

December 15, 2019

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

A PRAYER FOR THE Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your birth
fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
be a sign to the world
that you are always near.
Amen.



Staff

Rev. Timothy Taugher, Pastor
Deacon Stephen Blabac
Delores A. Farwell
Parish Administrative Assistant
Maria Kirk
Director of Faith Formation
Joseph Carpenter
Parish Business Administrator
Suzanne Ekstrom
Parish Media Manager
Edmund Savo
Organist
Fred Hazlett
Maintenance/Groundskeeper
Agnes Miller
Housekeeping
Dominick Lomonaco
Nicholas Norton
Sacristans

Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday:

7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Friday: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Parish Office Phone: 722-4388

Faith Formation Office Phone:
722-4177

E-mail:

stfrancisbing@syrдио.org

Website:

www.stfrancisbing.org

Follow us on FB & Twitter:

@stfrancisbing

Mass Schedule

Monday-Thursday

8:00 am at the Parish Center
Chapel

Saturday Evening
4:00 pm

Sunday Morning
8:00 am & 11:00 am

Confession:

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



Saturday, December 14, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Karl M. Koch by Jim & Rose O'Neil

Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Kay Lynch by Family

Monday, December 16

8:00 a.m. Kenneth Munney by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Tuesday, December 17

8:00 a.m. Rose Serafini by Arlene Peters

Wednesday, December 18

8:00 a.m. Tom Ryder by Wife, Mary & Family

Thursday, December 19

8:00 a.m. John Mando by Family

Friday, December 20

NO MASS

Saturday, December 21, Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. Betti & Steve Charsky by Daughter, Mary Frances

Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Joe Di Mascio by the Woodruff 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 (12-01-19)

Regular Envelopes.....\$5,296.00
 Loose Collection.....\$271.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$572.00
 Total Collection.....\$6,139.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

Weekend's Offering (12-08-19)

Regular Envelopes.....\$8,656.50
 Loose Collection.....\$378.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$1,942.00
 Total Collection.....\$10,976.50

Thank You for your generous contributions!

Faith Formation

Annual Christmas Program TODAY, 9:30AM with a reception to follow in the church hall.

Confirmation 2020 Retreat will be held at the Newman Center January 5th. Permission slips have been distributed and are also online. Forms and fee will be due on January 5th.

No Faith Formation for grades K-9 through January 5th. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Faith Formation will start up again on January 12th.

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 and details.

Your cooperation is much appreciated!

Children's Liturgy

December 14/15

4PM— Maria Kirk/Sue Lee
8AM— Ede Blabac/Bridget Vavra

December 21/22

4PM— Alison and Dan Brennan
8AM— Cindy & Lauren White

December 28/29

4PM— Roberta Cushing/Catherine Shafer
8AM— Ed & Kay Corcoran

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, Tony Stento



Prayer For Migrants

As we commemorate International Migrants Day on Wednesday, December 18th, we pray that all migrants be blessed with the security of a home and a welcoming community.

*Uprooted, walking across their country,
Walking across borders,
Walking to and from boats,
Walking with no home in sight.
Migrants are children of God
With no place to lay their head.
Waiting along roads, along borders,
Waiting for boats, for help to come,
Waiting in tents, in camps,
Waiting in detention centers,
Migrants are children of God
With no end to the waiting in sight.
Let us pray for all migrants,
Women, men, children;
Walking and waiting,
Longing for security,
The safety of a home,
For welcome, for inclusion.
Let us pray that the day will come,
Through God’s grace and our work for justice,
When the walking and waiting will be over,
When all migrants find the welcome they seek
And the embracing community they long for.
Amen.*

Lectionary Reflection

Advent is a season to open our eyes and see, to notice those who struggle or suffer, to see the injustice around us, to be more aware of the challenges in our world.

When John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus, they have been experiencing some discouragement. John is in jail. They may have been wondering: Is there any hope? Are God’s promises really to be fulfilled? Can we expect something new? Can the vision of John be made real?

Believers in all times and places can be challenged by discouragement. We, too, can be tempted to lose hope. Maybe we are thinking of the persistence of poverty and injustice around our world. Maybe we are thinking of the various people who are denied basic human rights. Maybe we are considering the situation of so many immigrants and refugees. Maybe we are disappointed with our government policies, especially those policies that affect the poor. Maybe it is increasing income inequality that angers us. Maybe we are thinking of the wars in places like Syria or the Congo or Afghanistan. Maybe we are thinking of the political situation in Washington or in our locality. Maybe we are thinking of racism and discrimination and the excessive incarceration of minorities.

The transformation and peace and justice that we long for still seems to be missing. In fact, sometimes we seem only to encounter more war and violence and injustice and poverty. Some say that the world will always be very dangerous. War will go on for a long time. We must arm ourselves to be safe. The way of nonviolence cannot work. Sometimes it seems that the world is only getting worse. We seem to be moving in the wrong direction.

When we try to work for justice or show concern for the poor or empower the powerless, other powers seem to rule the day. The power of money seems to overwhelm. The oppression of the poor continues. It looks like wealthy corporations and the most powerful of nations are holding sway over all others.

It seems that politics still tends toward corruption or disappointment. Transparency and participation seem to be lacking in our government structures and international organizations. Opportunity seems to be limited to the few. Racism, sexism and other forms of prejudice seem to hold sway.

However, Isaiah reminds us that it is precisely the desert that will rejoice and bloom. “Be strong, fear not!” James calls the community to “patience.” Don’t give up the vision! Jesus reminds the disciples of John not to miss the signs of God’s spirit. Signs of power and the outward trappings of success are not what they should look for. They are called to see that “the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” We, too, are called to look for a transformation of values and life. We are called to enter into a whole new way of looking at things. Our faith calls us into action filled with hope.

Advent Penance Service

Our parish Advent Penance Service will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 15th 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 16th
4:00PM—7:00PM**

Parishes throughout the area will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during these allotted hours. Here at St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Tim will be available at the Parish Center Chapel.

Let’s Have Some Christmas Joy & Fun!

Next weekend, Saturday, December 21st & Sunday, December 22nd dress up in your best “ugly” Christmas sweater to church. They always manage to bring smiles to our faces!

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.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of Dec. 15th — George & Pat Clark

Week of Dec. 22nd — Nancy Oliver

Shelving (Mondays)

December 16th — K. Mohney

December 23rd — J. & K. Brady

Distribution

December 17th — S. Lee, L. Gildea, A. Smilnak, A. Short, J. Wyatt, AM. & S. Faughnan

Le Moyne & CYO College 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. 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. Application packets are available on the parish website and at the parish center.

Deadline is January 1st, 2020

Volunteer Opportunity!

The Broome County Council of Churches is an organization that collaborates with many facets of the community to serve people with needs. Through our growing and diverse programs, the Council provides services to the hungry; elderly and lonely; disabled; sick; imprisoned; homeless and poor; and youth of Broome County. We advocate for change and reconciliation, promoting peace, justice, and genuine community across racial, ethnic, gender, socio-economic, and religious lines.

There are many volunteer options available, so go online and sign up to become a volunteer:

<https://broomecouncil.net/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/>

Help improve our community!

Theology on Tap Upcoming Series

In March 2020, the Office of Young Adult Ministry is launching a four-week speaker series.

A different speaker will present each week in the series entitled, "What does the Church REALLY teach about..."

March 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th

7:00PM

@ Dillinger's Celtic Pub & Eatery
(77 State St, Binghamton, NY 13901)

Theology on Tap offers the finest in Speakers, Conversation & Catholic Theology for Young Adults (married and single) in their 20's and 30's.

Please join us!

Congratulations Bev Krinik!

Congratulations to Bev Krinik our parish's recipient of this year's Immaculata Award. The Immaculata Medallion is an award recognizing and honoring lay people who generously and unselfishly volunteer time and service to their parishes.

Every year when I am given the opportunity to nominate a parishioner, I find it very challenging because there are so many of our parishioners that certainly are nominees for this recognition. However, I find it important that our parish is recognized among all of the other parishes in the diocese that we too have exceptional parishioners doing wonderful work and ministry.

Bev and her husband John have been members of St. Catherine of Siena for 35 years, and have continued as members of St. Francis of Assisi for the last 10. When her family arrived she was involved in the parish school where her children attended. Her involvement has continued throughout the years.

One of our most vibrant ministries in the parish is Catherine's Cupboard, our food pantry that serves a wide range of people in our area. Bev has assembled a large and dedicated group of volunteers that unload food to arrange on the pantry shelves, and others who assist with distributing the food twice a month. The parish is very supportive to this outreach ministry with donations both of food and financial assistance. She has been able to connect our pantry with grants and other food services. Our pantry assists families during the year when emergencies occur, and during the various holidays.

Bev serves on our pastoral and financial councils, and facilitates our parish picnic in the summer. Bev has been very involved in overseeing the upkeep of our parish grounds with the planting of flowers, and making sure the landscape is reflective of the season.

She is always ready to assist in whatever roles needed. As a parish we can rely on her in helping us to fulfill our parish mission

Congratulations Bev, and thank you for accepting this recognition on behalf of our parish. Also, thank you to all our volunteers in the parish who do so much throughout the year.

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.*

So, go out and give volunteering a try!

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
December 21st & 22nd, 2019

4:00 P.M. Mass

Lector	Barb Brozovic
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Larry Koch
EM Host	Rosemary Rounds
EM Cup	Ethan Glenn
EM Cup	Jan Pandich
EM Cup	Katie Ginalski
EM Cup	Carole Parga
Altar Server	Anna Ginalski
Altar Server	Tyler Norton
Altar Server	Ian Ginalski

8:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Ed & Kay Corcoran
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Suzanne Carr
EM Host	Donna or Scott Iglar
EM Cup	Kurt or Kelly Mohney
EM Cup	Maureen Mizzoni
EM Cup	Virginia Thompson
EM Cup	Ed White
Altar Server	Braeden Krisko
Altar Server	Sydney Keough
Altar Server	Mikayla Bucci

11:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	George Clark
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Lyndsey LoPiccolo
EM Host	Karyn Church
EM Cup	Emily Ekstrom
EM Cup	Steve Church
EM Cup	Pat Clark
EM Cup	Steve Guth
Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
Altar Server	Brendan Heaney
Altar Server	Alexander Watkins

Question of the Week

Question for Children: Why is Christmas such a time of happiness for people?

Question for Youth: God speaks to you every day: Isaiah tells us our ears and eyes will be opened in Christ to hear God's voice. What do you hear God saying to you?

Question for Adults: What is there in this promise from the Prophet Isaiah that gives you hope? How have you seen this promise fulfilled in Christ?

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 15th, 2019**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.