

May 17, 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](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!**

**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 (05-10-20)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,541.00
Loose Collection.....	\$377.65
Electronic Collection.....	\$2,752.00
Total Collection.....	\$9,670.65

*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](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.

**WATCH: Children’s Liturgy of the Word**

We have started filming Children’s Liturgy of the Word videos for our young parishioners. They are available to view on our website, but will also be posted to our YouTube Channel, Facebook page, and on Twitter by noon each Saturday as long as we are still practicing social distancing. Please, encourage your young children to watch these videos as it simplifies our Sunday liturgies to help them understand God’s message in a more interactive way.

**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.*

“Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.”—Psalm 57:1

**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.



### **On Care For Our Common Home**

“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord.” These are the words that open Pope Francis’ encyclical on ecology and care for God’s creation. These words, quoting St. Francis of Assisi’s beautiful canticle, remind us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

Pope Francis’ encyclical letter Laudato Si’ was released in June 2015. Five years later, in 2020, Pope Francis invited all Catholics and people of good will to celebrate its fifth anniversary by protecting families and future generations through action to care for our common home. Here are themes that Pope Francis highlighted in Laudato Si’ which require our urgent response today.

- ☛ **A Moral and Spiritual Challenge.** The ecological crisis, Pope Francis writes, is a summons to profound interior conversion—to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world.
- ☛ **Care for God’s Creation.** God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation. Protecting human dignity is strongly linked to care for creation.
- ☛ **We are All Connected.** We are connected to the rest of the human family, to the created world, and to those who will come after us in future generations.
- ☛ **Impact on the Poor.** People in poverty have contributed least to climate change, yet they are disproportionately impacted by it. As a result of excessive use of natural resource by wealthy nations, those who are poor experience pollution, lack of access to clean water, hunger, and more.
- ☛ **Called to Solidarity.** We are one human family and have a shared responsibility for others and for creation. Wealthy countries have a responsibility to reduce consumption of non-renewal resources and should help poorer nations develop in sustainable ways.
- ☛ **Technological and economic development must serve human beings and enhance human dignity,** instead of creating an economy of exclusion, so that all people have access to what is needed for authentic human development.
- ☛ **Supporting Life, Protecting Creation.** Concern for nature is incompatible with failure to protect vulnerable human beings, such as unborn children, people with disabilities, or victims of human trafficking.
- ☛ **A Time to Act.** Pope Francis calls for a change in lifestyle and consumption. We can make important changes as individuals, families, and communities, and as civil and political leaders.
- ☛ **Hope and Joy.** “Injustice is not invincible” (no. 74) and we act knowing that we seek to live out God’s vision of renewed relationships with God, ourselves, one another, and creation.

### **How Can You Better Care For Creation?**

Each of us are called to take concrete steps – from reducing consumption to working for political change – to better care for creation. Here are some ideas.

1. Become more aware of our connectedness. Care for one another and creation includes understanding that “everything is connected” (no. 91) and that the economy, politics, community involvement, and technology all affect the future of the planet and humankind. How can we become more aware of our connectedness?
2. Changes to lifestyle and consumption habits can make a big difference. For example, get a re-usable water bottle, take shorter showers, walk, bike or take public transportation instead of driving, recycle, compost food waste, and buy energy efficient appliances.
3. Make changes institutionally at your parish, school, or workplace. For example, start recycling and composting, use washable dinnerware in cafeterias, share electronically instead of printing, do an energy audit, and install solar panels.
4. Support local efforts to solve environmental problems. Community groups around the country are working to make city, county, and state-wide changes that can make a big difference. Find out what is going on locally and get involved.
5. Contact your members of Congress to share Pope Francis’ message and urge action to address climate change.

### **A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation**

*Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.  
God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good,  
advance the weak, and care for this world in  
which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!  
Amen.*

Excerpted from “A Christian prayer in union with creation,” in Laudato Si’, no. 246

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

### **Transportation**

Week of May 17th — Michelle Warne

Week of May 24th — Memorial Day

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

May 18th — K. Mohney

May 25th — Memorial Day

### **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](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.

## **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 and Children's Liturgy have been available on the parish website and have 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 has remained open 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.

Lastly, our hope for all of you is that you remain safe and in good health. That we may be patient with one another during these trying times. That we can use this time for reflection and prayer. And that we will be together again soon.

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

**May 23rd & 24th, 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](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!**

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

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** Jesus promises to be our friend forever. How do friends treat each other?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) would remain with us always. When have you experienced the Spirit?

**Question for Adults:** Which one of the promises in today’s Gospel gives you the most hope?

# END OF BULLETIN

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Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:  
Bulletin copy for **May 17th, 2020**

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