

# THE BRIDGE



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

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

## Third Sunday of Lent



### Journey With Me

Lord God,  
fill my heart with love,  
so that I can see you in others  
and recognize them as the temples  
in which you reside on earth.  
May your spirit guide my every step.

In my struggles,  
give me strength and courage  
so that I will be steadfast in faith  
as I continue my journey.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Sunday, March 3, 2024 Renewed Temples

*Today's readings: Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22–25; John 2:13–25.* Lent is a time for interior and exterior cleansing. Jesus was outraged when he saw what was taking place in the temple. The moneychangers failed to show reverence for the house of God when they used it as a marketplace. While some could not understand Jesus' overturning of the moneychangers' tables, the disciples recalled the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me." Jesus' reaction to the sales in the temple make it apparent that such zeal was missing from others.

In baptism, we become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Our consideration of Christ's care for the temple in Jerusalem is an opportunity to reflect on how we care for all human beings, who

are made in the image and likeness of God. Do we treat them with the dignity that a child of God deserves, remembering each person is sacred?

Just as you show concern for others, you need to care for yourself. How do you care for your interior life? Do you seek reconciliation with God through the sacrament of penance? Do you take to heart that God's mercy is for you as well as for others? In the remaining weeks of Lent, be especially attentive to the words of the penitential act. During this part of the Mass, the faithful may pray the Confiteor, after which the priest calls on God's mercy. The other option is for the faithful to pray the Kyrie, saying, "Lord, have mercy / Christ have mercy" to the priest's invocations. Seeking mercy, our zeal for God is apparent.

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, March 2	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Davie Weiner	Mi. 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32 Ex. 20:1-17; 1 Cor. 1:22-25; Jn. 2:13-25	9:30 AM 1-Day Retreat, Maris Stella
Sunday, March 3	8:30 AM +Helen Ballinger +Linda Rose Hunt 10:00 AM +Davie Weiner +Frederick Noel Sharkey 11:30 AM +Dominic Napolitano +Barbara Lally	Ex. 20:1-17; 1 Cor. 1:22-25; Jn. 2:13-25	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb</a> 12:30 PM Order of Franciscan Seculars, Church Hall
Monday, March 4	9:00 AM +Davie Weiner	2 Kgs. 5:1-15ab; Lk. 4:24-30	
Tuesday, March 5	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers	Dn. 3:25, 34-43; Mt. 18:21-35	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Adult Faith Enrichment, Room 212 7:00 PM Men's Planning Mtg., Maris Stella
Wednesday, March 6	9:00 AM +Dr. Anthony B. D'Souza	Dt. 1:1, 5-9; Mt. 5:17-19	10:00 AM Scripture Study, Room 102 10:30 AM Contemplative Living, Zoom 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, March 7	9:00 AM +Michael Carney +Russell G. Stein	Jer. 7:23-28; Lk. 11:14-23	
Friday, March 8	9:00 AM +James J. Bigham	Hos. 14:2-10; Mk. 12:28-34	11:00 AM OA, Room 102 Soup 6:00 PM, 7:00 PM Stations <i>Live-Streaming 7:00 PM Stations</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb</a> Men's Cornerstone, Maris Stella
Saturday, March 9	9:00 AM +James W. Forsythe, Sr. 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Thomas Ackers +Anthony Villa	Hos 6:1-6; Lk. 18:9-14 II Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph. 2:4-10; Jn. 3:14-21	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge Men's Cornerstone, Maris Stella
Sunday, March 10	8:30 AM +Donna Weiss +Mae & Paul Forlai 10:00 AM +Andrew Noll +John Callanan 11:30 AM +Louis F. Purul +Russell G. Stein +Thomas Lally	II Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph. 2:4-10; Jn. 3:14-21	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb</a>

### 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](http://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**

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, **March 10**

at 2:00 AM EST

turn Your Clocks **AHEAD** One Hour.



Read our bulletin online at

[www.stfrancisparishlb.org](http://www.stfrancisparishlb.org)



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

**Evacuation Information:** In the event of a hurricane, severe weather, or extreme high tides, please do not call the Parish Office for assistance and note that **none** of the parish buildings (churches, community center, residences or maintenance facilities) has been designated as an evacuation site. Evacuate as soon as you can, following the direction of local officials.

**Parish Registration:** The Parish Office is located on the second floor of St. Francis Community Center, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible if you are moving.

**Baptism:** The sacrament is celebrated three times a month at St. Francis Parish. Group Baptisms are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 10:00 AM and the last Sunday at 12:45 PM each month at St. Francis Church in Brant Beach. Baptisms during Mass are celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at the last Mass in each Church. Call the Parish Office for availability and requirements: (609) 494-8813 ext. 154 or 155.

**Family Faith:** For children in grades one through eight. Please call Judith Clayton at (609) 494-8813 ext. 153 for more information.

**Marriage:** In accordance with the Common Policy of the five Dioceses of New Jersey, arrangements must be made ONE YEAR in advance. Couples are required to attend Marriage Preparation classes. Weddings are performed on Friday or Saturday. Weddings are NOT performed on Sundays, the beach, Memorial Day, Fourth of July or Labor Day weekends.

**Pastoral Visitations:** Please notify the Parish Office if you or any of your loved ones are ill, homebound, in SOMC, nursing homes or rehabilitation centers.

### Parish Office

Michele Beck, Director, Liturgy & Music  
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM  
Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation  
Deacon Robert Cunningham  
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM  
Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor  
Fr. John Frambes, OFM  
Amy Marks, Director, Parish Operations  
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF  
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM  
Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence)  
Parish Office - (609) 494-8813,  
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)  
Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8813 ext. 153

### Parish Finance Council

Cecelia Fowler	Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM	Jay Pojednic
Joe Hummel	Joe Mack
Joe Vaszily	Peter Williams
Stacey Kelsall, Comptroller	

Anyone who needs to contact the Parish staff or Finance Council can do so by visiting our website at: [www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/contact](http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/contact)

### St. Francis Center

Community Center - (609) 494-8861  
Children's Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 114  
Counseling Services - (609) 494-1554  
Educational & Career Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 407  
Family Support Services - (609) 494-8861  
Food Pantry - (833) 511-0760  
Recreation & Aquatics - (609) 494-8861 ext. 105  
Senior Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 108 or 109

## A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,  
Pastor

### *The Diocese, Handicap Ramp, and Sanctuary*

**The Diocese:** A bit over a month ago I thanked those who contributions to the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal. As I had mentioned, the final tally for the St. Francis of Assisi Parish collection was \$62,977.80 of our \$100,000 goal. As the name would imply, the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal has begun. This year's appeal is entitled "One Love, One Faith, One Family."

As Bishop O'Connell points out that this "mirrors the teachings of Christ and resonates with the wisdom of Colossians, "And over all these virtues put on love,

which binds them all together in perfect unity." [Col. 3:14] It also reminds us that we are not alone on our journey as individuals or as a parish. We belong to a community of faith on the local level, diocesan level, and universal level. The annual appeal helps the diocese assist "families in need...supports the education of our youth...empowers individuals to become religious leaders...sustains retired priests...and serves as a resource to Catholic schools and seminarians." Your donations to the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal are paid directly to the diocese. You may have received a letter from the diocese in the mail. You can also find the 2024 ACA brochure at the doors of the church. A video of introduction to this year's appeal can be found on our parish website. The parish receives a direct benefit from this appeal as a percentage of the monies received over the goal. This year they have lowered our goal to \$85,000.

Just to note, this annual appeal is in addition to the parish assessment and the catholic school assessment that the parish pays to the diocese every year. These two assessments combined are about \$300,000 a year. They are based on the annual donations received the prior years. There is an expectation that we pay these two assessments. The deficit is transferred to the next fiscal year if we do not pay the assessments in full. We do have special collections to help us pay for these assessments but the majority is paid from our operating expenses. There is no penalty if we do not reach the goal for the annual appeal and donations to the annual Catholic appeal are not applied to our assessments. These monies directly support the good works of the diocese.

**The Handicap Ramp:** You may have noticed that the exit doors closest to the organ have been closed for a few weeks. Because the Long Beach Island Health Department regularly uses our church hall for many of their larger programs offered to the LBI community, they have taken the lead in updating the handicap accessibility to the hall. I would like to thank Daniel Krupinski, the director of the LBIHD, and all the municipalities on LBI for their help installing this new handicap ramp.

**Sanctuary:** In 1999, St. Francis Church had a major renovation to the interior of the church. Part of that renovation was the instillation of the marble floor in the sanctuary. The marble is showing sure signs of wear and tear and is ready for some cleaning. Because this is a relatively "slow" time of the year for the parish, we will begin cleaning the top floor of the sanctuary on Monday, March 4th. We expect the work to be finished within two days. The cleaning of the steps will be scheduled at another time. Please note that Daily Masses will be held in the St. Francis Church Hall while the work on the sanctuary is completed.

Thank you for your continued generosity and your stewardship of our parish community and of our church.  
May God continue to bless you with Peace and All Good.

## Offertory Collection

### This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$20,500

### This Week's Second Collection:

#### **Franciscan Missionary Union**

The Franciscan Missionary Union helps missions throughout the world. Thank you for your support.



### Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$20,377

Needed: \$22,400

### Last Week's Second Collection:

#### **Human Concerns Project**

Collected: \$5,869

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

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



***St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
Online Giving!  
stfrancisparishbi.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!

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2024

**Goal:** \$85,000

**Pledged:** \$3,250.00 (4% of Goal)

**Paid:** \$1,870.00 (2% of Goal)

**Total Donors:** 11

**Total Gifts:** 14

**Average Gift:** \$232.14



### **EASTER FLOWER FUND – 2024**

*Help us decorate the Brant Beach, Surf City, and Beach Haven churches from Palm Sunday through The Easter season!*

Memorialize or honor a family member, friend, or a special occasion with your donation

**All donations will be recognized in our 2024 Easter Flower Fund Donor List**

This list will be updated weekly on our parish website.

It will include the names of all donors and who the donations are in memory or in honor of.

**Donations for Easter Flowers, plants, and Art and Environment supplies can be made in any amount.**

You can donate toward the purchase of specific items to memorialize:

DONATION AMOUNT	
\$100	Large Topiaries & Large Easter Wreaths
\$75	Flowers in Sanctuary Urns for Holy Thursday & Easter Season
\$50	Peace Lilies & Hydrangea
\$35	Ferns & Candle Rings

### **Ways to donate to our 2024 Easter Flower Fund**

Easter Flower Fund Envelope found with your parish donation envelopes or at the doors of the church Online donation on our website Scan the QR code or go to [www.stfrancisparishbi.org/easterflowerfund](http://www.stfrancisparishbi.org/easterflowerfund)

Thank you for your generous support!

From,

*The St. Francis Parish Liturgical Art & Environment Committee*  
Contact the Parish Office with any questions.



## **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: March: 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*

**March 8:** Oatmeal

**March 15:** Coffee

## Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:

### Spiritual Direction



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

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

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

Our parish has four certified Spiritual Directors.

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

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](mailto:klegan.chaplain@gmail.com)) for the link. On the second Saturday of the month we meet in person in the Senior Lounge of the Community Center at 9:45 AM when we also have a presentation. We always welcome new folks to join us!

**Next sessions:** Wednesday, **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.

### Gospel Inspirations:

*"...stop making my Father's house a marketplace."*



**We need to earn money but we will not need it forever. Jesus Christ will be with us forever.**

*Let's remember to make God and God's priorities our priority.*

## 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. **Good Night Irene**, by Luis Urrea.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, **March 26**, 1:30 PM, Room 212

### Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, **March 5**, 7:00 PM, Maris Stella.

### 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 8**, 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](mailto: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, ofm at (609) 494-8813 for more info.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, **March 14**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

## Family Faith

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

[jclayton@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:jclayton@stfrancislbi.org)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



Family Faith registration forms for the 2024-2025 year for returning families will be distributed at the **March 19-20** classes. Along with the forms, you will also be receiving the yearly schedule for all grades 1 to 8. Completed forms can be returned via mail or dropped off at our Family Faith office Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please keep the yearly schedule for your reference.

Tuition fees are \$130.00 for 1 child. \$160.00 for 2 children, \$190.00 for 3 or more children. Fees are not required at the time of registration.

Classes are attended by the child and a family member once a month September to May.

Children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Grade 5), First Eucharist (Grade 2) or Confirmation (Grade 8) require 2 consecutive years of Formation.

**For new families who wish to register for Family Faith call Mary Lou McGurkin at 609-494-8813 ext. 177 or email [mmcgurkin@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:mmcgurkin@stfrancislbi.org) to make an appointment.**

**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.stfrancisparishlbj.org/ministries](http://www.stfrancisparishlbj.org/ministries)

*Or Grab a Ministry Brochure at the doors of the church*

**FEATURED MINISTRY**

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

**USHERS**

*Provide welcome, assistance,  
 guidance, and help maintain  
 the flow of our church services.*




*If you are interested in joining this ministry contact us at  
[Ministries@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:Ministries@stfrancislbj.org) or call 609-494-8813 ext. 159*




**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*

**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.  
 Thank you!



**THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON** is committed to the initiative outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines regarding the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.


If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.



**Adult Faith Enrichment RCIA**  
 A JOURNEY IN FAITH

RCIA is a journey of faith for any unbaptized individual seeking to follow Christ, any baptized person from another Christian community and any Baptized Catholic looking to complete the sacraments of initiation (Confirmation and/or First Communion).  
 Please call Fr. Andrew or Sr. Pat at the parish office (609-494-8861 ext. 157).  
 We will view on **March 5** at 7:00 pm an episode of *'The Chosen'* in relation to sacrifice and forgiveness.  
 All are welcome...baptized or non-baptized... believer or non-believer.



**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.**

## Employment Opportunity

### St. Francis Community 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

**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

**Position:** *Part time Parish Receptionist* Receptionist experience preferred but not required. This position will help the Director of Parish Operations to run the parish office and all that is needed to create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone who comes to the parish office and to execute the clerical needs of the parish. It includes, but is not limited to answering phones, responding to questions that may be presented either on the phone or in person, record keeping, data entry, and general clerical needs of the parish as assigned. Prefer candidates with experience using ParishSoft software. **Days/Hours:** Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays- 24 hours per week **Pay:** \$15.13

**Position:** *Maintenance team lead* A minimum of a high school diploma is required. Certification in the various building trades (carpentry, plumbing, electrical) preferred. Must have a state issued driver's license and proof of Vehicle Insurance. Must be able to lift approx. 75lbs. This position will work with the Parish Director of Operations to oversee all of the maintenance for the Parish Properties and is responsible for the daily task supervision of the maintenance staff. **Days/Hours:** Monday-Friday- 40 hours. Some night and weekend hours may be required for events. On call for emergency repairs and snow removal.

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

*\*Full-time positions are offered Health Care, Paid time off (with additional earning for years of service), 16 Paid Holidays, Life Insurance, 403B (retirement plan) w/ company match, & more.*

*\*Part-time positions are offered Paid sick time, Paid Holidays (excluding seasonal/variable) and Employee Discounts.*

*\*We are a qualified employer for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF)*

Please send resumes to [abodine@stfrancisbi.org](mailto:abodine@stfrancisbi.org)

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 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@stfrancisbi.org](mailto:mdibella@stfrancisbi.org).*

**INDOOR WINTER SWIM NIGHT**

Opposites React  
Disney PIXAR  
**ELEMENTAL**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15**  
Open Swim 6-7 \*\$10 event swim pass required  
FREE COMPLEMENTARY showing of **ELEMENTAL** 7:30pm

**pizza & snacks**  
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## 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.

## 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

## Recreation & Aquatics

For info. please call ext. 105. Visit the **Spring Brochure** online at [www.stfranciscenterlbi.org](http://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**

**Lifeguard Training - Hybrid Class**

### Recreation

**Basic Boating Safety Courses-NJ Certified** (ages 13 & up)

**All Level Yoga**

**Tot & Tyke Basketball Clinic** (ages 4 & 5) (ages 6 & 7)

**Tot & Tyke Tuesday Basketball** (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](http://stfranciscenterlbi.org)

## 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](http://www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org). We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. [www.grownjkids.gov](http://www.grownjkids.gov).

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

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

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

*Full Day and Work Day*

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

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**Children's Services**

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<http://www.grownjkids.gov>      [www.families.naeyc.org](http://www.families.naeyc.org)

## 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.

## 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](http://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.

### Donovan Catholic High School

711 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ [DonovanCatholic.org](http://DonovanCatholic.org)



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1. Go to [Rainedout.com](http://Rainedout.com)
2. Search St. Francis Center, LBICC, INC.
3. Opt-in to your organization
4. Validate your phone number

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