

# THE BRIDGE



With open  
arms for all!

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

**- PARISH STAFF -**

Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor  
Michele Beck, Music  
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM  
Judith Clayton, FFF  
Deacon Robert Cunningham  
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM  
Fr. John Frambes, OFM  
Fr. Stephen Kluge, OFM  
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF  
Jo Anne Reeder, Worship  
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM

Parish Office  
(609) 494-8813  
Mon. - Fri. 9 AM to 3 PM  
(Closed for lunch 12 - 1 PM)  
Family Faith Formation  
(609) 494-8813 ext. 153  
Community Center  
(609) 494-8861  
Counseling Services  
(609) 494-1554

Read our bulletin online at  
[www.stfrancisparishlbi.org](http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org)



Daily gospel reflections can be found on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi)



Follow St. Francis Parish on Instagram:  
**StFrancisChurchLBI**

**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](http://www.hnp.org)

**Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY**  
Vocation Office  
[vocations@fsallegany.org](mailto:vocations@fsallegany.org)

**Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA**  
Vocation Office  
[vocations@osfphil.org](mailto:vocations@osfphil.org)

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



## The First Sunday of Lent

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

After Jesus' baptism, the Spirit drives “Jesus out into the desert.”  
Where is your desert to be alone with God?

*“Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, that I may carry out Your holy and true command.”*

St. Francis of Assisi, “The Prayer Before the Crucifix.” 40

**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, February 20	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Carmine Mangano 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Diane B. Pietrefesa	Is. 58:9b-14; Lk. 5:27-32 Gn. 9:8-15; 1 Pt. 3:18-22; Mk. 1:12-15	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, February 21	8:30 AM +Ronald Fuydal +Cindy Hoehl 10:00 AM +Jean Cunningham +Frank Beck 11:30 AM +Gustavo Acosta	Gn. 9:8-15; 1 Pt. 3:18-22; Mk. 1:12-15	<b>10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a> 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion
Monday, February 22	9:00 AM +Kathy Richards	1 Pt. 5:1-4; Mt. 16:13-19	
Tuesday, February 23	9:00 AM +Dolores Pottichen +Marie Sulkowski, <i>ofs</i> +Frances Jennette	Is. 55:10-11; Mt. 6:7-15	
Wednesday, February 24	9:00 AM +Jim Morrison	Jon. 3:1-10; Lk. 11:29-32	
Thursday, February 25	9:00 AM +Richard Nigro	Est. C:12, 14-26, 23-25; Mt. 7:7-12	
Friday, February 26	9:00 AM +Gloria Carlo	Ez. 18:21-28; Mt. 5:20-26	9:45 AM Adult Faith Enrichment/RCIA, Sr. Lounge <b>Stations of the Cross</b> <b>5:00 PM Live-Streaming Service</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a>
Saturday, February 27	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Sal Ferraro	Dt. 26:16-19; Mt. 5:43-48 Gn. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom. 8:31b-34; Mk. 9:2-10	
Sunday, February 28	8:30 AM +Jo Vennewald +Anne Dennigan 10:00 AM +Carmen M. Alonso +John Weigle 11:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Gn. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom. 8:31b-34; Mk. 9:2-10	<b>10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a> 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, February 21	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, February 22	8:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Saturday, February 27	5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, February 28	8:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>

### St. Thomas Aquinas Church 2<sup>ND</sup> & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, February 21	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, February 22	10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Saturday, February 27	5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, February 28	10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>

### Peace Prayer Project

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



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

## Parish Information - (609) 494-8813

**Emergency Information:** Available on our answering machine (609) 494-8861 and on the following website: [schoolclosingsnj.com](http://schoolclosingsnj.com) and [facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](https://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at the last Mass in each Church. Call the Parish Office for availability and requirements: (609) 494-8813 ext. 154 or 155.

**Faith Formation and Education:** For children ages six through high school. 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 Collections

### Second Collection Today:

#### Black & Native American Missions

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

### Last Week's 2nd Collection

#### Central & Eastern Europe

Collected: \$2,179

### This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$15,000

### Last Week's Collection

Budgeted: \$15,000

Collected: \$12,807



**St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
Online Giving!**

[stfrancisparishlbi.org](http://stfrancisparishlbi.org)

## Weekly Reflections...

### Who Am I?

Who am I ... really? Beyond the immediate and the obvious... such as name and family, age and address, Social Security number ... who am I?

To the "Who am I question", the Church traditionally responds, "You are the Baptized". Baptism we are initiated, crowned, chosen, embraced, washed, adopted, gifted, reborn and sent forth redeemed. We are God's own sent forth to live the kingdom of God!

Who am I? You are someone to whom a name is given. At our birth our family gives us a name. A name is a gift. Life then is a long process of growing into this name, answering to it, and giving it meaning by the way we live our lives. So too at our Baptism we are given the name Christian. In Baptism the unmerited gift of grace (God's life) is bestowed on us. Daily we live this gift as we go about our ordinary activities. We discover what it means to be called "Christian" and grow into what we already are... the children of God.

Who am I? Baptism reminds us that we not only bear the name of Christian but we are also royalty! When I think of royalty, I think of Prince George of England born just a few years ago... so young yet so royal... someday to be King! He did nothing to earn or merit royalty. The same is ours in Baptism where we are anointed priest, prophet and king and gifted with the Spirit! We are God's holy people and we are called to proclaim the kingdom of peace and justice to everyone. As long as any of God's children suffer injustice, the "kingdom" is not finished and God's royal image is not clearly visible in us nor in the world around us.

In the midst of daily living it is so easy to forget who we are. The Church reminds us that we have been bought at a great price, that God has named us and claimed us, seeks us and loves us with only one good reason in mind... that we might be loved for all eternity. Today the Gospel reminds us of who Jesus is. Today let us remember that Baptism begins our transformation into Christ...and be grateful for WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE ARE BECOMING. Peace and All Good!

Sr. Pat McNiff, osf

## Mass Schedule until further notice

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi)

**"In-car" Communion: Sundays 12:30 to 1:00 PM**

### St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00 AM

### St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 10:00 AM

### St. Clare, Loveladies

**Closed for the Season**

## Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



### Spiritual Direction

We now have five certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction in our parish. For an appointment please call:

*Barbara H. Angeline, ofs, (609) 384-6188,*  
*Maryann Barrek, ofs, (609) 661-4441,*  
*Anne Bock, ofs, (609) 204-3835,*  
*Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,*  
*Pat Simmons, ofs, (609) 661-1361.*

### Men's Spirituality

The Men's Spirituality Group will meet on Saturday at 10:00 AM in the Senior Lounge. Seating is limited. If interested, please contact Deacon Bob at: [thatbrotherbob@aol.com](mailto:thatbrotherbob@aol.com) or Fr. Steve at: [skluge@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:skluge@stfrancislbj.org) to reserve your place. Next scheduled meeting: **February 20**

### Scripture Study

This group meets bi-monthly on Wednesdays, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. It is a "**zoom meeting**" led by Tom Troyano. No prior bible study background needed, just an interest in bible study and your own copy of the bible. Call (609) 261-4721 or email: [tomtroyano@comcast.net](mailto:tomtroyano@comcast.net) for more information. Next scheduled zoom meeting: **March 3**

### Monthly Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



**Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs**  
**Sunday, March 7, 1:00 PM**  
**Fraternity "Zoom" Meeting**

### Make A Gift to St. Francis Parish

If you are planning your will and/or estate and would like to make a gift to St. Francis Parish or LBICC, Inc., please contact:

Fr. Francis DiSpigno, Pastor  
at: [fdispigno@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:fdispigno@stfrancislbj.org) or

Wendy Saunders, Executive Director,  
at: [wsaunders@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:wsaunders@stfrancislbj.org) or  
call (609) 494-8861 for more information.

## Family Faith Formation



Judith Clayton, Director of FFF (Ext. 153)  
[jclayton@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:jclayton@stfrancislbj.org)  
Eileen Bowker, Youth Minister (Ext. 178)  
Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)  
Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)  
Marion Pierri, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)

In-person registration for 2021-2022 Religious Education Program will be on **April 21** from 1:00 to 6:00 PM in the Family Faith Offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Community Center.

All classes will continue to be home based for the rest of this year.

Please remember to return the permission slip to allow for video or virtual learning (Grades 6-8 only).

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

Are you 18 years of age or older and would like to join the Catholic faith Community?  
Here at St. Francis classes are beginning for anyone who would like to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, and/or First Communion and Confirmation.  
Call Fr. Steve or Sr. Pat at (609) 494-8813 for more information or to register.



A presentation entitled:  
**"Reconciliation"**  
will be given on **Friday, February 26**  
at 9:45 AM in the Sr. Lounge  
by Fr. Andrew Reitz, ofm  
*Seating is limited so call*  
*Sr. Pat or Fr. Steve to reserve your place.*

### Cell Phone Drop Off



Please help  
**St. Francis Parish & Center**  
by dropping off your old **Cell Phones**  
in the lobby at St. Francis Center.  
**Please NO accessories, chargers, etc.**

## Lenten Regulations

1. The days of **FAST** (*only one full meal*) and **ABSTINENCE** (*no meat*) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. The pastor of a parish has the authority to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish. The Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.
2. Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include: the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN (no meat: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat).



## Soup and Stations



### Stations of the Cross

We invite you to Stations of the Cross on

**Friday nights February 26;  
March 5, 12, 19 at 5:00 PM**

in the Brant Beach Church. Due to the Covid virus we have made some changes to assure safety. We will not be having a meal of bread and soup this year before the Stations, but you may wish to bring a can of soup to put in the St. Francis Food Pantry basket in the church lobby. The Stations will be **live streamed** for those not able to attend. Each week we will contemplate three of the Stations of the Cross through scripture, hymns and reflection. All are invited. Feel free to bring friends and neighbors!

This week we will reflect on **Station 4** - Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother; **Station 5** - Simon helps Jesus Carry the Cross, **Station 6** - Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



St. Francis Parish  
now has an Instagram account:  
[stfrancischurchlbi](https://www.instagram.com/stfrancischurchlbi)

## Employment Opportunity



### Counseling Services

#### Trauma Informed Licensed Clinicians

Full-time and Part-time positions available for Trauma Informed Licensed Clinicians and Bilingual (Fluent English/Spanish) Trauma Informed Licensed Clinicians. Monday through Friday (Some night hours required). Must complete 40-hour Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Training (provided free of charge by the agency). **Must have Current Professional License:** LSW, LAC, LPC or LCSW.

### Preschool

#### Early Childhood Teacher Assistant (Toddler & Preschool)

Seeking a person with a warm, nurturing, and friendly personality, be able to relate well with children and families. Be willing to fulfill his/her responsibilities in accordance with the Center's Children's Services Philosophy/Mission Statement. Prefer a background in early childhood education and/or experience working with children. Must be 18 or older. First Aid & CPR Certified and Bi-Lingual a plus.

*Position:* Year-round full time with benefits, Part time (with potential for full time) and substitute.

*Pay:* Hourly rate based on degree.

*Days/Hours:* Monday-Friday

All full-time positions are offered benefits including Health Care, Paid time off, life insurance, 403B Matching and more.

Please send resumes to Amy Bodine  
[abodine@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:abodine@stfrancislbi.org)

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Postponed/Cancelled Due to Covid-19

Annual  
March Madness  
Free Throw Contest  
**Cancelled**



Fish & Chip Dinner  
**Postponed until June**

## Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

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



Are you a high school or college student with a story to tell about sexual assault through art or poetry? Do you want to raise awareness about the importance of consent through a public service announcement poster?

**SHARE YOUR ART WITH OCEAN COUNTY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT!**

Send your artwork to Danielle at [ddunne@stfrancisbi.org](mailto:ddunne@stfrancisbi.org) by March 27th to be entered for a sexual assault awareness month prize and be featured in sexual assault awareness month promotions!

By submitting artwork for the contest, participants grant St. Francis Counseling Service permission to use their likeness in a photograph, video or other digital media in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration.

Artwork can be submitted as anonymous if needed.

This event was supported by the State of New Jersey Sexual Assault, Abuse and Rape Care (SAARC) Funds, administered by the Department of Children and Families.



ST. FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE

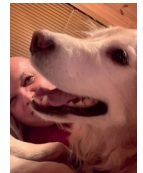
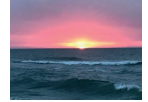
# GRANDPARENTING SUPPORT GROUP

Have you found yourself in a parenting role, raising your grandchild? This FREE, 8-week confidential group provides a safe space for individuals to share their stories, receive support and develop coping skills.

**VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP**  
MONDAYS, 2PM-4PM  
Please call 609-494-1554 to register!  
For more information or further questions, please ask to speak to Shannon or Karen.

The therapists from St. Francis Counseling Services, offers you their favorite energizing self-care activities to beat the winter blues.

Walking  
Stargazing  
Listening to music  
Cuddling with my pets  
Watching the sunrise or the sun set  
Driving to random places  
Visiting Barnegat Lighthouse  
Decluttering  
Laughing and talking with friends  
Hiking in the woods  
Yoga  
Meditation



- 54321
- Name 5 things you see.
  - Name 4 things you hear.
  - Name 3 things you feel.
  - Name 2 things you smell.
  - Name 1 thing you taste.

Mindful drinking and eating  
Asking for help  
Making a date with yourself and keeping it!  
Coloring  
Eating healthy foods  
Lunch with a friend  
Cooking  
Lighting a Scented candle  
Exercising  
Bike riding  
Strength training  
Weight training



St. Francis Counseling Service provides individuals, couples and families with affordable, professional psychotherapy services addressing a wide range of issues. Services are available to all regardless of race, sex, age, disability, income or religious affiliations. Master-level therapists provide all professional counseling services. All services are offered in English and Spanish. For an appointment call (609) 494-1554.

### Journey Through Grief

This program is designed to help men and women, of all ages, work through the normal stages of grief with education and group support. The program stresses that grief is a journey, a natural and normal reaction to a significant loss in our lives. Education and support can ease our way on this journey.

**The group is open to all members of the community regardless of religious affiliation.**

Registration is required.

There is NO FEE for this program.

## Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



During these uncertain times, although we do not know when our exercise, socialization and recreation programs will resume, please keep in mind we are here for you.

### We are still providing the following:

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.

**Please call (609) 978-6220 if you are in need of services.**

## Jersey Cares - Senior Shoppers Program

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

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

If you are interested in participating in this program please call St. Francis Senior Services at (609) 978-6220 or St. Francis Senior Services Berkeley Office at (732) 244-9600.

## Community Center Donations



St. Francis Center/LBICC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Our federal tax ID number is 22-2003458. We have provided supportive services to the community for over 45 years and with your help we will continue to do so. Our online donations are processed by *PayPal* so it's fast, easy and secure. We are only able to process online donations from NJ residents only.

If you would like to recognize a donation to the Center in someone's name, donation cards are available at the front desk of the Center and at the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

## Recreation & Aquatics

For info. please call ext. 105. Visit the **Spring Brochure** online at [www.stfranciscenterlbi.org](http://www.stfranciscenterlbi.org) or pick up a Brochure at the Center lobby.

### Classes begin March 1

#### AQUATICS:

4 Year Old Beginner Swim,  
Beginner Level 1,  
Intermediate,  
Lifeguard Training,  
Aquatic Aerobics,  
and Arthritis Water Exercise



#### RECREATION:

Tot and Tyke Basketball,  
Spring Basketball Clinic,  
All Level Yoga and  
Basic Boating Safety Course



## Pickleball

*A cross between Ping Pong, Tennis, Racquetball and Badminton. Pickleball is played as a singles or doubles game. It's a great sport for teens and up including baby boomers and active seniors.*



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

**in the Gymnasium**

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

## Amazon Smile - Fundraiser



### You Shop....Amazon Gives!

You can support **St. Francis Community Center** by doing your regular shopping with Amazon. Amazon will **donate 0.5%** of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Long Beach Island Community Center, Inc. (St. Francis Community Center) whenever you shop on Amazon Smile.

It is the same products and the same great prices!

The *only thing you need to do differently* is **log onto Amazon Smile:**

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2003458>

and sign in using your normal Amazon login and password. That's it! Amazon will automatically make the donation.

## Family Support Services

### Food Pantry Hours:

**Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**By Appointment Only**

*St. Francis Human Concern Food Pantry is operating by appointment only. Food Pantry hours will remain Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. Please call (609) 494-8861 ext. 171 or 172 to schedule your appointment. Upon arrival for your appointment, you will be asked to park in a designated parking spot in the first row of parking spaces in front of the building. Please call when you arrive.*

### Pantry based text alerts

We now have a text message alert system which will alert you to any changes to the food pantry and any projects going on.

**TO ENROLL TEXT "PANTRY" TO 833-511-0760**

**\*\*carrier text message rates may apply\*\***

*Pantry procedures are subject to change at any time and clients should call St. Francis Community Center at (609) 494-8861 or check Facebook for the most up to date information about the food pantry.*

**\*\*If you are experiencing any symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19, PLEASE STAY HOME & make arrangements for someone else to pick up food for you! \*\***

\*\*\*\*\*

St. Francis is asking for donations for the food pantry.

### Items needed (Personal Products):

Laundry detergent

Shampoo

Body Wash/Soap

Deodorant

Hand Soap

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Toilet Paper

Gift Cards to Walmart, ShopRite, Acme & Target

**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. <https://a.co/00HTAhy> or can be dropped off at the Community Center.

## Parenting and Anger Management Groups

St. Francis Community Center and locations throughout Ocean County. To register, please call (609) 494-8861 ext. 197. Funded by the Department of Human Services.



## Auto Ownership Program

The Auto Ownership Program at St. Francis Community Center is looking for donated vehicles. Donated vehicles are provided to TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients for whom transportation is a major barrier to employment. Cars are donated, repaired, and turned over to clients involved in a work or training activity of the Ocean County TANF program. All donations will receive a letter and 1098c form for tax purposes.

Please call (609) 494-8861 ext. 197 if you are interested in donating.

## 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](http://www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org). We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. [www.grownjkids.gov](http://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 7:30 AM - 6:00 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

## Educational Services

For information call ext. 185.



### St. Francis Adult Basic Education FREE Distance Learning Classes

*Registration & Testing will be held in March for our spring session of classes.*

ABE/High School Equivalency (HSE)

Please call 732-281-8653 or email [Stfrancishse@gmail.com](mailto:Stfrancishse@gmail.com) to schedule an appointment.

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Registration Includes: Intake, Assessments, & Orientation.

Visit our website at:

[stfranciscenterlbi.org/educational-support](http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/educational-support).

Classes are provided by the Ocean County Consortium through a grant from the Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development.

(Classes are subject to change)

## Did You Know??

**Educational & Career Services** provides adult education to residents of Ocean County 16 years of age and older who are in need of a High School Diploma, English as a Second Language or to increase their literacy or math skills. The program also provides assistance with employability skills, job search, computer skills, resume writing and credentials.

During the COVID pandemic we have 15 adult education classes for 297 students providing 18,840 instructional hours since July. All classes will continue virtually until further notice.

Our next registration begins in March. Please call (609) 494-8861, ext. 185 for more information.



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### Sightseeing Trips & Cruises



**Ireland 2.0 (2021)**

with **Father Kevin** and Home Town Travel

Dates have been confirmed for **October 21-29, 2021** exploring Ireland with Belfast and Giants Causeway.

**Portugal and its Islands**

**April 24 - May 6, 2021**

**Painted Canyons of the West**

(featuring Utah's five National Parks)

**October 3-11, 2021**

**Imperial Cities with Oberammergau 2022**

***Oberammergau 2020 has been cancelled and rescheduled for 2022. If you were not able to go this year, maybe you can join us when our new plans and dates are announced soon.***

### **HOME TOWN TRAVEL & CELEBRITY GROUPS** **CURRENT SCHEDULE**

**San Juan to Cape Liberty - May 1-6, 2021**

**Celebrity Summit** Fly Newark to San Juan. 5 night getaway with a stop at St. Maarten and 3 relaxing days at sea returning to Cape Liberty. Aqua class cabin, nightly dinner Blu, gratuities and unlimited beverage package.

**Newport, Charleston & Bermuda - May 15-26, 2021**

**Celebrity Summit** (R/T Bayonne). Ports: Newport, RI (full day), Charleston, SC (overnight), Kings Wharf, Bermuda (three days/two nights) with three days at sea (one between each destination). \$300 onboard credit.

**14 Night Trans-Atlantic Greenland and Iceland aboard**

**Celebrity Summit** (Departure from Bayonne and returning from Southampton (Air will be available **mid-October**) **August 1-15, 2021**

Ports: Sea day, Halifax, NS, two sea days, Qaqortoq, Greenland, overnight in Reykjavik, Iceland and half-day in Akureyri, Iceland, sea day, Kirkwall, Scotland and a sea day before arriving in Southampton.

**Seattle to Vancouver - September 3-10, 2021**

**Celebrity Solstice** Start at the Space Needle for a panoramic view of Seattle. Thread the fjords of the Inside Passage and watch Dawes Glacier produce icebergs in Endicott Arm Fjord. Do some dog sledding at Juneau, discover totem poles at Ketchikan, experience the Gold Rush at Skagway, and admire British colonial architecture in Victoria and the gardens. Special rate \$1,770 per person, double includes: balcony accommodations, all taxes and government fees, and all meals (specialty restaurants additional). Free classic beverage package.

**For more information or reservations, contact  
Nancy at Home Town Travel (609) 597-5100**

## Community Bulletin Board

### Maris Stella - Harvey Cedars

#### 2021 Lenten Holy Hour for Peace

Wednesdays, **February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31**

3:00 - 4:00 PM; Maris Stella Chapel

Holy hour will provide an opportunity for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and silent prayer for world peace. Registration not needed to attend.

### Coastal VIM Clinic - Volunteers in Medicine

Coastal Volunteers in Medicine is a free health clinic in Forked River serving the uninsured in our neighborhoods. We have recently increased our income eligibility level to accommodate families whose income falls within 300% of the federal poverty guidelines. Spanish translators are available and rides can be arranged for any patient without their own means of transportation. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (609) 384-0102.

## Self Help Groups

### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Due to COVID-10 please call **(609) 641-8855** for updated meetings and locations.

### **AA HOTLINE** (609) 494-5130

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope to maintain continuous sobriety through a 12-step program of recovery, and to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

## Fundraiser for St. Francis Community Center!

We now have blue Recycle America bins located:

**St. Francis Community Center**

4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church**

2<sup>nd</sup> & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

**St. Clare Church**

56 St. & Long Beach Blvd., Loveladies



These bins can be filled with clothes, purses, shoes, bedding and pillows. Recycle America will collect the items and redistribute them to those in need. In turn, this is a Fundraising opportunity for us – we receive a percentage of every pound collected.

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