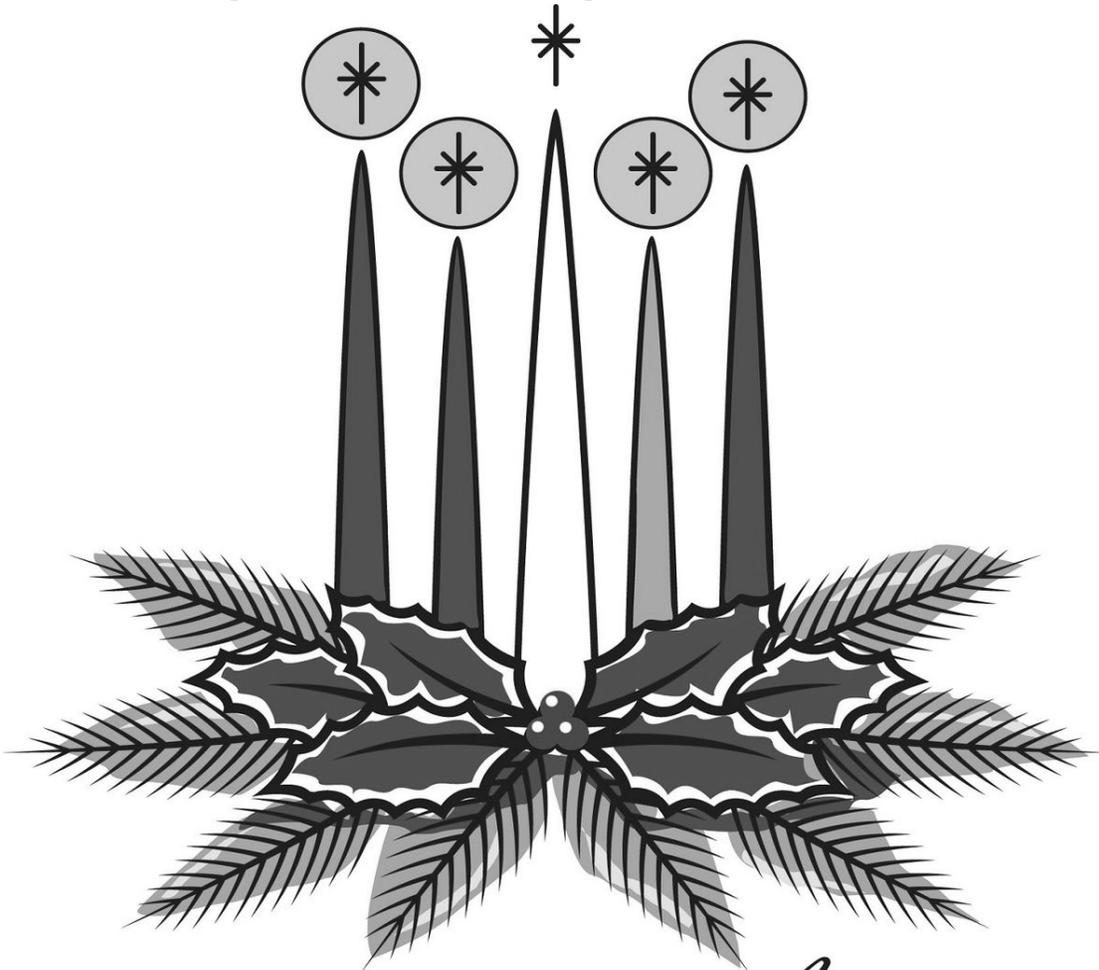


December 23, 2018

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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

Website:
www.stfrancisbing.org

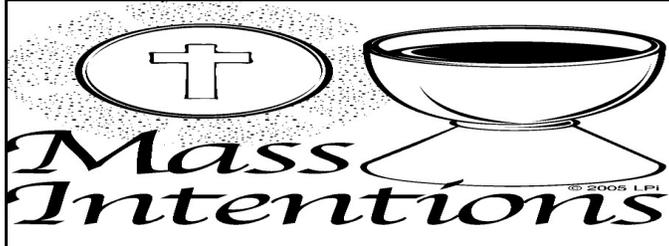
Mass Schedule

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 22, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Erica Schuetz by Jane Monico
Sunday, December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. William Weckel by the Weckel Family
 11:00 a.m. John Grace by Family

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

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

Tuesday, December 25, The Nativity Of The Lord - Christmas Day

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

Wednesday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Betti & Steve Charsky by Mary Frances

Thursday, December 27

NO MASS

Friday, December 28

NO MASS

Saturday, December 29, Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. Sophia Patsko by Theresa Kudra

Sunday, December 30, 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 (12-16-18)

Regular Envelopes.....\$5,298.00
 Loose Collection.....\$357.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$417.00
 Total Collection.....\$6,072.00

Thank You for your generous contributions!

Faith Formation

No Faith Formation December 23 & 30--Merry Christmas

Congratulations to everyone in our parish! Through your generosity and support we have succeeded in our goal to build a house in Central America through Food for the Poor. And special recognition goes to our Faith Formation classes who helped and continues to raise money for this project. Faith Formation classes will have more projects throughout the year to add to our commitment to serve the poor. Thank you to all and Merry Christmas!

Looking Ahead:

Confirmation Retreat, Saturday, January 5th 10 AM--6 PM at the Newman Center, 400 Murray Hill RD, Vestal.

Parish Book Club

Our Book club will not meet again until Tuesday, January 8th at 2 PM and 7 PM.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2018

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th

Liturgy at 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.



Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25th

Liturgy at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Children's Liturgy

December 29/30

4:00 PM Mass— Maria Kirk/Sue Lee
8:00 AM Mass— Kay and Ed Corcoran

January 5/6

4:00 PM Mass— Robert Cushing/Kathryn Shafer
8:00 AM Mass— Shirley McCray/Marie Iobst

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, Richard Kapinius.

A Christmas Prayer for Peace

Thank you, God of peace, for announcing the coming of peace on earth and for coming among us to make peace. Thank you for siding with the homeless, the refugee, the marginalized, the immigrant, the outsider, the disenfranchised. Thank you for being good news for the and the oppressed. Thank you for your incarnation in the nonviolent Jesus, for showing us the Way, the Truth, the Life of Peace. Thank you for loving us so much, for bringing your universal, unconditional, nonviolent love into the world. Thank you for teaching us how to live, how to love, how to serve, how to pray, how to make peace, how to show compassion, how to practice nonviolence, how to resist empire, how to suffer, and how to die. Thank you for calling us away from violence, injustice and empire into the new life of nonviolence, justice, community and resurrection. Most of all, thank you for teaching us how to be human. Alas, so many of us want to play god that we've become inhuman. You, God of peace, on the other hand, let go of your divinity to share our humanity, and in the process, teach us how to be Godly. Dear God, we celebrate the birth of the nonviolent Jesus, his life and love, his teachings and works, his steadfast resistance, and his suffering, death and resurrection. We celebrate the most nonviolent life in human history, the greatest peacemaker the world has ever seen. We celebrate how his life and love continue to disarm, heal, and transform us all. This Christmas, give us the grace to imitate his life, to become new people of creative nonviolence like him. Help us to be better practitioners of peace, contemplatives of peace, teachers of peace, apostles of peace, prophets of peace. Help us abolish systemic injustice, resist empire, end war, dismantle weapons, and study war no more, that we might reverence life and creation as he did. Bless us that we might be your beloved sons and daughters, peacemakers, people who love one another, love your neighbors, and love our nation's enemies. Bless us that we might be a new Christmas people, who, like Mary and Joseph, welcome Christ into the world, see Christ in the poor, serve Christ in the world's children, raise Christ through our nonviolent actions, and bring Christ's Christmas gift of peace on earth to fruition in our lives and work. Help us all to honor Jesus by obeying his commandments, following his footsteps and doing what he did, that we too might incarnate your holy spirit of peace and nonviolence. This Christmas, God of peace, bless us all over again, that we might live with a new, mature faith, that we might become peacemaking saints, that we might be instruments of your Christmas gift of peace on earth. Bless us all, that suffering may end, that all may be healed, that all may live in peace, that all may radiate your love. In the name of the nonviolent Jesus.

Amen.

December 25th: Christmas

A Family Perspective

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving ACCEPTANCE of our children.

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.*

Blessing of the Creche

Bless us, Lord, as we come to Bethlehem where animals and angels, shepherds and seekers together behold your face. Here snow becomes straw and frost becomes flowers as winter melts into everlasting spring. In our holy Christmas, give us the riches of your poverty. Show us the wonder of simplicity as we join the angels in proclaiming your praise: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

God of Adam and Eve, God of all our ancestors, we praise you for this tree. It stirs a memory of paradise and brings a foretaste of heaven. Send your Son, the flower of the root of Jesus, to restore your good earth to the freshness of creation. Then every tree of the forest will clap its hands, and all creation will bless you from these shining branches. All glory be yours now and forever. 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.

Merry Christmas,



Fr. Tim



Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of December 23 — Michelle Warne

Week of December 30 — Nancy Oliver

Shelving (Mondays)

December 24th — **CLOSED**

December 31st — **CLOSED**

Distribution

January 15th — D Kellet & team #1

Cruise: NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA!

Join Fr. Ryan & Fr. Tim Taugher in February 2020 for a trip of a lifetime! Cruise departs from Sidney on February 1st aboard Holland America's Nordam and arrives in Auckland on February 13th. Call Touraid Travel at 518-563-5605 and ask for Christina King or cking@touraidtravel.com. All deposits are fully refundable until Sept. 30, 2019. What a great Christmas present for 2018 and 2019! Reservations are requested by **January 15**.

Count Your Blessings

A young priest stood to preach his first sermon. He was so frightened he could hardly speak, but he had written a good, long sermon so he kept plodding through it. "Speak up!", a man yelled from the back of the church. "We can't hear you back here!" The young priest tried preaching a little louder. But in a while, the man called out again, "We can't hear you!" The priest tried a little harder. Finally, the man stood up. "We can't hear a thing you are saying!" Another churchgoer in the front stood up, turned around, and asked, "What are you complaining about? Just sit down and thank God, or I will change places with you."

Thank You from Birthright!

Birthright of Binghamton thanks the parishioners of St. Francis for their generosity to Birthright once again with your Giving Tree. The enormous amount of diapers, warm sleepers, onesies, and outfits, along with the toys and books will help our clients so much. This donation has already helped many families to have a nicer Christmas. Thank you very much.

~Diane Yajko and all the Birthright volunteers.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Utilizing a QCD is a tax-savvy strategy that allows you to transfer up to \$100,000/year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity. It is only available to IRAs and individuals who have reached RMD age (70.5). Any amount processed as a QCD counts towards your RMD requirement and reduces the taxable amount of your IRA distribution. This lowers both your adjusted gross income and taxable income, resulting in a lower overall tax liability.

Check with your Financial and/or Tax Advisor!

Giving Tree and Food Drives

It is certainly a busy time of year in and around the parish. THANK YOU to all who gave so generous this year. Over 170 gifts were delivered to the various organizations including; Children's Home, Elizabeth Church Nursing Home, Jail Ministry and Birthright . Girls Scouts from Chenango Forks held a food drive around the area of the high school and gave Catherine's Cupboard 500 pounds of food. Hillcrest Fire Department also held a food collection for us when Santa visited area homes, adding to our shelves another 800 pounds. Thanks to Ms. Diaz's class from the Children's Home, who sorted and shelved it all. It has been a very busy holiday with so much GIVING on your part to those in need. Visitors at the pantry on December 18th all received a turkey (thanks to TIOGA DOWNS & Wegman's) plus a few little gifts were donated by various people. YOU are all living the true meaning of the Christmas season. Thank You to all!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Night to Shine

First United Methodist Church of Chenango Bridge is proud to be an official host church for the 2019 Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. The event will be hosted by an estimated 700 churches around the world simultaneously on Friday, **February 8, 2019**. We have rented space at the Chenango Valley High School to hold this event. For more information, refer a guest, volunteer or donate, please email: night2shinecb@gmail.com. To learn more, check out www.timtebowfoundation.org

Church Pew Cleaning

This Sunday, December 23rd, there will be a pew cleaning following the 8am mass. All are welcome to come and help out. The more help, the quicker the job gets done. If you'd like to help, simply show up at 9:15am. Thank you!

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

December 29th & 30th, 2018

4:00 P.M. Mass

Lector	Rosemary Rounds
EM Host	Brenda Artman
EM Host	Catherine Shafer
EM Host	John Artman
EM Cup	Debby Carden
EM Cup	John Pierce
EM Cup	Peggy Munson
EM Cup	Barb Brozovic
Altar Server	Delaney Wood
Altar Server	Liam Wood
Altar Server	Calliope Brennan

8:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Maureen Mizzoni
EM Host	Tim Vaverchak
EM Host	Mary Ellen Vaverchak
EM Host	Marie Iobst
EM Cup	Shirley McCray
EM Cup	Scott Klein
EM Cup	Nancy Oliver
EM Cup	Debbie Davis
Altar Server	Andrew Rice
Altar Server	Jonah Rice
Altar Server	Juliana Rice

11:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Joe Sardella
EM Host	Virginia Thompson
EM Host	Sue Jones
EM Host	
EM Cup	Betty Church
EM Cup	Jules Furrer
EM Cup	Stephanie Stracuzzi
EM Cup	David Hanzes
Altar Server	
Altar Server	Jessica Wojnar
Altar Server	Nolan Sirgany

Question of the Week

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

Question for Youth: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

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 23rd, 2018**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.