressed, "it's very clear: if you don't find a priest to hear your Confession, talk with God, He is your Father, and tell Him the truth: 'Lord, I've done this, and that, and that . . . I'm sorry,'" and ask Him for forgiveness with all your heart, with the Act of Contrition and promise Him: "Afterwards I will go to Confession, but forgive me now." If you do all this, Francis said, you will return to God's grace immediately. As the Catechism teaches, he reminded, you yourself can approach God's forgiveness without having a priest at hand. "Think: it's the moment! And this is the right moment, the opportune moment. An Act of Contrition well made, Francis said, will make "our soul become white as snow. —Pope Francis

Lenten Mission with Bishop Lucia

Walking With Christ, From Our House to Yours: A Lenten Mission With Bishop Lucia

Tuesday, March 31: Day 1 Adoration:

Speaker: Chris Padgett, a popular speaker, musician, and author who has traveled around the world for over two decades, giving concerts, talks, parish missions, and retreats to all ages about the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Jeremy Bobak, Worship Leader

Wednesday, April 1: Day 2 Penitential Service:

Speaker: Friar Rick Riccoli, OFM Conv. Pastor of Assumption Church, Syracuse. Jeremy Bobak, Worship Leader

Thursday, April 2: Day 3 Mass for the Sick:

Speaker: Fr. Christopher Celentano, Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church, North Syracuse. Also, Jeremy Bobak, Worship Leader

Live streamed each day 3PM at [youtube.com/syrdio](https://www.youtube.com/syrdio)

Receive the presence of Christ through spiritual communion

As you gather to watch Mass during this challenging time, remember that Christ is present among you and that the grace of the sacrament is available to you through genuine desire to receive it. After praying the Our Father, you can also pray the following together:

Jesus, we believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. We love You above all things, and desire to receive You into our souls. Since we cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into our hearts. We embrace You as if You were already there and unite ourselves wholly to You. Never permit us to be separated from You.

Amen.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of March 29th — Nancy Oliver

Week of April 5th — Karen Dotson

Shelving (Mondays)

March 30th — N. & D. Minch

April 6th — E. & K. Corcoran

Distribution

April 7th — D. Kellett & Team #1

Facing the COVID-19 Crisis

There is a Christian way of facing this crisis!

The first is the move from "I" to "we". This is a frightening situation that we face together. The **common good** — the good of us all — must be given first place; within the common good, we will find our own good. That is a very Christian, even a very Catholic virtue.

The second is an attitude of **concern and compassion**. Even if we must be isolated in our own homes or workplaces, modern communications allow us to stay in touch in a way impossible before. This is a great benefit. But, we need to choose to stay in contact, perhaps with a greater frequency so that people don't feel abandoned.

The third is a respect for **truth**. In recent years, the truth has suffered in public discourse, giving rise to a horrible expression, the post-truth era. In these days, we need to pay attention to science and medicine and less attention to opinion-makers and rumors. A society without truth cannot last. Today, right now, we need truth more than ever before.

Lastly, as Christians, we can **pray**. We can pray in particular for scientists, medical personnel and politicians. These are wonderful people with a huge job of work before them. As we pray for ourselves and our families and friends, we pray too for all who look after the common good. (Kieran O'Mahony)

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 Silvia 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: HELP NEEDED

Thank you to those who came out to help clean the pantry last weekend. Food Pantries are essential for the well being of people, thus New York State allows them to stay open. Many volunteers have dropped off due to the coronavirus so we are working with reduced staff but taking all precautions and still serving others. On **Tuesday, March 31st** we will be getting a large shipment of canned goods to fill the shelves. IF YOU can help, stop in at 9:30ish or call Bev Krinik (725-7645) for the exact time of delivery. We will be OPEN to serve the public once again on April 7th starting at 5:30PM.

Spiritual Tips & Ideas

Family rosary at home for Coronavirus victims

Read the daily readings (go to usccb.org/bible/readings)

Stream the Mass (many places are offering this)

Use social media to share how your family or community is praying

Take time on Fridays to pray the stations of the cross on your own, connecting your struggles with isolation with Jesus' solitude in carrying his cross to Calvary

Watch a movie about the life of Christ and spend time reflecting on this image of Jesus and what it can teach you about your faith and your life

Practical Tips

If you are asked to telework, find a routine and pace that allows for the most productivity, yet does not overwhelm you. Be sure to distance your personal and professional lives at your new "home office."

Be conscious of your mental health during this time of great anxiety. Be kind to yourself, be calm, and be patient with yourself and others.

Incorporate some exercise into your day. Many gyms and apps are offering free services.

Learn something new and take time to explore your hobbies.

Utilize the public library's online content and eBooks.

Work on fixing up or organizing an area of the house

Practical Tips for Families

Establish your new family schedule

It's a great time to teach everyone in the family to cook!

Have a family dance party!

Nature hiking.

Start indoor seeds (Now is a great time! Get some native wildflower seeds or vegetable seeds and start them inside)

Spring cleaning!

Have the kids prepare a play to perform in the evening.

Build a fort!

Have a formal tea party one afternoon.

Do an elaborate baking project and share it on social media.

Use up all of those art and craft kits that have collected from your kids' birthdays!

Play 1 board game as a family each week

Look up 1 new card game each week and play it.

Reach Out!

Call or email (or socially network with) relatives and any friends who may feel isolated or who may be susceptible to the Coronavirus to provide a kind word, to see what help they need, or to provide your love and support.

Offer to get necessities for those who cannot go out.

Check on friends who live alone to see if they need anything

Have compassion for those most at risk and advocate for vulnerable populations in society (the elderly, those in poverty, homeless persons, persons with disabilities, those already sick or hospitalized, those with compromised immune systems, among others)

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

April 4th & 5th, 2020

4:00 P.M. Mass

NO MASS

8:00 A.M. Mass

NO MASS

11:00 A.M. Mass

NO MASS

**PLEASE STAY TUNED TO OUR WEBSITE,
FACEBOOK, AND TWITTER TO VIEW MASS
ONLINE CELEBRATED BY FR. TIM. VIDEOS
WILL BE POSTED BY SATURDAY AT
4:00PM.**

Question of the Week

Question for Children: How do your actions show that you put your faith and trust in Jesus?

Question for Youth: Lazarus received a second chance at life through Jesus. How have you experienced second chances in your own life?

Question for Adults: The death from which we are called is healing from those things which bind us and hold us back: memories, fears, rejection, or other such things. What binds you? What keeps you from fully being your own most true self in Christ?

END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi
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FILE NAME: 06-168
PHONE: **607-722-4388**
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:
Bulletin copy for **March 29th, 2020**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.