

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

*“My friend had a vineyard...and planted the choicest vines; within it he built a watchtower...
then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes. Is.5:1-2*

THE TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 8, 2023

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, October 7	(L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +Frances Huff 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Donald Delotto +Mary Shields +JoAnn Leffers	Bar. 4:5-12, 27-29; Lk. 10:17-24 Is. 5:1-7; Phil. 4:6-9; Mt. 21:33-43	
Sunday, October 8	7:15 AM +Connelly Family +Stephanie Kavourias 8:30 AM +Loretta McGinn	Is. 5:1-7; Phil. 4:6-9; Mt. 21:33-43	<i>Live-Streaming 8:30 AM Mass Today Only</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb
Monday, October 9	9:00 AM +Frank B. Reilly	Jon. 1:1-2:2, 11; Lk. 10:25-37	Parish and Center is CLOSED
Tuesday, October 10	9:00 AM +Regina Fimble	Jon. 3:1-10; Lk. 10:38-42	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Men's Cornerstone Planning, SC
Wednesday, October 11	9:00 AM +Joshua Jackson	Jon. 4:1-11; Lk. 11:1-4	9:30 AM Bible Talks After Mass, Church 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 7:00 PM Adult Enrichment/RCIA, Rm. 212
Thursday, October 12	9:00 AM +Stephen Hubbard	Mal. 3:13-20b; Lk. 11:5-13	7:00 PM Survivors of Suicide, Room 212
Friday, October 13	9:00 AM +Gerald L. Dilks, 3 rd	Jl. 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Lk. 11:15-26	
Saturday, October 14	9:00 AM +Henrietta Keating 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Richard Pumphrey +Audrey Bogert +Shirley Cook	Jl. 4:12-21; Lk. 11:27-28 Is. 25:6-10a; Phil. 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt. 22:1-14	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, October 15	7:15 AM +Stephanie Kavourias 8:30 AM +James McFadden +Joe DeMeo 10:00 AM +Dr. Richard & Anne C. Gove +Richard Hans Gove +Edward W. Shanley 11:30 AM +Carol Gercke +Frank Romano	Is. 25:6-10a; Phil. 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt. 22:1-14	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb

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 18-Mile Run, October 7/8, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach
9:00 AM Daily Mass
Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM *in Brant Beach only*
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 7:15, 8:30 AM
Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 8:30 AM Mass Today Only
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00 AM

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM

St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED for the Season

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, October 7	(L) Living +Deceased 5:00 PM +James M. Kempski +Billy D'Autrechy
Sunday, October 8	8:30 AM +Benefactors 10:00 AM + Joe DeMeo

St. Thomas Aquinas Church 2ND & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, October 7	(L) Living +Deceased 5:00 PM +Mary Lyons +Carmela Ricci +Stella McMonagle
Sunday, October 8	8:30 AM +Margaret Coughlin +John & Lottie Bencivenga

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

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

St. Francis, Pope Francis and Synodality

In Fr. John's homily on the Feast of St. Francis, he highlighted the concept of "encounter" and how it changed St. Francis' life. Fr. John specifically spoke about his encounter with the leper and how he meet/encountered Christ in the person who "when he was in sin seemed too bitter to see." Fr. John also

referenced other "encounters" that were significant in St. Francis' conversion and fundamentally, his life with God: his encounter with the Sultan in Damietta, Egypt; with his brothers; and with the poor. None of these "encounters" were easy but they were places where St. Francis was able to meet Christ and be transformed into the Alter Christus, Another Christ.

This past Wednesday, October 4th, the day the Universal Church celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis officially convened the Synod on Synodality. The selection of the date was not an accident.

You may recall back in 2021 the parish hosted listening sessions in response to Pope Francis' request to hear from the entire church. That was stage one of the Synod on Synodality.

The Church's International Theological Commission states that synodality is how the church lives and operates "which reveals and gives substance to her being in communion when all her members journey together, gather in assembly and take an active part in her evangelizing mission."¹ The Commission speaks of the desire to involve "the whole People of God in the life and mission of the Church."

When commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Pope St. Paul VI's institution of the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis invited the entire Church to reflect on this theme of synodality. He said that it is "decisive" for the life and mission of the Church: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium." He added, "By journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, [and] to open Herself to mission."²

There has been some resistance to Pope Francis' vision of Church. Perhaps the fear comes from the unknown. It seems to me, as a brother of St. Francis of Assisi, that Pope Francis is calling us to encounter each other on the journey. To listen to each other's experience of God, Church, and the world. As was true for St. Francis, fear can very much be a part of encountering someone we do not know. Some of the fear may also be fear that things may change. Perhaps, but not all change is bad, and as we grow older, we all know that change is real, whether we like it or not. I do, however, harken back to my father's advice when I was young, "If it is of God, it will last." He, of course, was referring to the Act of the Apostles, "For if this endeavor or this activity is of human origin, it will destroy itself. But if it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them; you may even find yourselves fighting against God." Acts 5:38-39

If you would like to learn more about the synod, you can visit the Vatican Synod website: www.synod.va/en.html

You may also find synthesis and compilation of the many conversations that were held throughout the United States and Canada at, www.usccb.org/resources/North%20American%20Final%20Document%20-%20English.pdf

Let us continue to pray that the Holy Spirit, who is always present and active for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, inspire the participants of the Synod as well as all of us so we can encounter Christ on our journey. May God continue to bless you and your families with Peace and All Good.

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM

¹www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_cti_20180302_synodalita_en.html

²www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/october/documents/papa-francesco_20151017_50-anniversario-sinodo.html

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$35,000

This Week's Second Collection:

St. Francis Children Services

Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$26,376

Needed: \$35,000

Last Week's Second Collection:

Church Buildings & Ground Maintenance

Collected: \$8,153



(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

** Thank you for your generosity! **



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



We are the
BODY
of **CHRIST**
2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

6.5 Million Diocesan Goal

St. Francis Parish Goal: \$100,000.00

Pledged: \$57,567.80 (58% of Goal)

Paid: \$56,700.80 (57% of Goal)

Total Donors: 257

Total Gifts: 282

Average Gift: \$204.14

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.



THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiative outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines regarding the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

The St. Francis Parish & Center will be CLOSED:



October Monday, **October 9th**
for Mid-October Break

REGISTER NOW!

Do you ever wish you could stop the world for a day, catch your breath and have a chance to reflect on what's really important in your life?

The 26-hour Cornerstone is designed to do just that.

SAVE THE DATE!

**St. Francis Women's
Cornerstone Experience**

For women 18+



...Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his love endures forever.
Psalm 106.1

October 20th & 21st, 2023

For more information contact

Lauren Finelli at lfg_finelli@hotmail.com or

Marion Pierri at mdp93@comcast.net

Brochures/forms available in Churches and the Center

Gospel Inspirations:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; By the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes."



The parable shows us that since the religious leaders of Jesus' time have not used their resources to take care of their people and have rejected Jesus' message, they will be held accountable and it will be up to others to fulfill the promise of Jesus' message.

The message: To whom much is given, much is expected. We must draw people to God by the way we live. We must produce fruit.

Mass Schedule CHANGE

October 14/15 through November 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, 7:15, 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**

Family Faith

Judith Clayton, Director of Family Faith (Ext. 153)
jclayton@stfrancisbi.org
Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)
Mary Lou McGurkin, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)



“Sing to the glory of the Lord!”
SAINT FRANCIS CHOIRS
ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS SEASON

Join us! No audition required.

Bring your love of music, singing, and praising GOD!

REHEARSALS BEGIN THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

• **YOUTH CHOIR (2ND—12TH GRADE)- 5:30PM**

• **ADULT CHOIR- 7:00PM**

RSVP your spot by Friday, October 6th

Adult Choir: adultchoir@stfrancisbi.org

Youth Choir: youthchoir@stfrancisbi.org

or Call the Liturgy & Music Office at: 609-494-8813 ext.159



Adult Faith Enrichment RCIA

A JOURNEY IN FAITH

RCIA is a journey of faith for any unbaptized individual seeking to follow Christ, any baptized person from another Christian community and any Baptized Catholic looking to complete the sacraments of initiation (Confirmation and/or First Communion).

Please call Fr. Andrew or Sr. Pat at the parish office (609-494-8861 ext. 157).

October 11th

Reflection and discussion on
“Spirituality of Pilgrimage” with Fr. Francis
at 7:00 PM in the Center, Room 212

All are welcome...baptized or non-baptized...
believer or non-believer.

Celiac Disease and Holy Eucharist



If you have Celiac disease and wish to receive Holy Eucharist, we now have low gluten hosts in all the churches. Please bring your own pyx **[host container]** to mass. If you forget your pyx, please tell the priest. We have some extras in the safe.

Please see the priest before mass and he will provide you with a low gluten host. Complete directions are posted in the vesting sacristy.

CALLING ALL BOYS AND GIRLS

Would you like to be spiritually involved in the Mass?



If so, why not sign up to be an **Altar Server**.

We need young people (after First Communion) to help the Friars during the mass along with other duties that are part of the mass as an Altar Server. The more you do in this ministry, the better you become at understanding.

PLEASE have your parents contact Ms. Toby McCarthy by calling the PARISH OFFICE (609) 494-8813 (ask for Marie) and let her know that you are interested to become an Altar Server. Give the office secretary your NAME, PHONE NUMBER, and your CHILD'S NAME. I, as the coordinator, will get back to you ASAP. I myself, Ms Toby, will do the training, and your child will serve only ONE mass Per Month.

Thank you,
Ms. Toby

VOLUNTEER FOR PRISON MINISTRY:

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to bringing God's Word to the imprisoned. Please join this ministry. Bring God's Word to the incarcerated with experienced team members in a safe environment. These young people are hungry to hear the Gospel and to participate in the Communion Rite of the Catholic Church. Contact Jim Collery at jcollery@gmail.com

"Dinner with Friends"

We are inviting all widows and widowers to join us at our monthly **"Dinner with Friends"** gathering for an hour or two of pleasant conversations, an informal dinner, and a healthy serving of laughter! October gathering will be on Tuesday, **October 17th** at 5:15pm in the Brant Beach Church Hall. The entrance to the hall is at the northern end of the church/hall building. If you need a ride to/from the gathering, please call Angela Ominski at (609) 618-9974 to arrange for your transportation. Feel free to attend whenever you can. This month's dinner is "bring your own". Hope you can join us! All are welcome! Peace and all good, Angela, Kathleen & JoAnne

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction

- 1: Are you interested in a deeper relationship with God?
- 2: Do you experience a desire to pray always?
- 3: Are you searching for a better understanding of the actions of God's grace in your life?

Our parish has four certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction. If you think this might be a way for you to recognize God's actions in your daily life please call:

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

An Invitation to Contemplative Living

Our times together invite us into prayerful reading and discussion of Scripture or other spiritual writing through Lectio Divina or "Divine Reading" and a period of silent prayer. 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 sessions - **Saturday, October 14, 9:45 AM, Sr. Lounge**

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: **October 21, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Rm.**

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, **October 11, 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. *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Next meeting Tuesday, **October 31, 1:30 PM**, Room 212.

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Next meeting Tuesday, **October 10, 7:00 PM**, Surf City Church

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 **November 29, 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 info. Next meeting **October 12, 7:00 PM**, Room 212

Employment Opportunity

Community Center (609-494-8861) 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

Seeking a person with a warm, nurturing, and friendly personality, be able to relate well with children and families. Be willing to fulfill his/her responsibilities in accordance with the Center's/Children's Services Philosophy/Mission Statement. Prefer a background in early childhood education. (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

Recreation/Pool (Year round)

Position: *Pool Lifeguard* - Part time employment for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. MUST currently possess Red Cross pool lifeguard certification, CPR/AED and First Aid Certification. **Days:** Monday-Friday, and/or weekend - flexible schedule **Pay:** \$14.13 per hour
Position: *Swim Lesson Instructors* Year-round part time employment for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. Pool lifeguard certification, CPR/AED and First Aid Certification are not required but preferred. For weekday lessons 8am-4pm, Age 4 years to adults **Days/Hours:** Monday-Friday, Hours range from 8-29 per week, (may occasionally exceed 29 hours) **Pay:** \$15 per hour

Family Support Services

Position: *In-home Bilingual Therapist (fluent English/Spanish)* Full time Position - Therapist will travel throughout Ocean County to conduct therapy sessions with DCP&P referred clients in home. Applicants must have valid driver's license. **Must have Current Professional License:** LSW, LAC, LPC, or LCSW. Clinical supervision provided at no cost to the employee. **Days:** Monday through Friday- 35 hours per week.

Position: *Parenting and Anger Management Group Facilitator* Full time position- Prepare and facilitate Parenting, Anger Management, and Parenting in Recovery Groups. Responsible for all aspects of program implementation and evaluation, including intake, assessment tools, reporting, and statistics. Must have strong interpersonal skills, knowledge of factors which influence child abuse and neglect. Must have valid driver's license, and a minimum of Master's degree in Social Work or related field. **Days:** Monday - Friday 35 hours per week- Some evening hours.

Educational & Career Services

Position: Full time *WFNJ Employment Specialist/Case Manager*- Toms River Location. Responsible for managing a caseload of job seekers. **Qualifications:** A Bachelor's degree (BA or BS) Experience working with adult populations.
Multiple positions available full-time and part-time for a new Senior Employment Assistance Program.
Positions: Full time *Program Specialist*- overseeing Senior Employment Assistance Program.
Position: Full time and part time *Case Manager* - Guide job seekers in acquiring the skills, knowledge, and experience.
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree (BA or BS) is required. Experience working with adult populations

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

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

PILGRIMAGE TO EMERALD IRELAND



HOSTED BY
FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM

11 DAYS: APRIL 16 - 26, 2024
WATERFORD * KILLARNEY * CLIFFS OF MOHER
GALWAY * CONNEMARA * KNOCK * SLIGO * DUBLIN





\$3549 PER PERSON FROM NEW YORK
(Air/land tour price is \$3049 plus \$500 government taxes/airline surcharges)

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

Contact Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach, NJ 08008
Tel: (917) 275-5593; Email: areitz@stfrancislbj.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Annual
SPAGHETTI DINNER
and Car Raffle Drawing

Tickets On Sale NOW!
18 Mile Run & 12k Runners receive \$5off
BYOB & Take Out Available

Saturday, October 7th, 2023
5:00pm
St. Francis Community Center Gymnasium

Adults: \$20 Children: \$10

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE  

SCANN ME

Desserts needed for the Spaghetti Dinner
Volunteers needed.
Please contact Michelle DiBella at (609) 494-8861 ext. 107

FUTURE BUS TRIPS



May 15, 2024
New York Broadway show
"A Beautiful Noise"
Neil Diamond Musical, Orchestra Seating
\$240 includes show, transportation, driver tip

October 9, 2024
Sight and Sound Lancaster PA
"Daniel" 

\$192 includes show, lunch, transportation, driver tip
Call: Cheryl Krzaczuk, 609-661-5229
or Mary Lou Ligus, 215-850-7809

Get Updates on Closings sent directly to your phone:

1. Go to Rainedout.com
2. Search St. Francis Center, LBICC, INC.
3. Opt-in to your organization
4. Validate your phone number

Did You Know??

Did you know that the Community Center's **Public Relations Department** has grown exponentially over the past few years? We are constantly partnering with new and local businesses to grow and foster healthy community relationships. This past Spring, we worked with the Long Beach Island Chamber of Commerce to host 2 job fairs and then with the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce to host their monthly Women in Business meeting. You can also find us setting up tables at resource fairs in Little Egg Harbor, Barnegat and 2 Trunk-or-Treating events in Toms River this month! Lastly, we are excited to announce our partnership with Burger25 on **October 19th** for a fundraiser! It's events like this that allow The Community Center to expand its reach and continuously connect with new groups and we hope to connect with you soon!

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:

Canned Beans & Vegetables, Canned Chicken, Beef Stew, Chili, Spaghetti O's, Soup, Oatmeal, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Rice, School Snacks, Cookies, Crackers, Nutritional Drinks, Shampoo, 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

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.

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.



Infant Massage Workshop



Establish healthy attachment by learning the art of nurturing touch and communication between you and your baby.

Starting October 4th, 10-11am

Sponsored by St. Francis Community Center's Parents As Teachers.

STAFFORD
BRANCH
(OC LIBRARY)

Recommended for babies up to 12 months of age.

REGISTRATION opens September 20th at 9am
on the OC Library website, or via this code:



5
WEEK
SERIES



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

Recreation & Aquatics

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

51st Annual Long Beach Island Commemorative 18 Mile Run Fundraiser & 12K Run



Race starts at 10:00 AM in Holgate
Sunday, October 8th, 2023

The course is a straight, flat, point-to-point run heading North on Long Beach Blvd. Air temperature in October on LBI is approximately 65 degrees, winds general coming from the South.

Applications are available at the Front Desk of the Community Center and a printable version online at www.sfranciscenterlbi.org

Final registration and race packet pickup will be held on Saturday, **October 7** from 2:00 to 7:00 PM in the Senior Lounge and on Sunday, **October 8** from 7:00 to 9:30 AM in the Center Gymnasium.

12 K Run

Race starts at 10:10 AM in Holgate and finishes at 46th St., Brant Beach

Sunday, October 8th, 2023

Entry Fee:

**18 Mile Run, \$80; 18 Mile Run USATF-NJ Members, \$70;
12K Run/Walk, \$60**

Volunteers needed.

Please contact Michelle DiBella at (609) 494-8861 ext. 107

SESSION II REGISTRATION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:00 AM

Recreation

Tot & Tyke Basketball,



Co-Ed Basketball Recreation League (2nd-7th Grade),
2nd - 8th Grade Co-ed League Evaluations,

All Level Yoga

Tennis Fundamentals (ages 5-12)



Pickleball (Oct. 16 - May 17)

Aquatics

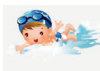
Swim Lessons: All Levels,

Aquatic Zumba Aerobics,

Aquatic Zumba/Arthritis Aquatic Exercise,

Aquatic Aerobics, Deep Water Aerobics,

Aqua Bootcamp



Community Bulletin Board

New Wave Swim Team

Special Olympic New Wave Swim Team is looking for a Volunteer Coach.

You can give a helping hand to athletes that need your experience and feel their true gratitude. We have 8 Special Olympian swimmers who have levels of swimming from beginners to National Special Olympics. We practice Saturdays at 3:30 - 4:30 PM, October through June each year. There are three meets (1 each in April and May and a weekend in June for the NJ Special Olympics). Please call Pat Rears (908) 385-9054.

Maris Stella Retreat Center

Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008

Saturday, October 14th - 10:00am - 3:30pm

Retreat Day/Workshop: "The Cosmic Christ and the Fires of Love"
The psychologist Carl Jung and the mystic - scientist Teilhard de Chardin both have rediscovered the mystical core of our lives. Using materials from both we will discover the fires of love within us and in creation. The day will have input, reflection, and integration time to apply this into our daily lives.

Presenter: Br. Don Bisson FMS Cost: \$45.00 - 50.00 as you are able - Includes "Coffee and..." Provided. Bring bag lunch.

Non-Refundable, Non-Transferable Deposit: \$25.00 - Checks Payable to: Sisters of Charity. Limited Overnight Accommodations available at an additional cost. For more information or to register: Call Sr. Pat 609-494-2917 or pdotzauer@comcast.net

Pre-Advent Day of Reflection:

"Advent Saints for the Twenty-First Century"

Saturday, **November 18th** - 10am-3:30pm

Presenter: Fr. Anthony Ciorra

Who are the Advent saints today who model for us how to open our minds and hearts to the promptings of the Holy Spirit? We will meet a few of them on this retreat, Oscar Romero, Dorothy Day, Daniel Berrigan, and Joan Chittister. They challenge us to embrace Christ now as we await his coming again. Cost: \$45.00 - 50.00 Includes "Coffee and..." Bring bag lunch - Limited Overnight Accommodations available on Friday, **November 17th** at an additional cost.

Non-Refundable Non-Transferable Deposit: \$25.00. Check payable to: Sisters of Charity. For more information: Call or email Sr. Pat at 609-494-2917 pdotzauer@comcast.net To register: Log on to www.marisstella.org for Retreat Registration.

St. Joseph Church, Toms River

Rwandan Genocide Survivor, Immaculee Ilibagiza

Friday, **November 3rd** at 6:30 pm.

Immaculee lost most of her family during the 1994 Rwandan Genocide however she was *left to tell* how faith and forgiveness can heal hearts and change the world. The New York Times best-selling author of "*Left to Tell*," will share her witness to the life-saving power of faith and praying the Rosary during the 91 days she, along with seven other women, were huddled in a bathroom while killers lurked outside the door. Cost for the event is \$12.00 per person.

Please mail or drop off your payment to: St. Joseph Church, 685 Hooper Ave. Toms River, NJ 08753 Make checks payable to St. Joseph Church - Attention: OL Kibeho

Next week we will share with you the QR code for online ticket sales.

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet is open every Saturday, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM (except holiday weekends) and the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-6:00 PM. We are currently not taking any clothing donations We offer free clothing to women in need. Vouchers are available at food pantries, churches, Stafford Community Center at the door. For further info call Madelyn. 609-276-3308.

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