

April 14, 2024

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

## Listening Sessions:

wednesday, April 24th @ 6:00PM

Tuesday, April 30th @ 9:00AM

Saturday, May 4th @ 10:00AM

Monday, May 6th @ 6:00PM



For our synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

“Enlarge the space of your tent”

### 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 Kliment  
Sarah & Mary Bush  
Sacristans

### Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday:  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Friday: Closed

### Confession:

2nd & 4th Saturday of every  
month at 3:00 pm in the Church

Parish Office Phone: 722-4388

### Faith Formation Office

Phone:  
722-4177

E-mail:  
stfrancisbing@syrdio.org

Website:  
[www.stfrancisbing.org](http://www.stfrancisbing.org)

Please go online to  
[stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org) to view  
our latest Children's Liturgy.  
We post new videos by  
4:00PM on Saturdays.

Follow us on Facebook



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Subscribe to our YouTube  
Channel:



[youtube.com/  
@stfrancisbing](https://youtube.com/@stfrancisbing)



**Saturday, April 13, Vigil of Sunday**  
 4:00 p.m. Antonio Versace, Jr. by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Sunday, April 14, Third Sunday of Easter**  
 10:30 a.m. Antonio De Luca by Family

**Monday, April 15**  
 12:00 p.m. Anna Altadonna & Vito Carcioppolo by family

**Tuesday, April 16**  
 8:00 a.m. Gayle Wardell by Darlene Rhodes & Family

**Wednesday, April 17**  
 12:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

**Thursday, April 18**  
 8:00 a.m. Donald Walls by John Sharak

**Friday, April 19**  
**NO MASS**

**Saturday, April 20, Vigil of Sunday**  
 4:00 p.m. Hayden Ferrance by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Sunday, April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
 10:30 a.m. Paul Savo by Nick & Rosalie Roth

**Catherine's Cupboard**  
 CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD has been serving our community for the past 20+ years, it's **open the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month from 5 till 7 (or until all are served)**. We serve anyone who comes, asking only for ID, if they have any. As members of SOUTHERN TIER FOOD BANK, we purchase at wholesale (or less), providing **basic dry or canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy, and frozen meats**. We try to provide **5 days of meals** and include **personal care items** also. We operate on **100% donations or grants**. Our location at the parish center means we have most overhead costs covered. However, we serve over 1200 people, requiring a budget of close to \$50,000 a year. PLEASE tell anyone you know who is feeling food insecure to stop in. **If you would like to donate food items, they can be left at parish center or food barrel in church foyer. Monetary donations can be mailed to our parish office or via the online giving tab at [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)**

**Weekend's Offering (03-31-24)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,800.00
Loose Collection.....	\$950.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,200.00
Total Collection.....	\$8,950.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**FAITH FORMATION**  
**Faith Formation Sunday for Grades K-9, 9:00-10:15AM**  
**First Eucharist Sharing Meal and Pew Banner Project**  
**Sunday, April 14th after Mass.**

**Looking Ahead:**  
 † Area Grade 7-8-9 Gathering, April 21st 1-5 PM at Our Lady of Good Counsel, there will be no class that day for Grade 7-8-9 so that they can attend this event. The event ends with Mass at 4 PM. Pre-registration is required.

**ALL 7, 8, & 9TH GRADERS ARE INVITED TO**

**AREA WIDE TEEN GATHERING**

**EVENT LOCATION:**  
**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL**  
**701 W. MAIN ST. ENDICOTT, NY**



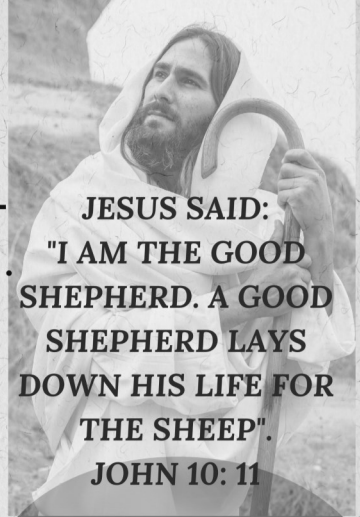
**JESUS SAID: "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. A GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP". JOHN 10: 11**

**SPEAKER FOOD FUN FAITH ACTIVITIES LIFETEEN MASS**


**REGISTER BY 4.15.2024**

**QR CODE**

<https://bit.ly/7-8-9-Youth-Event>

**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.



**Parish Synod Listening Sessions**

In the letter you received recently we communicated to you about **5 upcoming listening sessions** that begin on **Sunday, April 21st at 12Noon**, following our 10:30AM Mass. The other 4 sessions are on:

**Wednesday, April 24th @ 6:00PM**

**Tuesday, April 30th @ 9:00AM**

**Saturday, May 4th @ 10:00AM**

**Monday, May 6th @ 6:00PM**

Your participation is strongly encouraged! All sessions will be in the church hall. Please sign up on the sheets in the church or call the parish center.

If you have not signed up for one please do so today!

**In preparation for our Listening Sessions please think about the following questions:**

1. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of our parish?
2. What do you see as our challenges?
3. What are your hopes and dreams for our parish?
4. Outside of clergy, who do you view as our Parish Leadership?

**Reflection: 3rd Sunday of Easter**

All three scriptures today speak about “repentance and the forgiveness of sins.” The risen Jesus proclaims forgiveness, renewal, and new life. The attitude of Christians is not to be one of revenge and violence, but of reconciliation and forgiveness. The early church community could have reacted to the killing of Jesus, their leader, by trying to get revenge or by trying to destroy those who killed Jesus or throwing out those who denied or betrayed Jesus. They were initially afraid of the authorities; however, Jesus came saying “Peace be with you.” Jesus came giving the power to forgive. Instead of fear, revenge and violence, the early community seems to have adopted an attitude of forgiveness and reconciliation, even toward those who had been so hostile to Jesus and his teaching and even toward those who persecuted the early Christian community. In the gospel, Jesus says that this repentance and forgiveness are to be proclaimed to the whole world. Christians are called to believe that sins can be forgiven and are called to forgive other people. In what way are we also called to apply this attitude of mercy and forgiveness to social sin? To groups of people, nations, and institutions? To national leaders and various political groups? To our racial divisions? To situations of economic inequality? To situations of violence and war? To those who have gotten our nation and our world into war? To our use and abuse of our planet and its creatures? We are not called to be passive and do nothing in the face of injustice. We are called to speak up and act boldly. We are called to nonviolence. How does this spirit of forgiveness influence our action for justice? Desmond Tutu, in his book on the truth and reconciliation process in South Africa, No Future Without Forgiveness, wrote “to forgive is indeed the best form of self-interest since anger, resentment and revenge are corrosive of that greatest good, communal harmony that enhances the humanity and personhood of all in the community.”

**3rd Sunday of Easter: Justice Challenge**

April 18 is Vocations Day. In Sons and Daughters of the Light, our U.S. Catholic Bishops encourage young adults to answer the universal call, or vocation, to holiness, community, and service. While each person lives out their vocation through —marriage, priesthood, religious life, or single life—we are all called to holiness and community and service. This means that service is not just for Confirmation candidates. It is part of lifelong discipleship. Your challenge this week is to focus on the call to service. Is service a regular part of your or your family’s life? Is there one particular cause to which you can give more of your time and talent? The JUST do it—they serve others!

**3rd Sunday of Easter: Creation Care Tip**

This week, learn something new about climate change and our call to action as Catholics. Resources such as Laudato Si’ or Catholics Going Green speak to how caring for creation is connected to our spirituality. Documentaries such as David Attenborough: A Life on our Planet can highlight and explain humanity’s impact on climate change while also bringing hope for the future.

**Formation for Ministry Invitation**

It has been well over 10 years that there has been anyone from our parish in Formation for Ministry. The two-year Formation for Ministry program prepares adults of mature faith to assist pastors to serve the needs of the church. The program provides education, ministerial training, field experience, and spiritual preparation for adult Catholics leading to certification and commissioning by the diocesan bishop in a specialized area of ministry. The program prepares candidates to assist pastors to serve the needs of a parish or pastoral area. Formation for Ministry also offers learning opportunities for adult Catholics who seeks to learn more about their faith for their own personal enrichment. Formation for Ministry is open to both men and women. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you to see if you are being called to this opportunity. The need is great and it would be a wonderful way to serve the parish. If you would like to discuss this call Fr. Tim (607)722-4388. There is an info session scheduled for **April 21st from 1:00PM—3:30PM at St. Vincent Blessed Sacrament in Vestal.**

**AED Training Volunteers**

**We are currently looking for people in the parish who would volunteer to take Automated External Defibrillation (AED) training. An AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device. Please call Joe at the parish center if you are interested.**

**PLEASE TELL US THE NAMES & ADDRESSES OF SHUT-INS, WE WOULD LOVE TO REACH OUT!  
CALL DELORES AT THE PARISH CENTER  
(607)722-4388 TO LET US KNOW! THANK YOU!**

## Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

**April 16th: A. & S. Faughnan, G. Thompson, and G. Pendleton**

### 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, \$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. The application is also available on our church website, [www.stfrancisbing.org](http://www.stfrancisbing.org). Applications are due by 4:00PM on Thursday, May 9th. (Please note, the parish office is closed on Fridays) In order to be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be a REGISTERED member of the parish.



SCAN QR CODE FOR DEBELLA  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### Ladies of Charity Scholarships

The Ladies of Charity will award three \$1,000 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 April 17, 2024.**

### Chenango Valley Post Prom Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

**Saturday, April 27  
5:00PM—7:00PM**

**St. Francis Church Hall - Eat-In or Take-Out  
Cost: \$10**

**Includes:** Pasta/Meatballs/Salad/Bread/Dessert/Water  
Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting Christine Lomonaco 607-725-2883 or by Venmo @Christine-Lomonaco-1 (Include name and # of tix)  
Tickets will be held at the door

### 36th Annual Knights for Life Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

Meatballs/sauce by CORTESE RESTAURANT  
Sunday, April 21, 2024 - Noon to 4 pm  
St. Paul's Church, 282 Chenango Street

Adults -\$15 Children under 12 - \$10 Eat in/take out!

Family Dinners Available for \$50 - includes

4 large containers of spaghetti, 8 meatballs, 4 salads w/dressing & 8 slices of bread

All proceeds benefit local Right to Life and Birthright

### Sunshine Volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to each of you who delivered Easter plants to our shut-ins. You brightened their days. Happy Easter!

## CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD

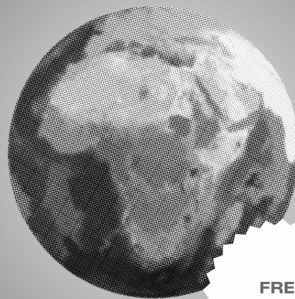
### SPRING CLEAN OUT:

We will be collecting working small household appliances to give away on April 16th. They can be dropped off to the pantry area (Parish Center) only.



# EARTH DAY FESTIVAL 2024

DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY + JUSTICE



LIVE MUSIC, CAROUSEL  
RIDES, FOOD + DRINKS,  
ARTS + CRAFTS,  
COMMUNITY + STUDENT  
ORGANIZATIONS  
NO DRUGS, ALCOHOL,  
SMOKING

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 20TH**

RECREATION PARK,  
BINGHAMTON  
12PM - 4PM

Our Creation Care Tea, will be collecting lightweight plastics at the Earth Day Festival. These plastics include; produce bags, store bags, ice bags, ziploc bags, cereal liners, case overwrap, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, plastic packaging. Plastics must be clean, dry, and may not have food or organic residue. WE DO NOT ACCEPT OTHER RECYCLABLES

## Trivia Night!

featuring "QUINGO"  
with Barb Fox

TO BENEFIT THE LIVE LIKE MEGAN FOUNDATION!

\$20 / person  
Pizza, Soda, and  
Snacks Included

Beer & Wine  
available for  
purchase

**April 13th, 2024**

Doors open at 6:30 pm  
Game begins at 7:00 pm

Raffle Baskets  
Fun, Interactive  
Trivia & Games  
for all ages!

St. Francis Church, Hillcrest  
1049 Chenango Street, Binghamton NY 13901

Scan QR Code for Team Sign-Up Form!



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

**April 20th & 21st, 2024**

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Kylie Murphy
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	McKenzie Murphy
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Marge Mangan
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Terry Hanifan
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Beatrice Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Robert Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Peggy Munson
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Larry Koch

10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Julianna Rice
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Abby Harlowe
10:30 Mass	Lector	Catherine Shafer
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Virginia Thompson
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Jim Clune
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Ann Clune
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Scott Iglar
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Donna Iglar

**Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule**

**April 14— Patti Klepfer and Toni Robinson**

**April 21—Ede and Sarah Blabac**

**April 28—Maria and Amy**

**May 5--ONLINE ONLY**

**\*ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!\***

Do you have a child or grandchild who has already received their First Eucharist? If so, they can be altar servers! **We are in desperate need of more altar servers** as we barely have enough to cover the masses alone week to week.

**Why altar serve?**

- 1.) It is a good way to get actively involved in the mechanics of mass. Some kids who find it hard to sit still may benefit from the activity that it provides.
- 2.) It allows for kids to be a closer part of the church community and make connections.
- 3.) Direct religious education learning opportunity
- 4.) Gives kids a sense of purpose and pride Church

**Call the parish center (607)722-4388 or fill out a liturgical signup form (on table in the back of the church) and drop it in a collection basket.**

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** Name some times when you know Jesus is with you.

**Question for Youth:** What are some ways that you know that God is with you? Who are the people, where are the place, and what are the occasions when you feel closest to God?

**Question for Adults:** When have you had an "Aha" moment, when you suddenly realized that God was with you?

# 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 14th, 2024**

**Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

April 2024

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

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Gemma Galgani

Born in Tuscany to a devout family, St. Gemma was attracted to prayer early on, mystically conversing with Jesus, Mary, and her Guardian Angel. Although she was hard working, kind, and a good student, her ecstasies earned her ridicule. She received the stigmata (wounds of Christ) in her body. She lost half her family to tuberculosis and struggled with poor health herself. Although this prevented her from entering the Passionist Order, she was posthumously accepted by them. .



### We are one Body

On the road to Damascus, Jesus told Saul that when he attacked Christians, he attacked Jesus. "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 26:15). Our Lord cannot be separated from the members of his Body. We stand united with all who suffer for Christ.

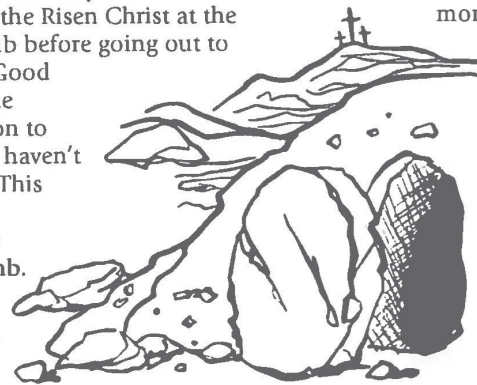
"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:84).



## This Easter, meet Christ at the empty tomb

The Resurrection, more than Jesus' other miracles or teachings, shows His divinity and His Lordship over creation, and His victory over death. Every Easter Sunday, we're called to encounter the Risen Christ at the empty tomb before going out to bring the Good News of the Resurrection to those who haven't yet heard. This Easter:

Visit the empty tomb. Scripture is "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12), so the events of Jesus' life can still impact us today when we pray with them. During the Easter season, read through John 20:1-18, and picture yourself there. Read with an open heart. No one who meets the Risen Christ remains unchanged.



Renew your commitment to Him. Can you remember a moment when Christ called your name and invited you to follow Him? Renew your commitment to follow Christ more faithfully this Easter.

Commit to daily prayer. Offer your errands for the souls in Purgatory. Resolve to go to Confession more often. Don't let anything get in the way of weekly Mass.

"Go to my brothers and tell them"

(John 20:17). Our

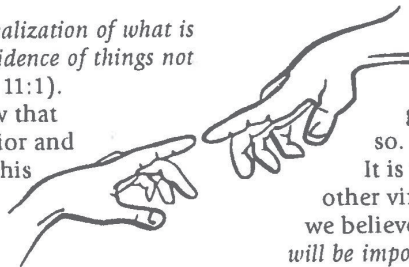
job is to make more disciples for Jesus

(Matthew 28:19). Invite someone to Mass, pass on inspiring spiritual reading, answer questions about our Faith, be ready to talk about your love for God and your hope for eternity (1 Peter 3:15).

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics need faith?

"Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Christians know that Jesus is our Savior and our lives are in his hands. We also know that by virtue of his



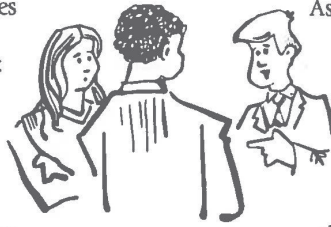
suffering, death, and Resurrection, we have hope of sharing in his glory in Heaven. He said so.

It is through faith that all the other virtues flow. Through faith we believe, "For with God, nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

### 3 Ways to be a better communicator

When people encountered Jesus, they knew they were heard, seen, known, and loved by the Father. A large part of this was how He conversed with them. As Christ's disciples aiming to convey the same message, we can become better communicators with these three skills:

**Know which conversation you're having.** There are three types of conversations: social, emotional, and practical. Maybe someone offered a solution in which a listening ear was needed or made a corny joke at the wrong time. When in doubt, say something like: "Do you want me to fix this or just listen?"



**Ask good questions.** Jesus asked questions about people's values, past experiences, and perceptions.

Ask open-ended questions, find out what interests them, ask their opinion on a given topic. Seek to understand them. You don't have to agree.

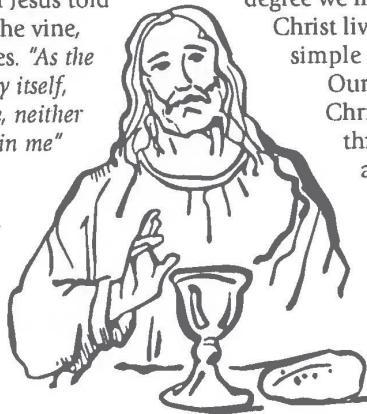
**Really listen.** Recall the rich young man whom Jesus looked at with love before challenging him to follow Him (Mark 10:21). Avoid checking your phone or thinking about your next response. Give the gift of your full attention.

#### from Scripture

#### John 15:1-8, Bearing fruit that will last

This Gospel passage takes us back to the Last Supper, when Jesus told His disciples that He is the vine, and they are the branches. "As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me" (John 15:4). This shows the closeness of the friendship and intimacy Christ wants to draw us into.

Yet, this isn't just a luxury for the few, but a vital necessity for all. "For apart from me you can do nothing" (15:5). As Jesus is who He says He is (God), then we can only have a truly fulfilling,



meaningful, fruitful life to the degree we live in Christ and Christ lives in us. It really is as simple as that.

Our connection with Christ is nourished through daily prayer and the Eucharist, and is healed in

Confession. We are part of the Vine when we humbly obey Christ's commands, carry out our duties and acts of

kindness with love, and offer our sufferings to God. Only then will our lives bear lasting fruit.

#### Q & A What is a Spiritual Communion?

Pandemic lockdowns that prevented us from attending Mass in person prompted the rediscovery of Spiritual Communion, the "ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him" (St. Thomas Aquinas). Thankfully, we have returned to in-person Mass

attendance, but we can still benefit from this devotion. Spiritual Communion keeps us connected to Christ and deepens our awareness of His love throughout the day. Best friends don't only see or speak to each other once a week or when they need something. They stay in contact daily. Certainly, we have no closer friend than God.

The saints encouraged frequent Spiritual Communion because the practice opens us to much-needed graces. St. Alphonsus Liguori encouraged making three Spiritual Communions during Mass – at the beginning, during the consecration, and at the end – even when we receive the Body and Blood.

Spiritual Communion isn't a substitute for Sacramental Communion. Instead, making frequent Spiritual Communion can enrich our experience when we do receive Communion in person.



#### Feasts & Celebrations

**April 2 – St. Francis of Paola (1507).** St. Francis founded the Minim Friars who lived an ascetic life. Known as a miracle-worker, he also had the gift of prophecy. He died in Plessis, in a monastery built for him by the king.

**April 8 – The Annunciation of the Lord (1st century).** The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the mother of God. She had confidence in God's grace and trusted His wisdom.

**April 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1622).** In his native Prussia, St. Fidelis became a lawyer and championed the poor and oppressed. He joined the Franciscans. During the Protestant Reformation, St. Fidelis worked hard to bring people back to the Catholic faith, until his martyrdom.

**April 27 – St. Zita (1271).** Born in Monsagrati, Italy, St. Zita became the servant of the wealthy Fatinelli family. Famous for her miracles in helping the sick, the poor, and the imprisoned, she is the patroness of domestic workers.



#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living

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