

May 31, 2020

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

# Pentecost

## **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](mailto:stfrancisbing@syrdio.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.

**Weekend's Offering (05-24-20)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$3,630.00
Loose Collection.....	\$260.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,717.00
Total Collection.....	\$5,607.00

*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.**

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.

**Breath Of God, Breathe on Us**

*O God, the source of our common life, When we are dry and scattered, When we are divided and alone, We long for connection, we long for community.*

*Breath of God, breathe on us.*

*With those we live beside, Who are often strange to us, Whom we may be afraid to approach, Yet who have riches of friendship to share, We long for connection, we long for community.*

*Breath of God, breathe on us.*

*With those we have only heard of, Who see with different eyes, Whose struggles we try to imagine, Whose fierce joy we wish we could grasp, We long for connection, we long for community.*

*Breath of God, breathe on us.*

*With those we shall never know, But whose lives are linked with ours, Whose shared ground we stand on, And whose common air we breathe, We long for connection, we long for community.*

*Breath of God, breathe on us.*

*When we are dry and scattered, When we are divided and alone, When we are cut off from the source of our life, Open our graves, O God, That all your people may be free to breathe, Strong to move, and joyful to stand together To celebrate your name. Amen.*

**Instructions for Celebration of the Sacraments When Gatherings Resume**

**In order to permit the celebration of Mass and the sacraments in a dignified, safe, and healthy manner, each parishioner must do the following:**

- Seek information from his/her parish regarding registration for Mass, and policies/ procedures.
- Remain home if sick, symptomatic, at risk, or vulnerable
- Wear a face mask in church (required) and, if possible, bring personal hand sanitizer
- Observe the commands on the posted signage and follow the directives of ushers

**Be aware that during this period, there will be:**

- No holy water in fonts
- No offertory procession
- No choir
- No passing of the collection basket; baskets will be made available for offerings
- No physical exchange of the sign of peace
- No hymnals or missalettes (unless your own)
- No congregating closely in or around the church

**Prepare for the reception of Holy Communion:**

- Masks will be worn by ALL
- Direction will be provided for those receiving
- The Precious Blood will NOT be offered
- Reception will involve: receiving the Body of Christ in the hand ONLY, stepping aside, lifting the mask, consuming the Eucharist, returning the mask

**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.

**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.



### Update Regarding Sunday Liturgies

This past week the clergy in our area had a zoom meeting with Bishop Lucia regarding diocesan and parish procedure to begin liturgies in our parish churches. This weekend is the celebration of the wonderful feast of Pentecost, that celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit as well as the gift of the church. The Bishop plans to celebrate Mass this weekend at the cathedral with a very, very small group of 10 people. Permission is granted for any parish to begin on this weekend if they are prepared.

After much deliberation and consultation, I am looking at **the weekend of June 13/14 to open our doors to celebrate liturgy.** Choosing this weekend gives us as a staff more time to prepare ourselves in regards to logistics, and ready the church for public gathering. It so happens that this weekend in June is **the Feast of Corpus Christi.** The Body and Blood of Jesus, the feast of the Eucharist. This weekend seems so appropriate to gather for the Eucharist after three months of not celebrating liturgy in person or receiving the Eucharist. As weekend liturgies begin on June 13/14, **daily liturgies** will follow as well, on **Monday, June 15th, at 8:00AM in the church.** The Bishop has dispensed everyone from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass until further notice. If you wish not to attend a weekend liturgy, you are welcome and encouraged to attend one of the weekday liturgies. The Eucharist is the central prayer of the church, so I encourage you to make an effort and attend liturgy during the week. However, 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](http://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.

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 only about 95-100 people could attend a particular liturgy. This requires making a reservations to what liturgy you and your family are planning to attend. One option we have provided for creating a reservation is submitting online for those capable of using their computer, smartphone, or tablet. Just click the "Reopening" tab on the website, go to the reservation section, and submit your information. The other option is to call the parish center (607-722-4388) to make your reservation.

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. You will be seated front to back, so unfortunately you may not get to sit in your favorite pew. Seating will be also 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.

When preparing to come to Mass be sure to wear and have with you our new fashion statement, **FACEMASKS!** 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 facemask.

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.

I am looking forward to seeing you on **June 13th/14th** at church in the very near future. In the mean time let us keep one another in prayer.



### Breathing Life into the Church

Jesus breathed the "breath of life" into the church. We see a need for this today. The church no longer plays such a prominent role in society as it once did. There may be good reasons for this. Nevertheless, God is still working through the church. God does this work in the same way God always works: through the earthly, human sweating, groaning, physical life of this world.

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

### **Transportation**

Week of May 31st — Nancy Oliver

Week of June 7th — Anne Wilcox

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

June 1st — E. & K. Corcoran

June 8th — K. Mohney

### **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 heat 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](http://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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.**

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

**June 6th & 7th, 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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**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:** When have you heard your inner voice or conscience guiding you to do what is right?

**Question for Youth:** On Pentecost, the apostles were able to speak in a language that everyone could understand. As a young person, you have your own way of communicating Jesus’ importance in your life. How will you make Jesus more known to others in your own way this week?

**Question for Adults:** Share about times when you felt the power of the Spirit, giving you the right words, giving you insight into a dilemma, or in other ways

# END OF BULLETIN

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Comments:  
Bulletin copy for **May 31st, 2020**

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