

December 24, 2017

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

## Merry Christmas



### **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 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

11:00a.m. Ethan Murphy by Shirley McCray

**Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

10:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

**Monday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

**Tuesday, December 26**

8:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family

**Wednesday, December 27**

8:00 a.m. Betty Pekera by Nancy & Dave Oliver

**Thursday, December 28**

**NO MASS**

**Friday, December 29**

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, December 30, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

**Sunday, December 31, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

8:00 a.m. Anthony DiPasquale by Larry & D.D. Koch

11:00 a.m. Ted Smith by Jim & Rose O'Neil

**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 (12-17-17)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$7,250.00
Loose Collection.....	\$411.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$570.00
Total Collection.....	\$8,231.00

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Faith Formation**

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

**Looking Ahead:**

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.

**Parish Book Club**

**"Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr**

Book Club will begin Tuesday January 9th at 1:30 PM in the Parish Center, for those who would like to meet in the afternoon before Lent. The Book we will be discussing is *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Copies of the book are available at the Parish Center for \$15. Or you can order it online at Amazon.com for your Kindle.

**December 24th: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**QUESTION:** What do you call a family, which began with an unmarried pregnant teen, and had a twelve-year-old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal?

**ANSWER:** HOLY! Two lessons in today's gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."

**World Marriage Day**

The 33rd Annual World Marriage Day will be celebrated on Feb 11, 2018 at 2:30pm at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse. The Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham will celebrate the Mass and witness the renewal of marriage vows of all couples in attendance. He will specially honor those couples celebrating 25th, 50th and beyond 50 years in 2018.

**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.

**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.*

**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  
~Father Tim~**

**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.

**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. this afternoon (Sunday) and the 10:00 P.M. tonight (Sunday). Christmas Day will be at 8A.M. & 11A.M. The liturgies are different. Both celebrations are obligatory!

**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.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017**

*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.*





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

**Week of December 24th — Christmas**  
**Week of December 31st — Ann Wilcox**

**Shelving (Mondays)**

**December 25th — Christmas Day**

**January 1st — New Year's Day**

**Distribution**

January 2nd — M. Walsh, M. Turna, M. Quinn, J. Wyatt, A. & S. Faughnan

**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.*

**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/Feet 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 opened again, and offered turkey, ham, and/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 30th & 31st, 2017**

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

Lector	Rosemary Rounds
EM Host	Paulette Scales
EM Host	Catherine Shafer
EM Host	Ron Scales
EM Cup	Terry Hanifin
EM Cup	John Pierce
EM Cup	Peggy Munson
EM Cup	Barb Brozovic
Altar Server	Dominic Lomonaco
Altar Server	Logan Lomonaco
Altar Server	Sarah Shafer

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

Lector	Maureen Mizzoni
EM Host	Steve Baxter
EM Host	Denise Baxter
EM Host	Marie Iobst
EM Cup	Shirley McCray
EM Cup	Lou Angelo
EM Cup	Ed White
EM Cup	Debbie Davis
Altar Server	Sydney Keough
Altar Server	Mikayla Bucci
Altar Server	Brigid Birtch

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

Lector	Mary Lou Ekstrom
EM Host	Jim Lewis
EM Host	Sue Jones
EM Host	Chris Gill
EM Cup	David Gill
EM Cup	Jules Furrer
EM Cup	Stephanie Stracuzzi
EM Cup	David Hanzes
Altar Server	John Michael Frissora
Altar Server	Jessica Wojnar
Altar Server	Brendan Heaney

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** If you were to tell someone one thing about Jesus' mother, Mary, what would you say?

**Question for Youth:** Gabriel's greeting to Mary was, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." This is God's greeting to each of us – he loves us just as we are. What are some of your personal strengths that God rejoices in?

**Question for Adults:** Name one area of your life where God has surprised you with love, abilities, or even a pregnancy. How is God's Spirit upon you in this dimension of life?

# END OF BULLETIN

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Comments:

Bulletin copy for **December 24, 2017**

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