

December 25, 2016

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



The Nativity Of The Lord

Staff

Rev. Timothy Taugher, Pastor
Deacon Stephen Blabac
Sr. Karen Gaube, CSJ
Pastoral Associate
Delores A. Farwell
Parish Administrative Assistant
Maria Kirk
Director of Faith Formation
Joseph Carpenter
Parish Business Administrator
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@syrдио.org

Website:
www.stfrancisbing.org

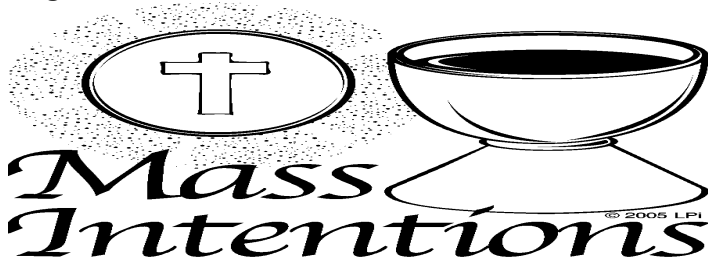
Mass Schedule

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



<u>Last Weekend's Offering (12-18-16)</u>	
200 Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,710.00
Loose Collection.....	\$270.00
Electronic Donation.....	\$1,127.00
Total Collection.....	\$8,107.00

**Thank you to everyone for their donations.
They are greatly appreciated.**

Faith Formation

There is NO Faith Formation on December 25th and January 1st. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Confirmation Class Collection for Homeless

NEEDED: Items for Homeless Coalition Kits
The Confirmation Class is collecting items for kits for the homeless in Binghamton between now and April 2nd.

These are the needed items: Drawstring bags/backpacks, Bottles of Water or Gatorade, Insulated Socks, Thermal Underwear (L/XL), Warm Gloves, Warm Hats, Hand/Foot Warmers, Ponchos, Toothbrushes, Wipes, Bus Pass, Fast Food Gift Card, Clif Bars, Cracker Sandwiches, Oranges, Ziploc Bags.

All clothing should be men's sizes since women can wear them, too. Cash donations are also gratefully accepted.

We will have a box in front of the school on Faith Formation weekends before/after each Mass. It will be at the Parish Center during the week. Flyers to put up in the community will also be available.

THANK YOU to all the parishioners who have been contributing items to our collection so far! We have already taken one set of items to the Homeless Coalition and have additional items stored for the next donation. Last Sunday we were able to collect \$317.84; that money will be used to purchase additional items so we can put together some kits during our January retreat! As always, the generosity of our parish is awesome!

Catherine's Cupboard Pantry *Help Needed*

Catherine's Cupboard food pantry needs your help in sorting food on Thursday, December 29th from 9:30a.m—Noon. CAN YOU HELP? It's a great opportunity for kids of all ages if they can tell a fruit from a veggie. It's also a good service project for Scouts, Honor Society, CYO, Confirmation class, or for adults of all ages. We have been chosen to receive large food donations from the Hillcrest Fire Department's Santa visit and also from Chango Forks School. All food items need to be sorted and shelved before we open on January 3rd. Can we count on YOU? Just come to the pantry, (side entrance of the Parish Center) for an hour or so.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People
10:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People
Sunday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
Monday, December 26
8:00 a.m. William A. Reschke, Jr. by Veronica & Sr. Susan Reschke
Tuesday, December 27
8:00 a.m. Therese Kelleher by Marge Mangan
Wednesday, December 28
8:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family
Thursday, December 29
NO MASS
Friday, December 30
NO MASS
Saturday, December 31, Vigil of Sunday
4:00 p.m. Betti & Steve Charsky by Mary Frances
Sunday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
8:00 a. m. Mannino Vita by Daughter, Fina & Family
11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

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.

Prayers . . .
Please remember all of our parishioners who are in hospitals and nursing homes and our home-bound. 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.

GIVING TREE THANK YOU!

THANK YOU for the wonderful gifts left under our Giving Tree, including: diapers to keep babies comfortable, bus passes to make it easier for some to get to jobs or appointments, toys and needs for the young Moms to share with their young kids or comforting gifts to the nursing home residents so they know they are not forgotten. All gifts go to special individuals whose lives have been brightened by YOU. THANK YOU so much!

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~

Send a Christmas Card or a Get Well Card...

to Jim Lee who is currently a patient at the Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital. In October, Jim had a critical fall while at work at Wilson Hospital. This accident has resulted in Jim being paralyzed from his neck down to his feet. He is at the Helen Hayes Hospital, with the hope that rehabilitative therapy will help restore more mobility to him. I'm sure a card from you will lift his spirits and that he and his wife, Sue, know that we are with them in prayer. Both Jim and Sue are parishioners. Your cards can be sent to:

**Jim Lee
 Helen Hayes Hospital
 51 Rt. 9W North
 Room 2A 4A
 West Haverstraw, N.Y. 10993**

Thank You!

CYO Boys Basketball Upcoming Games

Thursday, December 29th
 Modified @ 6:00 @ Team Eagle
 JV @ 6:00 @ St. Vincent
Thursday, January 5th
 Bye*
Sunday, January 8th
 Modified @5:00 @ Home
 JV @ 6:30 @ Home

Feed The Birds

Pope Francis has spoken eloquently about the need to respect and care for the Natural World. The care of Nature was also very important to St. Francis. He wanted all creation to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. It was his desire that all Mayors and Lords of Castles issue a decree that would require the scattering of grain on the roads on Christmas, so that our friends the birds, might have something to eat. The St. Francis Fraternity of Binghamton would like to offer a Christmas gift of bird seed to carry out the wishes of St. Francis. Packages will be available in the back of the church at all Christmas Masses. Please take one package for your family and as you spread the seed, be reminded of our responsibility to care for the world we live in.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NIGHT
AT THE B-SENS

BENEFITTING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOME COUNTY

SATURDAY JANUARY 21st - 7:05 PM
VS SPRINGFIELD THUNDERBIRDS

\$7 STUDENT TICKETS & \$16 ADULT TICKETS

INCLUDES FREE POST GAME PHOTO ACTIVITY ON ICE AFTER THE GAME
*Prices Increase \$2 Day of Game

CALL 607-722-SENS TO ORDER
(Ask for a Group Sales Rep)

All tickets generate \$2 donation towards Catholic School of Broome County

31st Annual World Marriage Day

The 31st Annual World Marriage Day will be celebrated on Sunday, February 12th, 2017, 2:30p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse. The Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham will celebrate the Mass. All couples will be invited to renew their commitment to holy marriage. Bishop Cunningham will specifically honor those couples celebrating their 25th (Silver Anniversary), their 50th (Golden Anniversary), and those celebrating beyond their 50th year in 2017. Families of those celebrating are also welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact the parish office to register for this event!

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of December 25th — Christmas

Week of January 1st — New Years

Shelving (Mondays)

December 26th — E. & K. Corcoran

January 2nd — A. Short & S. Vinci

Distribution

January 3rd — K. Benknowski, A. Smilnak,
C. Danoski, R. Rounds, M. Quinn, M. Hayes

Exciting News:

Ourania Brennan Floragraph in 2017

Donate Life Rose Parade Float

Last Wednesday, Sr. Karen and Fr. Tim had the great opportunity to attend a wonderful reception at Lourdes Hospital to share in the news of Dan and Allison's daughter, Ourania, being part of the Rose Bowl Parade on January 2, 2017.

The Brennan family will be flying to Pasadena, CA on Dec. 28th to help decorate the Donate Life Float and to attend the 2017 Rose Parade on January 2nd to see their daughter Ourania's floragraph as it passes by. One of 60 floragraphs that will grace the Donate Life float, Ourania's floragraph was present at Lourdes Hospital on November 30th so that family and friends could place the final seeds at the finishing party celebrating her brief, beautiful life. Ourania was selected for this honor by the International Institute for the Advancement of Medicine, the group that helped to place her organ and tissue donations after she passed away in June, 2013. Ourania was only the second neonatal donation the IIAM had been involved with at the time, although now more than 60 such donations have been coordinated. The Brennans are grateful for the opportunity to raise awareness about neonatal donation and the comfort it can bring to grieving families.

2016 Holiday Jam

Monday, December 26th 6-12PM

At the Relief Pitcher, large lower banquet room

An evening to support Giavanna "G." Bucci, a parishioner of ours, is a wonderful 2nd grader battling neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1)

**Some Food included in the donation
Music, Raffles, Food, Friends, Drinks, and Holiday Spirit for a great cause.**

\$15 cover charge, with all proceeds going to the Bucci Family

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Soup Kitchen, your \$317.88 donation will fill many hungry tummies!

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, that all may be one.

In the name of the nonviolent Jesus. Amen.

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
December 31st & January 1st, 2016

4:00 P.M. Mass

**New Years Eve and Day Masses
Please Sign-Up on the
Sign-Up Sheets at the
Back of Church**

8:00 A.M. Mass

**New Years Eve and Day Masses
Please Sign-Up on the
Sign-Up Sheets at the
Back of Church**

11:00 A.M. Mass

**New Years Eve and Day Masses
Please Sign-Up on the
Sign-Up Sheets at the
Back of Church**

Question of the Week

Question for Children: When is it the hardest for you to obey your parents?

Question for Youth: In Colossians, St. Paul lays out a way of life for the followers of Christ. As you read through this list, which one of these is most difficult for you to follow? Which one is easiest?

Question for Adults: We are invited to let the word of Christ dwell within us and direct our daily lives. Which one of the lifestyle suggestions in this reading speaks most loudly to you?

END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi
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Comments:

Bulletin copy for **December 25th, 2016**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.