

April 22, 2018

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

Earth Day 2018

Faithful Stewardship to Keep Our Earth Clean



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
Dave Bollinger
Parish Pastoral Care Coordinator
Sue Ekstrom
Parish Media Manager
Edmund Savo
Organist

Office Hours:
7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Monday through Thursday
Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Parish Office: 722-4388
Fax: 722-1336
Faith Formation Office:
722-4177

E-mail:
stfrancisbing@syrдио.org

Website:
www.stfrancisbing.org

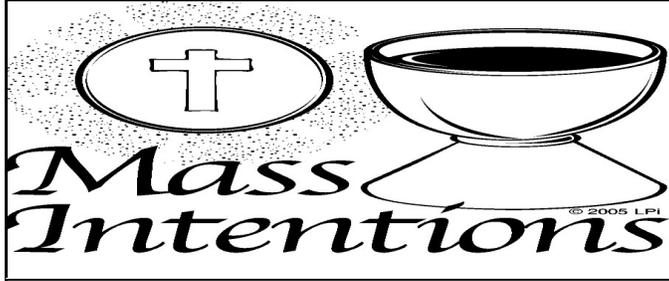
Mass Schedule

Monday-Thursday
8:00 am at the Parish Center
Chapel

Saturday Evening
4:00 pm

Sunday Morning
8:00 am & 11:00 am

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



Saturday, April 21, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. William F. Heath by Yvette Heath & Family

Sunday, April 22, Fourth Sunday of Easter
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Mary Lou Bennett by Cathy Feheley

Monday, April 23
 8:00 a.m. Christine Dancesia by the Hamilton Family

Tuesday, April 24
 8:00 a.m. Katrina Djuravcevic by the Buckland Family

Wednesday, April 25
 8:00 a.m. Donald Olsovsky by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Thursday, April 26
 8:00 a.m. Gary Klenovic by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Friday, April 27
NO MASS

Saturday, April 28, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. 36th Anniv. Hobart "Bud" Mohney Jr. by Kurt & Kelly

Sunday, April 29, Fifth Sunday of Easter
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna 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 (04-15-18)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$4,963.00
Loose Collection.....	\$338.00
Easter Collection.....	\$60.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$741.00
Total Collection.....	\$6,102.00

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes for K-9 today 9:30-10:45 AM. Opening Prayer in the church at 9:30 AM. First Eucharist Sharing meal after Faith Formation at 11:00 AM.

Looking Ahead

- Last Sunday of Faith Formation for grades K-9 is April 29th.
- First Eucharist will be celebrated on Sunday, May 6th at the 11:00AM Mass.

Parish Book Club

We will meet to discuss Chapters 8-Epilogue on April 24th at 2:00PM. Next Book Club Selection will begin May 8th. The Pope's new exhortation "Rejoice and Be Glad" will be the material. Call the parish center to reserve your book and study guide. (\$10)

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is most appropriate that Child Abuse Prevention Month is held during the Easter season. There is no better time than Easter to celebrate the protection of our most valuable gift from God—our children and young people. For information on how you can become more informed and involved in keeping our children, young people, and vulnerable adults safe, contact the Office of Safe Environment at (315) 470-1421.

Seeds to Supper Signup

Catherine's Cupboard is sponsoring "growing you own vegetables" training sessions particularly for our clients at the Cupboard. Six have signed up and there is room for 4 more persons. If any parishioners would like to participate please contact Deacon Steve at 648-2155 or sign up in the back of Church. Dates and times will be noted later after all people have been contacted.

2018 HOPE Appeal

The HOPE Appeal Commitment weekend will be on Saturday and Sunday, May 19th & 20th. A letter will be sent to all families asking for support. We are called to consider our gifts and to return a portion of them for good works.

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.

“God looked at what He had done. All of it was very Good”. Earth Day 2018

Ever think about how often the word “good” appears in the Bible? Or why the word “good” is used rather than some other superlative? We know about the Good Samaritan; in today’s Gospel, Jesus is the Good Shepherd; and God pronounces creation “good” during its inception. Used over 850 times in the Bible, there is a long list of words to fully understand the meaning of this simple adjective: desirable, serviceable, suitable, whole, sound, beneficial, salutary, complete, safe, valid, genuine, ample, substantial, bountiful, full, pleasant, favorable, virtuous, and benevolent... and this is not all of them listed in the dictionary.

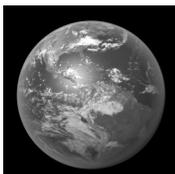
Contemplating the word “good” in the fullness of all of its meanings is especially appropriate today, April 22nd, the day this is designated as Earth Day. The focus of this year’s Earth Day is to end plastic pollution. Earth Day Network (www.earthday.org) writes, “From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet. In response, Earth Day 2018 will focus on fundamentally changing human attitude and behavior about plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.” As part of Earth Day Network strategy, two of their points are “to educate and mobilize citizens across the globe to demand action from governments and corporations to control and diminish plastic pollution and to inform and activate citizens to take personal responsibility for the plastic pollution that each one of us generates by choosing to reject, reduce, reuse, and recycle plastics.” With the growing excitement around the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020, join in working with key constituencies and influencers to build a world of educated consumers of all ages who understand the environmental, climate, and health consequences of using plastics.

Want to calculate your plastic consumption? Go to: <https://www.earthday.org/plastic-calculator/>

Want to create a plan to reduce your consumption? Go to: <https://www.earthday.org/wp-content/uploads/Plastic-Pollution-Calculator-Plan-and-Tracker.pdf>

Want to send your ideas or propose a partnership? Email: plastic@earthday.org

Earth Day is a good day to help restore the Earth’s goodness by your responsible stewardship of plastics.



Rejoice and Be Glad: On the Call to Holiness in the Contemporary World

“Rejoice and Be Glad: On the Call to Holiness in the Contemporary World” is the title of Pope Francis’ new exhortation that was released this past Monday, April 9th. In the introduction to the exhortation, Francis emphasizes that the goal of his exhortation is to “re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges, and opportunities.”

An apostolic exhortation is considered the second highest form of papal teaching after an encyclical letter. You may recall his first exhortation, “Joy of the Gospel”

In light of Easter joy, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, it is a fitting time to rekindle our baptismal call to be holy by reading this wonderful work of Pope Francis.

If you are interested in ordering a copy and joining in a discussion of the book on the Tuesdays of May, beginning May 1st, at 2:00PM or 7:00PM, please call Delores at the Parish Center (722-4388).

We are all called to holiness! Take time to read this book and examine how you are answering this call.

Prayer For Earth Day

We are so grateful, Creator God, For your gift of the earth.

We praise its beauty and bounty;
We recognize the interconnectedness
Of all life, animate and inanimate,
On this blazing blue planet,
Which echoes your sense
Of the communion of all Creation.

Forgive us our trespasses
Against our mother earth,
Especially for the pollution
We have created through
Greed and negligence.

We have littered your Garden
And defiled its waters
With tons of plastic debris.
Give us the grace to restore

The seas, waterways, and the land
By committing to use less of what harms
And by being more mindful and diligent
To use only materials that are will help.

Call us to our responsibility, and our right, To advocate for more diligently

The care of Creation, in our local, National, and global communities. Guide us to show our deep appreciation
Though every action we take for Creation. Amen.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of April 22nd — Michelle Warne

Week of April 29th — Karen Dotson

Shelving (Mondays)

April 23rd — N. Minch, NJ. Marabito

April 30th — C. & R. Danoski

Distribution

May 1st — D. Kellett Team #2

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 4 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 the website. Applications are due by noon, on **April 27th**. Please be sure to attach 3 letters of recommendation. Applicants must be registered members of the parish.

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.

Deadline is April 27, 2018.

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. 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 2nd**.

St. Pauly Donations

The clothing shed from St. Pauly has been a fixture at St. Francis since 2013. Over the past 5 years the parish has received \$8,200 from St. Pauly in return for the approximately 200,000 pounds of clothing donations during that time. This money is used to support our many different youth activities. The donated clothing is shipped to places in need all over the United States and abroad. Thanks to all who have donated their used clothing over the last 5 years.

Pension Payment

During the 1970's employers across the Syracuse diocese made the decision to provide a defined benefits pension plan for their employees. This plan included 190 different employers including the parishes, cemeteries, the Diocese, schools and other affiliated entities.

Unfortunately over the last forty plus years \$36.1 million of the required pension has gone unfunded. Each parish in the Diocese is obligated to pay their share of the unfunded pension. Please keep in mind that the responsibility for funding the pension has always fallen to the individual employers. This is not a Diocesan mandate.

St. Francis has been actively working with the Diocese in determining the unfunded portion of the pensions owed to our employees both past and present. After many months of analysis we determined that our responsibility totaled \$234,156. This figure includes employees from both St. Christopher's and St. Francis (St. Catherine's). There were several options offered to the various employers in order to resolve this pension issue. After several meetings with the parish Finance Committee, we elected to pay the unfunded amount in full and, by doing that, receive a 10% discount on the total amount. On February 28 we sent a check to the Diocese in the amount of \$210,704.29 (\$234,156 - 10%) satisfying our obligation.

In order to make this payment we removed \$100,000 from our DeBella equity fund currently managed by Charles Schwab. The remainder of the money came directly from our general checking used to operate the parish. We expect to refund the DeBella over the next 18 months using 6 quarterly deposits. We will not pay any additional pension payments for the next 5 years, which will result in a total operational expense reduction of \$75,000.

We know that this is a considerable expense and if any of you have questions about the handling of the unfunded pension payment please address any questions to Joe Carpenter in the Parish Office, 722-4388 or email jcarpenter@syrдио.org.

ST. THOMAS INDOOR GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY APRIL 28TH

9:00AM—1:00PM

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS GYM

MULTIPLE FAMILIES

GREAT VARIETY OF ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM

Birthright Mother's Day Flower Sale!

Volunteers will be selling carnations at the entrances of the church after each service Mother's Day weekend. The \$1 donation per flower will benefit women with unexpected pregnancies throughout the region. **Birthright of Binghamton** is a pro-life nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to helping pregnant women and their babies.

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

April 28th & 29th, 2018

4:00 P.M. Mass

Lector	Sr. Maureen Rainone
EM Host	Dc.Steve
EM Host	Catherine Shafer
EM Host	Judy Murphy
EM Cup	John Pierce
EM Cup	Barb Brozovic
EM Cup	Ron Scales
EM Cup	Paulette Scales
Altar Server	Vincent Williams
Altar Server	Sarah Shafer
Altar Server	Tyler Norton

8:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Ed & Kay Corcoran
EM Host	Dc.Steve
EM Host	Scott or Donna Iglar
EM Host	Ede Blabac
EM Cup	Mary DeNinis
EM Cup	Nancy Oliver
EM Cup	Mike Stricek
EM Cup	Kurt or Kelly Mohney
Altar Server	Andrew Rice
Altar Server	Jonah Rice
Altar Server	Juliana Rice

11:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	John Klepfer
EM Host	Dc.Steve
EM Host	Steve Church
EM Host	Karyn Church
EM Cup	Pat Clark
EM Cup	Jules Furrer
EM Cup	Lyndsey LoPiccolo
EM Cup	Stephanie Stracuzzi
Altar Server	Katelyn Church
Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
Altar Server	Alexander Watkins

Question of the Week

Question for Children: Jesus tells us he is the Good Shepherd, but how do you experience God guiding and protecting you?

Question for Youth: How do you feel about Jesus' being your shepherd? What does it mean to you that he lays down his life for you?

Question for Adults: What qualities of God does the image of the Good Shepherd suggest? How do you experience God in this way?

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 22nd, 2018**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.