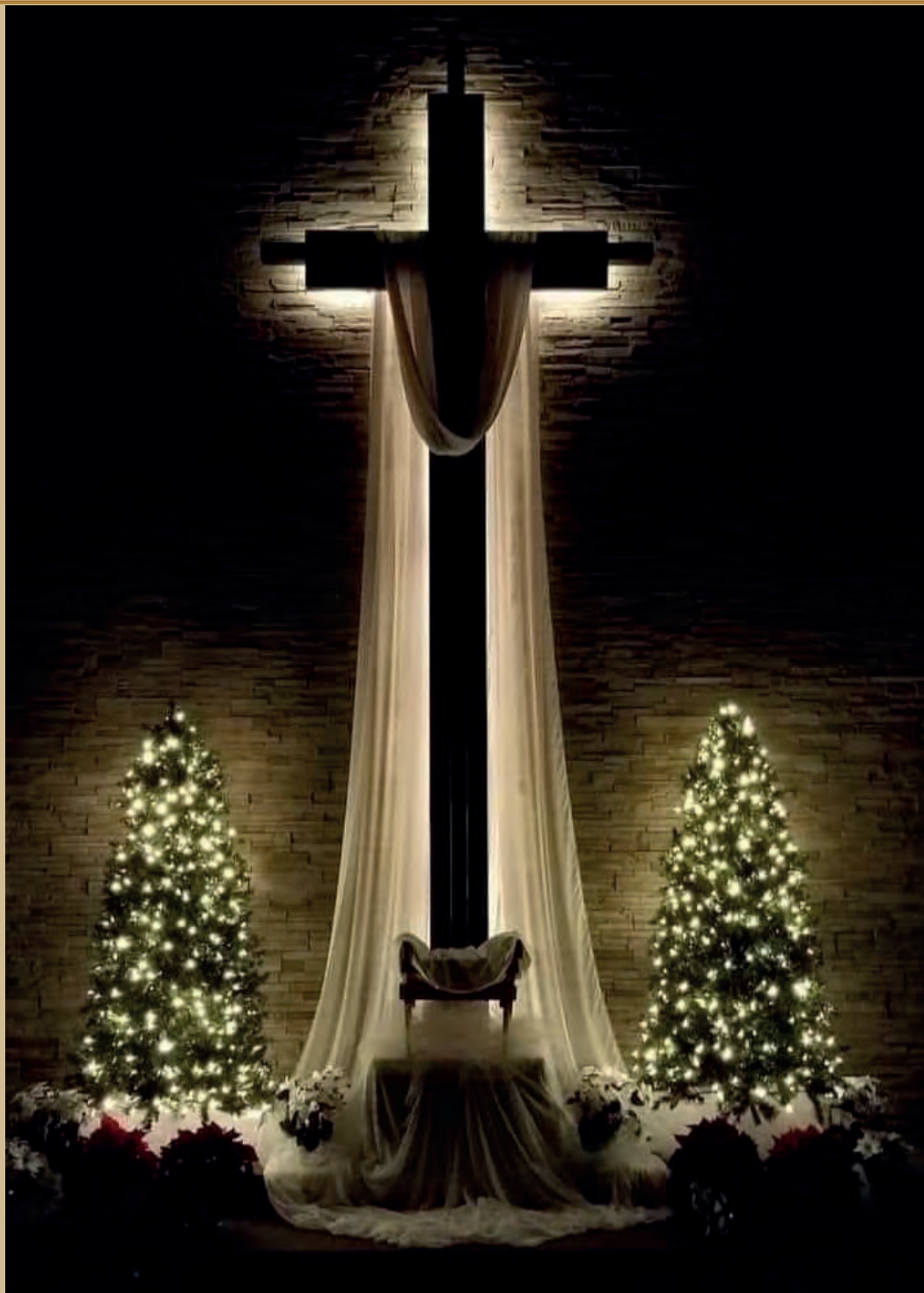


THE BRIDGE



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

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



*St. Francis of Assisi Parish offers **ONLINE GIVING***

Parishioners who prefer to donate through our Online Giving Service, a secure and personalized way to give to the Parish, can visit our website at: <http://www.stfrancisparishlbj.org>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

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

| DATE | MASS INTENTIONS | READINGS | EVENTS |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, December 18 | <u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Angela Gilbride 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Robert Carpenter | Jer. 23:5-8; Mt. 1:18-25 Mi. 5:1-4a; Heb. 15:5-10; Lk. 1:39-45 | 10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm. |
| Sunday, December 19 | 8:30 AM +Mary Karch +Bob Carpenter +Paul Martin Sulovski 10:00 AM +Jack Maher +Louise Soranno +Thomas Vincent Sharkey 11:30 AM +Robert Fallar +Eileen & Russ Parks +Anthony Mautone | Mi. 5:1-4a; Heb. 15:5-10; Lk. 1:39-45 | 10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi |
| Monday, December 20 | 9:00 AM +Elizabeth Polifroni | Is. 7:10-14; Lk. 1:26-38 | |
| Tuesday, December 21 | 9:00 AM +Romaine Juracek | Sg. 2:8-14; Lk. 1:39-45 | 9:30 AM St. Anthony Novena |
| Wednesday, December 22 | 9:00 AM +Jo Hellowell +Frank Braun +Patrick Harrington | 1 Sm. 1:24-28; Lk. 1:46-56 | 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament |
| Thursday, December 23 | 9:00 AM +James W. Forsythe | Mal. 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk. 1:57-66 | |
| Friday, December 24 | 9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> Christmas Eve Vigil 4:00 PM +John J. Connelly +Mary English +George & Jane Holland +Andrew Noll +John & Rosa Primerano +Jane Huebner, <i>ofs</i> +Robert Carpentre 6:00 PM +Lucille & Eugene D'Amico +Anne Armstrong, <i>ofs</i> +David & Kathleen Barndt +Marco Mendez +Joseph & Judith Filoon +Michael Kormash +Anthony D'Souza, Sr. +Eufemia D'Souza +Arthur D'Souza +George & Jane Holland | 2 Sm. 7:1-5, 8b-12; Lk. 1:67-79 Is. 9:1-6; Ti. 2:11-14; Lk.2:1-14 | 6:00 PM (only) Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi |
| Saturday, December 25 | 10:00 AM Christmas (L)+Stein & Kempiski Families +Frank Friedhoff +Fred Peters +Henry Scala +Fr. Tom Zazella +Eileen Baldassari +Rosalee Tortoriello +George Filoon +Richard Finan | Is. 9:1-6; Ti. 2:11-14; Lk.2:1-14 | 10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi |
| Sunday, December 26 | Most Holy Family 8:30 AM +Felicia Stoj +Denice Stoj 10:00 AM (L)+Stein & Kempiski Families +Patrick Harrington 11:30 AM +Ethel Sekelsky +Barbara Sekelsky | 1 Sm. 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn. 3:1-2 21-24; Lk. 2:41-52 | 10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi |

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Star Wars!

After dinner I have this habit of sitting in the recliner with my computer on my lap and the TV in front of me. The computer is to go through my emails or continue some office work not yet finished and the TV is simply for entertainment.

I scroll through *xfinity*'s TV guide trying to find something that I might enjoy. I have figured out how to set up my "favorite" channels so I don't have to scroll through all 2000 of them – or whatever crazy number it is. Now I only have a few hundred from which to choose. More often than not I scroll through and don't find anything that I really want to watch. "Let me scroll through one more time," I say to myself. Off I go, back to channel 2 and zip through for a second pass. Nothing. Truth be told, I usually end up landing on something that I've already seen.

Of late, one of the channels has been having a Star Wars marathon. The original Star Wars series [1977, 1980, 1983] have always been one of my favorite series of movies so I indulged and spent a few hours with Obi Wan Kenobi, Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker, and Darth Vader.

This futuristic, intergalactic drama is filled with flashy graphics. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why I enjoy watching it, but if I dig a bit deeper, one of the reasons it speaks to me is because the story is the basic story of good vs evil, dark vs light ... and the good always wins. There is no doubt that the technological imagination added a unique telling of this story [at least it was unique in 1977!] but the message is that timeless storyline of the challenge for the good.

In life we face challenges all the time. We are forced to make choices, and those choices are always filtered through the many things going on in our life at that specific time. So in addition to the battle for what is good, these primal stories also include forgiveness, rebirth, new life, and hope.

Star Wars is from "A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." and the scriptures that tell our stories of good vs evil, light vs dark, were literally written a long, long time ago, yet the stories still speak to us because the stories are our stories, today.

In the first reading from the Book of Micah, we hear that our savior is going to come from this small forgotten place, so small that it doesn't even count among the clans of Judah. Yet, the Shepherd will come and lead us, and He shall be peace.

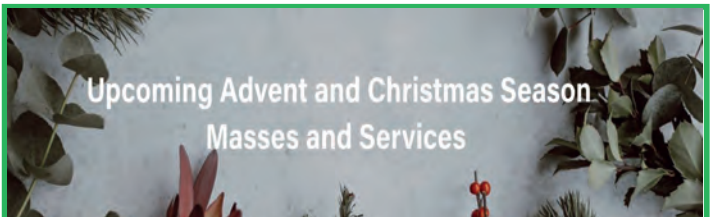
The two main characters of the Star Wars saga are Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia. These reunited siblings, born of special lineage, both chose to pursue the good. Despite all the challenges that confronted them, the self-doubts, the personal struggles, they continued to follow the good. In the end they were victorious.

We might think that we keep flipping through the channels of our life but we too will be victorious if we continue "to believe that what was spoken to us by the Lord would be fulfilled."

May God continue to bless you and may the force be with you!

St. Thomas of Villanova Church 13th & Long Beach Blvd., Surf City

| DATE | MASS INTENTIONS |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday, December 24 | (L) Living +Deceased Christmas Eve Vigil 4:00 PM +Jo Vennwald +Fred Peters +Christopher Cramer +Vince McHale |



- Friday, **December 24th Christmas Eve. Masses in Brant Beach at 4:00pm and 6:00pm.** [Please note there is no 6:30pm Mass in Brant Beach] Mass in Surf City at 4:00pm. **Live-Streaming at 6:00 PM Mass only**
- Saturday, **December 25th at 10:00am Christmas Day Mass in Brant Beach.** [There is no 5:00pm Mass on Saturday evening.] **Live-Streaming Mass**
- Sunday, **December 26th The Most Holy Family.** Masses at 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am in Brant Beach Church.
- Saturday, **January 1st, 2022, Solemnity of Mary Mother of God,** 9:00am Mass. Not a Holy Day this year. **Live-Streaming Mass**
- Sunday, **January 2nd, Epiphany of the Lord.** Regular Sunday Masses in Brant Beach Church, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am
- Sunday **January 9th, Baptism of the Lord,** Regular Sunday Masses in Brant Beach Church, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am

Did you notice?

The first lector does not process out with the Lectionary at the end of Mass. It is meant to stay in the sanctuary. The Word of God remains with the assembled.

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 of Assisi Parish & Center
 4700 Long Beach Boulevard
 Long Beach Island, NJ 08008



Christmas 2021 Giving Fund

| Giving Levels | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Shepherd Level | \$25.00 |
| Magi Level | \$35.00 |
| Gold Level | \$50.00 |
| Frankincense Level | \$100.00 |
| Myrrh Level | \$500.00 |
| Star of Wonder Level | \$1,000.00 |
| Angel Level | \$5,000.00 |
| Nativity Level | \$10,000.00 |
| Manger Level | other |



Dear Fr. Francis,

December 2021

Yes! I would like to contribute to the *Christmas 2021 Giving Fund* to support the ministries and services of St. Francis Parish and Center.

Shepherd Level
 Magi Level
 Gold Level
 Frankincense Level
 Myrrh Level
 Star of Wonder Level
 Angel Level
 Nativity Level
 Manger Level

Name: _____

How would you like the name of your loved one and your name to appear in our *Christmas 2021 Perfect Light Society*?

Address: _____

Email: _____

In memory/honor of: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Donor: _____

★ If donating by check, please make the check payable to *St. Francis Parish*.

★ If you would like to donate by credit card, please visit our webpage www.stfrancisparishlbi.org and click the "Give" button.

★ If you donate with a check or credit card, please return this completed form so we can be sure to enroll you and your loved one in our "Christmas 2021 Perfect Light Society."

Your donation is tax deductible.

Weekly Reflections...



Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM, Pastoral Associate

We celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent today. We have a longer Advent season this year; sometimes Christmas is a day or two after the 4th Sunday, but not this year.

Throughout the season of Advent we have the opportunity to focus on several people from the New Testament who are so important and yet we don't hear that much about some of them: Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist and, of course, Joseph and

Mary. Although we do not hear much about them, what we hear shows forth people who were attentive to God and showed what this meant to them in challenging circumstances. Zechariah and Elizabeth suffered for years when Elizabeth was not able to get pregnant. John the Baptist had a message that was welcomed by many but was a threat to those in power. Then, Joseph plans on marrying a woman whom he finds out is already pregnant. What an upright man to "do the right thing" by taking Mary as his wife in these circumstances. The little we know about these New Testament persons speaks loudly of how they lived out their faith in God.

This weekend we hear the Gospel story of Mary visiting Elizabeth - one pregnant woman visiting another. The author Kathleen Norris (Give Us This Day, December 19) commenting on this event says: "Although art often shows Mary as fragile, she must have been sturdy and strong to climb those steep Jordan hills. Then as now pregnancy and childbirth are messy and dangerous and these women are risking their lives to give birth to John and Jesus." Up until recently, you would never see a painting or statue of a pregnant Mary or of pregnant Mary and pregnant Elizabeth greeting each other. Thank God for these pregnancies.

All of us - we here at the parish and you in your homes - have days ahead that can be pressured and full of many things. These are days rich with spirit and meaning. Enjoy them. Remember why you are doing what you are doing and say a prayer for your loved ones or friends that you know who may be going through a difficult time. It is not an easy time for many.

Advent prayers and blessings to all of you!

Fr. Andrew Reitz, ofm

GOSPEL CHALLENGE:

"Elizabeth...cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'"



Elizabeth's unborn baby recognized Christ's presence in Mary. We are called to see God's presence in others.

What would help you to recognize Christ in others when you find it difficult?

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: None of the parish buildings (churches, community center, residences or maintenance facilities) has been designated as an evacuation site.

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 3:00 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.

Faith Faith: For children ages six 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.

Appeals Box

Second Collection Today:

Church Buildings & Grounds Maintenance

Living at the shore requires consistent maintenance & repairs to the 4 churches that make up St. Francis Parish. This collection helps us fund the upkeep of our facilities & the significant costs in maintaining our grounds. Please help us serve you by being generous.

Last Week's 2nd Collection Religious Retirement Fund

Collected: \$5,535

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$23,000

Last Week's Collection

Budgeted: \$23,000

Collected: \$17,050.50

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

** Thank you for your generosity! **



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Online Giving!
stfrancisparishlbi.org

2021 Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: **\$100,000.00**

Gift Count: **428**

Donors: **306**

Raised: **\$63,860.00**

Collected: **\$63,557.09**

Pledge Balance: **\$ 797.91**



St. Francis Liturgical Community

Family Faith

Judith Clayton, Director of Family Faith (Ext. 153)
jclayton@stfrancislbj.org
Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)
Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)
Marion Pierri, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)



Classes for all grades 1-8 are under way.

Contact Marion Pierri at mpierri@stfrancislbj.org or (609) 494-8813 ext. 177 for more information on the tuition process.

New families to our programs should contact our Director, Judy Clayton at jclayton@stfrancislbj.org or (609) 494-8813 ext. 153.

Adult Faith Enrichment and RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Adult Faith Enrichment group invites you to a talk on
"Sacraments"
Tuesday, January 18th at 7:00 PM
in the St. Francis Church, Brant Beach.

New Format for Online Giving Through ParishSoft



For those who have set up your weekly collection through **ParishSoft**, please be advised that they have upgraded their program. The donor information for all weekly recurring donors has been migrated to the new format. You will, however, need

to sign in with your user name and password. If you do not remember your password, please click the "forgot password" link for assistance.

If you have previously made a contribution to ParishSoft, but have not set up a weekly recurring donation, you will need to reenter your personal information when making a donation online through **ParishSoft**.

Please also be advised that your donation history is recorded within our parish accounting. It may not, however, appear in your giving history when you view the new system.

All donation will be included in your end of year statement if you use ParishSoft or our envelope system.

We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Thank you for your support of St. Francis Parish.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Franciscan Faith Community of *Holy Name Province* in the Diocese of Trenton. Find out more about Holy Name Province online at: www.hnp.org

SAVE THE DATE !

2022 ST. FRANCIS MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT

This could be the time for you to take a break from your busy schedule and reconnect to what really matters.

Friday, **March 11th** - 6:00 - 10:00 PM
Saturday **March 12th** - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Maris Stella - Harvey Cedars

Brochures with pertinent information are available at the Church entrances.

Please contact Jim Brady with questions or for additional information at sabrady@hotmail.com

Help Wanted - Altar Server Ministry

CALLING ALL BOYS AND GIRLS

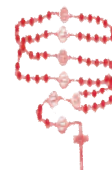


Do you find mass boring? If you do, why not sign up to be an altar server. We need young people [after First Communion] to help with priests and/or carry the cross in the parade at the beginning and end of mass. The more you do during the mass, the more interesting mass becomes.

Have your parents contact Ms. Toby McCarthy via email toby121e@comcast.net or call/text (609) 923 5417.

The Rosary Project

St. Francis Parish Women's Cornerstone ladies are now collecting gently used rosaries to clean and re-package and send to hospital patients. Please place your donation of used rosaries in the collection basket in the lobby of the Brant Beach Church and we thank you!



Read our bulletin online at
www.stfrancisparishlbj.org



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



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

Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA
Vocation Office vocations@osfphil.org

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

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction



Spiritual Direction is a professional ministry in which a spiritual director accompanies others to grow in intimacy with God as they experience the challenges and joys of life. This sacred ministry assists individuals to notice and savor their experiences of God and to respond to God's abundant love. We now have five certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction in our parish. For an appointment please call:

Maryann Barrek, ofs, (609) 661-4441,

Anne Bock, ofs, (609) 204-3835,

Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,

Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917

Pat Simmons, ofs, (609) 661-1361.

An Invitation to Contemplative Living

This program calls out to those who desire to live more contemplatively in the world, to grow in union with God and others, and to become more aware, intentional and free. God liberates us and heals us through the practice of contemplative prayer. All our meetings, will be on Zoom for both Wednesdays and Saturdays through March then back in person for April through July 2022. Email Kathy Egan for more information at: klegan.chaplain@gmail.com

Next scheduled sessions: **January 5, 10:30 AM via Zoom**
January 8, 9:45 AM via Zoom

Men's Spirituality Group

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

Next scheduled meeting: **December 18, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch**

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Book Club

Now through November 2021 we will meet in person at St. Francis Center in either Room 102 or the Knight Wing Conference Room, (Room 212) on the last Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 PM. Next scheduled meeting: **January 25, Sr. Lunch Room**

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Tuesday, **January 4, 7:00 PM**, St. Thomas Church, Surf City

Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **January 9, 12:30 PM**, Brant Beach Church Hall, Fraternity Meeting.

Scripture Study

Meets **Bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, at 3:00 PM 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 scheduled meeting: **January 5, Sr. Kate Meeting Room**

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, ofs at (609) 494-8813 for more information.

Next scheduled meeting: **January 13, Room 212**

Employment Opportunity



***All full-time positions are offered benefits including Health Care, Paid time off (w/ additional earning for years of service), 15 Paid Holidays, Life Insurance, 403B (retirement plan) with company match, and more.**

*** Part-time positions are offered Paid sick time, Paid Holidays (excluding seasonal/variable employees) and Employee Discounts**

Children's Services - Toddler Room Supervisor

Seeking a person with a warm, nurturing, and friendly personality, be able to relate well with children and families. Bachelor's degree in early childhood education is required and experience working with Toddlers (13 months-2yrs of age) is preferred. First Aid & CPR Certified and Bi-Lingual a plus.

Position: Year-round, Full-time

Pay: \$14.50 per hour ***A recruitment bonus of \$1,000 may be available through state funding- More information will be provided in the interview***

Days: Monday-Friday

Children's Services - Teacher's Assistant (Toddler & Preschool)

Prefer a background in early childhood education and/or experience working with children. Must be 18 or older. First Aid & CPR Certified and Bi-Lingual a plus.

Positions: Year-round, Full-time

Pay: \$13.00 per hour ***A recruitment bonus of \$1,000 may be available through state funding- More information will be provided in the interview***

Days: Monday-Friday

Counseling Services

Positions: Full-time and Part-time Licensed Counselors Full-time and Part-time Bilingual (Fluent English/Spanish) Licensed Counselors

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.

Recreation/Pool

Position: Part-time Lifeguard (possibility for year round hours) Not Red Cross certified yet? We can train you!

For anyone interested in this position who is not a currently a Red Cross certified pool lifeguard, we can get you certified! Employment is for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. If interested please reach out to slamarco@stfrancisbi.org with any questions or for more information.

Days: Monday-Friday, and/or weekend - Flexible schedule

Pay: \$12 per hour (Increasing to \$13 per hour on January 1st)

Bilingual Caseworker

Position: Full Time Employment. **Applicants must be fluent in both English and Spanish.**

Applicants must have strong interpersonal skills, familiar with factors which influence child abuse and neglect, valid driver's license, and a minimum of High School Diploma, preferred Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (BSW) or related field. Case worker will be required to travel throughout Ocean County for home visits and provide transportation to clients.

Days: Monday-Friday

Senior Services

Position: Full time Caseworker (Outreach and Information Assistance Worker)

Days/Hours: 40 hours a week- Monday-Friday

Pay: \$13 per hour

Must have Phone/Communication, Computer & Organization skills Must have valid driver license. Due to COVID-19 restrictions most work is being conducted from the office however normally the position requires home visits with clients.

****Background check and fingerprinting required for all positions.**

Please send resumes to
abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS



Save the Date!

Super "Plunge" Saturday February 12, 2022, 1:00 PM

An alcohol-free event!

Join us for the **18th Annual Ocean Plunge** on Super Bowl Sunday! Are you part Polar Bear? Do you have what it takes to brave the icy cold Atlantic Ocean in February? Save the date and meet us on the 48th Street beach (Brant Beach).

Pre-Registration is required. \$30 per person, \$15 per student. Registration Forms will be available online at [www:stfranciscenterlbi.org](http://www.stfranciscenterlbi.org) and at the Center soon.

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

Classes begin
January 3, 2022

Pickleball

A cross between Ping Pong, Tennis, Racquetball and Badminton. Pickleball is played as a singles or doubles game. Players use oversized ping pong paddles and a whiffle ball. The game is played on a badminton sized court that is divided by a 34 inch high net. Pickleball is a great sport for teens and up including baby boomers and active seniors.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
12:15-3:00 PM



Saturdays
9:30 AM-12:30 PM
in the Gymnasium

\$5 Drop-in or \$30 for a book of 10 passes
Passes available at the Front Desk
of the Community Center

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.

Effective **January 1, 2022** PAAD and Senior Gold limits will increase by **10,000** each.

This increases the income eligibility limits established in the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) program to \$38,769 for single persons and \$45,270 combined income for married couples. Under the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program, income eligibility limits are \$10,000 higher than PAAD income eligibility limits. Therefore, the bill will increase income eligibility limits under the Senior Gold Prescription Discount program to \$48,769 for single persons and \$55,270 combined income for married couples. If you need assistance in filling out an application call Senior Services to schedule an appointment (609) 494-8861.

Are you in need of assistance with Dental, Vision, Pharmaceutical and Physicians co-pay cost? We are here to help! St. Francis Senior Services received a grant from the **Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Mission Fund** to assist low-income seniors in need of dental and vision care and prescription and physician co-pay cost. Please call Linda Falb, Director Senior Service for information.
(609) 494-8868 ext. 111.

Please be advised we can no longer take donations of durable medical equipment or adult undergarments; we do not have the space to store them.

Thank you, Sr. Services

Jersey Cares - Senior Shoppers Program

If you are 60 years or older and in need of food shopping services, you should know that the Ocean County Office of Senior Services and St. Francis Senior Services has partnered with a reputable nonprofit, Jersey Cares, to provide this service.

You can be assured your safety is our top priority and that all volunteers are fully vetted including background checks.

If you are interested in participating in this program please call St. Francis Senior Services at (609) 494-8861 or St. Francis Senior Services Berkeley Office at (732) 244-9600.

Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

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

Walk-ins are welcome!

Everyone who enters the building will have their temperature taken & will be asked to wear a mask.

*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:

Cereal, Canned Soup, Rice Side Packets, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Vegetables such as Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Carrots, Detergent, Soap, Personal Products, 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

Did You Know??

In addition to assisting families with food, the St. Francis Human Concerns Program also holds three special projects on an annual basis; Back to School, Thanksgiving, and Gift of Warmth. This year our projects served 95 families reaching 184 children for the Back to School project, 220 families reaching 556 adults and 310 children for the Thanksgiving Project, and 200 families reaching 485 children for the Gift of Warmth Project.

The Human Concerns Department would like to thank all of our Staff and Volunteers who make these projects possible. We would also like to thank our generous community members who have donated to each of our projects this year.

Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

Services are currently being offered via telephone or various online platforms. We have openings for new clients at this time. Please call (609) 494-1554.

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.grownkids.gov.

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Community Bulletin Board

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