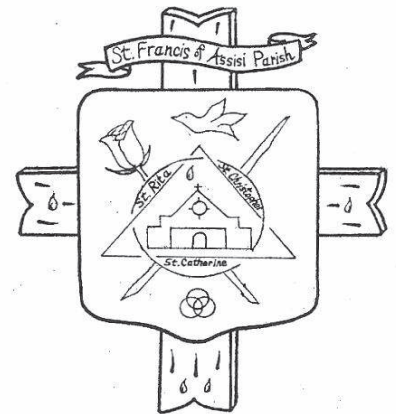


January 10, 2016

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Eucharistic faith community committed to living and sharing the Gospel life.

Staff

Reverend Timothy Taugher, Pastor
Deacon Stephen Blabac
Sr. Karen Gaube, CSJ,
Pastoral Associate
Delores Farwell
Parish Secretary
Maria Kirk
Director of Faith Formation
Anthony Mazza
Parish Business Administrator
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:

stfrancisofassisi@stny.rr.com

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



Saturday, January 9, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Gertrude Edwards by Melissa Glenn
Sunday, January 10, The Baptism of the Lord
 8:00 a.m. Michael Keough by Sally & Dick Everett
 11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
Monday, January 11
 8:00 a.m. June Antelek by Exit Realty Front & Center
Tuesday, January 12
 8:00 a.m. Richard Kazmark by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee
Wednesday, January 13
 8:00 a.m. Connie Mellody by Ed & Romaine Dougherty
Thursday, January 14
 8:00 a.m. James Doran by the Doran Family
Friday, January 15
 NO MASS
Saturday, January 16, Vigil of Sunday
 4:00 p.m. Lillian Veselka by the Youket Family
Sunday, January 17, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 a.m. Emily Vavra by Helen Bolt
 11:00 a.m. Amanda Rose Ciccone Kosalek by Tom & Kathy Contro

Catherine's Cupboard

The Pantry has been blessed by so many groups, companies and individuals. Last January, funds were very limited, and we really weren't sure where sources would come from to keep it open. This year Dance Connection, Nimmonsburg Rotary, Chenango Forks Girl Scout Troop, Century 21 Sbarra & Wells, Susquehanna Nursing & Rehabilitation employees, Southern Tier Martial Arts, Nimmonsburg Dance & Exercise Group, Fenton Free Library, Nights of Columbus, students from Faith Formation and Children's Home, Hillcrest Fire Company, Country Additions, and many nameless angels donated food, personal care items, plus time and money, to give us new hope that the pantry is able to keep its door open and continue to serve those in need. Hillcrest residents, through the recent Fire Company food drive, gave over 1,100 lbs. of food alone. In 2015 we were able to serve just over 1,000 families, and turkeys were given to all who wanted one for Thanksgiving and Christmas (140 total). Thanks also to Catholic Charities' turkey drive at Wal-Mart in November and to Tioga Downs who donated funds through the Food Bank and Wegmans. No one is ever turned away, and we continue to generously serve each and every time we are open. THIS IS BECAUSE OF YOU...THANK YOU!


| <u>Children's Liturgy</u> | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dates | Presiders |
| Jan 10th | Shirley McCray & Marie Iobst |
| Jan 17th | Ed & Kay Corcoran |

Faith Formation

Faith Formation for Grades K-9 January 10 at 9:30 AM in the school.
 There will be an important meeting for all parents with children preparing to receive First Eucharist. Sunday, January 10th at 9:45 AM in Room 103. Please note the location change from the main FF Calendar.

Safe Environment Re-certification Training
 An Empowered to Protect-Dedicated to Restore mandated diocesan re-certification training will take place at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the Cebula Room, Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30 PM. Please call the Parish Office (722-4388) or Maria Kirk (222-1477) to register. If you received certification in 2011 (or before), you must be re-certified this year.

Looking ahead
 No Faith Formation next weekend, January 17th, Martin Luther King Holiday
 First Eucharist Parent "Coaching" session will take place on Sunday, January 24th in the Parish Hall during the Faith Formation time frame.



The Giving Tree

Recently, a person wished "*that the more fortunate would provide for the less fortunate.*" Well, that is exactly what happens here at St. Francis. The Giving Tree had 150 tags and over 200 gifts came in... 20 packs of diapers alone. Christmas was a much brighter day for all those who received your gift. Gifts were given to Birthright, Jail Ministry, residents at Elizabeth Church Nursing Home and Children's Home.

Medical Update on Fr. Eugene O'Reilly

Fr. Gene O'Reilly, who was with us for our fall parish mission, shared with us on the last night of the mission that he was going to have eye surgery on December 18th and asked for our prayers. I recently received a message from him and want to share it with you, "The surgery went well...about an hour in all. No pain to speak of, just a feeling of something in your eye and having to get used to it. Have had follow-ups and more to come. Putting drops in every two hours is a nuisance, planning to be back to work around Feb. 6. I am grateful for all the concern, thoughts and prayers."

Nocturnal Adoration Society

The Nocturnal Adoration Society will meet at St. Patrick’s Chapel 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, January 16th, 2016. St. Francis of Assisi Holy Hour is 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Welcome to Fr. Paul Wilderotter...

who will be joining us the weekend of January 16, 2016 to speak at all our Liturgies about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Father Wilderotter will share personal witness about Food For The Poor’s mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

Fr. Wilderotter was ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte in 1974. Before preaching on behalf of Food For The Poor, he worked as a hospital chaplain.

How Can You Make a Difference?

For many years, **St Francis of Assisi (SFA) Parish** has served the Catholic community and the *Diocese of Syracuse* by spreading the Gospel message, celebrating the sacraments and serving the poor in the Binghamton area. You can help keep that activity alive by providing for the future financial needs of the parish.

Some ways to provide lasting benefits to the parish include:

Bequests through Will—Designate a dollar amount or percentage of your estate;

Annuities—Donation of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. You receive the interest or dividends, and upon death, the remainder of the gift goes to the SFA parish;

Life Insurance—Name SFA as the beneficiary to an existing life insurance policy;

Other Assets—A contribution of a specific cash amount or property.

Please contact your accountant or financial advisor for additional information on how you can benefit from making a charitable donation to **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**.

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.



The Baptism of Jesus and Our Baptism

Jesus is baptized by John. The Spirit descends upon Jesus. The voice calls Jesus “beloved.” As the voice of God proclaims Jesus to be the “beloved,” we can hear God affirming the same wonderful reality to all of us human creatures. There is a wonderful dignity in the life of every human person. This human dignity is at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching. We are called to transmit this faith and affirm the dignity of every human person.

This spirit which descends upon Jesus is not just about Jesus, just as our Baptism is not just about our personal relationship with God. We are baptized into a community. We are called to transmit the faith, which affirms the dignity of every human person.

The Spirit which Isaiah proclaimed is a Spirit that will “bring justice to the nations” - a Spirit that will bring social and political healing to the people of the world. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that the Spirit which we receive is not just an interior gift or feeling, but a gift that strives to bring healing between diverse peoples—nations, races, ethnic groups, etc., etc. The Spirit of Baptism is a spirit that transforms the community and calls us to go out to the world.

Isaiah made it clear that the light of this Spirit is “for all nations.” Peter’s experience is, as Acts affirms, this same truth. The justice and healing are for all the nations. The challenge of the Scriptures is to make real today the promises of Isaiah and the commitment of Jesus. We are called to a deep commitment to certain values and ways of living.

As Isaiah prophesizes, this Spirit of Jesus is about opening the eyes of the blind and releasing people from the dungeon. It is about service to those in need, care for those who are poor, and political and economic justice. As Isaiah prophesizes, this Spirit of Jesus is a spirit of nonviolence—not even “breaking a bruised reed.” We see in the baptism of Jesus a challenge to review our values and ways of living and to recommit ourselves to the nonviolent, radical love of Jesus. “I have called you for the victory of justice ... a light for the nations.”

Questions for reflection:

Isaiah talks of the call to bring justice onto the earth.

We have a vocation to work for justice.

How are you called to do that today?

When were you baptized?

Last Weekend’s Offering (01-04-15)

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 208 Regular Envelopes..... | \$7,927.00 |
| Loose Collection..... | \$300.00 |
| Electronic Donation..... | \$424.32 |
| Total Collection..... | \$8,651.32 |

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

Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

Transportation

Week of Jan 10th — George & Pat Clark

Week of Jan 17th — Maria Giordano

Shelving (Mondays)

Jan 11th — D.&D. Talbut

Jan 18th — C.&F. Woodruff & M. Ryder

Distribution

Jan 19 — D. Kellett & Team #1

Feb 2 — A.&S. Faughnan, J. Wyatt, M. Quinn, R.&P. Scales

St. Francis Media Manager

We want to welcome Sue Ekstrom who has taken on the role of Media Manager for our parish. Sue comes to us with a long relationship with our parish, an excellent background in media planning and creation and a heart for human rights and social justice. Sue was part of the St. Christopher's parish from Baptism through Confirmation and joined St. Francis when we merged in 2010. She attended Seton Catholic Central High School and graduated in 2009. She then went to Wilkes University where she attained her undergraduate degree in Entrepreneurship and recently graduated with an MBA concentrating in media and marketing. Her graduate assistantship was developing social media for the Wilkes Business School. Through her youth, Sue volunteered in the church and community and even taught faith formation for a year when she was in high school. At university she participated in many charity and social justice events and organizations, and she continues that interest today.

Sue will be coordinating all our media, including the bulletins, the web site, and social media. She has developed and will be maintaining our new **web site** (stfrancisbing.org) and our new **Facebook page** ([sfabinghamton](https://www.facebook.com/sfabinghamton)). Plans for future use of other social media, such as Twitter and Instagram, are in process. Please check out and like the Facebook page, review the web page, continue reading the bulletins and contact Sue if you have content to be included in any of them. Her email is: sekstrom@syrдио.org.

World Marriage Day Celebration ... will be held on **Sunday, February 7th, 2016**. If you are celebrating your 25th, 50th, 60th or beyond, please call the Parish Center (722-4388) so this milestone in your lives can be recognized.

2015 Tax Contribution Statements

are being prepared. Drop a self-addressed, stamped envelope in the collection basket, and they will be mailed to you when they are done. You can also call the Parish Center at 722-4388 and request your statements. They will be available for you to pick up one week later.

Pope Francis This Week

Pope Francis says restless hearts are seeking sure answers to life's questions without finding them. Francis has voiced this reflection during Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Wednesday to mark Epiphany, recalling the Gospel account of the Three Kings, or Magi, who follow a star to find the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. The pontiff says the church is tasked with "showing ever more clearly the desire for God which is present in the heart of every man and woman" but "to be a missionary does not mean to proselytize." Francis says: "Like the Magi, countless people in our own day have a 'restless heart' which continues to seek without finding sure answers." Recalling the long journey of the Magi, Francis says "Before Jesus, all divisions of race, language and culture disappear."

30th Annual Knights for Life Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

Sunday, January 24, 2016, noon to 5:00pm.

Sauce & Meatballs by Cortese Restaurant.

Adults: \$7.00; Children (under 12) \$3.50

Tickets also available at the door

Includes coffee, tea, milk, bread, spaghetti & meatballs, desert

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. 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.

Sponsor of the Week

This week, St Francis of Assisi thanks:

Ms. Judy's Hair Plus

for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin

Le Moyne College C.Y.O. Scholarship

In cooperation with Le Moyne College, the CYO will be conferring scholarships to prospective Le Moyne students in the geographical Diocese of Syracuse who have demonstrated leadership abilities and performed outstanding service to their school, community and parish. Information regarding these scholarships is available by calling the CYO office at 584-7800 x431 or emailing cyo@ccbc.net.

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

January 16, 2016

4:00 p.m. Mass

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|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lector | Denise Talbut |
| EM Host | Mary Frances Charsky |
| EM Host | Teresa Creeden |
| EM Host | Barb Brozovic |
| EM Cup | John Pierce |
| EM Cup | Carol Danoski |
| EM Cup | Bob Shields |
| EM Cup | Betsy Shields |
| Altar Server | Mikayla Bucci |
| Altar Server | Tyler Norton |
| Altar Server | Elizabeth Wrighter |

January 17

8:00 a.m. Mass

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lector | Mike Stricek |
| EM Host | Ed White |
| EM Host | Mel Jones |
| EM Host | Shirley McCray |
| EM Cup | Suzanne.Tierno |
| EM Cup | Mary Ellen Vaverchak |
| EM Cup | Tim Vaverchak |
| EM Cup | Joanne Horoschak |
| Altar Server | Lauren White |
| Altar Server | Kathryn White |
| Altar Server | James Bush |

11:00 a.m. Mass

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Lector | Brian Sirgany |
| EM Host | Jim Lewis |
| EM Host | Sue Jones |
| EM Host | Dave Bollinger |
| EM Cup | Rose O'Neil |
| EM Cup | Stephanie Stracuzzi |
| EM Cup | Steve Guth |
| EM Cup | Maria Lord |
| Altar Server | Quinn Sirgany |
| Altar Server | Katie Saunders |
| Altar Server | Georgia Novitsky |

Question of the Week

Question for Children: Why does Baptism make you special?

Question for Youth: You were baptized as a member of the Christian community. What does it mean to you to belong to this community? How is it a support in your life?

Question for Adults: What meaning does your Baptism have for your everyday life?