

THE BRIDGE



*With open arms
for all!
All are welcome!*

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH • 4700 LONG BEACH BOULEVARD, BRANT BEACH, NJ 08008



Photo by Canva.com

*“When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.” Prov. 31:10-11*

THE THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach, NJ

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, November 18	(L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +Elizabeth Connelly +Robert Carpenter 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Tom Ackers +Patrick J. Mahle +Ralph Steibriz +Amy Stewart, <i>ofs</i>	Rv. 10:8-11; Lk. 19:45-48 Prv. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes. 5:1-6; Mt. 25:14-30	
Sunday, November 19	7:15 AM +Thomas Ackers 8:30 AM +Jean Rebeles +Frederick Noel Sharkey 10:00 AM +Thomas F. Sullivan +Joseph Chervony +Anthony Lombardo 11:30 AM +Carol Gercke +Ed Johnson	Prv. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes. 5:1-6; Mt. 25:14-30	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb
Monday, November 20	9:00 AM +Thomas McGinn +Albert & Margaret Virili	1 Mc. 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk. 18:35-43	
Tuesday, November 21	9:00 AM +Rita McAndrew	2 Mc. 6:18-31; Lk. 19:1-10	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, November 22	9:00 AM +Lillian C. Wirth +Derek Chapman	2 Mc. 7:1, 20-31; Lk. 19:11-28	9:45 AM Adult Enrichment/RCIA, Rm. 212 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, November 23	9:00 AM +Terese & Ed Hughes	1 Mc. 2:15-29; Lk. 19:41-44	Parish and Center is CLOSED
Friday, November 24	9:00 AM +Donna Weiss +Lisa Marie Helms Guba	1 Mc. 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk. 19:45-48	Parish and Center is CLOSED
Saturday, November 25	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Joseph DeMeo +Ann Anstatt +Kathryn Steibriz	1 Mc. 6:1-13; Lk. 20:27-40 Ez. 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 28; Mt. 25:31-46	
Sunday, November 26	7:15 AM +Thomas Ackers 8:30 AM +Walter & Anna Karch +Robert Graiff +Keith Pinto 10:00 AM (L)+Stein & Kempinski Families +Ryan B. Sterling +Anthony Lombardo 11:30 AM +Paul Cassidy	Ez. 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 28; Mt. 25:31-46	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb

Emergency Information

1. Call the main office (609) 494-8861.
There will be a recording.
2. Check Facebook
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
St Francis of Assisi Parish for updates.

Mass Schedule CHANGE

December 2/3 through December 16/17, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach

9:00 AM Daily Mass
Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM
Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 10:00 AM
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City - CLOSED for the Season

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - CLOSED for the Season

St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED for the Season

Read our bulletin online at
www.stfrancisparishlbi.org



Daily gospel reflections can be found on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi



Follow St. Francis Parish on Instagram:
[StFrancisChurchLBI](https://www.instagram.com/StFrancisChurchLBI)

St. Francis is a sending Parish to St. Mary Academy
(609) 597-3800 or visit: www.stmaryknights.org

Parish Information - (609) 494-8813

Emergency Information: Available on our answering machine (609) 494-8861 and on the following website: schoolclosingsnj.com and facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi.

Evacuation Information: In the event of a hurricane, severe weather, or extreme high tides, please do not call the Parish Office for assistance and note that **none** of the parish buildings (churches, community center, residences or maintenance facilities) has been designated as an evacuation site. Evacuate as soon as you can, following the direction of local officials.

Parish Registration: The Parish Office is located on the second floor of St. Francis Community Center, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible if you are moving.

Baptism: The sacrament is celebrated three times a month at St. Francis Parish. Group Baptisms are the 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM and the last Sunday at 12:45 PM each month at St. Francis Church in Brant Beach. Baptisms during Mass are celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the last Mass in each Church. Call the Parish Office for availability and requirements: (609) 494-8813 ext. 154 or 155.

Family Faith: For children in grades one through eight. Please call Judith Clayton at (609) 494-8813 ext. 153 for more information.

Marriage: In accordance with the Common Policy of the five Dioceses of New Jersey, arrangements must be made ONE YEAR in advance. Couples are required to attend Marriage Preparation classes. Weddings are performed on Friday or Saturday. Weddings are NOT performed on Sundays, the beach, Memorial Day, Fourth of July or Labor Day weekends.

Pastoral Visitations: Please notify the Parish Office if you or any of your loved ones are ill, homebound, in SOMC, nursing homes or rehabilitation centers.

Parish Office

Michele Beck, Director, Liturgy & Music
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM
Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation
Deacon Robert Cunningham
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM
Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor
Fr. John Frambes, OFM
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence)
Marie Maslanka, Parish Secretary
Parish Office - (609) 494-8813,
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)
Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8813 ext. 153

Parish Finance Council

Cecelia Fowler	Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM	Jay Pojednic
Joe Hummel	Joe Mack
Joe Vaszily	Peter Williams
Stacey Kelsall, <i>Comptroller</i>	

Anyone who needs to contact the Parish staff or Finance Council can do so by visiting our website at: www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/contact

St. Francis Center

Community Center - (609) 494-8861
Children's Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 114
Counseling Services - (609) 494-1554
Educational & Career Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 407
Family Support Services - (609) 494-8861
Food Pantry - (833) 511-0760
Recreation & Aquatics - (609) 494-8861 ext. 105
Senior Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 108 or 109

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Happy Thanksgiving

On behalf of the Pastoral Staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful. Your faithfulness is reflected in your goodness, kindness, and generous spirit that is so obviously shared with one another in this parish family. The number of people who volunteer for our different events and ministries is outstanding. We could not be such a dynamic parish without your willingness to be part of it all.

Your response to our Stewardship program this year is but one example. A critical part of that program is the understanding that stewardship means we all own a piece of this parish, so we are all responsible for its success. It is very clear that so many of you not only know that but live it out so plainly. Thank you!

We pray that you, your family, and friends, have a wonderful celebration on Thursday as we all put aside that day to specifically thank God for our blessings.

Next weekend is the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is the last Sunday in our Liturgical Calendar. As in the past, the Finance Council and I will take advantage of the end of that year to share with you our annual report. We will not be mailing it to you this year but inserting it into next week's bulletin. With just a bit of a "spoiler alert" we once again had a wonderful year. For that, again, I say thank you.

I hope we enjoy a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

May God bless you with Peace and All Good!

Fr. Fran
Pastor

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$32,000

This Week's Second Collection:

Campaign for Human Development

We join Catholics throughout the country in sharing our resources with the poor and needy in the United States: the inner cities, rural areas, and Appalachia. Thank you for your generosity.



Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$24,700

Needed: \$32,000

Last Week's Second Collection:

Parish Ministry - Family Faith Formation

Collected: \$7,562

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

*** Thank you for your generosity! ***



***St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Online Giving!***
stfrancisparishlbi.org/donate



6.5 Million Diocesan Goal

Pledged: \$61,667.80 (62% of Goal)

Paid: \$61,033.80 (61% of Goal)

Total Donors: 278

Total Gifts: 310

Average Gift: \$198.93

Thank you for your support of the Diocese of Trenton. Please visit the stfrancislbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal for more information from Bishop O'Connell.

Praying the Rosary

St. Francis of Assisi Church Brant Beach
Monday through Saturday, 8:20 AM



St. Anthony Novena

St. Francis of Assisi Church Brant Beach
Tuesdays after the 9:00 AM Daily Mass



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Francis of Assisi Church Brant Beach
Wednesdays, 2:00 - 3:00 PM



ST. FRANCIS
**Liturgy &
Music**

Thanksgiving Blessing

Here is a Thanksgiving blessing that you can use at your family table

God most provident,

We join all creation in raising to you a hymn of thanksgiving through Jesus Christ, your Son.

For generation upon generation

peoples of this land have sung of your bounty;

We too offer you praise for the rich harvest we have received at your hands.

Bless us and this food which we share with grateful hearts.

Continue to make our land fruitful

and let our love for you be seen in our pursuit of peace and justice and in our generous response to those in need.

Praise and glory to you, Lord God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Family Faith

Judith Clayton, Director of Family Faith (Ext. 153)

jclayton@stfrancislbi.org

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

Mary Lou McGurkin, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)



Tuesday

December 13 – Church – Nativity

January 9

February 13

March 19

April 9

May 1 - May Crowning -

Closing Mass

Wednesday

December 13 – Nativity

January 10

February 14

March 20

April 10

May 1 - May Crowning -

Closing Mass

Confirmation

November 28 – 7:00 pm

January 16, 30 – 5:30 – 7:00 pm

February 20, 27 – 5:30 – 7:00 pm

March 2 – 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Sacrament of Confirmation 12, 19, 26 TBD

Grades 1 to 3 – 4:45 – 5:30 pm

4 to 5 - 5:45 – 6:45 pm

6 5:45 – 7:15 pm

7 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Gospel Inspirations:

“Come, share your master’s joy.”



This parable reminds us that God expects us to use productively the gifts we have been given.

*How are we using the gifts God has given us?
If we use our talents to serve God’s people, it will be our joy to hear the Lord say, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”*

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:

Spiritual Direction



The "Direction" part of the term Spiritual Direction can be off-putting, even for us as directors. This process is not about one person telling the other what to do – "directing" them. Spiritual companionship or soul-friending might be a better term. "Spiritual Direction" has stuck

for some reason, but as Thomas Keating advises: "It is not so much being told what to do as being encouraged to do what we know God and our conscience are asking us to do." A spiritual director has been trained to listen to the person they are with in collaboration with the Holy Spirit. Thus, one often sees a picture of three chairs to symbolize the process, one for the director, one for the seeker and one for the Spirit! One on one meetings with you can be in person, by video call or phone call. Like to know more? Contact one of the certified spiritual directors in the parish:

Anne Bock, (609) 204-3835 Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651
Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917 Pat Simmons, (609) 661-1361

An Invitation to Contemplative Living

Our times together invite us into prayerful reading and discussion of Scripture or other spiritual writing through Lectio Divina or "Divine Reading" and a period of silent prayer. We meet by Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM - write Kathy Egan (klegan.chaplain@gmail.com) for the link. On the second Saturday of the month we meet in person in the Senior Lounge of the Community Center at 9:45 AM when we also have a presentation. We always welcome new folks to join us!

Next sessions - Wednesday, **December 6**, 10:30 AM, Zoom
Saturday, **December 9**, 9:45 AM, Sr. Lounge

Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group meets in the Senior Lunch Room on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Seating is limited. Please contact Deacon Bob or Father Fran to reserve your place.

Next meeting: Saturday, **December 16**, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Bible Talks After Mass

Tom Troyano will be doing brief monthly talks on the bible after the 9:00 AM Mass. **Next talk** Wednesday, **December 6**, 9:30 AM, Brant Beach Church

Book Club

We will meet in person at St. Francis Center in the Knight Wing Conference Room, (Room 212) on the last Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 PM. **Forty Autumns** by Nina Willner.

Next meeting Tuesday, **November 28**, 1:30 PM, Room 212.

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Christmas Dinner, Tuesday, **December 5**, 6:00 PM, Room 109.

Scripture Study

Meets **bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, from 10:00-11:30 AM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. Call Tom Troyano at (732) 261-4721 or email: tomtroyano@comcast.net for more information. **Next meeting** Wednesday, **November 29**, 10:00 AM, Room 102.

Survivors of Suicide

Meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month at 7:00 PM in the Knight Wing Conference Room (Room 212). Call Sr. Pat McNiff, osf at (609) 494-8813 for more info. **Next meeting** Thursday, **December 14**, 7:00 PM, Room 212



Adult Faith Enrichment RCIA

A JOURNEY IN FAITH

RCIA is a journey of faith for any unbaptized individual seeking to follow Christ, any baptized person from another Christian community and any Baptized Catholic looking to complete the sacraments of initiation (Confirmation and/or First Communion).

Please call Fr. Andrew or Sr. Pat at the parish office (609-494-8861 ext. 157).

November 29th ; 7pm Community Center Room 212

***Do Volunteer Service in Thanksgiving
for all that God has given you/us.***

All are welcome...baptized or non-baptized...
believer or non-believer.



ST. FRANCIS
**Liturgy &
Music &**

JOIN OUR NEW MINISTRY!

MARTHA MINISTRY

Behind the scenes, members of the Martha Ministry perform critically important tasks that make our worship spaces comfortable and inviting.

Some Martha ministers de-clutter the vestibules and dust pews and sanctuary tables and chairs. Others help to keep the churches tidy and do any extra cleaning that is needed on a monthly basis and also seasonal basis in all the churches. Opening up churches in the spring and putting out hymnals at the start of Advent are particularly busy times. Martha ministers add that prayerful touch to make sure everything is ready for our celebrations.

If you would like to join this important liturgical "behind the scenes" ministry, contact Rosalie D'Amico in the Liturgy and Music Office: rdamico@stfrancislbj.org or 609-494-8813 ext.166.

We can't wait to meet you!



THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiative outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines regarding the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

Employment Opportunity

Community Center (609-494-8861) Counseling Services

Positions: Full time Licensed Counselor and Full-time or Part-time Bilingual (Fluent English/Spanish) Licensed Counselor **Days:** Monday through Friday (Some evening hours required) Must complete 40-hour Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Training (provided free of charge by the agency). On-site clinical supervision is provided. **Must have Current Professional License:** LSW, LAC, LPC or LCSW.

Children's Services-Teacher's Assistant

Seeking a person with a warm, nurturing, and friendly personality, be able to relate well with children and families. Be willing to fulfill his/her responsibilities in accordance with the Center's/ Children's Services Philosophy/Mission Statement. Prefer a background in early childhood education. (13-months to 5-years of age). First Aid & CPR Certified and/or Bi-Lingual in Spanish a plus. **Position:** Full-time (40 plus hours) and Part-time (29 hours) **Days:** Monday-Friday **Pay:** \$15 per hour

Recreation/Pool (Year round)

Position: Pool Lifeguard – Part time employment for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. MUST currently possess Red Cross pool lifeguard certification, CPR/AED and First Aid Certification. **Days:** Monday-Friday, and/or weekend – flexible schedule **Pay:** \$14.13 per hour

Position: Swim Lesson Instructors Year-round part time employment for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. Pool lifeguard certification, CPR/AED and First Aid Certification are not required but preferred. **Days/Hours:** Weekdays/weekends - Hours range from 8-29 per week. **Pay:** \$15 per hour

Family Support Services

Position: In-home Bilingual Therapist (fluent English/ Spanish) Full time Position - Therapist will travel throughout Ocean County to conduct therapy sessions with DCP&P referred clients in home. Applicants must have valid driver's license and reliable transportation. **Must have Current Professional License:** LSW, LAC, LPC, or LCSW. Clinical supervision provided at no cost to the employee. **Days:** Monday through Friday- 35 hours per week.

Educational & Career Services

Position: Full time WFNJ Employment Specialist/Case Manager - Toms River Location. As an Employment Specialist, you will play a vital role in helping WorkFirst NJ and senior employment participants find meaningful employment and providing valuable support to our clients on an on-going basis. **Qualifications:** A Bachelor's degree (BA or BS) is required. Proven experience as an Employment Specialist or in a related human services role. In-depth knowledge of community resources and social services. A team player with the ability to collaborate effectively. **Days:** Monday through Friday

****Background check and fingerprinting required for all employees 18 yrs. and older.**

***Full-time positions are offered Health Care, Paid time off (with additional earning for years of service), 16 Paid Holidays, Life Insurance, 403B (retirement plan) w/ company match, & more.**

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPLENDORS OF OLD-WORLD EUROPE:
Featuring an Eight Day Danube River Cruise on board the Luxurious MS Amadeus Riva

12 DAYS: OCTOBER 13 - 24, 2024

Hosted by
FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM

Optional Shore Excursion Package Available! Request Brochure for Details!

STARTING AT \$5399 FROM NEW YORK
(Including Government Taxes & Airline Surcharges of \$550*)
Estimated as of August 25, 2023

FOR A BROCHURE WITH COMPLETE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
St. Francis of Assisi Parish
4700 Long Beach Blvd.
Brant Beach, NJ 08008
Tel: (917) 275-5593
Email: areitz@stfrancisbi.org

Tour Features: Roundtrip airfare from New York, first class/select hotel on land portion, accommodations on the MS Amadeus Riva in handsomely appointed staterooms sharing in twin-bedded cabins, all meals on board the cruise and breakfast daily on land portion, free-flowing red & white regional wines, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard the cruise portion of the tour, comprehensive sightseeing by private motorcoach including services of professional English-speaking guides and much more!

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

PILGRIMAGE TO EMERALD IRELAND

HOSTED BY
FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM

11 DAYS: APRIL 16 - 26, 2024
WATERFORD * KILLARNEY * CLIFFS OF MOHER
GALWAY * CONNEMARA * KNOCK * SLIGO * DUBLIN

\$3549 PER PERSON FROM NEW YORK
(Air/land tour price is \$3049 plus \$500 government taxes/airline surcharges)

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

Contact Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach, NJ 08008
Tel: (917) 275-5593; Email: areitz@stfrancisbi.org

Space is still available.
REGISTER
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 !



FUTURE BUS TRIPS

May 15, 2024

New York Broadway show
"A Beautiful Noise"

Neil Diamond Musical, Orchestra Seating
\$240 includes show, transportation, driver tip

**** ONLY 5 SEATS LEFT ****

**** Last call for tickets Monday, November 20th ****

October 9, 2024

Sight and Sound Lancaster PA
"Daniel"



\$192 includes show, lunch, transportation, driver tip

Call: Cheryl Krzaczuk, 609-661-5229
or Mary Lou Ligus, 215-850-7809

Seating is limited.

Reservations are now being accepted.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Saturday, November 18,

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Sunday, November 19,

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**St. Francis Community
Center Gym**

A weekend craft show that hosts local artists, crafters, and makers of homemade and handmade items. Perfectly timed right before the holidays for all of your gift-buying needs. You can find something for every one on you list...or maybe a little something for yourself. Please support the Community Center and our talented vendors at this year's Holiday Craft Show.

annual
**BEEFSTEAK
DINNER**
since 2017

\$50 | **DEC. 1, 2023**

DINNER INCLUDES:
SALAD, PASTA
ALL YOU CAN EAT FILET MIGNON
DESSERT

PARTIES OF 6 MORE
RESERVE A TABLE

DOORS OPEN AT
5:00PM
DINNER SERVED AT
6:30PM

PLEASE BRING A
NONPERISHABLE
FOOD ITEM

50/50
CORK DRAW
PRIZE AUCTION

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
4700 LONG BEACH BLVD., LONG BEACH TWP.
609-494-8861



American Red Cross Blood Drives

Tuesday, **December 12th**, 1:00pm-6:00pm

The need is constant and your donation is important for maintaining a healthy and reliable blood supply.

Please call the Community Center at
(609) 494-8861 ext. 118 or visit:

www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment. For detailed donor eligibility questions, please call 800-RED-CROSS or visit: redcrossblood.org.

Dakota & Elle Christmas Concert

Friday, December 15, 7:00 PM

St. Francis Church Hall

\$30/ Person



Enjoy music from the tenor /soprano duo
Dakota and Elle

while they perform sacred and classical Christmas music. Wine and cheese to be served during intermission with a meet and greet.

Seating is first come first served.

Tickets on sale now

at the Community Center Front Desk.

APPLES RAFFLE



A chance to win one of three Apple brand products:

1st place prize - an Apple IPAD PRO

2nd place prize - an Apple Iwatch, Series 8

3rd place prize - a pair of Apple Air Pods Pro

Raffle tickets are on sale now at the Community Center Front Desk, or download the order form online at

www.stfranciscenterlbi.org.

Only 1,500 tickets sold.

Drawing being held at the Center's Super Plunge event,
Saturday, **February 10, 2024**, 12:00pm.

Tickets are \$20 each

and payable by check, cash or credit card.

Did You Know??

The Holiday Season is upon us and we would love for you to join us for our upcoming events. The Holiday Craft Show is happening this weekend 11/18 and 11/19. We will have some of your favorite returning local vendors selling handcrafted items on both Saturday and Sunday between 9:30 am-3:00 pm. Next up, Dakota and Elle return again this year on 12/15 for their Christmas Concert. Wine and cheese will be served during the intermission. The cost is \$30 and seating is first come, first served. And don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets for the Crazy Over Apples Raffle. Secure your chance of winning one of the three Apple Brand Product prizes which include the Apple iPadPro, Apple Watch, and Apple Air pods. The Drawing is on 2/10/24. If you would like to obtain additional information, contact Michelle DiBella by phone at 609-494-8861 x107 or email: mdibella@stfrancislbi.org.

Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Walk-ins are welcome!

*The St. Francis Food Pantry has a variety of food options, personal hygiene products, and cleaning supplies available. Please ask about our Dairy-Free Milk alternatives, Gluten-Free or Vegan options, Baby Food, Formula, & Diapers. *Spanish-speaking staff is available to translate.*

*Join our text message alert system to receive alerts about the food pantry and annual projects. **TO ENROLL TEXT "PANTRY" TO 833-511-0760** **carrier text message rates may apply***

Donations needed for the Food Pantry:

Baked Beans, Chef Boyardee Raviolis & Spaghetti's, Dinty Moore Stew, Canned Chicken, Ketchup/Mustard/ Mayo, Coffee, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Body Wash/ Soap, Toilet Paper, Dish Detergent

Donations for the Food Pantry can be left in the bins marked "donation" in the front of the Community Center. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry it can be made through our website: <http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/donate> via PayPal.

Family Support Services:

To learn more about our programs visit our website at <http://stfranciscenterlbi.org>

- Parenting & Anger Management Groups
- Auto Ownership
- Parents As Teachers
- Maintaining the Integrity of Spanish Speaking Families

Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



St. Francis Community Center's Preschool and Childcare are fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org. We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. www.grownjkids.gov.

Masks will be required for 2 years and up - they will be encouraged to wear a mask throughout the day.

Year-round Childcare for Children TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Available Care 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, 5 Days a Week

Full Day and Work Day

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

Counseling Services offers trauma-informed, therapeutic sessions for individuals, couples, and families. Services are available in person or virtually and available: for adult and child victims of crime and sexual assault throughout Ocean County and are free of charge; for general mental health counseling on a sliding fee scale to residents of southern Ocean County (Lanoka Harbor and South) and support groups that are free of charge at our location in Brant Beach. For more information or to enroll in services, please contact us at: 609-494-1554. Monday 9am-5pm, Tuesday through Thursday 9am-9pm, and Friday 9am-5pm.

Recreation & Aquatics

For info. please call ext. 105. Visit the Fall/Winter Brochure online at www.stfranciscenterlbi.org or pick up a Brochure at the Center lobby.

**SESSION III
REGISTRATION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 9:00 AM**

Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



Information and Assistance, Telephone Reassurance Calls, Caregiver Assistance Options Counseling: Application Assistance for PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled), Meals on Wheels, SHIP Counseling (State Health Insurance Program), Energy Assistance, JACC (Jersey Assistance for Community Caregivers) and many more. Socialization, Recreation, and Exercise programs are available - please call for availability.

The LBI Health Department is doing
Blood Pressure Screenings
the **second Tuesday of each Month**
from 11:00 am - 11:30 am

in the Community Center Senior Lounge. Please call 609-494-8861 ext. 111 for more information.



Cultural Competency Statement

The St. Francis Center recognizes a culturally diverse community and makes a commitment to the principles of multiculturalism as a means of understanding, accepting, valuing, and supporting cultural diversity. The term Multicultural is applied broadly to include issues of minority or marginalized status as it relates to race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, use of English as a second language, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, spirituality, and the elderly. The St. Francis Center proposes to develop programs and practices that assist staff, board members, and volunteers to recognize, accept, and affirm differences and similarities among people and provide services that are supportive and inclusive of all members of the community.

Educational & Career Services

For information call 732-281-8653

Fundraiser for St. Francis Community Center!

We now have blue Recycle America bins located:

St. Francis Community Center

4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

2nd & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

St. Clare Church

56 St. & Long Beach Blvd., Loveladies



These bins can be filled with clothes, purses, shoes, bedding and pillows. Recycle America will collect the items and redistribute them to those in need. In turn, this is a Fundraising opportunity for us – we receive a percentage of every pound collected.

Get Updates on Closings sent directly to your phone:

1. Go to Rainedout.com
2. Search St. Francis Center, LBICC, INC.
3. Opt-in to your organization
4. Validate your phone number

Community Bulletin Board

St. Joseph's Parish

685 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ <http://www.donovancatholic.org>



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**Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 12:00noon at
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Please help us cover all 1,700 veterans' graves with wreaths at our St. Joseph's Cemetery & Mausoleums. The cost per wreath is \$17.

Scan the QR code or go to our website for more information and to purchase a wreath.

Hurry, deadline is November 28th!



Join us as we leave from St. Joseph's Campus at 3:00pm, Friday, December 29th on a Deluxe Coach bus for the Big Apple.

Cost is \$145. Food & sightseeing are on your own.

Tickets are limited. First come first served.

Make checks payable to "**Rosary Altar Society**" and include your name, address, cell phone number, email address **AND** the number of tickets you would like.

SEND TO: Donna West, 9 B Cardinal Street, Manchester, NJ 08759
For questions, call Donna at 732-598-0751

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Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet is open every Saturday, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM (except holiday weekends) and the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-6:00 PM. We are currently not taking any clothing donations. We offer free clothing to women in need. Vouchers are available at food pantries, churches, Stafford Community Center at the door. For further info call Madelyn. 609-276-3308.

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