

St. Francis of Assisi Parish



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Celebrates

The Holy Year of Mercy

In order to appreciate the many facets of living a merciful life we focus on Preparation, Reconciliation and Mary our mother to begin our Journey.

We welcome **Bishop Matthew Clark's** thoughts and direction on these themes the weekend of December 5, 6 & 7.

“Preparing for the Year of Mercy”

Guest Homilist Bishop Matthew Clark will preach at our Masses the weekend of December 5 (4 PM vigil) & 6 (8 and 11 AM)

“Reconciliation: An Expression of Mercy”

Advent Penance Service, Sunday December 6, 4 PM

“The Call to Mercy: Mary our model of Mercy”

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Vigil Mass Homily

Monday, December 7, 6:30 PM

All events take place at St. Francis of Assisi Parish
1049 Chenango Street
Binghamton, NY 13901

Bishop Matthew Clark was the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Rochester. He served 33 years as bishop (1979-2012) He holds Licentiate in Theology and Canon Law from the Gregorian University in Rome. He wrote about the diocese of Rochester in his popular *Along the Way* column in the Catholic Courier newspaper. He published a book *Forward in Hope: Saying Amen to Lay Ecclesial Ministry*. In the spring of 2012 he received the prestigious Bishop John England Award from the Catholic Press Association.





Saturday, November 28 Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family

Sunday, November 29, First Sunday of Advent
 8:00 a.m. 8th Anniv. Ed Farthing by Family
 11:00 a.m. Dc. Ray Goskowski by the Knights of Columbus #11403

Monday, November 30
 8:00 a.m. Tom Mangan by Wife, Marge & Family

Tuesday, December 1
 8:00 a.m. Denise Hanifin by Carol & John Broderick

Wednesday, December 2
 8:00 a.m. Helen Scala by The Hester Family

Thursday, December 3
 8:00 a.m. Lorraine Rogers by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Friday, December 4
NO MASS

Saturday, December 5 Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Totman & Truchan Families by Family

Sunday, December 6, Second Sunday of Advent
 8:00 a.m. Michael Keough by Mom, Bernadette
 11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

Breakfast with Santa
 Knights of Columbus' "Breakfast with Santa" Buffet on **Sunday, December 6th from 8:30—11:00 a.m.** All proceeds to benefit Catherine's Cupboard Food Pantry.

Parish Mission Statement
 We area St. Francis of Assisi, a Eucharistic faith community, committed to living and sharing the Gospel life. Find in us, Loving God, a parish dedicated to discipleship, eager to embrace the wisdom of Your ways. Find in us the fertile soil You need to grow compassion, as we welcome and swerve the surrounding community; evangelizing with hope and hospitality all who seek Your comfort. Find in us a vigorous parish of ongoing faith formation and faithful stewardship, jointly owned and joyfully shared; a parish where justice is treasured, and Jesus is the mercy that meets our every need. Amen.

Faith Formation

NO Faith Formation this weekend because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Classes for Grades K-Confirmation will meet next week, December 6th at 9:30 am in the school.

Circles of Care, the diocesan mandated **Safe Environment Training for Children and Youth in Catechetical Programs**, will be presented in all **Grades K-Confirmation on Sunday, December 6th**. The Circles of Care curriculum can be accessed on our website (www.stfrancisbing.com) or you can peruse it in the Faith Formation Office in the Parish Center. Please contact Maria Kirk (722-4177) with any questions. A mailing regarding this and other Faith Formation information was sent out. If you did not receive one, please stop by the Faith Formation office at the school to get a copy.

A special **thank you** to all the Faith Formation students and families for their generous donation of food and personal products to Catherine's Cupboard. Our donations totaled over 200 pounds, and was a beautiful gift of thanks.

Advent Reflection

The Christ in us is sometimes hard to recognize. We hear the name Christian, but then our actions do anything but point toward Jesus Christ. People who do not know Him are left to wonder what all the fuss is about. Advent is a great time to reflect on how well Jesus is reflected in our lives. Are we living like mature disciples and by our action, pointing like John the Baptist toward the real Jesus Christ? Do we take the name Christian seriously enough that it changes our lives, so that the One whose name we hear may be seen in us? Recognizing Jesus is not easy for many, so we really need to help them see clearly. We are called to lead them toward the One whose name we hear.

Choir Practice
 Practice in the choir loft, **Thursday 6:30 to 8:00pm**

Come One... Come All !
Unite with 350.org friends
around the world
as we

Rally For Climate Justice

Sunday, November 29th
12:45 – 1:45

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Binghamton
183 Riverside Drive
(just west of Lourdes Hospital)

St. Francis of Assisi Prayer Chain

Our Parish has an active Prayer Chain. If anyone would like to request that prayers be said for someone experiencing serious illness or a difficult circumstance, please call Coordinator **Jan Kalivoda at 648-8118**. You can be assured that the many caring members of our Prayer Chain will offer daily prayers to honor the request.

Hawaii 2016!

Haven't you always wanted to go to Hawaii? Or, you have visited once and couldn't wait to return to enjoy the beauty of the Hawaiian Islands! Join **Frs. Tim Taugher and Tom Ryan** on a seven night cruise of the four Hawaiian Islands with Norwegian Cruise Line. The group will fly from Syracuse and spend two nights on Waikiki Beach and 7 nights cruising. The Hawaiian adventure begins on **April 7, 2016**. Please call Touraid Travel at **518-563-5605** for pricing and availability.

Last Weekend's Offering (11-22-15)

198 Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,084.50
Loose Collection.....	\$385.00
Electronic Donation.....	\$707.93
Total Collection.....	\$7,177.43

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

Sponsor of the Week

This week, St Francis of Assisi thanks:
Bryant Heating and Cooling Systems
175 W. Arterial Highway
Binghamton, NY 13901
for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin

Giving Tree

The **Parish "Giving Tree"** will be up this weekend. Please take a tag, purchase what is asked (okay to share the cost with a friend, if you like), and return the gift to the church as soon as possible. All gifts are needed **no later than Dec 13th**. Gifts are for infants to elders, many of them everyday needs but if you do not have them, they become luxuries. ALL TAGS must be securely attached to wrapped packages as these are not a "general" gift but intended for a special person. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Center at 722-4388 during regular work hours. Thank you to all for your generosity.

Prayer for Vocations

God, who called to the people of Israel, hear our prayer.

You have called each of us to be the hands and feet of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Help us to tune our ears to Your call,
The small voice that is always asking us
To help spread your good news.*

*We humbly ask that You endow us with
The knowledge and skills*

*To help others to see that You are Lord and God.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord and Brother,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God for ever and ever.*

Amen.

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of Nov 29th — Ann Wilcox
Dec 6th — Marie Gioradno

Shelving (Mondays)

Nov 30th — H. Lawrence, R. Chabin
Dec 7th — C&B Danoski

Distribution

Dec. 1st — C. Danoski, L. Gildea, B. Grace,
M. Ryder, C. Woodruff, R. Rounds

Super 50-50 Raffle

Only 1 weeks left to go; drawing on Sunday, Dec 6th. Winning would certainly put a SMILE on your face! If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact the Parish Office (722-4388) or take a letter located at the exits of the church, or check our web site (www.stfrancisbing.com).

Catherine's Cupboard

Paper products and personal care products (toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap, baby diapers, women's personal items) are always welcome.

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 up and ask. ID showing you live in the county is all we ask for. A person can come once or every time we are open. We are here to help, not judge. So please pass the word to anyone you think may need assistance.

Christmas Cabaret

The Holy Name and St. Therese Societies are presenting a Christmas Cabaret, featuring the Rockbottom Players, on **Friday, December 4th** and **Saturday, December 5th**, beginning at **6:00 p.m.** at Sts. John and Andrew Church Hall, 1263 Vestal Avenue, Binghamton, New York.

Admission is \$25 per person which includes dinner, adult beverages and holiday entertainment. Proceeds donated to the Parish of Saints John and Andrew. Deadline for reservations and payment is Dec. 1, 2015. To reserve your party of family and friends, contact Carol at 722-5716. Happy Holidays!

Children's Liturgy

Dates	Presiders
Nov 29th:	Ed & Kay Corcoran
Dec 6th:	Ede Blabac & Bridget Vavra

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.



PARISH REGISTRATION

Our warmest welcome to all! We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you here, celebrating with us, whether you're a long-time resident or newly arrived in the Parish. Please check the appropriate box and place in the collection basket or return to the Parish Center. *We thank God that you are with us.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

New Parishioner, send registration form

Change of address or phone number

Temporarily away. Stop envelopes

Pastoral Care Visitations

Please contact the Parish Center at 722-4388 whenever a member of your family is in the hospital or a nursing home, is seriously ill, recuperating from an operation or advanced in age and unable to go to Church. Parish Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Communion to our homebound every month.

Thought for the Day

"There is more value in a little study of humility and a single act of it than in all the knowledge in the world." — Saint Theresa of Avila

Rosary Group

If you would like to join us in praying the rosary—we continue to meet every Thursday in the Chapel at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome, anytime they can make it. Also, we will meet on the first Sunday of each month in the front of the church at 10:00 a.m. Please join us.

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

December 5, 2015

4:00 p.m. Mass

Lector	William Bennett
EM Host	Debby Carden
EM Host	Judy Murphy
EM Host	Bea Grace
EM Cup	Bob Grace
EM Cup	Mary Frances Charsky
EM Cup	John Artman
EM Cup	Brenda Artman
Altar Server	Mikalya Bucci
Altar Server	Tyler Norton
Altar Server	Elizabeth Wrighter

December 6

8:00 a.m. Mass

Lector	Ed White
EM Host	Tom Phalen
EM Host	Denise Baxter
EM Host	Steve Baxter
EM Cup	Suzanne Tierno
EM Cup	Mary Ellen Vaverchak
EM Cup	Tim Vaverchak
EM Cup	Lou Angelo
Altar Server	Peyton Broderick
Altar Server	Brigid Birtch
Altar Server	Braedan Krisko

11:00 a.m. Mass

Lector	Tom Giblin
EM Host	Sue Jones
EM Host	Jim Lewis
EM Host	Maria Lord
EM Cup	Rose O'Neil
EM Cup	David Gill
EM Cup	Chris Gill
EM Cup	Kerri Hamilton
Altar Server	Brendan Heaney
Altar Server	Anthony Frissora
Altar Server	Zachary Carr

Question of the Week

Theme: Be on guard!

Question for Children: What helps you to grow in your faith? Who helps you?

Question for Youth: Advent is the Church season when we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas. What is one thing you can do to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas?

Question for Adults: Paul exhorts us to "make greater progress" in our spiritual lives. What one step could you take to make greater progress in your own life?