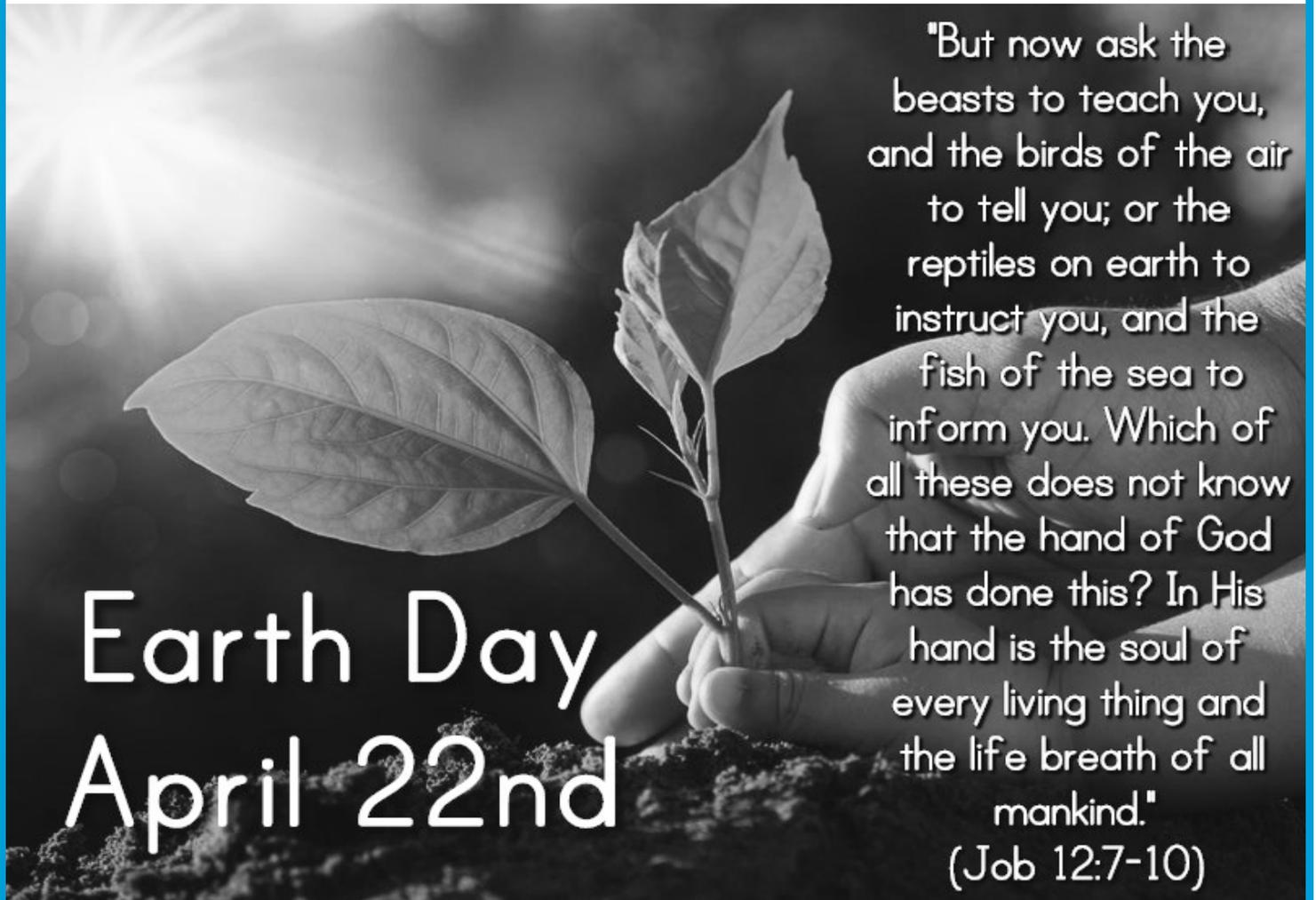


April 19, 2020

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



## Earth Day April 22nd

"But now ask the beasts to teach you, and the birds of the air to tell you; or the reptiles on earth to instruct you, and the fish of the sea to inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of God has done this? In His hand is the soul of every living thing and the life breath of all mankind."  
(Job 12:7-10)

### 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](mailto:stfrancisbing@syrдио.org)

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

**NO MASS in person**  
Please go online to [stfrancisbing.org](http://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!**

**Earth Day Prayer: "Peace to Our Earth"**

*Peace to this earth,  
This gift of creation,  
Which we celebrate  
With joy and with reverence.  
In the spirit of the first Francis,  
May we take time to see*

*Peace to this earth,  
This gift of creation,  
Which we celebrate  
With joy and with reverence.  
In the spirit of the first Francis,  
May we take time to see  
The radiance of creation,  
This gift of light and liquid  
And green growth.*

*Peace to this earth;  
May we practice nonviolence  
Toward our lakes, rivers and seas.  
May we renew the living waters  
Teeming with life, small and large.  
May clean waters quench our deep thirst.*

*Peace to this earth;  
May we practice nonviolence  
Toward the land, the very ground of life;  
May we restore the soil  
So its richness can give us plentiful food.  
May we all be nourished by the fruits of the  
earth.*

*Peace to this earth;  
May we practice nonviolence  
Toward air, sky, clouds.  
May we respect these gifts  
So we can breathe freely in gentle rain.  
May the natural world be a safe home for all.*

*Peace to this earth,  
We pray with our pope,  
Peace to creation,  
Which we celebrate  
With joy and reverence,  
Knowing we hold a fragile world  
In our hands.*

**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 (04-12-20)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$4,562.00
Loose Collection.....	\$45.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$887.00
Total Collection.....	\$5,494.00

*Thank You for your generous contributions!*

**Faith Formation**

**Although we are no longer having face to face classes check you email for links to helpful sites.**

Parents are encouraged to use the online link for the Pflaum Weeklies as talking points with their 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. Parents are encouraged to go to our website [stfrancisbing.org](http://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.

**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 on our website [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)

**\*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](http://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.



**2nd Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy**

The Gospel for this 2nd Sunday of Easter finds the disciples “locked up” in a place in fear. You might say that in a similar way we have been called to stay inside during this health crisis. Like them, too, there is an experience of great fear in regards to the reality of the coronavirus. The disciples too, were locked up in fear not knowing what to do or what their future was going to be. Yet, the Risen Christ comes to them through locked doors to re-assure them of His presence, and breathes on them the gift of “peace”.

As people of faith, though sometimes struggling, we place ourselves in the shelter of the Lord who promises to remain with us. Know that the Risen Lord is here. He comes to us with the gift of peace to unlock the fear we have during this health crisis. How often in his public ministry and the Resurrection Jesus compassionately told us, “Be not afraid.”

**The Risen Christ is Among Us**

The presence of the Risen Christ is always around us and within us. Today during this pandemic the Risen Christ can be seen and experienced in the response of caring people, in the comfort of the Church’s reaching out in new ways, in homes throughout the world as families gather to pray, in the service of neighbors, in the hospitals and healthcare facilities where agents of healing bring forth compassion and strength.

The Risen Christ is among us in the doctors, nurses, hospital technicians, respiratory therapists, medical personnel and administrative assistants, pharmacy workers, first responders, police, firefighters, civic officials, scientists working for a cure, childcare workers, assisted living staffs, delivery people, funeral directors, United States Postal Service workers, grocery store workers, gas station attendants, food pantry and homeless shelter volunteers, restaurant workers, religious leaders, and so many, many others who assist us that our lives may be bearable in such times of stress and uncertainty.

**YES THE RISEN CHRIST IS AMONG US!!!**  
**ALLELUIA!**

**Thank you for your Support**

A huge THANK YOU for those who signed up for online giving and who have sent envelopes for contribution in the mail. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us meet the needs of our Parish, especially during this tough time for everyone. With your help we will continue to do all we can to help support our parish and the community we serve.

**Capital Campaign**

As we initiated this Capital Campaign in January we never expected that we would encounter the reality of a pandemic in our world. Thank you to those who have contributed and those who continue to make pledges, your support means a great deal. Again thank you very much and may God continue the good work he has begun in us.

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Pope Francis in the course of these 7 years has been preaching by word and action the Gospel of Mercy. In a retreat for priests in 2016 his theme and focus was on the call to Mercy. I thought that each of us could find help for our own spiritual journey toward being recreated in the image of Jesus, an image of mercy. So take some time to pray and reflect on these statements he shared in that retreat.

1<sup>st</sup> Meditation: Nothing unites us to God more than an act of mercy. . . for it is by mercy that the Lord forgives our sins and gives us the grace to practice acts of mercy in his name.

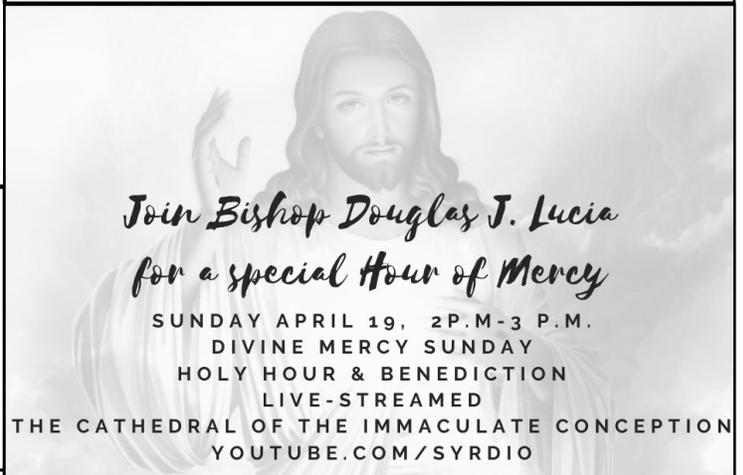
1<sup>st</sup> Meditation: Mercy impels us to pass from personal to the communal. We see this in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, a miracle born of Jesus’ compassion for his people and for others. Something similar happens when we act mercifully: the bread of mercy multiplies as it is shared.

1<sup>st</sup> Meditation: Mercy joins a human need to the heart of God, and this leads to immediate action. We cannot meditate on mercy without it turning into action. . . Mercy engages our whole being – our feelings and our spirit – and all other beings as well.

1<sup>st</sup> Meditation: Mercy gets its hands dirty. It touches, it gets involved, it gets caught up with others, it gets personal.

2<sup>nd</sup> Meditation: Saint Bernard has two fine sermons on the Lord’s wounds. There, in those wounds, we find mercy. Bernard pointedly asks: "Do you feel lost? "Are you troubled? Enter into the wounds of the Lord and there you will find mercy."

3<sup>rd</sup> Meditation: Being merciful is not only "a way of life", but "the way of life."



*Join Bishop Douglas J. Lucia  
for a special Hour of Mercy*

SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2P.M-3 P.M.  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY  
HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION  
LIVE-STREAMED  
THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
YOUTUBE.COM/SYRDIO

**Prayer for Families Adjusting to this Reality**

*Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning. Amen.*

## **Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule**

### **Transportation**

Week of April 19th — Anne Wilcox

Week of April 26th — Marie Giordano

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

April 20th — N. & D. Minch

April 27th — C. Woodruff & M. Ryder

### **Distribution**

April 21st — C. Woodruff, M. Ryder, M. DeNinis, K. Dotson, R. Rounds, M. Lyons

## **Catherine's Cupboard is OPEN**

Catherine's Cupboard is open on **Tuesday, April 21st from 5:30PM until all are served**. Many changes have happened in the last month due to COVID-19 so I will just bring you a update. Where once over 20 volunteers would help shelve and distribute food we now have less than 10 working in limited groups and time. Thanks to the young men (high school & college students) who have taken over unloading the truck and shelving food to keep our older volunteers safe. Over 8500lbs of food came in over the last 4 weeks. Thanks to the parish members who step up to pack 70 boxes of food to be given out each time we are open. Thanks to those who cleaned the area to be sure it is safe from germs. Thanks to the family-owners of Fraternity Chinese Restaurant on Chenango St. in Hillcrest for the generous supply of masks for our volunteers and visitor's. THANK'S to all those who have donated funds or items directly to the parish center. With this prepacked system we give out more food versus where clients choose from the shelf what they like or need, thus we will most probably go over our budget. Many pantries in our county have closed due to safety and lack of volunteers. WE ARE OPEN and with your ongoing support we will continue for as long as needed. THANK YOU AGAIN!

## **Enjoy the Convenience of Online Giving!**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish offers an easy way to make donations online.

Currently the following accounts have been setup,

***Ordinary Contribution,  
Repair & Maintenance,  
Catholic School Support,  
Catherine's Cupboard,  
Special Sunshine,  
Capital Campaign.***

**You can have your donations taken weekly, monthly or yearly.**

To set up an online giving account, visit our website **stfrancisbing.org**. Click the "Online Giving" tab listed at the top of the site's home screen or if you're using a mobile device, by clicking the drop-down menu in the top right corner. You must have an e-mail address to register online. Here you can create an account and authorize to have your donations electronically transferred directly from your checking account, your debit card or your credit card to the parish.

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Center at 722-4388 and we will guide you through the process.

## **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 [usccb.org/bible/readings](http://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 ([goalloutbroome.com/bc12](http://goalloutbroome.com/bc12))

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 online.

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 25th & 26th, 2020**

**4:00 P.M. Mass**

NO MASS

**8:00 A.M. Mass**

NO MASS

**11:00 A.M. Mass**

NO MASS

**NO MASS in person**

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**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** Even though you can't see him with your eyes, how do you “see” Jesus in others?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit and gave us the power to forgive sins. How do you offer forgiveness to your friends and family? How do you seek forgiveness for yourself?

**Question for Adults:** When and how do you experience the “new birth” which we are given in Christ? When someone has forgiven you? When you have forgiven others? When you celebration reconciliation? At other times?

# 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 19th, 2020**

**Deliver 100 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**