

April 05, 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](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 (03-22-20)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$2,137.00
Loose Collection.....	\$370.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$639.00
Total Collection.....	\$3,146.00

Weekend's Offering (03-29-20)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$1,520.00
Loose Collection.....	\$90.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$662.00
Total Collection.....	\$2,272.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

Faith Formation

Although we are no longer having face to face classes in Faith Formation check you email for links to helpful sites that will give you ideas on sharing your faith and celebrating Easter with your children.

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.

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.



Holy Week Celebration in the Time of a Pandemic

This Sunday, Palm Sunday, opens our Holy Week, the time we as a people of faith, commemorate in a particular way, the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We call this week holy because this week is so central in our lives as Catholic Christians. My heart is heavy with sadness that we will not be able to gather in person as a faith community to celebrate this mystery of faith in our liturgies because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hard to believe that this will be the first time in my ministry that I have not presided in these crucial liturgical celebrations, something that I will deeply miss in the days ahead. For many of you too, this will be a loss for you, as you have experienced the importance of these days. Yet, there is another way of looking at this time we are living in. We may not be gathering in our church to celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but we are living this mystery as all of us live through this pandemic. Our term for this is, the Paschal Mystery. In my prayer through this time I have been grounding myself in this Paschal Mystery of God's love. Since mid-March when social distancing and much of life came to a stand-still, our lives turned upside down, and opened us up to putting this health crisis into the Paschal Mystery. To live the Paschal Mystery means dying and rising with Christ.

Death has taken place in so many ways as this virus has spread around the world. Sadly, as I write this there have been 39,025 deaths reported globally, and more than 3,000 in the United States. A tragic loss of life. Death is not only something we experience physically, but it is also lived on many other levels in life. These last few weeks as well as the weeks ahead, have meant giving up, letting go, of our day to day routines. We have had to let go (die) to what was once "normal" to a more quiet and simpler life. We have been asked to do all we can in social distancing to help contain the spread of this virus. This is living the Paschal Mystery.

This will not end in death, because we believe in resurrection, new life in the Risen Christ. This pandemic is having and will have profound effects in the way we will live our lives in the future, we are not there yet, but our world, our country, our communities will be different. Resurrection doesn't happen instantly, but it does happen. Good will come out of this, but we have to be willing to go through this suffering to live a new life.

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, has been one of my guides in my spiritual life. I receive his daily meditations in my email, and this week and next he is focusing on what we might learn from this health crisis. Earlier this week, Dr. Anthony Fauci stated, "we don't control the virus, the virus controls us." We believe so often that we can control things even when it comes to living our lives. Probably what is hard for us right now is that we cannot control this pandemic.

Fr. Rohr said something like what Dr. Fauci stated, "we do not handle suffering, suffering handles us— in deep and mysterious ways that become the very matrix of life

and especially new life. Only suffering and certain kinds of awe lead us into genuine new experiences. All the rest is merely the confirmation of old experience." So, during this Holy Week, let us pray with and for one another. In the bulletin, look for the resources you can go to and use with your family to experience Holy Week at home.

Go to <https://holyweek.pastoral.center/> for activities that will help you and children move through the week thoughtfully, prayerfully, and with some fun.



Holy Week Liturgy & Where to View Them

Palm Sunday: View our video of the liturgy on our website stfrancisbing.org. Unfortunately, we have been advised to **not allow** people to come get palm branches or crosses from the church due to safety concerns. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil: All are welcome to Join Bishop Lucia's celebration of liturgies for Holy Week, which will be live streamed from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at youtube.com/syrdio: Thursday at 5:10PM, Friday at 2PM, and Saturday at 8PM. Get to know Bishop Lucia!

A Reflection from a Doctor: Expert Mercy

Dr. Paul Farmer chairs the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In an essay in The Boston Globe, March 19, 2020, writes: "We know how to confront the coronavirus pandemic; **expert mercy**."

Such mercy, Dr. Farmer notes, "stems from an alchemy that mixes compassionate fellow feeling with interventions that save the sick and slow down the spread of the virus."

For Dr. Farmer and his colleagues, "**expert mercy**" is the driving force behind the selflessness of Americans to practice "social distancing" and quarantining themselves as necessary. "**Expert mercy**" is what keeps doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers working long hours to attend to the sick and dying, under the most difficult and dangerous circumstances. "**Expert mercy**" is what keeps open shelters and soup kitchens and clinics for the poor. "**Expert mercy**" inspires us to help, to reach out, to keep in touch, to put aside our own comfort for the sake of others.

"**Expert mercy**", Dr. Farmer says, can get us through this crisis.

In the Gospels, Jesus challenges all who would be disciples to become "experts" in mercy: mercy that gives thanks to God for the mercy he has bestowed upon us. During these especially hard days and weeks, may we develop our own "expertise" in mercy.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Week of April 5th — Karen Dotson

Week of April 12 — EASTER

Shelving (Mondays)

April 6th — E. & K. Corcoran

April 13th — J. & K. Brady

Distribution

April 7th — D. Kellett & Team #1

Catherine Cupboard Pantry: UPDATE

Thank you to those who came out to help with the pantry's food delivery and stocking on March 31st.

Catherine's Cupboard Pantry is open on APRIL 7th at 5:30PM until all are served. Numbers are out at 10AM to pick up to reserve your place in line.

We are giving pre-packed bags of food and serving one family at a time (it should take less than 4 minutes per family) to ensure safety for all. PLEASE let your family or friends know we are here to help them, no names are taken, no questions as to need, just tell us how many people in the family we are serving.

These are difficult times both health-wise and financially for most, our mission at St. Francis of Assisi is to be welcoming and serving to ALL.

Easter hams or chicken are available this week.

If there is a reason you cannot make it during our pantry hours, please call the parish center (722-4388) to see if we can work something out.

Happy Easter to all!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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
OR

View information on our website stfrancisbing.org

Practicing Social Distancing Means Making Changes, but Staying Engaged

Spiritual Tips & Ideas

Family rosary at home for Coronavirus victims

Read the daily readings (go to uscgb.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 what they need.

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 11th & 12th, 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: Share how you sometimes make sacrifices for the good of others.

Question for Youth: Today begins the holiest week of the year. It is a once-a-year opportunity to really reflect on Jesus life, death, and resurrection. How will you enter into this experience? How will you be open to how you might be changed?

Question for Adults: Name one specific way that you live your baptismal call to enter into the death of the Lord by forgiveness, generosity, hospitality, or other ways.

END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi
CITY, STATE: Binghamton, NY
FILE NAME: 06-168
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Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:
Bulletin copy for **April 5th, 2020**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.