

THE BRIDGE



With open
arms for all!

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 18, 2021

- PARISH STAFF -

Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor
Michele Beck, Music
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM
Judith Clayton, FFF
Deacon Robert Cunningham
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM
Fr. John Frambes, OFM
Fr. Stephen Kluge, OFM
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF
Jo Anne Reeder, Worship
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM

Parish Office
(609) 494-8813
Mon. - Fri. 9 AM to 3 PM
(Closed for lunch 12 - 1 PM)

Family Faith Formation
(609) 494-8813 ext. 153

Community Center
(609) 494-8861

Counseling Services
(609) 494-1554

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 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

Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY
Vocation Office
vocations@fsallegany.org

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

National Volunteer Week April 18 - April 24



***“May the LORD reward what you
have done! May you receive a full
reward from the LORD, the God of
Israel, under whose wings you
have come for refuge.”***

Ruth 2:12

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, April 17	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Arlene Harlfinger	Acts 6:1-7; Jn. 6:16-21 Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt. 1:17-21; Lk. 24:13-35	
Sunday, April 18	8:30 AM +Michael DiBernardo +Emma Ferraro 10:00 AM +Martha Stein +Margaret McCully +Anthony Chirico 11:30 AM +Josefina Sandoval	Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt. 1:17-21; Lk. 24:13-35	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion
Monday, April 19	9:00 AM <i>Franciscan Recommitment</i> + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 6:8-15; Jn. 6:22-29	
Tuesday, April 20	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 7:51-8:1a; Jn. 6:30-35	
Wednesday, April 21	9:00 AM +Donna Manna	Acts 8:1b-8; Jn. 6:35-40	1:00 PM Religious Ed. Registration in Family Faith Office
Thursday, April 22	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 8:26-40; Jn. 6:44-51	
Friday, April 23	9:00 AM +Louis F. (Sirrie) Purul 6:00 PM <i>Sacrament of Confirmation</i>	Acts 9:1-20; Jn. 6:52-59	
Saturday, April 24	9:00 AM +Matilda Stein 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Eugene Patten	Acts 9:31-42; Jn. 6:60-69 Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn. 3:1-2; Jn. 10:11-18	
Sunday, April 25	8:30 AM +Carol Hodgson 10:00 AM +Matilda Stein +Patrick Harrington +Arthur Noel D'Souza 11:30 AM +Gustavo Acosta +Theresa Salzano +Patricia Kakstis	Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn. 3:1-2; Jn. 10:11-18	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, April 17	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, April 18	8:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 10:00 AM +Jo Vennewald
Saturday, April 24	5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, April 25	8:30 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 10:00 AM +William Chesner

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, April 17	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, April 18	10:00 AM +Kathryn Bongiovi
Saturday, April 24	5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, April 25	10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>

GOSPEL CHALLENGE:

"Who are the witnesses in your life who have brought you to deeper faith in Christ?"

St. Clare's Church, Loveladies, NJ *Closed for the Season*

Parish Information - (609) 494-8813

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

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

Parish Registration: The Parish Office is located on the second floor of St. Francis Community Center, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 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.

Parish Collections

Second Collection Today:

Friars and Sisters Vehicle Maintenance & Fuel

This collection will help with the cost of maintaining the vehicles and fuel expenses for the friars and sisters. We appreciate your support so we can be there for our parishioners when they need us.

Last Week's 2nd Collection

Parish Operating Expenses

Collected: \$3,498

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$22,000

Last Week's Collection

Budgeted: \$22,000

Collected: \$17,555

April 3/4 - Easter Collection

Budgeted: \$65,000

Collected: \$50,926

April 3/4 - 2nd Collection

St. Francis Parish Ministries: Music

Collected: \$6,608

March 27/28 - 1st Collection

Budgeted: \$15,000

Collected: \$16,122

March 27/28 - 2nd Collection

Church Buildings & Grounds Maintenance

Collected: \$4,359



Weekly Reflections...

Saints of God, the Lord be with you!

I don't know about you but I have been rejected. I was always the last one (grudgingly) picked for team sports, there were times when I didn't get the job, when overtures of friendship or leadership were neither wanted nor understood. Rejection is painful since it breaks the heart and the spirit.

In the readings this weekend, Saint Peter reminds his listeners of Psalm 118, "The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone." (Acts of the Apostles 4: 8-12). Jesus, rejected and crucified by humanity, is accepted and risen from the dead by God. And this should give us all hope and solace. There is someone who will never reject us... God. In fact, God's love for us is so complete that we are called, "children of God" here in this earthly life. But wait, there's more! In the second reading St. John writes, "we are God's children now; what we shall be has not been revealed... we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (1 John 3: 1-2).

So if you've ever been rejected, ask yourself has that experience made you bitter or better. And the movement from bitter to better is a process: much like the Emmaus story found in the Gospel according to Saint Luke (24: 13-35). If being rejected has made you bitter and you seem stuck, ask Christ to heal your heart and your spirit. It might also be a blessing to seek out some short term counselling. If being rejected has made you a better person, ask the Lord to show you how you can be supportive to someone who the church or society rejects.

Fr. Steve Kluge, ofm

Mass Schedule through May 22/23

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

"In-car" Communion: Sundays 12:30 to 1:00 PM

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 - CLOSED

March Online Giving Collections

Easter: \$ 6,712

1st Collections: \$13,513

2nd Collections: \$ 3,188

Total \$23,413



***St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Online Giving!***

stfrancisparishlbi.org

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:

Barbara H. Angeline, ofs, (609) 384-6188,
Maryann Barrek, ofs, (609) 661-4441,
Anne Bock, ofs, (609) 204-3835,
Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,
Pat Simmons, ofs, (609) 661-1361.

Scripture Study

This group meets bi-monthly on Wednesdays, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. It is a **“zoom meeting”** led by Tom Troyano. No prior bible study background needed, just an interest in bible study and your own copy of the bible.

Call (609) 261-4721 or email: tomtroyano@comcast.net for more information.

Next scheduled zoom meeting: **April 28**

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. Monthly **“zoom sessions”** on the practice of contemplative prayer are scheduled the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM. Email Kathy Egan for more information at: klegan.chaplain@gmail.com

Next scheduled zoom session: **May 5**

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

Are you 18 years of age or older
and would like to join the
Catholic faith Community?



Here at St. Francis classes are beginning
for anyone who would like to celebrate the
Sacraments of Baptism, and/or First Communion
and Confirmation.

Call Fr. Steve or Sr. Pat at (609) 494-8813 for more
information or to register.

Monthly Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs
Monday, **April 19**, 9:00 AM Daily Mass, *Franciscan
Recommitment Day*, Brant Beach Church

Survivors of Suicide

Meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month via *zoom*.
Call Sr. Pat McNiff, ofsf at (609) 494-8813 for more
information

Family Faith Formation



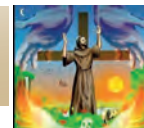
Judith Clayton, Director of FFF (Ext. 153)
jclayton@stfrancisbi.org
Eileen Bowker, Youth Minister (Ext. 178)
Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)
Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)
Marion Pierri, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)

In-person registration for 2021-2022 Religious Education Program will be on **April 21** from 1:00 to 6:00 PM in the Family Faith Offices, 2nd floor of the Community Center.

All classes will continue to be home based for the rest of this year.

Please remember to return the permission slip to allow for video or virtual learning (Grades 6-8 only).

Let us pray for the Care of Creation Earth Day, Thursday, April 22



Canticle of the Creatures

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honour, and all blessing. to You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You give us light, and he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather, through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation. Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.

- St. Francis of Assisi

Celebrate Earth Day



Join Fr. John and Tom Troyano
and walk the
Cedar Bonnet Island Trail at
10:00 a.m. on **Thursday, April 22.**



Employment Opportunity



Preschool Teacher and Teacher Assistant (Toddler & Preschool)

Seeking a person with a warm, nurturing, and friendly personality, be 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: Teacher Assistant- \$12.00/hr.
Preschool Teacher/Lead Teacher- \$13.00 w/ BA Degree
in Early Childhood

Days: Monday-Friday

Counseling Services

Full-time and Part-time Licensed Counselors and 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). **Must have Current Professional License:** LSW, LAC, LPC or LCSW.

Recreation/Pool

Private Swim Lesson Instructors

For year round employment for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. Pool lifeguard certification, CPR/AED and First Aid Certification are not required but preferred.

For weekend and weeknight lessons, Age 4 years to adults
Hours range from 8 to 29 per week, (may occasionally exceed 29 hours dependent upon season)

Job Type: Part-time

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

Please send resumes to Amy Bodine
abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

Women's Cornerstone Retreat



SAVE THE DATE

October 22 & 23, 2021

Women's Cornerstone Retreat Invitation

For the Women (18+) of St. Francis Parish & Friends.

If you've never had the experience of the Women's Cornerstone Retreat this could be the year for you to take time for yourself, or for someone that you love.

Friday, October 22 to Saturday October 23.
Maris Stella Retreat House, Harvey Cedars.

Please contact Lauren Finelli with questions or for information:
lgf_finelli@hotmail.com or (609) 332-8366.

All prevailing COVID-19 regulations will be observed.

Did You Know??

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." — Audrey Hepburn

April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week. Due to the Coronavirus we are not able to have our annual Volunteer Celebration Day. 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

American Red Cross Blood Mobile

Tuesday, April 20; 1:00 - 6:00 PM
St. Francis Church Hall



Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery, organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Please call the Community Center at (609) 494-8861 ext.118 or visit: www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

IT'S BACK!!!
17TH ANNUAL SUPER "PLUNGE"

SUPER PLUNGE XVIII

MAY 8, 2021
@ 1PM

\$20 STUDENT REGISTER AT THE ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER FRONT DESK BY APRIL 21ST
\$30 ADULT

48TH ST. BEACH
BRANT BEACH

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER AQUATIC & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS



Order of Franciscan Secular (ofs)



Mother's Day Plant Sale
Sunday, May 9

(More information to follow)

Fish & Chip Dinner



Thistle of Kearny returns!

Saturday, June 12
4:30 -7:00 PM

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.

Surviving to Thriving

A Safe Space for Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Assault. Empower yourself - unlock the skills and tools necessary to move forward and thrive in this *free and confidential online support group*, Tuesdays, time to be determined. Open to all residents of Ocean County, 18 years or older. Please call Bianca Valentini, LSW to register and reserve your space, (609) 494-1554.



ST FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE

Covid Support Group

Staying Connected in a Socially Distant World

This FREE group is open to ages 18+ to provide support for anyone that has been affected by the change and challenges that have been brought forth by COVID-19. Join us for a confidential space where we can stay connected and find support during these difficult times.

Virtual Meetings
Mondays 3PM - 4:30PM

Please call (609) 494-1554 to register! For further questions, please ask to speak with Jenna



Self Help Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous

Due to COVID-10 please call (609) 641-8855 for updated meetings and locations.

AA HOTLINE (609) 494-5130

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope to maintain continuous sobriety through a 12-step program of recovery, and to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Amazon Smile - Fundraiser



You Shop....Amazon Gives!

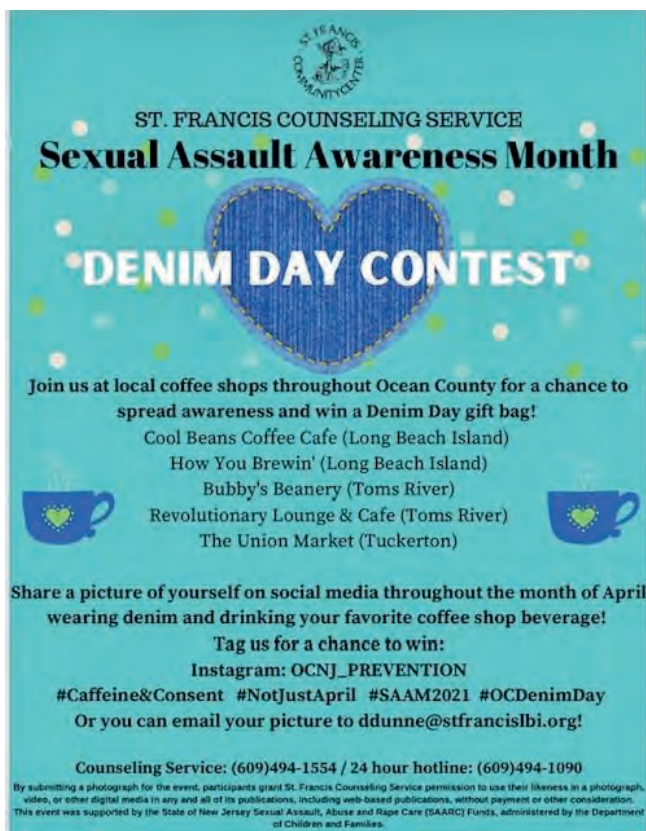
You can support **St. Francis Community Center** by doing your regular shopping with Amazon. Amazon will **donate 0.5%** of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Long Beach Island Community Center, Inc. (St. Francis Community Center) whenever you shop on Amazon Smile.

It is the same products and the same great prices!

The *only thing you need to do differently* is **log onto Amazon Smile:**

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2003458>

and sign in using your normal Amazon login and password. That's it! Amazon will automatically make the donation.



ST. FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

DENIM DAY CONTEST

Join us at local coffee shops throughout Ocean County for a chance to spread awareness and win a Denim Day gift bag!

- Cool Beans Coffee Cafe (Long Beach Island)
- How You Brewin' (Long Beach Island)
- Bubby's Beaverny (Toms River)
- Revolutionary Lounge & Cafe (Toms River)
- The Union Market (Tuckerton)

Share a picture of yourself on social media throughout the month of April wearing denim and drinking your favorite coffee shop beverage! Tag us for a chance to win:
Instagram: OCNJ_PREVENTION
#Caffeine&Consent #NotJustApril #SAAM2021 #OCDenimDay
Or you can email your picture to ddunne@stfrancislbj.org!

Counseling Service: (609)494-1554 / 24 hour hotline: (609)494-1090

By submitting a photograph for the event, participants grant St. Francis Counseling Service permission to use their likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration. This event was supported by the State of New Jersey Sexual Assault, Abuse and Rape Care (SAARC) Funds, administered by the Department of Children and Families.

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.

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!

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.

AQUATICS:

4 Year Old Beginner Swim,
Beginner Level 2,
Intermediate & Advanced



RECREATION:

Tot and Tyke Basketball,
All Level Yoga



Lifeguard Training

(Ages 15 & up)

April 21, 5:00 - 7:00 PM;

April 22 - 23, 4:00 - 8:00 PM;

April 24 - 25, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Attendance at the above dates & times is required.

There will be no opportunities to make up missed classes.

If you have concerns about your ability to complete the pre-requisites, please schedule a swimming skill evaluation by calling the pool reception desk at ext. 187 (there is a \$10 guest fee for all evaluations).

Basic Boating Safety Course - NJ Certified

(Ages: 13 & up)



Tuesday & Thursday, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

May 18 & 20

The NJ State Police Certification Course for Basic Boating Safety will prepare and certify you to operate a motor boat or a personal water craft vessel in NJ.

Workbooks will be provided.

Pickleball

A cross between Ping Pong, Tennis, Racquetball and Badminton. Pickleball is played as a singles or doubles game. It's a great sport for teens and up including baby boomers and active seniors.



Monday, Wednesday, Friday
12:15-3:00 PM

in the Gymnasium

\$5 Drop-in or \$30 for a book of 10 passes

Passes available at the Front Desk
of the Community Center

Family Support Services

Food Pantry Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Wednesday: 3:00 to 5:00 PM

By Appointment Only

St. Francis Human Concern Food Pantry is operating by appointment only. Food Pantry hours will remain Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM-1:00 PM & Wednesday 3:00-5:00 PM. Please call (609) 494-8861 ext. 171 or 172 to schedule your appointment. Upon arrival for your appointment, you will be asked to park in a designated parking spot in the first row of parking spaces in front of the building. Please call when you arrive.

Pantry based text alerts

We now have a text message alert system which will alert you to any changes to the food pantry and any projects going on.

TO ENROLL TEXT "PANTRY" TO 833-511-0760

****carrier text message rates may apply****

Pantry procedures are subject to change at any time and clients should call St. Francis Community Center at (609) 494-8861 or check Facebook for the most up to date information about the food pantry.

****If you are experiencing any symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19, PLEASE STAY HOME & make arrangements for someone else to pick up food for you! ****

St. Francis is asking for donations for the food pantry.

**Baked Beans, Chef Boyardee Canned Pasta,
Canned Beef Stew, Chili, Hamburger Helper,
Ketchup & Mustard, Coffee**

We are still in need of Personal items:
**Shampoo, Deodorant, Toilet Paper,
Dish Detergent, Laundry Detergent**

Gift Cards to:

Acme, Murphy's Market, Shoprite, Target or Walmart

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. <https://a.co/00HTAhy>

or can be dropped off at the Community Center.

Parenting and Anger Management Groups

St. Francis Community Center and locations throughout Ocean County. To register, please call (609) 494-8861 ext. 197. Funded by the Department of Human Services.



Auto Ownership Program

The Auto Ownership Program at St. Francis Community Center is looking for donated vehicles. Donated vehicles are provided to TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients for whom transportation is a major barrier to employment. Cars are donated, repaired, and turned over to clients involved in a work or training activity of the Ocean County TANF program. All donations will receive a letter and 1098c form for tax purposes.

Please call (609) 494-8861 ext. 197 if you are interested in donating.

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 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM, 5 Days a Week

Full Day and Work Day

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

Vacation Club

June 21 through September 2, 2021

Ages 5 to 13 (must have completed Kindergarten)

Orientation & Registration:

Monday, May 3 - 4:30 PM

Parent/Guardian must be present for registration!

Registration thereafter according to availability!

*Online registration is **not** available.*

Covid-19 restrictions will be followed.

Educational Services

For information call ext. 185.

St. Francis Adult Basic Education FREE Classes

Due to COVID-19 all classes have been moved to a virtual platform with live instruction. All classes will maintain a weekly class schedule. Classes will return to in person instruction when possible.

The Adult Basic Skills Consortium of Ocean County provides Adult Basic Skills (ABE), High School Equivalency (HSE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. The program offers college and career readiness skills, assist students interested in post-secondary education or training, credentials, obtaining citizenship skills and resources to enter and/or retain employment. All classes and services are provided by the Ocean County Basic Skills Consortium through a grant from the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development. Classes are subject to change. Visit our website at: stfranciscenterlbi.org/educational-support.

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Email: hometowntravel@comcast.net



Sightseeing Trips & Cruises



A special note from Nancy Schott, owner of Home Town Travel: *The light at the end of the tunnel is, in fact, finally getting brighter. The world is beginning to open her arms as we prepare to again see the wonders she has to offer. With more people getting vaccinated travel is again becoming a reality. I would like to thank all the parishioners of St. Francis for their past support and look forward to assisting you with any travel plans. Look for our presentations on Iceland & Oberammergau for 2022.*

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

October 3-11, 2021

Highlights of this tour include Colorado National Monument, Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Park with many more experiences. Rate of \$3,649 double occupancy will include: round trip air from Newark, eleven meals, all sightseeing, and some unique culinary inclusions. Please call for more information.

St. Francis Ireland with Father Kevin

October 21-29, 2021

Father Kevin will escort a private journey to Ireland with Belfast and Giants Causeway. Round trip airfare on United from Newark (including all current government fees and taxes), seven hotel nights (2-Westport, 1-Donnegal, 2-Belfast & 2-Dublin) with private facilities and full Irish breakfast; including day of arrival. Six dinners including Taste n' Tour Belfast and a dinner show at Taylors Three Rock. Highlights include: Cliffs of Moher, Achill Island, Mass at Knock Shrine, Giants Causeway, Guinness Brewery, and Titanic Belfast along with a city tour there, Dublin and Derry. Double occupancy rate is \$3,499 per person. We currently have 10 seats left. Please call for more information.

Join Father Steve in Iceland

February 1-6, 2022

Five years ago Father Steve went to Iceland and said he couldn't wait to go back again! Join him as he returns to one of his favorite destinations. Our custom holiday includes round trip airfare from Newark to Reykjavik, hotel accommodations. For four nights at the four star Fosshotel Reykjavik (inc. taxes and fees), full Icelandic breakfast daily, continental breakfast on arrival at Viking World Museum enroute to the Blue Lagoon (admission and towel), private Golden Circle tour (waterfalls, Kerio crater, geysers and Thingviller National Park) along with a special tomato soup lunch and stable visit to see the Icelandic horses up close and personal while experiencing the gait only these horses have. We will have two chances to see the Northern Lights*. You will also have a free day with optional tours to the black sand beaches of the south shore or explore the inside of a glacier (only place in the world) or see a recent volcano flow. Father Steve will also say Mass. A valid passport and proof of COVID vaccination will be required. Trip requires a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 30 participants. Price \$1,699 per person double. A few singles will be available at an additional charge. Insurance is recommended.

Information night: Tuesday, **April 27** at 5:30PM at the Center. Get more info. and talk with Father Steve about this bucket list trip. RSVP as space is limited. *Northern Lights are not guaranteed

Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play

September 19-29, 2022

Set out on an exciting cultural experience of the Imperial Cities of Central Europe featuring traditional entertainment and the epic Oberammergau Passion Play. Highlights include: Budapest, Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion, Bratislava, Vienna, Schonbrunn Palace, Cesky Krumlov, Prague, Hradcany Castle, The Passion Play and Munich. Rate of \$6,099 double occupancy includes 16 meals, round trip air Newark, sightseeing, Passion play and much more. For more info. please call Nancy.

Cont'd. in next column

HOME TOWN TRAVEL cont'd.

14 Night Trans-Atlantic Greenland and Iceland aboard Celebrity Summit (Departure from Bayonne and returning from Southampton. August 1-15, 2021. Ports: Sea day, Halifax, NS, two sea days, Qaqortoq, Greenland, overnight in Reykjavik, Iceland and half-day in Akureyri, Iceland, sea day, Kirkwall, Scotland and a sea day before arriving in Southampton.

Thanksgiving Cruise - Anthem of the Seas (Round trip Cape Liberty, NJ) **November 21-28, 2021** Have a Royal Caribbean waiter carve your turkey instead of cooking it. 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

Community Bulletin Board

Maris Stella Retreat Center, Harvey Cedars, NJ

Summer Preached Retreat "Threshold Living...The Experience of Transitions" Sunday, June 13 – Saturday June 19

Presenter: Anita M. Constance, SC

Registration due: May 15

For information or to register log on to www.marisstella.org or contact Sr. Pat Dotzauer at pdotzauer@comcast.net or call (609) 494-2917.

Fundraiser for St. Francis Community Center!

We now have blue Recycle America bins located:

St. Francis Community Center

4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

2nd & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

St. Clare Church

56 St. & Long Beach Blvd., Loveladies



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

Cultural Competency Statement

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

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