

THE BRIDGE



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

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Always Near

Loving Father,
you who answer when I call,
who continue to love me,
even when I fall,
you are ever present and merciful.
May I be a mirror of your promises.
Never let me stray too far
from your gaze.
May your hand never be far
from mine.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 17, 2024 Covenant of Love

Today's readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15, (12a); Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33. On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the readings begin by recalling the covenant God made with the chosen people. The Lord tells the prophet Jeremiah, "I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people." In the covenant that God keeps with us today, he offers us eternal life. Jesus refers to that life in the Gospel reading, saying, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." The first reading explains that all shall know God, for he "will forgive their evildoing and

remember their sin no more." In the second covenant, Jesus lays down his life for us on the cross, erasing our sins and reconciling us with God. The Letter to the Hebrews explains that Christ "became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." To obey God, to have a place for him in our hearts, we seek a pure heart, praying from Psalm 51, "Create a clean heart in me, O God." In this psalm, we ask not only that our souls be cleansed of sin but for a steadfast and willing spirit. How will you carry this psalm with you through this week so that you can be true to the love God offers? How can this psalm turn you to God's presence so that you might be a walking testimony of his love?

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, March 16	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 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
Monday, March 18	9:00 AM +Brannon S. Appicciafuoco	Dn. 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn. 8:1-11	
Tuesday, March 19	9:00 AM <i>Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of BVM</i> +James M. Kempfski	II Sm. 7:4-5a,12-14a, 16; Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Men's Planning Mtg., SC Church
Wednesday, March 20	9:00 AM +Ryan B. Sterling	Dn. 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn. 8:31-42	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, March 21	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers	Gn. 17:3-9; Jn. 8:51-59	
Friday, March 22	9:00 AM +Alan French 7:00 PM <i>Lenten Communal Reconciliation Services</i>	Jer. 20:10-13; Jn. 10:31-42	11:00 AM OA, Room 102 5:00 PM Annual Fish Fry Dinner
Saturday, March 23	9:00 AM +Walter Williams 10:00 AM <i>Lenten Communal Reconciliation Services</i> 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM <i>Palm Sunday, Passion of the Lord</i> +Santo "Babe" Cugliotta	Ez. 37:21-28, Jn. 11:45-56 Mk. 11:1-10, Is. 50:4-7, Phil. 2:6-11; Mk. 14:1-15:47	Flower Sale after 5:00 PM Mass
Sunday, March 24	<i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> 8:30 AM +Thomas Ackers (L)+Stein & Kempfski Families 10:00 AM +Ryan B. Sterline +John Callanan +Steven Carrano 11:30 AM +Kathleen C. Minutella +Austin D'Souza	Mk. 11:1-10, Is. 50:4-7, Phil. 2:6-11; Mk. 14:1-15:47	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlb Flower Sale after All Masses

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

St. Thomas of Villanova Church 13th & Long Beach Blvd., Surf City	
DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, March 24	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> 10:00 AM (L)Thomas & Eileen McGinn Flower Sale after 10:00 AM Mass

Emergency Information

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

Parish Information - (609) 494-8813

Emergency Information: Available on our answering machine (609) 494-8861 and on the following website: schoolclosingsnj.com and facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parish Office

Michele Beck, Director, Liturgy & Music
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM
Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation
Deacon Robert Cunningham
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM
Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor
Fr. John Frambes, OFM
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, <i>Comptroller</i>	

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

St. Francis Center

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

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Reorganization of the Parish Staff

When I was in high school, I can remember the pastor of my hometown parish telling someone the sage advice, "A new pastor should only trim the hedges during the first year." It makes a lot of sense. Before any major decisions are made it is important take some time to learn about the community, assess the needs, and then move forward. Arriving during the peak of the Covid epidemic some decisions had

to be made during my first year as pastor, but by and large, the hedges were trimmed, wearing a mask of course.

Since this is the second time I have been assigned to LBI, I already knew that the parish community was dynamic, faithful, and filled with wonderful people. Honestly, that was the main reason I asked to return. One area that I was not familiar with was the organizational structure of the Parish and Center. I needed to spend some time to learn about how things got done. Now, after three and a half years as the pastor I have decided there was a need to reorganize the parish staff.

Amy Marks, formally the coordinator of the Front Desk and the Development Director for the Center, is now the Director of Parish Operations. This newly created position will help streamline all that needs to get done to run a very large parish whose population quadruples every summer. Amy will oversee the parish development initiatives as well as the maintenance of the buildings, housekeeping, and the parish offices. We are in the process of creating a secretarial pool to ensure that the parish office will be open from 9 AM – 4 PM, Monday through Friday. If you have ever made your way all the way up to the parish office only to find out that it was closed, my apologies. There were always legitimate reasons why we had to close the office, but it was a signal that that system just didn't work.

The reimagining of the parish operations was grounded in our Stewardship model. You have heard me say, in one way or another, our greatest asset is you – our parish community. Another piece of knowledge I gained over these few years is that our parish has a lot of people who are retired from their "day job" yet have a great desire to help the parish grow. The new organization relies on the goodwill of very talented parishioners who want to see our parish succeed.

Here are two examples. A few months ago, I reinstated the Parish Facilities Committee. It is chaired by parishioner Joe Hummel. I wrote about it in one of these letters when it first began. The committee offers advice on repairing and maintaining all of our buildings. This past Thursday KSI Professional Engineers, at the recommendation of the Parish Facilities Committee, began an in-depth assessment of all of our buildings. This review will help us know exactly what needs to be done. I will also help us to prioritize the need so we can create a long-term plan to repair and maintain our buildings.

A few weeks ago, the Car Raffle Committee, chaired by parishioners Lisa and Bill Tyson, was put in place to coordinate our parish's largest annual fundraising. The committee received three bids from the major car dealers on Rt. 72, compared "apples to apples," and made the decision to accept the bid from Barlow Buick GMC of Manahawkin. This year we will be purchasing and raffling off two Buick Envistas, a Buick Encore, a GMC Canyon, and a GMC Terrain.

In both instances, our parishioners, as with all of the other committees here at St. Francis Parish, worked incredibly hard to achieve one goal, make St. Francis of Assisi Parish better. There will be a few kinks along the way, I am sure, but the vision behind this reorganization is the empowerment of the faithful stewards of this parish. That empowerment, I believe, will make our parish community an even stronger and an even more dynamic place to find the Kingdom of God in our midst.

Thank you to everyone who sits on our many committees. Thank you all for your faithfulness, for your support, and for your desire to continue to share your time, talent, and treasure with the St. Francis of Assisi Parish community. Now I am going back to trimming the hedges.

May God continue to bless you with Peace and All Good.
Fr. Francis Di Spigno OFM

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

"Forgive As You Are Forgiven"

LENTEN 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

Easter FLOWER
FUND
Fund 2024



Scan QR code

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

ALTAR LINEN MINISTRY
 Wash and iron linens used in Masses, with flexible timing and increased demand during busy periods like Christmas, Holy Week, and summer when all churches are open.

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




ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

EM Minister schedules have been emailed and there are copies available by the sacristy.

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.

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$20,500

This Week's Second Collection:

Church Buildings & Grounds Maintenance

Living at the shore requires consistent maintenance & repairs to the 4 churches that make up St. Francis Parish. This collection helps us fund the upkeep of our facilities & the significant costs in maintaining our grounds. Please help us serve you by being generous.



Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$16,491

Needed: \$20,500

Last Week's Second Collection:

Catholic Relief Services

Collected: \$5,339

(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: \$9,160.00 (11% of Goal)

Paid: \$7,680.00 (9% of Goal)

Total Donors: 58

Total Gifts: 62

Average Gift: \$147.74

Gospel Inspirations:

“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.”



Jesus promises us life everlasting with God if we follow His teachings.

With the promise of heaven we have no reason to fear and every reason to be at peace.

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.

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)



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.



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.

Embrace Our Way of Life



FRANCISCAN FRIARS

PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



Franciscan Vocation Ministry

Br. Basil Valente, OFM

129 West 31st Street, 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10001-3403

1-800-677-7788 ext. 345 vocation@friars.us

Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA

Vocation Office vocations@osphil.org

22nd ANNUAL BLUE MASS Celebration of Law Enforcement

April 4, 2024

10:30am

St. Robert Bellarmine
Co-Cathedral; Freehold



DIOCESE of
TRENTON

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction



Spiritual Direction is a professional ministry in which a spiritual director accompanies others to grow in intimacy with God as they experience the challenges and joys of life. This sacred ministry assists individuals to notice and savor their experiences of God and to respond to God's abundant love. We now have three certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction in our parish. For an appointment 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) 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, **April 3**, 10:30 AM, Zoom
Saturday, **April 13**, 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.

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, **April 17**, 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 19**, 7:00 PM, Surf City Church.

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 22**, 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, **April 11**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

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.

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!



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.**

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@stfrancislbj.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.



Flower Sale
Saturday, March 23rd & Sunday, March 24th

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 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS



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

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

THISTLE OF KEARNY

FISH FRY

DINNER 2024
MARCH 22, 2024
5PM - 7PM

CHOICE OF:
 Fish & Chips or
 Chicken & Chips

TICKETS ON SALE ONLINE AND AT THE FRONT DESK

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



Job Fair
 Saturday, **April 6**

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

Second Annual Golf Outing
 Monday, **May 6**
 LBI National Golf Course

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@stfrancislbj.org.

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH 9:30 - 3PM

SUMMER SOLSTICE CRAFT SHOW

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER
 4700 LBI BVLD. BRANT BEACH NJ • \$2 ADMISSION

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.



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.

**Session II:
Registration
Tuesday, April 9th at 9:00am**

Daily Guest Fees:

\$10 Per Person

Book of 5 Passes: \$45

Book of 10 Passes: \$85

Open Swim Only (Space Permitting)
Open Swim Hours subject to change
without notice.

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*

Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



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

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

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

Year-round Childcare for Children

TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

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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

Community Bulletin Board

Francis House of Prayer

84 Wainford Rd., Allentown, NJ 08501 609-877-0509

TAIZÉ PRAYER PROGRAM

Sunday, **March 17** 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Donation: Love Offering

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, **March 27** 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Please bring a bag lunch. Donation: \$10;
\$40 with spiritual direction.

IN-PERSON ONLY

TRIDUUM RETREAT

Begins 7 PM Wednesday - Ends 9 AM Easter

March 27 - 31 Wednesday to Sunday

Donation: \$350; \$100 non-refundable deposit.

St. Michael the Archangel Pregnancy Help Center

P.O. Box 2127, Long Beach Township, NJ 08008

St. Michael the Archangel Pregnancy Help Center Fundraiser Dinner



Thursday, **April 11, 2024, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.**

The Waterfront Restaurant,

361 East Lacey Road, Forked River, NJ.

\$100.00 per person.

Guest Speakers:

Monsignor Ken Tuzeneu, Pastor, St. Mary's Barnegat, and Manahawkin

Deacon Robert Cunningham, Deacon, St. Francis, LBI

Rachel Hendricks, Coordinator, Respect Life Ministries, Diocese of Trenton

Tickets:

Please purchase your ticket early as seating is limited. To purchase tickets contact Cecelia at cgfowler413@gmail.com, or mail your check payable to:

St. Michael Help Center

PO Box 2127

Long Beach Township, NJ 08008

Goal of newly formed center:

This center was newly formed in 2023, with the goal of assisting pregnant women and young children who find themselves in challenging and sometimes desperate situations. Website: stmichaelhelp.org.

To volunteer or for further information:

If you would like to volunteer, or for further information, please contact Deacon Robert Cunningham at 609-709-9549, email: rcunningham@stfrancislbi.org

If you are unable to attend the event, you can still support this effort by praying one Hail Mary daily.

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