

December 17, 2017

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

Third Sunday of Advent

*Joy*



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  
Dave Bollinger  
Parish Pastoral Care Coordinator  
Sue Ekstrom  
Parish Media Manager  
Edmund Savo  
Organist

Office Hours:  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Monday through Thursday  
Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Parish Office: 722-4388  
Fax: 722-1336  
Faith Formation Office:  
722-4177

E-mail:  
[stfrancisbing@syrdio.org](mailto:stfrancisbing@syrdio.org)

Website:  
[www.stfrancisbing.org](http://www.stfrancisbing.org)

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

**Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a.m. Robert Clark by Suzanne & Don Carr

11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

**Monday, December 18**

8:00a.m. Dorothy Walter by Marge & Family

**Tuesday, December 19**

8:00 a.m. 24<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Tom Ryder by Family

**Wednesday, December 20**

8:00 a.m. 26<sup>th</sup> Anniv. John Serafini by Wife, Rose & Family

**Thursday, December 21**

8:00 a.m. John Broderick by Chuck & Linda Bucci

**Friday, December 22**

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, December 23, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. John Grace by Family

**Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a. m. Liturgy for the People

11:00 a.m. Ethan Murphy by Shirley

**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 (12-10-17)**

Regular Envelopes.....\$7,057.00  
 Loose Collection.....\$394.75  
 Electronic Collection.....\$1,844.00  
 Total Collection.....\$9,295.75

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Faith Formation**

**Please join us for our annual Christmas Program today at 9:30 AM in the church.**

**Looking Ahead:**

No Faith Formation December 24th or December 31st for Christmas Holiday Break.

Faith Formation for Grades K-9 will resume on **January 7th** at 9:45 AM.

The Confirmation Retreat will be held on **Saturday, January 6th at the Newman Center.** Parents please drop off your children by 10 AM, Mass will be celebrated at the Newman Center at 5:15 PM, families are welcome to join the candidates for Mass. Candidates should be dressed comfortably but appropriately for a walk outside.

**December 17th: Third Sunday of Advent**

Today's gospel reports, "There is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that do not start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at Mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

**Country Additions Fundraiser for Catherine's Cupboard**

COUNTRY ADDITIONS gift shop, 1085 Chenango St, is holding a special fundraiser that will continue from now until December 23rd. for our food pantry, Catherine's Cupboard. There will be gifts, also, so stop in for more details. We thank the owners, Cindy Fedish & Joan Wintergrass, for remembering our pantry once again this year.

**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. We have ordered only a limited quantity. Please, only two packets per family. No offering taken.

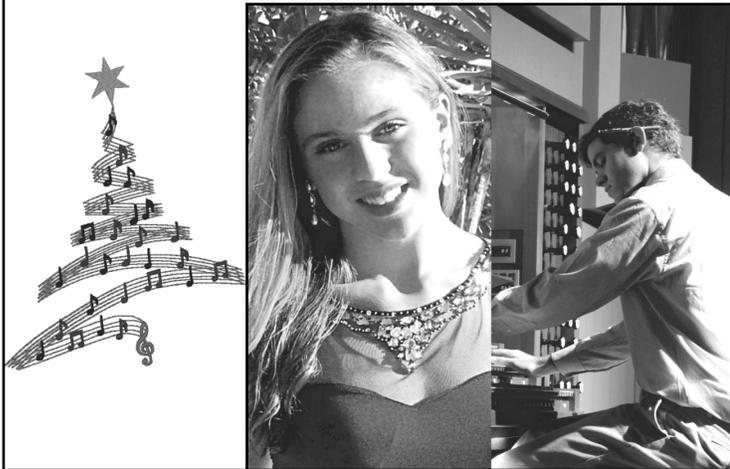
**Prayers . . .**

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.

### Special Christmas Concert

#### (Cassie Pinataro & Greg Santa Croce)

St. Francis of Assisi will be holding a special Christmas concert here with two of our young parishioners. Cassie Pinataro and Greg Santa Croce will be showcasing their musical talents on **December 20th at 7:00p.m.** Cassie is an incredible young singer who has made a name for herself having performed many times on stage, on camera, and at school (Chenango Forks High School) where she is a senior. Greg graduated from the University of North Texas with degrees in Jazz Studies and Organ Performance and has won many competitions as an accomplished organist. He is currently studying for his Masters in Sacred Music at University of Notre Dame. Please join us for a very special holiday performance to remember! A free will offering will be made to support the Santa Croce family while Megan Santa Croce undergoes treatments.



### 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas

The 4th Sunday of Advent coincides with Christmas Eve. We are observing the 4th Sunday of Advent by keeping our regular weekend schedule, (4:00P.M. on Saturday; 8:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. on Sunday). Our Christmas celebration begins with the 4:00P.M. on Sunday afternoon and the 10:00P.M. that night. Christmas Day will be at 8A.M. & 11A.M. The liturgies are different. Both celebrations are obligatory!

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017

#### *Advent Penance Service*

*Sunday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m.*

#### *Christmas Eve*

*Sunday, December 24th  
Liturgy at 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.*

#### *Christmas Day*

*Monday, December 25th  
Liturgy at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.*

### Advent: A Season To Open Our Eyes and See

The transformation and peace and justice that we long for still seem 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 tend 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. 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.

### Prayer for Expectant Mothers

*Lord Jesus, I lovingly pray for this sweet hope that I keep within my womb.*

*You have granted me the immense gift of a tiny little life, living in my own life, and I humbly thank you for choosing me as an instrument of your love.*

*In this sweet waiting, help me to live in a constant attitude of self-surrender to your will.*

*Grant me a motherly heart that is pure, steadfast and generous.*

*I hand over to you my own concerns; any anxious fears that may come, my own wishes for the little person that I still have no knowledge of.*

*Grant that it may be born healthy in body, keep far from it every peril to its soul.*

*Mary, you have known the ineffable joy of a holy motherhood; give me a heart that can transmit an ardent, living faith.*

*Sanctify my waiting, bless this joyful hope that is in me, grant that the fruit of my womb may open out in virtue and in holiness through your working with that of your divine Son.*

*Amen.*

**Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule**  
**Transportation**

Week of December 17th — Karen Dotson

**Week of December 24th — Christmas**

**Shelving (Mondays)**

December 16th — C. Woodruff & M. Ryder

**December 25th — Christmas Day**

**Distribution**

December 19th — P. & M. Peters, K. Dotson, A. Smilnak, R. Serafini, A. Short, M. Hayes, J. Wyatt

**Tax Bill Vote "NO" Update**

Decisions about taxation involve fundamental concerns of "justice and equity", with the goal of taxes and public spending "becoming an instrument of development and solidarity". No tax bill is acceptable that increases taxes for those living in poverty to help pay for benefits to wealthy citizens.

**Please, we urge you to call our Congresswoman Claudia Tenney [NY-22], at (202-225-3665) and tell her to vote "NO" on this tax bill. Pray that we may move forward with a bill that benefits not just those who are fortunate in our society.**

*"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"(Deuteronomy 15:11)*

*"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him." (Proverbs 14:31)*

**Collection for Homeless Coalition**

Faith Formation will be collecting items for the Homeless Coalition again **from now until April 15th**. These are the needed items:

**Bottles of Water or Gatorade**

**Insulated Socks**

**Thermal Underwear (L/XL)**

**Warm Gloves/Hats**

**Hand/Foot Warmers**

**Ponchos**

**Toothbrushes**

**Wipes**

**Fast Food Gift Cards**

**Clif Bars**

**Cracker Sandwiches**

**Raisins (or other dried fruit)**

**Ziploc Bags**

**Drawstring Bags**

\* All clothing must be new and must be men's sizes, since women can wear them too.

There is a box just inside the front door of the school on Sundays during Faith Formation. Another box is be at the church and another at the Parish Center.

**2018-2019 Le Moyne College**  
**C.Y.O. Scholarship**

For many years, Le Moyne College and the Catholic Youth Organization have worked together to offer eight \$4,000.00 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. Completed application packets must be returned to the Regional Chairperson, NOT Le Moyne College, no later than January 1st, 2018. Information and packets are available at the Parish Office. If you have any questions or concerns, call (315)445-4300.

**Year of The Poor & Our Food Pantry**

Pope Francis declared this coming year the "Year of the Poor", but here at St. Francis of Assisi the poor are taken care of year round. The food pantry started in the spring of 2002 serving less than 10 families a month. We now serve 100 to 125 families monthly, and can even rise to 150 during the holidays. This is not including the 145+ families that received Thanksgiving Baskets from us on November 18th and during the week leading up to Thanksgiving Day. On **December 19th** we will be open again, and offer turkey, ham, or chicken to our visitors as well as assorted gifts to complete their Christmas. On the 11th our "special elves" delivered over 200 gifts to; The Children's Home, Elizabeth Church Nursing Home, Birthright, and Broome Council of Churches for Jail Ministry. These are "our neighbor's" living within the parish who may not have anything this holiday without **your help**. Words cannot suffice in explaining how much **you do** for the poor. Your monetary donations, dropping off food items, the food drive done by Chenango Forks Girl Scouts, brought in 800 lbs of food in November and Hillcrest Fire dept is doing another food drive for us this weekend. The volunteers who give up their time to sort, shelve, or give out through out the year are invaluable and extraordinary. If you wish to join us, please call Delores at the parish center (722-4388). Whatever you do, it is greatly appreciated and all is used to the best of our ability. **Thank you** all for taking time to care for the poor.

**Knights of Columbus 11403**



**Hooley in Hillcrest**  
**Save the Date: 03/10/18**



**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**

**December 23rd & 24th, 2017**

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

Lector	John Artman
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Paulette Scales
EM Host	Larry Koch
EM Cup	Dom Lomonaco
EM Cup	Judy Murphy
EM Cup	Jan Pandich
EM Cup	Ron Scales
Altar Server	Vincent Williams
Altar Server	Tyler Norton
Altar Server	Mikey Schultz

**8:00 A.M. Mass**

Lector	Kurt & Kelly Mohney
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Katie Ginalski
EM Host	Donna or Scott Iglar
EM Cup	Tom Phalen
EM Cup	Maureen Mizzoni
EM Cup	Suzanne Tierno
EM Cup	Mike Stricek
Altar Server	Braeden Krisko
Altar Server	Natalie Broderick
Altar Server	Peyton Broderick

**11:00 A.M. Mass**

Lector	Dave Bollinger
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Lyndsey LoPiccolo
EM Host	Karyn Church
EM Cup	Rose O'Neil
EM Cup	Steve Church
EM Cup	Pat Church
EM Cup	David Hanzes
Altar Server	Katelyn Church
Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
Altar Server	Alexander Watkins

**Attention: Eucharistic Ministers,  
Altar Servers, & Lectors**

It's time to begin work on the next quarter's schedule for the Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, & Lectors. This schedule covers January, February, and March of 2018. If you have any special requests, please let us know before December 17th. We will be completing and submitting the schedule on December 20th.

Again, let us know about those special requests, such as dates you will be out of town or otherwise unable to serve.

Call Lynda and Joe Carpenter at 607-772-6732 or email [joseph.carpenter28@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.carpenter28@gmail.com). Thank you!

# 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 17, 2017**

**Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**