

April 26, 2020

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter



*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@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.**

Our Pflaum account is available through May if you would like to continue to use it as a faith based lesson/activity. This would have been our last Sunday of Faith Formation--I encourage you to celebrate Earth Day, by using the Earth Day prayer service emailed to you. I look forward to seeing you soon and hopefully we will be able to have face to face classes in the fall.

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. Information will be sent to your sponsors so that you can participate in 6 Faith to Faith conversations during the summer months. I will keep you informed as to the date of our Confirmation. Please watch your email and post office mail for updates.

**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.*

**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)

**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.



## **Coronavirus and Caring for our Common Home: Earth Day 2020**

This coronavirus pandemic brings to the forefront our vulnerabilities and new opportunities to be compassionate toward each other. The long-term challenge to care for the Earth (our common home) also reminds us of our vulnerabilities and provides us with new opportunities. Like Coronavirus, the overall condition of the Earth challenges us to carefully consider all the natural balances, habitats, and interactions that are so critical for our survival. The Earth's health, like our own health facing the Coronavirus, can seem strong and resilient. Unlike the Coronavirus, effects on the Earth may appear to be more gradual or long-term and therefore even more hidden from our view.

Wednesday, April 22 was the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! Our holy Father, Pope Francis, tells us in his 2015 Encyclical Letter titled *Laudato Si* (about caring for our common home) that, "The human person grows more, matures more, and is sanctifies more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others, and with all creatures." (Paragraph 240). Pope Francis also said in *Laudato Si*, "We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it." (Paragraph 139).

Health care professionals sounded alarms loud and clear about Coronavirus. Likewise, nearly every ecologist and climate scientist likewise has sounded alarms about our impact on the Earth. Let us pray for wisdom that comes only from God asking for graces to hear and to act in Earnest and with loving care toward the Earth as we have toward COVID-19.

As we are working so hard to come to grips with the threats of COVID-19, so may we in the long term more clearly realize our interconnections and come to grips with the challenges of promoting a healthy Earth that is wondrous to behold and so vital for each of us.

## **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 times of stress and uncertainty.

## A Litany of Blessing in Time of Grief

Before we breathed our first, O God,  
you etched our names upon your hands,  
like stretchmarks on our mother's skin.  
And those same hands that bear our lives  
will carry us home as we breathe our last.

So even in our grief, O God,  
let every breath we carry within  
announce your goodness with praise unending.  
For you have made us to be your own,  
a people of your Spirit with blessing on our lips.

Therefore:

Sun and moon: *Bless the Lord!*

Stars of the sky: *Bless the Lord!*

Depths of ocean: *Bless the Lord!*

Birds of air: *Bless the Lord!*

Let all creation: *Bless the Lord!*

Blessed be God for doctors and nurses: *Blessed be God forever!*

For scientists and researchers: *Blessed be God forever!*

For pharmacists and technicians: *Blessed be God forever!*

For social workers and caregivers: *Blessed be God forever!*

For all who endeavor to keep us safe: *Blessed be God forever!*

Blessed be God for grocery clerks and janitors: *Blessed be God forever!*

For restaurant chefs and fast-food workers: *Blessed be God forever!*

For farmers and delivery drivers: *Blessed be God forever!*

For field laborers and postal carriers: *Blessed be God forever!*

For all who feed and care for us: *Blessed be God forever!*

Blessed be God for pastoral staffs: *Blessed be God forever!*

For clergy and religious who pray for us daily: *Blessed be God forever!*

For catechists teaching in creative new ways: *Blessed be God forever!*

For liturgical ministers tackling technology: *Blessed be God forever!*

For all who serve the domestic church: *Blessed be God forever!*

Blessed be God for teachers and parents: *Blessed be God forever!*

For those who sing and those who dance: *Blessed be God forever!*

For musicians, artists, composers, and poets: *Blessed be God forever!*

For comedians, actors, and story-tellers: *Blessed be God forever!*

For all who inspire and sustain our hearts: *Blessed be God forever!*

And blessed be God for the human spirit: *Blessed be God forever!*

That strives to live in more gentle ways: *Blessed be God forever!*

That connects with others while staying apart: *Blessed be God forever!*

That weeps and laughs and sits in silence: *Blessed be God forever!*

For the human family in deeper communion: *Blessed be God forever!*

In faith and love, we ask you, God, let not this virus consume our world.

But breathe your Spirit in us again that we may praise you unceasingly  
with Christ our Lord, from whom all good things come.

"A Litany of Blessing in Time of Grief." Copyright © Diana Macalintal, 2020. Used with permission

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

Week of April 26th — Marie Giordano

Week of May 3rd — Karen Dotson

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

April 27th — C. Woodruff & M. Ryder

May 4th — Alex Hayes & Carol

### **Distribution**

May 5th — S. Orband, M. & T. Giblin, M. Mizzoni, M. Hayes, M. Turna

## **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.

## **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](http://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**

**May 2nd & 3rd, 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**

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!**

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** What is your favorite time to share a meal with your family?

**Question for Youth:** The disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. How have you experienced Jesus at Mass, in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread? How have you experienced Jesus at meals and with friends and family?

**Question for Adults:** Share about great meals you've been part of, ones which are still memorable to you

# END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi  
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PHONE: **607-722-4388**  
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:  
Bulletin copy for **April 26th, 2020**

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