

# 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*

*“Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks...” (1 Thes 5: 17-18)*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, December 16	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers  3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Daniel Knode +Davie Weiner +Thomas & Edna Lynch	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	Advent Reconciliation Service 10:00AM
Sunday, December 17	8:30 AM +Vincent & Tess Sharkey 10:00 AM + Dr. Richard & Ann C. Gove +Jack Maher +Theresa & Marie Schwind 11:30 AM +Tom Ackers + Dave Southwick	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 I Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb</a>
Monday, December 18	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers	Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	
Tuesday, December 19	9:00 AM +Louise Soranno + Mary Karch	Jgs 13:2-7 Lk1:5-25	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, December 20	9:00 AM +Elizabeth Polifroni	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, December 21	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers	Sg2:8-14 (Zep 3:14-18a) Lk 1:39-45	
Friday, December 22	9:00 AM +Frank Braun +Patrick Harrington (L) Lonnie Rooney + Joan Stankus	I Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56	
Saturday, December 23	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Wladyslaw Kochanek	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66 <i>*see below for vigil readings*</i>	
Sunday, December 24	4:00 PM +Mary English + Davie Weiner + Thomas Ackers + Helen MacDonald + Bert Stahlberg + Marie Cooper + Patricia Willem Downs + Margaret Arthur 6:00 PM + Eugene & Lucille D'Amico + David & Kathleen Barndt + Anne Armstrong, <i>ofs</i> + Margaret "Maggie" Onorato + George & Jane Holland + Andrew Noll + Don Daily + Donna Luszick + Shanley & Filipovsky Families +Joseph & Judith Filoon	<b>10:00am 4th Sunday of Advent</b> II Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38 <b>Christmas Eve Masses</b> Is 9:1-6 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM &amp; 6:00 PM Mass, Brant Beach</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb</a>

### 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/stfrancisparishlb](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb)

### Mass Schedule **CHANGE** December 23/24

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Saturday 12/23 5:00pm & Sunday 12/24 10:00am ONLY**

### St. Thomas of Villanova Church

13th & Long Beach Blvd., Surf City

#### DATE

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday,  
December 24

(L) Living +Deceased

4:00 PM+ Anthony McHale

+ Alice B. Schiano

+ Theresa Prendergast

**See Page 3 for Christmas Schedule**



## Parish Information - (609) 494-8813

**Emergency Information:** Available on our answering machine (609) 494-8861 and on the following website: [schoolclosingsnj.com](http://schoolclosingsnj.com) and [facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](https://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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

### Cooking, Thank You

I understand that Fr. Andrew took my name in vain last weekend in his homily. He told last week's congregation, "We don't have a can or two of crushed tomatoes in the house we have cases!" and "While I was cooking, I wondered if we had garlic in the refrigerator, but when I looked I saw we had a jar filled with 5 or 6 garlic *bulbs!*" Of course, he blamed me and he was correct. When he told me, I looked at him and said, "What's so strange about that? Doesn't everyone have cases of canned tomatoes? You know you can never have enough garlic in the house. God forbid!" We both did have a good laugh!

Both Fr. Andrew and I enjoy cooking, and we do like to laugh. There is something very creative about cooking, plus, you get to eat what you like. I do contend that if you know how to read, you can cook. It might not be great the first time you try something new but like everything else that is really worth it, practice is the best teacher, especially when it comes to learning useful techniques in the kitchen. Among the 5 friars, 4 of us usually take at least one night to cook dinner. One friar, who will go nameless...for now... likes to claim he does the dishes. We'll leave it at that...for now, but we all know the challenge of preparing a meal and getting everything set on a regular basis.

It is one thing to cook for 5 people and it is entirely another to prepare a dinner for 260, but that is exactly what our *Beefsteak Dinner Committee* did for us on Dec. 1st. It was a great evening with friends we knew and others that we just met. The St. Francis Center gym was transformed into a wonderful 5-star restaurant. It truly was delightful. The all you can eat Filet Mignon was cooked to perfection by Nightingale Catering and this year they included an added treat of a first course pasta dish. [See, everyone has tomatoes and garlic on the ready!]

Thank you, thank you, to Joan Sawicki who leads the charge on this dinner. She has put together a wonderful team to help with all of the planning and implementation of serving the meal, providing the musical entertainment, and running the auctions and raffles. That is a lot to coordinate and it does take a great group of people to pull it all together.

Thank you to this great committee: Kathy Reinbold, Mary Law, Diane DeMeo, Judy O'Connor, Madelyn Pietrucha, Ellen Dombrowski, and Lorri D'Orsi for all of your hard work. This year's Beefsteak Dinner was the best yet! Thank you David Sondano for his musical charm and wonderful sense of humor. He kept us entertained and his Sintraesque flare was a marvelous addition to the evening. Thank you to all of those who volunteered to serve the dinner, sell the raffle tickets, and make sure we all had enough of everything and thank you to everyone who made those delicious desserts. I confess, although tomatoes and garlic are important, dessert is always my favorite part of the meal. I also want to Amanda DeFusco, Michelle DiBella, and Amy Marks, our wonderful employees who worked hand and hand with the committee. It was a great team effort to make the evening so successful. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the evening. I think we would all agree, it was a great night!

So when you are cooking, make sure you have garlic or ask Joan and the Beefsteak Committee over to your house!!  
May this Advent season truly be an adventure that leads us all closer to Christ.

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 7<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 PM & December 8<sup>th</sup>: 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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



Grace, Mercy, and Peace to You

## ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

*with Individual Confession and Absolution*

**Saturday, December 16th  
10:00 AM**



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 24<sup>th</sup>**

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 25<sup>th</sup>**

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 1<sup>st</sup>**

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: \$28,000

This Week's Second Collection:

Church Buildings and Grounds

Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$17,834

Needed: \$32,000

Last Week's Second Collection:

Religious Retirement Fund

Collected: \$5,916

Immaculate Conception Collection

Collected: \$2,881

*(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)*

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



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



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

**6.5 Million Diocesan Goal**

**Pledged:** \$62,502.80 (63% of Goal)

**Paid:** \$62,353.80 (62% of Goal)

**Total Donors:** 279

**Total Gifts:** 314

**Average Gift:** \$199.05

Thank you for your support of the Diocese of Trenton.  
Please visit the [stfrancisbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal](http://stfrancisbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal)  
for more information from Bishop O'Connell.

## Gospel Inspirations:



*"A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to testify to the light."*

Like John the Baptist we are called to testify to the light that we know to be Jesus Christ.



## 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](mailto: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, **January 3**, 10:30 AM, Zoom  
Saturday, **January 13**, 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](mailto: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).

*Next Session TBA*

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, **January 10**, 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. **Forty Autumns** by Nina Willner.

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

### 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](mailto:tomtroyano@comcast.net) for more information. **Next meeting** Wednesday, **January 3 & 17** 10:00 AM, Room 102.

### Survivors of Suicide

Meets the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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, **January 11**, 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.

## Emergency Information

1. Call the main office (609) 494-8861.  
There will be a recording.
2. Check Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi)  
St Francis of Assisi Parish for updates.

2023  
**Christmas Flower**  
 REMEMBERANCE

SCANN ME



Memorialize or honor a family member or friend by making a donation toward the Christmas and Advent Flowers and art and environment items

2023  
**Sacred Vessels**  
 MEMORIAL FUNDAISER


SCANN ME



Sacred Vessels are the liturgical items that are necessary for the celebration of Mass and for the proper preservation of the Body of Christ for our next liturgical celebration.


**Praying the Rosary**

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



**St. Anthony Novena**

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



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

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



Read our bulletin online at  
[www.stfrancisparishlbi.org](http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org)

Daily gospel reflections can be found on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](https://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](http://www.stmaryknights.org)

# WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Men's Cornerstone Retreat  
 Friday March 8, 2024  
 Saturday March 9, 2024  
 Maris Stella Retreat Center  
 Brochures at Church Entrances

**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

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

**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, 2024

**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@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:areitz@stfrancislbi.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.



## 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 (\$15.13 beginning Jan 1st)

#### Recreation/Pool (Year round)

##### **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 (\$16 starting Jan 1st)

#### 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.

#### Senior Services

##### **Position: Full time Caseworkers (Outreach and Information Assistance Workers)** – Position available at our Berkeley Satellite Office.

Social work/caseworker experience preferred. Must have Phone/Communication, Computer & Organization skills. Must have valid driver license. Days/Hours: 40 hours a week- Monday-Friday  
Pay: \$15.13 per hour (Beginning Jan 1st)

**\*\*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](mailto:abodine@stfrancisbi.org)

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 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](http://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.

### Did You Know??

Did you know that St Francis Counseling Service has an ongoing community survey to continually assess the needs of Ocean County residents? You can take the survey and let us know your thoughts by going to this web address (<https://questionpro.com/t/ARfTIZxLLe>), visiting our facebook page ([facebook.com/stfranciscounselingservice](https://facebook.com/stfranciscounselingservice)) or using the QR code below! Let us know your thoughts!



## 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 GOODS:** Soup, Chicken, Vegetables, Beans, Spaghettios, Tomato Sauce, Oatmeal **PERSONAL HYGIENE:** Toilet paper Shampoo, Bar soap/Body wash, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Feminine products, Laundry 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](http://www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org). We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. [www.grownjkids.gov](http://www.grownjkids.gov).

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

### **Year-round Childcare for Children TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

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

*Full Day and Work Day*

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

## 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](http://www.stfranciscenterlbi.org) or pick up a Brochure at the Center lobby.

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## 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

Introducing the 23-24 FY Senior Employment Assistance Program (SEA) for Ocean County residents ages 55 & up. Whether impacted by COVID-19 or seeking to enhance skills for reentry into the workforce, the SEA Program breaks down age-related barriers. Our mission is to empower seniors by creating an inclusive environment, redefining the narrative around senior employment. We provide tailored support, skill development, and personalized career guidance, fostering a community that values the expertise seniors bring. Services include soft/hard skills assistance, on-the-job training, resume building, tech & career training, community resource linkages, and counseling. Join us in shaping a future where age is a source of strength and unmatched value.

## 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**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 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](https://www.rainedout.com)
2. Search St. Francis Center, LBICC, INC.
3. Opt-in to your organization
4. Validate your phone number

## Community Bulletin Board

### St. Joseph's Parish

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



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**Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 12:00noon at  
St. Joseph's Cemetery & Mausoleums**

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

### Coastal Volunteers in Medicine

730 Lacey Rd., Suite G-6, Forked River, NJ 08731

Coastal VIM provides FREE, routine, non-emergent primary healthcare to those who qualify. Services are provided through licensed volunteer clinicians and support staff following a "Culture of Caring" model.

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Have no health insurance
2. Live in Ocean County
3. Contact us for family income limits 730 Lacey Road, Suite G6, Forked River, NJ 08731 (609) 384-0102 [coastalvim.org](https://www.coastalvim.org)

Appointments are required

### Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

**Clothes Closet Special December Hours:** 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.*

### St. Mary Academy

400 Doc Cramer Blvd., Manahawkin

*St. Mary Academy, the place where children learn, grow, love, and serve continues to accept applications for the 2023-2024 school year for children in grades PRE-K-8th. For more information or to schedule a private tour, contact school principal, Lizanne Coyne at 609-597-3800.*

**St. Mary Academy's Ugly Sweater Run is December 16th.** Get a run in before the holidays. Kid's 1 Mile Run begins at 9am, 5K at 9:30am. Starts at the Stafford Municipal Building. Register now at [www.raceforum.com/sma\\_sweater](http://www.raceforum.com/sma_sweater)



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