

December 19, 2021

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

# LOVE



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

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

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

Follow us on FB & Twitter:  
[@stfrancisbing](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisbing)

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 18, Vigil of Sunday**  
 4:00 p.m. Dorothy Walters by Family  
**Sunday, December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:30 a.m. Bob Shields by Ruth Cole  
**Monday, December 20**  
 12:00 p.m. Mary Foran by Jim & Rose O'Neil

**Tuesday, December 21**  
 8:00 a.m. Betti & Steve Charsky by Mary Frances

**Wednesday, December 22**  
 12:00 p.m. Louise Evans by the Hazen Family

**Thursday, December 23**  
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People  
**Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve**  
 4:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People  
 10:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

**Saturday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord**  
 10:30 a.m. Liturgy for the People  
**Sunday, December 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
 8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People  
 10:30 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna 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 (12-05-21)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,133.00
Loose Collection.....	\$645.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$3,172.00
Total Collection.....	\$9,950.00

*Thank You for your generous contributions!*

**Faith Formation**

**No Faith Formation December 26th or January 2nd**  
 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>
4:00PM & 10:00PM	10:30AM

*December 25th - NO 4:00PM MASS*

*Holy Family Sunday (Dec. 26th)*  
 8:00AM & 10:30AM



**4th Sunday of Advent: Creation Care Tips**

*"And this shall be a sign for you; you shall find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger." — Luke 2:12*

Our sacred scripture story tells us that the newborn Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes (the only thing Mary and Joseph had on hand), not a perfect blanket sewn with love. One of our Christmas traditions is to offer beautifully wrapped presents to friends and family. Unfortunately, this tradition involves cutting down tens of thousands of trees to make wrapping paper, most of which can't be recycled and gets discarded soon afterwards. This year, why not find alternatives for wrapping our presents, such as newspaper, old posters, or other reused paper? Some people use cloth napkins, which can be reused; others prefer using gift bags which can also be conveniently reused later on. When wrapping your gifts this year, be creative to prevent depleting our forests.

**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.

**Christmas Tree Blessing**

To pray at home in preparation for Christmas

*Blessed are you,  
Lord our God,*

*Before whom all the trees of the forest sing for joy,  
For you have come rule the earth and all its peoples  
in your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.*

*By his death on the cross and his rising in glory,  
the tree of our defeat has become our tree of victory,  
and the pure light of Christ  
forever gladdens our waiting world.*

*We ask you to send your blessing upon this tree  
which we have decorated in honor of your Son's birth.*

*Let it help us to celebrate this holy season  
as living branches of him,  
and bear the fruit of good works for your glory,  
this day and every day,  
both now and forever. Amen.*

**Blessing of the Home Nativity Scene**

*God every nation and people,*

*From the very beginning of creation you have made  
manifest your love:*

*When our need for a Savior was great you sent your  
Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.*

*To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and  
love.*

*Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;  
May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
And raise up our thoughts to him,  
Who is God-with-us and Savior of all,  
and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.*

**Prayer For Expectant Parents**

*This life you have given us is so tiny, fragile, and  
vulnerable, safe in the womb of flesh and hope,  
Yet subject to danger and death.*

*O God of love, Creator of life, hear our prayer.  
We want this baby so much.*

*Please grant this child of ours a full term of nurture,  
the joy and mystery of life, and the blessing of your  
love.*

*Grant us the fulfillment of our dreams, a baby to  
cherish and protect, a child to teach and guide, a  
blessing to our family. Amen.*

**Christmas Blessings...**

*to all of you as we celebrate the gift of God's love in the  
birth of Christ. May the season of Christmas be truly a  
gift of love that enriches your lives in the year ahead. On  
behalf of the parish staff, may you have a merry and a  
very blessed Christmas filled in the peace and love of  
Christ.*

*Jr. Tim*

**Christmas Parties**

Jesus made the round of parties, partaking of the fruit of vineyard and farm, attending banquets, socializing with all kinds of people, and enjoying it! Some people feel the solemn season of Advent seems to be overtaken by the Christmas party season. In schools and offices, it's party time. Do we feel that our social calendars represent obligations that detract from our keeping the true season? Don't we feel just a little guilty about partying our way through advent? Isn't it possible that the social circuit is an environment in which we can meet Christ anew and be Christ to one another? Certainly he is there in the laughing, the storytelling, the singing, the dancing, the eating, and the drinking, in the odd and wonderful mix of party guests.

As we look forward to a Merry Christmas, let us make room in our lives for a Merry Christ.

**Pope Francis on Getting Vaccinated**

"Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the vulnerable." "Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love."



'The Light is On For You' is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington where Catholic churches across the United States are open for quiet prayer and Confession.

We will be participating in The Light Is On For You in our Parish on

**Monday, December 20th, from 4:00PM—6:00PM  
in the parish center chapel.**

It is never "too late" to return to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. Imagine how joyful you will feel upon confessing your sins, big or small!

**Immaculata  
Award  
Recipient:  
Nora Bush**



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

### **Transportation**

NO TRANSPORTATION

### **Shelving (Mondays)**

NO SHELIVING

### **Distribution**

December 21st— J. Wyatt, K. Dotson, A. & S. Faughnan

## **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.

## **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 need to tell someone. 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.

## **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.

## **GIVING TREE: THANK YOU!**

Amazing response to our request this year THANK YOU TOO ALL! Gifts have been dropped off to the Children's Home, Elizabeth Church Nursing Home (along with calendars and cards), Broome County Jail Ministry, and Birthright. Now, Christmas can be brighter for so many. Special thanks to the Confirmation students: W. Paske, C. Novitsky, M. Thayne and B. McKown for doing this parish project.

## **Catherine's Cupboard Update:** **Calendars & Cards**

THANKS for all the calendars & cards!! Hundreds came in and are being given out. Over 250 Christmas cards were signed this month and shared with shut ins in our community. Families visiting the pantry loved getting to be able to receive and pass cards on to loved ones. **For now, we will no longer be accepting any more but thank you.**

## **Hillcrest Fire Department Food Drive:** **Thank You!**

This weekend the HILLCREST FIRE DEPT held their annual food drive for Catherine's Cupboard and again thanks to all who supported this. The Osteen family will be sorting and shelving this for us in conjunction with a Confirmation service project.

## **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

## **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.



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.**

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**  
December 25th & 26th, 2021

**10:30A.M. Mass**  
**SIGN UP ONLY**

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

Altar Server.....Jessica Wojnar  
Altar Server.....Jonah Rice  
Altar Server.....Juliana Rice  
Lector.....Scott Iglar  
EM.....Marie Iobst  
EM.....Shirley McCray

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

Altar Server.....Abraham Watkins  
Altar Server.....Jonah Rice  
Altar Server.....Juliana Rice  
Lector.....Jules Furrer  
EM.....Mary DeNinis  
EM.....Lyndsey Lopiccolo

---

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

**4:00PM**

NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**10:30**

Ede & Sarah Blabac

---

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!**

---

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** How does the  
Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow  
Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** When have you ex-  
perienced the presence of the Holy Spir-  
it?

**Question for Adults:** What role does  
Mary play in your own spirituality? If  
you were Elizabeth, how would you  
greet her at your doorway, if she were to  
arrive there?

# 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 19th, 2021**

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