

December 31, 2017

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



*"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope."
(Jeremiah 29:11)*

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

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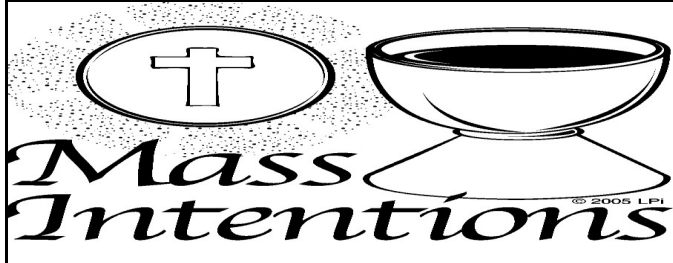
Mass Schedule

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 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 Di Pasquale by Larry & D.D. Koch

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

Monday, January 1, New Year's Day

12:00 p.m. Betti & Steve Charsky by Mary Frances

Tuesday, January 2

8:00 a.m. David Rossie by The Egan & McNally Families

Wednesday, January 3

8:00 a.m. Jennie Bramen by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Thursday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Lloyd Woodruff by Bob & Shirley Parke

Friday, January 5

NO MASS

Saturday, January 6, Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. William F. Heath by Yvette Heath & Family

Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Doreen Everett by Judy Adams

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.

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 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 31st: New Year's Eve

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph were not "perfect" parents. If you have ever been "amazed" and "astonished" at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you "didn't understand" your children or felt "anxious" about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.

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, especially Ann Marie Spenard.

Pope Francis

World Day of Peace Message 2018

Pope Francis opens his 2018 World Day of Peace Message (released in November, 2017) with a prayer for peace for all people, and especially for those who "most keenly suffer its absence," those who are on difficult journey, searching for a place of peace so they may know the security of a home and be able to live in dignity. In this recent message, he brings our attention once again to the current plight of the more than 250 million migrants and refugees worldwide, reemphasizing that they are escaping from conflict, violence, discrimination, poverty, and hunger, and also from the effects of environmental degradation and climate change, as he noted in *Laudato Si'*. He asks us to understand the desperation that drives many migrants to take terrible risks to leave their homes for difficult journeys to unknown futures.

Pope Francis repeatedly call us to compassion for these people and challenges us to support measures that will tear down all the interior and exterior "fences and walls" erected in fear to keep out the other. Acknowledging that it is difficult to overcome all the complex problems related to resettlement and the reality of limited resources for migrants and refugees, he, nevertheless, emphasizes that it is possible, with an authentic commitment and a continuing vigilance, to build up networks that will develop compassionate as well as realistic solutions. His message begins with a call to hope, a call that has become a motif of his papacy, a call that encourages us to practice the virtue of hope so we can become empowered to work out the very challenging problems of our time. To do so, the inner work and discipline of practicing hope must be the ground from which we act. For migrants and refugees, it is often just a fragile hope for a better life that compels them to the perilous journeys they embark on. We are called to respect this hope, fragile as it may be, and to respond to Pope Francis's call by making a commitment to practice hope ourselves, and also to act, guided by the wisdom our pope offers.

"Thank You", from the Tait and Canniff Families

The Tait and Canniff families would like to give sincere thanks to the Bereavement committee for the luncheon for Teresa Canniff and the Prayer Chain People for all their prayers throughout her illness. Thank you and God Bless!

Anyone having knowledge of damage done to a blue Subaru SUV in the large parking lot on the side of church on Saturday, December 16th please call 648-6050. Thank you!

Prayer for Refugees and Migrants

MERCIFUL AND LOVING FATHER,

We beseech you,

open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality and refuge to migrants who are lonely, afraid, and far from their homes.

Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst, to invite them into our communities as a demonstration of Christ's love for us.

We pray that when we encounter the other, we see in her the face of your Son, when we meet a stranger, that we take his hand in welcome.

Help us to live in solidarity with one another, to seek justice for those who are persecuted and comfort for those who are suffering.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mass is a Time of Silence & Prayer, Pope Says

Mass is the highest form of prayer and not an appropriate moment for small talk, Pope Francis said.

At church, Catholics should spend their time in silence before Mass, preparing "to meet with Jesus" instead of engaging in "chitchat," the pope said Nov. 15 during his weekly general audience.

"Silence is so important," he said. "Remember what I told you last time: we are not going to a show. Silence prepares us and accompanies us."

The pope continued his new series of audience talks on the Mass, reflecting on the Eucharist as a form of prayer that is "the highest, the most sublime and, at the same time, the most concrete" way of encountering God's love.

"This is the greatest grace: to experience that the Eucharist is the privileged moment to be with Jesus and, through him, with God and with our brothers and sisters," the pope said.

In the Gospels, he continued, Jesus teaches his disciples that the first thing needed to pray "is to know how to say 'father'" and to trust in God with the humility of a child.

Christians also must allow themselves to be "surprised by the living encounter with the Lord," he said, and not simply "talk to God like a parrot," repeating the words of prayers without thinking. "The encounter with God is a living encounter," the pope said departing from his prepared remarks. "It is not an encounter of a museum, it is a living encounter. And we go to Mass, not a museum! We go to a living encounter with the Lord."

Pope Francis said the Mass is also a gift and a consolation where Christians discover that God's greatest surprise is that he "loves us even in our weakness."

"The Lord encounters our frailty," the pope said. "This is the environment of the Eucharist. This is prayer."

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of December 31st — Ann Wilcox

Week of January 7th — Marie Giordano

Shelving (Mondays)

January 1st — New Year's Day

January 8th — C. & B. Danoski

Distribution

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

A Christmas Thank you.....

To **all** who were generous with their time in assisting to decorate both inside & outside of the church, all reflected the beauty of the season.

To **Ed Savo**, **the choir**, and our guest instrumentals for the liturgies. Your music lifted our spirits with the wonderful sounds of Christmas.

To **all** of you who were so generous in the gifts of cards, cookies and so many other sweet goodies.

For all of this and much more, I express much appreciation and gratitude.

May this sacred season of Christmas gift us with the magic power to stop the clock, so as to keep God alive within the world. For if God is love, then God may be found in the mystery of love exchanged. May we be holy messengers of the mystery.

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 at the church and another at the Parish Center.

New Year's Prayer for Peace

*Lord, our God, let there be peace in the world,
no more wars, no more fighting, no more killing.*

*Teach us to trust one another so we can share
our problems as well as our joy.*

*Teach us to care about one another and to
understand each other.*

*Teach world leaders to respect all people,
especially their own.*

*Help us make peace wherever we are and to do
our small bit to bring peace to the world.*

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**May the New Year of 2018 become a year of greater
peace!**

Happy New Year!

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**

January 6th & 7th, 2017

4:00 P.M. Mass

Lector	Kathleen Tait
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Mary Frances Charsky
EM Host	Barb Brozovic
EM Cup	Bea Grace
EM Cup	Debby Carden
EM Cup	Teresa Creeden
EM Cup	Carol Danoski
Altar Server	Vincent Williams
Altar Server	Tyler Norton
Altar Server	Sarah Shafer

8:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	Debbie Davis
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Marie Iobst
EM Host	Ede Blabac
EM Cup	Mike Stricek
EM Cup	Shirley McCray
EM Cup	Scott or Donna Iglor
EM Cup	Tom Phalen
Altar Server	James Bush
Altar Server	Sarah Bush
Altar Server	Mary Bush

11:00 A.M. Mass

Lector	George Clark
EM Host	Dc. Steve
EM Host	Joseph Frissora
EM Host	Chris Gill
EM Cup	Karyn Church
EM Cup	Steve Church
EM Cup	Pat Clark
EM Cup	David Gill
Altar Server	Katelyn Church
Altar Server	Jessica Wojnar
Altar Server	John Michael Frissora

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 31, 2017**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.