

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

“You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming” (Mark 13: 35)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

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

| DATE | MASS INTENTIONS | READINGS | EVENTS |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| Saturday, December 2 | (L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Donna Knode +Michael O'Regan +Thomas & Edna Lynch | Dn 7:15-27 Lk 21:34-36 | |
| Sunday, December 3 | 8:30 AM +Thomas Ackers +George R. O'Connor Jr. 10:00 AM +Edward W. Shanley +Carl Filipovsky +Ellen Atkinson 11:30 AM +William Morris | Is 63:16b-17,19b 64: 2-7 I Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13: 33-37 | Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb |
| Monday, December 4 | 9:00 AM +John Raftery +Eugene Bryne | Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11 | |
| Tuesday, December 5 | 9:00 AM +Frieda Braun | Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24 | 9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena |
| Wednesday, December 6 | 9:00 AM +Christopher Bagnato | Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37 | 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament |
| Thursday, December 7 | 9:00 AM +John Klose 7:00 PM <i>Immaculate Conception</i> + Thomas Ackers | Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27 Gen 3:9-15/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38 | |
| Friday, December 8 | 9:00 AM <i>Immaculate Conception</i> +James M. Kempinski + Kevin Bryne | Gen 3:9-15/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38 | Live-Streaming 9:00 AM Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb |
| Saturday, December 9 | 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Lawrence Byrnes +Richard Bromer +Thomas & Edna Lynch | Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 | |
| Sunday, December 10 | 8:30 AM +Thomas Ackers 10:00 AM +Edward Stein +Gerald & Frances Rothstein +Rose & John Bruno 11:30 AM +Paul Cassidy | Is. 40:1-5, 9-11 II Pt 3:8-14 Mk. 1:1-8 | Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi |

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

December 2/3 through December 16/17, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach

9:00 AM Daily Mass
Reconciliation: Saturday; 3:30-4:30 PM
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM
Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 10:00 AM
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City - CLOSED for the Season

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - CLOSED for the Season

St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED for the Season

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

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 |
| 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

ADVENTure and a Few Words of Thanks!

With the First Week of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. There is something refreshing about starting over. We do have a tendency to continue to do the same thing over and over again, so shaking it up a bit isn't bad. Don't get me wrong, consistency is good. It can ground us and give us a sense of identity, security, and direction. I know when I go to Costco I try to park in the same spot. It makes life so much easier when I leave the store because I can remember where I parked! Have you ever wandered through a parking lot not remembering where you left your car? It's not good!

But unlike the three kings, we don't need to wander anymore since we have found the Christ, the Light of the world, the Prince of Peace, the Wonder Counselor. We should hold onto our belief that God broke into our human nature and Christ was born among us. There is no better sign than that to show us that God is with us. That, if nothing else, gives us the best identity, security, and direction we could ever want. So why are we starting over? What needs to be refreshed?

Although consistency can be good, being in a rut usually is not. It never hurts to try to look at things in a new light or perhaps from a different perspective. If it is truth, it will certainly stand up to the challenge. If what we hold on to and believe is not truth, then we need to let go of some things. Our liturgical season of Advent does have a penitential tone. It is not as pronounced as the season of Lent, but none-the-less Advent does offer us the time to take notice of when we missed the opportunity to see Christ in our lives. I think Jesus' greatest desire is to that we be in relationship with him.

Amidst all the shopping, decorating, cooking, and get togethers, hopefully we will also make the time to "prepare the way of the Lord" so we will be able to recognize the presence of Christ in our lives today.

A few words of thanks...

As you know, last weekend, Joe Mack and I presented the 2023 Annual Parish Report at all of the Masses. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joe, not only for his presentation, but for all of the work he has done throughout the year. Joe is a marvelous chair of the Parish Finance Council. He works very hard for the good of the parish and the council. His leadership directed us through our parish's first Stewardship Program. That was a critical program to address our annual operating deficit. His numbers were right on!

I would also like to thank the entire Parish Finance Council for their faithfulness, insights, and their hard work to make sure that all the pieces came together. Thank you to Cecelia Fowler, Joe Hummel, Jay Pojednic, Fr. Andrew Reitz, Joe Vaszily, and Peter Williams. Thank you also to our newly formed Parish Investment Committee, a sub-committee of the Parish Finance Council, Diedre Fitzpatrick, Tom Lynch, Allen Magrini, Shawn Mahony, Joan Sawicki, Joe Vaszily [chair.] and David Young. Their work helps us secure our long-term projects and the maintenance of our facilities.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and belief in what St. Francis of Assisi Parish is all about. Your generous support and enlivened faith truly make this parish a wonderful place to be! Thank you!

May this Advent season truly be an *Adventure* for all of us.

Peace and All Good!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor



ST. FRANCIS
**Liturgy &
Music**

ADVENT SEASON SCHEDULE

Join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord.

First Sunday of Advent- December 2/3

Saturday 5:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

December 7th: 7:00 PM & December 8th: 9:00 AM

Second Sunday of Advent- December 9/10

Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM

Children's Nativity Pageant

Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30 PM

Advent Reconciliation Service with Individual Penance and Absolution

Grace, Mercy and Peace to You

Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday- December 16/17

Saturday 5:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent- December 23/24

Saturday 5:00 PM & Sunday 10:00 AM- ONLY

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Gather your family together to bless your home Advent Wreath

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/blessing-advent-wreath>



ST. FRANCIS
**Liturgy &
Music**

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

Celebrate the birth of Emmanuel "God with us"

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 PM Surf City Church

4:00 PM Family Mass- Brant Beach Church
Prelude Music begins 30 minutes before Mass

6:00 PM - Brant Beach Church

Prelude Music begins 30 minutes before Mass

Christmas Day- The Nativity of the Lord

Monday, December 25th

10:00 AM Brant Beach

Feast of the Holy Family- December 30/31

Saturday 5:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM

Mary, Mother of God/ World Day of Prayer for

Peace- January 1st

10:00 AM

The Epiphany of the Lord- January 6/7

Saturday 5:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$32,000

This Week's Second Collection:

Parish Operating Expenses

Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$19,407

Needed: \$32,000

Last Week's Second Collection:

Collection for Parish Operating Expenses

Collected: \$5,960

(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

Goal: \$100,000.00

Pledged: \$61,987.80 (62% of Goal)

Paid: \$61,740.80 (62% of Goal)

Total Donors: 279

Total Gifts: 312

Average Gift: \$198.68

Thank you for your support of the Diocese of Trenton.
Please visit the stfrancislbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal

Gospel Inspirations:

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."



Rather than view this admonition with dread about the future that we cannot foresee, we are invited to do the work we are called to do: to live in the moment watchful for opportunities to bring God's love to others.

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction



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

Spiritual Direction is not about problem solving. It is neither counseling nor therapy. It is about enhancing one's prayer life. Directors help people recognize and respond to God's will in their life experiences. One Director summed up the process this way, "All I do is listen. People already have a spiritual life; they are not starting here. Often they need relief from the pressure that they are not doing the right thing. I help them see the goodness in where they are on their journey, not where they think they're supposed to be." God is the real spiritual director.

The Diocese of Trenton has several training programs called an internship. These are two or three year programs focusing on deepening one's own spiritual life and on learning the dynamics of Spiritual Direction. Upon completion of the program a person receives a Certificate from the Diocese.

Our parish has four certified Spiritual Directors.

There is no charge for Spiritual Direction. If you think this might be a way for you to recognize God's actions in your life please call:

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!

Next sessions - Wednesday, **December 6**, 10:30 AM, Zoom
Saturday, **December 9**, 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 meeting: Saturday, **December 16**, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.



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.



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).

Tuesday, December 5th

The Privileged Encounter of the Mass
Class & Discussion

Tuesday, December 12th

Word Made Flesh

Discussion of the Incarnation & Power Point Prayer Service

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

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, **December 6**, 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.

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

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Christmas Dinner, Tuesday, **December 5**, 6:00 PM, Room 109.

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, **December 13**, 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** Thursday, **December 14**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

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.

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. **Days/Hours:** Weekdays/weekends - Hours range from 8-29 per week. **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 and reliable transportation. **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.

****Background check and fingerprinting required for all employees 18 yrs. and 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. * We are a qualified employer for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF)**

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPLENDORS OF OLD-WORLD EUROPE:

Featuring an Eight Day Danube River Cruise on board the Luxurious MS Amadeus Riva

12 DAYS: OCTOBER 13 - 24, 2024

Hosted by

FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM



Optional Shore Excursion Package Available! Request Brochure for Details!



STARTING AT \$5399 FROM NEW YORK

(Including Government Taxes & Airline surcharges of \$550*)

Estimated as of August 25, 2023

FOR A BROCHURE WITH COMPLETE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
St. Francis of Assisi Parish
4700 Long Beach Blvd.
Brant Beach, NJ 08008
Tel: (917) 275-5593
Email: areitz@stfrancisbi.org

Tour Features: Roundtrip airfare from New York, first class/select hotel on land portion, accommodations on the MS Amadeus Riva in handsomely appointed state-rooms sharing in twin-bedded cabins, all meals on board the cruise and breakfast daily on land portion, free-flowing red & white regional wines, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard the cruise portion of the tour, comprehensive sightseeing by private motorcoach including services of professional English-speaking guides and much more!

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

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@stfrancisbi.org

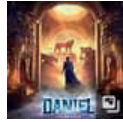
Space is still available.

REGISTER

NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 !

October 9, 2024

Sight and Sound Lancaster PA
"Daniel"



\$192 includes show, lunch, transportation, driver tip

Call: Cheryl Krzaczyk, 609-661-5229
or Mary Lou Ligus, 215-850-7809

*Seating is limited.
Reservations are now being accepted.*

APPLES RAFFLE



A chance to win one of three Apple brand products:

1st place prize - an Apple IPAD PRO

2nd place prize - an Apple Iwatch, Series 8

3rd place prize - a pair of Apple Air Pods Pro

Raffle tickets are on sale now at the Community Center Front Desk, or download the order form online at www.stfranciscenterlbi.org.

Only 1,500 tickets sold.

Drawing being held at the Center's Super Plunge event, Saturday, **February 10, 2024**, 12:00pm.

Tickets are \$20 each
and payable by check, cash or credit card.

SPECIAL EVENTS



American Red Cross Blood Drives

Tuesday, **December 12th**, 1:00pm-6:00pm

The need is constant and your donation is important for maintaining a healthy and reliable blood supply.

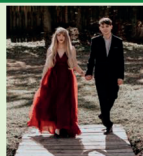
Please call the Community Center at (609) 494-8861 ext. 118 or visit:

www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment. For detailed donor eligibility questions, please call 800-RED-CROSS or visit: redcrossblood.org.

Did You Know??

Beginning with the 2023 filing season, the law increases the income limit for the Property Tax Freeze to \$150,000 (that's a \$50,000 increase from 2022); and eliminates the requirement that an applicant must be a New Jersey resident for 10 consecutive years. The age/disability and three-year homeownership requirements remain unchanged. Starting in February of 2023 the PTR Books (aka the Blue Books) will start being mailed out. If 2023 will be your first year eligible to file, please call or come into St. Francis Senior Services for the application. There is also still time to file for your ANCHOR rebate until December 31st. Senior Services will assist in filing any of these applications with you. We look forward to assisting you with your needs, call 609-494-8861 Ext 108.

Dakota & Elle Christmas Concert
Friday, December 15, 7:00 PM
St. Francis Church Hall
\$30/ Person



Enjoy music from the tenor /soprano duo
Dakota and Elle
while they perform sacred and classical Christmas music.
Wine and cheese to be served during intermission
with a meet and greet.
Seating is first come first served.
Tickets on sale now
at the Community Center Front Desk.

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:

Baked Beans, Chef Boyardee Raviolis & Spaghetti's, Dinty Moore Stew, Canned Chicken, Ketchup/Mustard/ Mayo, Coffee, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Body Wash/ Soap, Toilet Paper, Dish Detergent

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

Family Support Services:

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

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

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

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.

Recreation & Aquatics

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

**SESSION III
REGISTRATION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 9:00 AM**

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.



Cultural Competency Statement

The St. Francis Center recognizes a culturally diverse community and makes a commitment to the principles of multiculturalism as a means of understanding, accepting, valuing, and supporting cultural diversity. The term Multicultural is applied broadly to include issues of minority or marginalized status as it relates to race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, use of English as a second language, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, spirituality, and the elderly. The St. Francis Center proposes to develop programs and practices that assist staff, board members, and volunteers to recognize, accept, and affirm differences and similarities among people and provide services that are supportive and inclusive of all members of the community.

Educational & Career Services

For information call 732-281-8653

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.



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

Community Bulletin Board

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685 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ <http://www.donovancatholic.org>



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**Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 12:00noon at
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Please help us cover all 1,700 veterans' graves with wreaths at our St. Joseph's Cemetery & Mausoleums. The cost per wreath is \$17. Scan the QR code or go to our website for more information and to purchase a wreath.

Hurry, deadline is November 28th!



Join us as we leave from St. Joseph's Campus at 3:00pm, Friday, December 29th on a Deluxe Coach bus for the Big Apple.

Cost is \$145. Food & sightseeing are on your own.

Tickets are limited. First come first served.

Make checks payable to "**Rosary Altar Society**" and include your name, address, cell phone number, email address **AND** the number of tickets you would like.

SEND TO: Donna West, 9 B Cardinal Street, Manchester, NJ 08759
For questions, call Donna at 732-598-0751

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Appointments are required

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

Clothes Closet Special December Hours: Dec. 2, 10-1; Dec. 6, 4-6; Dec. 9, 10-1; Dec. 15, 10-4; Dec. 16, 10-1; Dec. 18 & 19, 10-4; Dec. 20, 4-6.

We will resume regular hours in January of every Saturday from 10-1 and the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4-6. Free clothing at 25 Pine Street Manahawkin for women in need. Call Madelyn at 609-276-3308 for more info.

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