

THE BRIDGE



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

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



St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi Parish offers ONLINE GIVING

Parishioners who prefer to donate through our Online Giving Service, a secure and personalized way to give to the Parish, can visit our website at: <http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org>

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, September 11	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM 9/11 Mass - 20th Anniversary +Raymond Bock +Christopher Cramer 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Margie Pallotti	1 Tm. 1:15-17; Lk. 6:43-49 Is. 50:4c-9a; Jas. 2:14-18; Mk. 8:27-35	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, September 12	7:15 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 8:30 AM +Joseph & Judith Filoon +Theresa Calistri (L)Patricia & William Ricco <i>50th Wedding Anniversary</i> 10:00 AM +Fr. John Ullrich, <i>ofm</i> +Ellen Theresa Sharkey	Is. 50:4c-9a; Jas. 2:14-18; Mk. 8:27-35	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 12:30 PM Order of Franciscan Secular, BB Church & Hall, <i>Fraternity Meeting</i>
Monday, September 13	9:00 AM +Ronnie Gearhart +James Robinson	1 Tm. 2:1-8; Lk. 7:1-10	
Tuesday, September 14	9:00 AM +Gloria Salzarulo +Michael Fabrizio	Nm. 21:4b-9; Phil. 2:6-11; Jn. 3:13-17	
Wednesday, September 15	9:00 AM +James M. Kempski +Nellie & Fred Failace 7:00 PM Mass of Healing - We Remember	1 Tm. 3:14-16; Jn. 19:25-27	
Thursday, September 16	9:00 AM +George & Jane Holland	1 Tm. 4:12-16; Lk. 7:36-50	7:00 PM Scripture Study, via <i>zoom</i>
Friday, September 17	9:00 AM +Wayne Gordon	Gal. 6:14-18; Lk. 9:23-26	
Saturday, September 18	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +John M. Schumacher, Jr.	1 Tm. 6:13-16; Lk. 8:4-15 Wis. 2:12, 17-20; Jas. 3:16-4:3; Mk. 9:30-37	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, September 19	7:15 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 8:30 AM +Richard Finan 10:00 AM +Joseph Kirk +Michael Dooley 11:30 AM +Gustavo Acosta	Wis. 2:12, 17-20; Jas. 3:16-4:3; Mk. 9:30-37	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 11:30 AM Family Faith Opening Mass

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, September 11	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, September 12	10:00 AM +Anne Marie Liquori +Joseph Reynolds +Eileen Kelly
Saturday, September 18	5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, September 19	10:00 AM +Joseph Reynolds (L)Eileen & Stephen McGlynn

St. Clare Church 56th St. & the Boulevard, Loveladies

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, September 12	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, September 19	10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>

St. Thomas of Villanova Church 13th & Long Beach Blvd., Surf City

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, September 11	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 5:00 PM +Lou Somogyi +Michael Kormash
Sunday, September 12	8:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 10:00 AM +Peggy & Charlie Gaydos +Patrick Brazil
Saturday, September 18	5:00 PM +James D'orsi (L)Jeffrey, Melba, Barbara, Jorda
Sunday, September 19	8:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 10:00 AM +Jo Vennewald +Johanna Griffin, <i>ofs</i>

Praying the Rosary

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



A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Six Friars!?

Believe it or not it was a year ago [just about] that I became the pastor of St. Francis Parish. Because of the pandemic, 2020 was a year like none other so the proper transfer from Fr. Jim to me was really just a date that we both agreed would work. September 14, 2020 arrived; he was out and I was in. Done. Works for me.

People will often ask me how am I doing, or how is the parish doing, and my response is always the same, "I'm on Long Beach Island, it doesn't get much better than this!" That is the truth! The island is wonderful but being at St. Francis Parish is also such a great blessing for me, as I know it is also for the other friars, Sr. Pat, and everyone else on the Pastoral Staff. We have all the issues that every other parish has but I'm not sure if they have the dedicated parishioners like we do. We are blessed!!

One question people really haven't asked, but I think might be on your minds, is, "How is it that we have 6 priests?" I don't know of any other parish that has 6 priests. Most have one and many pastors are responsible for two churches, like Msgr. Ken Tuzeneu at St. Mary's, Barnegat, and St. Mary's of the Pines, Manahawkin. When I commented to him about that, he said, "You have four!" To which I said, "But that's different." We both smiled.

Yes, we are blessed to have 6 friar priests but that really is a unique product of circumstances. The friars belong to Holy Name Province which is headquartered in New York City. We have been working with 5 of the 6 other provinces in the US so to eventually becoming one province. It looks like that realignment will take place in 2023. In preparation for that, the 6 provinces each evaluated their respective ministries to determine where we can remain and where we cannot. In January 2020, after our province's evaluations were finished, our Provincial, Fr. Kevin Mullen, OFM, and the Provincial Council, decided that we needed to withdraw from 10 of our 30 ministry sites. We sadly left some parishes, some college campuses, and some other ministries that we thought we just could not faithfully serve with the amount of friars we have and the amount of friars that we are projected to have in the near future.

It was really that realignment within Holy Name Province that has allowed us to have 6 friar-priests here on Long Beach Island. Because we are Franciscans, our common life is our first call and from that flows our ministry. We hold up the virtue of living together so we do seek ways to support and enhance our common life. One way we do that is having "Senior Friars in Residence." This allows a friar to retire but also be as active as they want to be. Fr. Andrew Reitz and Fr. John Frambes are "Senior Friars in Residence." I am grateful that both of them want to be here and put in full days ministering in our parish and beyond. As retired friars they are financially supported by our Province. Fr. Scott, Fr. Steve, Fr. Kevin and I are full-time employees of the parish but it is the six of us that make up our fraternity.

I do have to augment my positive acclamation about living on Long Beach Island to also include that I get to live with some wonderful men who proclaim the Gospel from the pulpit, but also with their lives. Of course, I love it here!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor

Weekly Reflections...



Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF, Pastoral
Associate

When was the last time you rode the train? Some time ago, a New York paper published a picture of two subway riders. One man, an Orthodox Jew wearing a yarmulke, sat quietly while a young African American with a hoodie slept peacefully on his shoulder. The picture caused quite a sensation. It was an unlikely duo: the yarmulke and the hoodie joined to each other. With so much fear and suspicion, it was up lifting to see this unlikely pair connected. One New Yorker just wanted to offer another New Yorker a little help! It offers us hope. Sometimes it is as simple as offering hope! It's a little bit like in today's gospel; Peter and Jesus: an unlikely duo! Peter had a certain image or expectation of what "the Christ" was to be or to do. Suffering and death had nothing to do with Peter's "Christ". But they had everything to do with "God's Christ". God thinks and acts in terms of love and life and salvation. Jesus asks us the same question that he asked Peter. "Who do you say that I am?" At Baptism, we were united in Christ. We were given our identity as children of God and our mission to be disciples of Christ. This is a life-long process of God's work in us. We respond as disciples by following in the footprints of Christ. It is our daily living that shows the answer to this question. It is in our prayer that we come to know God's love and mercy for us. When we are compassionate, loving and forgiving of each other, we are the "hands and feet and shoulders" of Christ for one another. It is in becoming Christ-like that we too become "an unlikely duo: Jesus and us together". We are called to be followers who give of ourselves for the good of others. Sometimes it is as simple as offering hope!

May the Lord strengthen all of us to live the hope and joy that the gospel offers us this week!

Sr. Pat M.

Parish Staff

Michele Beck, Director, 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
Fr. Stephen Kluge, OFM
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF
Jo Anne Reeder, Director, Worship
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
Barbara Truncellito, Director, Parish Development
Parish Office - (609) 494-8813
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
(Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)
Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8813 ext. 153
Community Center - (609) 494-8861
Counseling Services - (609) 494-1554

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](https://www.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 3:00 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.

Faith Formation and Education: For children ages six through high school. 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.

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Book Club

September through November 2021 we will meet in person at St. Francis Center in either Room 102 or the Knight Wing Conference Room, (Room 212) on the last Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 PM. We will be reading "*Guest House*" by Lucy Foley. Next scheduled meeting: **September 28, Room 102.**

Order of the Franciscans Secular offs

Sunday, **September 12**, 1:00 PM, Brant Beach Church Hall, *Fraternity Meeting.*

Scripture Study

Meets **Bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, at 7:00 PM via "Zoom" 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 scheduled zoom meeting: **September 16.**

Survivors of Suicide

Meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month at 7:00 PM via "Zoom". Call Sr. Pat McNiff, osf at (609) 494-8813 for more information.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE:

"But who do you say that I am?"

Jesus asks the question not only of his disciples, but also asks us.

How do you respond?

Mass Schedule CHANGE

September 11/12 through October 2/3

St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach

9:00 AM Daily Mass

Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 7:15, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM

Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 10:00 AM

www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City

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

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 10:00 AM

St. Clare, Loveladies

Sunday, 10:00 AM

Mass of Appreciation

5th Annual Mass of Appreciation & Blue Mass

11:30AM, Saturday, September 25

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Brant Beach

Please join us as we Honor the Men and Women of the US Armed Forces and First Responders who serve our Communities in Law Enforcement, Fire, Rescue, First Aid, Paramedics, Doctors and Nurses, Veterans, and Health Care Workers.

All are Welcome

Light Refreshments

Sponsored by: Knights For Christ The Healer, Inc.,

Contact: Bill Benedict (973) 464-1529.

knightsforchristthehealer.org

Bagpipes, Color Guard, Presentation of the Colors

Fr. Francis DiSpigno will be the presider for this Mass.

Adult Faith Enrichment and

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA and ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT IS BAAAACK.

Any adult interested in becoming Catholic, or any Catholic who desires first Communion and/or Confirmation, please call Sister Pat or Father Steve at extension 157.

Classes are open to everyone and begin on **Tuesday, September 21** at 7:00 PM.

More information to follow.

Appeals Box

Second Collection Today:

Human Concerns Project

Our Family Support Services Department is an important component of our efforts in homelessness prevention. Our services include workshops on parenting support, violence prevention, anger management, the Food Pantry, utilities assistance, auto ownership of Ocean County & annual projects. Grants, donations & this collection support this crucial work. Thank you for your generosity.

Last Week's 2nd Collection

The Catholic University of America

Collected: \$7,109

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$34,000

Last Week's Collection

Budgeted: \$44,000

Collected: \$32,230.50

Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



St. Francis of Assisi Parish Online Giving!

stfrancisparishlbi.org

2021 Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: **\$100,000.00**

Gift Count: **357**

Donors: **273**

Raised: **\$55,124.00**

Collected: **\$52,301.44**

Pledge Balance: **\$ 2,312.56**



Women's Cornerstone Retreat



We regret to advise that the annual Cornerstone Sister's Retreat scheduled for **October 22 & 23** has been **cancelled**. The spiritual tradition of gathering in person and sharing prayer, reflection and meals together in an over-night setting amidst the Delta Variant presented too great a risk so as to ensure the safety and comfort of our attendees. We look forward to planning for the 2022 Cornerstone Retreat scheduled for Friday, October 21 & Saturday, October 22, 2022. Thank you for your understanding.

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)

Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA
Vocation Office vocations@osfphil.org

St. Francis is a sending Parish to St. Mary Academy
(609) 597-3800 or visit: www.stmaryknights.org

Family Faith



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

jclayton@stfrancislbi.org

Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

Marion Pierri, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)



Dear families: don't forget to register your children for the upcoming Family Faith year! We look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Contact Marion Pierri at mpierri@stfrancislbi.org or (609) 494-8813 ext. 177 for more information on the registration process.

New families to our programs should contact our Director, Judy Clayton at jclayton@stfrancislbi.org or (609) 494-8813 ext. 153.

FAMILY FAITH OPENING MASS

for ALL FAMILIES NOW ON

SUNDAY, **SEPTEMBER 19** at the 11:30 AM MASS
RECEPTION IN GYM OF CENTER FOLLOWING MASS
WITH DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM MATERIALS.

Help Needed

There are many ways of Finding God. We experience God in liturgical celebrations, private prayer, in classroom settings, retreats, in nature and in one another. The Church calls us to provide faith development for all ages.

The St. Francis Family Faith team will implement a new program that will provide faith development for all ages. This program will be a dynamic and unique learning experience.

Beginning in September 2021, each child in grades 1 to 7 will come to the Parish Center from 5:30 to 7:00 PM for 7 classes **October to April** with a parent, grandparent, godparent or other loving adult to participate in prayer, conversation, sharing, and finding God together.

These gatherings will include scripture, monthly religious themes, art and activities, videos and church visits. Stories of the Lives of the Saints will help to guide spiritual growth. Books and additional materials will be provided for other weeks.

The new Confirmation Encounter program will invite Candidates to attend a series of 3 workshops, a retreat and a reconciliation evening in preparation for the reception of the Sacrament. An opening reception will begin the process for the completion into the full initiation into the Church and how a follower of Jesus continues his Mission.

As our program expands, we are in need of many additional Catechists and substitutes at all grade levels. Please accept this invitation to become an integral part of an important ministry in our faith community. This is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your faith and prayer life as well. Turn your faith into action! The commitment is from the opening Mass in September to April one time per month. All plans and materials are provided.

Please call me for further information or any questions you may have.

Peace of Christ be with you,

Judith Clayton

Director, Family Faith

Parish Celebrations for the Feast of St. Francis

Novenas by Fr. Scott for the Feast of St. Francis

<https://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org>
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

Franciscan Core Values

by the Secular Franciscans

A Series of 15 Minute Reflections

September 27 thru October 1 after the 9:00 AM Mass



Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 2, 10:00 AM
in Front of the Brant Beach Church
(Rain or Shine)

October 2/3

Weekend Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis

The Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 3, 5:00 PM

Live-Streaming on www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

“October 4 is the day the Church sets aside to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi’s *dies natalis*—his birth into eternal life. Francis is easily one of the Church’s most beloved and venerated saints. Thus, even the *vigil* of his death is celebrated in style. October 3 is the *vigil* of his passing over and bears a special name - his *Transitus*. The word is derived from the Latin meaning "passage," "crossing" or "going over." The feast has always been an important part of Franciscan spirituality. Ideally, a Christian shouldn’t be afraid of death - or as Francis called it, “Sister Death.” Francis faced his own end with what could be described as joyful aplomb. A gentle turning to God in the final, ultimate mystery - the passing over or, the *turning over*, of one’s soul to its Lover and Author.”

Please join us on Sunday, **October 3** at **5:00 PM** in the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Brant Beach as we celebrate the *Transitus* of St. Francis. It is a beautiful and spiritually moving liturgy that includes readings from *The Life of Francis*, the Holy Gospel, hymns, and reflections. We hope you can join us. All are Welcome!

Feast of St. Francis

Monday, October 4, 9:00 AM

Special Daily Eucharist

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Brant Beach

A Talk On St. Francis of Assisi

by Fr. Steve and Sr. Pat
after the 11:30 AM Masses

October 17, 24, 31

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction

We now have five certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction in our parish. For an appointment please call:

Maryann Barrek, ofs, (609) 661-4441,

Anne Bock, ofs, (609) 204-3835,

Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,

Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917

Pat Simmons, ofs, (609) 661-1361.

An Invitation to Contemplative Living

This program calls out to those who desire to live more contemplatively in the world, to grow in union with God and others, and to become more aware, intentional and free. God liberates us and heals us through the practice of contemplative prayer. We will continue meeting by *zoom* on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM for Centering Prayer and Lectio along with resuming our in-person sessions with presentations on the 2nd Saturday in September, October and November from 9:45 AM to noon. Email Kathy Egan for more information at: klegan.chaplain@gmail.com
Next scheduled in-person sessions: **September 11, 9:45 AM, Sr. Lounge**

Men’s Spirituality Group

The Men’s Spirituality Group meets in the Senior Lounge on Saturday morning from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Seating is limited. Please contact Deacon Bob of Father Steve to reserve your place. Next scheduled meeting: **September 18, 10:00 AM**

Mass of Healing

We Remember Them

A Special Mass of Healing

for those who have suffered the loss of a child.

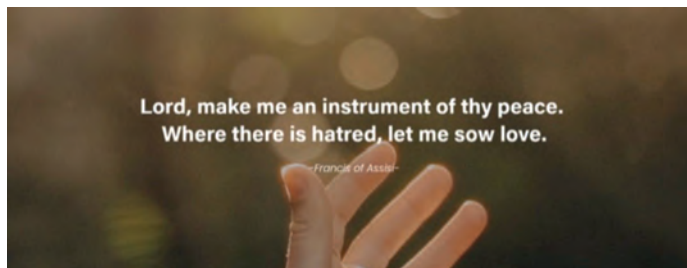
Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 PM

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Brant Beach

We will gather with all those who have lost a child through death, miscarriage or abortion. It does not matter how long ago or the age of your child. We will remember each precious life and pray for peace and healing for all who grieve as we look forward to the time when we will be reunited once again with our loved ones in God’s heavenly Kingdom. The Mass will be *live streamed* for those not able to attend.

Fr. Steve Kluge will be the presider for this Mass.

St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecology



Employment Opportunity



Preschool Teacher's Assistant (Toddler & Preschool)

Seeking individuals with a warm, nurturing, and friendly personality, able to relate well with children and families. Be willing to fulfill his/her responsibilities in accordance with the Center's/Children's Services Philosophy/Mission Statement. Prefer a background in early childhood education and/or experience working with children. Must be 18 or older. First Aid & CPR Certified and Bi-Lingual a plus.

Positions: Year-round- Full-time (with Benefits), Part-time, and substitute

Pay: \$12.00 per hour

Days: Monday-Friday

Counseling Services

Positions: Full-time Bilingual (Fluent English/Spanish) Licensed Counselor

Days: Monday through Friday (Some evening hours required)
Must complete 40-hour Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Training (provided free of charge by the agency). On-site clinical supervision is provided.

Must have Current Professional License: LSW, LAC, LPC or LCSW.

Senior Services

Position: Full time Caseworker (Outreach and Information Assistance Worker)

Days/Hours: 40 hours a week- Monday-Friday

Pay: \$12 per hour

Must have Phone/Communication, Computer & Organization skills
Must have valid driver license. Due to COVID-19 restrictions all work is being conducted from the office however normally the position requires home visits with clients.

Front Desk

The Front Desk is seeking a part time receptionist. Bilingual (English/Spanish) is preferred. Applicants must have experience with customer service, answering telephones, and basic computer software knowledge. Applicants must be able to lift at least 40 pounds.

Position: Year round part-time

Day/Hours: Approximately 15 to 26 hours per week

Pay: \$12 per hour

Part-time employees are eligible for employee discounts and paid sick time

Recreation/Pool

Position: Year-round Part-time Lifeguard for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. MUST currently possess Red Cross pool lifeguard certification, CPR/AED and First Aid Certification.

Days: Monday-Friday, and/or weekend – Daytime shift coverage needed.

****All full-time positions are offered benefits including Health Care, Paid time off, life insurance, 403B Matching and more.**

Please send resumes to
abodine@stfrancislbj.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

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 Center Donations



St. Francis Center/LBICC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Our federal tax ID number is 22-2003458. We have provided supportive services to the community for over 45 years and with your help we will continue to do so. Our online donations are processed by PayPal so it's fast, easy and secure. We are only able to process online donations from NJ residents only.

If you would like to recognize a donation to the Center in someone's name, donation cards are available at the front desk of the Center and at the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Special Events



Spaghetti Dinner

October 9

49th Annual LBI 18 Mile Race

October 10

American Red Cross Blood Drive

October 26

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/LongBeachTownship/18milerun>



**Support St. Francis Community Center
When you shop amazon.com!**

Your favorite online retailer just got better!

Amazon will donate 0.05% of the profits from your order to help support the Center simply by signing-up for the Amazon Smile program!

<http://smile.amazon>

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



During these uncertain times, although we do not know when our exercise, socialization and recreation programs will resume, please keep in mind we are here for you.

We are still providing the following:

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.

Please call (609) 978-6220 if you are in need of services.

Jersey Cares - Senior Shoppers Program

If you are 60 years or older and in need of food shopping services, you should know that the Ocean County Office of Senior Services and St. Francis Senior Services has partnered with a reputable nonprofit, Jersey Cares, to provide this service.

You can be assured your safety is our top priority and that all volunteers are fully vetted including background checks.

If you are interested in participating in this program please call St. Francis Senior Services at (609) 978-6220 or St. Francis Senior Services Berkeley Office at (732) 244-9600.

Recreation & Aquatics

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

*** FALL SESSION ***

Classes start September 11

Recreation

Co-Ed Recreation Basketball League (ages 7-14),
Tot and Tyke Basketball with Coach Manzo,
Fall Basketball Clinic with John Pampalone,
All Level Yoga
and Pickleball.

Aquatics

Swim Lessons: All Levels (private & group),
Aquatic Aerobics,
Deep Water Aerobics,
Arthritis Aquatic Exercise,
Fall Swim Clinic,
and Lifeguard Training.



Pool Birthday Parties

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

For more information please contact the pool reception desk at: (609) 494-8861 ext. 187.



Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

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

Walk-ins are welcome!

Everyone who enters the building will have their temperature taken & will be asked to wear a mask.

*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***

Donations needed for the Food Pantry:

**Baked Beans, Corn, String Beans, Beets, Peas, Carrots,
Side Rice Packets, Taco Products,
School Snacks for Kids, Pasta Sauce,
Detergent, Soap, Personal Products, Dish Detergent**

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

Did You Know??

St. Francis Counseling Service specializes in trauma work with sexual abuse and assault survivors in Ocean County, providing advocacy and therapy to survivors. In addition, our therapists work with victims of violent crimes throughout the county. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and we can provide support and therapy to survivors of domestic violence. Our therapy services can be accessed by calling our office at 609-494-1554. Our 24 hour confidential sexual violence hotline is 609-494-1090.

Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

Services are currently being offered via telephone or various online platforms. We have openings for new clients at this time. Please call (609) 494-1554.

September is Suicide Prevention Month

To spread awareness, here are some of the signs and symptoms of depression: If you or someone you know is experiencing increased negative self-talk, feelings of being trapped or hopeless, withdrawal, increased irritability or aggression, reckless behavior, loss of interest, depressed/melancholic mood, it may be time to seek help. Remember, this list is not cumulative and mental health is a very individualized experience.

St. Francis Counseling Service serves all populations and all mental health needs within our area. If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of depression and/or suicidal ideation, please reach out for more information during our office hours at (609) 494-1554.

*If you need immediate assistance,
the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is
1 (800) 273-8255.*

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Email: hometowntravel@comcast.net



Sightseeing Trips & Cruises



Painted Canyons of the West
(featuring Utah's five National Parks)

October 3-11, 2021

Rate of \$3,649 double occupancy will include: round trip air from Newark, eleven meals, all sightseeing, and some unique culinary inclusions.

St. Francis Ireland with Father Kevin
October 21-29, 2021

Ireland is officially opened for our group tour with Father Kevin in October. We still have 6 more seats if interested. Proof of COVID vaccination is required. Please call. Rate of \$3,499 double occupancy will include: round trip air on United from Newark (including all current government fees and taxes).

Join Father Steve in Iceland (currently waitlisted)
February 1-6, 2022

Price \$1,699 per person double occupancy will include: round trip airfare from Newark to Reykjavik, hotel accommodations for four nights (inc. taxes and fees). Two chances to see the Northern Lights*. A valid passport and proof of COVID vaccination will be required. *Northern Lights are not guaranteed

Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play
September 19-29, 2022

Rate of \$6,099 double occupancy includes: 16 meals, round trip air from Newark, sightseeing, Passion play and much more.

Thanksgiving Cruise - Anthem of the Seas (Round trip Cape Liberty, NJ)
November 21-28, 2021 Experience the tallest waterslide in North America or snap a photo 450 feet above the beach in CoCo Cay. Rates start at \$1,179 per person and include a \$50/cabin on board credit.

For more information or reservations, contact
Nancy at Home Town Travel (609) 597-5100

or visit St. Francis Parish Website at: <https://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/travel>

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.

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Please check www.FHOP.org for registration, directions and for our other offerings!

All programs will be offered online and in person unless otherwise indicated.

September Offerings:

- *Lectio Divina: Divine Cordiality Awaits You. Zoom only*
- *The Maturing of Your Soul. Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life*
 - *Monthly Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*
 - *Personal Retreat Day (September 15)*
- *The Spirituality of the 12 Steps for Everyone*
 - *Come Rest in Me (September 17)*

Donovan Catholic High School

Calling all Catholic Men!

September 18 starts our new *That Man Is You!* (TMIY!) series "The Vision of Man Fully Alive" at St. Joseph's Parish.

TMIY! is a 26-week program that meets early Saturday Mornings in the Donovan Catholic High School Cafeteria. Learn more by calling (347) 450-8753, emailing TMIYstjoseph@gmail.com or DM us on twitter @SJTMIY.

Family Promise of Southern Ocean County

Charity Golf Outing, Monday, September 20

At Blue Heron Pines Golf Club

Purchase tickets online at www.familypromiseoc.org or via our social media pages. Tickets are \$250 per golfer includes cart, lunch, domestic drafts, and dinner reception. 50/50 and hole in one contest. Mulligans \$5 each. Additional information or questions please contact (609) 994-3317.

Interfaith Health & Support Services

Designer Bag Bingo, Friday, September 24

St. Mary's of the Pines Parish Center, Bishop Way, Manahawkin, Doors open at 5:30 PM and games begin at 7:00 PM. All proceeds from this event support Interfaith's outreach programs. Call (609) 978-3839 for tickets and more information.

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