

THE BRIDGE



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

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



Photo by Canva.com

“the light shines in the darkness..” (Jn. 1:1-18)

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, December 24	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> Christmas Eve 4:00 PM +Richard Cortellino +Mary English +John J. Connelly +Bernard McConnell 6:00 PM +Eugene & Lucille D'Amico +David & Kathleen Barndt +Anne Armstrong, <i>ofs</i> +Gustavo Acosta +Edward W. Shanley +John & Rosa Primerano +Judith & Joseph Filoon +Pasquale Valentini +Jane & George Holland +Rosemary Harray	Is. 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt. 1:1-25	Parish and Center is CLOSED
Sunday, December 25	Christmas 10:00 AM (L)+Stein & Kenpski Families +Henry Scala (L)+Amergael Members +Betty Ann Defusco +Belinda Caputo +Bruce Brodbeck	Is. 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt. 1:1-25	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi Parish and Center is CLOSED
Monday, December 26	9:00 AM +Agnes P. Thackston +Mary Beth Fellona	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt. 10:17-22	Parish and Center is CLOSED
Tuesday, December 27	9:00 AM +John Cahill	1 Jn. 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, December 28	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	1 Jn. 1:5-2:2; Mt. 2:13-18	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, December 29	9:00 AM +Margaret Virili +Christine Layfield	1 Jn. 2:3-11; Lk. 2:22-35	
Friday, December 30	9:00 AM Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, Joseph (L)+Stein & Kempski Families	Sir. 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23	10:00 AM Knit/Crochet, Family Faith Office
Saturday, December 31	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM Solemnity of Mary - Vigil +Dorothy M. Keegan	1 Jn. 2:18-21; Jn. 1:1-18 Nm. 6:22-27; Gal. 4:4-7; Lk. 2:16-21	
Sunday, January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God 8:30 AM +Edward Pottichen +Bill Larkey 10:00 AM +Frances Collins +Bruce Brodbeck 11:30 AM +James M. Kempski +Louise Padovano	Nm. 6:22-27; Gal. 4:4-7; Lk. 2:16-21	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi Parish and Center is CLOSED

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, December 24	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> Christmas Eve 4:00 PM +Leona & Bill Davies

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

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Merry Christmas!!

This is the season of giving gifts. This year the parish has a gift for you. You will find your present at the doors of the church. Please take one. If you come to Mass everyday or once a year, please, take your present. Spoiler alert: it is a book by Matthew Kelly entitled, *Holy Moments*.

Toward the end of the book he writes, “Once you hear about *Holy Moments*, the idea is impossible to forget. You cannot unhear it. It creates an immediate paradigm shift. Everywhere you go you will see opportunities to participate in *Holy Moments*, you will see other people collaborating with God to create *Holy Moments*, and you will witness possible *Holy Moments* being squandered. You will see *Holy Moments* for the rest of your life, whether you do something about them or not.”

Christmas is the celebration of that Holy Moment when the “Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (Jn 1:14) We celebrate that moment in history when all of creation moved even closer to God. Through Christ we are now able to see the “invisible God.” (Col. 1:15) Those who have “eyes to see and ears to hear” [Mk 8:18] recognize the beauty and mystery of God continuing to unfold and be recreated in our midst. The greatest gift we could ever possibly receive is the ability to see those holy moments, the presence of God, in our lives. We hope this book helps you to do just that.

In January, we will be hosting some reflection time for anyone who is interested to come and share your thoughts on the book, any insights you may have gained, and any holy moments that you hold. The specific details are to follow.

May God bless you and your family in this most special Holy Moment in our lives and the life of our Church!

Merry Christmas!

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 4:00 PM. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible if you are moving.

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

Family Faith: For children in grades one through eight. Please call Judith Clayton at (609) 494-8813 ext. 153 for more information.

Marriage: In accordance with the Common Policy of the five Dioceses of New Jersey, arrangements must be made ONE YEAR in advance. Couples are required to attend Marriage Preparation classes. Weddings are performed on Friday or Saturday. Weddings are NOT performed on Sundays, the beach, Memorial Day, Fourth of July or Labor Day weekends.

Pastoral Visitations: Please notify the Parish Office if you or any of your loved ones are ill, homebound, in SOMC, nursing homes or rehabilitation centers.

Parish Office

Michele Beck, Director, Music.....mbeck@stfrancislbi.org
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM.....sbrookbank@stfrancislbi.org
Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation...jclayton@stfrancis.org
Deacon Robert Cunningham.....thatbrotherbob@aol.com
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM.....kdaly@stfrancislbi.org
Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor.....fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org
Fr. John Frambes, OFM.....jframbes@stfrancislbi.org
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF.....srpat@stfrancislbi.org
Jo Anne Reeder, Director, Worship.....jreeder@stfrancislbi.org
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM.....areitz@stfrancislbi.org
Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence)
Parish Office - (609) 494-8813, Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
(Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)

Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8813 ext. 153

St. Francis Center

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

Parish Finance Council

Cecelia Fowler 201 264 5965 cgfowler413@gmail.com
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM 609 494 8861 areitz@stfrancislbi.org
Angelo Rinaldi 609 661 9052 clamblbi@comcast.net
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM 609 494 8861 fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org
Jay Pojednic 609 709 2007 jdpojednic@comcast.net
Joe Hummel 609 868 2930 ejhjr@comcast.net
Joe Mack 609 492 1659 josephmack2008@comcast.net
Joe Vaszily jmpv127@gmail.com
Peter Williams 603 714 4014 peter.l.williams9@gmail.com
Stacey Kelsall, Comptroller 609 494 8861 skelsall@stfrancislbi.org

Appeals Box

Second Collection: Christmas Envelope

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.

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




***St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Online Giving!***
[***stfrancisparishlbi.org/donate***](http://stfrancisparishlbi.org/donate)

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: **\$56,043.38** (56% of Goal)
Total Collected: **\$55,495.38** (55% of Goal)
Total Donors: **204**
Total Gifts: **230**
Average Gift: **\$243.67**

*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**](http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal)

St. Francis Liturgical Community

Family Faith



Judith Clayton, Director of Family Faith (Ext. 153)
jlclayton@stfrancislbi.org
Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)
Marion Pierri, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)

Prison Ministry in Our Parish



"I was in prison and you came to visit me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (*Matthew 25:36, 40*)

There is a prison ministry being started in the Parish. The ministry will bring Eucharist and review the Gospel readings from Sunday Mass. We will be visiting the Ocean County jail in Toms River. Anyone interested please contact Jim Coltery [**jcollery@gmail.com**](mailto:jcollery@gmail.com).



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!

Adults For Confirmation Come and See



Anyone 18 years of age or older who has been baptized and would like to celebrate Confirmation is invited to meet with Sr. Pat on **January 17** at 7:00 PM in Room 212. For further information about celebrating the Sacrament, please contact Sr. Pat at (609) 494-8861 ext. 157.

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Advent and Christmas Season
Liturgies and Services 2022-23
All Liturgies in Brant Beach
Unless otherwise noted.**



- Weekend Mass Schedules
Saturdays – 5:00PM
Sundays – 8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM
- **Christmas Eve December 24th** Saturday
Brant Beach 4:00PM & 6:00PM
Surf City 4:00PM
- **The Nativity of the Lord
December 25th** Sunday 10:00AM
- **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph
December 30th** Friday 9:00AM
- **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
Vigil Saturday **December 31st** 5:00PM
Solemnity **January 1st**, 2023 Sunday
8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM
- **The Epiphany of the Lord**
January 7th Saturday 5:00PM,
January 8th Sunday
8:30am, 10:00AM, 11:30AM

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Knitting & Crocheting Circle

Meets **weekly on Fridays**, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, in the Family Faith Office. For more information please contact Fr. Scott at (609) 494-8813.

Next meeting Friday, **December 30**, 10:00 AM, Family Faith Office

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Meets **weekly on Tuesdays**, beginning at 7:00 PM,
First meeting Tuesday, **January 3**, 7:00 PM, Surf City Church Hall

Order of the Franciscans Secular offs

Sunday, **January 8**, 12:30 PM *Spiritual Life, Fraternity Meeting*,
Brant Beach Church Hall.

Scripture Study

Meets **bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, from 10:00-11:00 AM to learn,
discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. Call Tom
Troyano at (732) 261-4721 or email: tomtroyano@comcast.net for more
information.

Next meeting Wednesday **January 4**, 10:00 AM, location to be
announced..

Survivors of Suicide

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

Next meeting **January 12**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

Mass Schedule through March 25/26, 2023

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/stfrancispishlbi

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City - **CLOSED**

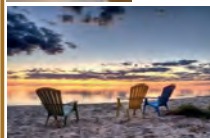
St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - **CLOSED**

St. Clare, Loveladies - **CLOSED**

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction



The "Direction" part of the term Spiritual Direction can be off-putting, even for us as directors. This process is not about one person telling the other what to do – "directing" them. Spiritual companionship or soul-friending might be a better term. "Spiritual Direction" has stuck for some reason, but as Thomas Keating advises: "It is not so much being told what to do as being encouraged to do what we know God and our conscience are asking us to do."

A spiritual director has been trained to listen to the person they are with in collaboration with the Holy Spirit. Thus, one often sees a picture of three chairs to symbolize the process, one for the director, one for the seeker and one for the Spirit! One on one meetings with you can be in person, by video call or phone call. Like to know more? Contact one of the certified spiritual directors in the parish:

Maryann Barrek, (609) 661-4441
Anne Bock, (609) 204-3835
Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651
Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917
Pat Simmons, (609) 661-661-1361

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 **zoom** sessions - **January 4 & January 14**

Men's Spirituality Group

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

Gospel Inspirations:



"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord.'"

God does miraculous things in the midst of our world that is full of wars, poverty, and division. And He comes to us and "for all the people."

Be born in me, Lord Jesus!

GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 19—29, 2023

VISITING: ATHENS * CORINTH * MYKONOS * EPHEBUS
PATMOS * SANTORINI * DELPHI * KALAMBAKA * THESSALONIKI
Including a 3-Day Cruise to the Greek Isles & Turkey



Hosted by
FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM
\$3899 FROM NEW YORK*
*Air/land tour price is \$3379 plus \$520 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact:
Fr. Andrew Reitz
Tel: (917) 275-5593
Email: areitz@stfrancislbj.org

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!



20th Annual Men's Cornerstone Retreat

Friday March 10, 2023

Saturday March 11, 2023

Maris Stella Retreat Center

Brochures at Church Entrances

St. Francis Parish and Center will be CLOSED:



Saturday, December 24,
Sunday, December 25, and
Monday, December 26

in observance of Christmas
and

Sunday, January 1, and
Monday, January 2, 2023

in observance of New Year's Day.



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



Employment Opportunity

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



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

Community Center

Counseling Services

Positions: *Full time Licensed Counselor and Full-time or Part-time Bilingual (Fluent English/Spanish) Licensed Counselor*

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.

Parish

Position: *Director of Parish Development*, Full time position

This position is responsible for planning, organizing, administering, and evaluating the fund raising initiatives and special events for the St Francis Parish. Prefer a bachelor's degree and experience in management and fundraising.

Applicants should have good communication skills and computer skills including, Microsoft Office, website management, and the ability to manage multiple social media pages. Applicants must be able to lift 30lbs and have a valid Driver's License. Attendance at Sunday liturgies and Holy days is encouraged.

Days/Hours: Monday- Friday, with attendance at Evening/ weekend events required

Position: *Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry*, Full time position.

Previous experience as a volunteer or intern providing services in a parish youth ministry program preferred. Responsible for reaching out to our parish young adults and to our post confirmation young people to create a vibrant, inspiring, and relevant faith based program that will foster spiritual and faith based growth. Responsible for recruiting volunteers, coordinating outreach service projects and participating in other parish activities. Must be capable of administrative tasks such as developing and managing the program's budget. Must have excellent communication and leadership skills, and must be an active and participating Catholic.

Bachelor's degree required- Theology or Religious Studies or related field

Days: Monday-Friday with some evenings and weekends required

**Background check & fingerprinting required for all employees 18 yrs. & older.

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancislbj.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER & PARISH
4700 LONG BEACH BLVD. LONG BEACH TWP, NJ 08008 609-494-8861

ANNIVERSARY 50th
PROGRESSIVE 50/50

SUPPORT THE CENTER

Please make your check payable to St. Francis Parish & Center and indicate "50th Anniversary Progressive 50/50" on the envelope / No phone purchases permitted.

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____

Email: _____
Would you like to be on our mailing list? Yes / No _____

of Books Requested (\$10 each) _____
Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Did You Know??

Did you know that feeling a little sad or depressed around the holidays is normal? We experience a lot of emotions around the holidays which can sometimes cause this season to be less than joyful. If your symptoms of depression last longer than a few weeks and you are looking for more support, give **St. Francis Counseling Service** a call (609-494-1554)! We provide counseling services for general mental health concerns, such as depression, anxiety or grief, on a sliding scale for Southern Ocean County residents. You can reach our office by calling 609-494-1554.

Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

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

Walk-ins are welcome!

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

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

Donations needed for the Food Pantry:

Pasta, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Snacks.

Canned Goods: Corn, Peas, Baked Beans, Black Beans, Spaghettios, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Soup, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Juice Boxes, Ensure/Boost Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Body Wash/Soap, Toilet Paper, Feminine Products

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*

Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



St. Francis Community Center's Preschool and Childcare are fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org. We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. www.grownjkids.gov.

Masks will be required for 2 years and up - they will be encouraged to wear a mask throughout the day.

Year-round Childcare for Children TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Available Care 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, 5 Days a Week

Full Day and Work Day

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

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.

Classes start January 4, 2023

Aquatics:

Water Tots,
4-Year Old Beginner Swim,
Beginner Level 1 & 2 swim lessons,
Intermediate & Advanced,
Aquatic Zumba Aerobics,
Aqua Zumba/Arthritis Aquatic Exercise,
Aquatic Exercise.

Recreation:

Tot & Tyke Basketball with Coach Manzo,
All Level Yoga,
Tennis Fundamentals (ages 5-12).

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.

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**.

St. Francis Counseling Service is currently accepting participants for our next round of group services **beginning in January!**

Our available groups will be the following:

Parenting After – A group for parents who are learning to navigate parenting after a child has experienced sexual violence.

Surviving to Thriving – Guidance and skills building for survivors of sexual violence.

Journey Through Grief – Education and support for adults that are working through the stages of grief.

All groups are **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** to residents of Ocean County, NJ.

In addition to these groups we continue to provide many other counseling services including individual, couples, and family therapy services with in-person and virtual options.

For more information or to enroll in a service, please contact us at 609-494-1554.

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

The LBI Health Department is doing
Blood Pressure Screenings
the **second Tuesday of each Month**
from 11:00 am - 11:30 am
in the Community Center Senior Lounge.
Please call 609-494-8861 ext. 111
for more information.



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



May 14-23, 2023

British Landscapes Featuring England, Scotland and Wales

Behold the Crown Jewels of Scotland on a guided tour of Edinburgh Castle, discover the narrow Snickelway lanes of York, explore Wales during a tour of the picturesque village of Llangollen in addition to the ruins of an ancient fort during a visit to Hadrian's Wall. Enjoy Stratford upon Avon and Oxford before ending your British adventure with two nights in London. Rate per person double including airfare from Newark \$3,799.00.

October 11-19, 2023

Egypt and Nile Cruise

Have you always wanted to take a camel ride by the Pyramids or a hot air balloon ride over the Nile while cruising these ancient ports? Spend two nights in Cairo visiting the National Museum, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the enigmatic Sphinx along with a camel ride. Visit Old Cairo. Fly to Luxor and board the H/S Nebu for a four night Nile cruise visiting Karnak and Luxor Temple, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut, Edfu, Kom Ombo and more. Breakfast daily and full board while cruising. Rate per person double occupancy is at \$3,988.00. Airfare pricing will be available in January.

November 2-12, 2023

10 night Ultimate Southern Caribbean Cruise Celebrity Reflection

Cruise round trip from Fort Lauderdale in a balcony cabin visiting: Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Martinique St. Kitts & Nevis. Our special "always included" package incorporates your stateroom in a balcony, all current port and government taxes, all meals, beverage package, Wi-Fi and gratuities. Rate per person is at \$2,069.00.

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

2nd & 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.

Community Bulletin Board

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

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END OF THE YEAR RETREAT

Saturday, **December 31**, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2022 and expressing gratitude to God. The day will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2023. We reverently say farewell to 2022 and cordially welcome 2023 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch. Donation: Love Offering

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OFF TO A PRAYERFUL START FOCUSING THE NEW YEAR

Tuesday, **January 3**. 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Start out 2023 with an evening zoom retreat to set the direction for the year. "Well begun is half done," they say, and establishing a direction is essential for the journey. Where am I going in 2023? What is the desire of my heart, and God's as we begin this year together? Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$15, includes materials.

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4 Mondays, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

January 16 February 6 March 6 April 3

Enter the heart of Mary through the contemplative words of John Lynch's spiritual classic, *A Woman Wrapped in Silence*. We will use the second half of this wonderful narrative to help us to go deeper into the humility and strength of the Blessed Mother and her love for her Son and us all. Donation: \$80

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