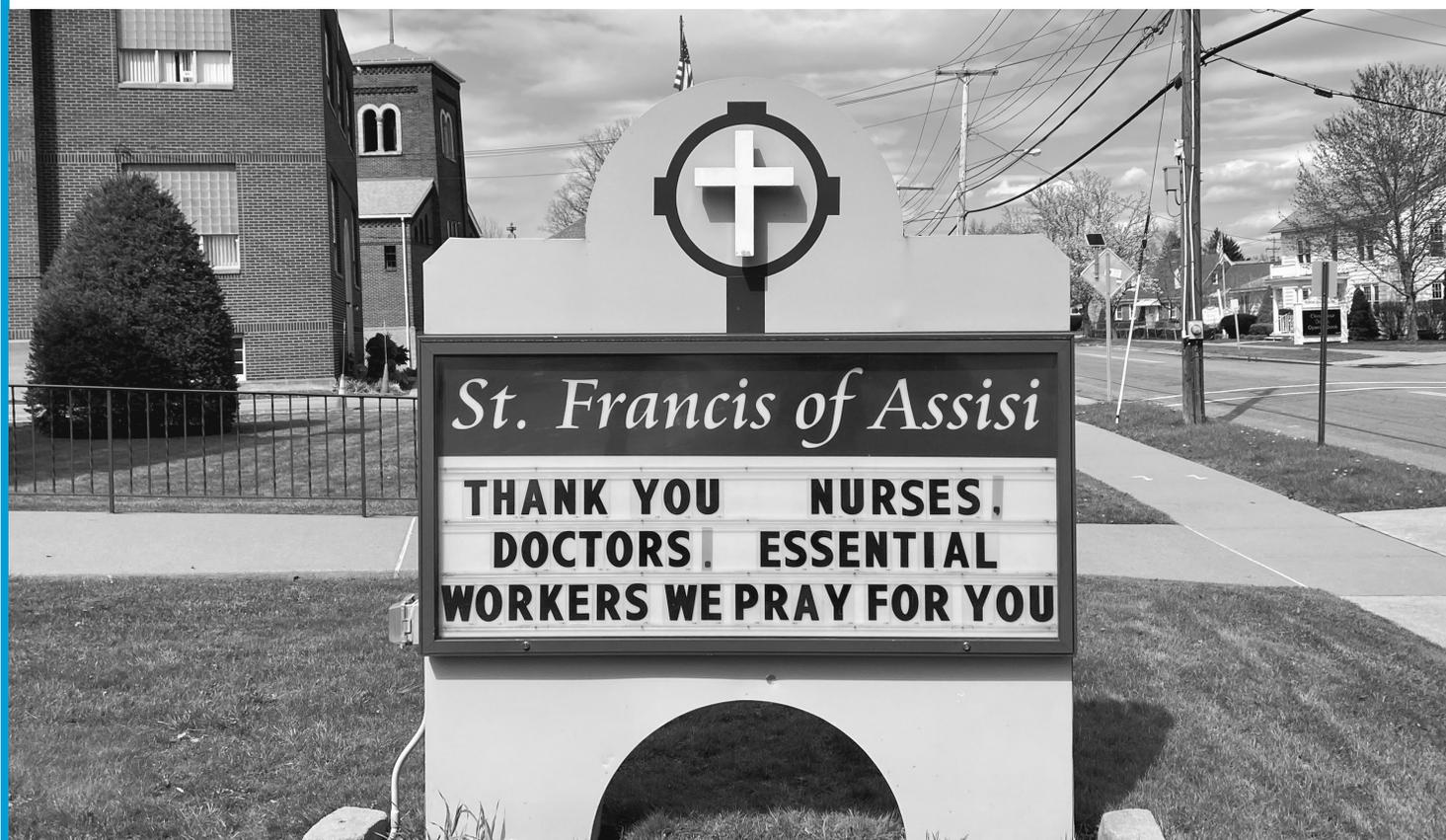


May 3, 2020

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
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

Website:
www.stfrancisbing.org

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

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!**

Why Does God Let Us Suffer?

When we watch a loved one suffer— or suffer ourselves — hearing “it’s God’s will,” can feel unsatisfying. The implication is that God directs us like chess pieces, and bad things result. In fact, germs, atmospheric conditions, human error, or just plain chance account for what is often outside of our control. It helps to remember that God is always present, he wills our good, and evil is not of his doing.

God is always present.

Our Father loves us deeply, cares about our concerns right down to the hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). He urges us to respond well to a world we can’t control. If we let him, God will enable us to learn and grow through our experiences, no matter how overwhelming or unpleasant.

God will our good.

It is not God’s will that we suffer. The ways of the world aren’t always in harmony with his will. However, his plan for us will bring us the ultimate good. He loves us with true love and wants us prepped and ready for Heaven.

God doesn’t make evil.

What we see as evil in the world, God can use for good. When we cooperate with him, suffering becomes meaningful, struggle worthwhile, victory affirming, and even the acceptance of what we cannot overcome life-giving, as they were for Jesus.

*Behold me, my beloved Jesus, weighed down under the burden of my trials and sufferings, I cast myself at Your feet, that You may renew my strength and my courage, while I rest here in Your Presence. Permit me to lay down my cross in Your Sacred Heart, for only Your infinite goodness can sustain me; only Your love can help me bear my cross; only Your powerful hand can lighten its weight. O Divine King, Jesus, whose heart is so compassionate to the afflicted, I wish to live in You; suffer and die in You. During my life be to me my model and my support; At the hour of my death, be my hope and my refuge.
Amen.*

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 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.*

This Day

*I’ll never see this day again... the seconds or the hours.
Now’s the time to take the time to stop and smell the flowers.
Today’s the day to give that smile and happiness away that you were saving for a friend some rainy, gloomy day.
This day is golden, priceless God made this day for you. The deed you do for someone else may just come back to you.
So tough a heart, hold a hand call that lonely friend. Don’t postpone the love you have This day won’t come again.*

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.



Parish Update

Our last real gathering as a parish was our 11:00 Mass on March 15th. It is hard to believe that so much time has passed and that so much has happened across the nation and within our parish community. The parish has continued its basic activities. As most of you know Sunday Mass has been available on the parish website and has been well received by many within the parish and the Binghamton community as a whole. Thanks to Sue Ekstrom for her technical expertise and to all the people that have helped with the weekly Masses. These Masses will continue until we can gather again to celebrate the Eucharist. Catherine's Cupboard was opened three times since March 15th and Bev Krinik has made it possible to receive curbside boxes of food for over fifty individuals and families. We can't thank Bev and her masked volunteers enough for helping to keep those less fortunate fed during this time. We would be remiss if we didn't thank many of our parishioners, the Nimmonsburg Rotary, the Boys Scouts and Project Concern for donating over \$5,000 directly to Catherine's Cupboard since the middle of March.

The parish office has been closed during this time with Father manning the phones. Fred has been steadily working on various projects inside the church and parish center. Sue has been doing her usual good work on the bulletin each week and, as was mentioned, her expert filming and editing of the Sunday Mass. Maria has been working on a limited basis preparing for Faith Formation in the fall and Joe Carpenter has been watching over a number of things during the last 6 weeks and most importantly, Delores will be back before we know it.

There are a few things that should be mentioned that have importance as we move forward as parish. The first has to do with our Capital Campaign. We had expected to have the Campaign concluded by the end of April. The pandemic derailed our plans, but despite that, your pledges have continued to arrive. Through your generosity we are three quarters of the way to our \$500,000 target. THANK YOU! We will complete our campaign efforts when it is safe to do so.

Along these same lines, your weekly donations to the church have continued to come in with a large increase in electronic giving. Since our last weekend together we have received 75% of our average weekly donations. AGAIN THANK YOU!

You will be interested to hear that we have been able to protect our staff financially with a Payroll Protection Program Loan from the Coronavirus assistance bill (CARES) passed by Congress. This loan will allow us to pay the staff for the next eight weeks and help assure that they can move forward with their lives. The Finance Committee and Pastoral Council were made aware of this loan money last week at a virtual meeting that was held on the 22nd.

Lastly, our hope for all of you is that you remain safe and in good health and that we can be together again soon.

International Workers' Day: Feast of St. Joseph, The Worker

This past Friday, May 1st, was the Feast of St. Joseph, The Worker, and International Workers' Day. God dwells in all the men and women of our world. God dwells in our creation. If we are to live out the vision of God's presence in all people and things, we must renew our respect for all workers. We must be committed to justice for all just wages, just working conditions, just benefits, and so on.

It's become a ritual during the pandemic:

Every evening at 7:00PM, New Yorkers throughout the city open their windows and crawl out to their fire escapes and rooftops. It starts with clapping; then horns; the banging of pots and kettles, whistles and cowbells are soon added to the mic; cheers and shouts round out the three-minute cacophony. It's New Yorkers saluting and saying thanks to those on the frontline of the war against COVID-19: the doctors and nurses and medical personnel, the police and firefighters and EMTs and national guard, the good neighbors who keep essential services up and running. It's the sound of a city pushing back against this insidious virus in a gesture of resistance and solidarity, a "symphony" of gratitude and respect.

Along with these workers, we also recognize and celebrate all workers.

Honoring the Dignity of All Workers

*Christ the Workers, help us recognize the dignity
Of all work and all workers.*

Challenge us to learn more about just wages

In our Church's teachings,

And call us to support policies and legislation

That provide living wages,

Important benefits, and healthy, safe working conditions

For all those who toil for their daily bread.

Help us to respect all forms of work and all workers,

And to grow insensitivity and concern

For those in menial jobs and for all workers. Amen.

Jesus Understands

It is astounding to think that in his human nature, Jesus experienced fear and suffering, just like we do. Even better, he wants to help. **Fear.** Early in his life, soldiers hunted him down to kill him. His neighbors threatened him with harm when they didn't like his teaching. He endured a horrific Passion. Jesus coped by relying on prayer, grace, and confidence in his Father's will. He showed us how so we can endure, as well. **Suffering.** During his crucifixion, Jesus became sick, dehydrated, and exhausted as his body began to shut down. Once on the Cross, it became harder to breathe. In fact, throughout his life, Jesus experienced how it feels for a body to fail. He knows how it feels to die. When we are sick and suffering, we can turn to him for a cure, or the grace and strength to accept his will. All we have to do is ask.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of May 3rd — Karen Dotson

Week of May 10th — George & Pat Clark

Shelving (Mondays)

May 4th — Alex Hayes & Carol

May 11th — C. & B. Danoski

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. 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)

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)

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 9th & 10th, 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: How is Jesus your example when others don't like you?

Question for Youth: Sheep know their shepherd and follow his voice. How hard is it for you to recognize the voice of God in your own life? Who has helped you hear God's voice?

Question for Adults: In what specific ways is Christ an example which you follow when dealing with others, especially with the ones against whom you hold a grudge or those who dislike 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 **May 3rd, 2020**

Deliver 100 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.