

THE BRIDGE



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

Confirmation

April 29, 2022

Lauren Elizabeth Ambar

Connor Arnold Arnold

Kylie Angela Ballin

Aodhan Robert Beetel

Teaghan Mary Beetel

Gianna Monica Borgia

Kathleen Cecilia Brennan

Gavin Emilio Cleary

Christian Joseph Compitello

Molly Dorothy Falletta

Madison Janet Garabedian

Robert Joseph Green

Erin Veronica Jones

Emily Marina Kulinski

Liam Patrick McGinty

Brady Paul Nolan

Emma Yvonne Ortiz

Emma Carina Reiser

Joseph Francis Sinatra

Anna Catherine Rose Skelly

Christopher Paul Small

Olivia Adela Strunk

Emma Valentine Whiteley

Peace and Blessings to All!



St. Francis of Assisi Parish offers ONLINE GIVING

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

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, May 7	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Clyde Brookbank 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Mary E. Mathews +Paula Valazquez	Acts 9:31-42; Jn. 6:60-69 Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn. 3:1-2; Jn. 10:11-18	5:00 PM First Eucharist celebrated
Sunday, May 8	8:30 AM +Lucille D'Amico +Emma Ferraro +Jean Giordano 10:00 AM + Intentions of all Mothers 11:30 AM +Dolores Pottichen +Pat Campoli +Margaret Onorato 5:00 PM Survivors of Suicide	Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn. 3:1-2; Jn. 10:11-18	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 10:00, 11:30 AM First Eucharist celebrated
Monday, May 9	9:00 AM +Grace Mengani	Acts 11:1-18; Jn. 10:1-10	
Tuesday, May 10	9:00 AM +Saverio "Sammy" D'Amico +J. Aldolf Braun	Acts 11:19-26; Jn. 10:22-30	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, May 11	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 12:24-13:5a; Jn. 12:44-50	10:30 AM Contemplative Living, <i>Zoom</i> 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 3:00 PM Scripture Study, Sr. Kate Room
Thursday, May 12	9:00 AM +Richard Finan +Patrick Soranno +Judy Gail Marks	Acts 13:13-25; Jn. 13:16-20	
Friday, May 13	9:00 AM +George Holland	Acts 13:26-33; Jn. 14:1-6	
Saturday, May 14	9:00 AM +Michael Early +Richard Ackerson, Sr. 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Pat Carlo +Michael Kistner +Joseph Verdi	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn. 15:9-17 Acts 14:21-27; Rv. 21:1-5a; Jn. 13:31-33a, 34-35	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, May 15	8:30 AM +Joan Fulmer 10:00 AM +Karen Campareale +James McCaffrey +Harry Snyder 11:30 AM +Noreen Sullivan	Acts 14:21-27; Rv. 21:1-5a; Jn. 13:31-33a, 34-35	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 10:00 AM First Eucharist celebrated

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.

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)

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

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

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, May 8	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 10:00 AM + Intentions of all Mothers First Eucharist celebrated
Sunday, May 15	10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven, NJ
Closed for the Season

St. Clare's Church, Loveladies, NJ
Closed for the Season

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Hello and Good-Bye!

I had a great time in Italy...but it is great to be back! Because I missed last week I have a few things to share with you: the pilgrimage, Confirmation, and Fr. Steve.

The pilgrimage was wonderful. The students and the chaperones truly had a moving experience that deepened their faith as we entered into the lives of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi. We had early mornings, lots of walking [*one day, my Fitbit recorded 23,000 steps. The norm was about 15,000!*], and we had late nights. It was all worth it! We prayed at the tombs of St. Francis and of St. Clare. We walked to the Portiuncola in the valley outside of the walled city of Assisi. This is one of the churches that St. Francis literally rebuilt and was always a special place for him. At the back end of our time in Italy, we went to St. Peter's Basilica and Rome's cathedral church of St. John Lateran. We prayed, we laughed, we sang, and we eat some wonderful meals. Everything that makes a pilgrimage a pilgrimage! It was great!

Confirmation: The Friday after I returned we welcomed our bishop, Bp. David O'Connell, C.M., to confirm 23 of our brothers and sisters into our Catholic faith. It was great to have Bp. O'Connell with us. I thought he did a fantastic job and from what I hear so did those who attended. I really enjoyed witnessing our brothers and sister publically state their desire to be Catholic as they confirmed the faith of their baptism. ***Congratulations to all of you!*** I would like to *thank your sponsors* for standing with you on that Friday afternoon and on all the days to come as you continue to grow and mature in your faith. *Thank you to your parents.* They were your first teachers and probably the most important teachers that you will ever have. I thank them for their dedication to you and for their example as people of faith.

We welcome you into our faith community, but know, as Bp. O'Connell reminded us, this is not a graduation but an opportunity to enter more deeply into our faith and your relationship with Jesus. May your journey always be blessed. May you be open to accepting Jesus' constant invitation to come closer to him as you continue on your journey through life.

Welcome **Lauren Elizabeth Ambar** & sponsor Christopher Coutinbo; **Connor Arnold Arnold** & sponsor Mario Muglia; **Kylie Angela Ballin** & sponsor Tim Butler; **Aodhan Robert Beetel** & sponsor Kevin Beetel; **Teaghan Mary Beetel** & sponsor Dorothea Beetel; **Gianna Monica Borgia** & sponsor Joanna Polizzi; **Kathleen Cecilia Brennan** & sponsor Eileen Ziegler; **Gavin Emilio Cleary** & sponsor Lorraine Fitzpatrick; **Christian Joseph Compitello** & sponsor Caryn Altieri; **Molly Dorothy Falletta** & sponsor Andrew Falletta; **Madison Janet Garabedian** & sponsor Joanne Garabedian; **Robert Joseph Green** & sponsor Rocco Manfre; **Erin Veronica Jones** & sponsor Shannon Umhafer; **Emily Marina Kulinski** & sponsor Theresa Kulinski; **Liam Patrick McGinty** & sponsor Patrick Brown; **Brady Paul Nolan** & sponsor Aidan Nolan; **Emma Yvonne Ortiz** & sponsor Susan Wyrsh; **Emma Carina Reiser** & sponsor Kelly Binkowski; **Joseph Francis Sinatra** [*I love his choice of confirmation name!*] & sponsor Florienne Sinatra; **Anna Catherine Rose Skelly** & sponsor Jaime Lynn Francis; **Christopher Paul Small** & sponsor Julie Malfitano; **Olivia Adela Strunk** & sponsor Gina Gibbons; **Emma Valentine Whiteley** & sponsor Kellian Frank.

And finally, Fr. Steve. As we welcome our brothers and sisters into full communion in the church, we must also say goodbye. Our brother, **Fr. Steve Kluge**, has been asked by our Provincial Minister, Fr. Kevin Mullen, to assume the responsibilities of Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Church, Tampa, Fl. Our parish has been blessed to have 6 friar priests. I don't know of any other parish that can say they have 6 priests. So when a need arose at Sacred Heart the provincial called. We have been blessed to have Steve back at St. Francis. I always enjoyed living with Steve and ministering beside him. He is a man of deep prayer and great faith. As a first-time pastor, I treasured his insights, thoughts, and opinions. I know I will certainly miss him, his counsel, and his wonderful ability to teach complicated mysteries in ways that even the simplest among us can understand. He has a great way of weaving his humor into pretty much everything and is a good and faithful brother to us all. Steve, may God's blessing follow you wherever you go, and may you continue to be a reflection of that blessing to everyone you meet. Steve's last Mass at St. Francis will be on May 29th at 11:30 AM. We will have a reception following that Mass in the Parish Center to formally say our goodbyes.

May God continue to bless you and our great parish with peace and all good!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor

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 3:00 PM. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible if you are moving.

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

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 Staff

Michele Beck, Director, 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
Fr. Stephen Kluge, OFM
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF
Jo Anne Reeder, Director, Worship
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
Parish Office - (609) 494-8813
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
(Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)
Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8813 ext. 153
Community Center - (609) 494-8861
Counseling Services - (609) 494-1554

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

Appeals Box

Second Collection:

Youth Ministry Scholarship Fund

For more than 45 years, the Parish has offered a number of scholarships to our area graduating seniors who have demonstrated noteworthy involvement in the Parish. We are truly grateful for their services and this is one way to show our appreciation. Subsequently, we will announce the winners in the bulletin.

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: **\$22,000**

Last Week's Collection:

Collected: **\$17,380**

Budgeted: **\$22,000**

Second Collection:

St. Francis Inn & Dwelling Place

Collected: **\$5,121**



(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 2022 What does LOVE have to do with it... everything!

The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal raised over \$6 million.

2022 Annual Catholic Appeal began February 19/20.

Goal this year is \$6.5 million.

Goal: **\$100,000.00**

Total Pledged: **\$27,654.00** (25% of Goal)

Total Collected: **\$24,818.00**

Total Donors: **135**

Total Gifts: **141**

Average Gift: **\$196.13**

*Thank you for your generosity
in contributing to the Annual Catholic Appeal.
It was greatly appreciated!
We look forward to your continued support.*

Visit the parish website for a
YouTube video on the
Annual Catholic Appeal by Bishop O'Connell at:
www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal

Peace Prayer Project

Remember to pray the
Peace Prayer of St. Francis
every Wednesday at noon!



St. Francis Liturgical Community

Weekly Reflections...



Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM, Pastoral Associate

A Very Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers, Grandmothers, Great Grandmothers and the Motherly! We thank God for your place in our lives and for all that you have done and do in our lives.

I can't help but think of my Mother, Helen, on this Mother's Day. Although she died in 1994, she is still very present in my life and I frequently dream of her. I recognize the qualities that I received from her and the qualities that I was given by my Father. I think of two Mother's Days and the gifts that my Brother and I gave her. I was young and we lived across from St. Bonaventure Cemetery and on the Saturday before Mother's Day, there happened to be a very large funeral with many, many flowers. There were several flower cars- must have been Italian. After everyone had gone, I went up to the grave and there was the perfect gift for my Mother - a flower decorated wreath with a ribbon across it that said "Mother." The flowers were in great shape, so I brought it home and presented it to her and...she screamed! "Take it back, take it back." It didn't take me long to come to my senses to know that this was not quite the gift for her.

Another time, my Brother and I found a poor kitten. We lived in the country and had chickens, other animals and pets, but we thought that she would love this little creature. We presented it to her and she wasn't over joyed, but she saw this skinny, poor thing and she said we could keep it. Well, this skinny, poor thing had two babies several weeks later. Just what we needed more animals!

I'm sure I can think of other stories, but these are just two. My Mother was a hard worker, often working outside the home. We all learned how to clean a house, take care of our lawn and gardens and our animals, and beginning lessons in cooking. My Father had built one of our houses, so there was always more work to be done to complete the house.

This Mother's Day, take time to remember what you received from your parents. Whether they are living or deceased, pray for them or show them that you appreciate them.

Fr. Andrew Reitz, ofm

The Good News of Easter:



"No one can take them out of my hands."

We belong to God and nothing can change that - nothing! Alleluia!

Family Faith

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

jclayton@stfrancislbj.org

Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

Marion Pierri, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)



In preparation for Easter, grades one through four will have an opportunity to experience the events of the week before and after Easter. Children will be using the Easter Story Eggs to tell the story of the Resurrection. In addition, they will be introduced to the Pascal candle by making a representational candle using styrofoam, a sharpie, tissue paper and cloves for the nails at Jesus' feet and hands. Grade five received their First Reconciliation with many family members participating in the Sacrament as well.

Grade six will conclude their formal classes with instruction – The Messianic Fulfillment. Discussion will include the Gospel writers' meaning of "disciple", why the twelve were chosen, why Jesus had to die and the Emmaus story. The Encounter book will concentrate on God's plan and the important part each person has in His plan for salvation. He has a mission that only you can carry out. The Saint of the week is Elizabeth of the Trinity.

Grade seven will have a retreat as their last class. It will begin with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The theme is "Filling Your Spiritual Tool Box". There will be special break-out sessions offering ideas on how the pre-Confirmation candidates can prepare as they move on to the last phase of Confirmation preparation in the Fall.

Confirmation for the 2022 candidates will be on April 29th at 4:00 pm. The presider will be Bishop O'Connell.

First Eucharist will be celebrated on **May 7th and 8th** and again **May 15th**.

Family Faith will close the year on **May 19th** with a prayer service and the crowning of the Blessed Mother.

Judith Clayton
Director, Family Faith

Mass Schedule - through May 21/22, 2022

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

Sunday, 10:00 AM

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - **Closed for the Season**

St. Clare, Loveladies - **Closed for the Season**

**Feast of St. Brendan
the Navigator**
Patron Saint of Mariners
Monday, **May 16,**
9:00 AM Mass
St. Francis Church,
Brant Beach

Rejoice!
Romans 12:12
Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, endure in prayer

**SAVE THE DATE
WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE
EXPERIENCE
OCTOBER 21 & 22, 2022**

Women's Cornerstone Invitation
For Women of St. Francis Parish & Friends (18+)
If you've never had the experience of
Women's Cornerstone
this could be the year for you to take time for yourself,
or for someone that you love.

Friday, October 21 to Saturday October 22
Maris Stella Retreat House, Harvey Cedars
Please contact *Lauren Finelli* with questions
or for information:
lgf_finelli@hotmail.com or 609-332-8366

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

**A 10 Day Holy Land Pilgrimage
November 30 to December 9, 2022
hosted by Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM**

*The Bible comes alive as we visit
Mt. Tabor, Tiberias, Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem,
Jerico, Bethlehem,
the Dead Sea and more.*

**\$3,199 per person from New York
(additional transportation charge from LBI)**

*Email or contact Fr. Andrew at
areitz@stfrancislbi.org for a brochure.*

Praying the Rosary

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

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

An Invitation to Contemplative Living

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. In these experiences we support each other in our prayer and faith. 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 **in-person** session **May 14th** with Sr. Pat Dotzauer presenting.

Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group meets in the Senior Lunch Room on Saturday morning from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Seating is limited. Please contact Deacon Bob or Father Steve to reserve your place. Next scheduled meeting: **May 21, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.**

Meetings:
St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.

Book Club
We will meet in person at St. Francis Center in either Room 102 or the Knight Wing Conference Room, (Room 212) on the last Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 PM.
A Fierce Radiance by Lauren Biefer.
Tuesday, **May 31**, 1:30 PM, Sr. Lunch Room

Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs
Sunday, **June 5**, 12:30 PM *Fraternity Meeting*, Brant Beach Church Hall

Scripture Study
Meets **Bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, at 3:00 PM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. Call Tom Troyano at (732) 261-4721 or email: tomtroyano@comcast.net for more information.
Wednesday, **May 11**, 3:00 PM, Sr. Kate Meeting Room

Survivors of Suicide
Meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month at 7:00 PM in the Knight Wing Conference Room (Room 212). Call Sr. Pat McNiff, ofsf at (609) 494-8813 for more information. Thursday, **June 9**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

Employment Opportunity



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

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

Children's Services Toddler Room Supervisor

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

Position: Year-round, Full-time

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

Days: Monday-Friday

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

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

Positions: Year-round, Full-time

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

Days: Monday-Friday

Counseling Services

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

Days: Monday through Friday (Some evening hours required)
Must complete 40-hour Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Training (provided free of charge by the agency). On-site clinical supervision is provided.

Must have Current Professional License: LSW, LAC, LPC or LCSW

Bilingual Caseworker

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

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

Days: Monday-Friday

Senior Services

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

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

Pay: \$13 per hour

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

Maintenance- Housekeeping

Position includes: Perform scheduled and unscheduled cleaning of Community Center and Parish properties. Must be able to lift 25lbs.
Part time position - Monday through Friday – up to 29 hours per week.

Pay: \$13 per hour

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

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancislbj.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS

THE ANNUAL
BEEFSTEAK
Dinner

JUNE 3, 2022
5:30 PM
ST FRANCIS COMMUNITY
CENTER GYM



You're Invited

The
Annual Garden
Party by the Sea
A Fashion Show

Bonnet Island Estate
June 22, 2022
2:00pm-4:30pm

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN
FOOD FASHION PRIZES

Tickets will go on sale **May 2 thru 9**.
Sale tickets: \$50; after May 9 tickets: \$55.

Available at the Front Desk.

For more information on sponsor opportunities please visit our website at: www.stfrancisparishlbj.org/fashion-show or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbj

Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

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

Walk-ins are welcome!

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

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

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

Donations needed for the Food Pantry:

Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Body Wash, Hand Soap, Dish Detergent, Coffee

Canned Goods:

Corn, Peas, Carrots, Green Beans, Baked Beans, Black Beans, Kidney Beans, Chick Peas, Spaghettios, Beef Stew, Chicken

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

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.



Aquatics

Water Tots, 4 Year Old Beginner Swim, Beginner Level 1 & 2, Intermediate & Advanced Swim Lessons, Aquatic Aerobics, Deep Water Aerobics, Arthritis Aquatic Exercise and Spring Swim Clinic

Recreation

All Level Yoga, Pickleball, Tot & Tyke Basketball, Nightly Recess with Mr. LaMarco

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

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.

Did You Know??

Did you know that May is Older Americans Month? The Older Americans Act of 1965 was the first federal level initiative aimed at providing comprehensive services for older adults. It created the National Aging Network comprising the Administration on Aging on the federal level, State Units on Aging at the state level, and Area Agencies on Aging at the local level. This year's theme is "Age My Way," encouraging everyone to explore the many ways older adults can remain in and be involved with their communities. Contact **St. Francis Senior Services** at 609-494-8861 so we may assist you with services you may need and keep you involved in our community!

Employment & Career Services

For information call ext. 407.

- Adult Education Program
- First Step to Self Sufficiency
- Next Step to Employment

All participants must be verified for eligibility through the Ocean County PIC Office. Programs funded through a grant provided by the Ocean County Department of Human Services. For additional information call: (732) 281-8653

St. Francis Travel

Home Town Travel, 128 Bartlett Ave., Bartlett Commons,
Rt. 9 South, West Creek, NJ 08092
Call Nancy at Home Town Travel (609) 597-5100
Email: hometowntravel@comcast.net



Sightseeing Trips & Cruises



Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play **September 19-29, 2022**

Rate of \$6,099 double occupancy includes: 16 meals, round trip air from Newark, sightseeing, Passion play and much more.



A private Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi with Father Steve Kluge **October 26-November 3, 2022**

A second presentation will be held on **Friday, March 25, 2022** from 5pm-7pm at St. Francis Center, by Jim Myers from Myers Tours and Home Town Travel. RSVP is required to attend. Please call Tara at Home Town Travel to confirm your attendance and find out more what this great trip entails. (609) 597-5100 or visit St. Francis Parish Website at: <https://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/travel>

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

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

Did you know that **St. Francis Counseling Service** offers affordable mental health services to residents of Southern Ocean County as well as several groups on various topics? Our licensed counselors and social workers provide professional clinical services for a variety of mental health concerns, including anxiety, depression, and PTSD. We know the pandemic has had an effect on everyone's mental health and we are here to help! Access our services by calling 609-494-1554! Our services are hybrid-offered both in person and virtually.

Community Bulletin Board

St. Mary Academy Manahawkin, NJ

A "KNIGHT" TO REMEMBER

St. Mary Academy warmly invites you to their 20th Anniversary Gala, **Friday, May 13, 6:00 – 11:00 PM, at the Waterfront in Lacey.** There will be complimentary wine and beer cocktail hour from 6:00 – 7:00 PM (cash bar remainder of the evening), dinner, gift auction and music throughout the evening. Cost of tickets are \$75.00 if purchased before March 20 and \$100.00 if purchased afterwards. **For more information, please contact St. Mary Academy at (609) 597-3800.**

Maris Stella Retreat Center, Harvey Cedars, NJ

Guided Retreat: ***"When the soul longs and the heart sings!"***
Sunday, June 12th – Saturday June 18th, 2022

Presenter: Carmel Boyle

Registration due: **May 20, 2022.**

For more information: www.marisstella.org or
Call Sr. Pat at 609-494-2917

Preached Retreat: ***"Surprised by Hope"***
Sunday, June 19th – Saturday June 25th, 2022.

Presenter: Fr. Anthony Ciorra

Registration due **May 30th, 2022.**

For more information or to register logon to www.marisstella.org
or call Sr. Pat at 609-494-2917 or email pdotzauer@comcast.net

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But don't take it from us. See for yourself by scheduling your own personal tour. Meet the faculty and staff, tour the school, participate in classroom activities and have fun. To register, just go to DonovanCatholic.org.

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist clothes closet reopened on March 2. We will resume our regular hours of the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:00 - 6:00 PM and every Saturday from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. We are not currently accepting clothing donations. For further info. call Madelyn (609) 276-3308.

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