

April 11, 2021

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
Tina Silvestri
Housekeeper
Brendan Heaney
Nicholas Norton
Sacristans

Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday:

7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Friday: Closed

Parish Office Phone: 722-4388

Faith Formation Office Phone:
722-4177

E-mail:

stfrancisbing@syrдио.org

Website:

www.stfrancisbing.org

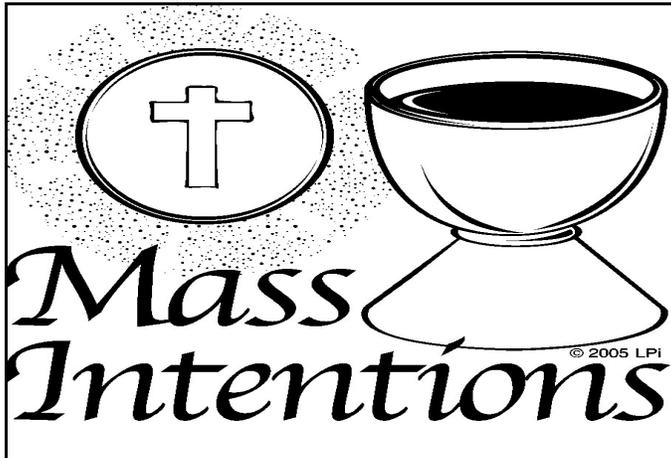
Follow us on FB & Twitter:

[@stfrancisbing](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisbing)

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 **even after our reopening.**

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!



Saturday, April 10, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Jim Foran by Jim & Rose O'Neil

Sunday, April 11, Second Sunday of Easter
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Bob Shields by Mary & Tim Foy

Monday, April 12
 12:00 p.m. Antonio DeLuca by Family

Tuesday, April 13
 8:00 a.m. Janice Gerber by Marge Mangan

Wednesday, April 14
NO MASS

Thursday, April 15
 8:00 a.m. Rob Loftus by Wife, Sheila

Friday, April 16
NO MASS

Saturday, April 17, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Robert Tanzini by Mary Russik

Sunday, April 18, Third Sunday of Easter
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Robert Evans & Ann Haskell by Family

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 (04-04-21)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$5,801.00
Loose Collection.....	\$319.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$2,897.00
Total Collection.....	\$9,017.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

FAITH FORMATION
Faith Formation meets this week for grades K-Confirmation.

Rice Bowls can be returned to Faith formation any time in the next few weeks, or placed in the collection box at Mass.

Looking Ahead:

~**First Eucharist class, Banner Making and Sharing Meal will take place April 18th.** Please bring personal items for the Pew Banners. Class will meet as usual, followed by Pew Banner project and lunch in the Hall beginning at 10:45 AM. Please attend a Mass other than 11 AM on Sunday.

~**Our final in-person Faith Formation Class for this session will be April 24th.**

~**First Eucharist will be celebrated Sunday, May 9th at the 11 AM Mass.** Mass will be a little longer than usual, and **reservations will be required.**

DeBella Scholarship Information
 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 (4), \$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 parish website. **Applications are due by 4PM on Thursday, April 29th.** Please note, the parish office is closed on Friday. In order to be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be a **REGISTERED** member of the parish.

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. The award is not just a one-year award, but has the potential of multiple years if all the requirements are met. Interested applicants should contact their school guidance counselor. **Submissions must be received by May 17, 2021.** Contact M. Rankin at 773-8959 for more information.

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 Judy Doll.

Holy Week & Easter Thank You!

It was such a wonderful experience to be able to celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter this year. I know from last year it was such a empty feeling, so coming together as a faith community was a hopeful sign as we celebrated the central mysteries of our faith in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I couldn't have done it alone— many people did so much behind the scenes, as well as participating in the liturgies. I am very grateful to all of our Parish Staff, and also the generous involvement of our parishioners who assisted in making each celebration a prayerful experience. A special thank you to Diane Seery for taking the time to handcraft all of our palm crosses! Making these celebrations happen during this time of the pandemic was a challenge, but I believe we met the challenge together. So, THANK YOU to staff, volunteers, and you, our parishioners, for all you did in opening up the Easter Season.

“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice, and be glad”

— Fr. Tim

Vatican Statement on Same Sex Unions

A few weeks ago on March 16, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a statement regarding the blessing of same-sex unions, while the basic statement was a reiteration of the church's stance, the tone was quite strong, harsh, outright hurtful as well as confusing, particularly to sisters and brothers of the LGBTQ+ community. Members of this community have been made to feel unwelcome in the church by such statements, and also by the actions of some clergy. It was like a whiplash moment when the communication from Pope Francis seemed more pastoral, and then this quick, harsh statement made it a gut blow to so many people. Four years ago Fr. James Martin S.J. wrote a book entitled, Building a Bridge. In this book Fr. Martin writes an effort by all parties to find a way to bridge the gap between the institutional church and the gay community. “The essay urges the church to treat the LGBT community with respect, compassion, and sensitivity” (a phrase from the Catechism of the Catholic Church) and the LGBT community to reciprocate reflecting those virtues in its own relationship with the institutional church. The statement of March 16th sounds more like a wall than an effort to build a bridge of respect, compassion, and sensitivity. I particularly liked Fr. Martin's statement on Twitter “Jesus blessed Zacchaeus by visiting his house (Lk 19), a Roman centurion by healing his servant (Mt 8) and the woman with a hemorrhage by healing her (Mk 5). Thus Jesus blesses a public sinner, a non-Jew and an "unclean" woman. He doesn't say, "God does not and cannot bless sin." The whole ministry of Jesus was building bridges, and not creating walls or fences to keep people out. In the Gospels we find Jesus with the marginalized, the victimized, and those who had no voice in his day, and for us as a church we are called to be with them in our world today. We can be bridge builders today by listening with sensitivity to the pain of those who are gay, show respect to their God-given dignity, and be a compassionate family member or friend to those in the LGBTQ community. Here at St. Francis of Assisi know you are ALWAYS welcome, cared for, and loved as sisters and brothers in Christ! May all of us as the faith community of St. Francis of Assisi be bridge-builders through respect, compassion, and sensitivity.

A Prayer for When I Feel Rejected

Loving God, you made me who I am. I praise you and I love you, for I am wonderfully made, in your own image. But when people make fun of me, I feel hurt and embarrassed and even ashamed. So please, God, help me remember my own goodness, which lies in you. Help me remember my dignity, which you gave me when I was conceived. Help me remember that I can live a life of love, because you created my heart. Be with me when people make me feel "less than," and help me to respond the way you would want me to, with a love that respects the other, but also respects me. Help me find friends who love me for who I am. Help me, most of all, to be a loving person. And, God, help me remember that Jesus loves me. For he too was seen as an outcast. He too was misunderstood. He too was beaten and spat upon. Jesus understands me and loves me with a special love, because of the way you made me. And when I am feeling lonely, help me remember that Jesus welcomed everyone as a friend. Jesus reminded everyone that God loved them. Jesus encouraged everyone to embrace their dignity, even when others were blind to that dignity. Jesus loved everyone with the love that you gave him. And he loves me too. One more thing, God: Help me remember that nothing is impossible with you, that you have a way of making things better, that you can find a way of love for me, even if I can't see it right now. Help me remember all these things in the heart you created, loving God. Amen.

How to have Fr. Tim hear your confession:

Due to COVID-19, Fr. Tim is not hearing confessions in church. If you would like him to hear confession, please call Delores at the parish center (607)722-4388 to set up an appointment.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: This Sunday is designated by the Church as Divine Mercy Sunday. Mercy goes beyond justice, not just forgiving someone who has done something wrong, but freeing them from further repercussions and giving them the chance to start over. Mercy is a powerful expression of discipleship. Your challenge this week is to take one of the works of mercy (spiritual or corporal) and literally live it out. At the end of the week, share with your family what you did and how it changed you. Remember, mercy wasn't just the theme of a Jubilee Year!

Thank You From Sr. Karen

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement that you sent as we celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph and the Jubilee Anniversaries of many of our Sisters. Your beautiful flowers has a central place in front of the large statue of St. Joseph in our Chapel. Your cards and prayers also meant so much to me, and be assured that you continue to be in my daily prayers. Gratefully, —Sr. Karen

Welcome to Fr. Olszewski (April 17/18)

Father Bernard Olszewski will be visiting our parish April 17/18th weekend to speak at all Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach which was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

Catherine’s Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

NO TRANSPORTATION

Shelving (Mondays)

NO SHELIVING

Distribution

April 20th— J. Wyatt, C. Botting, & D. Dobish

National Child Abuse Prevention Month



NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
APRIL 2021

Every April, the Diocese of Syracuse, parishes, and Catholic schools, recognize the National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Diocese embraces this opportunity to deepen our awareness of the need to be vigilant about providing a safe environment in

our parishes, schools, agencies, and our communities. For information on how the Diocese of Syracuse implements safeguards to protect our children, young people, and vulnerable adults from abuse, contact the Office of Safe Environment at 315.470.1421 or visit www.syrdio.org.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York
Case No. 20-30663

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on June 19, 2020, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York (“Diocese”) filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).

The Bankruptcy Court has established April 15, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the “Bar Date”).

If you have a claim against the Diocese including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date with Stretto, the appointed Claims Agent.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/diocesefofsyracuse> or call (855) 329-4244 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY FUTURE DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE’S CHAPTER 11 CASE.

Have you had enough of COVID? Plan a cruise to the Land of the Midnight Sun in July 2022.

Berkshire Travel Agency Presents

A 14-Day Best of Norway Aboard the Rotterdam

July 9 — 24, 2022

Hosted by Fathers:

John Yonkovig, Don Henry, Tom Ryan, and Tim Taugher

Cruise Itinerary

Valid U.S Passports Required

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
Sat	Overnight flight to Amsterdam, Netherlands		
Sun	Depart Amsterdam		5:00PM
Mon	Sea Day		
Tue	Scenic cruising Oslofjord		
Tue	Oslo, Norway	8:00AM	4:00PM
Wed	Kristiansand, Norway	8:00AM	5:00PM
Thu	Stavanger, Norway	8:00AM	3:00PM
Fri	Scenic cruising Sognefjord		
Fri	Flam, Norway	7:00AM	7:00PM
Sat	Sea Day		
Sun	Amsterdam, Netherlands		
Mon	Sea Day		
Tue	Eidfjord, Norway	7:00AM	3:00PM
Tue	Scenic cruising Hardangerfjord		
Wed	Alesund, Norway	8:00AM	5:00PM
Thu	Geiranger, Norway	7:00AM	5:00PM
Thu	Cruising Geirangerfjord		
Fri	Bergen, Norway	8:00AM	5:00PM
Sat	Sea Day		
Sun	Debark Amsterdam	7:00AM	

Berkshire Travel Group Rates

(Per person/double Occupancy)

Category	Stateroom Description	Berkshire Rate
J	Inside Stateroom	\$2,855.00
E	Outside Stateroom	\$3,454.00
VD	Verandah Stateroom	\$3,805.00

Rate includes: Cruise accommodations as desired, port taxes and government fees, meals and entertainment on board ship, cocktail party for group

Not included: personal items, gratuities on board ship, airfare and transfers

Cancellation insurance is available and recommended

Deposit: \$600 per person is required to secure a room.

Contact Kathy Coll (610)372-4652 for more information!

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

April 17th & 18th, 2021

4:00 P.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

8:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

11:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

Please go online to
stfrancisbing.org
to view our latest Sunday mass.

We will continue to post new videos of our weekend liturgies by 4:00PM on Saturdays, for those who wish to stay home for health and safety concerns.

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

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

**Children’s Liturgy of The Word will be
posted by Noon on Saturdays!**

Question of the Week

Question for Children: How can you believe in Jesus whom you have never seen?

Question for Youth: Jesus' words of greeting were "Peace be with you," followed by the invitation to forgive sins. How does forgiveness bring peace to you? How does it change the world?

Question for Adults: What strengthens your faith? Why do you believe in Jesus?

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 **April 11th, 2021**

Deliver 250 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

April 2021

St. Francis of Assisi Church
Rev. Timothy J. Taugher, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

For His love

Each day, offering our very best to God raises all of our efforts to the level of a prayer. He rewards our dedication with peace, joy, and awareness of His presence in all that we do.

Choose companions well

Delilah had to know the secret of Samson's strength but God had forbidden him to reveal it. *"And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death"* (Judges 16:16). He gave in and it was his undoing. Don't let anyone – friend or family – pressure you into violating God's commandments.



Hold hope

"When a man has died, were he to live again, all the days of my drudgery I would wait, until my relief should come" Job 14:14. Despite all his misery, Job clung to the one truth that also gives us hope – salvation. God offers the hope of being with Him forever.



Open the gifts of Easter throughout the year

Easter is the highest Sunday throughout the year, but each Sunday is a chance to celebrate a "little Easter." We can live the gifts of the Resurrection each Sunday of the year:

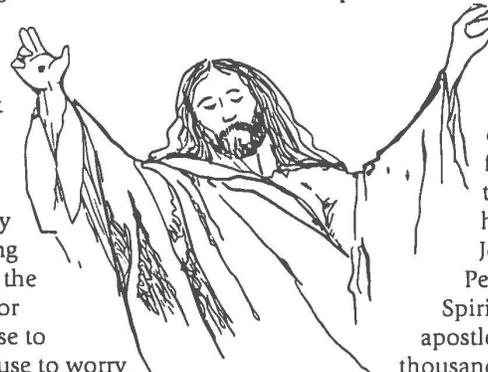
Death doesn't have the last word. Easter means that we can face each day with joy, knowing that Jesus paved the way to Heaven for those who choose to follow Him. Refuse to worry about earthly matters and share your joy with friends, family, colleagues.

Jesus offers peace the world can't give. Jesus ascended to Heaven and left everything behind. We follow his example when we detach from worldly concerns and care more about God's

will than our own. If we seek God before everything else, we can join Him in His Heavenly kingdom.

We place our faith in the Holy Spirit. "Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim him" (Pope St. John Paul II). At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostles to bring thousands to Baptism. Call upon the Holy Spirit to help you bring Jesus to others through words, actions, and compassion.

Forgiveness is ours for the asking. Jesus bore the punishment for our sins. That means no matter what we have done, Jesus is ready to forgive. All we have to do is ask.



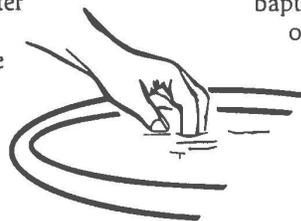
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?

The practice of blessing oneself with holy water harkens back to the washing rituals of the Old Testament Jews, who had to bathe before entering the temple.

Today, when we bless ourselves with

holy water, it brings to mind our own baptism. It was at our baptism that our souls were washed clean of original sin and we were officially made members of the Church. We also received the gift of faith. In blessing ourselves, we renew our baptismal promise.



Cast looks toward Heaven throughout the day

St. Therese of Lisieux confided that, "For me prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look towards Heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." Adding short, heartfelt prayers to our daily activities can help us glance toward Heaven throughout the day:

The Jesus Prayer – "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Try repeating it 100 times a day.

"Teach me, O Lord, to do your will, for you are my



God." Say this when beginning a chore, task, or project.

"May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace." A prayer for the souls in Purgatory.

"Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like yours." Pray this for humility and love.

"Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ." She is always willing to help.

"Thy will be done." It's what Jesus said.

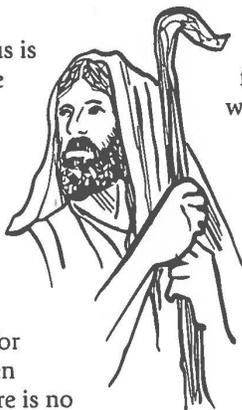
from Scripture

John 10:11-18, Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

This Gospel tells of our relationship with God. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are His flock.

Today society tells us that it is good be independent and answer to no one. We are encouraged to please ourselves and follow our own desires. However, there is no one to turn to for guidance and comfort when circumstances go bad. There is no shepherd.

In Jesus' day, a shepherd lived with the sheep, cared for them, and even put himself at risk to keep them safe. He



tended them in a flock for safety, to protect them from predators. The shepherd was trusted and familiar, so that the sheep knew His voice and followed him but no other.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd for all of humanity. In this Gospel Jesus defined the role of a shepherd. He predicted how he would fill that role by giving His life for His sheep.

But he looked beyond the sheepfold of Israel. His hope is to have one flock and one shepherd for the whole world. That flock is the Church which he founded.

Feasts & Celebrations

April 4 – Easter Sunday. The solemnity that marks Jesus' Resurrection. It is the most important feast in the Church year.

April 11 - St. Stanislaus (1079). As Bishop of Krakow in 1072, St. Stanislaus attempted to reform the violent and depraved king of Poland, Boleslas II. When his efforts failed, he excommunicated the king. In retaliation, Boleslas murdered the saint as he said Mass.

April 11 – Divine Mercy Sunday. In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina

and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of Mercy." Jesus promised that anyone who honors him as the King of Mercy and prays The Chaplet of Divine Mercy – the prayer he gave to St. Faustina – will receive special graces and great mercy.

April 21 – St. Anselm (1109). A native of Italy, St. Anselm initially enjoyed a luxuriant life at court. After his mother died, he became a monk in France and reluctantly became bishop of Canterbury, England. He was exiled for rebuffing the king's interference in Church matters.



Q & A Why should I participate in Mass if it's not required?

In many dioceses around the country, the obligation to attend Mass in person remains lifted while the pandemic lasts. Still, finding ways to celebrate the Eucharist – in person, if it can be done safely, or online – has spiritual benefits during difficult times.



"Do this in memory of me" is the only direct order Jesus gave to

His followers. That means God is the one who initiates this encounter with us. And when God asks us to do something, it is smart to do it.

Sanctify the day. Participating in Mass on Sunday still helps to fulfill the Third Commandment obligation to keep holy the Sabbath day and sanctify the day.

You're a baptized person needed by your community. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). We help worship God just by being there.

You get "take out." The homily gives the Gospel relevance to our lives. Then we have something to act on in the coming week.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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