

THE BRIDGE



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

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

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy



Loving and Merciful

Eternal Father,
in you we find mercy,
compassion, and love.
May your Spirit work within us,
calming our fears
and opening our hearts
so that we might greet others
with peace.
Grant us wisdom to put aside
our doubts
and like Thomas profess our
belief in you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 7, 2024
Ever Merciful

Today's readings: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31. On this Second Sunday of Easter, the Church also celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. The readings today reveal some of the many facets of God's mercy. The psalm proclaims that "his mercy endures forever," and in the Gospel, Jesus enacts that mercy as he greets the disciples in peace. In a loving manner, Jesus helps the group of disciples overcome doubt about the resurrection. Though his followers do not recognize him, he is gentle, beginning both visits with the greeting, "Peace be with you."

During the homily on the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope John Paul II declared that the Second Sunday of Easter would be

called Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina had shared her visions of Jesus appearing to her dressed in a white garment and with rays of light emanating from his heart. Jesus asked her to share the word of his mercy for a day to celebrate his mercy. St. Faustina trusted her vision.

The disciples to whom Jesus first appeared and whom he showed his wounds also trusted the man standing before them. At the sight of Jesus, these followers surrendered themselves completely to God. Think about your first encounter with Jesus. What was that moment like for you? How has your relationship changed over the stages of your life? Have others come to know Christ through your belief?

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, April 6	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM Divine Mercy Sunday +Alfred Amoroso +Michael Rooney +Donald Carey +John Bulman	Acts 4:13-21; Mk. 16:9-15 Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn. 5:1-6; Jn. 20:19-31	
Sunday, April 7	Divine Mercy Sunday 8:30 AM +Barbara Lally +John Jupin +Christopher Little 10:00 AM +Patricia Gentile +John Callanan +Bob & Joanne Curry (L)Thomas Eileen McGinn +Christopher Higgins 11:30 AM +James M. Kempski +Norman "Skip" Butler +Carol DeCarlo 5:00 PM Mass for Survivors of Suicide	Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn. 5:1-6; Jn. 20:19-31	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish 12:30 PM Order of Franciscan Secular, Church Hall
Monday, April 8	9:00 AM Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord +James M. Kempski +Walter Washburn 7:00 PM Sacrament of First Reconciliation Service	Is. 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb. 10:4-10; Lk. 1:26-38	
Tuesday, April 9	9:00 AM +Ellen Hagan +Richard "Richie" Simone +Eugene & Katherine Byrne	Acts 4:32-37; Jn. 3:7b-15	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena Novena 5:15 PM Dinner with Friends, Church Hall
Wednesday, April 10	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers +Thomas Lally	Acts 5:17-26; Jn. 3:16-21	10:00 AM Scripture Study, Room 102 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, April 11	9:00 AM +Pat Bradley (L)Anne Bock (L)Jean Kinslow	Acts 5:27-33; Jn. 3:31-36	7:00 PM Survivors of Suicide, Room 212
Friday, April 12	9:00 AM +William Langdon 6:00 PM Sacrament of Confirmation Service	Acts 5:34-42; Jn. 6:1-15	11:00 AM OA, Room 102 <i>Live-Streaming 6:00 PM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish
Saturday, April 13	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Gladys Fuydal +Henry Scala +Norman "Skip" Butler +Dr. Richard & Anne Gove	Acts 6:1-7; Jn. 6:16-21 Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn. 2:1-5a; Lk. 24:35-48	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, April 14	8:30 AM +Donna Weiss +Thomas J. Glynn +Christopher Little +Vince McHale 10:00 AM +Edward W. Shanley +Margaret "Peggy" F. Bradley +John Callanan (L)Thomas & Eileen McGinn +Paul John Vazzana 11:30 AM +Barbara Knode +Norman "Skip" Butler +Isabella Mayo	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn. 2:1-5a; Lk. 24:35-48	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish

Praying the Rosary

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



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.

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

Around 5 PM on Holy Thursday afternoon, as I was preparing myself for the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, I received a phone call from Joe Hummel, the chair of our Facilities Committee. Joe very calmly told me that the engineers who are reviewing the integrity of our 7 buildings reported that the structural beam below the doors that are between the nave and the front lobby of the Brant Beach church is compromised and strongly suggest that we close off the last three pews of the church. The week prior we closed off the balcony, at their suggestion, to decrease any additional weight on the beam. The engineers did say that the possibility of something happening was minimal but they suggested that we err on the side of caution. Joe and I agreed. We also learned that the beam under what was the stage in the Church hall is also compromised. The Facilities Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 3rd, was after this letter was submitted. I will share the updates in next weekend's bulletin.

Despite that news I did go on to preside at the 7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper and begin the three fold celebration of the Church's Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. This unified celebration spanning three days emphasizes that this is the apex of our liturgical celebrations.

Our celebration of the Resurrection is rooted in the Passover meal, which includes the washing of the feet, and the crucifixion. The comments I heard from parishioners as well as the pastoral staff support my own opinion that our Triduum and Easter Sunday Masses were incredibly moving, prayerful, inspiring, and simply put, beautiful. These rituals are quite unique with specific details that can be easily missed, forgotten, or overlooked. I don't think we missed one! I offer my thanks to the many people who made it all happen but I must first offer my deep and sincere thanks to Michele Beck, our Director of Liturgy and Music. The beauty of these liturgies, and all of our liturgies, is because of the great amount of time and effort Michele dedicates to St. Francis Parish and our liturgical life. We all owe her our thanks and gratitude for all that she does for us. Thank you Michele. In your very own and special way you are a great evangelist.

My deep thanks is also offered to Tina Kelsall. She was the Master of Ceremonies during our Triduum and was always ready to aid and assist Michele throughout all of the preparations. Tina, also continues to create such a magnificent space in our church (es) to set the atmosphere that allows all of us to enter into good worship from the moment we walk into the building. She demonstrated her great talent when she had to recreate something different almost every day last week. Tina's dedication of her time and talent is so greatly appreciated. Thank you Tina.

Thank you to both our Adult Choir and our Youth Choir. Your musicality was not only beautiful but it helped lead all of us into a deeper sense of prayer during these Easter celebrations. To all of our cantors and the different soloist woven throughout all of our liturgies you were all spectacular. Thank you all! Thank you also to Neil Brown, our incredible organist. It is always a pleasure to listen to you play! Thank you Ray Bohn, our fascinating instrumentalist. I am not sure what instrument Ray does NOT play but he plays them all so well! We are blessed to have the both of you share your love of music with us every week. Thank you also to Andrew Wright on percussion, Dolores Dillon, on viola, and Ann Kirby, on oboe. Your addition to our music ensemble added even more depth to the wonderful and "joyful noise unto the Lord." [Ps .98] Thank you!

Thank you to Owen and Liam Trombly, Cooper and Jeremiah Powell, Aaron Carpinteyro, Matt Ominski, and Tommy Rears who served our Triduum and or Easter Masses. All of you added to the beauty and prayerfulness of our liturgies. Thank you all!! Thank you to all of our Eucharistic Ministers, Coordinators, Transfers, Lectors, and Ushers. Thank you to our "extras" who also helped during our services, Don Essig, Javier Carpinteyro, Pat Denney, and Andrew Beck. Thanks also to our online coordinator, Johnathan Beck. And thanks to Ellen Lang and Bill Malone who set up the Sunrise Mass on the 3rd Street beach. We are many part, but we are all one body. [1 Corinthians 12:20] We could not have done it without any of you. Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to my brothers, Andrew, Scott, John, and Kevin, and to our Sr. Pat, Deacon Bob Cunningham, Judith Clayton, and Amy Marks for all of your continued support, prayerfulness, and leadership.

Finally, thank you to all of you for your great faith, your spirit of good will, and your desire to want to know and love Jesus even more. He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!
May God bless all of us with the grace of renewal in the life that has no end.

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM Pastor

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*

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

Offertory Collection

This Week's First Collection:

Needed: **\$23,900**

This Week's Second Collection:

Utilities

All of us are concerned about the rising cost of utility bills. We here at St. Francis are not immune from those increases and we need your assistance to ensure that we cover our utility expenses. Please be generous.

Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: **\$55,529**

Needed: **\$75,300**

Holy Thursday Collection:

Collected: **\$3,222**

Good Friday Collection:

Collected: **\$3,357**

Last Week's Second Collection:

St. Francis Parish Ministries - Music

Collected: **\$10,577**

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



ANNUAL
CATHOLIC
Appeal **2024**

Goal: \$85,000
Pledged: \$23,166.00 (27% of Goal)
Paid: \$20,601.00 (24% of Goal)
Total Donors: 136
Total Gifts: 142
Average Gift: \$163.14

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)



Divine Mercy



Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF, Pastoral Associate

Peace is with you!

Three times in today's Gospel the risen Lord addresses us: "Peace be with you". The peace of the risen Christ is a peace that comforts fears, empowers forgiveness, and enables us to accept suffering and death as the doorway to new life. As a community of memory and hope here at St Francis, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday** by remembering those who have been touched by suicide. At our Eucharistic Liturgy this evening, we will remember in hope over one hundred people whose lives have tragically ended by suicide. Some say that the death of a loved one by suicide is probably the most traumatic event that can be experienced. Shock, denial, anger, shame, unbelievable pain and grief are but a few of the emotions that the survivor encounters immediately. There are so many questions, so few answers. Where does one begin? Our faith tells us that we are not left alone to survive this awful experience. God is there in the midst of the chaos and confusion. The God of compassion holds the hand of the deceased and gently brings His child to paradise, while the God of love enfolds the survivors of suicide in Trinitarian embrace.

Today's Scriptures tell us that faith begins with a personal encounter with the risen Christ. This leads to membership in a community of faith that gives witness through concrete actions to the presence of Christ. One way this challenge might be lived out is when we find ourselves in conversation with an individual who has lost a loved one by suicide. Our tendency is to panic or react... what do I say?... will I make "it" worse? How does one express condolences about a topic that so often in the past was "taboo"? It is in being compassionate and willing to share ourselves that the process of healing begins. God made us holy and human. We are forged together by tragedy... but united in hope. Our senses of seeing, feeling, hearing are doorways to compassion and knowledge. It is in everyday experiences that we know that Jesus is risen and alive among us. Simple gestures, such as a card or note of condolence, a shared memory of the loved one, are but a few ways to express empathy with another. It is in each other that we touch the wounds of Christ and bring healing. At the same time, we come to greater belief that we are signs of the risen Christ and know that God works in us as we share with each other the risen life within.

(Survivors of Suicide meet here at St. Francis on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in Room 212.)

May the God of Peace bring us to New Hope and Joy this day!

Easter

FLOWER

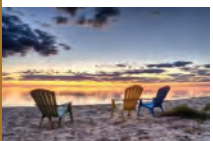
Fund 2024

Scan QR code

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, **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, **April 20**, 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**.

Dinner with Friends

Our "Dinner with Friends" meeting for widows and widowers will be on Tuesday, **April 9th** at 5:15pm in the Brant Beach Church Hall. Please bring your dinner with you. All are welcome.

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. *The Sun Does Shine*, by Anthony Hinton.

Next meeting: Tuesday, **April 30**, 1:30 PM, Room 212

Order of the Franciscans Secular offs

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, **April 12**, Room 102, Parish Center.

Scripture Study

Meets **bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, from 10:00-11:30 AM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. Call Tom Troyano at (732) 261-4721 or email: tomtroyano@comcast.net for more information.

Next meeting: Wednesday, **April 10**, Room 102, Parish Center.

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

Mass Schedule CHANGE – Weekend, April 6/7 through April 27/28, 2024

St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach

9:00 AM Daily Mass

Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM

Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 10:00 AM

www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

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

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

St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED for the Season

Gospel Inspirations:



"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

We have not seen and we believe. That is because we walk by faith and not by sight. (2Cor. 5:7)

Jesus is calling us blessed. He continues to bless us with His love and grace.

Remember to thank Him.



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

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

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.

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.

Read our bulletin online at
www.stfrancisparishlbi.org



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



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

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, 2024)

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 state-rooms sharing in twin-bedded cabins, all meals on board the cruise and breakfast daily on land portion, free-flowing red & white regional wines, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on-board 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.

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@stfrancislbj.org

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Franciscan Faith Community of *Our Lady of Guadalupe Province* in the Diocese of Trenton. Find out more about *Our Lady of Guadalupe Province* online at: <https://friars.us>

SPECIAL EVENTS

Job Fair
Saturday, April 6

Family Health & Safety Fair

Thursday, April 25, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

St. Francis Community Center Gym

Free Continental breakfast and many free health screenings are offered! Please call Senior Services for a list of screenings.

Sponsored by: St. Francis Community Center,
 Long Beach Island Health

Department and Hackensack Meridian Health Southern
 Ocean Medical Center

Volunteer Breakfast Celebration

Thursday, April 25, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Sr. Lunch Room

This breakfast celebrates all the volunteers that contribute so much to St. Francis Parish and Community Center throughout the year. Come and meet your fellow volunteers and enjoy a delicious breakfast.

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.

2ND ANNUAL
GOLF
 - OUTING -
 6 MAY 20 24
 SCAN ME
 REGISTER NOW
 LBI NATIONAL GOLF COURSE

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH 9:30 - 3PM
SUMMER SOLSTICE CRAFT SHOW
 ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER
 4700 LBI BYLD. BRANT BEACH NJ \$2 ADMISSION

Save the Date
 The Annual Garden Party by the Sea
 A Fashion Show
 Bonnet Island Estate
 June 19, 2024
 2:00pm-4:30pm

TICKETS GO ON SALE AT THE FRONT DESK
 MAY 1, 2024
 TICKET PRICE - \$65

Scan for more info

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN
 FOOD FASHION PRIZES

Did You Know??

Do you want to make a difference in your community? Consider volunteering at St. Francis Community Center! We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available year-round, from our Summer Solstice Craft Show to Swimming Under the Stars, Family Fun Night, and The Funky Flea Market. All of these events support our Senior Services, Counseling, Family Support, Recreational, Children's Services and Educational & Career Services Departments. By volunteering, you can improve the lives of those in our community who need it most. Contact Michelle DiBella at mdibella@stfrancislbj.org or 609-494-8861 x107 to learn more about how you can make a positive impact today!

Get Updates on Closings sent directly to your phone:

1. Go to Rainedout.com
2. Search St. Francis Center, LBICC, INC.
3. Opt-in to your organization
4. Validate your phone number

Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Walk-ins are welcome!

The St. Francis Food Pantry has a variety of food options, personal hygiene products, and cleaning supplies available. Please ask about our Dairy-Free Milk alternatives, Gluten-Free or Vegan options, Baby Food, Formula, & Diapers.

**Spanish-speaking staff is available to translate.*

*Join our text message alert system to receive alerts about the food pantry and annual projects. **TO ENROLL TEXT***

"PANTRY" TO 833-511-0760** **carrier text message rates may apply

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

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

Donations for the Food Pantry can be left in the bins marked "donation" in the front of the Community Center. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry it can be made through our website: <http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/donate> via PayPal.

Family Support Services:

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

- *Parenting & Anger Management Groups*
- *Auto Ownership*
- *Parents As Teachers*
- *Maintaining the Integrity of Spanish Speaking Families*

Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



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

The LBI Health Department is doing
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.



Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! It has been honored as a month-long awareness campaign since 1970! St Francis Counseling Service provides the sexual violence hotline for Ocean County, which is staffed 24/7/365 by advocates trained to assist survivors of sexual violence and can be reached by calling 609-494-1090. Join SFCS and sexual assault programs across the world in honoring this awareness month by wearing teal (the color of sexual violence awareness) and celebrating Denim Day (the last Wednesday in April, which is April 24th this year!) Check out our facebook page: stfranciscounselingservice for more information on events and programs! If you or someone you know has been the victim of a violence crime and needs counseling support, call 609-494-1554.

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

Private Swim Lessons: \$30 (per half-hour)

Sundays

Appointments for lessons must be made through the Aquatic Center Reception Desk at ext. 187.

All lessons must be paid in full, in advance. No refunds!
Private lessons offer one-on-one instruction for adults or children. This program is for anyone to learn basic aquatic safety skills or learn to swim or acquire new swimming skills.

Educational & Career Services

For information call 732-281-8653

Introducing the 23-24 FY Senior Employment Assistance Program (SEA) for Ocean County residents ages 55 & up. Whether impacted by COVID-19 or seeking to enhance skills for reentry into the workforce, the SEA Program breaks down age-related barriers. Our mission is to empower seniors by creating an inclusive environment, redefining the narrative around senior employment. We provide tailored support, skill development, and personalized career guidance, fostering a community that values the expertise seniors bring. Services include soft/hard skills assistance, on-the-job training, resume building, tech & career training, community resource linkages, and counseling. Join us in shaping a future where age is a source of strength and unmatched value.

Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



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

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

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

Year-round Childcare for Children TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

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

Full Day and Work Day

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

Vacation Club

June 17th through August 29, 2024

Ages 5 to 13 (Must have completed Kindergarten)

Orientation & Registration:

Monday, April 8; 4:00 PM

Parent/Guardian must be present for registration!

Registration thereafter according to availability!

Online registration is not available.

Fundraiser for St. Francis Community Center!

We now have blue Recycle America bins located:

St. Francis Community Center

4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

2nd & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

St. Clare Church

56 St. & Long Beach Blvd., Loveladies



These bins can be filled with clothes, purses, shoes, bedding and pillows. Recycle America will collect the items and redistribute them to those in need. In turn, this is a Fundraising opportunity for us – we receive a percentage of every pound collected.

Cultural Competency Statement

The St. Francis Center recognizes a culturally diverse community and makes a commitment to the principles of multiculturalism as a means of understanding, accepting, valuing, and supporting cultural diversity. The term Multicultural is applied broadly to include issues of minority or marginalized status as it relates to race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, use of English as a second language, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, spirituality, and the elderly. The St. Francis Center proposes to develop programs and practices that assist staff, board members, and volunteers to recognize, accept, and affirm differences and similarities among people and provide services that are supportive and inclusive of all members of the community.

Community Bulletin Board

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:

Purchase tickets here: <https://bit.ly/3IFKkli> or scan QR code.



Or you can Venmo: @Robert-Cunningham-73

Or mail your check payable to: St. Michael Help Center PO Box 2127 Long Beach Township, NJ 08008

If you have any questions on purchasing tickets. please email info@stmichaelhelp.org

Website: stmichaelhelp.org.

To volunteer, or for further information, please contact

Deacon Robert Cunningham at 609-709-9549, email:

rcunningham@stfrancislbi.org

Maris Stella Retreat Center

Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008

Summer Retreats

Guided Retreat: "Images of God in Sea, Sky, and Sand"

Sunday, June 16 – Saturday, June 22, 2024

Each day of the retreat will focus on an element of creation: water, wind, sun, clouds, sand, etc. through poetry and photography. Retreatants will be invited to tap into their own creativity. Silence will be enjoyed on this retreat with sharing in the gift of conversation at the dinner meal only.

Presenter: Ellen Dauwer, SC

Preached Retreat: "The Gift of Aging Contemplatively"

Sunday June 23 – Saturday, June 29, 2024

We will take a deep dive into reimagining Aging as an invitation to live our lives with passion and gratitude. A quiet retreat offers the needed environment for prayer and rest and welcomes the gift of conversation at meals.

Presenters: Rev. Jack Rathschmidt and Gaynell Cronin

Silent Directed/Private Retreat

Monday, July 22 – Sunday, July 28, 2024

Directed: Private prayer, mass and meet each day with a Spiritual Director.

Private: Private prayer, mass and quiet time away.

Spiritual Director: Eileen McGovern, SSJ

For more information or to register: www.marisstella.org or Call Sr Pat 609-494-1182 or pdotzauer@comcast.net

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