

THE BRIDGE



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

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

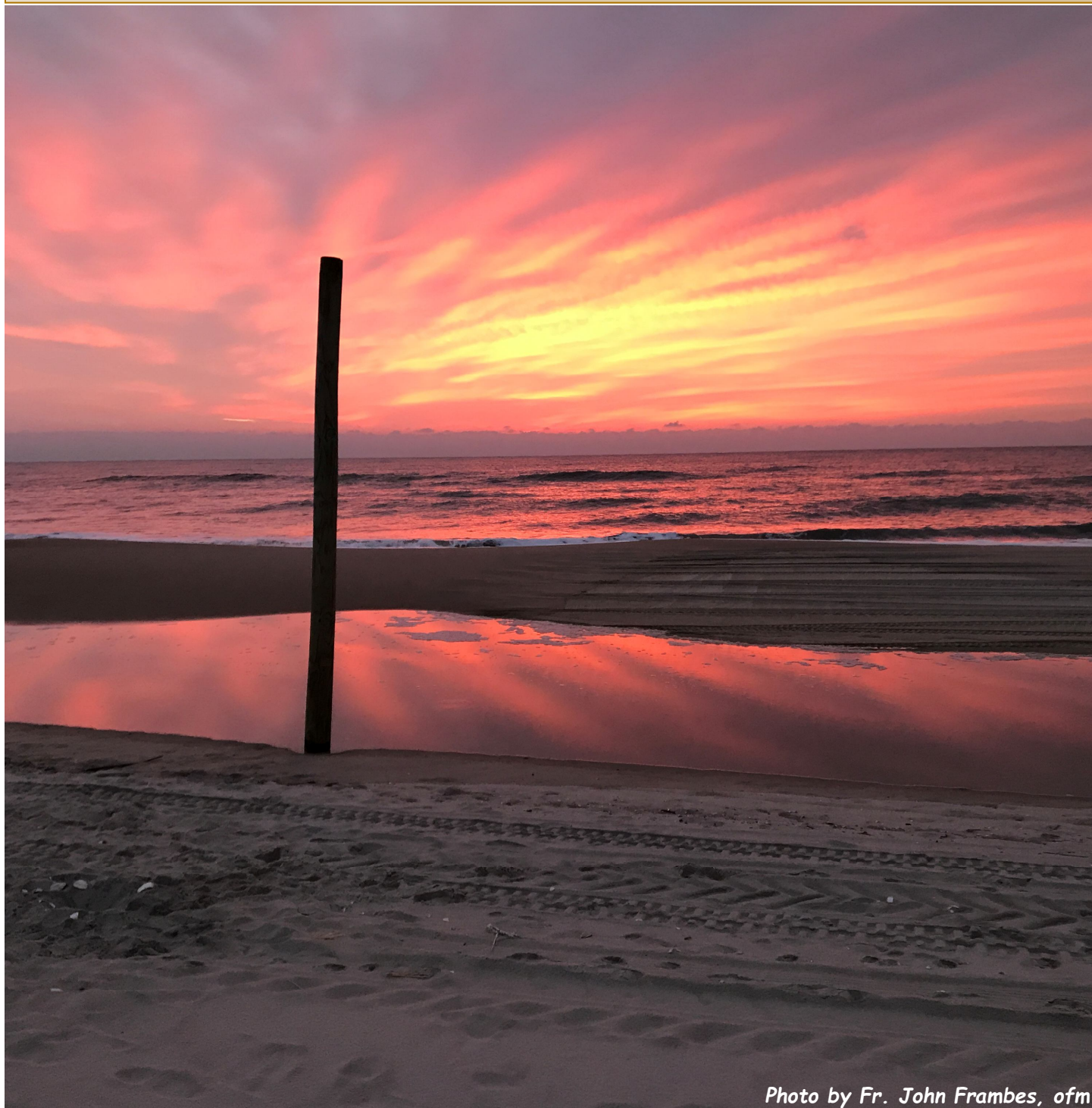


Photo by Fr. John Frambes, ofm

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>

EASTER SUNDAY - SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

APRIL 17, 2022

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, April 16	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> Easter Vigil 7:30 PM +Eugene & Lucille D'Amico +David & Kathleen Barndt	Gen. 1:1-2:2; Ex. 14:15-15:1; Ez. 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rm. 6:3-11; Lk. 24:1-12	Parish and Center is <i>CLOSED</i> <i>Parish and Center is CLOSED</i>
Sunday, April 17	Easter Sunday 8:30 AM +Angelo Fiore 10:00 AM +Anne Armstrong, <i>ofs</i> +Jerry Robertson +Dr. Richard & Mrs. Anne Gove 11:30 AM +Marie Duddy	Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4; Lk. 24:1-12	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi <i>Parish and Center is CLOSED</i>
Monday, April 18	9:00 AM +Michael Dibernardo +Emma Ferraro	Acts 2:14, 22-23; Mt. 28:8-15	Parish Office is <i>CLOSED</i>
Tuesday, April 19	9:00 AM +Charles McPartland +David Bohan	Acts 2:36-41; Jn. 20:11-18	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, April 20	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 3:1-10; Lk. 24:13-25	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, April 21	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 3:11-16; Lk. 24:35-48	
Friday, April 22	9:00 AM Franciscan Renewal of Vows +Alice McGuigan-Toriello	Acts 4:1-12; Jn. 21:1-14	
Saturday, April 23	9:00 AM +William Ernst 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Louis F. "Sirrie" Purul +Connie Corbett	Acts 4:13-21; Mk. 16:9-15 Acts 5:12-16; Rev. 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn. 20:19-31	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm.
Sunday, April 24	Divine Mercy Sunday 8:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 10:00 AM +Walter Wood +Fr. John Klingler 11:30 AM +Theresa Salzano +Gustavo Acosta +Pat Campoli 5:00 PM Survivors of Suicide	Acts 5:12-16; Rev. 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn. 20:19-31	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, April 17	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> Easter Sunday 8:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 10:00 AM +James M. Kempfski +Margo Werner +Lori Kennedy
Sunday, April 24	10:00 AM +James M. Kempfski

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, April 17	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> Easter Sunday 10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunrise Mass	6:00 AM +Keith Pinto +Susan Bulman +John Cahill



SUNRISE SERVICE
for Easter Sunday, April 17th
6:00 AM on the Third Street Beach in Beach Haven

Mass Intentions
+Keith Pinto +Robert Graiff +Bert Minnella

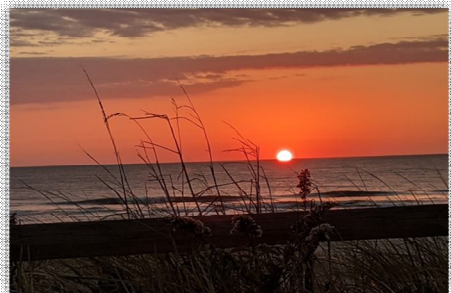
Please note the Sunrise Service is in a different location than previous years.

Weather Info.: If it is raining the morning of Sunrise Mass, we will have Mass at 6:00 AM in St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Beach Haven. If rain begins during Sunrise Mass, we will move to the St. Thomas Aquinas Church to continue the Mass.

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor



Sunrise, Surf City Beach

Happy Easter!

Sometimes, when I'm not distracted, or the TV is not too loud in my room at the friary, I can hear the calming, rhythmic crashing of the ocean waves, and I love it. I find comfort in those sounds of nature drifting up from the shore, even making their way through the closed windows. As we know, those waves are always coming to the shore whether we are aware of them or not. They are constant and consistent, storms notwithstanding. To me, they are a great reminder of God's grace, and with that, God's love and mercy, and God's presence. We may be distracted by the many things going on in our lives or the "closed windows" may get in the way of hearing God, or knowing that God is near, but rest assure, just like those waves, God is constant and consistent. God is with us.

In our celebration of the Pascal Mystery of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we find out a bit more of who God really is. We may not know a lot about God but we do know this, God raised Jesus from the dead. We also know that Jesus prayed to God, "Let this cup pass from me," and he cried out from the cross, "Why have you abandoned me?" – perhaps we may have even felt or thought the same - but we also know that God didn't. God did not take away "the cup," but God did not abandon Jesus either. God is constant and consistent no matter what is going in our lives. Our annual celebration of Jesus Christ risen is here, one more time, to remind us who God is and who God is for us.

God is the One who leads us out of the captivity of our own making or out of that imposed on us by others. God is the One who gives us the courage to face our greatest fears because we know that we are not alone. God is the One who leads us out of darkness and into His own marvelous light. Jesus came to proclaim that God and the Kingdom of that God. His resurrection is our proof that God is true to His word and does, in fact, will to set us free.

On behalf of the friars, Sr. Pat, and the entire Pastoral Staff, we wish you a very Happy Easter. May this springtime of our salvation grant you the hope and conviction to celebrate life at all times and may we always hear the crashing of God's waves of grace, mercy, and love, every day of our lives.

Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor

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.

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

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

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

Parish 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
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

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.

Appeals Box

Second Collection:

St. Francis Parish Ministries - Music

Our Sunday celebration is at the heart of our life as a community of believers. One of the aspects of our Liturgy at St. Francis is the outstanding music program. In addition to coordinating quality music for all our Masses (19 in the summer) with good cantors & keyboard musicians, Michele Beck, our Music Coordinator, leads 3 inspirational choirs; the Adult, Teen/College & Children's Choirs. Thank you for your support of this very important part of our parish life

Due to the early publishing deadline, collection totals will appear in the next bulletin.



(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



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

ANNUAL CATHOLIC 2022 Appeal What does LOVE have to do with it... everything!

The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal raised over \$6 million.

2022 Annual Catholic Appeal began February 19/20.

Goal this year is \$6.5 million.

Goal: **\$100,000.00**

Total Pledged: **\$20,814.00**

Total Collected: **\$17,402.00** (21% of Goal)

Total Donors: **104**

Total Gifts: **107**

Average Gift: **\$194.52**

*Thank you for your generosity
in contributing to the Annual Catholic Appeal.
It was greatly appreciated!
We look forward to your continued support.*

Visit the parish website for a
YouTube video on the
Annual Catholic Appeal by Bishop O'Connell at:
www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal

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

Embrace Our Way of Life

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF HOLY NAME PROVINCE

Franciscan Vocation Ministry

Br. Basil Valente, OFM

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

1-800-677-7788 www.BeAFranciscan.org



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.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Franciscan Faith Community of *Holy Name Province* in the Diocese of Trenton. Find out more about Holy Name Province online at: www.hnp.org

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.

St. Francis Liturgical Community

Weekly Reflections...



Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM, Pastoral Associate

On behalf of all the sisters and friars and staff of St Francis Parish, we offer you a very Happy and Healthy Easter. I hope you have followed the other liturgies this week, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil. For all of Lent we have been preparing for Easter. The celebration of Jesus' Resurrection! And I suppose anticipating in the future our own resurrection and the resurrection of our friends and family.

One theological word that comes to mind in this regard is salvation. One translation of the word is "coming home". Jesus coming home to the Father and the Holy Spirit in the kingdom of Heaven. And in the future our coming home to heaven also.

On the Easter Vigil we have several symbols. We start with the Easter Fire. There are two meaning of the fire that we celebrate, the Divine Presence and Jesus' Resurrection. Flame has been a sign of the Divine Presence in the scriptures in particular Moses at the "burning bush" and "tongues of fire" over the heads of the believers at Pentecost. Additionally at baptism we are told receive the "light of Christ". In John's gospel Light is an important image. Jesus sharing that He is the "Light to the world". I am told light represents: wisdom, leadership and inspiration.

The Second symbol would be water. To have water is to have life. As space craft travel to study the Planet Mars, researchers have looking for evident of life on the barren surface and if there is evidence of water long ago. From a sacramental belief water is the beginning of our spiritual life and a relationship with God in our baptisms.

The next sign are the three oils which are blessed by the Bishop very year during Lent at the Chrism Mass. They are first Sacred Chrism for Baptism and Holy Orders and other various blessings. In are baptisms we are called children of the light and children of God. The Second is the Oil of the Catechumate, used to bless the candidates preparing for baptism and lastly Oil of the infirmed to pray for members of the community needing healing.

One item I am fond of is the incense. But some people in our community have a negative reaction to incense. It is an attempt to please God in the Heavens.

In my youth I remember the importance of Easter for our family. My sisters were dressed with their Easter outfits and with Easter Bonnets with long ribbons. Years ago during the blessing of the Easter Water, my father being the grand knight was helping at the time of the blessing a moth dove into the water. My father discretely saved the moth and sent it on is way.

Lastly this year we have reinstated the Sunrise Mass on the Beach. Fr. Andrew celebrated the very first Sunrise Mass 51 years ago. It is a very popular event.

Again Happy and Healthy Easter to all.

Fr. Kevin Daly, ofm

Help Wanted - Altar Server Ministry

CALLING ALL BOYS AND GIRLS



Do you find mass boring? If you do, why not sign up to be an altar server. We need young people [after First Communion] to help with priests and/or carry the cross in the parade at the beginning and end of mass. The more you do during the mass, the more interesting mass becomes.

Have your parents contact Ms. Toby McCarthy via email toby121e@comcast.net or call/text (609) 923 5417.

Parents, don't worry...Ms. Toby will do the training, and your child will serve only ONE mass per month.

Praying the Rosary

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



St. Anthony Novena

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



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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



Adult Faith Enrichment and RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Adult Faith Enrichment group invites you to the
Easter Vigil, Celebration of Eucharist
Saturday, April 16th at 7:30 PM
in the St. Francis Church, Brant Beach.

The Good News of Easter:

"He has been raised "Alleluia!"



We practiced prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Now it is time to rejoice!

Let us find ways to continue to practice this Easter joy in the coming weeks.

Family Faith

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

jlclayton@stfrancislb.org

Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



In preparation for Easter, grades one through four will have an opportunity to experience the events of the week before and after Easter. Children will be using the Easter Story Eggs to tell the story of the Resurrection. In addition, they will be introduced to the Pascal candle by making a representational candle using styrofoam, a sharpie, tissue paper and cloves for the nails at Jesus' feet and hands. Grade five received their First Reconciliation with many family members participating in the Sacrament as well.

Grade six will conclude their formal classes with instruction – The Messianic Fulfillment. Discussion will include the Gospel writers' meaning of "disciple", why the twelve were chosen, why Jesus had to die and the Emmaus story. The Encounter book will concentrate on God's plan and the important part each person has in His plan for salvation. He has a mission that only you can carry out. The Saint of the week is Elizabeth of the Trinity.

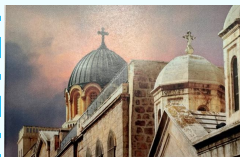
Grade seven will have a retreat as their last class. It will begin with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The theme is "Filling Your Spiritual Tool Box". There will be special break-out sessions offering ideas on how the pre-Confirmation candidates can prepare as they move on to the last phase of Confirmation preparation in the Fall.

Confirmation for the 2022 candidates will be on **April 29th** at 4:00 pm. The presider will be Bishop O'Connell.

First Eucharist will be celebrated on **May 7th and 8th** and again **May 15th**.

Family Faith will close the year on **May 19th** with a prayer service and the crowning of the Blessed Mother.

Judith Clayton
Director, Family Faith



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land A 10 Day Holy Land Pilgrimage **November 30 to December 9, 2022** hosted by Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM.

The Bible comes alive as we visit Mt. Tabor, Tiberias, Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea and more.

\$3,199 per person from New York
(additional transportation charge from LBI).

Email or contact Fr. Andrew at
areitz@stfrancislb.org for a brochure.

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Book Club

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.

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Christopher Murray.
Tuesday, **April 26**, 1:30 PM, Sr. Lunch Room

Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **May 1**, 12:30 PM *Fraternity Meeting*, Brant Beach Church Hall

Scripture Study

Meets **Bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, at 3:00 PM 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.

Wednesday, **April 27**, 3:00 PM, Sr. Kate Meeting Room

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, ofc at (609) 494-8813 for more information.
Thursday, **June 9**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction is a professional ministry in which a spiritual director accompanies others to grow in intimacy with God as they experience the challenges and joys of life. This sacred ministry assists individuals to notice and savor their experiences of God and to respond to God's abundant love. We now have four certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction in our parish. For an appointment please call:

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

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. In these experiences we support each other in our prayer and faith. 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 **Zoom** session - **May 4th**.

Next **in-person** session **May 14th** with Sr. Pat Dotzauer presenting

Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group meets in the Senior Lunch Room on Saturday morning from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Seating is limited.

Please contact Deacon Bob or Father Steve to reserve your place.

Next scheduled meeting: **April 23, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.**

Employment Opportunity



*All full-time positions are offered benefits including Health Care, Paid time off (w/ additional earning for years of service), approx. 15 Paid Holidays, Life Insurance, 403B (retirement plan) with company match, and more.

* Part-time positions are offered Paid sick time, Paid Holidays (excluding seasonal/variable employees) and Employee Discounts

Children's Services Toddler Room Supervisor

Seeking a person with a warm, nurturing, and friendly personality, be able to relate well with children and families. Bachelor's degree in early childhood education is required and experience working with Toddlers (13 months-2yrs of age) is preferred. First Aid & CPR Certified and Bi-Lingual a plus.

Position: Year-round, Full-time

Pay: \$14.50 per hour *A recruitment bonus of \$1,000 may be available through state funding. More information will be provided in the interview*

Days: Monday-Friday

Children's Services Teacher's Assistant (Toddler & Preschool)

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

Pay: \$13.00 per hour *A recruitment bonus of \$1,000 may be available through state funding. More information will be provided in the interview*

Days: Monday-Friday

Counseling Services

Positions: Full-time and Part-time Licensed Counselors
Full-time and Part-time Bilingual (Fluent English/Spanish)
Licensed Counselors

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

Bilingual Caseworker

Position: Full Time Employment. **Applicants must be fluent in both English and Spanish.**

Applicants must have strong interpersonal skills, familiar with factors which influence child abuse and neglect, valid driver's license, and a minimum of High School Diploma, preferred Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (BSW) or related field. Case worker will be required to travel throughout Ocean County for home visits and provide transportation to clients.

Days: Monday-Friday

Senior Services

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

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

Pay: \$13 per hour

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

Maintenance- Housekeeping

Position includes: Perform scheduled and unscheduled cleaning of Community Center and Parish properties. Must be able to lift 25lbs.
Part time position - Monday through Friday – up to 29 hours per week.

Pay: \$13 per hour

****Background check and fingerprinting required for all positions.**

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS



Fun Fiftieth Facts

St. Francis Center's first activity brochure was published for the summer of 1973. Here is a picture of our first LOGO!

Did You Know??

April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week.

We are happy to announce that The Annual Volunteer Breakfast will be back this year. Please join us on Thursday April 21, 2022 from 9:30am to 11:30am in the Senior Lunch Room to celebrate all of your hard work and dedication. The staff at St. Francis Parish and Community Center appreciates each and every one of our generous volunteers. Whether you volunteer weekly at the Food Pantry, delivering meals or help at Special Events or selling Car Raffle tickets you are definitely appreciated each and every day.

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:

**Detergent, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Body Wash, Hand Soap
Coffee, Ketchup, Mustard**

Canned Goods:

**Corn, Peas, Carrots, Green Beans, Baked Beans, Black Beans,
Kidney Beans, Chick Peas, Spaghettios, Beef Stew, Chicken**

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

Family Support Services First Annual Spring Dinner Project

The Human Concerns Department is excited to announce our First Annual Spring Dinner Project.

We are planning to provide meals to approximately 150 local families.

The following items are needed:

**Frozen Turkeys, Frozen Hams, Boxed Scalloped Potatoes,
Bagged Rice or Pasta Sides, and Canned Vegetables
(Corn, Peas, & Green Beans).**

Please drop off all donations to the St. Francis Food Pantry on or before **Monday April 11th, 2022**. If you are donating a frozen item, please drop off Monday-Friday between 9AM & 4PM. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

Manahawkin Shop Rite will hold Hams and Turkeys earned through the Price Plus Club Holiday Promotion. At check-out, please inform the cashier that you would like to donate your Holiday Promotional Ham or Turkey to St. Francis Food Pantry.

Your continued generosity allows us to support our community members. Thank you!

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.

SESSION II CLASSES BEGIN

Tuesday, April 19th

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.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM for short) and St. Francis Counseling Service is the lead sexual assault agency in Ocean County for advocacy, prevention and counseling for survivors of sexual assault and other violent crimes. Look around Ocean County and you will notice that businesses and organizations are **Turning the Town Teal** in honor of this month! Teal is the color for this month and the church has a few lighted additions to its decor, as well as information at the entrances, to raise awareness.

Our program will be hosting three events that are available to the general public, in addition to several events within school communities throughout the county. The first is a Yoga/Reiki information session at the Reiki and Wellness Center in Manahawkin. It will be on **April 13th** at 6 PM and registration is necessary. Please call 609-494-1554 to register as space is limited. The second is Caffeine and Consent at the Union Market and Gallery in Tuckerton. It will be a tabling event from 10 AM to 2 PM with giveaways and information on **April 22nd** (Earth Day). The third event is a walk on **April 30th** at Winding River Park in Toms River in honor of National Crime Victims Rights Week at 9:30 AM. All events are free to the public and attendance is encouraged to raise awareness.

Call 609-494-1554 for more information or to access counseling services. Our 24 hour Confidential Sexual Violence Hotline is available at all times by calling 609-494-1090.

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

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.

Employment & Career Services

For information call ext. 407.

- Adult Education Program
- First Step to Self Sufficiency
- Next Step to Employment

*All participants must be verified for eligibility through the Ocean County PIC Office. Programs funded through a grant provided by the Ocean County Department of Human Services.
For additional information call: (732) 281-8653*

St. Francis Travel

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Call Nancy at Home Town Travel (609) 597-5100

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October 26-November 3, 2022

A second presentation will be held on **Friday, March 25, 2022** from 5pm-7pm at St. Francis Center, by Jim Myers from Myers Tours and Home Town Travel. RSVP is required to attend. Please call Tara at Home Town Travel to confirm your attendance and find out more what this great trip entails. (609) 597-5100 *or visit St. Francis Parish Website at: <https://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/travel>*

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. Mary Academy

Manahawkin, NJ

A "KNIGHT" TO REMEMBER

St. Mary Academy warmly invites you to their 20th Anniversary Gala, **Friday, May 13, 6:00 – 11:00 PM, at the Waterfront in Lacey.** There will be complimentary wine and beer cocktail hour from 6:00 – 7:00 PM (cash bar remainder of the evening), dinner, gift auction and music throughout the evening. Cost of tickets are \$75.00 if purchased before March 20 and \$100.00 if purchased afterwards. **For more information, please contact St. Mary Academy at (609) 597-3800.**

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711 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753.

Email: rdestefano@donovancatholic.org

Fax: 732-914-2474

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist clothes closet reopened on March 2. We will resume our regular hours of the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:00 - 6:00 PM and every Saturday from 10:00 AM -1:00 PM. We are not currently accepting clothing donations. For further info. call Madelyn (609) 276-3308.

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!

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