

THE BRIDGE



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

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



“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.” (Lk. 1:38)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2022

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, December 3	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM (L)+Graiff Family 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Donald C. & Henrietta Keating +Bert Stahlberg	Is. 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt. 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9; Mt. 3:1-12	10:00 AM Communal Penance with Individual Reconciliation
Sunday, December 4	8:30 AM +Judy Drake +Thomas McClean 10:00 AM +John V. Raftery +Dr. Richard & Mrs. Anne Gove +Tony Centofanti 11:30 AM +Mary Santoro	Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9; Mt. 3:1-12	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 12:30 PM Order of Franciscan Secular, OFS, Christmas Luncheon
Monday, December 5	9:00 AM +Frieda Braun	Is. 35:1-10; Lk. 5:17-26	
Tuesday, December 6	9:00 AM +Karen Grundy +Christopher Bagnato	Is. 40:1-11; Mt. 18:12-14	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Men's Cornerstone, BB Church 7:00 PM RCIA, Room 212
Wednesday, December 7	9:00 AM +Don Delotto 6:00 PM <i>Immaculate Conception Vigil</i> +Karen Grundy	Is. 40:25-31 Mt. 11:28-30 Gen. 3:9-15; Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk. 1:26-38	10:30 AM Contemplative Living, Zoom 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, December 8	9:00 AM <i>Immaculate Conception</i> +James M. Kempinski	Gen. 3:9-15; Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk. 1:26-38	5:30 PM Youth Choir Practice 7:00 PM Survivors of Suicide, Room 212
Friday, December 9	9:00 AM +Margaret Kohutanycz, <i>ofs</i>	Is. 48:17-19; Mt. 11:16-19	10:00 AM Knit/Crochet, Family Faith Office
Saturday, December 10	9:00 AM +Eugene Joseph Kelly, Jr. 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Harry O'Hanlon +Larry Coates +Heather Egan Puig	Sir. 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt. 17:9a, 10-13 Is. 35:1-6a, 10; Jas. 5:7-10; Mt. 11:2-11	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Zoom
Sunday, December 11	8:30 AM +Anna Mae Morrisroe 10:00 AM +Edward Stein +Richard Hans Gove +Gerald & Frances Rothstein 11:30 AM +Katherine "Karen" Grundy	Is. 35:1-6a, 10; Jas. 5:7-10; Mt. 11:2-11	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 2:00 PM Children's Christmas Pageant

Mass Schedule through March 25/26, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach

9:00 AM Daily Mass
Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM
Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 10:00 AM
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City - **CLOSED**

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - **CLOSED**

St. Clare, Loveladies - **CLOSED**

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.

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

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.

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Pilgrimage

*I've heard it said
That people come into our lives for a reason
Bringing something we must learn
And we are led
To those who help us most to grow
If we let them
And we help them in return
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true
But I know I'm who I am today
Because I knew you
Like a comet pulled from orbit
As it passes a sun
Like a stream that meets a boulder
Halfway through the wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the
better?
Because I knew you
I have been changed for good*

These are the opening lyrics to the song, "For Good" from the Broadway Musical, *Wicked*. It is a duet sung toward the end of the show between the two people who were constantly battling each other throughout the show! Their personalities were different; their outlook on life was different; everything about them was different, but in the end, they recognized how the other had influenced who they had become. By meeting each other their lives were changed. Although the lyrics could leave some doubt, there was actually no question that their lives had been changed *for the good*, as well as, *for good*.

I have used this song many times at the beginning of a pilgrimage because I believe it sets the tone that a pilgrimage is different from a travel vacation. Don't get me wrong, I do love a good travel vacation. However, a pilgrimage has a specific intention to meet the Lord in a new way, and in that, a pilgrimage changes our life, for the good, and for good.

This past Wednesday, Fr. Andrew and 33 pilgrims left for a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Twenty of those pilgrims are from our parish. Please keep them in your prayer during their sojourn to the most holy places of the three Abrahamic faiths. Like the disciples traveling to Emmaus, we pray that they too may recognize Jesus on their journey and that they return to us blessed and changed, for good.

If you were not able to join this pilgrimage, do not worry, *Adventurous Andrew* will be leading another pilgrimage next September to Greece and the Greek Isles. This will lead you through ancient and modern Greece as well as take you to some of the places where St. Paul established the earliest Christian communities such as Corinth and Thessaloniki. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Andrew in the parish office. This pilgrimage will be Sept. 19-29, 2023.

May God continue to bless all of us on our own pilgrimage of life as we give thanks for the people who have changed us and made us who we are today.

Peace and All Good!
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.

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
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

Parish Finance Council

Cecelia Fowler	201 264 5965	cgfowler413@gmail.com
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM	609 494 8861	areitz@stfrancislbi.org
Angelo Rinaldi	609 661 9052	clamlbi@comcast.net
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM	609 494 8861	fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org
Jay Pojednic	609 709 2007	jdpojednic@comcast.net
Joe Hummel	609 868 2930	ejhjr@comcast.net
Joe Mack	609 492 1659	josephmack2008@comcast.net
Joe Vaszily		jmpv127@gmail.com
Peter Williams	603 714 4014	peter.l.williams9@gmail.com
Stacey Kelsall, Comptroller	609 494 8861	skelsall@stfrancislbi.org

Appeals Box

Second Collection:

Adult Faith Formation Programs

Living the Christian experience as an adult offers a host of challenges. As we mature physically & emotionally, we understand that our faith & spirituality also needs to grow & develop in order to deepen our Baptismal commitment. St. Francis Parish has a well rounded program of retreats, classes, and other forums that help people to gain insight & deepen their appreciation of their faith. Thank you for your continued support.

December 7/8 - Immaculate Conception envelope

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$23,000

Last Week's Collection:

Collected: \$18,327

Budgeted: \$23,000



Second Collection:

Parish Ministry - Family Faith Formation

Collected: \$4,462

November 19/20 Collection:

Collected: \$20,091

Budgeted: \$23,000

November 19/20 Second Collection:

Human Development

Collected: \$5,567

(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 Appeal 2022
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: **\$49,183.00** (49% of Goal)

Total Collected: **\$48,623.00** (49% of Goal)

Total Donors: **199**

Total Gifts: **221**

Average Gift: **\$222.55**

*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

St. Francis Liturgical Community

Family Faith

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

jlclayton@stfrancislbi.org

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



The **O Antiphons of Advent** have been cherished by Christians for centuries. One of the antiphons is chanted each evening at prayer from **December 17th to 23rd**. Each includes a title Christians give to Jesus. The titles are taken from the poetry of the scriptures.

December 17th - O Wisdom! Isaiah 11:2-3, 28-29

Name some ways our world is divided. Where does our world look for wisdom and insight? We pray that God will bring peaceful order to creation.

December 18th - O Lord of Might! Isaiah 11:4-5

We call Jesus the Lord our God. Through Jesus we know what God is like. In Jesus we see God face to face.

December 19th - O Flower of Jesse's Root! Isaiah 1:1

Jesse lived in Bethlehem 1000 years before Jesus. He was the father of King David and grandfather of King Solomon. Joseph and Mary were their descendants. Jesse was like a root. Jesus is like a flower growing from this root.

December 20th - O Key of David! Isaiah 9:6

Jesus is like a key. He locks the door that leads to death. He unlocks for us the gate of Heaven.

December 21st - O Dayspring! Isaiah 9:1

Jesus is the Light of the World. We are called to let our light shine before others.

December 22nd - O Keystone! Isaiah 9:5

The Keystone keeps other stones from falling down. Jesus is called the Keystone because he unites all people of the world as sisters and brothers.

December 23rd - O Emmanuel! Isaiah 7:14

Emmanuel means "God is with us". In Jesus, God is with us in our human lives.

Please join the children of the Parish on **December 11th** at 2:00 pm in the Brant Beach Church as we celebrate the birth of Christ with our Christmas Pageant.

Peace,

Judy Clayton

Director of Religious Education

Gospel Inspirations:



"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

John the Baptist's urgent message is that now is the time to turn toward God and away from all our worldly distractions.

"Prepare the way of the Lord." Make room in your heart to welcome the living God who took on human form to be one of us.

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Advent and Christmas Season
Liturgies and Services 2022-23
All Liturgies in Brant Beach
Unless otherwise noted.**



- Weekend Mass Schedules
Saturdays – 5:00PM
Sundays – 8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM
- **Sundays of Advent**
December 4th, 11th, & 18th
- **Advent Communal Reconciliation with Individual Confessions - December 3rd** Saturday 10:00AM
- **Immaculate Conception of Mary - Holy Day of Obligation**
Vigil **December 7th** Wednesday 6:00PM
Feast Day **December 8th** Thursday 9:00AM
- **Christmas Eve December 24th** Saturday
Brant Beach 4:00PM & 6:00PM
Surf City 4:00PM
- **The Nativity of the Lord**
December 25th Sunday 10:00AM
- **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph**
December 30th Friday 9:00AM
- **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
Vigil Saturday **December 31st** 5:00PM
Solemnity **January 1st**, 2023 Sunday
8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM
- **The Epiphany of the Lord**
January 7th Saturday 5:00PM,
January 8th Sunday
8:30am, 10:00AM, 11:30AM

The Blessing of the Advent Wreath at Home



The **Leader** begins:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader:

As we celebrate this holy season of Advent, we acknowledge our need for God's salvation. May the light of Christ penetrate the darkness of sin

Reader:

*Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.
For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder, dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever,
Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful.
The Word of the Lord.*

R/ Thanks be to God.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.

*Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.*

*Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation;
may he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord*

R/ Amen.

(At this time, the first candle is lit. For each of the following 3 weeks, the next candle is lit.)

Leader:

Let us praise God who enlightens every heart, now and forever.

R/ Amen.



Our annual **Christmas Flower Fund drive** is now underway.

You may memorialize or honor a family member or friend by making a donation toward the Christmas and Advent Flowers and art and environment items. The names of those memorialized or honored will be published during the Christmas season.

Please use the Christmas Flower Envelopes that were mailed to your home, or you can go online to:

stfrancisparishlbi.org/christmasflowerfund



Suggested donations:

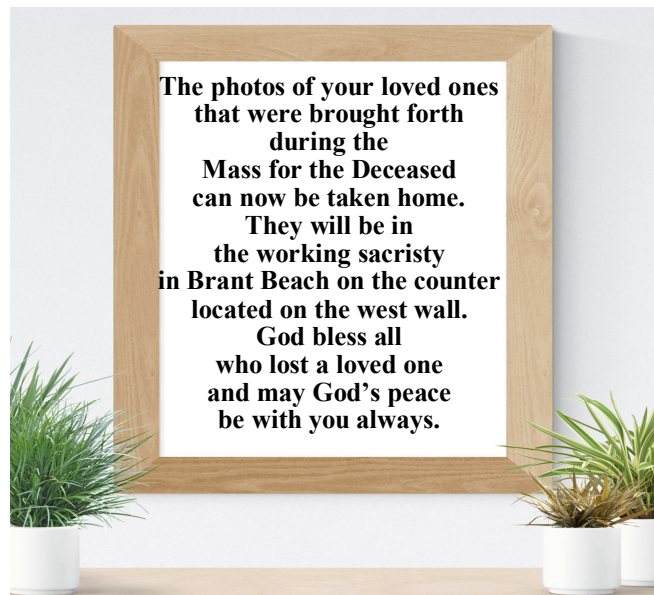
\$50.00

Wreaths, Garland, and Large Poinsettias

\$100.00

Sanctuary Christmas Trees and manger trees for the outside display

All other donations are appreciated. The Arts & Environment team of St. Francis Parish is grateful for your generosity.



The photos of your loved ones that were brought forth during the Mass for the Deceased can now be taken home. They will be in the working sacristy in Brant Beach on the counter located on the west wall. God bless all who lost a loved one and may God's peace be with you always.



RCIA

Join us for a Power Point Presentation, in the Knight Wing of the Parish Center (Rm. 212) on **Tuesday, December 6, 2022** at **7:00 p.m.**

**Advent Prayer Service focusing on:
The Incarnation – God's Gift to the World**



SAINT FRANCIS MUSIC MINISTRY YOUTH CHOIR
JOIN US! No audition required. All that you need is a love of music, singing, and praising GOD.

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH CHOIR SINGS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!

Now accepting members 2nd grade through 12th grade.
 Rehearsals are at 5:30 PM in the Brant Beach Church
DECEMBER 8, 15 & 22

Youth Choir will sing at the 4:00 PM Brant Beach
 Christmas Eve Mass

If you are interested in joining us, please contact
MICHELE BECK at mbeck@stfrancislbj.org

**Franciscan Spiritual Center
 Presents:**



Spiritual Direction

- 1: Are you interested in a deeper relationship with God?
 - 2: Do you experience a desire to pray always?
 - 3: Are you searching for a better understanding of the actions of God's grace in your life?
- Our parish has five certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction. If you think this might be a way for you to recognize God's actions in your daily life 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

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 - **December 7** and **December 10**

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 Fran to reserve your place.
 Next scheduled meeting: **December 17, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room**

Blessing the Infant Jesus at Home

Readers and one person are chosen to hold the Infant Jesus. Soft Christmas hymn playing as family and friends gather around the Christmas tree and the Nativity stable.

Reader 1 begins:

In the name of the Father,
 and of the Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reader 2:

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ we pause to bless the infant Jesus that we will place in our manger. The practice of erecting such mangers was begun by St. Francis as a means to send forth the message of Christmas. When we look upon the figure of the Infant Jesus, the Christmas Gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God.

The Infant Jesus will now be held up as **Reader 3** reads the Blessing.

God of every nation and people,
 From the very beginning of creation
 You have made manifest your love;
 When our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
 To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.
 Lord, bless all who look upon this infant;
 May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

The Infant Jesus is now placed in the manger.

Reader 1: Let us pray the Hail Mary together.

Reader 2: Let us now exchange a Sign of Peace.

You may now choose to sing a Christmas Carol as the Blessing of the Infant Jesus is concluded

Silent Night
 Away in a Manger
 O Little Town of Bethlehem
 The First Noel
 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
 A Blessed and Merry Christmas to all.

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Bible Talks After Mass

Tom Troyano will be doing a brief explanation of the "Infancy Narratives in Matthew's Gospel" after the 9:00 AM Mass,
Wednesday, December 14

Knitting & Crocheting Circle

Meets **weekly on Fridays**, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, in the Family Faith Office. For more information please contact Fr. Scott at (609) 494-8813.

Next meeting Friday, **December 9**, 10:00 AM, Family Faith Office

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Meets **weekly on Tuesdays**, beginning at 7:00 PM,
 First meeting Tuesday, **December 6**, 7:00 PM, Brant Beach Church

Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **December 4**, 12:30 PM *Advent Reflection, Christmas Luncheon, Assemble Christmas Baskets*, Brant Beach Church Hall.

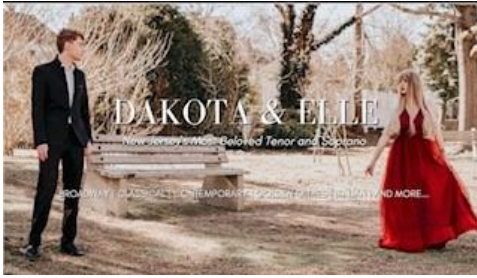
Scripture Study

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.
 Next meeting Wednesday **December 14**, 3:00 PM, Sr. Kate Meeting Rm.

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, ofsf at (609) 494-8813 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Dakota & Elle Christmas Concert

Friday, December 9

7:00 PM

St. Francis Church Hall

\$30 / Person



A 50th Anniversary Christmas Concert! Enjoy music from the tenor / soprano duo Dakota and Elle while they perform sacred and classical Christmas music. Wine and cheese to be served during intermission with a meet and greet.

Seating is first come first served.

Tickets on sale now at the Front Desk.

GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 19-29, 2023

VISITING: ATHENS * CORINTH * MYKONOS * EPHEBUS
PATMOS * SANTORINI * DELPHI * KALAMBAKA * THESSALONIKI
Including a 3-Day Cruise to the Greek Isles & Turkey



Hosted by
FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM
\$3899 FROM NEW YORK*
*Air/land tour price is \$3379 plus \$520 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact:
Fr. Andrew Reitz
Tel: (917) 275-5593
Email: areitz@stfrancisbi.org

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!

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.

Did You Know??

Did you know that **The Community Center's 50th Anniversary** year is coming to a close? Not to worry, we still have a couple of great ways to continue to support The Center. We are hosting a Christmas Concert on **December 9th**, with Dakota and Elle performing classic hits to get you into the Holiday spirit, with a wine and cheese intermission. Tickets are \$30 per person and available now at the Front Desk. The Front Desk is also selling The Center's first ever Progressive 50/50 raffle tickets. **50/50 FOR OUR 50!!!** With the drawing being held in **February**, there is plenty of time to get that winning jackpot total high. Tickets are \$2 each or a book of 6 chances for \$10.

'Tis the season and raffle tickets make great stocking stuffers!

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER & PARISH

4700 LONG BEACH BLVD. LONG BEACH TWP, NJ 08008 609-494-8861



ANNIVERSARY 50th
PROGRESSIVE 50/50



Please make your check payable to St. Francis Parish & Center and indicate "50th Anniversary Progressive 50/50" on the envelope /No phone purchases permitted.

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____

Email: _____
Would you like to be on our mailing list? Yes / No

of Books Requested (\$10 each) _____
Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Employment Opportunity

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



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

Community Center Counseling Services

Positions: Full time Licensed Counselor and Full-time or Part-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.

Parish

Position: Director of Parish Development, Full time position

This position is responsible for planning, organizing, administering, and evaluating the fund raising initiatives and special events for the St Francis Parish. Prefer a bachelor's degree and experience in management and fundraising.

Applicants should have good communication skills and computer skills including, Microsoft Office, website management, and the ability to manage multiple social media pages. Applicants must be able to lift 30lbs and have a valid Driver's License. Attendance at Sunday liturgies and Holy days is encouraged.

Days/Hours: Monday- Friday, with attendance at Evening/ weekend events required

Position: Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry, Full time position.

Previous experience as a volunteer or intern providing services in a parish youth ministry program preferred. Responsible for reaching out to our parish young adults and to our post confirmation young people to create a vibrant, inspiring, and relevant faith based program that will foster spiritual and faith based growth. Responsible for recruiting volunteers, coordinating outreach service projects and participating in other parish activities. Must be capable of administrative tasks such as developing and managing the program's budget. Must have excellent communication and leadership skills, and must be an active and participating Catholic.

Bachelor's degree required- Theology or Religious Studies or related field

Days: Monday-Friday with some evenings and weekends required

**Background check & fingerprinting required for all employees 18 yrs. & older.

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancislbj.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

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

Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

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

Walk-ins are welcome!

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

*Spanish-speaking staff is available to translate.

Join our text message alert system to receive alerts about the food pantry and annual projects. **TO ENROLL TEXT "PANTRY" TO 833-511-0760** **carrier text message rates may apply**

Donations needed for the Food Pantry:

Pasta, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Snacks.

Canned Goods: Corn, Peas, Baked Beans, Black Beans, Spaghettios, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Soup, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Juice Boxes, Ensure/Boost
Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Body Wash/Soap, Toilet Paper, Feminine Products

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

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 III

REGISTRATION **DECEMBER 12, 9:00 AM**

Co-Ed Basketball

Recreation League Clinic

Tuesday, December 6 & Thursday, December 8

Evaluations:



2nd & 3rd Grade - 4:30-5:15 PM

4th & 5th Grade - 5:30-6:15 PM

6th, 7th, 8th Grade - 6:30-7:15PM

(Must be 7 yrs. old or in 2nd grade)

Games are held on Saturdays



Tennis Fundamentals

Mondays, January 9 - March 6

Ages 5-8; 5:00-6:00 PM

Ages 9-12; 4:00-5:00 PM

in the Gym

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.

St. Francis Counseling Service is currently accepting participants for our next round of group services **beginning in January!**

Our available groups will be the following:

Parenting After – A group for parents who are learning to navigate parenting after a child has experienced sexual violence.

Surviving to Thriving – Guidance and skills building for survivors of sexual violence.

Journey Through Grief – Education and support for adults that are working through the stages of grief.

All groups are **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** to residents of Ocean County, NJ.

In addition to these groups we continue to provide many other counseling services including individual, couples, and family therapy services with in-person and virtual options.

For more information or to enroll in a service, please contact us at 609-494-1554.

Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



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

The LBI Health Department is doing **Blood Pressure Screenings** the **second Tuesday of each Month from 11:00 am - 11:30 am** in the Community Center Senior Lounge. Please call 609-494-8861 ext. 111 for more information.



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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October 11-19, 2023

Egypt and Nile Cruise

Have you always wanted to take a camel ride by the Pyramids or a hot air balloon ride over the Nile while cruising these ancient ports? Spend two nights in Cairo visiting the National Museum, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the enigmatic Sphinx along with a camel ride. Visit Old Cairo. Fly to Luxor and board the H/S Nebu for a four night Nile cruise visiting Karnak and Luxor Temple, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut, Edfu, Kom Ombo and more. Breakfast daily and full board while cruising. Rate per person double occupancy is at \$3,988.00. Airfare pricing will be available in January.

November 2-12, 2023

10 night Ultimate Southern Caribbean Cruise Celebrity Reflection

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Community Bulletin Board

Francis House of Prayer

84 Walnford Rd., Allentown, NJ 08501

DIVINE GENEROSITY - THE NEVER-ENDING STORY

Tuesday, **December 6**, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Join us as we become acquainted with some everyday people whose stories will be both encouraging and challenging to us.

[Donation: \\$25, includes lunch. Zoom \\$20](#)

FULL OF GRACE

Thursday, **December 8**, 9:30 AM – Noon

Celebrate the gift of our Blessed Mother today! We will pray in a contemplative way with Scriptures related to Mary and the Joyful Mysteries. Scenes from the movie, *Mary of Nazareth* will be used for individual and group reflection. Then, we will conclude by praying "The Angelus." [Donation: \\$20](#)

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Tuesday, **December 13**, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

This Advent Day of reflection will focus on [Jesus, Emmanuel](#), the name which means "God with us." [Donation: \\$30, includes lunch; Zoom \\$20](#)

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December 3 & 10 10-1; Wednesday **December 7** 4-6;

Thursday, Friday, Monday **December 15, 16 & 19** 10-4.

Regular hours resume in January: Saturdays from 10-1; First & third Wednesday from 4-6. For further info Call Madelyn

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