

THE BRIDGE



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

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent



Light of the World

Lord God, when we were unfaithful, you remembered us. Your love is so great that you sent your Son to be the Light of the World. May I keep my eyes fixed upon your light, and

never surrender to the dark, O Christ. Who lives and reigns with you, in the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 10, 2024 Light of Hope in the Darkness

Today's readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Psalm 137: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21. Hope and joy are recurring themes in the readings and prayers on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Midway through Lent, just as we begin to weary in our resolve, the readings remind us of God's love and the eternal life that awaits, and the prayers relate the Christian response of joy. The entrance antiphon begins, "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her," recalling for us that Lent is also a season for joy. The liturgical color varies from the season's violet to rose today to visually encourage us. This day points to the reconciliation that

is ours because of Christ's death and resurrection. And we have merited none of this. Only by the mercy of God do we live in Christ. As the reading from Ephesians states, "It is the gift of God; it is not from works so no one may boast." Some accept the gift of faith, but as the Gospel states, "The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light." At baptism, we received the light of Christ and, with that light, join Christ in dispelling darkness. This week, be aware that you carry the light of Christ within you and can bring others to it.

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

| DATE | MASS INTENTIONS | READINGS | EVENTS |
|------------------------|---|--|---|
| Saturday, March 9 | <u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 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 | Laetare Sunday 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> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb |
| Monday, March 11 | 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers | Is. 65:17-21 Jn. 4:43-54 | Parish Office and Center is CLOSED |
| Tuesday, March 12 | 9:00 AM +Mary Sarin +Brannon S. Appicciafuoco | Ex. 47:1-9, 12; Jn. 5:1-16 | 9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Adult Faith Enrichment, Room 212 |
| Wednesday, March 13 | 9:00 AM (L)Stephen J. Rodier | Is. 49:8-15; Jn. 5:17-30 | 9:30 AM Bible Talks After Mass 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament |
| Thursday, March 14 | 9:00 AM +Thomas Walsh +Joseph F. Moeller, Sr. | Ex. 32:7-14; Jn. 5:31-47 | 7:00 PM Survivors of Suicide, Room 212 |
| Friday, March 15 | 9:00 AM +Geri Gallagher | Wis. 2:1a, 12-22; Jn. 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 | 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, March 16 | 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM (L)Tom & Claire Mulvaney | Jer. 11:18-20; Jn. 7:40-53 Ez.37:12-14; Rom. 8:8-11; Jn. 11:1-45 | 10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Room |
| Sunday, March 17 | 8:30 AM +Marie Sulkowski, <i>ofs</i> +Irene Flanagan 10:00 AM +Edward Shanley +Edward J. & Helen Shanley +Patrick Harrington 11:30 AM +William Hester +William Wade +John Callanan | Ez.37:12-14; Rom. 8:8-11; Jn. 11:1-45 | <i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb |

Mass Schedule through March 16/17

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**



The St. Francis Parish and Center
will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, March 11th
for Mid March Break

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.

Praying the Rosary

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



St. Anthony Novena

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



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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



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

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



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.

Celiac Disease and Holy Eucharist



If you have Celiac disease and wish to receive Holy Eucharist, we now have low gluten hosts in all the churches. Please bring your own pyx [*host container*] to mass. If you forget your pyx, please tell the priest. We have some extras in the safe. Please see the priest before mass and he will provide you with a low gluten host. Complete directions are posted in the vesting sacristy.

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, **March 10**

at 2:00 AM EST

turn Your Clocks **AHEAD** One Hour.





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.stfrancisparishlbi.org/easterflowerfund

Thank you for your generous support!

From,

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

Join us at St. Francis Parish for
HOLY WEEK

MARCH 23/24
PALM SUNDAY
BRANT BEACH CHURCH: 5:00 PM SATURDAY
8:30 AM, **10:00 AM***, 11:30 AM
SURF CITY CHURCH: 10:00 AM SUNDAY

MARCH 28 - SUPPER OF THE LORD
HOLY THURSDAY
MASS ***7:30 PM**

MARCH 29
GOOD FRIDAY
STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 12:00 PM
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: **3:00 PM***

MARCH 30
EASTER VIGIL
MASS ***7:30 PM**

MARCH 31
EASTER SUNDAY
BRANT BEACH CHURCH: 8:30 AM, **10:00 AM*** 11:30 AM
SURF CITY CHURCH: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM
BEACH HAVEN CHURCH: 10:00 AM

EASTER SUNRISE MASS
3RD STREET IN BEACH HAVEN
AT 6:30 AM



Soup and Stations of the Cross

*Come to Me, All of You-
Stations of the Cross in the Voice of Christ*
By: Amy Ekeh

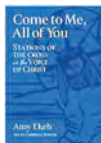
*Join us for fellowship and a simple soup dinner
and then journey with Jesus to Calvary as we pray the
Stations of the Cross.*

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

Friday: March: 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 15: Coffee

"Forgive As You Are Forgiven"

SENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE
with Individual Confession and Absolution

Friday March 22- 7pm
Saturday March 23 - 10:00 AM

"Confession is the sacrament of the tenderness of God, his way of embracing us."
- Pope Francis



ST. FRANCIS
**Liturgy &
Music**

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

If you're an *Eucharistic Minister*, and you're not scheduled to assist during mass, please come to the sacristy **15 minutes** before mass to volunteer. Your help would be greatly appreciated! We're looking for people who aren't already on the schedule.

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

ART AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

THE MARTHA MINISTRY

Martha Ministry cleans the inside of our churches through the change of the liturgical seasons.

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



Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: **\$20,500**

This Week's Second Collection:

Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services helps people, Catholic and non-Catholic, throughout the U.S. and the world especially in times of crisis. Please be generous.



Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: **\$17,792**

Needed: **\$20,500**

Last Week's Second Collection:

Franciscan Missionary Union

Collected: **\$4,574**

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



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

ANNUAL CATHOLIC 2024 Appeal

Goal: \$85,000

Pledged: \$5,695.00 (7% of Goal)

Paid: \$4,415.00 (5% of Goal)

Total Donors: 34

Total Gifts: 37

Average Gift: \$153.92

Family Faith

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

jlclayton@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 to make an appointment.

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: 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.



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.**

Gospel Inspirations:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”

What a gift! Thank you, God for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Let us gratefully accept the gift of Jesus and His message and live forever.



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

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, **April 7**, 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 15**, 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.

Passover: Wednesday, **March 20**, Christian Seder at Tom’s home in Manahawkin.

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, ofm at (609) 494-8813 for more info.

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



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.



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).

Tuesday, **March 12**, 7:00 PM

Prayer Service & Discussion on the Triduum

Fr. Andrew or Sr. Pat

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

Employment Opportunity

For the most up to date listing of employment opportunities for St Francis Parish and Community Center please visit:
The Community Center website
www.stfranciscenterlbi.org/employment-opportunities

The Parish website <https://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/careers>
Indeed.com <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/St.-Francis-Parish-and-Center-1/jobs> or you can go to the Community Center front desk to fill out an application.

Questions regarding employment opportunities? Please contact Amy Bodine at abodine@stfrancislbi.org

Did You Know??

Human Resources

Did you know that as required by the Diocese of Trenton, all employees 18 years and older must be background checked and complete a training through Virtus in order to work for the Parish or Center? Protecting God's Children® for Adults is training conducted by VIRTUS® certified facilitators on the prevention of child sexual abuse. All employees must also be recertified and have follow up background checks every four years. The Human Resources Director and Director of Religious Education participate in an annual audit with the Diocese of Trenton to ensure we are in compliance.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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
available for purchase

st. francis community center 4700 long beach blvd, long beach twp, 08008 609-484-8861

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@stfrancislbi.org

Tour Features: Roundtrip airfare from New York, first class/select hotel on land portion, accommodations on the MS Amadeus Riva in handsomely appointed staterooms sharing in twin-bedded cabins, all meals on board the cruise and breakfast daily on land portion, free-flowing red & white regional wines, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner 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.

Danube River Cruise reservations still available. Cut off date is **May 1**. Make your reservations NOW before all the spaces are taken. Brochures and reservation form available at Parish Office.

\$30 ADULTS **\$15 KIDS**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH AND CENTER

THISTLE OF KEARNY

FISH FRY

DINNER 2024
MARCH 22, 2024
5PM - 7PM

Dine-in or Take out!
Reservations are available for groups of 6 or more.
Stay & Enjoy Music, Raffle & Food.
BYOB & BYO
Apps to enjoy before dinner
Take out starts at 4:30pm

CHOICE OF:
Fish & Chips or
Chicken & Chips

TICKETS ON SALE ONLINE AND AT THE FRONT DESK

www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/fish-fry
*Tickets are non-refundable

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.*

*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*

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.

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.



Are you looking for a place to hold a birthday party?

St. Francis Community Center offers a wet and wild time!

Each party is two hours.

We provide the party room, which includes: tables, chairs, a full kitchen and garbage cans.

You supply the party decorations, food and beverages.

Call the Aquatic Center today for more information or to book a Party; 609-494-8861 ext. 187.

Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

St Francis Counseling Service is now offering services for perinatal mood and anxiety disorder! Free and confidential services are available to Ocean county residents with children under the age of three who have experienced trauma and have postpartum symptoms. The goal of the program is to provide counseling for parents in the perinatal period, addressing new parenthood struggles, perinatal mood and anxiety disorder, infertility, miscarriage, stillbirth, sudden infant death syndrome, and trauma. Both individual and group counseling will be offered. Call 609-494-1554 for more information!

Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



Information and Assistance, Telephone Reassurance Calls, Caregiver Assistance Options Counseling: Application Assistance for PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled), Meals on Wheels, SHIP Counseling (State Health Insurance Program), Energy Assistance, JACC (Jersey Assistance for Community Caregivers) and many more. Socialization, Recreation, and Exercise programs are available - please call for availability.

The LBI Health Department is doing
Blood Pressure Screenings
the **second Tuesday of each Month**
from 11:00 am - 11:30 am

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



Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



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

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

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

Year-round Childcare for Children TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

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