

November 29, 2020

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

HOPE



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
Tina Silvestri
Housekeeper
Brendan Heaney
Nicholas Norton
Sacristans

Office Hours:
Monday — Thursday:
7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Friday: Closed

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)

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 **even after our
reopening.**

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!**



Saturday, November 28, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00p.m. 13th Anniv. Ed Farthing by Family

Sunday, November 29, First Sunday of Advent
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family

Monday, November 30
 12:00p.m Bob Shields by Christine & Terry Feheley

Tuesday, December 1
 8:00 a.m. Vita Mannino by Daughter, Fina & Family

Wednesday, December 2
 12:00 p.m. Jack Quinn by Family

Thursday, December 3
 8:00 a.m. Antonio DeLuca by Family

Friday, December 4
NO MASS

Saturday, December 5, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00p.m. Deceased members of the Totman & Truchan Families by Family

Sunday, December 6, Second Sunday of Advent
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Mary Stone by Mike & Karen Dotson

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 (11-08-20)

Regular Envelopes.....\$5,815.00
 Loose Collection.....\$82.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$4,002.00
 Total Collection.....\$9,899.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

FAITH FORMATION

No Faith Formation this weekend November 29th, Happy Thanksgiving!



There is a tutorial video on our website for parents doing at-home Faith Formation.

Looking ahead:

Confirmation 2021 Rite of Acceptance, **December 6th at 11 AM Mass.**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Looking Forward in Faith — Vision 2020

We are pleased to report on the latest support for our Looking Forward in Faith — Vision 2020 parish capital campaign. Today our pledge total stands at \$483,000. This puts us over the 96% mark on our \$500,000 goal and has been generated through the sacrificial generosity of over 160 households. Father Tim and the campaign committee wish to sincerely thank all of our donors for their commitment and sacrifice to St. Francis of Assisi. For the convenience of those who may have misplaced their pledge care or confidential return envelope there is a supply of extra brochures, pledge forms, and other material available in the church. Please keep in mind that we need the support and prayers of all parishioners in order to be truly successful and that we are asking for “equal sacrifice not equal giving.” It is just as important to reach our goal as it is to have participation of every able parishioner. If you have not already done so, please consider making your pledge this week. Thank you!

Special Collection
Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we raised money to support those on the margins who are living in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

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 especially, Joan Campbell.

1st Week of Advent Weekly Justice Challenges

The Sunday Gospel draws us into the Season of Advent, challenging us to prepare ourselves and our world for Christ's coming. The Advent readings focus on many images of the Messiah in the Old Testament. The prophets particularly describe the Messiah as one who will bring peace to our troubled world. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is the fulfillment of their prophecies. Your challenge this week is to follow in Jesus' footsteps by being a peacemaker yourself. How can you create peace within your own heart, within your family, in the community, and even in the world? Spend time in prayer, letting the peace of Christ penetrate your being. Then bring together people you know who are in conflict, inviting them to see the goodness in each other. Finally, pray for peace in the most troubled spots in the world. Where is conflict most volatile and hateful? Pray for people who live there and for their leaders to have the courage to be peacemakers rather than peace-breakers.

Advent Wreath Prayer

*Emmanuel, God-with-us,
In anticipation and hope this Advent season,
We look forward to Christmas Day
As we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts.
As we reflect on the past year,
We ask Your forgiveness
For times failed to live according to your will.
Forgive us for failing to welcome the stranger,
For walking past a person in need,
For remaining complacent in the face of injustice,
For praying to You only in times of trouble,
For doubting Your word,
For acting out of self-interest,
And for closing our hearts.
Illuminate for us the path of righteousness
As we light these candles in Your name.
Set our hearts aflame,
So that we too may go forth and set the world on fire.
Call us to serve the common good,
Ground us in Your presence,
And renew our spirits.
On this Advent journey,
We are reminded of Your love and mercy,
We give you thanks for bringing Light into the world,
And we rejoice in the promise of everlasting life.
Amen.*

Prayer for the First Week of Advent

*God of Mercy and Compassion,
As we light this candle,
we pray to You for strength.
Make us aware of the human rights violations
Occurring throughout the world,
And move our hearts to action.
In the face of so much pain and suffering,
Let our hope and faith continue to burn bright,
So that we can achieve a world of justice and peace.
Amen.*

A Time to Give Thanks

As we approach Thanksgiving it is a time to give thanks to God and one another in the ways our lives have been so graced. As we know expressing our gratitude should not be reserved for one day, but something we are called to do regularly in our lives. This year's celebration of Thanksgiving will be different in many ways because of COVID-19, and the impact it will have on our usual gatherings. We are grateful for all of our medical communities, healthcare personnel, and essential workers who have done an exceptional job under very challenging circumstances.

As your pastor I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have been so supportive of our recent **Parish Capital Campaign**. Your pledge whether large or small has made it possible for us to nearly reach our goal which I believe will happen very soon. Even in this pandemic you made this possible, so THANK YOU for your prayers and gifts to this effort this past year.

The mission of our Parish wouldn't be possible without the generosity of all of you who have volunteered. Many have volunteered their time in Catherine's Cupboard on Tuesdays, and many others have sustained our outreach through your financial and food donations. Much gratitude to all of our catechists in our Faith Formation ministry who are sharing our Catholic faith to our young parishioners. In this COVID time they have come forth despite the challenges. I am grateful to those who volunteer to keep our landscape around our property very attractive. Also, I am grateful for the staff that assists me and all of us to fulfill the daily operation of our parish. So, THANK YOU, Dc. Steve & Ede Blabac, Joe Carpenter, Sue Ekstrom, Delores Farwell, Fred & Patty Hazlett, Maria Kirk, Tina Silvestri, and Ed Savo.

May the light of our gratitude burn brightly in our hearts and in our world. In the silence of our hearts, let each of us give thanks for all the many gifts that are ours. Let us also be mindful of those today who are not now present with us here: those who have gone before us, those in the present time, and those to be born whom we will love. God of all good gifts, from your holy heart has come a flood of gifts upon us. With uplifted hearts, we gather together to thank you with prayer and with worship of feasting. We are grateful not only for the gift of life itself, but for all the gifts of friendship, love, devotion, and forgiveness that we have shared. May we give our thanks by lives of service, by deeds of hospitality, by kindness to strangers and by concern for one another. We are most grateful this feast day for the way You, our God, are visible to us in one another, in countless daily gifts, in the marvels of creation. We bless you oh God, for the blessings of our lives; and invite you to bless our table and all of the food of this feast that we share. Let us thank the Lord today and all days. Amen.

Know my prayer of thanks goes out to you all,

Jr. Tim

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

NO TRANSPORTATION

Shelving (Mondays)

NO SHELIVING

Distribution

December 1st — K. & T. Barnhart, N. Oliver

THE GIVING TREE 2020

"Tis the season" but this year we are doing it a little different, we want YOU to decorate the tree with gift cards see below.

Gift cards should be in values of \$20-\$25; Visa or Master cards work also.

"Children's Home holiday will look a bit different this year. Keeping safety as our first priority, not only for our youth and families, but for our community, we will be sending home family bags. The bags will contain a gift card from a grocery store, a warm blanket and a meaningful family activity. **We are requesting gift cards from Walmart, Target and Aldi's for the family bags.** Our goal is to help families engage in ways they may not have previously; while keeping you and your family safe by providing alternative ways to donate. With your donation we are one step closer to creating healthier, stronger family units in our community."

We also give gifts to Elizabeth Church Nursing Home which we will do again this year. **Instead of taking a tag just pick up a gift and leave under the tree in a holiday bag not gift wrapped.** Suggested items all under \$10 value would be hair brushes and accessories hair bands, barrettes etc. Residents have not been allowed to get their hair styled since MARCH due to COVID. Tins of cookies, soft blankets, or candy also are great gifts for them.

Our tree will be up on November 28th through December 13th. If you are not attending mass feel free to drop off items at the parish center during regular hours (Mon.—Thurs. 8AM—4PM) So shop at your local grocery or drug store for these items and STAY SAFE

Instructions for Celebration of Sacraments

In order to permit Mass each parishioner must:

- † Seek information for registration for Mass, and procedures
- † Remain home if sick, symptomatic, or at risk
- † 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

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..
- † Please maintain social distancing of 6 feet!



2020 CUTLER BOTANIC GARDEN PRE-PAID

Holiday Wreath Sale

All sales benefit the work of Cutler Botanic Garden!

Freshly made by Master Gardeners
Available for pick-up:

Saturdays, beginning November 28
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Regional Farmers Market
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County
840 Upper Front Street
Binghamton



Lg. (28") Wreath \$30
Sm. (22") Wreath \$25



Horizontal Swag \$25



Vertical Swags \$25

Make checks payable to "CCE-BC"
Mail or deliver form and payment by **November 16**
to: Carol Fetterman
CCE-BC
840 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905
Attn. Wreath sale

Order online at: ccebroomecounty.com
Questions? Call Carol 607-584-9966

Thank you for supporting Cutler Botanic Garden!

PARISH REGISTRATION

Our warmest welcome to all! We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you, celebrating with us, whether you're a long-time resident or newly arrived in the Parish. Please check the appropriate box and place in the collection basket or return to the Parish Center. *We thank God that you're with us.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

- New Parishioner, send registration form
- Change of address or phone number
- Temporarily away. Stop envelopes
- Moving, please remove from Parish Roster

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
December 5th & 6th, 2020

4:00 P.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

8:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

11:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

Please go online to
stfrancisbing.org
to view our latest Sunday mass.

We will continue to post new videos of our weekend liturgies by 4:00PM on Saturdays, for those who wish to stay home for health and safety concerns.

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: What special things do you do to get ready for a visitor at your house? What things can you do like that to get ready for Jesus?

Question for Youth: What is one thing that you can do this week to help you remember that Jesus is coming?

Question for Adults: When you’re getting ready to receive a guest, what are some things you do? How do you apply this to receiving Christ

Advent 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 29</p> <p>Buy or make an Advent wreath. Bless it and light the first candle tonight and every night this week. Read Mark 13:33-37.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Advent is about waiting for the Savior to come. Offer a simple prayer of praise anytime you have to wait during Advent.</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p>The presence of Jesus reminds us to hope in God's mercy. Make a list of reasons for your hope today.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Identify your "go-to sin" and resolve to conquer it during Advent.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Add 20 minutes of daily prayer during Advent. Set an alarm to remind you to pray for 10 minutes each morning and night this month.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>In gratitude that God provides for your needs, set aside gently used clothing and give it to the poor. Add a piece you love as a special sacrifice.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Perform an examination of conscience today. Then go to Confession, if your parish offers it, to get ready to greet the Savior.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>At sundown tonight, light two violet candles in the Advent wreath and read Mark 1:1-8.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>St. Nicholas was a generous man and a courageous bishop. Today, make at least one generous act of love in his honor.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>The feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's freedom from Original Sin. Attend or stream Mass and pray a Rosary.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Today, let nothing discourage you in honor of St. Juan Diego. He never gave up, placing his trust in Jesus and his Mother.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>In your Christmas cards write a note about the blessings you received this year as a witness to God's love.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Buy Christmas gifts from merchants that carry "fair trade" items to support workers in developing countries.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase in your home and pray a "Hail Mary" whenever you pass it.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Gaudete Sunday-Joy! Celebrate the halfway point of Advent. Light two violet candles and the rose one. Read John 1:6-8, 19-28.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Spend time in silence today. Say "no" to unnecessary distractions. In silence and peace, you will be open to God's will.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Think of Biblical accounts of God's mercy to sinners. Ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt and forgive those who wronged you.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>In honor of Las Posadas remembering the Holy Family's trek to Bethlehem, pray for all those who have been forced from home.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Send a card to someone who lost a loved one in the last year. Offer your thoughts and prayers for healing and comfort.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pray for the men and women in the armed services who won't be able to spend Christmas with their families.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pray the Angelus at 6:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 6:00pm every day until Christmas.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Light all four candles in the wreath tonight and all week. Read Luke 1:26-38.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>This can be a sad time for those who are alone, especially in a pandemic. Pray for anyone you know who will be alone on Christmas.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>As a gift to the coming Savior, repair a relationship with a friend or family member that needs healing.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Make an effort to share God's love today. Say a kind word or listen with compassion to someone who is suffering.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Even if you live alone, put up and decorate a Christmas tree. Light it as a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Rejoice! Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20 and meditate on each miraculous detail. Think of how joyful it will be to meet Jesus when he comes again.</p> 	

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

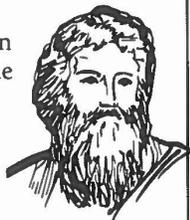
December 2020

St. Francis of Assisi Church
Rev. Timothy J. Taugher, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Holiday advice

The holiday season is an important time in the Church but, in the midst of a pandemic, it can also be a time when health worries, money worries, family worries, and every kind of worry intrudes. Instead, try to follow this advice from St. Paul, *"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."* (Philippians 4:8).



Unborn joy

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb ..." (Luke 1:40). Even in the womb, John was filled with joy to serve God. With the coming of Christmas, look for ways to do God's will and then leap for joy as you fulfill His plan.

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).



God is love

We call God "Creator," "Savior," "Father," yet when we really want to understand who He is, one word is enough. God is love.

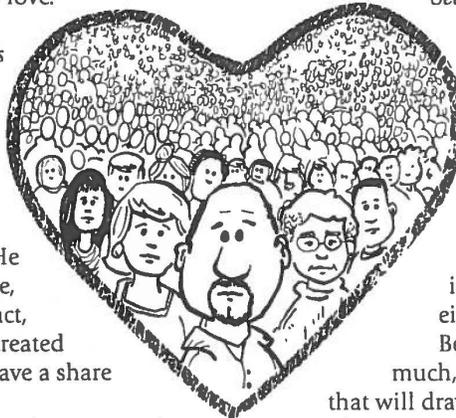
"Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:8). Love is the very nature and essence of God Himself. He doesn't just love, He is love. In fact, that's why He created us, so we can have a share in that love.

We are not simply swept up in the good will God has toward all his creations. He loves each of us as individuals and that love is never-ending and unconditional. *"Can*

a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name" (Isaiah 49:15-16). This is not necessarily because we are good; we can't possibly earn the vast love He has for us. But the good news is we can't lose it either.

Because He loves us so much, He denies us nothing that will draw us closer to him and to life in Heaven. *"For God so loved the world,"* Jesus declared, *"that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe in a "virgin birth?"

Before Jesus was born, Isaiah was told, *"the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel"* (Isaiah 7:14). The virgin birth was documented in Luke 1:34.

Had Jesus been conceived like the rest of

us, He could not have been a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

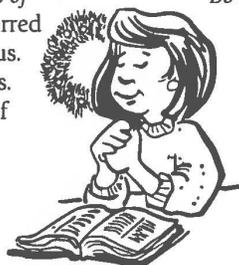
"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).



Awaken to the presence of God on Christmas morning

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). An amazing truth occurred at the first Christmas; God came and lived among us. Even more amazing, He continues to live among us. During Advent, take steps to become more aware of His presence.

Begin each day in his presence. Before you get out of bed in the morning, place yourself in His presence. Take a few minutes to focus on a sacred picture or an image that will help you to



"Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

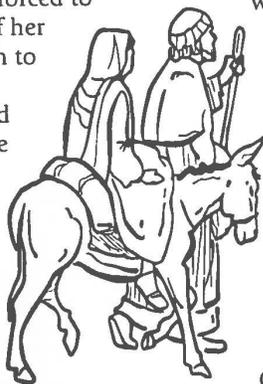
Seek God's Word. Start your day with Scripture such as the daily Mass readings (found on www.usccb.org) or another reading you choose. Ask God to teach you during the day from that selection.

Speak to him throughout the day. Picture the Lord next to you throughout your day and talk with Him as you experience the day together. Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk, suggested prayer shouldn't be confined to formal times.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, God chooses each of us in a special way.

Mary and Joseph were forced to travel in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On foot or donkey, it was a dirty and exhausting journey. Once there, they had no option for decent housing and had to stay in a stable with animals. Young Mary gave birth in crude conditions with no friend or family to help.



were no friendly faces to greet the family once they arrived and they had to make their own way in an unfamiliar land.

Refugees all over the world flee violence like the Holy Family. Catholics have a special charge to protect them and those who are vulnerable: children, elderly, and poor.

Like Mary's and Joseph's, God has a special place for each of us in his plan of salvation. Prayerfully ask God what he wants you to do for him and his kingdom.

Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross (1591). As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Briefly jailed over a misunderstanding, some of his best spiritual writing came from this experience.

Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597). Born in Holland, he was ordained into the Society of Jesus and vigorously safeguarded the Catholic faith through writings and teaching. His work, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is still used today.

Dec. 26 – St. Stephen (first century). A deacon of the early Church, St. Stephen preached that God can be found everywhere, not just in one place like the temple. He angered the Jewish authorities and became the first martyr of the Catholic Church.

Dec. 27 – The Holy Family (1st century). On the feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. By their love and support of one another the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.



Q & A How do Catholics benefit from praying the Rosary?

The Rosary is a simple prayer adapted from the complex prayers of medieval monks. It's a powerful prayer because in it, we ask Mary—whose prayers are never refused—to pray for us. In addition, the



mysteries of the Rosary introduce us to the lives of Jesus and Mary. Each mystery is associated with a fruit. For example, the fruit of the mystery of the Annunciation is humility. Praying the

Rosary opens us to the graces to be more Christ-like.

A prayer with roots in Scripture, the Rosary begins with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic Faith. The Our Father that introduces each mystery is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary that follows is from the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary.

The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. The Rosary can be said privately or with a group.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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END OF BULLETIN

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Comments:
Bulletin copy for **November 29th, 2020**

Deliver 250 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.