

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 Easter



Vine of Life

Lord Jesus, you are the vine of life, we are but branches yearning to give fruit. Grant that the Holy Spirit may nurture your people to remain in you so that we may give the life that you

have shared with us to those we meet, allowing them to be transformed. You live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 28, 2024
Bearing Fruit



Today's readings: Acts 9:26–31; Psalm 22:26–27, 28, 30, 31–31; 1 John 3:18–24; John 15:1–8. “Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing,” Jesus tells his followers in today’s Gospel. Jesus is the vine of life. The father is the one caring for the vine. As branches, we are capable of bearing fruit. In the first readings, we hear of Paul, who had once persecuted Christians, seeking a place with the disciples. Paul changed his ways and became a participant in the vine of life. When Paul turned from his former way of life, he “spoke out boldly in the name of Jesus.” After Paul’s conversion experience, he sought to keep the commandments and

remain in Jesus’ love. Only by remaining in Jesus was Paul able to preach and bear fruit, for as the Gospel reading states, without Jesus, nothing can be done. How do you envision your connection to God the vine grower and to Jesus the vine? Is there anything in your life that you need God to prune so that you can bear more fruit? Ask Jesus to cut away that which impedes your growth in relationship to him. Reflect this week on what it means to remain in God. Do you consider that the good that you do is dependent on your relationship with God? When you stray from your connection with God, does the good that you do seem to falter?

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, April 27	(L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +Donna Weiss 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Fran Jennetté +Patrick Harrington +Kyle Buchta	Acts 13:44-52; Jn. 14:7-14 Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn. 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8	
Sunday, April 28	8:30 AM +Thomas Ackers +Jean & Anthony Giordano 10:00 AM +Joan Piromalli +John Callanan +Matilda Stein +Dolores Gilander +Thomas & Edna Lynch 11:30 AM +Ruth Myhre +Amy Gill +Norman "Skip" Butler	Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn. 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8	Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish
Monday, April 29	9:00 AM +Saverio "Sammy" D'Amico +Norman "Skip" Butler	Acts 14:5-18; Jn. 14:21-26	
Tuesday, April 30	9:00 AM +Patricia Bradley	Acts 14:19-28; Jn. 14:27-31a	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena Novena 1:30 PM Book Club, Room 212
Wednesday, May 1	9:00 AM +Barbara Knode +Frank Cataldo +Doug Leaman 5:30 PM May Crowning	Acts 15:1-6; Jn. 15:1-8	10:00 AM Scripture Study, Room 102 1030 AM Contemplative Living, Zoom 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, May 2	9:00 AM +Eileen Ryan +Doug Lehman	Acts 15:7-21; Jn. 15:9-11	
Friday, May 3	9:00 AM +Linda Washburn	1 Cor. 15:1-8; Jn. 14:6-14	11:00 AM OA, Room 102
Saturday, May 4	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers 11:00 AM First Eucharist Celebration 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Mary E. Matthews +Fran Jennetté +Sheila Meehan, <i>ofs</i>	Acts 16:1-10; Jn. 15:18-21 Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn. 4:7-10; Jn. 15:9-17	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, May 5	8:30 AM +Donna Weiss +Vince McHale +Nancie Rose 10:00 AM +Monika Hakola +Tim Nandy +Anna Schiano 11:30 AM +Ed Coyle +Virginie Richard +Donald Carey	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn. 4:7-10; Jn. 15:9-17	Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish 12:30 PM Order of Franciscan Secular, Church Hall

Emergency Information

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Church 2nd & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, May 5	(L) Living +Deceased 10:00 AM (L)Kevin, Marianne, & Theresa Byrne

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



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

And That Was the Good News!

Before I joined the friars I taught high school for three years. I would tell the students that there is no such thing as a dumb question. As it turns out, there actually are, but that's for another time. I wanted the students to know that they could ask any questions they wanted. The Socratic Method relies on questioning commonly held beliefs to seek answers that are consistent with everything else we believe so to bring us closer to the truth.

One problem with asking too many questions is you might not get the answer you want.

I knew the parish buildings were showing signs that they needed repair. What I did not know was the extent of the repair they would need. So, I asked questions...

Last weekend I updated you on the Brant Beach Church and the need to shore up the support beam under the main lobby. We have been working on that and it does look like the front entrance will be opened again before Memorial Day weekend as will the balcony and the last three rows of pews in the main nave.

Unfortunately, that is the good news. The bad news is the engineers from *KSI Professional Engineers* informed me last Thursday that their preliminary findings in the Surf City Church are not good. Actually, they are quite bad.

Many of the support beams under the Surf City Church are in a "severe state of deterioration." They informed us that we cannot use about 60% of the church proper nor the balcony in the Surf City Church Hall. Unlike Brant Beach, because the deterioration of the beams is so extensive, they are not offering us a temporary fix and recommend that we move immediately to the repair stage.

As you can imagine, this will not be an easy or quick fix and I am sorry to say that we *will not be able to open the Surf City Church for this summer season*. We *will be able* to use the Surf City Church Hall and will offer Mass there but only during the Memorial Day Weekend and the peak of the season in July and August. This, however, will only accommodate a much smaller crowd. The Pastoral Staff met on Tuesday to create a *revised Summer Mass Schedule [page 3]* that we believe will help us through this time of repair work in the Surf City Church.

- **Beginning May 5, 2024**, we will have a **10:00 AM Mass IN BEACH HAVEN**. We ask the people that would normally attend Mass in Surf City during the month of May to please continue to come to Brant Beach. This schedule will shift the Beach Haven parishioners and those south of Brant Beach to attend Mass in Beach Haven and allow the Surf City parishioners to come to Brant Beach.
- **On Memorial Day weekend, May 25/26**, we will offer the typical Memorial Day weekend Mass schedule in all four churches, **HOWEVER, Mass in Surf City will only be in the church hall.**
- **During the month of June**, we will be adding an 8:30 AM Mass in Beach Haven, again to help alleviate the crowd in the Brant Beach Church. **NO Masses** will be offered in Surf City Church during the month of June.
- **In the months of July and August**, we will once again offer the typical summer Mass schedule in all four churches, **HOWEVER, Mass in Surf City will only be in the church hall with limited capacity.**

Over the past few years our ushers have been very attentive and collecting the Mass count at all of the Masses. Looking at that data and the number of seats available in each church we believe that this schedule can accommodate all the people coming to Mass during this summer. It may not, however, be in the church you normally attend during the summer months. The churches, especially Brant Beach, will be crowded, but that is never a bad thing.

I thank you for your patience and understanding as many schedules, routines, and patterns are going to be disrupted this summer.

The great news is that by asking questions we can be proactive and address these major concerns before anything catastrophic could ever happen.

This parish community has been through far worse. I do not doubt that together, we will get through these challenges as well and be a stronger community because of it.

Thank you for your goodness.

Peace and All Good.

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM Pastor

Parish Information - (609) 494-8861

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) 494-8861 ext. 154 or 155.

Family Faith: For children in grades one through eight. Please call Judith Clayton at (609) 494-8861 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) 494-8861,
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)
Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8861 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:

Catholic Home Missions

There are many places in the United States - Appalachia, the deep South, the Southwest, the Rocky Mountain states - where the Catholic Church struggles to keep parishes open, and form people in the faith. Many dioceses are very short of priests and religious and need money to help run parishes. Your generosity helps this worthy cause. Thank you.



Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: **\$21,118**

Needed: **\$23,900**

Last Week's Second Collection:

Parish Ministries – Music

Collected: **\$6,850**

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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

Revised Summer Mass Schedule 2024				
	Beach Haven	Brant Beach	Surf City*	L'ladies
April 6/7 - May 18/19				
		5:00 PM		
		8:30 AM		
May 4/5	10:00 AM	10:00 AM*		
		11:30 AM		
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - May 25/26				
	5:00 PM	5:00 PM	5:00 PM HALL	5:00 PM
		7:15 AM		
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM HALL	8:30 AM
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM*	10:00 AM HALL	10:00 AM
		11:30 AM		
June 1/2- June 22/23				
	5:00 PM	5:00 PM		
		7:15 AM		
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM		
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM*		
		11:30 AM		
June 29/30 - August 31/ September 1				
	5:00 PM	5:00 PM	5:00 PM HALL	5:00 PM
		7:15 AM		
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM HALL	8:30 AM
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM*	10:00 AM HALL	10:00 AM
	11:30 AM	11:30 AM	11:30 AM HALL	

*Mass Online via the Parish Website and Parish Facebook Page

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) 494-8861
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, **May 1**, 10:30 AM, Zoom
Saturday, **May 4**, 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, **May 18**, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.

Mass Schedule **CHANGE** May 5 through May 25/26, 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 - Sundays 10:00 AM
St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - CLOSED for the Season
St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED for the Season

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, **May 15**, 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 ofs

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

Next meeting: Sunday, **May 5**, 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, **May 3**, 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, **May 8**, 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) 494-8861 for more info.

Next meeting: Thursday, **May 9**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

Gospel Inspirations:



“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit...”

As Saint Hildegard of Bingen says, “Without a sustained connection to God and what God cares about – justice—we, too, will dry up like withered leaves.”

Let’s make God’s way a priority – and flourish.

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@osfphil.org



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

Family Faith

Judith Clayton, Director of Family Faith (Ext. 153)
jclayton@stfrancislbj.org
Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)
Mary Lou McGurkin, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)



Helping Moms in Need



St. Francis Life Ministry invites you to help moms in our local area who are in need. We have been contacted by Southern Ocean Medical Center and Family Promise with the names of those most in need.

Beginning **April 28th**, baskets will be in the lobbies of the Brant Beach Church and will have cards identifying much-needed baby items to purchase. Once the items are purchased, you can bring them back to the lobby of the church to be collected and distributed on Mother's Day, **May 12th**. We appreciate your generosity in helping with this most worthwhile cause.

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.

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.stfranciscenterlbj.org/employment-opportunities

The Parish website <https://www.stfrancisparsihlbi.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

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 handily 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 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 15**. Make your reservations NOW before all the spaces are taken. Brochures and reservation form available at Parish Office.

Sight and Sound

October 9, 2024



\$192

Includes: Show, Lunch, Transportation & Driver's Tip

From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, **DANIEL** is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theaters.

Daniel Package Includes:

- Show Ticket
- Smorgasbord Lunch
- Shopping at Shady Maple

Contact Info.: Cheryl Krzaczek, 609-661-5229
Mary Lou Ligus, 215-850-7809

Bus pick up at Walmart in Manahawkin & St. Francis LBI
St. Francis Parish, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ 08008

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

REGISTER NOW!

Saint Francis Community Center
Second Annual Golf Outing
Monday, May 6, 2024
LBI National Golf Course
Little Egg Harbor Twp., NJ



Register Now

Join us for a spectacular day of golf, food & contests as we raise money for St. Francis Community Center. There are lots of prizes, from closest to the pin to longest drives for both men and women. There are four par 3 holes - hit a hole in one and win a \$5,000 cash prize!

Scan Me



Questions? Contact Michelle DiBella at ext. 107
mdibella@stfrancislbi.org

Save the Date

The Annual Garden Party by the Sea
A Fashion Show

Bonnet Island Estate
 June 17, 2024
 2:00pm - 4:30pm

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

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN
 FOOD FASHION PRIZES

Scan for more info

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH 9:30 - 3PM

SUMMER SOLSTICE CRAFT SHOW

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

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.

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.

Mindful Movement & Tranquili-Tea

MAY 4, 2024 | 1 PM - 3 PM

Join us for a rejuvenating afternoon of "Mindful Movement and Tranquili-tea"

This FREE event is hosted by the Senior Employment Assistance (SEA) Program: Open to the Ocean County public 55+ looking to upskill & re-enter the workforce.

A specially curated event designed to promote wellness, relaxation, and social connection for seniors aged 55 and up. Set in the serene ambiance of our community center, this event offers a unique blend of gentle chair yoga, delightful teas, delectable pastries, and enriching conversation.

St. Francis Community Center
 1258 Route 166
 Stella Towne Center
 Toms River, NJ 08753

To register, please call or email:
732-281-8653
spennisi@stfrancislbi.org

SEA BINGO

May 18th, 2024
 10AM-12PM

This FREE event is hosted by the Senior Employment Assistance (SEA) Program: Open to the Ocean County public 55+ looking to upskill & re-enter the workforce. Join us for a fun-filled morning of games and exciting prizes. Light refreshments will be provided.

St. Francis Community Center
 1258 Route 166
 Stella Towne Center
 Toms River, NJ 08753

Must pre-register!
 Please call:
 732-281-8653

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***

Items needed:

*ALL Canned Vegetables & Beans
Canned Chicken
Soup
Tea
Nutritional Drinks (ie. Boost)
Pasta & Jarred Sauce
Oatmeal*

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.grownjkids.gov.

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

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

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

Full Day and Work Day

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

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.



ST FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER
ST FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE
IS NOW OFFERING

Support for Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders

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

GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

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St. Francis Preschool is a licensed and dual-certified program, serving children from 13 months to age 5, operating daily from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Accredited by the prestigious National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Grow NJ Kids (4 star rating), we are a year-round program whose mission is to promote the social-emotional and academic growth of young children in a nurturing and relaxed environment.

Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



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

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

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



Recreation & Aquatics

For info. please call ext. 105. Visit the **Spring Brochure** online at www.stfranciscenterlbi.org or pick up a Brochure at the Center lobby.

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.

Community Bulletin Board

Francis House of Prayer

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IN-PERSON ONLY PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, **May 1**, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. Please bring a bag lunch. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction.

JESUS WAS TALKING ABOUT MARY THE BEATITUDES

Tuesday, **May 7**, 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Using Mary as our model, we will explore Beatitude living in the here and now. When Jesus preached about the Beatitudes, He was talking about Mary. Donation: \$30, includes lunch. Zoom: \$25

ZOOM ONLY THOUGHTS MATTER

Wednesday, **May 8**, 7:00 – 8:00 PM
This evening retreat will help us learn to notice our thoughts as they arise and choose to accept them or replace them. Donation: \$10

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Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ Saturday, **June 1st** at 9:30 AM

North American Lourdes Volunteers will present a *VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE* to Lourdes, France at St. Joseph's Catholic Church

During this guided 2-hour Lourdes experience, you will immerse yourself in the Message of Lourdes as given by Our Lady to St. Bernadette. You will have the opportunity to touch the Grotto Rock and to experience the healing grace of Lourdes Water. You will receive a Eucharistic blessing and pray a candlelight Rosary. A Plenary Indulgence is granted to the faithful who attend a *Virtual Pilgrimage* with Lourdes Volunteers, under the usual conditions.

Our Lady extends her invitation to all. The next best thing to visiting Lourdes itself is a pilgrimage journey without the travel! There is no admission fee; however, a free-will offering will be taken.

For information contact the parish office, (732) 349-0018, ext. 2223.



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- What is Palliative Care?
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- How will they benefit me and my family?

Thursday, May 9th
11:00-12:00PM
The Senior Lounge
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How do you start the conversation with your loved ones?
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HMH Palliative Care 732-202-8071

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