

THE BRIDGE



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

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



We Are One Family In Christ

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, December 25	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 10:00 AM Christmas (L)+Stein & Kempski Families +Frank Friedhoff +Fred Peters +Henry Scala +Fr. Tom Zazella +Eileen Baldassari +Rosalee Tortoriello +George Filoon +Richard Finan	Is. 9:1-6; Ti. 2:11-14; Lk.2:1-14	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Sunday, December 26	Most Holy Family 8:30 AM +Felicia Stoj +Denice Stoj 10:00 AM (L)+Stein & Kempski Families +Patrick Harrington 11:30 AM +Ethel Sekelsky +Barbara Sekelsky	1 Sm. 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn. 3:1-2 21-24; Lk. 2:41-52	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Monday, December 27	9:00 AM +Bani Isai Feinandez	1 Jn. 1:1-4; Jn. 20:1a, 2-8	
Tuesday, December 28	9:00 AM +Emily Campanella	1 Jn. 1:5-2:2; Mt. 2:13-18	9:30 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, December 29	9:00 AM +Margaret Virili	1 Jn. 2:3-11; Lk. 2:22-35	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, December 30	9:00 AM +Catherine Lally	1 Jn. 2:12-17; Lk. 2:36-40	
Friday, December 31	9:00 AM +Dorothy M. Keegan	1 Jn. 2:18-21; Jn. 1:1-18	
Saturday, January 1	9:00 AM Solemnity of Mary Mother of God +Kathryn & Angelo Fiore +James M. Kempski 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Edward Pottichen +Anthony Lynch	Nm. 6:22-27; Gal. 4:4-7; Lk. 2:16-21 Is. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt. 2:1-12	9:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Sunday, January 2	Epiphany of the Lord 8:30 AM +Felicia Stoj +Denice Stoj 10:00 AM +William T. Dunlevy +Rose & Archie Culbert 11:30 AM +Bob Carpenter +Bob Fallar	Is. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt. 2:1-12	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

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

Embrace Our Way of Life
THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF HOLY NAME PROVINCE
Franciscan Vocation Ministry
Br. Basil Valente, OFM
129 West 31st Street, 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10001-3403
1-800-677-7788 www.BeAFranciscan.org



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

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

See Page 5 for additional Christmas Season Masses & Services

A Letter From The Pastor...



Christmas: The Cause of Our Joy

There is a difference between joy and happiness. We hear that this is the most wonderful time of the year. [Andy Williams' version of that song is still my favorite.] The Christmas lights during our early evenings lift our spirits. [It's always good to see light in the darkness.] The wrapping paper, bows, and ribbons all add to the festive time of this season of Christmas. [I love this time of year.] It makes me happy.

But what happens when it's over? The first blow to my happiness is usually when I see a barren Christmas tree, usually with a few wisps of tinsel still clinging to its branches, tossed to the side of the road, waiting for its trip to the recycle plant or the garbage dump. It really hurts when I see that on Dec. 26th!

This is a wonderful time of the year and Christmas is something that we should rightly celebrate with as much gusto as we can muster. This season does make me happy but Christmas really is the cause of my joy, our joy.

Just for laughs I searched the web for the difference between happiness and joy. The first site that came up, *differ.com*, hit the nail on the head. It said, happiness is an "emotion in which one experiences feelings ranging from contentment and satisfaction to bliss and intense pleasure." It is caused by "earthly experiences and material objects." The emotion is "an outward expression of elation but it is temporary and based on outward circumstances."

Joy, on the other hand, is defined as a "stronger, less common feeling than happiness... feeling spiritually connected to God or to people. Joy is caused by "spiritual experiences, caring for others, gratitude, and thankfulness." Our emotional response is "inward peace and contentment" and it endures. Exactly!

Joy lasts, happiness does not. We might not always be happy but joy, on a deeper level, is a part of us ... or not.

In Christmas, we celebrate God – the master of the universe, the creator of everything, that which is beyond all knowing, the author and essence of life itself – became flesh and lived among us. That in and of itself is awesome, no? Then we listen to his message and we are overwhelmed. Jesus reminded us that we are made in the image and likeness of God, everyone! [Genesis 1:27] He taught us that we are loved no matter what we have done. [Luke 15:11-32.] He tells us to love one another as he loves us. [John 13:34.] And Matthew ends his Gospel, after Jesus commissions us to go out to all the nations and make new disciples, with the line "I will be with you always, until the end of the age." [Matthew 28:19] WOW!

This time of year might make us happy, but the season of Christmas is the cause of our joy. Our lineage is holy. We are loved, forgiven, and commissioned to spread that same message to everyone we meet, all the time.

On behalf of all the Pastoral Staff, may you and your families be blessed this Christmas with all that is good and may the mystery of the Incarnation continue to bring wonder and joy to the whole world.

May we all know His peace.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor



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](https://www.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.

Faith Faith: For children ages six 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
Barbara Truncellito, Director, Parish Development

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 & Center
 4700 Long Beach Boulevard
 Long Beach Island, NJ 08008



Christmas 2021 Giving Fund

Giving Levels	
Shepherd Level	\$25.00
Magi Level	\$35.00
Gold Level	\$50.00
Frankincense Level	\$100.00
Myrrh Level	\$500.00
Star of Wonder Level	\$1,000.00
Angel Level	\$5,000.00
Nativity Level	\$10,000.00
Manger Level	other



Dear Fr. Francis,

December 2021

Yes! I would like to contribute to the *Christmas 2021 Giving Fund* to support the ministries and services of St. Francis Parish and Center.

Shepherd Level
 Magi Level
 Gold Level
 Frankincense Level
 Myrrh Level
 Star of Wonder Level
 Angel Level
 Nativity Level
 Manger Level

Name: _____

How would you like the name of your loved one and your name to appear in our *Christmas 2021 Perfect Light Society*?

Address: _____

Email: _____

In memory/honor of:

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Donor: _____

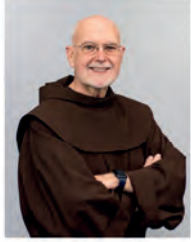
★ If donating by check, please make the check payable to *St. Francis Parish*.

★ If you would like to donate by credit card, please visit our webpage www.stfrancisparishlbi.org and click the "Give" button.

★ If you donate with a check or credit card, please return this completed form so we can be sure to enroll you and your loved one in our "Christmas 2021 Perfect Light Society."

Your donation is tax deductible.

Weekly Reflections...



Fr. John Frambes, OFM, Pastoral Associate

Receiving at Christmas

One of our friars who had been a missionary in Japan used to pray this way as we began our dinner in the friary. He would make the Sign of the Cross and then there would be a long silence. If it were your first experience of this prayer, the long pause would

make you wonder when he was going to get started. Then, at just the point of awkwardness, he would conclude, "We have received." And we who knew this quiet prayer were aware that we have received, not just food, but everything from God. All that is we have received. And we were grateful.

We have received. That is what Christmas is about. The whole of humanity has received the Son of God. The whole world has received the Word made flesh. The entire universe has received its Creator as Creature.

We have received. Each and every one of us. The Prologue of the gospel according to John has these words: *To those who accepted him, he gave the power to become children of God... Of his fullness we have all received.*

In the Son, we receive the infinite care of God whose love is without limit.

Yes, of his fullness we have received.

May God fill you with joy this Christmas and always.

John Frambes, ofm

GOSPEL CHALLENGE:

"They found Him in the temple".

Mary and Joseph were looking for Jesus with great anxiety.

When I'm faced with anxiety, where do I look for Jesus?



Peace Prayer Project

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



Appeals Box

Second Collection Christmas December 24/25:

St. Francis Parish Ministries: Music

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

Second Collection Today:

St. Francis Parish Ministries: Worship

Our Sunday liturgy is the heart of our life together as a parish. Each week, we gather as the Body of Christ to be nourished by the Word of Life and fed by the Bread of Life. Thanks to your generosity, our four Churches are nicely appointed, cool in the summer and warm in the winter. We have a dedicated and faith-filled worship staff to coordinate the details of our celebration: music, environment, and the multitude of liturgical ministries. This collection helps to cover the expenses of the liturgical life of the Parish community. Thank you!

Due to an early holiday publishing deadline, collection totals will be published in the next bulletin.



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

2021 Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: **\$100,000.00**

Gift Count:	428
Donors:	306
Raised:	\$63,860.00
Collected:	\$62,557.09
Pledge Balance:	\$ 797.91



Support St. Francis Community Center When you shop amazon.com!

Your favorite online retailer just got better!
Amazon will donate 0.05% of the profits from your order to help support the Center simply by signing-up for the Amazon Smile program!
<http://smile.amazon>

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.



St. Francis Liturgical Community

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)



Classes for all grades 1-8 are under way.

Contact Marion Pierri at mpierri@stfrancislbj.org or (609) 494-8813 ext. 177 for more information on the tuition process.

New families to our programs should contact our Director, Judy Clayton at jclayton@stfrancislbj.org or (609) 494-8813 ext. 153.

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

The Adult Faith Enrichment group invites you to a talk on "Sacraments" **Tuesday, January 18th at 7:00 PM** in the St. Francis Church, Brant Beach.



Upcoming Advent and Christmas Season Masses and Services

- Saturday, **January 1st, 2022, Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**, 9:00am Mass. *Not a Holy Day this year. **Live-Streaming Mass***
- Sunday, **January 2nd, Epiphany of the Lord**, Regular Sunday Masses in Brant Beach Church, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am
- Sunday **January 9th, Baptism of the Lord**, Regular Sunday Masses in Brant Beach Church, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am

Did you notice?

The first lector does not process out with the Lectionary at the end of Mass. It is meant to stay in the sanctuary. The Word of God remains with the assembled.

SAVE THE DATE !

2022 ST. FRANCIS MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT

This could be the time for you to take a break from your busy schedule and reconnect to what really matters.

Friday, **March 11th** - 6:00 - 10:00 PM
Saturday **March 12th** - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Maris Stella - Harvey Cedars

Brochures with pertinent information are available at the Church entrances.

Please contact Jim Brady with questions or for additional information at sabrady@hotmail.com

Praying the Rosary

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



St. Anthony Novena

St. Francis of Assisi Church Brant Beach
Tuesdays after the 9:00 AM Daily Mass



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Francis of Assisi Church Brant Beach
Wednesdays, 2:00 - 3:00 PM



Help Wanted - Altar Server Ministry

CALLING ALL BOYS AND GIRLS



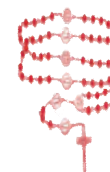
Do you find mass boring? If you do, why not sign up to be an altar server. We need young people [after First Communion] to help with priests and/or carry the cross in the parade at the beginning and end of mass. The more you do during the mass, the more interesting mass becomes.

Have your parents contact Ms. Toby McCarthy via email toby121e@comcast.net or call/text (609) 923 5417.

Parents, don't worry...Ms. Toby will do the training, and your child will serve only ONE mass per month.

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. Please place your donation of used rosaries in the collection basket in the lobby of the Brant Beach Church and we thank you!



Read our bulletin online at www.stfrancisparishlbj.org



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



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

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction



Spiritual Direction is a professional ministry in which a spiritual director accompanies others to grow in intimacy with God as they experience the challenges and joys of life. This sacred ministry assists individuals to notice and savor their experiences of God and to respond to God's abundant love. We now have five certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction in our parish. For an appointment please call:

Maryann Barrek, ofs, (609) 661-4441,

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

This program calls out to those who desire to live more contemplatively in the world, to grow in union with God and others, and to become more aware, intentional and free. God liberates us and heals us through the practice of contemplative prayer. All our meetings, will be on Zoom for both Wednesdays and Saturdays through March then back in person for April through July 2022. Email Kathy Egan for more information at klegan.chaplain@gmail.com

Next scheduled sessions: **January 5, 10:30 AM via Zoom**
January 8, 9:45 AM via Zoom

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: **January 15, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch**

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Book Club

Now through November 2021 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.

Next scheduled meeting: **January 25, Sr. Lunch Room**

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Tuesday, **January 4, 7:00 PM**, St. Thomas Church, Surf City

Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **January 9, 12:30 PM**, Brant Beach Church Hall,
Fraternity Meeting.

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.

Next scheduled meeting: **January 5, 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, ofs at (609) 494-8813 for more information.

Next scheduled meeting: **January 13, Room 212**

Employment Opportunity



*All full-time positions are offered benefits including Health Care, Paid time off (w/ additional earning for years of service), 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.

Recreation/Pool

Position: Part-time Lifeguard (possibility for year round hours)

Not Red Cross certified yet? We can train you!

For anyone interested in this position who is not a currently a Red Cross certified pool lifeguard, we can get you certified! Employment is for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. If interested please reach out to slamarco@stfrancisbi.org with any questions or for more information.

Days: Monday-Friday, and/or weekend - Flexible schedule

Pay: \$12 per hour (Increasing to \$13 per hour on January 1st)

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.

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

Please send resumes to
abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS



Save the Date!

Super "Plunge" Saturday February 12, 2022, 1:00 PM

An alcohol-free event!

Join us for the **18th Annual Ocean Plunge** on Super Bowl Sunday! Are you part Polar Bear? Do you have what it takes to brave the icy cold Atlantic Ocean in February? Save the date and meet us on the 48th Street beach (Brant Beach).

Pre-Registration is required. \$30 per person, \$15 per student. Registration Forms will be available online at: [www:stfranciscenterlbi.org](http://www.stfranciscenterlbi.org) and at the Center soon.

Recreation & Aquatics

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

SESSION III REGISTRATION

Classes begin
January 3, 2022

Pickleball

A cross between Ping Pong, Tennis, Racquetball and Badminton. Pickleball is played as a singles or doubles game. Players use oversized ping pong paddles and a whiffle ball. The game is played on a badminton sized court that is divided by a 34 inch high net. Pickleball is a great sport for teens and up including baby boomers and active seniors.

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



Saturdays
9:30 AM-12:30 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

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.

Effective **January 1, 2022** PAAD and Senior Gold limits will increase by **10,000** each.

This increases the income eligibility limits established in the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) program to \$38,769 for single persons and \$45,270 combined income for married couples. Under the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program, income eligibility limits are \$10,000 higher than PAAD income eligibility limits. Therefore, the bill will increase income eligibility limits under the Senior Gold Prescription Discount program to \$48,769 for single persons and \$55,270 combined income for married couples. If you need assistance in filling out an application call Senior Services to schedule an appointment (609) 494-8861.

Are you in need of assistance with Dental, Vision, Pharmaceutical and Physicians co-pay cost? We are here to help! St. Francis Senior Services received a grant from the **Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Mission Fund** to assist low-income seniors in need of dental and vision care and prescription and physician co-pay cost. Please call Linda Falb, Director Senior Service for information.
(609) 494-8868 ext. 111.

Please be advised we can no longer take donations of durable medical equipment or adult undergarments; we do not have the space to store them.

Thank you, Sr. 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) 494-8861 or St. Francis Senior Services Berkeley Office at (732) 244-9600.

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:

Cereal, Canned Soup, Rice Side Packets, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Vegetables such as Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Carrots, Detergent, Soap, Personal Products, Dish Detergent.

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

Did You Know??

In addition to assisting families with food, the St. Francis Human Concerns Program also holds three special projects on an annual basis; Back to School, Thanksgiving, and Gift of Warmth. This year our projects served 95 families reaching 184 children for the Back to School project, 220 families reaching 556 adults and 310 children for the Thanksgiving Project, and 200 families reaching 485 children for the Gift of Warmth Project.

The Human Concerns Department would like to thank all of our Staff and Volunteers who make these projects possible. We would also like to thank our generous community members who have donated to each of our projects this year.

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.

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

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



Join Father Steve in Iceland

February 1-6, 2022

(Wait listed)

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.

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

or visit St. Francis Parish Website at: <https://www.stfrancispishlbi.org/travel>

Community Bulletin Board

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet is now open the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-6:00 PM and every Saturday from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. Free clothing to any women having trouble making ends meet and in need of clothing.

With a voucher you can choose from: work attire, jackets & coats, everyday clothing, shoes and accessories!

Vouchers are available at St. Francis Food Pantry, Churches, & Stafford Community Center.

Call Madelyn at (609) 276-3308 for more information.

No appointment necessary.