

THE BRIDGE



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

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



“Do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Jn. 20:27

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 16, 2023

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, April 15	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Patricia Kennedy Riehl 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Scott Frahlch	Acts 4:13-21; Mk. 16:9-15 Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt. 1:3-9; Jn. 20:19-31	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge 10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm.
Sunday, April 16	<i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i> 8:30 AM +Louis Luceri +Anna Belle Vaughan +Benjamin Coppola 10:00 AM +Angelo Fiore, Sr. +Dr. Richard & Anne C. Gove +James M. Kempski 11:30 AM +Jean Ann Gallimore +Lauren Stavola 5:00 PM <i>Survivors of Suicide</i>	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt. 1:3-9; Jn. 20:19-31	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Monday, April 17	9:00 AM +Davie Weiner	Acts 4:23-31; Jn. 3:1-8	
Tuesday, April 18	9:00 AM +Michael DiBernardo	Acts 4:32-37; Jn. 3:7b-15	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, April 19	9:00 AM +Tom Thackston	Acts 5:17-26; Jn. 3:16-21	9:30 AM Bible Talk After Mass 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, April 20	9:00 AM +Dolores & Edward Pottichen +Donna Luszik	Acts 5:27-33; Jn. 3:31-36	
Friday, April 21	9:00 AM +Katy Mancini +Helen Semegen 4:00 PM <i>Sacrament of Confirmation</i>	Acts 5:34-42; Jn. 6:1-15	10:00 AM Knit/Crochet, Family Faith Office
Saturday, April 22	9:00 AM +Beverly Klingler +Father Johnny Klingler 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Thomas Daniel Battle	Acts 6:1-7; Jn. 6:16-21 Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt. 1:17-21; Lk. 24:13-35	
Sunday, April 23	8:30 AM +William Ernst, Jr. +Sean Hendrickson +Oliver Butler 10:00 AM +Eileen McCabe +Kellen Bischoff +Paul Hand 11:30 AM +Nancy Marie Schmoll	Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt. 1:17-21; Lk. 24:13-35	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, April 16	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 10:00 AM +Paul Dobrowsky +Bruce Brodbeck
Sunday, April 23	10:00 AM +Martin Stein

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.

Mass Schedule CHANGE

April 15/16 through May 20/21, 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/stfrancisparishlbi

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City - Sunday, 10:00 AM

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - CLOSED

St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM, Pastor

Hello from Rome!

On Easter Sunday night I flew off to Rome to lead a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for students from Roger Bacon High School, Cincinnati, OH. You may recall I led this pilgrimage last year as well. It is very nice to be in Rome right after Easter. The weather is good... so far... but they are predicting rain.

Nonetheless, the spirit of Easter is still very much in the air. The pilgrimage ends on the 19th and I will return to our beautiful island on the 20th.

As we bring the Octave of Easter to a close with today's celebrations, I want to thank everyone who was involved in our great celebrations of the Triduum and Easter Sunday Masses. Our three-day service that included Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, was truly spectacular. I cannot tell you how many people have texted, called, or sent emails expressing their gratitude for our beautiful services.

Fr. Scott, and Fr. Kevin did a great job presiding at the Holy Thursday and Good Friday Services. The music, as usual, was outstanding. As I had mentioned at the Vigil Mass, a great kudos needs to go out to Michele Beck, our new Director of Liturgy and Music. With JoAnne Reeder's retirement in March, Michele did not miss a beat... literally! She jumped right in and took charge. Brava to her, and all the cantors, musicians, and choirs. You made our festive days prayerful and beautiful! Thank you all.

Thank you to Tina Kelsall and Toby McCarthy for your great ability to transform our beautiful church into a heavenly sight. You managed to transform our space through our long and desert-like journey through Lent to the blossoms of a festive Garden of Eden right before our eyes. That too is a special gift! Thank you.

Thank you to all our lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers [you look great in tuxedos!], and altar servers. Thank you to our maintenance department and to all who help set up, clean up, and takedown and rebuild. We can never underestimate how much work actually goes into what you do! Your commitment and dedication are laudable and very much appreciated. Finally, thank you to all who joined us for all or part of our services on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. I truly believe that our celebrations of this climax of our Liturgical season allowed everyone present to truly be touched by Jesus' care and love given to us in the Eucharist, his passionate death, and the hope that God constantly offers to us in the Resurrection.

I pray we each carry the spirit of this Easter season in the depths of our lives until all the world knows that Jesus Christ is Risen. He is Risen, indeed.

As they say in Italy, Buona Pascua!
C'vediamo pronto!

Happy Easter!
See you soon!

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, Liturgy & Music

Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM

Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation

Deacon Robert Cunningham

Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM

Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor

Fr. John Frambes, OFM

Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF

Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM

Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence)

Marie Maslanka, Parish Secretary

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

Parish Finance Council

Cecelia Fowler

Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM

Angelo Rinaldi

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM

Jay Pojednic

Joe Hummel

Joe Mack

Joe Vaszily

Peter Williams

Stacey Kelsall, Comptroller

Anyone who needs to contact the Parish staff or

Finance Council can do so by visiting our website at:

www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/contact

St. Francis Center

Community Center - (609) 494-8861

Children's Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 114

Counseling Services - (609) 494-1554

Educational & Career Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 407

Family Support Services - (609) 494-8861

Food Pantry - (833) 511-0760

Recreation & Aquatics - (609) 494-8861 ext. 105

Senior Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 108 or 109

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$25,000

This Week's Second Collection:

Parish Operating Expenses

This collection will help pay our postage, printing, stationary expenses, copy machine rental & supplies needed. Thank you for your generosity.

Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$54,615

Needed: \$75,000

Last Week's Second Collection:

St. Francis Parish Ministries - Music

Collected: \$9,123

Holy Thursday

Collected: \$4,289

Good Friday

Collected: \$4,065

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

*** Thank you for your generosity! ***



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



6.5 Million Diocesan Goal

St. Francis Parish Goal: \$100,000.00

Pledged: \$29,687.00 (30% of Goal)

Paid: \$25,857.00 (26% of Goal)

Total Donors: 171

Total Gifts: 175

Average Gift: \$169.64

Thank you for your support of the Diocese of Trenton.

Please visit the stfrancislbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal for more information from Bishop O'Connell.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Community Center are in accordance with the Diocese of Trenton in our commitment to the protection and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. These Diocesan policies are observed and posted in all public spaces throughout our Parish and Community Center buildings.

This initiative is outlined in the United States conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Charter.

Family Faith

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

jclayton@stfrancislbi.org

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

Mary Lou McGurkin, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)



Gospel Inspirations:



“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Jesus is talking about us who have faith without having witnessed the miracle of the Resurrection directly.

Let's look for the Risen Christ in everyone we encounter.

Jesus continues to bless us. Pass it on.



Knitting and Crochet Ministry

We are pleased to announce that we now have Pocket Prayer Shawls, which can be found in the front lobby of St. Francis Church. With every stitch a prayer is offered for the person who will receive

the Pocket Prayer Shawl. These mini shawls provide comfort, support from God for those who receive one.

These shawls are able to fit inside of a pocket.

These shawls can be given to anyone who needs comfort and support, such as a recent loss, illness, or a spiritual struggle.

Read our bulletin online at

www.stfrancisparishlbi.org



Daily gospel reflections can be found on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi



Follow St. Francis Parish on Instagram:

[StFrancisChurchLBI](https://www.instagram.com/StFrancisChurchLBI)

St. Francis is a sending Parish to St. Mary Academy

(609) 597-3800 or visit: www.stmaryknights.org

Praying the Rosary



St. Francis of Assisi Church Brant Beach

Monday through Saturday, 8:20 AM

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction



(The third chair is for the Holy Spirit, the real Director).

How is God active in your life? Where is God in times of crisis? Is your relationship with God what you'd like it to be? Questions like these are the focus of spiritual direction or "soul care". The director or companion is someone trained to listen and respond to spiritual movements in the life of others.

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. 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!

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: **April 15, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room**



Bus Trip: "Moses" at Sight & Sound

September 13, 2023

\$195 all inclusive

Includes: 3:00 PM show, 11:30 AM lunch at Shady Maple, transportation, & tips.

2 pick ups: St. Francis LBI & Walmart, Manahawkin
Return home approximately 8:30 PM

Please make checks payable to: St. Francis Parish

Mail to: Cheryl Krzacyk, *ofs*, 111 E. 12th St.,
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008-4519

or call (609) 661-5229, email: chumsley@comcast.net

Mary Lou Ligus, *ofs*, (215) 850-7809

email: lbilady23@gmail.com

(Can accept 1/2 payment now to April 12 & 1/2 in June)

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Bible Talks After Mass

Tom Troyano will be doing brief monthly talks on the bible after the 9:00 AM Mass. Next talk Wednesday, **April 19**, 9:30 AM, Brant Beach Church

Book Club

We will meet in person at St. Francis Center in the Knight Wing Conference Room, (Room 212) on the last Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 PM. *Tuscan Child* by Rhys Bowen.

Next meeting Tuesday, **April 25**, 1:30 PM, Room 212.

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, **April 21**, 10:00 AM, Family Faith Office

Scripture Study

Meets **bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, from 10:00-11:30 AM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures.

Call Tom Troyano at (732) 261-4721 or email:

tomtroyano@comcast.net for more information.

Next meeting Wednesday **April 26**, 10:00 AM, Room 102.

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 **May 11**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

Join us for a Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul

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@stfrancislbi.org

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!

Spaces are running out; just a few more left! Don't miss this fabulous Pilgrimage to Greece in the Footsteps of St. Paul!

Fr. Andrew areitz@stfrancislbi.org.

Pastoral Staff Letter...



Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF, Pastoral Associate

Peace be with you!

Three times in today's gospel the risen Lord addresses us: "Peace be with you". The peace of the risen Jesus is a peace that comforts fears, empowers forgiveness and enables us to accept suffering and death as the doorway to new life. As a Eucharistic community here at St. Francis, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday** and remember those whose lives have ended by suicide.

Some say the death of a loved one by suicide is probably the most traumatic event that can be experienced. Shock, denial, anger, guilt, shame, unbelievable pain and grief are but a few of the emotions that the survivor encounters immediately. There are so many questions, so few answers. Where does one begin? Our faith tells us that we are not left alone to survive this awful experience. God is there in the midst of all the chaos and confusion.

The God of compassion holds the hand of the deceased and gently brings his child to paradise, while the God of love enfolds the survivors of suicide in Trinitarian embrace.

The term "survivor" is used for any person grieving a death by suicide. Most survivors didn't give suicide a second thought until it happened to them. In the past, people didn't talk about suicide or brain illnesses. Suicide has had a long history of being a taboo subject, one that people just don't talk about. There is still a stigma related to suicide, depression and many other types of brain disorders. The topic of suicide is still too uncomfortable for many people. Hopefully that is changing as people who are survivors are coming together to share their feeling, their experiences, and hope for the future

Today's Scriptures tell us that faith begins with a personal encounter with the risen Christ and leads to membership in a community of faith that gives witnesses through concrete actions to the presence of Christ.

This challenge is lived out perhaps as we find ourselves talking to an individual who has lost someone to suicide. Our tendency is to panic or react...what do I say?...will I make "it" worse? In saying how we feel about the death of another and talking about death, that the process of healing begins. It is here that the presence of the risen Christ is experienced by all. God made us holy and human. Our human senses of seeing, feeling, hearing are doorways to compassion and knowledge. It is in these experiences that we know Jesus is alive and among us. It is in each other that we touch the wounds of Christ and bring healing. At the same time, we come to a greater belief that we are signs of the risen Christ and know that God works in us as we share with each other the risen life within.

(Survivors of Suicide meet at St. Francis on the 2nd. Thursday of each month)

May the God of Peace bring us to New Hope and joy this day!

Sr. Pat Mc Niff

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

Employment Opportunity

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.

Children's Services-Teacher's Assistant

Be able to relate well with children and families. Prefer a background in early childhood education. (13-months to 5-years of age). First Aid & CPR Certified and/or Bi-Lingual in Spanish a plus.

Position: Full-time (40 plus hours) and Part-time (29 hours)

Days: Monday-Friday **Pay:** \$15 per hour

Summer Camp Counselor (Seasonal Position)

Be able to relate well with children and families. Working with school age children 5 years to 13years of age.

Position: Full-time (40 plus hours) and Part-time (29 hours)

Days: Monday-Friday **Pay:** \$14.13 per hour

Must be 17 or older and be available 6/20/23 to 8/31/2023

First Aid & CPR Certified and/or Bi-Lingual in Spanish a plus. Experience Preferred, but not required.

Family Support Services

Position: *Parent Educator- Parents as Teachers Program*. Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Education, Psychology, or related field is preferred. Prefer applicants who have experience working with children (0-5 years). Parent Educator will be required to travel throughout southern Ocean County for home visits and must have valid driver's license and reliable transportation.

Days: Monday-Friday – Full time

Maintenance Department

Position: Full time *Maintenance/Cleaning*- Perform scheduled and unscheduled cleaning of Community Center and Parish properties. Some knowledge/experience in Plumbing, Electric, Carpentry, and HVAC Systems preferred, not required. Must have valid driver's license.

Pay: Starting at \$15 per hour (based on experience)

Days/Hours: Monday- Friday- Afternoon/Evening hours required (approx. 2pm-10pm).

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. Prefer a bachelor's degree and experience in management and fundraising. Microsoft Office, website management, and the ability to manage multiple social media pages. Attendance at Sunday liturgies and Holy days is encouraged.

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

Position: *Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry*.

Full time position.

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. 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.**

***Full-time positions are offered Health Care, Paid time off (with additional earning for years of service), 16 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.**

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancislbj.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 18, 1:00 - 6:00 PM
St. Francis Church Hall



Please call the Community Center at (609) 494-8861 ext. 118 or visit: www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

For details donor eligibility questions, please call **800-RED-CROSS** or visit: redcrossblood.org



Annual Health and Safety Fair

Thursday, April 20, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Come enjoy new demos, vendors.
Free screening & so much more!

APRIL 20, 2023

Volunteer Week
Celebration Day

9:30-11:30 AM Sr. Lunch Room



Did You Know??

Our St. Francis volunteers make things happen and inspire all of us with their compassion, energy, enthusiasm and stamina. Each year, over 1,000 people volunteer countless hours of service in order to assist us in helping others in our community. It's because of our wonderful volunteers that our food pantry, special events, sexual assault hotline and many other functions of our buildings run so smooth. We would like to invite our volunteers to our Annual Volunteer Breakfast to celebrate all of your time and dedication! We would also like to also take this opportunity to formally welcome Michelle DiBella to our team as the new Coordinator of Volunteers and Special Events! If interested in volunteering, volunteer applications can be found online at: www.stfranciscenterlbi.org

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:

Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Baked Beans, Coffee, Canned Chef Boyardee/Chili, Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, and Soap.

Donations for the Food Pantry can be left in the bins marked "donation" in the front of the Community Center. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry it can be made through our website: <http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/donate> via PayPal.

Family Support Services:

To learn more about our programs visit our website at <http://stfranciscenterlbi.org>

- Parenting & Anger Management Groups
- Auto Ownership
- Parents As Teachers
- Maintaining the Integrity of Spanish Speaking Families

Recreation & Aquatics

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

Aquatics

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

Recreation

Tot & Tyke Basketball Clinic,
Spring Basketball Clinic,
All Level Yoga

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

Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

Counseling Services offers trauma-informed, therapeutic sessions for individuals, couples, and families. Services are available in person or virtually and available: for adult and child victims of crime and sexual assault throughout Ocean County and are free of charge; for general mental health counseling on a sliding fee scale to residents of southern Ocean County (Lanoka Harbor and South) and support groups that are free of charge at our location in Brant Beach. For more information or to enroll in services, please contact us at: 609-494-1554. Monday 9am-5pm, Tuesday through Thursday 9am-9pm, and Friday 9am-5pm.

TURN THE TOWN TEAL

Did you know that teal is the color for sexual violence prevention? Join us in April to raise awareness and show that our community is a safe place for survivors to seek support!

Community organizations, businesses and individuals are welcome to participate!

Facebook: @OCNJ Prevention

Instagram: OCNJ Prevention

#OCNJSAAAM2023

Please contact us to receive your teal light bulb! Limited quantity available.

St. Francis Counseling Service
609-494-1554 or jpluard@stfrancisbi.org



St. Francis Counseling Service Presents
Virtual Denim Day
In Honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month
April 26th, 2023

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and we honor survivors of sexual violence by observing **Denim Day** which is April 26th! Denim Day began in 1999 after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned. The justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Since then, wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual harassment, abuse, assault and rape. Please join St Francis Counseling Service in honoring Denim Day by taking a picture of you in your denim and tagging us on social media-([stfranciscounselingservice](https://www.facebook.com/stfranciscounselingservice) on facebook and instagram). Our 24 hour confidential sexual violence hotline is available by calling 609-494-1090.

ST. FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE PRESENTS

CLOTHING DRIVE

DONATE THROUGH APRIL FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

When survivors of sexual assault present to the hospital, their clothing is often taken for evidence. St. Francis Counseling Service and the Sexual Assault Response Team of Ocean County are accepting donations of **NEW** clothing items so survivors have clothes to go home in.

Needed items include stretch pants or joggers, t-shirts, children's underwear, and small blankets for children. Items should be in a variety of sizes and gender neutral colors. Please use our QR code to view our Amazon Wish List!

All donations can be dropped off in the Community Center Lobby Monday through Friday 9am - 6pm or sent to:

St. Francis Community Center
ATTN: Delaney Cronin
4700 Long Beach Blvd.
Long Beach Township, NJ 08008

For more information or questions please contact Delaney Cronin at (609) 494-1554 or dcronin@stfrancisbi.org. Thank you for all your support!

ST FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April

Turn the Town Teal all month long!
Contact us for your free light bulb

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

20th St. Francis Community Center Health Fair: 10am-1pm

26th Virtual Denim Day Experience: see social media for further details

29th Healing Through Yoga and Ayurvedic @ Hot or Not Yoga: 12pm-3pm

Additional information and events will be posted on our social media!
If you have any further questions, please contact:

Karen Davis: kdavis@stfrancisbi.org
Jenna Pluard: jpluard@stfrancisbi.org
609-494-1554

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

These events are supported by the State of New Jersey Sexual Assault, Abuse and Rape Care (SAARC) Funds, administered by the Department of Children and Families

STFRANCISCOUNSELINGSERVICE

Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



Information and Assistance, Telephone Reassurance Calls, Caregiver Assistance Options Counseling: Application Assistance for PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled), Meals on Wheels, SHIP Counseling (State Health Insurance Program), Energy Assistance, JACC (Jersey Assistance for Community Caregivers) and many more. Socialization, Recreation, and Exercise programs are available - please call for availability.

The LBI Health Department is doing
Blood Pressure Screenings
the **second Tuesday of each Month**
from 11:00 am - 11:30 am

in the Community Center Senior Lounge. Please call 609-494-8861 ext. 111 for more information.



WHAT THE TECH

What the Tech?! is a newly formed volunteer opportunity that connects the tech-savvy youth with older individuals in need of 'techspertise'!

If you are 50+ and would like to attend, please contact St. Francis Senior Services. All are welcome, for any and all tech questions!

If you would like to VOLUNTEER and use your IT, interpersonal, and communication skills to help older people acquire digital skills, please reach out to Katherine Pelican.

St. Francis Senior Services
609-494-8861 ext. 109
Katharine Pelican 551-427-1107.

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.

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Community Bulletin Board

Francis House of Prayer

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PRAYING WITH THE RESURRECTION NARRATIVES

Tuesday, **April 18** 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

We will take a few hours to drink deeply of the hopeful and consoling Presence of Jesus as He appeared to His Apostles and friends and as He continues to manifest His resurrected Presence in our own lives. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$25, includes lunch; Zoom \$20.

NATIONAL EXERCISE DAY

Tuesday, **April 18** 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Treat yourself to the time and space to practice his exercises of Ignatian contemplation, and Consciousness Examen. Led by S. Marie. Donation: \$20.

EVENING ZOOM SERIES

ASCENDING WITH THE LORD IN THE EVERYDAY

Thursdays 7:00 - 8:00 PM

April 20 April 27 May 4 May 11

Treat yourself to a post-Easter retreat using daily reflections from Mark Thibodeaux, S.J.'s book *Ascending with Ignatius?* Led by S. Marie. Donation: \$50

3 - DAY SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT

Begins 7:00 PM - Ends 10:00 AM

April 23 - 26 Sunday to Wednesday

Liturgy, spiritual direction, and optional contemplative prayer periods are included. Please register early. Donation: \$165/\$65 non-refundable deposit with registration. Donation: \$275; \$75 non-refundable deposit.

Donovan Catholic High School

Spring Open House

Wednesday, **April 26**, 6-8:00pm.

Learn about their campus facilities, academic course details, student life and various programs. Meet students, advisors & teachers. Register for the open house on the Donovan Catholic website. www.DonovanCatholic.org



SCAN ME

Spaghetti Dinner & Show

Sunday, **April 30**

Two seatings, 1:00pm and 3:30pm. Tickets are \$17.00 and include spaghetti & meatballs dinner, salad, wine/soda, dessert & coffee with special performances by the band and choir. Please email ddicosta@donovancatholic.org with any questions. Tickets can be purchased on www.donovancatholic.org, or at the school security window during school hours.



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3. Contact us for family income limits

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coastalvim.org

Appointments for services are required

Bunco Luncheon

Wednesday, **May 17**, 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Dolce Liberto, 110 McKinley Ave., Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Tickets \$50 coastalvim.org/fundraisers/

or mail your check to: Coastal Volunteers in Medicine

P.O. Box 99, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Must purchase tickets by May 5.

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