

December 20, 2020

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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

Website:

www.stfrancisbing.org

Follow us on FB & Twitter:

[@stfrancisbing](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisbing)

Please go online to stfrancisbing.org to view our latest Sunday mass. We will be posting new videos of our weekend liturgies by 4:00PM on Saturdays **even after our reopening.**

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

You can still attend weekend mass virtually!



Saturday, December 19, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Living Intention – Theresa Foran
 by Kathy & Glen Tait

Sunday, December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Peg Smith by Arlene Peters

Monday, December 21

12:00 p.m. William & Joanne Murray by
 Barb & Don Brozovic

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Monica Arnold by Family

Wednesday, December 23

12:00 p.m. Shirley Ann Casterlin by
 Robert Connelly

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People
 10:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

Friday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

Saturday, December 26, Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. Salvatore Sabato by Dot Davies

Sunday, December 27, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
 11:00 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 (12-06-20)

Regular/Holy Day Envelopes.....	\$9,082.00
Loose Collection.....	\$42.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$3,413.00
Total Collection.....	\$12,537.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation for grades K-9 this weekend at 9:30 AM in the school.

No Faith Formation next week, December 27th! Merry Christmas!

Faith Formation grades K-Confirmation resumes January 3rd.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated in January 2021.

No Confirmation Retreat in January. Confirmation candidates will have class **January 3rd** in the parish hall. The retreat has been rescheduled for spring 2021.

4th Week of Advent: Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the angel inviting Mary to become the mother of the Messiah. Mary worries about doing this without breaking her promises to God. The angel replies with the story of Elizabeth being with child even though she was beyond the age of child-bearing. The angel states, "...for nothing will be impossible for God." Your challenge this week is to bring the Good News of Jesus and his message of possibilities to someone who has been weighed down by darkness or despair— due to illness, financial stress, relationship problems, or whatever. As a family, choose one person—or one family—who needs you to remind them that with God, nothing is impossible. How can you help "liberate" this person or family from whatever is keeping them from living a free and full life?

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2020



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 2020

There's certain austerity to this Christmas, a quietness surrounding this season, that reflects what a difficult year this has been for all of us. But, nonetheless, Christ was born. Christ was born in 2020. When a nurse stayed an hour after their shift ended to remain at the bedside of a coronavirus patient, holding their hand so they would not die alone, Christ was born...

When a mom or dad held their terrified child tightly, reassuring their little one that everything will be OK, Christ was born...

When the owner of a small business took out loans and deferred their own salary so that they could keep the employees on payroll, Christ was born...

When a parish community organized to keep their town's food pantry open and stocked during the worst of the pandemic, Christ was born...

When the restaurant owner put their business on the line to turn their facility into an open kitchen for front-line medical and emergency personnel, as well as help keep a struggling soup kitchen open, Christ was born...

All this year, as we sheltered with loved ones in our own small manglers, as we kept responsible "social distance" from neighbors and friends in our own Bethlehems, Christ was born.

Christ was born in every simple offering of help. Christ was born in every extended hand to the stumbling and falling. Christ was born in every moment spent listening with understanding and patience. Christ was born in every act of healing and consolation. Christ was born again and again and again in 2020.

And many of us brought him to birth.

Some of us were angels that sang the *Gloria* of compassion and mercy; some of us were shepherds who witnessed the miraculous birth.

So maybe this quieter Christmas rightly reflects a year when we experienced the mystery of Christ's birth in unexpected and lasting ways. This year, the Word of God was made flesh for us in ways we could see and feel and hear. This year, we actually became a people of genuine good will. This year, the peace of Christmas dawned upon us all despite the fear and anxiety.

And we are saved.

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 truly be a gift of love that enriches your lives in the year ahead. On behalf of the Parish staff, may you have a merry and very blessed Christmas filled in the peace and love of Christ.

MERRY CHRISTMAS,

Fr. Tim

Christmas Beatitudes

Blessed is December, for Christmas is near.

Blessed are the poor of pocket, for they shall be called parents.

Blessed are the artistic, for they shall get stuck wrapping everyone's gifts.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall restrain children from knocking over the Christmas tree.

Blessed are they who are heavily laden, for they shall be called shoppers.

Blessed are they who weave paper garlands, produce plays and wear a confused look, for they shall be called teachers.

Blessed are they who hunger for turkey and trimmings (and happily do the dishes) for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed is the sweater knit in secret, coins sent to a food bank, dinner for a shut-in, for they shall be called love.

Blessed are we who, despite the chaos, hold the real Christmas closely in our hearts... For we shall be called joy-filled.

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.*



Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

NO TRANSPORTATION

Shelving (Mondays)

NO SHELIVING

Distribution

January 5th— Bea Grace, Meg Peters, Martha Lyons

THE GIVING TREE 2020: THANK YOU!

"Ask and you shall receive" has been proven again from our parish family here at St Francis. With low in-person attendance we were unsure if we could do the Giving Tree this year but we not only did it, we surpassed what we committed to. The Children's Home now has over 70 gift cards to share with their families when we committed to at least 50. Elizabeth Church campus hoped we could do 50 gifts, well, we did, in fact, we doubled that plus some. Thanks to the Church of Nazarene ladies group who join in with us donating blankets, candy and cookies. Your generosity is overwhelming and speaks volumes of your caring concern of others... **Thank You & Merry Christmas!**

Instructions for Celebration of Sacraments

In order to permit Mass each parishioner must:

- † Seek information for registration for Mass, and procedures
- † Remain home if sick, symptomatic, or at risk
- † Wear a face mask in church (required) and, if possible, bring personal hand sanitizer
- † Observe the commands on the posted signage and follow the directives of ushers

Prepare for the reception of Holy Communion:

- † Masks will be worn by ALL
- † Direction will be provided for those receiving
- † The Precious Blood will NOT be offered
- † Reception will involve: receiving the Body of Christ in the hand **ONLY**, stepping aside, lifting the mask, consuming the Eucharist, returning the mask..
- † Please maintain social distancing of 6 feet!

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.

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 can choose where the money goes. Check it out!

Zoom Book Club

The book club has been missing due to the need to social distance during the Pandemic. We are going to attempt a book club using Zoom. Many of you are already familiar with Zoom but you will need a device that connects you to the Internet. We are planning on two sessions, starting on the first Tuesday of January 2021 at 2PM & 7PM. We're aiming for 10 attendees (a household counts as an attendee). I think 10 is a reasonable number to start with. We will be reading and talking about Pope Francis' new encyclical called Fratelli Tutti which means All Brothers (and Sisters too I might add). Please contact the Delores in the Parish Office or call Deacon Steve at 607-648-2155 or steveblabac@yahoo.com to register. The encyclical is available at many sources but we will wait to see if anyone is interested before putting an order in.

The Light is On for You

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, the Sacrament of Penance will be available at the Parish Center in the Chapel during the following time:

† **Monday, December 21st: 4:00PM—7:00PM**

These past months in trying to adjust to the COVID-19 virus many aspects of our Sacramental life have been interrupted. We encourage you to come celebrate and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)

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

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

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
December 26th & 27th, 2020

4:00 P.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

8:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

11:00 A.M. Mass

Designation ONLY

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YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi Binghamton)

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virtually!**

**Children’s Liturgy of The Word will be
posted by Noon on Saturdays!**

Question of the Week

Question for Children: Why is it important for you to obey your parents or guardians?

Question for Youth: God chose to be among us in the person of Jesus. How does having a God who knows what it means to be human affect the way you pray or think about God?

Question for Adults: Whether single, married, or divorced, how does Paul’s advice ring true in your own life? Choose one of his suggestions and share how it touches your life.

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 20th, 2020**

Deliver 250 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.