

THE BRIDGE



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

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Our Shepherd

God the Father,
you are our shepherd,
who offer us green pastures,
and life-giving water.
Through love and kindness,
you lead your flock
to a restful place.
With your tender touch,
you cast away our fears.
There is nothing we want
but to remain by your side.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Sunday, April 21, 2024
The Good Shepherd

Today's readings: Acts 4:8–12; Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28, 29; 1 John 3:1–2; John 10:11–18. When you see the Good Shepherd depicted in art, do you see yourself as the lamb? Do you see yourself as one to be protected, guided, and comforted? Or do you think the lamb reflects only a child? Imagining yourself as the lamb will provide insight into who God is for you. “I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine, and mine know me,” Jesus says. This portrayal reveals the intimacy of our relationship with God. God knows us and has given us the capacity to know him.

The shepherd is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. The Good Shepherd has already done this for us, dying on the cross

so that we may have eternal life. A hired hand, however, does not have this connection to the sheep; he would not sacrifice his life for the flock. This man “sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away.”

Our Shepherd is with us—in our loneliness and sorrow as well as in our joy. Spend a few minutes in quiet, imagining yourself with the Good Shepherd in a green pasture. Let him hear not only your voice but your deepest desires. Seek to expand your quiet prayer time this week so that you might hear the Good Shepherd’s voice. Remember your relationship with the Good Shepherd grows as you make space for him in your life.

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, April 20	(L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM Good Shepherd Sunday/ World Day of Prayer for Vocations +Dolores & Edward Pottichen +Patricia Bradley (L)Joanne Reeder	Acts 9:31-42; Jn. 6:60-69 Acts 4:8-12:1; Jn. 3:1-2; Jn. 10:11-18	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm.
Sunday, April 21	Good Shepherd Sunday/ World Day of Prayer for Vocations 8:30 AM +Kathleen M. Rossuck +Norman "Skip" Butler +Sheila Meehan, <i>ofs</i> 10:00 AM +Jeanette Herrman +John Callanan +Christine Oswald +Thomas & Edna Lynch (L)Kevin, Marianne & Theresa Byrne 11:30 AM +Martha Stein +Jason W. Krochalis +Norman Butler	Acts 4:8-12:1; Jn. 3:1-2; Jn. 10:11-18	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish
Monday, April 22	9:00 AM +Arthur Zaleski	Acts 11:1-18; Jn. 10:1-10	
Tuesday, April 23	9:00 AM +Louis F. Purul +William Ernst, Jr.	Acts 11:19-26; Jn. 19:22-30	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena Novena
Wednesday, April 24	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers +Noreen & Jim Sullivan	Acts 12:24-14:5a; Jn. 12:44-40	10:00 AM Scripture Study, Room 102 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, April 25	9:00 AM +Matilda Stein	1 Pt. 5:5b-14; Mk. 16:15-20	
Friday, April 26	9:00 AM +Albert B. Virili	Acts 13:26-33; Jn. 14:1-6	11:00 AM OA, Room 102
Saturday, April 27	9:00 AM +Donna Weiss 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Fran Jennette +Patrick Harrington +Kyle Buchta	Acts 13:44-52; Jn. 14:7-14 Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn. 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8	
Sunday, April 28	8:30 AM +Thomas Ackers +Jean & Anthony Giordano 10:00 AM +Joan Piromalli +John Callanan +Matilda Stein +Dolores Glander +Thomas & Edna Lynch 11:30 AM +Ruth Myhre +Amy Gill +Norman "Skip" Butler	Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn. 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish

Read our bulletin online at
www.stfrancisparishlbi.org



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



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

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

Emergency Information

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

Parish Information - (609) 494-8861

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) 494-8861 ext. 154 or 155.

Family Faith: For children in grades one through eight. Please call Judith Clayton at (609) 494-8861 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) 494-8861,
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)
Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8861 ext. 153

Parish Finance Council

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

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

St. Francis Center

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

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Update and Mass Cards

In my letter on April 7th, I promised to give you an update on the structural issues in St. Francis Church after the Facilities Committee met.

The committee discussed the issues as presented to us by KSI Professional Engineers. Again, the preliminary report told us that the beam under the doors between the lobby of the church and the nave is “compromised” and they suggested that we err on the side of caution and close off the balcony as well as the last three pews. There is a similar issue with the beam under the back end of the church hall. They indicated that the risk of anything happening is minimal. They did offer us a “temporary fix” if we needed to use the balcony and pews immediately. Since the final report is due to us within the week, the committee thought it best to review the entire scope of the report in order to create a plan that will address the issue with the beams as well as any other issues that may also need to be addressed.

Thank you for your patience, especially to those who enjoy the balcony and the last few rows of the church. It is my hope that the repairs to the beams will be completed before Memorial Day Weekend. We shall see...

I also have an announcement for you! Since Amazon has revolutionized how we shop we thought that we would bring a bit of that convenience to those who would like a Mass Card.

We can talk to a friend on the other side of the world, buy our groceries, and listen to our favorite music [all at the same time, if you are so inclined] on what we call a “phone.” Very soon we will be able to use our “phone” or computer to request a Mass intention at St. Francis Parish as well. We realize that not everyone is able to come to the parish office during the regular work week so we thought we could make requesting a prayer intention a bit more accessible.

We are working out the final details to make sure the process is as smooth as possible, but it should be up and running on our parish website very shortly. Look for the announcement in an upcoming bulletin. Of course, we welcome you to continue to come to the parish office to pick up a Mass Card. It's always good to see a real person. If online access, however, is more helpful for you, that option will be available soon.

A continued Easter Blessing on you and your families.

Peace and All Good.

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM Pastor

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$23,900

This Week's Second Collection:

Parish Ministries – Music

Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$17,568

Needed: \$23,900

Last Week's Second Collection:

Parish Operating Expenses

Collected: \$5,815

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

*** Thank you for your generosity! **



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)



Confirmation April 12, 2024

Candy Mariana Acosta
Nicholas Anthony Banos
Katherine Katharine Cassidy
Amelia Margaret Cefalo
Olivia Mary Cerami
Connor Thomas Cleary
Erin Elizabeth Craig
Robert Michael Crandall
Sabrina Mary English
Taylor Theresa Garabedian
Gianna Teresa Ilaria
Edmond Joseph Kawash
Carla Cecilia Majorossy
Alexandra Cecilia Meehan
Anna Marie Metzger
Carly Rose Posa
Michael James Quinn
Ava Cecilia Sanzari
Owen Timothy Trombly
Connor James Walcott



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

ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2024

Goal: \$85,000

Pledged: \$29,151.00 (34% of Goal)

Paid: \$25,992.00 (31% of Goal)

Total Donors: 154

Total Gifts: 163

Average Gift: \$178.84

Gospel Inspirations:

"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me..."



Accepting the guidance of Jesus brings us into greater intimacy with Him - and that includes accepting our call to be good shepherds who love all in the flock and tend to them lovingly.

How can we best imitate Jesus by loving and embracing the "lost" sheep in our lives?

Mass Schedule 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/stfrancisparishlbj

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**

May Crowning

MAY 1ST AT 5:30 PM

The Month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate Mary as the queen of Heaven and the Mother of us all. Mary is our intercessor who brings our prayers and intentions to her Son, our Lord. We show our love and gratitude for her as we crown her statue with a wreath of flowers and lay flowers before her.

Join us on Wednesday, May 1st at 5:30 pm for the Crowning of Mary. All are welcome.



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 four 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) 494-8861
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, **May 1**, 10:30 AM, Zoom
Saturday, **May 4**, 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, **April 20**, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.

Helping Moms in Need



St. Francis Life Ministry invites you to help moms in our local area who are in need. We have been contacted by Southern Ocean Medical Center and Family Promise with the names of those most in need.

Beginning **April 28th**, baskets will be in the lobbies of the Brant Beach Church and will have cards identifying much-needed baby items to purchase. Once the items are purchased, you can bring them back to the lobby of the church to be collected and distributed on Mother's Day, **May 12th**. We appreciate your generosity in helping with this most worthwhile cause.

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, **May 15**, 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, **May 5**, 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, **April 26**, 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 24**, 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, ofm at (609) 494-8861 for more info.

Next meeting: Thursday, **May 9**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

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.



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, **609-494-8861 ext. 152.**

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 abuse@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.

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) 275-5583
Email: areitz@stfrancislbj.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 15**. Make your reservations NOW before all the spaces are taken. Brochures and reservation form available at Parish Office.

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>

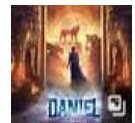
Indeed.com <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/St.-Francis-Parish-and-Center-1/jobs> or you can go to the Community Center front desk to fill out an application.

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

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>

Sight and Sound

October 9, 2024



\$192

Includes: Show, Lunch, Transportation & Driver's Tip

From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, **DANIEL** is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theaters.

Daniel Package Includes:

- Show Ticket
- Smorgasbord Lunch
- Shopping at Shady Maple

Contact Info.: Cheryl Krzaczyk, 609-661-5229
Mary Lou Ligus, 215-850-7809

Bus pick up at Walmart in Manahawkin & St. Francis LBI
St. Francis Parish, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ 08008

SPECIAL EVENTS

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@stfrancislbi.org.

Saint Francis Community Center Second Annual Golf Outing



Monday, **May 6, 2024**

LBI National Golf Course
Little Egg Harbor Twp., NJ

Register Now

Join us for a spectacular day of golf, food & contests as we raise money for St. Francis Community Center. There are lots of prizes, from closest to the pin to longest drives for both men and women. There are four par 3 holes - hit a hole in one and win a \$5,000 cash prize!

Scan Me



Questions? Contact Michelle DiBella at ext. 107 mdibella@stfrancislbi.org



Save the Date



TICKETS GO ON SALE AT THE
FRONT DESK
MAY 1, 2024
TICKET PRICE - \$65



Scan for more info

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN
FOOD FASHION PRIZES

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH 9:30 - 3PM



SUMMER SOLSTICE CRAFT SHOW

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER

4700 LBI BLVD. BRANT BEACH NJ • \$2 ADMISSION

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.



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 Narrative Focused Trauma Care and is a member of both the National Association of Poetry Therapy and the Institute for Poetic Medicine. She is a trained facilitator of the "Poetry as a Tool for Wellness" curriculum as well as "Healing Poetry - Working with Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse."

Tuesdays
12:00-1:30pm

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!

4700 Long Beach Blvd., LBI, NJ 08008
609-494-8861

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.





OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

POWERED BY CONNECTION: MAY 2024



Please Join Us to Learn About...

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

Our Team is Here to Answer Important Questions:



What is advance care planning?

- What is a living Will? A POLST?
- What is Palliative Care?
- Why are these documents important?
- How will they benefit me and my family?

Thursday, May 9th
11:00-12:00PM
The Senior Lounge
Limited Space
Refreshments Served

St. Francis Community Center
4700 Long Beach Blvd
Long Beach Township (LBI)

How do you start the conversation with your loved ones?
We can help
Questions about Event or to RSVP
Call Linda Falb 609-494-8861 or
HMH Palliative Care 732-202-8071

KEEP GETTING BETTER



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.grownkids.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

Did You Know??

St. Francis Preschool is a licensed and dual-certified program, serving children from 13 months to age 5, operating daily from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Accredited by the prestigious National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Grow NJ Kids (4 star rating), we are a year-round program whose mission is to promote the social-emotional and academic growth of young children in a nurturing and relaxed environment.

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.

Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! It has been honored as a month-long awareness campaign since 1970! St Francis Counseling Service provides the sexual violence hotline for Ocean County, which is staffed 24/7/365 by advocates trained to assist survivors of sexual violence and can be reached by calling 609-494-1090. Join SFCS and sexual assault programs across the world in honoring this awareness month by wearing teal (the color of sexual violence awareness) and celebrating Denim Day (the last Wednesday in April, which is April 24th this year!) Check out our facebook page: [stfranciscounselingservice](https://www.facebook.com/stfranciscounselingservice) for more information on events and programs! If you or someone you know has been the victim of a violence crime and needs counseling support, call 609-494-1554.

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.

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Community Bulletin Board

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Summer Retreats

Guided Retreat: "Images of God in Sea, Sky, and Sand"

Sunday, June 16 – Saturday, June 22, 2024

Each day of the retreat will focus on an element of creation: water, wind, sun, clouds, sand, etc. through poetry and photography.

Retreatants will be invited to tap into their own creativity. Silence will be enjoyed on this retreat with sharing in the gift of conversation at the dinner meal only. Presenter: Ellen Dauwer, SC

Preached Retreat: "The Gift of Aging Contemplatively"

Sunday June 23 – Saturday, June 29, 2024

We will take a deep dive into reimagining Aging as an invitation to live our lives with passion and gratitude. A quiet retreat offers the needed environment for prayer and rest and welcomes the gift of conversation at meals.

Presenters: Rev. Jack Rathschmidt and Gaynell Cronin

Silent Directed/Private Retreat

Monday, July 22 – Sunday, July 28, 2024

Directed: Private prayer, mass and meet each day with a Spiritual Director.

Private: Private prayer, mass and quiet time away.

Spiritual Director: Eileen McGovern, SSJ

For more information or to register: www.marisstella.org or Call Sr Pat 609-494-1182 or pdotzauer@comcast.net

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