

December 05, 2021

# 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 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

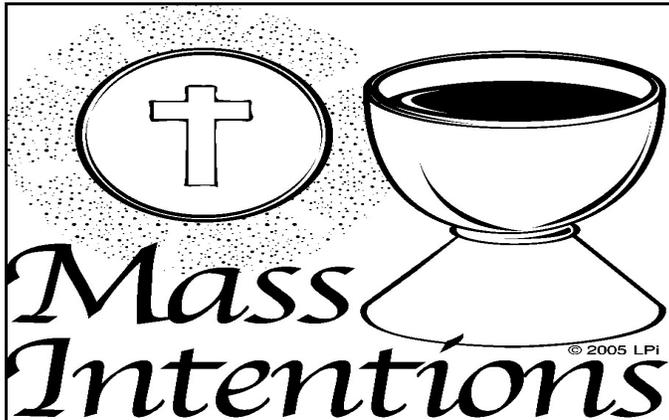
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Website:  
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Please go online to  
**[stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)** to view  
our latest weekend reflection.  
We will be posting new  
videos by 4:00PM on  
Saturdays.

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



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

**Sunday, December 5, Second Sunday of Advent**  
 10:30 a.m. Antonio DeLuca by Family

**Monday, December 6**  
 12:00 p.m. Alice Cavanagh by the Hazen Family

**Tuesday, December 7**  
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

**Wednesday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception**  
 12:00 p.m. Ruth Cole by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Thursday, December 9**  
 8:00 a.m. Rob Loftus by Wife, Sheila

**Friday, December 10**  
**NO MASS**

**Saturday, December 11, Vigil of Sunday**  
 4:00 p.m. 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniv. Tom & Marilyn Phalen by Karen Snieska

**Sunday, December 12, Third Sunday of Advent**  
 10:30 a.m. Kay Lynch by 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 (11-21-21)**

Regular Envelopes.....\$3,885.00  
 Loose Collection.....\$547.00  
 Electronic Collection.....\$1,691.00  
 Total Collection.....\$6,123.00

**Weekend's Offering (11-28-21)**

Regular Envelopes.....\$2,755.00  
 Loose Collection.....\$231.00  
 Electronic Collection.....\$1,892.00  
 Total Collection.....\$4,878.00

*Thank You for your generous contributions!*

**Faith Formation**

**Faith Formation for Grades K-9 & Confirmation and**

**Looking Ahead:**

- ✦ **December 18th First Reconciliation at 9:30AM** in the church
- ✦ The Annual faith Formation Christmas Program will be **Sunday, December 19th at 9:30AM in the Church** followed by a reception in the hall.
- ✦ Rehearsal for the Christmas Program will be Saturday, **December 18th 11 AM--12:30 PM**

**Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)**

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) are available at St. Francis' Parish Center. If you are interested, please call Delores at (607) 722-4388 to reserve a package or stop by and pick some up during regular business hours. No offering taken

**Advent Program--The Redemption of Scrooge**

Discussions on "*The Redemption of Scrooge*" will begin **Tuesday, December 7th at 2 and 7 PM.** Books are available at the Parish Office now.

**Retirement Fund for Religious Collection**

**12/04—12/05**

Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

**\*\*ATTENTION\*\* ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, AND LECTORS**

Please contact Ed and Cindy White **before December 10th** with your unavailable dates for the upcoming schedule from **January—March.** Call them at home 607-648-2784 or by cell 607-206-3469 to let them know availabilities.

**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 Carol Kilmer.



**Synod in the Syracuse Diocese  
Community Participation Mission**

*The Listening Session across the diocese have begun! The list of sessions which have been scheduled to date is below and the list will be updated. We invite and encourage all who wish to participate in a Listening Session to come and speak freely, boldly, and courageously to our Bishop. For everyone’s safety we require everyone wear a mask.*

Bishop Lucia will be holding several Listening Sessions in preparation for the World Synod of Bishops and the Syracuse Diocesan Synod. These will be opportunities for your participation in the Synodal Journey by sharing your hopes, dreams, and concerns for the church. Those who are interested but have been away from the church are especially encouraged to come. All are welcome!

**All Listening Sessions will be held from 6:30PM—8:30PM.** See the schedule below...

<b>Monday, December 6th</b>	St. Paul’s, Binghamton
<b>Monday, December 13th</b>	St. Vincent Blessed Sacrament, Vestal
<b>Wednesday, December 15th</b>	St. Thomas Aquinas, Binghamton

*Synodality is this a way of being Church, a way of journeying together in communion, through participation in mission to live the good news of Christ.*

A way of preparing for our upcoming listening session, use these suggested questions to assist you in what you would like to share with Bishop Lucia...

- 1.) What are your hopes and dreams?
- 2.) How do you experience the presence of the Risen Christ in your parish?
- 3.) Who is missing in our parish life?
- 4.) What would you like the church to be in the future?

**Immaculata Award Recipient: Nora Bush**

Eleven years ago, Bishop Cunningham established the Immaculata Award to recognize members of the laity in our diocese for their outstanding service to Christ and his Church. Our parish has recognized such people every year. This year we are happy to announce that our Immaculata Award recipient is Nora Bush. Nora Bush serves in the catechetical ministry in our parish and is an outstanding witness for our young people. Nora’s humility is evident in many different and behind the scenes ways. Her outstanding lessons in the care of the environment (Laudato Si) caused our parish to be the first winner of the Green Apple Award for parish Faith Formation programs. She has organized volunteers to work and be part of our parish’s Laudato Si committee, she has written many grants so that our Faith Formation students have access to Smart TVs, tablets, and many other technological updates. Nora has the heart of a catechist demonstrated by sharing her faith with our youth. Her service to our parish is a blessing. Congratulations to Nora Bush, our 2021 Immaculata Award recipient. She will be presented with this medal on Sunday, December 12th at the 10:30 AM Mass.

**Prayer for Human Rights on December 10th**

*Crucified God of Compassion from wasteland borders, Open our eyes to see treacherous paths the oppressed and the destitute walk as they search for a promised land—free of fear and injustice. Crucified God of Compassion, from the valley of grief, bring relief to those living in battlefields of violence. Heal those whose lives have been so damaged by war and greed, those who find themselves dancing between despair and hope. Crucified God of Compassion, from darkness to light, chase away the intruders of injustice, those who cloud our vision and blind us to our role as responsible citizens of the world. Crucified God of Compassion, from fear to trust, replace our close-mindedness with openness and show us how to rise from fear and wounded pride to stand hand in hand with the oppressed of our world. Crucified God of Compassion, from misperception to clarity, remind us to stand on the shoulders of our ancestors and draw from the pool of their wisdom to guide us on the way to a just world. Crucified God of Compassion, from the desert to the sea, keep the seeds of compassion growing within us, compassion that allows us to share “a drop of life,” restores dignity, and overcomes indifference. Crucified God of Compassion, as we travel the roads of life, empower us to live a faith that does justice. Empower us to be more daring—more eager to dress for action as we commit to being your defenders of life and dignity. Amen.*

**Creation Care Reflection**

We hear the voices of hope in our readings today from the prophets Baruch, Paul, and John the Baptist. In care for our common home, we too must be the voices, but also the minds and the hands that foster care for creation by coming together “to take charge”; to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for “if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must inquire who gave it this beginning, and who is its Creator? Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concerns for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.

**2nd Sunday of Advent: Justice Challenge**

This week we celebrate two important feasts of Mary—the Immaculate Conception on December 8 and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Even though she was conceived without sin and became the Mother of God, Mary never ceased to be an advocate for the poor. In her Magnificat, she praised God for lifting up the meek and the lowly. And she told Juan Diego, a poor indigenous Mexican man, that he had dignity and that she loved him. This week’s challenge is to pray in solidarity with those of Mexican descent who have a special devotion to Our Lady. Join us for mass on Sunday, December 12th at 10:30AM and say a prayer for her.

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

### **Transportation**

NO TRANSPORTATION

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

NO SHELIVING

### **Distribution**

December 7th— P. Peters, R. O'Neil, and A. Short

## **Thank You For Thanksgiving Baskets**

Thank you to everyone who brought food and gave donations to Catherine's Cupboard for Thanksgiving Baskets. Also thanks to over 15 helpers who came to sort food and put baskets together for distribution. We served 130 families. Thank you Ed White and family who picked turkeys and to confirmation candidates and parishioners who were here to assist in distributing the baskets. A special thank you to Bev Krinik that made this all possible! Thank you all!!

## **Bereavement Support Group** **A journey from grief to healing**

For those who are living through the loss of a loved one, our highly successful support group provides a safe space to share ideas, thoughts and experiences that can lead to healing. This is one of life's most difficult journeys and there is no need to travel it alone. New knowledge, skills and perceptions can ease your way to move on without your loved one. This 9 week program will begin on January 6th 2022 from 1:30PM—3:00PM and from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center. For more information and to register, please call Ginny Thompson at 607-222-1621.

## **2022 Le Moyne College CYO Scholarship**

For many years, Le Moyne College and the Catholic Youth Organizations have worked together to offer eight \$4,000 scholarships (\$1,000/year).

The C.Y.O. Scholarships will be conferred again this year to eight deserving students in the geographical Diocese of Syracuse. Please send me 2-4 students that you would recommend for this award. These scholarships will be awarded to prospective Le Moyne students who have demonstrated leadership abilities and have performed outstanding service to their school, community, and parish.

You can find the application packet on our website [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org) under the "scholarship forms and contests" tab. Completed application packets must be returned to the **Regional Chairperson, NOT Le Moyne College, no later than January 1st, 2022.**

For questions or concerns please call (315)445-4300.

## **Doug's Fish Fry Fundraiser** **Sponsored by Sts. John and Andrew** **Holy Name Society**

Date: Wednesday, December 8th

Time: 11AM—6PM

Location: Schneider's Market  
(873 US Route 11-Kirkwood, NY)

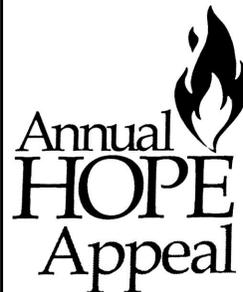
Proceeds support works of The Holy Name Society



Our Giving Tree will be up on **Saturday, November 27th until Sunday, December 12th.** Please pick a tag and purchase the requested item, then return back to the tree area no later than December 12th. Please keep gifts **UNWRAPPED** but gift bags are fine.

Gifts will be going to **The Children's Home:** gift certificates only; **Elizabeth Church Manor Nursing home:** small personal gifts; **Jail Ministry:** bus passes (Weis sells them), playing cards, postage stamps, etc; **Birthing of Binghamton:** diapers for newborn or small size and other baby items like clothing, blankets etc. Other extra gifts are always welcome, just label it "extras" (suggestions: blankets for adults, children's books, soft candy or cookies and socks/gloves/hats for all sizes/ages)

This has been a long tradition for our parish and enjoyed by those who give and those who receive. **THANK YOU!**



I am reporting to you that St. Francis of Assisi Parish has **raised \$24,000** toward our HOPE Appeal **goal of \$43,000.** If we do not meet this goal, the shortfall will be taken from our general fund. In an effort to meet our goal, I am asking every family in the parish to consider a minimum gift of \$175.00 (averages out to \$0.48 a day or \$14.38 a month). If you are able to contribute more, I strongly encourage you to do so. **THANK YOU to those who have already contributed. PLEASE NOTE.... the Hope Appeal ends at the end of December.**

## **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

Would you like to be a fully initiated Catholic, but have yet to complete sacraments? This is just to let you know that on any Sunday that we have Faith Formation, Deacon Steve will be in the Emmaus Room in the school basement available to talk about the RCIA Rite. If you have a desire to join our Parish Community as a full member of the Catholic Church or just learn more about the RCIA, please drop in anytime between **9:15AM and 10:00AM** to talk about what the RCIA is all about.

## **Safe Environment Week: Coloring Contest**

Students in Grades Pre K – 12 may choose one of four coloring sheets and use their creativity with crayons, markers, colored pencils, or watercolors. (No glitter, please.) One winning entry will be chosen per grade. Winners will receive a \$50 Amazon gift-card. Submissions are due by **Friday, December 17, 2021.** Winning entries will be showcased in The Catholic Sun and on diocesan social media during National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April 2022).

**For more information go to...**

**[syracusediocese.org/safe-environment/safe-environment-week/safe-environment-coloring-contest/](http://syracusediocese.org/safe-environment/safe-environment-week/safe-environment-coloring-contest/)**

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**  
December 11th & 12th, 2021

**4:00 P.M. Mass**

Altar Server.....TBD  
Altar Server.....TBD  
Altar Server.....TBD  
Lector.....Kathy Tait  
EM.....Brenda Artman  
EM.....John Artman

**10:30 A.M. Mass**

Altar Server.....Abraham Watkins  
Altar Server.....Mary Bush  
Altar Server.....Sarah Bush  
Lector.....Logan Blakeslee  
EM.....Marie Iobst  
EM.....Shirley McCray

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

**4:00PM**

Maria Kirk

**10:30**

Bridget Vavra and Ede Blabac

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Please go online to  
**stfrancisbing.org**  
to view our latest Sunday mass and  
Children's Liturgy.

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!**

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**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** What  
things do you do to get ready for a  
big event or celebration?

**Question for Youth:** How do you  
share the Good News of Jesus with  
others?

**Question for Adults:** Name one  
thing you can do to help "prepare  
the way of the Lord?"

# 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 5th, 2021**

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

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2021

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

## One Minute Meditations

### The gift of Advent

The season of Advent began on November 28 and continues until Christmas Eve.

The Church offers us this time as a gift to slow down, quiet down, and reflect on God's love for us. Consider setting aside quiet time each day to be with Him.



### Celebrate birth

December is the month in which we celebrate the birth of the infant King. This has become a time to reaffirm our respect for life from conception to natural death. We pray that all babies are given the gift of life.

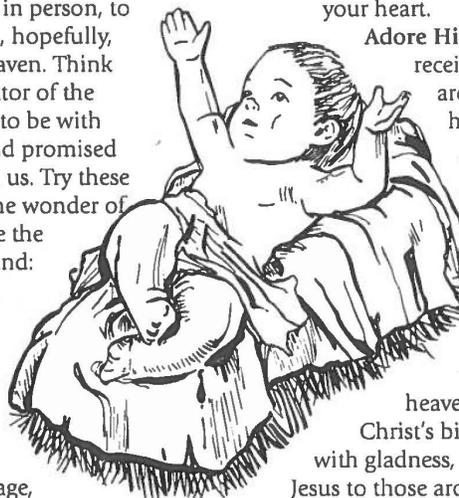
"Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."  
(Our Lady to St. Juan Diego, December 9, 1531)



## Make this Christmas your own

Each year at Christmas, we celebrate an amazing truth. God came to Earth, in person, to be with us and, hopefully, bring us to Heaven. Think of it – the Creator of the universe came to be with you and me and promised to remain with us. Try these ways to keep the wonder of Christmas alive the whole year round:

**Receive Him with Mary's open heart.** When the angel Gabriel delivered God's stunning message, Mary accepted God's will completely. She kept her heart open to His will throughout her life. We can imitate her by letting nothing come between us and God. Go to



Confession regularly. Pray daily. Attend Mass at least weekly. Receive Jesus in your heart.

**Adore Him like the Magi.** After receiving Communion, you are literally heart-to-heart with Jesus. Thank Him, praise Him, or just rest in Him. Give Him the gift of your full attention. Receive the graces of His love.

**Proclaim Him like the Angels.** Just as the heavenly host announced Christ's birth to the shepherds with gladness, so we are to proclaim Jesus to those around us. We do this when we join in worship at Mass each Sunday, and give Him credit for our blessings and gifts. His presence in our hearts becomes evident when we live with love and Christmas joy.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics believe Jesus really came?

That Jesus lived in first century Israel is well documented by both Christian sources and non-Christian sources. The Old Testament, which was known to Jews many years before Christ's birth, predicted the coming of the Messiah.



Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection fulfilled those prophecies. The Gospels name eyewitnesses as sources for the miracles Jesus worked. Another compelling argument for Jesus' reality, however, is the witness of the martyrs through the centuries, who remained faithful to Christ even to death.

## Develop an Advent frame of mind

The holiday season can seem more like a test of endurance than preparation for a celebration. In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable Love.

Try to see with a Father's eye. Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through His eyes. Not the flawed human visible to



humanity, but the spectacular product of God's divine love and the reflection of His glory.

Prepare your gift. Make your gift to Jesus an open heart, ready to receive the love He has for you. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Anticipating an eternity of unimaginable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

### from Scripture

#### Luke 2:41-52, Finding in the Temple

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 26) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn't surprising that His parents didn't miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was

questioning the priests and amazing them with his understanding. However, Mary asked how He could have caused

His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?"

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He

remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for his public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in authority over us.



### Feasts & Celebrations

**December 2 - St. Bibiana (363).** Virgin and martyr, St. Bibiana was the daughter of a Roman official who converted to Christianity and was martyred for his faith. Bibiana was tortured and executed for her Christianity, as well.

**December 8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** On this day we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. In addition to attending Mass for this Holy Day of Obligation, praying a joyful Rosary is a wonderful way

to celebrate.

**December 12 - Gaudete Sunday.** This Sunday marks the halfway point of Advent. We light the rose candle in the Advent wreath for joy. During the last two weeks of Advent, the Church prepares to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

**December 29 - St. Thomas Becket (1170).** As Archbishop of Canterbury, King Henry II tried to pressure him and the other bishops into agreeing to unjust laws, but St. Thomas refused to sign his approval for them. He was eventually martyred for his faith.



### Q & A Do we have to return to Mass in person?

When we love someone, we don't want to just call or send an email. We want to be together in person, growing in love and friendship. Then, too, when we love Jesus, we want to be with Him



in body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. "It is a substantial presence by which Christ... makes

himself wholly and entirely present" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374).

The Eucharist is a gift we can only fully receive in person. It is spiritual food for the journey. In it we receive not just graces, but Jesus, Himself. Nowhere else on Earth and in no other way can we be so closely united to Him who loves us most.

It is possible - and required - to attend Mass in person unless there is a grave reason to stay away. Still, let nothing keep you from Jesus in the Eucharist. Go to Confession regularly and never miss Mass. Do whatever you can to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity.

#### 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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