

May 24, 2020

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

The Ascension of the Lord



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@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
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"@stfrancisbing")
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"@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 (05-17-20)

- Regular Envelopes.....\$6,111.00
- Loose Collection.....\$80.00
- Electronic Collection.....\$1,701.00
- Total Collection.....\$7,892.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

Faith Formation

Although we are no longer having face to face classes check your 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.

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.



Information Regarding Sunday Liturgies

Hope all of you are doing well, and more importantly staying healthy. Every weekend since March 15th has been very strange for me, as I am sure for all of you. The church is not a building, but the church is you—the people of God. So I have missed seeing you, “the church”, and the time have given me a deeper appreciation of the gift that all of you are to the life of our parish. We are blessed! I have been sustained by your prayers and thoughts these last few weeks. Also, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the effort you have made to continue your financial support to your parish community. When the “pause” began I wasn’t sure what to expect, but your weekly contributions have greatly assisted us in meeting our expenses. So thank you!

What does the time ahead look like for us? It certainly will be different for all of us, but it will be wonderful to be able to gather as a parish faith community. I have been frequently asked about when we will be able to return to liturgy. As of this writing I have no firm date, but it could be in a matter of a few weeks. Preparations have been underway the last few weeks to ready our church building for the time we can open our doors.

Fred Hazlett (our maintenance caretaker), along with others have thoroughly washed, disinfected, and polished the pews. Once we return disinfecting the pews, doors, and handrails will be done by wiping down with disinfectant after each Mass.

When preparing to come to Mass be sure to wear and have with you our new fashion statement, FACE-MASKS! You will be obligated to wear them (or some other face covering) upon entering the church, during liturgy, except for the brief moment of receiving Holy Communion. So don’t leave home without your face-mask.

It has become part of our new lifestyle to practice social distancing. As you have been in the pharmacy or grocery store, this practice is to keep a safe space between one another. Following this requirement will mean that possibly only 95-100 people could attend a particular liturgy. This may require some way of making a reservation to what liturgy you and your family are planning to attend. The logistics of this are still being reviewed to see what may work the best. There could be one option of signing up online for those capable of using their computer, smartphone, or tablet. The other is to call the parish center (607-722-4388) to make your reservation. I will have more about this when I know more about our procedure.

A household can sit together, but you have to be sensitive to others around you. There will be the 6ft spacing in the pews to give everyone space. The seating in church will be staggered and spaced out. The pew ahead of you and behind you will be empty, there will be tape blocking this particular pew. Also, there will be arrows on the floor to follow, please observe them. When you come to your pew you will find that all liturgical and

hymnal books have been removed, boxed and stored for the time ahead. You may bring your own missal/prayer books, which is fine to do, but take them home with you. What is left in the church may be disposed to the garbage. Music will be left to Ed Savo, there will be no choir for the time ahead.

Before coming to the parish I urge you to take care of your personal needs— would like to minimize the use of the restroom as best as possible. Of course it is available for an emergency or a child/baby need.

The doors to the church will not be open until 20 minutes before the scheduled liturgy, and when exiting I encourage you and your family to go immediately to your cars. It is not recommended for extended socializing after Mass. Dismissal from church will be done in a more organized manner than we are familiar with from the past. Everyone will NOT leave at the same time, but you will be directed by someone when to leave. All in an effort to practice social distancing and respecting everyone’s health.

In regards to the reception of communion I am reviewing what will work best for safety and respect. There will no longer be an offering of the cup. When receiving the Eucharist please receive the host with your hand, lift your mask, and place the host on your own tongue.

This is the start of our preparation, and information I wanted to share with you.

This will continue in the bulletins and online in the coming weeks, and more than likely expanded upon as I learn more information to the guidelines for public worship. If in any way you are sick or have a temperature, please stay home. Our senior parishioners or anyone with compromised health issues are NOT encouraged to attend. Sunday Liturgy will continue to be filmed and offered on our parish website (www.stfrancisbing.org), on our Facebook page (St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton), on Twitter (@stfrancisbing), and on our Youtube Channel (St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton). For those concerned about or unable to attend Sunday Liturgy these filmed Liturgies are well worth your time and continue to be a great option for anyone.

I am looking forward to seeing you at church in the very near future. In the mean time let us keep one another in prayer.

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.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of May 24th — Memorial Day

Week of May 31st — Nancy Oliver

Shelving (Mondays)

May 25th — Memorial Day

June 1st — E. & K. Corcoran

Distribution

June 2nd — D. Kellett Team #2

Prayer in Troubled Times

*God, Source of life and Center of our being,
with humility I place myself and my situation in
Your Hands.*

Protect my family, friends, and myself.

*Help us create a better future for the world,
for our nation, and for ourselves.*

Lift the desperation and fill me with trust and hope.

*Give wisdom to those working on the issues of
economic recovery and a renewed society.*

*Teach me to value what is truly important in life
and not let my heart and spirit shrink
in despair and anxiety.*

*You are the Good God Who is still
in charge of the universe.*

*Humble us to learn from this experience
and be purified and refined as beloved children
of a loving God.*

You are our hope and life support!

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

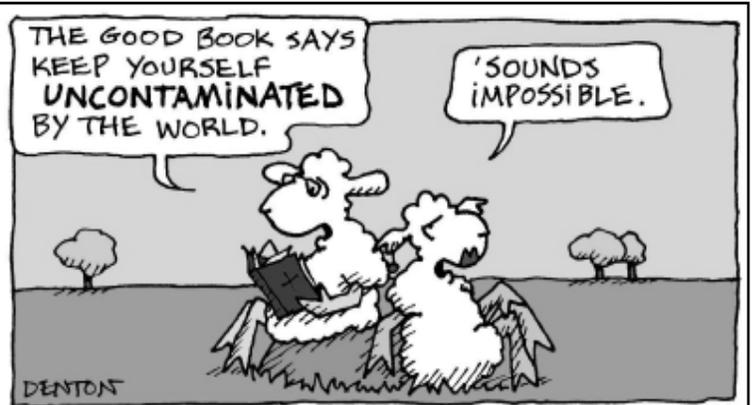
Special Sunshine

Capital Campaign

You can have your donations taken weekly, monthly or yearly.

To set up an online giving account, visit our website stfrancis.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.



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.

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

May 30th & 31st, 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.

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
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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 helps us be strong in our faith. When do you need to be really strong in faith?

Question for Youth: Prayer is essential to being a disciple, because it is the way we build our relationship with God—through talking and listening. What is one way you can take more time this week to listen to God in prayer?

Question for Adults: In these heartfelt instructions from a leader of the church, what are the ways in modern life that we sometimes suffer for our faith? Or are there no such ways?

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 24th, 2020**

Deliver 100 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.