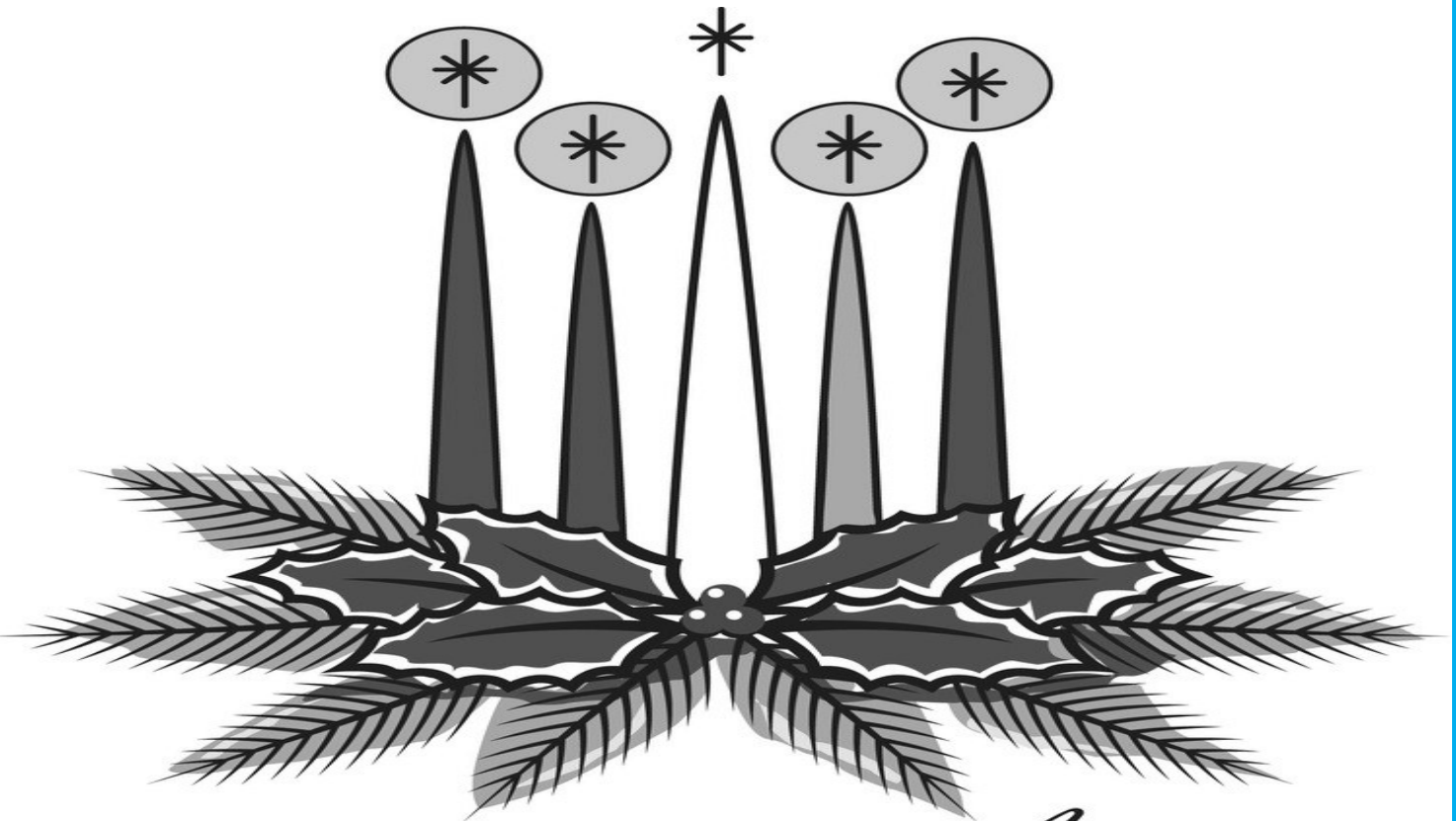


December 18, 2016

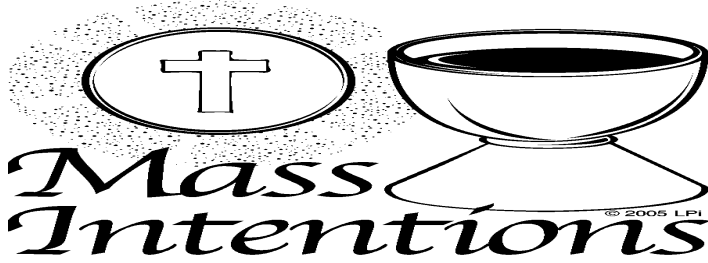
St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*





Last Weekend's Offering (12-18-16)

193 Regular Envelopes.....	\$6,897.38
Loose Collection.....	\$624.81
Electronic Donation.....	\$965.00
Total Collection.....	\$8,487.19

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

Faith Formation

No Faith Formation the next two weekends, December 25th and January 1st. Merry Christmas!

Our Annual Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 18th in the church at 9:30 AM. There will be a reception in the Parish Hall, following the performance. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2016

Advent Penance Service
Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24th
Liturgy at 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th
Liturgy at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)

are available at St. Francis' Parish Center. If you are interested, please call Delores at 722-4388 to reserve a package or stop by and pick some up during regular business hours. We have ordered only a limited quantity. Please, only two packets per family. No offering taken.

Saturday, December 17, Vigil of Sunday
4:00 p.m. William Heath by Yvette & Family

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People
11:00 a.m. William & Kathleen Murray by Family

Monday, December 19
8:00 a.m. Tom Ryder by Family

Tuesday, December 20
8:00 a.m. 25th Anniversary John Serafini by Wife, Rose & Family

Wednesday, December 21
8:00 a.m. Dorothy Walter by Marge and Family

Thursday, December 22
8:00 a.m. John Grace by Family

Friday, December 23
NO MASS

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

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.

Blood Pressure Screenings will be held on December 17th and 18th after all Masses.

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, especially Jean Adagio.

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 Chenango 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.

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!

A Reflective Thought on Mary

“Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love. She is the handmaid of the Father, who sings His praises. She is the friend who is ever concerned that we're not be lacking in our lives. She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain. As mother of all, she is a sign of hope for people suffering the birth pangs of justice”

—Pope Francis, *Joy of The Gospel*

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

Sunday, December 18th

Modified @ 1:00 @ O.L.G.C.

JV @ 5:00 @ Our Lady of Good Counsel

Thursday, December 22nd

Modified @ 6:00 St. Francis

JV @ 7:30 St. Francis

Thursday, December 29th



Modified @ 6:00 Team Eagle

JV @ 6:00 @ St. Vincent



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 18th — Marie Giordano

Week of December 25th — Christmas

Shelving (Mondays)

December 19th — C. Woodruff & M. Ryder

December 26th — E. & K. Corcoran

Distribution

December 20th — M. Walsh, P. Peters, M. Turna, K. Dotson, M. Ryder & C. Woodruff

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.



Let's See Your Missal Holders!

Send in pictures of the creative ways they are now being used to sekstrom@syrdio.org

4th Sunday of Advent, December 18

"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us."

-- Matthew 1:23



Advent thought for today:

God is indeed with us. This week, be joyful and prayerful, celebrating that his saving acts are for you.

Christmas Tree Blessing

To pray at home in preparation for Christmas

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
Before whom all the trees of the forest sing for joy,
For you have come rule the earth and all its peoples in your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.
By his death on the cross and his rising in glory, the tree of our defeat has become our tree of victory, and the pure light of Christ forever gladdens our waiting world.

We ask you to send your blessing upon this tree which we have decorated in honor of your Son's birth.
Let it help us to celebrate this holy season as living branches of him, and bear the fruit of good works for your glory, this day and every day, both now and forever. Amen.

—Fr. Michael Kwatera

The Light Is On For You

"The Light is on for You," was created by the Archdiocese of Washington and has since been implemented by dioceses throughout the United States. The Diocese of Syracuse is proud to join in this effort. By participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, whether our first time in days, weeks, months or years, we are experiencing God's individual and unwavering love for us and one of the true graces made available to us by our Catholic faith. God loves us just the way we are, but he loves us too much to leave us the way. Join us here Monday, December 19th from 4:00p.m. — 7:00p.m. to make your confession at our Chapel located in the Parish Center. We'll leave "A Light on for You"!



Knights of Columbus 11403

Save the Date

March 11th, 2017



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

December 24th & 25th, 2016

4:00 P.M. Mass

**Christmas Masses
Please Sign-Up on the
Sign-Up Sheets at the
Back of Church**

8:00 A.M. Mass

**Christmas Masses
Please Sign-Up on the
Sign-Up Sheets at the
Back of Church**

11:00 A.M. Mass

**Christmas Masses
Please Sign-Up on the
Sign-Up Sheets at the
Back of Church**

Question of the Week

Question for Children: When you pray, how do you hear God's voice in response?

Question for Youth: God speaks to us in our intuitions and imagination, as he did to Joseph in this dream. What is your experience of hearing God speak in this way? What is God asking of you?

Question for Adults: What experiences do you have of God "speaking to you" and directing your life and work? How does God speak to you in prayer?

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 18th, 2016**

Deliver 600 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.