

THE BRIDGE



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

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

Ash Wednesday



Art by / Ilustración de Mike Jeroszko © LTP

For the Journey

Loving Father,
during this Lenten journey,
inspire me to meditate on your sacrifice
as I seek to deepen my relationship
with you.

May the ashes on my forehead,
remind me from where I came.

Give me strength,
give me hope.

You who are all-loving,
grant that I may be in communion
with you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Forever Ambassadors of Christ



Today's readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18. Has anyone ever asked you, “What is that on your forehead?” Each year on Ash Wednesday, we Catholics display a sign telling the world that we are followers of Christ, that we are sinful but hopeful in our redemption through the paschal mystery. The ashes remind us that we are in relationship with God, who sent his only Son to redeem humanity through the sacrifice on the cross. Throughout the Lenten season, as a community, we ask God for his guidance and mercy as we journey together to repentance and prepare to renew our faith at Easter. The

season invites us to return to God with our whole hearts so that we may be not only one with him but also ambassadors for Christ in the world. The Lenten ethos is one of sacrifice, primarily God’s sacrifice of Jesus for the salvation of humankind. Through our meager Lenten practices, we join in the sacrifice of Christ in the hope of sharing also in his resurrection. Jesus goes into the desert before he begins his public ministry to be alone with God as he readies himself for what is to come. Jesus put his complete trust in God. This season calls for a pause in our lives through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving so that we too may grow closer to God.

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, February 10	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Fr. Joseph Radomski 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Betty E. O'Neill +Lucille Anselmo +Vincent Porcelli	1 Kgs. 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Mk. 8:1-10 Lv. 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; Mk. 1:40-45	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Zoom
Sunday, February 11	8:30 AM +Margaret Crowe +Frank O'Reilly 10:00 AM +Arthur Hubert +John Callanan 11:30 AM +Thomas Ackers +Joanne Cribben	Lv. 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; Mk. 1:40-45	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb
Monday, February 12	9:00 AM +Donald Dailey +Walter Cramer	Jas. 1:1-11; Mk. 8:11-13	
Tuesday, February 13	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers +Matilda Stein	Jas. 1:12-18; Mk. 8:14-21	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Adult Faith Formation, Room 212 7:00 PM Men's Planning Meeting, Surf City
Wednesday, February 14	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:15 AM <i>Service</i> 9:00 AM +Bob Dunn +Frank Cataldo (L)+Stein & Kempinski Families 12:00 PM <i>Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Service</i>	Jl. 2:12-18, 2 Cor. 5:20-6:2; Mt. 6:1-6.6-18	<i>Live-Streaming 9:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, February 15	9:00 AM +Dolores Moeller	Dt. 30:15-20; Lk. 9:23-25	7:00 PM Survivors of Suicide, Room 212
Friday, February 16	9:00 AM +Dennis Hughes +JoAnn Waranowicz	Is. 58:1-9a; Mt. 9:14-15	11:00 AM OA, Room 102 Soup 6:00 PM, 7:00 PM Stations <i>Live-Streaming 7:00 PM Stations</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb
Saturday, February 17	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Margaret "Maggie" Onorato +George Hovan +Michael Hedrich	Is. 58:9b-14; Lk. 5:27-32 Dt. 26:4-10; Rom. 10:8-13; Lk. 4:1-13	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm.
Sunday, February 18	8:30 AM +Donna Weiss +Matilda Stein 10:00 AM +Edward W. Shanley +Carol & Helen Filipovsky +Theresa Kron 11:30 AM +Carole Morton +Norman "Skip" Butler	Dt. 26:4-10; Rom. 10:8-13; Lk. 4:1-13	<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*

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>

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

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.

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, <i>Comptroller</i>	

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

Stewardship and our Lenten Journey

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." [MT 5:14-16]

A few weeks ago, I mention that at the start of Lent we would be looking at the other two aspects of Stewardship: Talent and Time. Well, believe it or not, Lent is almost here! Time certainly does fly when you're having fun!

The goal of our stewardship program is to increase everyone's engagement in the life of the parish be it through the sharing of one's time, talent, or treasure, or all three! You may recall that the notion of stewardship is caring for something we love. Typically, a steward cares for someone else's house. In our case, we are stewards of God's house. A steward is trustworthy, attentive, and committed and only wants what is best for what is entrusted to them.

This weekend, as stewards of our parish community, we will focus on our talents.

What talent do you have that you can share with the community? How can you become more engaged at St. Francis Parish? As I had mentioned previously, as a Eucharistic people, community is what it is all about. We are in this together. That, however, also means that we have to engage the community and share a part of ourselves so that together we all become stronger, better, and truly Eucharistic. As we take an inventory of our talents, we must also ask how we share them with others and not put them under a bushel basket.

This weekend at all the Masses, a parishioner will speak to the community after Communion to talk about why they think serving the community is important. Can you help our parish become a stronger community by sharing your talent? There are brochures at the doors of the church and an incredible page on our parish website that dives into the variety of ministerial opportunities that we have here at St. Francis Parish. Please consider joining us in spreading the Gospel. After you have filled out the commitment card in the brochure, you can mail it to me or drop it in the collection basket on Sunday. You can also fill out the card online. Simply scan the QR code on the brochure and it will lead you through the process. Once we have received your card someone will get back to you to discuss how you can engage that particular ministry or ministries.

Next weekend, the First Sunday of Lent, we will focus on the last aspect of Stewardship: Time. We will begin to ask ourselves how we use our time to grow closer to God and recognized the Kingdom of God in our midst. Stay tuned in. More to come on that.

Thank you for the goodness you share. We are a better community because of you.

Peace and All Good.
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor

Stewardship: The Joy of Sharing the Gospel

TIME * **TALENT** * TREASURE

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$22,000

This Week's Second Collection:

Friars & Sister Stipends

Did you know that the salaries for the Friars and Sisters are paid for through your donations? Thank you for your generosity.



Ash Wednesday – St. Francis Food Pantry

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting & almsgiving. This collection helps you observe Lent by feeding the hungry. May God bless us through those we help.

Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$21,122

Needed: \$22,000

Last Week's Second Collection:

Central & Eastern Europe

Collected: \$5,007

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



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

Gospel Inspirations:

“If you wish, you can make me clean.’ Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, ‘I do will it. Be made clean.’”

Filled with compassion, Jesus touches the leper and heals him.

The lesson is clear: we are called to humbly place our trust in God and reach out and do what we can for those in need around us.



At a crossroad? Looking for direction?



Men's Cornerstone Retreat /

Friday, **March 8, 2024** and Saturday **March 9, 2024**

Brochures available at Church entrances



Soup and Stations of the Cross

Come to Me, All of You-

Stations of the Cross in the Voice of Christ

By: Amy Ekeh

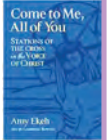
Join us for fellowship and a simple soup dinner and then journey with Jesus to Calvary as we pray the Stations of the Cross.

Each week we will reflect on 2-3 stations until we complete the journey.

Friday: February 16, 23, March: 1, 8 & 15

SOUP: 6:00 PM

STATIONS: 7:00 PM



Soup: Donations of a hot crock pot soup are welcome and appreciated. Please bring your crock pot to the church hall each Friday between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

Pray- Fast- Give

Please consider bringing a donation for the St. Francis Food Pantry

February 16: Pasta & Pasta Sauce

February 23: Detergent

March 1: Diapers

March 8: Oatmeal

March 15: Coffee

Ash Wednesday

“Repent, and believe in the Gospel”

Join us

February 14th


Distribution of Ashes at all Services and Mass in the Brant Beach Church

Service: 7:15 AM, 12:00 PM, & 7:00 PM

Mass: 9:00 AM

Lenten Regulations

- Ash Wednesday is **February 14th** and Good Friday is **March 29th**
- Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal one full meal.
- Everyone 14 years or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, All the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday
- When health or the ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not apply.
- The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence “substantially” or as a whole is a serious obligation.




**CELEBRATING MARRIAGE
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

World Marriage Day- February 11th

**Celebrating the Beauty of
Catholic Marriage
from *The Catechism***

Read more: www.usccb.org

1605 Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: "It is not good that the man should be alone." The woman, "flesh of his flesh," his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a "helpmate"; she thus represents God from whom comes our help. "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh." The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been "in the beginning":
 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh."
(Catechism of the Catholic Church)



CHOIR SEASON IS HERE!
Rehearsals begin Thursday, February 8th

YOUTH CHOIR- 5:30 PM
ADULT CHOIR- 7:00 PM

**Join us! No audition required...just a desire
to serve God and sing!**

**Contact: mbeck@stfrancislbj.org or call
609-494-8813 ext. 159**

LECTOR MINISTRY NEWS


**Lector Ministry schedule sign-ups are now open
for the next schedule.**

Sign-ups are due back by February 11th.

An email with the sign-up schedule was sent on Feb. 1st.
**Copies of the sign-up schedule are available in the
Lector Ministry box outside
the working Sacristy in the Brant Beach Church.**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A LECTOR?

**Please contact Edna Suckow, our Lector Coordinator,
and she will contact you to discuss the ministry.**
lector@stfrancislbj.org



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.

Newly Registered, Married, Baptized, Deceased

November, December 2023; January 2024

Registered:

The Sutura Family	Allan and Mary Johansen
Tim and Ann Drew	Barbara Mundo
Susan DeHaven	The Broderick Family
Joseph and Lorraine Malandro	Charles and Christa Reagan
John and Margo Lihvaick	Kevin Maybury
Peter and Maria Jansen	Jose Espinoza
The Gonzalez Family	John and Nancy Welch
Jessica Heminghaus	Bernadette Ragusco
Vincent and Eileen Core	Lou and Maureen McElwain
Charles Sullivan and Leila Gonzalez	Dennis and Linda Stofko
Robert and GERALYN Westervelt	David and Joy Caldwell
Joyce Parshall	Louis and Lisa Notaro
Karyn Fusco	Gabriell Biele
Brenden Scalea	Emily Down
Laura Nicholson	Christopher Sangiovanni
The Lill Family	Shane and Megan Ferraro
Emily Jordan	Peter and Bridget Dinardi
The Kaskela Family	The Mack Family
Edward and Anne Marie Helpers	Jerome and Donna McPartland
Patrick and Beth Cozza	

Married:


David Korey and Victoria Vazquez

Baptized:

Yareli Linares	Keyler Linares
Dayana Linares	Alexandra Linares
Thomas Nolan Guillen	Sienna Rae Battaglio
Natalia Shea Brock	Brody Matthew Brock
Nolan Anthony Reynolds	Gwyneth Marro Skelly
Bennett Matthew Walters	Mackenzie Rose Lefanto
Brady Garrett Lazaro	Juliana Olivia Walton
Silas Christopher Biester	Mia Nicole Miele
Ozzie Steven Tucker	Reese Rae McCommon
Louie Darron Frechette	Kai Keanu Frechette
Efrain Perez Vivaldo	Seager Lee Friedland
Reagan Elizabeth Heath	Bryce Matthew Broderick
Gloria Kelly Rosendo-Jimenez	Paige Elizabeth Kingi
Summer Josephine Sprague	Theodore Joseph Kachel

Deceased:

John Callanan	Ben Randazzo	Amy Stewart
Michael Elassar	Ann Dobbs	Phyllis Walker
Carol Gove	Norman "Skip" Butler	Patricia Bradley
Benjamin Coppola 111		Barbara Lally



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, **February 20** at 7 pm
The Mass as a Sacrifice ... Sacrificial Love

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

Family Faith

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



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:

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, bible 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

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, **March 13**, 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. *Love of My Life*.

Next meeting: Monday, **February 26**, 1:30 PM, Room 212

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Next meeting: Tuesday, **February 13**, 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 Spiritual. Call Joan T. at (609) 978-2805 or (732) 261-0173 for more information.

Next meeting: Friday, **February 16**, 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 21**, 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, **March 14**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

Franciscan Spiritual Center

Presents:



Spiritual Direction



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

How is God active in your life? Where is God in times of crisis? Is your relationship with God what you'd like it to be? Questions like these are

the focus of spiritual direction or "soul care". The director or companion is someone trained to listen and respond to spiritual movements in the life of others.

One on one meetings with you can be in person, by video call or phone call. Like to know more? Contact one of the certified spiritual directors in the parish:

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: Saturday, **February 10**, 9:45 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, **February 17**, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you know someone who is undergoing a medical procedure, experiencing a great loss, overwhelming stress, journeying their final days on earth, or going

through a time of bereavement? People who are experiencing these hard times can find it a difficult time to pray. One gift one can give is a blessed prayer shawl made by our Prayer Shawl ministers. If you would like one, please contact Fr. Scott at the parish office, **609-494-8813 ext. 152.**

The Rosary Project



St. Francis Parish Women's Cornerstone ladies are now collecting gently used Rosaries to clean and re-package and send to hospital patients, nursing homes, etc. Please place your donation of used Rosaries in the collection basket in the lobby of the Brant Beach Church.

1 Day Retreat

Morning Talk: *"The Lost Art of Listening - A Key to Gospel Living"*

Afternoon Talk: *"Evangelizing as Francis(can)"*

Saturday, March 2

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

Maris Stella, Harvey Cedars, NJ

Fr. Russel Becker, 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 Francis and Clare)



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.

Now is the time to register for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. You will enjoy the beauty and history of such cities as Prague, BudaPest, Vienna, Linz and more while cruising down the Danube River on a very comfortable river boat." For more information or a registration form, email Fr. Andrew at areitz@stfrancisbi.org. Sign up today before all spaces are taken.

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

Position: *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.

Position: *Bilingual Parent Educator- Parents as Teachers Program* Applicants must be fluent in both English and Spanish. Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Education, Psychology, or related field is preferred. Prefer applicants who have experience working with children (0-5 years), knowledge of child development and parent-child relationships; non-judgmental and empathetic, knowledge about community resources, ability to establish boundaries while providing supportive services, and maintain confidentiality. Parent Educator will be required to travel throughout southern Ocean County for home visits and must have valid driver's license and reliable transportation.

Days: Monday-Friday- 40 hours.

****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**

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS in February

Crazy Over Apples Raffle Saturday, **February 10, 12:00 PM.**

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

20th Annual Super Plunge Saturday, **February 10, 1:00 PM**

Registration is now open, and pre-registration is required. \$20 for students, \$30 for adults. Embrace the cold and join the Super Plunge. The registration link is below.
www.stfranciscenterlbi.org/files/ugd/fe0e69_94288a5366b74090b52a3b1ea28988d5.pdf

The Sweetest Crime/Murder Mystery Saturday, **February 17, 2:00 - 7:00 PM**

St. Thomas of Villanova in Surf City Church Hall
 General Admission tickets are \$36 & Group Rates are available. **BYOB** Tickets can be purchased online: [Buy tickets - The Sweetest Crime: A Chocolate Covered Murder Mystery - St. Thomas of Villanova, Multiple dates and times \(tickettailor.com\)](#)

American Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, **February 20, 1:00 - 6:00 PM**

Church Hall
 Registration is currently online at redcrossblood.org

Save the Date

Annual Fish Fry Dinner

Friday, March 22

Tickets Go on Sale the first week in February. **BYOB**

If you have any questions about any of the upcoming events or are interested in attending or volunteering, please contact Michelle DiBella at ext. 107 mdibella@stfrancislbi.org.

Did You Know??

Did you know that the Community Center's Public Relations Department continues to grow and expand their reach? We are continuously partnering with new and local businesses to grow and foster healthy community relationships. Last year, we worked with the Long Beach Island Chamber of Commerce to host 2 job fairs and then with the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce to host their monthly Women in Business meeting. As for spring 2024, we have been featured as a guest on the Southern Ocean County Chamber Podcast which is set to air Monday, **February 5th** and connected with the LBI Chamber to bring you another Job Fair in April. Lastly, be sure to come visit us at Barnegat Middle School for their 3rd annual Color Run. It's events like this that allow The Community Center to expand its reach and continuously connect with new groups and we hope to connect with you soon! As always be sure to follow us on our social media pages (St. Francis Community Center) and register for RainedOut to be in the know for all the latest Center happenings and closings.

Scan QR to register for RainedOut



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

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

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:
 1259 NJ-706, Toms River, NJ 08753
 To apply and schedule an interview please contact: Cheryl Fuller, MSW at cfuller@stfrancislbi.org or 609-494-1554

ST FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER
SENIOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN!
Program provided at NO cost to you!
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!
Call today to register!
732-281-8653
Who is encouraged to join?
 Ocean County Seniors 55+ looking to reenter the workforce or start a new career after retirement!
 Program runs on Wednesdays & Thursdays beginning at 9:00 AM!
 1359 Route 166
 Siskia Towne Center
 Toms River, NJ 08753

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) Fund, administered by the Department of Children and Families.

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.

Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



St. Francis Community Center's Preschool and Childcare are fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org. We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. www.grownkids.gov.

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

Year-round Childcare for Children TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Available Care 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, 5 Days a Week
Full Day and Work Day
Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2
Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

Recreation & Aquatics

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

Session I
See the Spring Brochure
for the Activities offered
from February 25 to June 16.

Please Call for Class Availability

Brochure can be found online at: stfranciscenterlbi.org

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

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***

We are in need of Personal Care Donations for the Food Pantry:

- Shampoo**
- Deodorant**
- Soap/shower gel**
- Feminine items**
- Laundry detergent**
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste**
- Toilet Paper**

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*

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

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