

December 10, 2023

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 Kliment
Sarah & Mary Bush
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

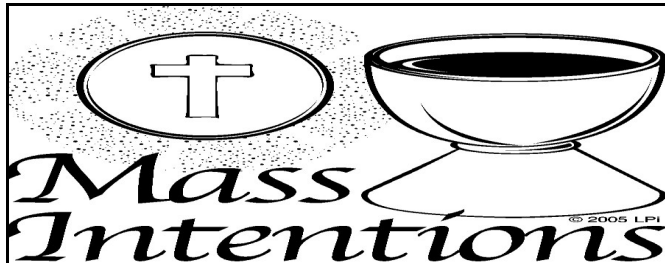
Website:

www.stfrancisbing.org

Please go online to
stfrancisbing.org to view
our latest Children's Liturgy.
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](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisbing)
for more information



Saturday, December 9, Vigil of Sunday
4:00 p.m. Michael Fontana Sr. by Wife & Family

Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Vita Mannino by Family

Monday, December 11

12:00 p.m. Roberta Cushing by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Tuesday, December 12

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

Wednesday, December 13

12:00 p.m. Dick Talbut by Family

Thursday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Mary & John Pollock by Son, John

Friday, December 15

NO MASS

Saturday, December 16, Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. Dan McGarry by Betsy Shields & Family

Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Michael Pratt by Sharon & Jim

Catherine's Cupboard

CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD has been serving our community for the past 20+ years, it's **open the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month from 5 till 7 (or until all are served)**. We serve anyone who comes, asking only for ID, if they have any. As members of SOUTHERN TIER FOOD BANK, we purchase at wholesale (or less), providing **basic dry or canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy, and frozen meats**. We try to provide **5 days of meals** and include **personal care items** also. We operate on **100% donations or grants**. Our location at the parish center means we have most overhead costs covered. However, we serve over 1200 people, requiring a budget of close to \$50,000 a year. PLEASE tell anyone you know who is feeling food insecure to stop in. **If you would like to donate food items, they can be left at parish center or food barrel in church foyer. Monetary donations can be mailed to our parish office or via the online giving tab at stfrancisbing.org**

Weekend's Offering (12-03-23)

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Regular Envelopes..... | \$4,000.00 |
| Loose Collection..... | \$500.00 |
| Electronic Collection..... | \$2,500.00 |
| Total Collection..... | \$7,000.00 |

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation for Grades K-9 meets this Sunday from 9AM--10:15 AM.

Looking Ahead:

†Our Annual Christmas Program will be Sunday December 17th during Faith Formation. Rehearsal will be Saturday, December 16th at 10AM.

†First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Sunday, December 17th at our Parish Advent Penance Service at 4PM

URGENT

*Eucharistic Ministers
needed for all
10:30 AM Sunday
Masses
Please call the parish
center at 607-722-4388
to sign up!*

URGENT

ATTENTION: Lectors, EMs & Altar Servers

It is time again to make the schedule for January, February, and March 2024. If there are weekends when you are **not** available to Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Serve, let us know. Call Ed and Cindy White at 607-648-2784 or by cell 607-206-3469 **BEFORE DECEMBER 18TH!**

Prayers . . .

Please remember all of our parishioners who are in hospitals and nursing homes and our home-bound. Also, please pray for our deceased parishioners and loved ones.



2nd Sunday of Advent: Justice Challenge

The Responsorial Song for Sunday sings of justice and peace kissing when the Messiah comes. The psalmist proclaims, "Justice shall walk before him..." So many Scripture readings remind us that one of the best paths to peace comes through achieving justice—making sure everyone has what he or she needs to live a life of dignity and hope. The root of conflict can usually be found when people are denied their basic human rights. Your challenge this week is to discuss as a family or household what you think the connection is between justice and peace. Then choose one act of justice which you can do to bring more peace to our world. What is God calling you to do this week—in your immediate family, in your parish or school, in your community, or even in the world itself—to help someone secure the human rights they have been denied? And remember that we Catholics believe they deserve these rights because they are part of the human family, just like you and me, created in God's own image and likeness.

Congratulations Immaculata Award Recipients Mary & Margaret Quinn



Thirteen 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 goes to Mary & Margaret Quinn. Mary & Margaret Quinn are long-time parishioners, first at St. Christopher's and, after the merger, St. Francis of Assisi. The Quinn sisters served in parish leadership at both parishes serving on the parish councils and the finance committees. One important role that they've taken on at both parishes is the input of data into the parish data system. This data is tremendously important for any organization that depends on monetary donations in order to operate. The Quinns arrive faithfully every Monday and work with the volunteers counting the weekly collection and with parish administration. They document the amount of each donation to the parish and identify any restrictions on those donations. They also maintain the membership roster for the parish. This is a data base containing over 700 families. Mary & Margaret take this work very seriously and demonstrate this in several different ways. First, they are extremely reliable arriving at the same time each Monday ready to begin their work. Second, there are between 100 and 200 pieces of information to input into the data system each week. They work as a team and rarely if ever make an incorrect entry. Third, they work with administration to improve their process both providing and accepting ideas for improvement. Lastly, they have a wonderful rapport with all the volunteers and parish staff. The Quinns are wonderful examples of people who, for a very long time, pour themselves out in support of their parish community. They are two truly wonderful women.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH

4:00PM AT THE CHURCH

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

2nd Sunday of Advent: Creation Care Tip

As you buy gifts and prepare to wrap presents for Christmas this year, think about the impact of wrapping paper on the environment. Not only are trees cut down to make it, but it usually can't be recycled and ends up in the trash instead. Landfills in the United States are filling up at almost two a day! Choose an alternative this year: old newspapers or magazines, other re-used paper, cloth napkins, etc

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 business hours. No offering taken.

Confirmation Service Project



Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



✓ Produce bags

FROM THE STORE



✓ Store bags

✓ Ice bags



✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY



✓ Cereal box liners

✓ Case overwrap

✓ Bread bags



✓ Newspaper sleeves

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR



✓ Dry cleaning bags

✓ Bubble wrap

✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

The 2024 confirmation class is asking for your help with our service project. Our service project is to collect 1000 pounds of clean recyclable light weight plastics. **(NOT PLASTIC JUGS, BOTTLES OR CUPS)** Upon completion of this goal the NexTrex decking

company will donate a bench to the confirmation class. If you would like to donate to the project we will have collection bins for the plastics at the church entrance, as well as at the Parish Center. Please refer to the list of acceptable materials in the bulletin or attached to the bags on the usher's tables. Please do not put the paper collection bags in the bins, use them to collect additional plastics. Thank you, for supporting us and our efforts.

Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

December 19th: K. Dotson, R. Rounds, and N. & D. Oliver

Catherine's Cupboard Pantry Update

The number of family's who require our food pantry's assistance each week is getting higher. Now, we have over 70 families who are stopping in to help stretch their funds. As one person recently said to me "I sleep so much better now knowing I have food on my shelves." Your ongoing support is making a difference, so, THANK YOU. We would like to also say THANKS to Apple Hill's, Big Lots, C21 North East/Intergra (formerly Sbarra), Odgen Methodist & Church of Nazarene who continue to drop off great extras that the visitors enjoy.

Hospital Visitation

Please remember, if you or another parishioner gets admitted to either Binghamton General Hospital or UHS Wilson Medical Center and you wish to be visited by Fr. Tim you **MUST to tell someone or call the parish center**. You should indicate that you are Catholic and belong to St. Francis of Assisi parish and that you wish to be visited by Fr. Tim or another Clergy member if you wish.

Off Broadway Show Experience

Church of the Holy Family Ladies Guild is sponsoring a trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see a new show DANIEL on May 8, 2024 and there are still some seats available. Lunch after the show will be at Dienner's Country Restaurant. The cost of the trip is \$180 which includes the cost of the bus ride, ticket to the show, lunch after the show, and gratuity for the lunch and the bus driver. This is the perfect holiday gift. Please call Ann at 607-754-8727 with any questions or to reserve a seat.

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 _____

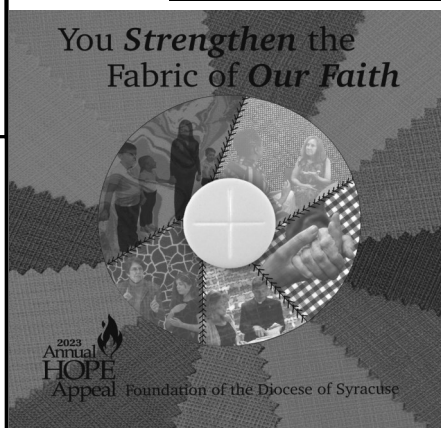
City _____ Zip _____

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

2023 Annual HOPE Appeal



The HOPE Appeal is our Diocesan Appeal campaign to support programs and services throughout our diocese which touches countless lives in every city, town, and rural area in our diocese. When the goal of the HOPE Appeal is achieved we ensure that these programs will receive the funding that is needed.

Our parish goal for the 2023 HOPE Appeal is \$42,826.

The overall theme this year is, "You Strengthen the Fabric of our Faith". This year's HOPE Appeal video can be viewed online in one of two ways. You can go to our parish website stfrancisbing.org or find it on syracusediocese.org/hopeappeal/ You can donate to the HOPE Appeal by going to our parish website and choosing "online giving".

Donations are appreciated and important!

Why Volunteer?

There are so many reasons to volunteer:

- † Lets you share your knowledge and talents.
- † Provides opportunities for making many new friends.
- † Brings the special fulfillment that comes only from helping others.
- † Helps you "get outside" yourself and put your own problems — even grief — in perspective.
- † Allows you to polish old skills and learn new ones.
- † Lets you "repay" an organization that has helped you or someone you love.

Online Giving

Would you like to save paper and time when giving monetary donations to us? We have the option of online giving for your convenience. Visit our website stfrancisbing.org and click "online giving" in the menu. It's easy to set up using your checking account, credit, or debit card for automatic or one-time donation options and you choose where the money goes. The following are the accounts we have available for donation:

**Ordinary Contribution,
Repair, Maintenance, & Utilities,
Catholic School Support, Catherine's Cupboard,
Special Sunshine, Capital Campaign, STAR Fund,
and Creation Care Team**

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.

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
December 16th & 17th, 2023

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|
| 4:00 Mass | Altar Server | Michaela Wood |
| 4:00 Mass | Altar Server | Logan Kliment |
| 4:00 Mass | Altar Server | TBD |
| 4:00 Mass | Lector | Ildiko Mitchell |
| 4:00 Mass | EM Host | Steve Baxter |
| 4:00 Mass | EM Host | Denise Baxter |
| 4:00 Mass | EM Host | Deb Carden |
| 4:00 Mass | EM Cup | Maria Kirk |
| 4:00 Mass | EM Cup | Carol Danoski |

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 10:30 Mass | Altar Server | Jonah Rice |
| 10:30 Mass | Altar Server | Julianna Rice |
| 10:30 Mass | Altar Server | TBD |
| 10:30 Mass | Lector | Kay & Ed Corcoran |
| 10:30 Mass | EM Host | Maureen Mizzoni |
| 10:30 Mass | EM Host | Catherine Shafer |
| 10:30 Mass | EM Host | David Hanzes |
| 10:30 Mass | EM Cup | Scott Igler |
| 10:30 Mass | EM Cup | Virginia Thompson |

Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule

December 10: Patti Klepfer & Toni Robinson

December 17: Maria Kirk & Amy Drake

December 26: ONLINE ONLY- CHRISTMAS

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

Do you have a child or grandchild who has already received their First Eucharist? If so, they can be altar servers! **We are in desperate need of more altar servers** as we barely have enough to cover the masses alone week to week.

Why altar serve?

1.) It is a good way to get actively involved in the mechanics of mass. Some kids who find it hard to sit still may benefit from the activity that it provides.
2.) It allows for kids to be a closer part of the church community and make connections.

3.) Direct religious education learning opportunity

4.) Gives kids a sense of purpose and pride Church

Call the parish center (607)722-4388 or fill out a liturgical signup form (on table in the back of the church) and drop it in a collection basket.

Question of the Week

Question for Children: How do you experience God taking care of you, even in times of trouble?

Question for Youth: John went out to announce the good news of the Messiah's coming. How can you be good news to your friends and family this week?

Question for Adults: When you hear Isaiah comfort the people by promising that God is like a shepherd who gathers the lambs into his arms, what is your response?

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 10, 2023**

Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.