

THE BRIDGE



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

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

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



Beacon of Light

Lord God,
you who conquered the darkness of evil,
also vanquish the fear in our hearts.
We rejoice that your resurrection,
frees us from the slavery of sin
and leads us to eternal life.
Grant that we may follow the path
that your light shines for us
and share with others
the love that you have given us.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 31, 2024
He Has Risen!



Today's readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9. The Lord has risen! Alleluia! Our rejoicing at Easter Time acknowledges that Christ's light has conquered darkness. Jesus came to do God's will; he paid the ultimate price, and now we proclaim with joy his resurrection. Our Lord prepared his disciples for his death and resurrection, telling them, "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me" (John 16:16). Jesus' rising from the dead should have come as no surprise to the disciples, yet they were surprised. As today's Gospel proclaims, "They did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead." Even though we understand, we

still need to be open to seeing with the eyes of our hearts so that we can embrace the resurrected Christ. After the forty days of penitence of Lent, we celebrate the light defeating the darkness for fifty days. During Easter Time, we are invited to meditate on how our actions allow us to be light for others. How do you aid others to dispel the darkness surrounding them? Do you carry the message that Jesus is alive? Are you willing to shout it? When we share the light of Christ that permeates our lives, we show appreciation for the faith that we have been given. Through Jesus Christ, God has fulfilled his promise and given us eternal life. Let us not be afraid to rejoice in the new life we have been given.

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, March 30	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> Easter Sunday Vigil 7:30 PM +Eugene & Lucille D'Amico +David & Kathleen Barndt +Vincent Ryan	Gen. 1:1-2:2; Ex. 14:15-15:1; Ez. 36:16-17a,18-28; Rom. 6:3-11; Mk. 16:1-7	<i>Live-Streaming 7:30 PM Service</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb Center is CLOSED
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 8:30 AM +Richard Cortellino +Thomas Ackers 10:00 AM +Anne Armstrong, ofs +Thomas Foley +Ann McNeill 11:30 AM +Rosa & John Primerano +Brannon S. Appicifuoco +James M. Kempiski	Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4; Jn. 20:1-9	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish Center is CLOSED
Monday, April 1	9:00 AM +Frank Esposito +Michael McGurkin +James M. Kempiski	Acts 2:14, 22-23; Mt. 28:8-15	Parish and Center is CLOSED
Tuesday, April 2	9:00 AM +Margaret DiPasquale +Bill Leonard	Acts 2:36-41; Jn. 20:11-18	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, April 3	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers +John McKeon (L)Colleen McHale	Acts 3:1-10; Lk. 24:13-25	10:30 AM Contemplative Living, Zoom 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, April 4	9:00 AM +Irma Brady +Betty Ann Goodwin +Rita Neyer	Acts 3:11-26; Lk. 24:35-48	
Friday, April 5	9:00 AM +Eugene D'Amico +Helen Semegan	Acts 4:1-12; Jn. 21:1-14	11:00 AM OA, Room 102
Saturday, April 6	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM Divine Mercy Sunday +Alfred Amoroso +Michael Rooney +Donald Carey +John Bulman	Acts 4:13-21; Mk. 16:9-15 Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn. 5:1-6; Jn. 20:19-31	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, April 7	Divine Mercy Sunday 8:30 AM +Barbara Lally +John Jupin +Christopher Little 10:00 AM +Patricia Gentile +John Callanan +Bob & Joanne Curry (L)Thomas Eileen McGinn +Christopher Higgins 11:30 AM +James M. Kempiski +Norman "Skip" Butler +Carol DeCarlo 5:00 PM Mass for Survivors of Suicide	Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn. 5:1-6; Jn. 20:19-31	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish 12:30 PM Order of Franciscan Secular, Church Hall

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.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church 2 ND & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven	
DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
	(L) Living +Deceased
Sunday, March 31	<i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i> 10:00 AM +People of the Parish

 **Easter Sunday, March 31st**
6:30 AM
SUNRISE SERVICE on the Third Street Beach in Beach Haven

Mass Intentions: +Robert Graiff
+Keith Pinto
+Bert Minnella


In case of inclement weather, sunrise service will be moved indoors to St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Beach Haven

St. Thomas of Villanova Church 13th & Long Beach Blvd., Surf City	
DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
	(L) Living +Deceased
Sunday, March 31	<i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i> 8:30 AM +John H. Klose 10:00 AM +Irma Brady (L)Thomas & Eileen McGinn

The St. Francis Parish and Center
will be **CLOSED** on

Friday, March 29
Saturday, March 30
Sunday, March 31
Monday, April 1



 ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PARISH AND CENTER

Thank You!

THE PASCHAL CANDLE HAS BEEN
GENEROUSLY DONATED BY

JOE AND LORRI D'ORSI
IN MEMORY OF THE
D'Orsi and Caynor Families

...

A Letter From The Pastor... 



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM, Pastor

Letter from the Pastor
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024

Happy Easter!

Christmas may be the most wonderful time of the year but Easter is truly the most glorious time of the year. After the dark dreary and very rainy days of winter it is glorious to see the daffodils, forsythia, and even some trees in bloom. That cycle of life continues. Life prevails.

On Palm Sunday night, Fr. John shared with me and Fr. Andrew a thought that moved him during the Mass last Sunday in the Surf City Church. He knew many people were involved to make the preparations for the Mass. The Martha Ministry cleaned the church. The decorating team prepared the space with reed and palms. Our Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers stepped up to make sure that we had enough people to serve all of our liturgies and the rehearsals that took place so we could appropriately begin Holy Week. He then began to think of all the churches in our country and in our world that did the same. It is over whelming when you think about it but we all do it because we all know that this celebration is what we are all about. The glory of God is revealed. The cycle of life continues and life always prevails.

On behalf of the friars, Sr. Pat, and the entire Pastoral Staff, we wish you a very *Happy and Blessed Easter.*

Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor

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.

Join us at St. Francis Parish for
HOLY WEEK

MARCH 23/24
PALM SUNDAY
 BRANT BEACH CHURCH: 5:00 PM SATURDAY
 8:30 AM, *10:00 AM, 11:30 AM
 SURF CITY CHURCH: 10:00 AM SUNDAY

MARCH 28 - SUPPER OF THE LORD
HOLY THURSDAY
 MASS *7:30 PM
 ADORATION AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE UNTIL 10:00PM

MARCH 29
GOOD FRIDAY
 STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 12:00 PM
 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: *3:00 PM

MARCH 30
EASTER VIGIL
 MASS *7:30 PM

MARCH 31
EASTER SUNDAY
 BRANT BEACH CHURCH: 8:30 AM, *10:00 AM 11:30 AM
 SURF CITY CHURCH: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM
 BEACH HAVEN CHURCH: 10:00 AM

EASTER SUNRISE MASS
 3RD STREET IN BEACH HAVEN
 AT 6:30 AM

*LIVESTREAM

Easter
FLOWER
Fund 2024




Scan QR code

Gospel Inspirations:

"he saw and believed."

The tomb is empty. For the disciples that morning sorrow turns to confusion and then to joy.

May we celebrate Jesus every day, being witnesses to His conquering death and trusting in the promise of life everlasting through Him. Alleluia!



The JOY of Sharing the Gospel
 Stewardship Program
 Time - **TALENT** - Treasure

Join the ministry life here at St. Francis Parish. There is a place for everyone! Visit our Stewardship **TALENT** Ministry page on the Parish website



www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/ministries

Or Grab a Ministry Brochure at the doors of the church

FEATURED MINISTRY

ALTAR SERVER

Altar servers are trained to assist the priest during Masses and special liturgies so that they can be celebrated with grace and reverence. The program nurtures young parishioners' spiritual engagement and self-confidence.



If you are interested in joining this ministry contact us at Ministries@stfrancisparishlbi.org or call 609-494-8813 ext. 159

Mass Schedule CHANGE –
 Weekend, April 6/7 through April 27/28, 2024

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

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

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
Amy Marks, Director, Parish Operations
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence)
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

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)



Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$75,300

This Week's Second Collection:

St. Francis Parish Ministries - Music

Our Sunday celebration is at the heart of our life as a community of believers. One of the aspects of our Liturgy at St. Francis is the outstanding music program. In addition to coordinating quality music for all our Masses (19 in the summer) with good cantors & keyboard musicians, Michele Beck, our Music Coordinator, leads 3 inspirational choirs; the Adult, Teen/College & Children's Choirs. Thank you for your support of this very important part of our parish life.



Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$21,025

Needed: \$20,500

Last Week's Second Collection:

Friars and Sisters Vehicle Maintenance & Fuel

Collected: \$5,794

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

** Thank you for your generosity! **



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Online Giving!

stfrancisparishlbi.org/donate

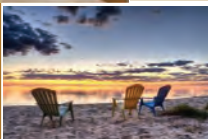
ANNUAL
CATHOLIC
Appeal 2024

Goal: \$85,000
Pledged: \$12,693.00 (15% of Goal)
Paid: \$11,088.00 (13% of Goal)
Total Donors: 87
Total Gifts: 93
Average Gift: \$136.48

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:

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, **April 3**, 10:30 AM, Zoom
Saturday, **April 13**, 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, **March 16**, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.

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!



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

For the most up to date listing of employment opportunities for St Francis Parish and Community Center please visit: The Community Center website
www.stfranciscenterlbi.org/employment-opportunities

The Parish website <https://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/careers>
Indeed.com <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/St.-Francis-Parish-and-Center-1/jobs> or you can go to the Community Center front desk to fill out an application.

Questions regarding employment opportunities? Please contact Amy Bodine at abodine@stfrancislbi.org

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, **April 17**, 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. *The Sun Does Shine*, by Anthony Hinton.

Next meeting: Tuesday, **April 30**, 1:30 PM, Room 212

Order of the Franciscans Secular offs

Will meet the First Sunday of every month, March thru June, 12:30 PM, New members welcome!

Next meeting: Sunday, **April 7**, 12:30 PM, 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, **March 22**, 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, **April 10**, Room 102, Parish Center.

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, **April 11**, 7:00 PM, Room 212



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.**

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 state-rooms 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.

Danube River Cruise reservations still available. Cut off date is **May 1**. Make your reservations NOW before all the spaces are taken. Brochures and reservation form available at Parish Office.

SAVE THE DATE

2ND ANNUAL
GOLF
 - OUTING -

6 MAY **20** 24

SCAN ME



REGISTER NOW

SEEK THE QR CODE OR GO TO EVENTS.GOLFSTATES.COM

LEI NATIONAL GOLF COURSE

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH 9:30 - 3PM



SUMMER SOLSTICE CRAFT SHOW

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER
 4700 LBI BLVD. BRANT BEACH NJ • \$2 ADMISSION

SPECIAL EVENTS

Job Fair
Saturday, April 6

Family Health & Safety Fair
Thursday, April 25, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 St. Francis Community Center Gym

Free Continental breakfast and many free health screenings are offered! Please call Senior Services for a list of screenings.

Sponsored by: *St. Francis Community Center,
 Long Beach Island Health
 Department and Hackensack Meridian Health Southern
 Ocean Medical Center*

Volunteer Breakfast Celebration
Thursday, April 25, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
 Sr. Lunch Room

This breakfast celebrates all the volunteers that contribute so much to St. Francis Parish and Community Center throughout the year. Come and meet your fellow volunteers and enjoy a delicious breakfast.

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.

Save the Date



The Annual Garden Party by the Sea
A Fashion Show

Bonnet Island Estate
June 11, 2024
2:00pm - 4:30pm

TICKETS GO ON SALE AT THE FRONT DESK
 MAY 1, 2024
 TICKET PRICE - \$60

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN
 FOOD FASHION PRIZES

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**

Poetry as a Tool for Wellness



Join us for this **free poetry wellness group!** With a focus on connection and process rather than product or craft, this group is for everyone. From seasoned poets to those yet to discover their inherent poetic voice. Sharing is always optional, and curious observers are always welcome.

Gatherings will take place monthly at St. Francis Community Center and will be available in a hybrid format for online participants.

Email kkrason@stfrancislbi.org for more information or to register. Space is limited.

Tuesdays 12:00-1:30pm

- March 26 - Poetry as a Tool for Wellness
- April 23 - Listening to Self and Others
- May 28 - Understanding Self-Compassion, and Showing Empathy
- June 25 - Making It Real with Healthy Choices
- July 23 - Overcoming Obstacles, Generating Forgiveness
- August 27 - Riding the Wave of Change: Creating Hope and Transformation
- September 24 - Practicing Self-Care
- October 22 - Moment-to-Moment: Being in Gratitude

Join one or all!



Katie Krason

Katie Krason is part of the Family Support team at St. Francis Community Center. She holds a masters in Counseling Psychology, certificate in Trauma Informed Care, and is a member of both the National Association of Poetry Therapy and the Institute for Poetry Medicine. She is a frequent presenter of the Poetry as a Tool for Wellness curriculum as well as "Healing Poetry - Working with Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse".

4700 Long Beach Blvd., LBI, NJ 08008
609-494-3252

Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

St Francis Counseling Service is now offering services for perinatal mood and anxiety disorder! Free and confidential services are available to Ocean county residents with children under the age of three who have experienced trauma and have postpartum symptoms. The goal of the program is to provide counseling for parents in the perinatal period, addressing new parenthood struggles, perinatal mood and anxiety disorder, infertility, miscarriage, stillbirth, sudden infant death syndrome, and trauma. Both individual and group counseling will be offered. Call 609-494-1554 for more information!

Did You Know??

Did you know that April is **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**? Every day, hundreds of Americans are affected by sexual violence. Every 68 seconds, an individual in America is sexually assaulted, and every 9 minutes, one of those individuals are a child. One of our goals at **St Francis Counseling** is to continue raising awareness surrounding sexual violence, and to continue breaking down the biases/stigmas that survivors so often experience. If you or anyone you know is struggling with experiences of sexual violence, St Francis Counseling is here to support you. You can contact our counseling service at 609-494-1554, on Mondays and Fridays from 9am-5pm, and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 9pm. Our 24-hour Confidential Sexual Violence hotline is also available by contacting 609-494-1090.


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.



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

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

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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 II:
Registration**
Tuesday, April 9th at 9:00am

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.

Community Bulletin Board

St. Michael the Archangel Pregnancy Help Center
P.O. Box 2127, Long Beach Township, NJ 08008

**St. Michael the Archangel Pregnancy Help Center
Fundraiser Dinner**



Thursday, **April 11, 2024**, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
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Deacon Robert Cunningham, Deacon, St. Francis, LBI
Rachel Hendricks, Coordinator, Respect Life Ministries, Diocese of Trenton

Tickets:

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Or you can Venmo: @Robert-Cunningham-73

Or mail your check payable to: St. Michael Help Center PO Box 2127 Long Beach Township, NJ 08008

If you have any questions on purchasing tickets, please email info@stmichaelhelp.org

Website: stmichaelhelp.org.

To volunteer, or for further information, please contact Deacon Robert Cunningham at 609-709-9549, email: rcunningham@stfrancislbi.org

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