

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



## Nativity of the Lord

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December 20, 2015

**Saturday, December 19 Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. William Heath by Emily &amp; Nova Martin

**Sunday, December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the DeNinis &amp; Legos Families by Family

11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

**Monday, December 21**

8:00 a.m. Dc. Ray Goskowski by Joanne Kopyar

**Tuesday, December 22**8:00 a.m. 24<sup>th</sup> Anniv. John Serafini by Wife, Rose & Family**Wednesday, December 23**

8:00 a.m. John Grace by Family

**Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

10:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

**Friday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

11:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

**Saturday, December 26 Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Betti &amp; Steve Charsky by Mary Frances

**Sunday, December 27, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

11:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Anna Buffa

## St. Francis of Assisi Parish Binghamton, NY

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015 Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th  
Liturgy at 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th  
Liturgy at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### 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.



### Faith Formation

Our Annual Faith Formation Christmas Program will take place **Sunday at 9:30 am**. Please join us for our performance of "Jesus Comes Home"

There will be **NO Faith Formation on December 27 and January 3** because of the Christmas Holiday.

Confirmation Retreat will take place on, **Sunday January 3rd at the Newman House in Vestal**. Please be sure all paper work is completed and turned in at the Retreat. The Retreat will end with Mass to fulfill your Sunday obligation.

### Church Pew Cleaners

Ellen's Angels will be cleaning the pews after the **11:00 am mass this Sunday, December 20th**. If you have an hour to spare, please join us so that we can get the church ready for the Christmas Masses. Thank you!

### Attention

The Parish Center Business Office will be closed on **Thursday, Dec. 24th and Friday, Dec 25th** in observance of Christmas.

### Christmas Blessings...

to all of you as we celebrate the gift of God's love in the birth of Christ. May the season of Christmas be truly a gift of love that enriches your lives in the year ahead.

On behalf of the parish staff, may you have a merry and a very blessed Christmas filled in the peace and love of Christ.

Merry Christmas  
Father Tim

### New Year's Eve Concert

There will be a New Year's Eve Concert with pianist John Covelli at **St. Patrick's Church**, 9 Leroy Street, Binghamton, New York from **7:00 until 8:30 p.m.** The program, which will feature a selection of classical music, will benefit the **Broome County homeless**. A reception will follow. **Donation—\$10.00**. For more information, please call 729-2264.

## **My Grown Up Christmas List**

### **Written by Courtney Corder (Parishioner)**

I wish parents would commit one hour a day solely to their children's interests, stories, struggles and accomplishments. Take pride in your creations by taking pride in theirs.

I wish politicians would put aside propaganda and reputation in order to pick up all those they stepped on to obtain the positions they have. It's tough to represent the whole, when the whole has been stepped on.

I wish psychological evaluations and diagnostics were made as available as physical evaluations and diagnostics. If the problem is stopped before it begins, we will end up safe not sorry.

I wish the more fortunate would provide warmth to the less fortunate's bellies, bodies, and souls. Warmth is a synonym for compassion.

I wish that instead of being a bully, children would understand it's OK to confide in each other as to what their problems really are. Communicating to someone willing to listen is the beginning of the healing process.

I wish that during the passing of a loved one, no one would feel regret for emotions that were never relayed in time. Always remember life is short, love is not.

I wish the entire world would discontinue communication via technology at the same time for the same amount of time, to be reintroduced to the true value of human connection. A smiling emoji isn't equivalent or as beautiful as someone's physical smile.

This is my grown up Christmas list, for remediation we need more appreciation, more acceptance, more respect, more genuineness.

## **Sponsor of the Week**

This week, St Francis of Assisi thanks:

**Timothy J. Strnatka, D.C.  
Chenango Chiropractic P.C.**

1 Kattelville Rd., Chenango Commons, Suite 2  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin

## **Last Weekend's Offering (12-13-15)**

208 Regular Envelopes.....	\$8,388.50
Loose Collection.....	\$394.00
Electronic Donation.....	\$948.76
Total Collection.....	\$9,731.26

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

## **Nocturnal Adoration Society**

will meet at St Patrick's Chapel 7 to 9 pm  
Saturday Dec 19, 2015

**St Francis of Assisi HOLY HOUR  
begins 7:00 to 8:00 pm**

## **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.

## **St Francis Asks You to 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, the Patron Saint of our Parish. 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.

Borrowing an idea from our Secular Franciscan Fraternities, we of 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.

Pax et Bonum  
Peace and All Good

## Catherine's Cupboard Volunteer Schedule

### Transportation

Week of Dec 20th — Ann Wilcox  
Dec 27th — Nancy Oliver

### Shelving (Mondays)

Dec 21st — E&K Corcoran  
Dec 28st — M. Munney, J. Julian

### Distribution

Jan 5th — R. O'Neil, K. Dotson, A. Smilnak,  
R. Serafini, A. Short, M. Hayes

Recently, some of the "Senior Angels" who stock shelves in the pantry have had to retire. We have openings if you are interested— MONDAYS, any time between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, once every 5-6 weeks or so. Give Bev a call at 723-2350 for more details. A sincere THANKS to those who have "retired" as many have contributed their time for over 5 years.

## Children's Liturgy

### **Dates                      Presiders**

Dec 21st: Shirley McCray & Marie Iobst  
Dec 28th: Ed & Kay Corcoran

## 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.

## A Christmas Prayer

for those who have had someone die this year

**Glory to God in the highest  
And on earth peace to those on whom  
His favor rests. Luke 2:14**

Father,

This is my first Christmas without the one  
With whom I have for so long shared holiday joy.

The pain is deep, Father.

Keep me from dwelling on the past.

Turn my thoughts instead to the true meaning of this  
holiday season.

Let me look at the night sky

And think of the star that proclaimed the birth of Jesus.

Let me hear the carols

And think of ancient tidings of great joy

Let me give gifts

And think of the wise men who brought theirs to the  
newborn King.

Let me read the Christmas story

And think of love and peace.

Let me light a Christmas candle

As a beacon of hope for the world and myself.

## Christmas Prayer

On this Christmas morn, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the one who embodies hope and compassion for a world in crisis.

Mother Mary, birth in us a renewed commitment to respond to the signs of our times.

Joseph, dedicated foster father to our Lord, never let us forget our oppressed sisters and brothers, who like the child Jesus, needed loving care and the warmth of compassion.

Child Jesus, help us to see you in those infected with the HIV/AIDS virus, those who are victims of modern day slavery and forced labor, those who go to bed hungry and who die from diseases linked directly to unsafe water and a lack of sanitation.

Child Jesus, help us to comfort you in those who are targets of bullying and cyber bullying.

Those who are discriminated against because of their physical and mental disabilities, those who are discriminated against because of their religious beliefs or the color of their skin. And the mothers of our world who are deprived of their rights to maternal health care.

Child Jesus, help us to hold you in refuge in those seeking protection from persecution and the effects of climate change.

Those killed by U.S. drone attacks, those tortured and held in indefinite detention, those assassinated for their commitment to protect Mother Earth.

Child Jesus, rejoice with us as we celebrate you in the peacemakers. Those who have the courage to speak truth to those in power, those who refuse to stand on the sidelines and act for change.

Those who protect the Earth from the desecration we have inflicted upon it, and in those who refuse to abandon hope.

Help us to know our sisters and brothers breathing, living and struggling in a world of crisis. Amen.

## Attention

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers needed for Christmas Eve (4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.) and Christmas Day (8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Masses. Sign-up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board in the Cry Room.

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

**December 26, 2015**

**4:00 p.m. Mass**

Lector	<b>Sally Orband</b>
1st Host	<b>Dc. Steve</b>
EM Host	<b>Barb Brozovic</b>
EM Host	<b>Mary Frances Charsky</b>
EM Cup	<b>Marge Mangan</b>
EM Cup	<b>John Artman</b>
EM Cup	<b>Brenda Artman</b>
EM Cup	<b>Debby Carden</b>
Altar Server	<b>Mikalya Bucci</b>
Altar Server	<b>Tyler Norton</b>
Altar Server	<b>Elizabeth Wrighter</b>

**December 27**

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

Lector	<b>K&amp;K Mohney</b>
1st Host	<b>Dc. Steve</b>
EM Host	<b>Mary DeNinis</b>
EM Host	<b>Scott Igler</b>
EM Cup	<b>Donna Igler</b>
EM Cup	<b>Ed White</b>
EM Cup	<b>Ede Blabac</b>
EM Cup	<b>Lou Angelo</b>
Altar Server	<b>Lauren White</b>
Altar Server	<b>Kathryn White</b>
Altar Server	<b>Andrew Rice</b>

**11:00 a.m. Mass**

Lector	<b>Barb Novitsky</b>
1st Host	<b>Dc. Steve</b>
EM Host	<b>Shirleyann Casterlin</b>
EM Host	<b>Jules Furrer</b>
EM Cup	<b>Stephanie Stracuzzi</b>
EM Cup	<b>Jim Lewis</b>
EM Cup	<b>Maria Lord</b>
EM Cup	<b>Dave Bollinger</b>
Altar Server	<b>Katie Saunders</b>
Altar Server	<b>Georgia Novitsky</b>
Altar Server	<b>Quinn Sirgany</b>

**Question of the Week**

**Theme: Jesus is identified as Lord before he is born.**

**Question for Children:** How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

**Question for Adults:** What role does Mary play in your own spirituality? If you were Elizabeth, how would you greet her at your doorway, if she were to arrive there?