# BRIDGE



With open arms for all!

All are welcome!

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

# Second Sunday of Lent



## I Surrender

Loving Father,
I come before you,
asking for your mercy.
May my faith be as strong
as that of Abraham.
Grant me steadfastness this Lent,
in my pursuit of a deeper prayer life.
Free me from obstacles
that keep me from you.
May I find peace in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 25, 2024 Continued Change

Today's readings: Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19; Romans 8:31b–34; Mark 9:2–10. In today's Gospel, Peter, James, and John glimpse Jesus' glory as he is transfigured before them on the mountaintop. Peter, intent on staying at the site of their beatific vision of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, suggests that three tents be made. "Rabbi, it is good that we are here," he tells Jesus. Each week we participate in a mystery as we take part in Sunday Mass. There, as the Eucharistic Prayer is prayed, the bread and the wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. But the elements of bread and wine are not all that are transformed during the liturgy. In the Eucharistic Prayer, it is also prayed that we "may become one body, one spirit in Christ." When we are especially attentive to

the prayers, songs, and gestures of the liturgy, we may say to ourselves and one another, "It is good that we are here." Transformed by the liturgy, we leave the church to bring the presence of Christ and the Word of God into the world. Just as the apostles could not stay with Jesus on the mountaintop, the faithful cannot remain in the church. As the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states, "The renewal in the eucharist of the covenant between the Lord and his people draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire." Our mission, as we leave the liturgy, is to testify to God's love, bringing hope to those facing difficult times. We make Christ known as we accompany others.

#### St. Francis of Assisi, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach, NJ DATE MASS INTENTIONS **READINGS EVENTS** (L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers Dt. 26:16-19; Saturday, February 24 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation Mt. 5:43-48 Gn. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; 5:00 PM +Harry Carline Rom. 8:31b-34; +George Sansverie Mk. 9:2-10 8:30 AM + Michael & Geraldine Apruzzese Gn. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass Sunday, February 25 +Michael Loscaizo Rom. 8:31b-34; www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb 10:00 AM +John Callanan Mk. 9:2-10 +Anne Dobbs 11:30 AM +Dorothy Russell 9:00 AM +Gloria Carlo Monday, Dn. 9:4b-10; February 26 Lk. 6:36-38 Is. 1:10, 16-20; Tuesday, 9:00 AM +Joseph M. Keegan 9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 1:30 PM Book Club, Room 212 February 27 Mt. 23:1-12 5:15 PM Dinner With Friends, Church Hall 7:00 PM Men's Planning Meeting, Surf City Wednesday, 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers Jer. 18:18-20; 10:00 AM Scripture Study, Room 102 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament February 28 Mt. 20:17-28 Thursday, 9:00 AM +Carol Grove Jer: 7:5-10; February 29 Lk. 16:19-31 Friday, 9:00 AM +Neno Venturo Gn. 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28; 11:00 AM OA, Room 102 March 1 Mt. 21:33-43, 45-46 Soup 6:00 PM, 7:00 PM Stations Live-Streaming 7:00 PM Stations www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers Mi. 7:14-15, 18-20; 9:30 AM 1-Day Retreat, Maris Stella Saturday, March 2 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32 Ex. 20:1-17; 5:00 PM +Davie Weiner 1 Cor. 1:22-25: Jn. 2:13-25 8:30 AM +Helen Ballinger Ex. 20:1-17; Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass Sunday, March 3 +Linda Rose Hunt www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb 1 Cor. 1:22-25; 10:00 AM +Dave Weiner Jn. 2:13-25 12:30 PM Order of Franciscan Seculars, +Frederick Noel Sharkey Church Hall 11:30 AM +Dominic Napolitano +Barbara Lally

## Mass Schedule

## St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach

9:00 AM Daily Mass

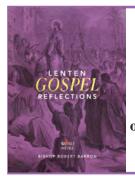
Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM

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

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

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

St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED for the Season



Please enjoy a free copy of Bp. Barron's Lenten Gospel Reflections. The books offer a daily reflection during Lent. They can be found at the doors of the church, while supplies last.

## Read our bulletin online at

www.stfrancisparishlbi.org

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



St. Francis is a sending Parish to St. Mary Academy (609) 597-3800 or visit: www.stmaryknights.org

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

## **Emergency Information**

1. Call the main office (609) 494-8861. There will be a recording.

2. Check Facebook

www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi St Francis of Assisi Parish for updates.

## 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 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 Mack Joe Hummel 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...





Stewardship's Talent and Time and the **Bulletin Report on Treasure** 

I had asked the friars to address at last weekend's Masses our use of Time, the third and final aspect of Stewardship. Two weekends ago a merry band of parishioners spoke about how we could use our Talents to be stewards of St. Francis Parish & Center. A great thank you to Edna Suckow (5 PM), Noreen Kinevvy (8:30 AM), Bobbi Greene (10

AM), and Mark and Angela Burgan (11:30 AM), for their wonderful presentations to the community. Thank you for taking the time, using your talents, and helping us continue our conversation on Stewardship: The Joy of Sharing the Gospel.

Regarding being stewards of our Treasure, we are making a slight change in our weekly bulletin. A few months ago, I asked the Parish Finance Council their thoughts on the weekly collection report in the bulletin. Their thoughts were the same as mine. We all agreed that it was disheartening to see that we kept missing the mark. Something was not right. It seems that week after week our first collections were not meeting the targeted amount, yet when we received the monthly financial reports the collection numbers were very good. We were getting mixed messages. One very astute young man, I was told, noticed that same discrepancy and ask his mother, "How could the numbers in the bulletin keep showing that the collections are not meeting our need, yet Fr. Fran keeps telling us that we are doing well?" That was my question also and why I asked the Finance Council for feedback.

Joe Mack and Joe Hummel, members of the Finance Council, and Stacey Kelsall, our Comptroller, started to dig into the numbers to find the cause of this confusion. We knew we could not simply divide the budgeted amount by 52 weeks. Certainly not on Long Beach Island. Everyone knows that Mass attendance fluctuates due to the time of year, number of Masses, and number of churches open, etc. We also know that the weather can make or break a weekend's collection. If the weather is bad, it is not that people do not come to Mass, they don't come to LBI. If the weather is perfect, we could have a blockbuster weekend in January. The shift can literally be that dramatic. But you know that. It is part of life at the beach, especially in the winter.

Somehow, the original parameters to calculate the targeted weekly numbers were a bit off. So, the team of three decided to rework the list to reflect goals that are a bit more realistic. They reviewed the historical data for each week of the year, and they took into consideration the many variables that could affect a seasonal parish such as ours. The results of their work are now being published in the bulletin. To counterbalance the variables, they all agreed that this new scale would present monthly averages.

Keep in mind that we are only talking about the first collection. Some of the second collections do stay in the parish but many are directed outside of the parish, such as the Peter's Pence collection is sent to the Vatican, the Catholic University of America second collection goes to the Bishop's Conference, and the collection for the Diocese of Trenton retired priests goes to the diocese.

I hope this answers that young man's questions as it did mine.

We have a brochure for Time and another for Talent at the doors of the church. Please take a copy of each and consider how we can all be stewards of our great community. As always, thank you for your continued support of St. Francis Parish & Center.

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

## **Offertory Collection**

**This Week's First Collection:** 

Needed: \$22,400

**This Week's Second Collection:** 

**Human Concerns Project** 

Our Family Support Services Department is an important component of our efforts in homelessness prevention. Our services include workshops on parenting support,



violence prevention, anger management, the Food Pantry, utilities assistance, auto ownership of Ocean County & annual projects. Grants, donations & this collection support this crucial work. Thank you for your generosity.

**Last Week's First Collection:** 

Collected: \$29,248 Needed: \$22,000

<u>Last Week's Second Collection:</u> Black & Native American Missions

Collected: \$6,689

Collection for Ash Wednesday (Food Pantry)

Collected: \$5,477

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



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

## Did You Know??

The majority of grants received by the Center only cover a portion of the costs to offer our programs, most of which is allotted to the employee salaries directly providing those services. Other operational costs, as well as administrative costs, utilities, and insurance, all depend on donations from the public to help support running these programs. We are thankful for any and all support from the community!

## Gospel Inspirations:



"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

When we pray, let's ask Jesus to guide us as to how we can best serve Him.

Pray. Trust. Listen.

## 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

March 19-20 April 9-10

May 1 – all classes attend – May Crowning

Confirmation Sessions:

## 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



#### 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

1644 The love of the spouses requires, of its very nature, the unity and indissolubility of the spouses' community of persons, which embraces their entire life: "so they are no longer two, but one flesh." They "are called to grow continually in their communion through day-to-day fidelity to their marriage promise of total mutual self-giving." This human communion is confirmed, purified, and completed by communion in Jesus Christ, given through the sacrament of Matrimony. It is deepened by lives of the common faith and

by the Eucharist received together (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

## Franciscan Spiritual Center **Presents:**



## **Spiritual Direction**





The "Direction" part of the term Spiritual Direction can be off-putting, even for us as directors. This process is not about one person telling the other what to do – "directing" them. Spiritual companionship or soul-friending might be a better term. 'Spiritual Direction" has stuck for some reason, but

as Thomas Keating advises: "It is not so much being told what to do as being encouraged to do what we know God and our conscience are asking us to do." A spiritual director has been trained to listen to the person they are with in collaboration with the Holy Spirit. Thus, one often sees a picture of three chairs to symbolize the process, one for the director, one for the seeker and one for the Spirit! 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 Fr. Andrew Reitz, ofm, (609) 494-8813 Pat Simmons, (609) 661-1361

## An Invitation to Contemplative Living

Our times together invite us into prayerful reading and discussion of Scripture or other spiritual writing through Lectio Divina or "Divine Reading" and a period of silent prayer. We meet by Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM - write Kathy Egan (klegan.chaplain@gmail.com) for the link. On the second Saturday of the month we meet in person in the Senior Lounge of the Community Center at 9:45 AM when we also have a presentation. We always welcome new folks to join us!

Next sessions: Wednesday, March 6, 10:30 AM, Zoom Saturday, March 9, 9:45 AM, Sr. Lounge

## Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group meets in the Senior Lunch Room on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Seating is limited. Please contact Deacon Bob or Father Fran to reserve your place. Next meeting: Saturday, March 16, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.



## 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.

**SOUP:** 6:00 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

March 1: Diapers March 8: Oatmeal March 15: Coffee

## **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

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: Tuesday, February 27, 1:30 PM, Room 212

#### Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

ext meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 PM, Surf City Church Hall.

#### Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Will meet the First Sunday of every month, March thru June, 12:30 PM, New members welcome!

Next meeting: Sunday, March 3, 12:30 PM, 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, March 1, 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, March 6, 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, March 14, 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).

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

## **Lenten Regulations**

- Ash Wednesday is **February 14**<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Flower Sale Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

After all masses at St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall and

After 10:00 mass at St. Thomas of Villanova Church, Surf City

Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, and Lilies will be sold.
All proceeds will go to our charities.

Sponsored by Friends of Francis and Clare

#### 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. Russell Becker, OFM, Presenter

Donation: \$25

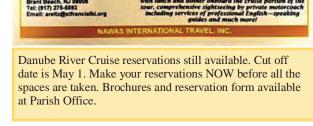
9:30 AM Coffee and Light Morning Refreshments 10:00 AM Program Begins, Bring a Brown Bag Lunch

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

12 DAYS: OCTOBER 13 - 24, 2024

Hosted by

FR. ANDREW REITZ, OF

# The JOY of Sharing the Gospel Stewardship Program

Time - TALENT - Treasure

Join the ministry life here at St. Francis Parish. There is a place for everyone!

Visit our Stewardship *TALENT* Ministry page on the Parish website



www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/ministries

Or Grab a Ministry Brochure at the doors of the church

## FEATURED MINISTRY

#### **EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Ministers are trained to reverently distribute the Body and Blood of Christ while serving with humility and awe.



If you are interested in joining the EM Ministry contact us at Ministries@stfrancislbi.org or call 609-494-8813 ext. 159

#### "Dinner with Friends"

We are inviting all widows and widowers to join us at our monthly 'Dinner with Friends' gathering for conversations, an informal dinner, and a healthy serving of laughter on Tuesday. February 27 at 5:15pm in the Brant Beach Church Hall. The entrance to the hall is at the northern end of the church/hall building.

If you need a ride to/from the gathering, please call Angela Ominski at 609-618-9974 This month's dinner is "bring your own". Hope you can join us!

Peace and all good, Angela, Kathleen & JoAnne

## At a crossroad? Looking for direction?



**Men's Cornerstone Retreat /** 

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

Brochures available at Church entrances

## **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.

### 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.

## Family Support Services

<u>Position</u>: 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. <u>Must have Current Professional License</u>: LSW, LAC, LPC, or LCSW. Clinical supervision provided at no cost to the employee. <u>Days</u>: Monday through Friday- 35 hours per week.

#### **Educational & Career Services**

<u>Position</u>: <u>Full time Employment Specialist/Career Coach-Toms River Location</u>. As an Employment Specialist, you will play a vital role in helping WorkFirst NJ and senior employment participants find meaningful employment and providing valuable support to our clients on an on-going basis.

<u>Qualifications</u>: A Bachelor's degree (BA or BS) is required. Experience as an Employment Specialist/Career Coach or in a related human services role is preferred. In-depth knowledge of community resources and social services. A team player with the ability to collaborate effectively. <u>Days</u>: Monday through Friday- 40 Hours per week

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

  \*Full-time positions are offered Health Care, Paid time off (with additional earning for years of service), 16 Paid Holidays, Life Insurance, 403B

  (retirement plan) w/ company match, & more.
- \*Part-time positions are offered Paid sick time, Paid Holidays (excluding seasonal/variable) and Employee Discounts.
- \*We are a qualified employer for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancislbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

## SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Church Hall

Registration is currently online at redcrossblood.org

## Annual Fish Fry Dinner Friday, March 22, 4:30 - 7:00 PM

St. Francis Community Center Gym.

Thistle of Kearny is back for another delicious Fish and Chip Dinner. Includes: dinner, beverage and dessert. Dine-in or take-out available. Take-out dinners are available starting at 4:30 PM and seating for dinner starts at 5 PM. Tickets are on sale at the Center's front desk and a limited amount of tickets will be available the day of the event. There will be a 50/50 drawing.



Family Health & Safety Fair Thursday, April 25, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Volunteer Breakfast Celebration Thursday, April 25, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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.



## **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.

## 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: <a href="http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/donate">http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/donate</a> via PayPal.

## **Family Support Services:**

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

- 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 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.

# Recreation & Aquatics For info. please call ext. 105. Visit

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 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)
Spring Swim Clinic (ages 5 - 11) (ages 12 & up)
Aquatic Zumba Aerobics
Aqua Zumba/Arthritis Aquatic Exercise
Aquatic Aerobics
Aqua Boot Camp

## Recreation

Lifeguard Training - Hybrid Class

Basic Boating Safety Courses-NJ Certified (ages 13 & up)
All Level Yoga

Tot & Tyke Baskeball Clinic (ages 4 & 5) (ages 6 & 7) Tot & Tyke Tuesday Baskeball (ages 4 & 5) (ages 6 & 7) Spring Basketball Clinic (ages 8 - 13) Please Call for Class Availability

Brochure can be found online at: stfranciscenterlbi.org

## 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.

## **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

## **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.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**

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- Live in Ocean County
- 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 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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Tuesday, March 5 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Donation: \$35 includes lunch and book. Zoom: \$20

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## PRAYING WITH MARY AND THE ROSARY

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## 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.

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