

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

*“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.”
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.*

Mark 1:17-18

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 21, 2024

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, January 20	(L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +Marie Cataldo 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Ralph Polifroni	II Sm. 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mk. 3:20-21 Jon 3:1-5, 10: 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mk. 1:14-20	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Room
Sunday, January 21	Sunday of the Word of God 8:30 AM +Alice D. Yohn +Maria Rogers 10:00 AM +Helen Foley +Judith Ellen Sharkey 11:30 AM +Alice "Mimi" McMahon	Jon 3:1-5, 10: 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mk. 1:14-20	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb
Monday, January 22	9:00 AM Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children +Thomas Ackers	II Sm. 5:1-7, 10; Mk. 3:22-30	
Tuesday, January 23	9:00 AM +Robert Kozlowski	II Sm. 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk. 3:31-35	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Adult Faith Formation, Room 102 7:00 PM Men's Planning Mtg., Surf City
Wednesday, January 24	9:00 AM +Edward Pottichen +Winnie Ruby	II Sm. 7:4-17, 10; Mk. 4:1-20	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, January 25	9:00 AM +Megan K. Chuisano	Acts 22:3-16; Mk. 16:15-18	
Friday, January 26	9:00 AM +Christine Marie Beach	II Tm. 1:1-8; Mk. 4:26-34	11:00 AM OA, Room 102
Saturday, January 27	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM (L)Peter & +Connie Hnat +Mary Beth Fellona +George Sansverie	II Sm. 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk. 4:21-25 Dn. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 7:12-35; Mk. 1:21-28	
Sunday, January 28	Catholic Schools Week 8:30 AM +Robert & Joanne Curry +Paul Kelly 10:00 AM +Cathy Casey +Julia & Sofia Wamsley 11:30 AM +John Hay +Robert O'Brien	Dn. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 7:12-35; Mk. 1:21-28	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb

Mass Schedule

St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach

9:00 AM Daily Mass
Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM

Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 10:00 AM
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb

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

Embrace Our Way of Life

 **FRANCISCAN FRIARS**
PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 

Franciscan Vocation Ministry
Br. Basil Valente, OFM
129 West 31st Street, 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10001-3403
1-800-677-7788 ext. 345 vocation@friars.us

Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA
Vocation Office vocations@osphil.org

Emergency Information

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

Read our bulletin online at
www.stfrancisparishlb.org

 Daily gospel reflections can be found on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb

 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

Letter from the Pastor
January 21, 2024

Sacred Vessels

Last weekend I thanked everyone who made donations to our *Christmas collection*, the *Christmas Flower Fund*, and the diocesan *Annual Catholic Appeal*. Because space was limited, I could not include an additional thanks to everyone who responded to our *Sacred Vessels Appeal*! On

December 7th, we launched this appeal and by December 8th it was finished! It happened so fast you might not have even realized it took place! **Michele Beck**, our Director of Liturgy and Music, posted the appeal just before noon on December 7th and by 10 AM, December 8th, all but two chalices and two cruet sets were memorialized. By the end of the day, they had been memorialized.

As a community of faith our common prayer is central to who we are, and the liturgical life of the church is part of the richness of our Catholic identity. "*Lex orandi, lex credendi,*" (*The law of what is prayed [is] the law of what is believed.*) This phrase is often quoted when speaking of our liturgical life. It speaks to how our prayer and belief are integrally related. Our liturgy informs our theology, and our theology informs our liturgy. "*The law of prayer is the law of faith: the Church believes as she prays. Liturgy is a constitutive element of the holy and living Tradition.*" [*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1124*]

Because our liturgies are paramount to who we say we are it is only fitting that we try our best to make our liturgical life at St. Francis a priority. We are still waiting for delivery, but once they arrive, the new vessels will be used at the four churches of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Thank you to everyone who responded to our *Sacred Vessels Appeal*. It is the most wonderful parish!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Brant Beach

Presider Chalice, donated by *Rosalie D'Amico*, in memory of *Eugene & Lucille D'Amico*.

Presider Paten, donated by *Rosalie D'Amico*, in memory of *Saverio "Sammy" D'Amico*.

Ciboria, donated by *Maryanne DiMarzo*, in honor of her family.

Ciboria, donated by *Amy Ackers*, in honor of her family.

Flagon, donated by *Helen "Nel" Lally*, in memory of *Ed and Helen Lally*

Cruet Set, donated by *Cory Lees*, in memory of *Baby Jake & Cassidy*

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City,

Presider Chalice was an *anonymous* donation.

Presider Paten, donated by *Raphaella Giampiccolo* in memory of *Giovanna M. Giampiccolo*

Flagon, donated by *Geri Dupuis*, in memory of *Jeanette Toole*.

Cruet Set, donated by *Toby & Colin McCarthy*, in memory of *Suzanne Thomson Monahan*

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven

Presider Chalice, donated by *Mary and Chris Budesas*, in memory of *John, Mary, and Helen Callan*.

Presider Paten, donated by *Richard Barry Jr.*, in memory of *Mr. R. Barry and Mr. & Mrs. Dante Maddalo*

Flagon, donated by *James Frank*, in memory of *Margaret Free*.

Cruet Set, donated by *Clare Mather*, in memory of *Lawrence Mather*

St. Clare of Assisi Church, Loveladies

Presider Chalice, donated by *Ronald and Virginia Brookbank* [*Fr. Scott's parents!*] in memory of *The Brookbank and Fulton Families*.

Presider Paten, donated by *Raphaella Giampiccolo* in memory of *Giuseppe G. Giampiccolo*

Flagon, donated by *Katie Casey*, in memory of *Hank & Cathy Casey*

Cruet Set, donated by *Denise & Jim Harrington*, in memory of *Patrick Harrington*

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$25,000

This Week's Second Collection:

Friar's Infirmary

The Friar's who serve you all belong to the Franciscan Province of the Holy Name. The elderly men in our community receive excellent care at Holy Name Friary in Ringwood, NJ. This collection helps cover the costs of caring for those men who cared so much during their lives of active ministry. Thank you for your generosity.



Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$15,892

Needed: \$25,000

Last Week's Second Collection:

Interfaith Health & Support Services

Collected: \$5,141

(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

Pledged: \$62,977.80 (63% of Goal)

Paid: \$62,927.80 (63% of Goal)

Total Donors: 279

Total Gifts: 318

Average Gift: \$198.04

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.

Family Faith

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

jclayton@stfrancislbi.org

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



The Family Faith program is based on the Four Pillars of the catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy, Life in Christ, Prayer. Family Faith classes invite the families to think about their Faith, celebrate their Faith, practice and pray the Faith.

During the remaining months of the program, the families will discuss the Mass, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the Sacraments. Remaining classes Dates – Grades 1 through 7

February 13-14

March 19-20

April 9-10

May 1 – all classes attend – May Crowning

Confirmation Sessions:

January 30 and February 20

February 27 and March 2

Family Faith classes feature opportunities for parent as the primary teachers of their children to share the faith journey: Catholic prayers and devotions, bibles study, social teachings are included

We are fortunate to have special catechists who work with families of children with special needs. Each child's program is specifically designed for them.

Some important dates to remember are:

The sacrament of **First Reconciliation** will be celebrated on **April 8, 2024.**

Twenty of our youth parishioners will be **Confirmed** on **April 12, 2024**

Forty of our children will receive their **First Eucharist** on **May 4, 2024.**

"Families hear the voice of the Father, see the face of Christ and live in the house of the Church with the Holy Spirit. It gives them a map of life for this earth and the goal of eternal life hereafter."

Rev. Alfred McBride O Praem

Gospel Inspirations:



"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Then they abandoned their nets and followed him."

When Jesus called Simon and Andrew to discipleship, they left other parts of their daily life behind.

We are all called. How do we respond when God calls us to new beginnings?

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Franciscan Faith Community of *Our Lady of Guadalupe* in the Diocese of Trenton. Find out more about *Our Lady of Guadalupe* online at: <https://friars.us>

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 three 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:

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 session: Wednesday, **February 7**, 10:30 AM, Zoom

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, **January 20**, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.

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, **February 14**, 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. **Bully Market** by Jamie Higgins.

Next meeting: Tuesday, **January 30**, 1:15 PM, Room 212

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Next meeting: Tuesday, **January 23**, 7:00 PM, Surf City Church Hall.

Overeaters Anonymous OA

Friday mornings from 11:00 am - noon. Join us for our 3-fold recovery: Physical, Emotional and Physical. Call Joan T. at (609) 978-2805 or (732) 261-0173 for more information.

Next meeting: Friday, **January 26**, Room 102, Parish Center.

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, **February 7**, 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, **February 8**, 7:00 PM, Room 212



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).

Gathering: Tuesday, **January 23** at 7 pm
Topic **Privileged Encounter** DVD Bishop Barron

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

What's Your New Year's Resolution?



Men's Cornerstone Retreat
March 8th & 9th

Brochures available at Church entrances

1 Day Retreat

"Living the Gospel in Today's World"

Saturday, March 2

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM (Mass at 4:00 PM)

Maris Stella, Harvey Cedars, NJ

Fr. Kevin Cronin, OFM, Presenter

Donation: \$25

9:30 AM Coffee and Light Morning Refreshments

10:00 AM Program Begins

Bring a Brown Bag Lunch

Space is limited.

To register call: **201-647-3535**

or email: Junefinn223@aol.com

Please make checks payable to:

June Finn, 223 N. 10th St., Surf City, NJ 08008

All are welcome

(Sponsored by Friends of Sts. Francis and Clare)

Employment Opportunity

St. Francis Parish and Center Counseling Services

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

Days: Monday through Friday (Some evening hours required)
Must complete 40-hour Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Training (provided free of charge by the agency). On-site clinical supervision is provided. **Must have Current Professional License:** LSW, LAC, LPC or LCSW.

Children's Services-Teacher's Assistant

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:** \$15.13 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:** \$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.

St Francis Parish and Center

Position: *Front Desk Supervisor*- Full-time 40 hours per week including benefits. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Supervising and scheduling front desk staff, overseeing registration for Recreation/Aquatic classes. Handling billing and receiving of all revenue for the Children's Services department. Provide front desk receptionist coverage as needed and keep confidential the internal operations of the Parish and Center. Position requires a HS Diploma or GED, experience supervising staff and experience managing an office. You must be able to lift 30 lbs., have reliable transportation, have excellent communication skills, customer service skills and be proficient in using computer databases/programs. **Days/Hours:** Monday-Friday 8am-4pm, with flexible schedule for desk coverage. Must be available some evenings and weekends as needed.

***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*)
Estimate as of August 27, 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) 275-6593
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 staterooms 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 on-board 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.

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.*



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.stfranciscenterbi.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.

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

Aquatics

Water Tots (ages 10 months - 36 months)

Water Tykes (ages 3 year old)

Little Dippers (ages 4 year old)

Little Paddlers 1 (ages 5 & up)

Little Paddlers 2 (ages 5 & up)

Little Sharks (ages 8 & up)

Competitive Swim Fish (ages 8 & up)

Aquatic Zumba Aerobics, Aquatic Aerobics,

Deep Water Aerobics, Aqua Bootcamp

Recreation

Tot & Tyke Basketball (ages 4 & 5)

Tennis Fundamentals (ages 5-8 & 9-12)

Please Call for Class Availability

Did You Know??

Cold water therapy is the use of water to promote health or manage disease. While it has a long history, it's primarily used to speed healing after an injury, ease joint and muscle pain, and quicken recovery from exercise. Cultures around the world have used cold water therapy for thousands of years. Cold water immersion was used for therapeutic and relaxation purposes in Ancient Greece!

Using cold water therapy on a regular basis may also have long-term benefits for your heart and blood vessels. Around every blood vessel is a muscle, so just like doing a bicep curl strengthens your biceps, cold water therapy strengthens your blood vessels around your heart!

If you're new to cold water therapy, hopping into a frigid lake or a tub filled with ice may be too much of a shock, but if you want to try the trend save the date! St Francis Super Plunge 2024 - Saturday, **February 10th**! Call the Center for more information and to register 609-494-0441!

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.



Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



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

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

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

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

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

Full Day and Work Day

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

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:

Personal Hygiene: Toilet paper, Shampoo, Bar Soap/Body Wash, Deoderant, Toothpaste, Feminine Products, Laundry Detergent
Canned Goods:
Soup, Chicken, Vegetables, Beans, Spaghettios
Tomato Sauce, Oatmeal

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.

ST FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE

JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF

Join us for 8 weeks of a FREE and confidential support group available to residents of Ocean County.

Providing education and support for adults that are navigating the stages of grief.

To begin: Winter 2024

Open to ALL residents of Ocean County. Please contact Matthew Cronin or Harlie Lutz to register:
609-494-1554



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

ST FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE

Surviving to Thriving

Join us for group counseling sessions that will provide a safe space for survivors of sexual abuse and assault.

To begin: Winter 2024
Location: St Francis Community Center

Empower yourself! Unlock the skills and tools necessary to move forward and thrive in this **free and confidential 8-week** support group.

Open to all residents of Ocean County. Please call Emily Miller to reserve your spot:
609-494-1554




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ST FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE

PARENTING AFTER

Join us for 8 weeks of FREE and confidential group counseling sessions with parents that are learning to navigate the world after their child has been sexually abused or assaulted.

Gain support, develop emotional coping skills, and learn ways to understand and manage posttrauma behaviors and emotions.

To begin: Winter 2024

Please contact Melanie Blair, LAC, to register:
609-494-1554



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THE SEA PROGRAM ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER

SENIOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?

Program provided at NO cost to you!

Who is encouraged to join?
Ocean County Seniors 55+ looking to reenter the workforce or start a new career after retirement!

Reignite your career with our supportive services

One-on-one career guidance and support

Boost your confidence with interview preparation, resume building, career & technology training, and much more!

Program runs on Wednesdays & Thursdays beginning at 9:00 AM!

1258 Route 166
Stella Towne Center
Toms River, NJ, 08753

Call today to register!
732-281-8653



St. Francis Counseling Service


SEXUAL VIOLENCE ADVOCATE TRAINING

Are you an Ocean County resident who is interested in supporting survivors of sexual violence? Our no cost 40-hour training will certify you to advocate for people who have experienced sexual violence. Once trained, you will be on call to provide crisis intervention, educational information, and resources to survivors. All potential advocates encouraged to apply. Bilingual advocates needed.

1/29/2024 - 5/20/2024

Classes will be held at our St. Francis Toms River location:
1258 NJ-166, Toms River, N.J. 08753

To apply and schedule an interview please contact: Cheryl Fuller, MSW at cfuller@stfrancisbi.org or 609-494-1554



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

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.

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.

Community Bulletin Board

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

Appointments are required

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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Date: Saturday, **February 10**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mass: 9:00 a.m. in the Church,

Fr. Thomas Maher will celebrate Mass

Place: St. William the Abbot R.C. Church

2740 Lakewood-Allenwood Road, Howell NJ 07731

Admission: \$25 payable at the door, includes lunch/
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Come and bring a friend. **Reservations are necessary.**

Register Online at cwoz.org or call- 732-475-7113 no later
than Tuesday, **February 6**, to register. Leave your phone
number and spell your last name.

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

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