

THE BRIDGE



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

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

First Sunday of Lent



In His Mercy

Loving Father,
you sent a rainbow
as a sign of your mercy
and of our relationship with you.
Soften our hardened hearts.
May the mercy that we show others

be a sign that through the waters of baptism
you live in us and that we are your
adopted children.
May our Lenten prayer and sacrifice
fortify us to continue your mission on earth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Abundant Mercy

Today's readings: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15. "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every little creature." With these words, God shows his love as he promises anew to be in relationship with creation. In the reading from the First Letter of Peter, we hear that God saved the eight who were aboard the ark through the waters of the flood and now saves us through the waters of baptism. God, whose love brought us into being, seeks relationship and communion with us. To reconcile us with him, he sent his Son, who prepared for his mission by fasting for forty days in the desert.

During the forty days of Lent, many of us give in to temptation and find ourselves repenting time and again. Knowing that God is merciful and understands our shortcomings, we can always resolve to begin anew. God yearns for relationship with us and does not give up on us.

As one of your Lenten practices, you may have chosen to read the day's Scriptures attentively. Try to approach the readings with fresh eyes willing to allow the text to relate to your life today. Familiar texts can speak to us in the new circumstances, challenges, joys, and sorrows of our lives. All we need is an openness to the Word. God's Word is always relevant.

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, February 17	(L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Margaret "Maggie" Onorato +George Hovan +Michael Hedrich	Is. 58:9b-14; Lk. 5:27-32 Dt. 26:4-10; Rom. 10:8-13; Lk. 4:1-13	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm.
Sunday, February 18	8:30 AM +Donna Weiss +Matilda Stein 10:00 AM +Edward W. Shanley +Carol & Helen Filipovsky +Theresa Kron 11:30 AM +Carole Morton +Norman "Skip" Butler	Dt. 26:4-10; Rom. 10:8-13; Lk. 4:1-13	Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb
Monday, February 19	9:00 AM +James & Helen Lamb	Lv. 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt. 25:31-46	Parish and Center is CLOSED
Tuesday, February 20	9:00 AM +Josephine Maida +Emile Richard	Is. 55:10-11; Mt. 6:7-15	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Adult Faith Enrichment, Rm. 212 7:00 PM Men's Planning Meeting, Surf City
Wednesday, February 21	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers +Phyllis Gordon +Ronald Fuydal	Jon. 3:1-10; Lk. 11:29-32	10:00 AM Scripture Study, Room 102 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, February 22	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers	1 Pt. 5:1-4; Mt. 16:13-19	
Friday, February 23	9:00 AM +Dolores Pottichen +Marie Sulkowski	Ez. 18:21-28; Mt. 5:20-26	11:00 AM OA, Room 102 Soup 6:00 PM, 7:00 PM Stations Live-Streaming 7:00 PM Stations www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb
Saturday, February 24	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Harry Carline +George Sansverie	Dt. 26:16-19; Mt. 5:43-48 Gn. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom. 8:31b-34; Mk. 9:2-10	
Sunday, February 25	8:30 AM +Michael & Geraldine Apruzzese +Michael Loscaizo 10:00 AM +John Callanan +Anne Dobbs 11:30 AM +Dorothy Russell	Gn. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom. 8:31b-34; Mk. 9:2-10	Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb

Mass Schedule


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/stfrancisparishlb

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**



The St. Francis Parish and Center
will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, February 19th
in observance of
Presidents Day.

Read our bulletin online at
www.stfrancisparishlb.org

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

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

Emergency Information

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

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.

Celiac Disease and Holy Eucharist



If you have Celiac disease and wish to receive Holy Eucharist, we now have low gluten hosts in all the churches. Please bring your own pyx [*host container*] to mass. If you forget your pyx, please tell the priest. We have some extras in the safe.

Please see the priest before mass and he will provide you with a low gluten host. Complete directions are posted in the vesting sacristy.

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, Comptroller	

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

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 is a Franciscan Faith Community of *Our Lady of Guadalupe* in the Diocese of Trenton. Find out more about *Our Lady of Guadalupe* online at: <https://friars.us>

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$22,000

This Week's Second Collection:

Black & Native American Missions

This diocesan mandated collection helps us to live in solidarity with African & Native American Catholics throughout the United States. Thank you for your support.



Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$19,660

Needed: \$22,000

Last Week's Second Collection:

Friars & Sister Stipends

Collected: \$6,007

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



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



CELEBRATING MARRIAGE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

World Marriage Day- February 11th

**Celebrating the Beauty of
Catholic Marriage
from *The Catechism***

Read more: www.usccb.org

1643 "Conjugal love involves a totality, in which all the elements of the person enter - appeal of the body and instinct, power of feeling and affectivity, aspiration of the spirit and of will. It aims at a deeply personal unity, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh, leads to forming one heart and soul; it demands indissolubility and faithfulness in definitive mutual giving; and it is open to fertility.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church)



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).

Gathering: Tuesday, **February 20** at 7 pm
The Mass as a Sacrifice ... Sacrificial Love

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

Lenten Regulations

- Ash Wednesday is **February 14th** and Good Friday is **March 29th**
- Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal one full meal.
- Everyone 14 years or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, All the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday
- When health or the ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not apply.
- The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence "substantially" or as a whole is a serious obligation.



Soup and Stations of the Cross

*Come to Me, All of You-
Stations of the Cross in the Voice of Christ*
By: Amy Ekeh

*Join us for fellowship and a simple soup dinner
and then journey with Jesus to Calvary as we pray the
Stations of the Cross.*

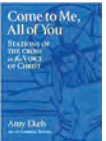
*Each week we will reflect on 2-3 stations until
we complete the journey.*

Friday: February 23, March: 1, 8 & 15

SOUP: 6:00 PM

STATIONS: 7:00 PM

Soup: Donations of a hot crock pot soup are welcome and appreciated. Please bring your crock pot to the church hall each Friday between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM.



Pray- Fast- Give

*Please consider bringing a donation for the
St. Francis Food Pantry*

February 23: Deter gent

March 1: Diapers

March 8: Oatmeal

March 15: Coffee

Gospel Inspirations:

*"This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent and believe in the gospel."*



Now is the time to turn toward God, guided by the gospel, and away from all that keeps us from a closer relationship with God.

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction

- 1: Are you interested in a deeper relationship with God?
- 2: Do you experience a desire to pray always?
- 3: Are you searching for a better understanding of the actions of God's grace in your life?

Our parish has three certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction. If you think this might be a way for you to recognize God's actions in your daily life please call:

Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651
Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917
Fr. Andrew Reitz, ofm, (609) 494-8813
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, **March 6**, 10:30 AM, Zoom
Saturday, **March 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, **February 17**, 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, **March 13**, 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. *Love of My Life*.

Next meeting: Monday, **February 26**, 1:30 PM, Room 212

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Next meeting: Tuesday, **February 20**, 7:00 PM, Surf City Church Hall.

Overeaters Anonymous OA

Friday mornings from 11:00 am - noon. Join us for our 3-fold recovery: Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Call Joan T. at (609) 978-2805 or (732) 261-0173 for more information.

Next meeting: Friday, **February 23**, Room 102, Parish Center.

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, **February 21**, 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, ofm at (609) 494-8813 for more info.

Next meeting: Thursday, **March 14**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

Family Faith

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

jclayton@stfrancislbj.org

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



The Family Faith program is based on the Four Pillars of the catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy, Life in Christ, Prayer. Family Faith classes invite the families to think about their Faith, celebrate their Faith, practice and pray the Faith.

During the remaining months of the program, the families will discuss the Mass, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the Sacraments. Remaining classes Dates – Grades 1 through 7

March 19-20, April 9-10, May 1 – all classes attend – May Crowning

Confirmation Sessions:

February 20, February 27 and March 2

Family Faith classes feature opportunities for parent as the primary teachers of their children to share the faith journey: Catholic prayers and devotions, bibles study, social teachings are included

We are fortunate to have special catechists who work with families of children with special needs. Each child's program is specifically designed for them.

Some important dates to remember are:

The sacrament of **First Reconciliation** will be celebrated on **April 8**.

Twenty of our youth parishioners will be **Confirmed** on **April 12**.

Forty of our children will receive their **First Eucharist** on **May 4**.

"Families hear the voice of the Father, see the face of Christ and live in the house of the Church with the Holy Spirit. It gives them a map of life for this earth and the goal of eternal life hereafter."

Rev. Alfred McBride O Praem



ST. FRANCIS
**Liturgy &
Music**

JOIN THE SAINT FRANCIS YOUTH CHOIR!

Rehearsals are Thursdays at 5:30 PM

Learn about our faith through music. No audition required.

Contact: mbeck@stfrancislbj.org

or call 609-494-8813 ext. 159

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER NEWS

Eucharistic Minister sign-up sheets were emailed on Monday, February 12th and are also available outside of the Brant Beach Sacristy.

Sign-ups are due back by February 25th

Please return your sign-up sheets via email or place in the black "drop box" outside of the Brant Beach Sacristy.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER?

Please contact us at em@stfrancislbj.org and we will connect you with an EM Coordinator who can answer your questions and set up training.



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.

1 Day Retreat

Morning Talk: *"The Lost Art of Listening - A Key to Gospel Living"*

Afternoon Talk: *"Evangelizing as Francis(can)"*

Saturday, March 2

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM (Mass at 4:00 PM)

Maris Stella, Harvey Cedars, NJ

Fr. Russell Becker, OFM, Presenter

Donation: \$25

9:30 AM Coffee and Light Morning Refreshments

10:00 AM Program Begins, Bring a Brown Bag Lunch

Space is limited.

To register call: **201-647-3535**

or email: JuneFinn223@aol.com

Please make checks payable to:

June Finn, 223 N. 10th St., Surf City, NJ 08008

All are welcome

(Sponsored by Friends of Francis and Clare)

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) 275-6593
 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.

Now is the time to register for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. You will enjoy the beauty and history of such cities as Prague, BudaPest, Vienna, Linz and more while cruising down the Danube River on a very comfortable river boat." For more information or a registration form, email

At a crossroad? Looking for direction?



Men's Cornerstone Retreat /

Friday, **March 8, 2024** and Saturday **March 9, 2024**

Brochures available at Church entrances

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, nursing homes, etc. Please place your donation of used Rosaries in the collection basket in the lobby of the Brant Beach Church. Thank you!

"Dinner with Friends"

We are inviting all widows and widowers to join us at our monthly "Dinner with Friends" gathering for conversations, an informal dinner, and a healthy serving of laughter on Tuesday, **February 27** at 5:15pm in the Brant Beach Church Hall. The entrance to the hall is at the northern end of the church/hall building.

If you need a ride to/from the gathering, please call Angela Ominski at 609-618-9974 This month's dinner is "bring your own". Hope you can join us!

Peace and all good, Angela, Kathleen & JoAnne



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you know someone who is undergoing a medical procedure, experiencing a great loss, overwhelming stress, journeying their final days on earth, or going through a time of bereavement?

People who are experiencing these hard times can find it a difficult time to pray. One gift one can give is a blessed prayer shawl made by our Prayer Shawl ministers. If you would like one, please contact Fr. Scott at the parish office, **609-494-8813 ext. 152.**

Employment Opportunity

St. Francis Parish and Center 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

Position: *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:** \$15.13 beginning Jan 1st

Recreation/Pool (Year round)

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:** \$16 starting Jan 1st

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.

Position: *Bilingual Parent Educator- Parents as Teachers Program* Applicants must be fluent in both English and Spanish. Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Education, Psychology, or related field is preferred. Prefer applicants who have experience working with children (0-5 years), knowledge of child development and parent-child relationships; non-judgmental and empathetic, knowledge about community resources, ability to establish boundaries while providing supportive services, and maintain confidentiality. Parent Educator will be required to travel throughout southern Ocean County for home visits and must have valid driver's license and reliable transportation. **Days:** Monday-Friday- 40 hours.

***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.*

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

**We are a qualified employer for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness*

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Sweetest Crime/Murder Mystery

Saturday, February 17, 2:00 - 7:00 PM

St. Thomas of Villanova in Surf City Church Hall

General Admission tickets are \$36 & Group Rates are available. BYOB Tickets can be purchased online: [Buy tickets - The Sweetest Crime: A Chocolate Covered Murder Mystery - St. Thomas of Villanova, Multiple dates and times \(tickettailor.com\)](#)

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 20, 1:00 - 6:00 PM

Church Hall

Registration is currently online at redcrossblood.org

Annual Fish Fry Dinner

Friday, March 22, 4:30 - 7:00 PM

St. Francis Community Center Gym.

Thistle of Kearny is back for another delicious Fish and Chip Dinner. Includes: dinner, beverage and dessert. Dine-in or take-out available. Take-out dinners are available starting at 4:30 PM and seating for dinner starts at 5 PM. Tickets are on sale at the Center's front desk and a limited amount of tickets will be available the day of the event. There will be a 50/50 drawing.

If you have any questions about any of the upcoming events or are interested in attending or volunteering, please contact Michelle DiBella at ext. 107 mdibella@stfrancisbi.org.

Did You Know??

Did you know that the Community Center's Public Relations Department continues to grow and expand their reach? We are continuously partnering with new and local businesses to grow and foster healthy community relationships. Last year, we worked with the Long Beach Island Chamber of Commerce to host 2 job fairs and then with the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce to host their monthly Women in Business meeting. As for spring 2024, we have been featured as a guest on the Southern Ocean County Chamber Podcast which is set to air Monday, **February 5th** and connected with the LBI Chamber to bring you another Job Fair in April. Lastly, be sure to come visit us at Barnegat Middle School for their 3rd annual Color Run. It's events like this that allow The Community Center to expand its reach and continuously connect with new groups and we hope to connect with you soon! As always be sure to follow us on our social media pages (St. Francis Community Center) and register for RainedOut to be in the know for all the latest Center happenings and closings.

Scan QR to register for RainedOut



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***

We are in need of Personal Care Donations for the Food Pantry:

- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Soap/shower gel
- Feminine items
- Laundry detergent
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper

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*

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.



Educational & Career Services

For information call 732-281-8653

Introducing the 23-24 FY Senior Employment Assistance Program (SEA) for Ocean County residents ages 55 & up. Whether impacted by COVID-19 or seeking to enhance skills for reentry into the workforce, the SEA Program breaks down age-related barriers. Our mission is to empower seniors by creating an inclusive environment, redefining the narrative around senior employment. We provide tailored support, skill development, and personalized career guidance, fostering a community that values the expertise seniors bring. Services include soft/hard skills assistance, on-the-job training, resume building, tech & career training, community resource linkages, and counseling. Join us in shaping a future where age is a source of strength and unmatched value.

Recreation & Aquatics

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

Session I **Aquatics**

Water Tots (ages 10 months - 36 months)

Water Tykes (ages 3 year old)

Little Dippers (ages 4 year old)

Little Paddlers 1 (ages 5 & up)

Little Paddlers 2 (ages 5 & up)

Little Sharks (ages 8 & up)

Competitive Swim Fish (ages 8 & up)

Spring Swim Clinic (ages 5 - 11) (ages 12 & up)

Aquatic Zumba Aerobics

Aqua Zumba/Arthritis Aquatic Exercise

Aquatic Aerobics

Aqua Boot Camp

Lifeguard Training - Hybrid Class

Recreation

Basic Boating Safety Courses-NJ Certified (ages 13 & up)

All Level Yoga

Tot & Tyke Basketball Clinic (ages 4 & 5) (ages 6 & 7)

Tot & Tyke Tuesday Basketball (ages 4 & 5) (ages 6 & 7)

Spring Basketball Clinic (ages 8 - 13)

Please Call for Class Availability

Brochure can be found online at: stfranciscenterlbi.org

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.

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

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<http://www.grownjkids.gov>

www.families.naeyc.org

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.

Community Bulletin Board

Coastal Volunteers in Medicine

730 Lacey Rd., Suite G-6, Forked River, NJ 08731

Coastal VIM provides FREE, routine, non-emergent primary healthcare to those who qualify. Services are provided through licensed volunteer clinicians and support staff following a "Culture of Caring" model.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Have no health insurance
2. Live in Ocean County
3. Contact us for family income limits 730 Lacey Road, Suite G6, Forked River, NJ 08731 (609) 384-0102

coastalvim.org

Appointments are required

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 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.

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

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