

May 10, 2020

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



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
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722-4177

E-mail:
stfrancisbing@syrdio.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!**

Congratulations to our DeBella Scholarship Winners!

- Brigid Birtch**
- Ethan Glenn**
- Dominick Lomonaco**
- Elizabeth Rice**
- Michael Schultz**

They will receive their awards on June 6th at our videotaped Baccalaureate Mass.

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.

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 (05-03-20)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$3,074.00
Loose Collection.....	\$210.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,787.00
Total Collection.....	\$5,071.00

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.

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.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will be available to view on our website, as well as posted to our YouTube Channel, Facebook page, and on Twitter by noon on Saturdays going forward. Encourage your children to watch these videos!

Happy Mother’s Day!



*As I look back on my life
I find myself wondering...
Did I remember to thank you
For all that you have done for me?
For all of the times you were by my side
To help me celebrate my successes
And accept my defeats?
Or for teaching me the value of hard work,
Good judgment, courage, and honesty?
I wonder if I’ve ever thanked you for the simple things...
The laughter, smiles, and quiet times we shared...
If I’ve forgotten to express my gratitude
for any of these things,
I am thanking you now
and want to express my love for you!
And I’m hoping that you’ve known all along
How very much you are appreciated!*

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 four 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 two months 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 at a virtual meeting that was held on the April 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.

Honoring Mothers From a Distance

How does one honor their mother/mother figures in this time? How do we share our presence from a safe distance?

As I think about how undeniably unique Mother's Day will be for us this year, I find myself reflecting on three experiences that might be helpful for you, as well, during this time of physical distancing.

1) This Mother's Day, let's learn from the experiences of those who have not found Mother's Day an occasion for celebration or joyful connection. How have they navigated this holiday? My own mother died when I was seventeen. Though I have other mother figures in my life and children of my own to celebrate with, there is still a shadow of grief that hangs over Mother's Day for me. Many others have lost their mothers, have had abusive or absent mothers, or have lost children. Give yourself permission to grieve physical or emotional separation from your mothers/mother figures this year.

2) I have noticed that distancing has actually brought me closer to my community and my global family. That may sound paradoxical, but our Christian faith is riddled with paradoxes that – if embraced – will help us be more whole and holy: “the last shall be first” (Mt. 20:16); “in order to save our lives we have to lose them” (Mt. 16:25); “in order to become great, we must become servants” (Mt. 20:26). Exploring our modern-day paradoxes may be the most healing thing we can do right now. This Mother's Day, allow the distance to make you closer.

3) Lastly, as I think about Mother's Day this year, I have been thinking about mothers who are in poverty or who are on the receiving end of injustices that threaten their livelihoods and the livelihoods of their family members. We certainly could learn a lot from these mothers about what it means to persevere in times of trial. Women of Color may well be the most oppressed group of people historically, and still today. And yet, they persevere. I recently read a snapshot of Women of the Modern Civil Rights Movement put together by the National Museum of African American History and Culture ([click here to read](#)). This article lifts up the fact that African American women were left out of leadership roles in the Civil Rights Movement, despite that they had an active and central role in it. From bus boycotts to school integration to voting rights and the March on Washington, African American women put their very lives on the line for equity and an end to structural racism. Role models including Fannie Lou Hammer, Coretta Scott King, Thelma Glass, Georgia Gilmore, Claudette Colvin, Josephine Baker and many other women instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement show us what it looks like to persevere in difficult times.

May this Mother's Day provide us with an opportunity to reflect on what it will look like to persevere in this difficult and uncertain time. May we honor our mothers and mother figures by birthing a new way of being attentive to them, ourselves, and the world around us.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of May 10th — George & Pat Clark

Week of May 17th — Michelle Warne

Shelving (Mondays)

May 11th — C. & B. Danoski

May 18th — K. Mohney

Distribution

May 19th — S. Lee, L. Gildea, A. Smilnak, A. Short,
J. Wyatt, AM. & S. Faughnan

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 16th & 17th, 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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to view our latest Sunday mass.

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virtually!**

**Children’s Liturgy of The Word will be
posted by Noon on Saturdays!**

Question of the Week

Question for Children: What are some ways that you can act like Jesus would if he were in your situation?

Question for Youth: Jesus is “the way, the truth, the life” and he asks us to do as he does. How do you try to follow Jesus’ way?

Question for Adults: How are the promises of this Gospel passage made real in your own life? How do you experience yourself doing greater works than even Jesus did?

END OF BULLETIN

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Comments:
Bulletin copy for **May 10th, 2020**

Deliver 100 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.