

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

# PEACE



St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Eucharistic faith community committed to living and sharing the Gospel life.

## Staff

Rev. Timothy Taucher, 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 Kliment  
Tyler Norton  
Sacristans

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

**Confession:**  
2nd & 4th Saturday of every month at 3:00 pm in the Church

**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)

Please go online to [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org) to view our latest weekend reflection. We will be posting new videos by 4:00PM on Saturdays.

Also find the videos on our Facebook (search “@stfrancisbing”) Twitter (search “@stfrancisbing”) YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton)

**Follow us on FB & Twitter:**  
**@stfrancisbing**



**Saturday, December 3, Vigil of Sunday**  
4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Totman & Truchan Families by Family  
**Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent**  
10:30 a.m. Kurt Mercincavage by the Guinane Family  
**Monday, December 5**  
12:00 p.m. Thomas Mc Afee by Bridget Vavra  
**Tuesday, December 6**  
8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People  
**Wednesday, December 7**  
12:00 p.m. Dave Lounsberry by Friends  
**Wednesday, December 7, Vigil of Immaculate Conception**  
5:00 p.m. Claudette Simonis by Arlene Peters (**Mass in Church**)  
**Thursday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary**  
12:00p.m. Lew Angelo by John & Brenda Artman (**Mass in Church**)  
**Friday, December 9**  
**NO MASS**  
**Saturday, December 10, Vigil of Sunday**  
4:00 p.m. Martha Savo by Patricia Dempsey  
**Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday of Advent**  
10:30 a.m. Richard Kapinus by Wife, Kathleen & Family

### 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 (11-27-22)

Regular Envelopes.....	\$3,535.00
Loose Collection.....	\$323.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,762.00
Total Collection.....	\$5,620.00

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Faith Formation

Faith Formation for grades K-9 will meet next weekend.

#### Looking Ahead:

- † Saturday December 17th at 10:00AM in the church we will celebrate First Reconciliation. Please be prepared.
- † Sunday, December 18th there will be a family event for grades K—6 at 9:00AM in the Parish Hall. Faith Formation for Grades 7-9 will meet as usual.

### \*ATTENTION: Lectors, EMs & Altar Servers\*

It is time again to submit your dates of unavailability for the months of January, February, and March. If there are weekends when you are not available to Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Serve, please let us know.

Please call Ed and Cindy White at 607-648-2784 or by cell 607-206-3469 **BEFORE 12/12/22! Thank You!**

### Hope Appeal: UPDATE

We all continue to be inspired by the generosity of our St. Francis family. Thanks to all of you who have supported the 2022 HOPE Appeal. Please know that your gift makes a difference.



When a chaplain sits with someone in the hospital; when you see the excitement in the face of a child preparing to receive their First Eucharist; when a homebound neighbor

can participate in Mass through Catholic television. All of these moments, and so many more, are made possible by your contribution to the HOPE Appeal.

We invite you to join us in supporting this year's HOPE Appeal, which will run until the end of December.

**Our parish has raised 35% of our goal of \$43,000.** There are giving envelopes at the entrances of church. We can do so much more together than we can alone. Thank you for being the "Light of Christ."

### Rosary and Religious Item Donations

The Sisters of St. Joseph are helping the immigrants, homeless, and those who need a Christian reminder by giving them rosaries and religious items. If anyone would like to donate rosaries or other religious items, there is a basket on the back table of the church. Thank you!

### 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.



## 2nd Sunday of Advent

The traditional Advent wreath with its rich symbolism recalls the long wait of our ancestors for the promised Savior and ritualizes our own hope for His second coming. The wreath itself, a circle without beginning and end, reminds us of eternity. The evergreen branches symbolize God's unchangeableness. And as a new candle is lit each Sunday we call our hearts to a new awareness, a fresh anticipation of his birth in Bethlehem.

***Heavenly Father, let your hope arise in our hearts!***

*Lift our eyes up to see that you alone  
are where our hope comes from.*

*Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements,  
and distractions that have filled this year.*

*May we pause to remember that we have hope in you.*

*Give us the grace we need  
to wrap up this year joyfully.*

*We invite your Spirit  
into this beautiful Advent season.*

*Renew our sense of holy anticipation!  
Let us be those who are waiting eagerly  
for Jesus to come again.*

*More than anything, we ask that you be glorified  
in this season of expectation. Amen.*

## 2nd Sunday of Advent: Justice Challenge

The first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent is from the prophet Isaiah. It includes these words: "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together...There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy land; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord..." (Isaiah 11:1-10). Isaiah portrays a powerful image of cooperation and peace in this reading. Your challenge this week is to go to the Catholic Relief Services website, read a real-life story of people helping people, research the work which CRS is doing to bring peace and justice to our world, and choose one action you can take as a family or household to support the work of this great organization ([www.crs.org/peacebuilding](http://www.crs.org/peacebuilding)).

## 2nd Sunday of Advent: Creation Care Tip

*"But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." —Isaiah 11:1*

As Pope Francis urged in Laudato Si', one thing we can do as we work to care for creation is to see the beauty already present around us. How often do we see stumps instead of sprouts or seemingly lifeless roots instead of buds? Yes, there are many sobering signs of how our earth is hurting, many "stumps" we can focus our attention on, but this week pray to keep your eyes open for where sprouts and buds are present in the world. As we go into the winter season in the northern hemisphere, chances are we won't see actual plant sprouts or buds coming up, but pay attention to the news for signs of life and regeneration in the fight against climate change.

## 2022 Immaculata Award Recipient

### from St. Francis of Assisi



Sarah Blabac has been a faithful catechist in our parish for many years. Her warm and quiet demeanor makes the children feel special as they learn about God's great love for them. Sarah always makes the children feel important, finding joy in the simplest encounters with them; her willingness to share her faith with our youngest members shows just how deep Sarah's relationship with God is. Sarah also works behind the scenes making sure things get done. Whether it be set up, clean up, or decorating Sarah is always willing to help. Sarah is dedicated to her faith, and an example of what it means to be a disciple building the Kingdom of God. Take a minute to thank and congratulate Sarah for all her commitment to our parish.

## World Marriage Day

The 40th Annual World Marriage Day will be celebrated on Feb 19th, 2023 2:00pm at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse. The Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia will celebrate the Mass and invites all couples in attendance to renew their commitment to Holy Matrimony. He will specially honor those couples celebrating 25th, 50th and beyond 50 years in 2023. If you are celebrating your 25th, 50th, or 50+ anniversary in 2023, please contact Delores at the parish office to receive a special invitation from Bishop Lucia. **ALL** married couples and their families are welcome. Please RSVP before January 4th to register.

## Advent Penance Service

Our parish Advent Penance Service will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 11th at 4:00PM**.

Visiting clergy will be here for individual confessions. Take this opportunity to prepare for Christmas, and make room in your hearts for Christ.

## The Light is On

**Monday, December 19th 4:00PM—6:00PM**

Parishes throughout the area will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during these allotted hours.

## Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) are available at St. Francis' Parish Center. If you are interested, please call Delores at 722-4388 to reserve a package or stop by and pick some up during regular business hours. No offering taken.

## For Potential Godparents and Sponsors for Baptisms or Confirmation

Anyone looking to be a Godparent or Sponsor to a Confirmation Candidate **MUST** be a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi to be able to get a letter of certification. This is the only way that the Church can verify you are a practicing Catholic. Please call Delores at the Parish Center (722-4388) for questions.

## Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

### Transportation

NO TRANSPORTATION

### Shelving (Mondays)

NO SHELVING

### Distribution

December 6th— C. Botting, D. Dobish, G. Thompson



The GIVING TREE is up. Please take a tag, purchase what is requested, attach tag to gift bag, BUT DO NOT WRAP, gift bags are fine, and return to the tree the following weekend. ALL GIFTS MUST BE UNDER THE

**TREE BY DECEMBER 11th at noon.** Extra gifts are accepted including; toys, games, stuffed animal (ALL NEW) as well as large print books, throw blankets, warm socks, or gloves. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

### Danielle House Housing/Job Opportunity Start Date January 2023

Danielle House is the area's premier hospitality home and is looking for an energetic, compassionate employee to fill the Resident House Manager position.

**Benefits include:** Fully furnished apartment on-site, utilities (gas and electric), cable/internet, and a mobile phone **Salary and hours to be discussed.**

**Primary duty:** Responsible for guest hospitality. If interested, please contact Danielle House at 607-724-1540 or email [dhouse1@stny.rr.com](mailto:dhouse1@stny.rr.com) for more information. [www.daniellehouse.org](http://www.daniellehouse.org)

### Catholic Charites: Gift Card Donations

Youth ages 11-17 living in Broome County will have the opportunity to receive a gift card through the month of December at either of two Catholic Charities pantries:

#### **Community Empowerment Center (100 Main St) Mother Teresa's Cupboard (202 Garfield Ave)**

In order to offer gift cards this holiday season Catholic Charities of Broome County is asking for parish support in donating gift cards to Walmart, Target, Burlington, or any other youth-friendly store in the area. They would like to offer cards in \$25-\$40 amounts to each teen. Cards in \$5 increments are best. Gift Cards may be dropped off at the parish center or given directly to Catholic Charities (232 Main St, Binghamton)

### You Are Invited to A Special Event

The St. Francis Secular Fraternity will hold a Greccio Prayer Service on Wednesday, December 14th at 1:00PM at St. Vincent de Paul Blessed Sacrament Church in Vestal followed by refreshments in the Social Hall. Greccio, Italy is the location of the very first Nativity Scene originated by St. Francis of Assisi.

## **THANK YOU, THANKSGIVING BASKETS!**

THANK YOU for all the help, food and monetary donations given the past few weeks to create THANKSGIVING BASKETS for the 125 families we served. Nothing can be done with only one person, it takes many hands to accomplish a job like this. Without the many volunteers we couldn't do what we do year round for the community. The basket's also featured a turkey for those who wanted them (100 given out) or a choice of a gift card to purchase what they'd like. The monetary donations come in so handy here. THANK YOU TO ALL.

### Send a Birthday Card to Eileen Forsyth

Eileen Forsyth will be celebrating 103 years of life on 12/5/22. She still lives at home and although she can no longer make it to church, she has the great distinction of being our oldest surviving parishioner. It would be a great gesture on the part of the parish to send her a Birthday Card. So, please consider sending her one. We're sure she would be thrilled to hear from you all!

Eileen Forsyth.  
37 Moore Ave.  
Binghamton, NY 13903

### (How to have Fr. Tim hear your confession)

If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Fr. Tim is available the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of every month at 3:00PM in Church. If these times do not work for you please schedule an appointment by calling the parish center 607-722-4388.

### **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

*In re The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York  
Case No. 20-30663*

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT,** On June 19, 2020, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York, ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The Court has established January 17, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) (the "Supplemental Bar Date") as the deadline to assert claims against the Diocese arising from or relating to abuse that occurred when the survivor was 18 years of age or older, and which, prior to the enactment of the Adult Survivors Act (S.66A/A.648A) would have been subject to a statute of limitations defense ("Adult Claims").

If you have an Adult Claim against the Diocese you must file a claim on or before the Supplemental Bar Date, which will be treated confidentially in accordance with prior court orders in this Case.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/diocesofsyracuse> for call (855) 329-4244 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

**IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.**

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**  
**December 10th & 11th, 2022**

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Thalia Brennan
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Calliope Brennan
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Betsy A Shields
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Marge Mangan
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Beatrice Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Robert Grace
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Alexander Watkins
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Lector	Mike Stricek
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Anne Wolanski
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Donna Igler
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Scott Igler

**Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule**

**10:30 AM Mass**

**December 11:** Maria Kirk & Melissa Kliment

**December 18:** Cindy & Kathryn/Lauren White

**VIRTUAL LITURGIES**

Please go online to  
[stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)

to watch our latest Sunday Mass or Liturgy  
of the Word as well as Children's Liturgy  
videos.

We will continue to post new videos for  
reflection by 4:00PM on Saturdays.

Also find the videos on our  
Facebook (search "@stfrancisbing")  
YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton)

**You can still view children's liturgy  
virtually!**

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

**Question for Youth:** What are the greatest challenges you face as a young person today in terms of allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?

**Question for Adults:** Name the one thing in your life which you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ – a grudge, a possession, a memory, hurt, or feeling.

# **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 **December 4th, 2022**

**Deliver 250 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2022

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

## One Minute Meditations

### Begin in His presence

Jesus came among us to be with us. When you first wake up in the morning, but before you get out of bed, 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).

### Holiday advice

The holiday season is an exciting time but it can also be a time when 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).

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



## Encounter Christ this Christmas

God came to us in the most vulnerable human form possible so that He could draw us to Himself for all eternity.

This Christmas, answer His call and come close to Him:

**In song.** Listen to and ponder the words of your favorite Christmas hymns. Imagine the reality of heavens filled with angels and faraway kings answering the call to pay Him homage.

**In service.** The newborn Jesus is the physical sign of God's love for us. When we give of our time and resources in His service, we become an instrument of that love. Share His love in your parish, in your neighborhood, in your community.



**In mercy.** Experience God's mercy in Confession and His loving presence in the Eucharist.

Then, like Him, offer mercy to anyone who may have hurt you.

"*Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*" (Matthew 6:12).

**In prayer.** Jesus came to live among us so He could be intimate with us. He wants to connect on a deep level - more than rushed prayers or perfunctory devotions.

During Advent, find quiet time to give Him your full attention and speak to Him heart to heart.

**In watchfulness.** Live this Advent with a new awareness of the presence of God. Be awake to who He is and how precious you are to Him.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

God gave us body and soul, so it makes sense actions that combine prayer and movement help us to most fully participate. During Mass, each posture means something. We stand to show respect when the priest (representing Christ) enters and

## Why do Catholics stand, sit, and kneel at Mass?



leaves, when the Gospel is read, and when we proclaim the Creed. We sit to focus on the homily, and kneel during the Consecration, showing adoration and humility. We genuflect to the tabernacle and altar to demonstrate ultimate respect.

## Spread the "Good news of great joy"

After the shepherds visited Jesus, they told others who didn't yet know about Him. Pope St. John Paul II urged us to do the same: "If we truly encounter Christ again and again, we cannot keep him to ourselves." As disciples, we are required to make disciples.

**Practice urgency.** Those who do not have a personal relationship with Christ suffer the misery of our fallen world. Worse, they cannot enter eternal life. Our Catholic Faith holds the key to



peace in this world and salvation in the next. Sharing our knowledge and love for Him is urgent.

**Spend time in the Word.** The world desperately needs to know the Truth contained in the Word. Those who spend time with Scripture grow deeper in their relationship with God and can share that knowledge.

**Actively listen.** It is through listening that we earn the right to be heard. Active listening helps us discern where our companion is in the faith journey.

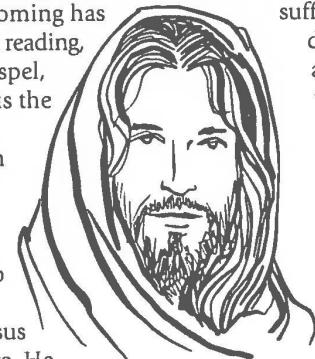
Then we learn how best to share the gospel message.

### from Scripture

#### John 1:1-18, Who is Jesus Christ?

Our faith hinges on knowing Christ – who He is and what His coming has meant for us. This Scripture reading, the Prologue of John's Gospel, gives us the answer. Jesus is the divine Word who always existed, the Second Person of the Trinity, and the source of life. Grace and truth come to us through Christ. To know Jesus is to know God.

At the Annunciation, Jesus took on our human nature. He became like us in all things except sin. Yet even though He was God and perfect Man, He still suffered. He got tired, hungry, and thirsty. He worked,



wept, slept, and prayed. He suffered temptation in the desert, and was abandoned, rejected, and wounded by those He loved. God understands us.

Jesus Christ made a bold claim. He said that He is truly God and truly man, and that our salvation comes through Him. Will we choose Him as

our Messiah? Will we live our lives as children of God? If our answer is "yes," then Jesus is the one to whom we turn for enlightenment and grace.

### Q & A

#### What does Our Lady of Guadalupe teach us about Christmas?

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12) occurs during Advent. Almost 500 years after Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego, we can still learn from her miraculous image on his tilma (cloak).



God is the source of life. Viewed upside down, the flowers on Our Lady's dress take the shape of hearts with arteries coming out, representing life which originates from God. He sustains us with His grace, especially through the Sacraments.

God draws near. A four-petaled flower on Mary's dress symbolizes the Aztecs' highest deity, perceived as distant and unmoved by their concerns. The flower's placement over Mary's womb shows that the Almighty God draws close in love and humility, even becoming one of us.

Humility and joy. Aztec gods were painted looking up and ahead, yet Our Lady's head is bowed in humility and prayer. She is from Heaven, but is not God. She is a messenger of His love, modeling a humble, joyful response to Him and ready to bring His love to others.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548).** St. Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Mother at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She asked that a chapel be built and sent him with roses as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

**December 16 – St. Adelaide of Burgundy (999).** A Burgundian princess, St. Adelaide escaped from a murderous plot for the throne. She married King Otto I, the Holy Roman Emperor. As Queen of Germany, she was

known for charitable works, including founding and restoring monasteries.

**December 20 – St. Dominic of Silos (1073).** St. Dominic was a Benedictine monk, born around 1000 AD in Navarre, Spain. Recognized for his leadership abilities, he was appointed abbot of St. Sebastian's monastery at Silos.

**December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century).**

On this day, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod's soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.



#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
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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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