

December 31, 2023

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



*Happy New Year*

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 Kliment  
Sarah & Mary Bush  
Sacristans

## **Office Hours:**

Monday — Thursday:  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Friday: Closed

## **Confession:**

2nd & 4th Saturday of every  
month at 3:00 pm in the Church

**Parish Office Phone:** 722-4388

**Faith Formation Office Phone:**  
722-4177

## **E-mail:**

stfrancisbing@syrдио.org

## **Website:**

[www.stfrancisbing.org](http://www.stfrancisbing.org)

Please go online to  
**stfrancisbing.org** to view  
our latest Children's Liturgy.  
We post new videos by  
4:00PM on Saturdays.

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**Saturday, December 30, Vigil of Sunday**  
4:00 p.m. Dan McGarry by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

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

10:30 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Richard Kapinus by Family

**Monday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Liturgy in Church)**

12:00 p.m. Claudette Simonis by Maureen & Tim Roberts

**Tuesday, January 2**

8:00 a.m. James Meddleton by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Wednesday, January 3**

12:00 p.m. Peg Pitel by Marge Mangan

**Thursday, January 4**

8:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family

**Friday, January 5**

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, January 6, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Pat Fitzgerald by Linda & Chuck Bucci

**Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord**

10:30 a.m. Marion Di Pasquale by John & Maureen Mizzoni

### **Catherine's Cupboard**

CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD has been serving our community for the past 20+ years, it's **open the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month from 5 till 7 (or until all are served)**. We serve anyone who comes, asking only for ID, if they have any. As members of SOUTHERN TIER FOOD BANK, we purchase at wholesale (or less), providing **basic dry or canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy, and frozen meats**. We try to provide **5 days of meals** and include **personal care items** also. We operate on **100% donations or grants**. Our location at the parish center means we have most overhead costs covered. However, we serve over 1200 people, requiring a budget of close to \$50,000 a year. PLEASE tell anyone you know who is feeling food insecure to stop in. **If you would like to donate food items, they can be left at parish center or food barrel in church foyer. Monetary donations can be mailed to our parish office or via the online giving tab at [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)**

### **Weekend's Offering (12-10-23)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$5,920.00
Loose Collection.....	\$490.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,950.00
Total Collection.....	\$8,360.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### **FAITH FORMATION**

**No Faith Formation until January 7th, Happy New Year!**

#### **Looking Ahead:**

†K-9 Faith Formation begins again on January 7th from 9:00—10:15AM.

†Confirmation Winter Retreat will take place on January 7th from 11AM—7PM at Newman House on BU Campus.



### **Thank You from Birthright!**

Dear Fr. Tim, Bev, and St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners, Once again you have astounded us with your generosity! We thank you so much for the wonderful donations of diapers, onesies, outfits, toys formula and beyond. We are very well stocked now in our new office, and ready to help many moms and babies. Please, if you hear of any pregnant woman or a mom who needs some help, ask them to call us at 607 798-7661.

—Sincerely, Pat McCoy and Diane Yajko (Birthright)





2024  
HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

### **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.*

### **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 Sayo, 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.

— *Fr. Tim*

### **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!**

A VOLUNTEER is a person who is a light to others, giving witness in a mixed-up age, doing well and willingly the tasks at hand—namely, being aware of another's needs and doing something about it.

A VOLUNTEER is a person who strives to make other people happy, who takes the loneliness out of the alone by talking to them, who is concerned when others are unconcerned, who has the courage to be a blessing and to say the things that have to be said for the good of all. A VOLUNTEER is a person whose charity is fidelity, who is faithful in an unfaithful world, grateful in an ungrateful world, giving when all about are grasping, listening when others need to tell about their fears and problems.

THANK YOU to all of our parish volunteers who assisted with organizing and distributing Thanksgiving Baskets; those who assisted with the Giving Tree for Christmas; those who donated; those who organized and delivered Christmas plants to our shut-ins; those who have and do much of the decorations in church to celebrate the seasons. All of you are truly appreciated!

### **Prayer to the Holy Family**

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, In you we contemplate the splendor of true love, To you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, Grant that our families, too, May be places of communion and prayer, Authentic schools of the Gospel And small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, May families never again Experience violence, rejection and division: May all who have been hurt or scandalized Find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, Make us once more mindful Of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, And its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.*



### **Holy Family Sunday: Justice Challenge**

One of the most beautiful messages of Christmas is that of peace. The prophets of the Old Testament put their hope in a Messiah who would bring peace to a war-torn world. And that is what Jesus did. In the Incarnation, we experience God's desire for all human persons, for all families and communities, and for all of creation (even lions and lambs) to live in harmony with each other. The angels proclaimed "peace on earth, goodwill to all" at Jesus' birth. Your challenge during this Christmas Season is to be people of peace in your actions, words and thoughts. Can you make it through the week without starting any fights or arguing with your family or co-workers? Can you share quiet moments of conversation instead of frantically running here and there? Can you rest peacefully in God's arms in your prayer time? What are ways you can be peace-makers in your relationships during this special time of year?

### **Holy Family Sunday: Creation Care Tip**

New Year's Eve is a time of great anticipation and celebration. It can also be a time of significant waste. In 2022, 132,000 pounds of garbage were collected from the streets of New York after the famous ball drop. When planning your New Year's Eve celebration, consider your waste. Use washable plates for your evening meal, make or reuse celebratory hats, and use reusable decorations. If you want to use poppers and/or confetti, consider making them at home from materials.

### **Why Return to the Church? Reflection**

1. Can you think of any time in your life that you returned to something you had given up? How did you feel? What made it easy? What made it hard?
2. Many people find that the church supports a lot of the basic human values they treasure, e.g., family, inner peace, personal dignity, integrity, and hope. What values do you think the church can best support in your life?
3. If you were to name the most important thing you received from your Catholic heritage, what would you say that it was? How do you see that continuing in your present and future life?

## Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

**January 2nd:** G. Donahue, D. Dobish, G. Thompson, and G. Pendleton

### UPDATE: 2023 Annual HOPE Appeal

We are in the midst of our annual Hope Appeal Campaign. The theme of this year's campaign is the Fabric of our Faith. Each year the Hope Appeal provides funding for over 25 different organizations within the diocese. Each of these organizations depend on the Hope Appeal Campaign to fund operational costs.

#### **Advancing Social Justice**

##### †Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Broome County is dedicated to caring for those in need while promoting human development, collaboration, and the elimination of poverty and injustice. They empower people to transform their lives in the spirit of God's love and compassion.

#### **Cultivating Catholic Leadership**

##### †Tuition Assistance

Students attending Catholic Schools of Broome County receive support in paying tuition costs.

##### †Seminarian & Clergy Education

##### †Lay Leadership

##### †Evangelization Efforts

These are just a few of the organizations benefiting from our donations to the Hope Appeal. This year our parish goal for the 2023 Hope Appeal is \$42,826. One-time donations and pledges received to date total just over \$25,000. During this holy season of Christmas please consider donating to the Hope Appeal in support of all these important initiatives. We can donate to the Hope Appeal using online giving found on the parish website ([stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)).

### Confirmation Service Project



The 2024 confirmation class service project is to collect 1000 pounds of clean recyclable light weight plastics. **(NOT PLASTIC JUGS, BOTTLES OR CUPS)**

Upon completion of this goal the Next-Trex decking company will donate a bench to the confirmation class. We have collection bins for the plastics at the church entrance, as well as at the

Parish Center. Please refer to the list of acceptable materials on the usher's tables. Please do not put the paper collection bags in the bins, use them to collect additional plastics. Thank you, for your support!

### Thank You for Your Donations!

THANK YOU!! Packages have been delivered and many, many people will have brighter Christmas celebrations thanks to all of you. There was extra food & turkey left from Thanksgiving so we were able to offer a holiday meal to visitors at the pantry this month. Extra gift cards were graciously put under our Giving Tree, so they were given to families at a day care center along with some makings for cookies (thanks to Church of Nazarene) and a new holiday books (thanks to Fenton and Your Home Public Library in Johnson City) to share. As you can see many people give and many receive at this time of year which is why Christmas is such a gift to all.

### Off Broadway Show Experience

Church of the Holy Family Ladies Guild is sponsoring a trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see a new show DANIEL on May 8, 2024 and there are still some seats available. Lunch after the show will be at Diener's Country Restaurant. The cost of the trip is \$180 which includes the cost of the bus ride, ticket to the show, lunch after the show, and gratuity for the lunch and the bus driver. This is the perfect holiday gift. Please call Ann at 607-754-8727 with any questions or to reserve a seat.

### 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.

# URGENT

*Eucharistic Ministers  
needed for all  
10:30 AM Sunday  
Masses  
Please call the parish  
center at 607-722-4388  
to sign up!*

# URGENT

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

**January 6th & 7th, 2023**

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Thalia Brennan
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Calliope Brennan
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Betsy A Shields
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Carol Danoski
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Peggy Munson
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Anne Smilnak
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Rosemary Rounds
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Larry Koch
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Alexander Watkins
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Lector	Ildiko Mitchell
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Maureen Mizzoni
10:30 Mass	EM Host	
10:30 Mass	EM Host	
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Virginia Thompson
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	David Hanzes

**Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule**

**December 31st: ONLINE ONLY— NEW YEARS**

**\*ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!\***

Do you have a child or grandchild who has already received their First Eucharist? If so, they can be altar servers! **We are in desperate need of more altar servers** as we barely have enough to cover the masses alone week to week.

**Why altar serve?**

- 1.) It is a good way to get actively involved in the mechanics of mass. Some kids who find it hard to sit still may benefit from the activity that it provides.
- 2.) It allows for kids to be a closer part of the church community and make connections.

3.) Direct religious education learning opportunity

4.) Gives kids a sense of purpose and pride Church

**Call the parish center (607)722-4388 or fill out a liturgical signup form (on table in the back of the church) and drop it in a collection basket.**

**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 31st, 2023**

**Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**