

# THE BRIDGE



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

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



*Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Cor. 6:2*

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, February 18	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Catherine Purcell Mahler 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Richard Bomer	Heb. 11:1-7; Mk. 9:2-13 Lv. 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Mt. 5:38-48	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm.
Sunday, February 19	8:30 AM +James & Helen Lamb +John McElduff 10:00 AM +Matilda Stein +Anthony McHale 11:30 AM +Derek Chapman +Margaret Dietrich	Lv. 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Mt. 5:38-48	<i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a>
Monday, February 20	9:00 AM +Kevin Byrne	Sir. 1:1-10; Mk. 9:14-29	Parish and Center is CLOSED
Tuesday, February 21	9:00 AM +Ronald Fuydal	Sir. 2:1-11; Mk. 9:30-37	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 5:30 PM Dinner With Friends, Pool Party Rm 7:00 PM Men's Cornerstone Plan., Surf City
Wednesday, February 22	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:15 AM <i>Service</i> 9:00 AM <i>Mass</i> (L)+Stein & Kempinski Family 12:00 PM <i>Service</i> 5:30 PM <i>Service</i>	Jl. 2:12-18; Cor. 5:20-6:2 Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, February 23	9:00 AM +Dolores Pottichen +Marie Sulkowski, ofs	Dt. 30:15-20; Lk. 9:22-25	
Friday, February 24	9:00 AM +Dr. Michael A. Kelly +Walter & Beatrice Egan	Is. 58:1-9a; Mt. 9:14-15	10:00 AM Knit/Crochet, Family Faith Office 6:00 PM Soup and Stations
Saturday, February 25	9:00 AM +Richard Nigro 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Diane Petrizzi +Richard Bomer	Is. 58:9b-14; Lk. 5:27-32 Gn. 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rm. 5:12-19; Mt. 4:1-11	
Sunday, February 26	8:30 AM +Bryan Connelly +Kathleen Bowker 10:00 AM +Gloria Carlo +Marilyn DiLorenzo 11:30 AM +Patricia Campoli +Marge Green	Gn. 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rm. 5:12-19; Mt. 4:1-11	<i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a>

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi)

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

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

**St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED**



The St. Francis Parish and Center  
will be **CLOSED** on  
**Monday, February 20th**  
in observance of  
Presidents Day.

#### Read our bulletin online at

[www.stfrancisparishlbi.org](http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org)



Daily gospel reflections can be found on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi)



Follow St. Francis Parish on Instagram:  
**StFrancisChurchLBI**

**Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA**

Vocation Office [vocations@osfphil.org](mailto:vocations@osfphil.org)

**St. Francis is a sending Parish to St. Mary Academy**

(609) 597-3800 or visit: [www.stmaryknights.org](http://www.stmaryknights.org)

### Emergency Information

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

## A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,  
Pastor

### Thank You, JoAnne Reeder

I have a few things to share with you but first is the announcement that JoAnne Reeder, our Director of Worship, is retiring at the end of this month. JoAnne has been working for the Church for almost 59 years. In 1964, she began teaching 2nd grade and directing different choirs at St. Mary's in Bordentown, NJ. Before arriving at St. Francis in 1981, she continued teaching the 2nd grade and sharing her gift of music in other parishes, including St. Peter's in Point Pleasant where Steve Kluge was a member of her adult choir when he was in high school.

JoAnne began working at St. Francis as a part-time organist helping with the weekend Masses. Over time, part-time evolved into a full-time job and she became the Director of Music in 1984. When I arrived at St. Francis in 1996 for my first assignment, JoAnne was coordinating all the music, playing most of the Masses on weekends, as well as funerals, weddings, and other special liturgies. If you ever needed to find JoAnne, she was probably behind the organ in church. At that time, Fr. Bill Bried was the Director of Worship. After Fr. Bill left the parish, I stepped in until I was transferred in 2001. It was not long after that JoAnne was appointed the Director of Worship by Fr. Andrew, the pastor at the time.

We owe JoAnne a debt of gratitude for her long commitment as a minister in the Church and particularly for the 42 years that JoAnne served our community. She has served us very well! JoAnne, you have continued to be a great example of joyful service and of one who is truly dedicated to the church and the people of God. You have "served the Lord with gladness." [Ps. 100:2]

Along with our thanks, our prayers and love remain with you. May God continue to bless you, JoAnne, with peace and all that is good.

#### A Few More Things to Share...

As I mentioned in my letter last week, this weekend the Diocese begins the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal: We Are the Body of Christ. You will find pledge cards at the doors of the Church. On our parish website, we have posted Bishop O'Connell's address to the diocese. With a grateful heart, he speaks of the importance of this appeal so that we can continue to be the Body of Christ for one another.

Dinner with Friends! There is something new in our parish! Dinner with Friends is a group for widows and widowers gathering to share a meal, perhaps a few laughs, and certainly some good comradeship. The adjustment to life without your partner is probably one of the hardest things anyone has to do. This is not meant to be a continuation of the grief counseling offered through St. Francis Center but a time for people to come together, meet new friends, and know that you do not have to walk alone. The first meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 21st at 5:30 PM in the St. Francis Aquatic Center's Pool Party Room. Please check the bulletin or our parish website for more details.

Finally, my apologies for last weekend's letter. I am not exactly sure why but somehow the formatting got a bit shuffled on its way to the publisher and some words were even lost from the original copy. We will try our best to make sure that does not happen again.

Wishing you 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](http://schoolclosingsnj.com) and [facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](https://facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi).

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

**Parish Registration:** The Parish Office is located on the second floor of St. Francis Community Center, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible if you are moving.

**Baptism:** The sacrament is celebrated three times a month at St. Francis Parish. Group Baptisms are the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Office

Michele Beck, Director, Music.....[mbeck@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:mbeck@stfrancislbi.org)  
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM.....[sbrookbank@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:sbrookbank@stfrancislbi.org)  
Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation...[jclayton@stfrancis.org](mailto:jclayton@stfrancis.org)  
Deacon Robert Cunningham.....[thatbrotherbob@aol.com](mailto:thatbrotherbob@aol.com)  
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM.....[kdaly@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:kdaly@stfrancislbi.org)  
Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor.....[fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org)  
Fr. John Frambes, OFM.....[jframbes@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:jframbes@stfrancislbi.org)  
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF.....[srpat@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:srpat@stfrancislbi.org)  
Jo Anne Reeder, Director, Worship.....[jreeder@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:jreeder@stfrancislbi.org)  
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM.....[areitz@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:areitz@stfrancislbi.org)  
Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence).....[srpaklemm@gmail.com](mailto:srpaklemm@gmail.com)  
Marie Maslanka, Parish Secretary.....[mhuber@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:mhuber@stfrancislbi.org)  
Parish Office - (609) 494-8813,  
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)  
Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8813 ext. 153

### St. Francis Center

Community Center - (609) 494-8861  
Children's Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 114  
Counseling Services - (609) 494-1554  
Educational & Career Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 407  
Family Support Services - (609) 494-8861  
Food Pantry - (833) 511-0760  
Recreation & Aquatics - (609) 494-8861 ext. 105  
Senior Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 108 or 109

### Parish Finance Council

Cecelia Fowler 201 264 5965 [cgfowler413@gmail.com](mailto:cgfowler413@gmail.com)  
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM 609 494 8861 [areitz@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:areitz@stfrancislbi.org)  
Angelo Rinaldi 609 661 9052 [clamlbi@comcast.net](mailto:clamlbi@comcast.net)  
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM 609 494 8861 [fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org)  
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Joe Vaszily [jmpv127@gmail.com](mailto:jmpv127@gmail.com)  
Peter Williams 603 714 4014 [peter.l.williams9@gmail.com](mailto:peter.l.williams9@gmail.com)  
Stacey Kelsall, Comptroller 609 494 8861 [skelsall@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:skelsall@stfrancislbi.org)

# St. Francis Liturgical Community

## Family Faith

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



### Ash Wednesday - February 22, 2023

#### The Journey Begins

Ashes will be distributed during all services and the Mass following the homily.

All services will be held in  
St. Francis of Assisi Church in Brant Beach.

Services at 7:15 am, Noon, & 5:30 pm  
Mass at 9:00 am

#### Lenten Regulations

- Ash Wednesday is on **February 22, 2023** and Good Friday is **April 7, 2023**
- Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.
- When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not apply.
- The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence "substantially" or as a whole is a serious obligation.

### At a crossroad? Do you have 26 hours?



**Men's Cornerstone Retreat**  
**Friday, March 10, 2023** and  
**Saturday March 11, 2023**  
**Maris Stella Retreat Center**  
**Harvey Cedars**  
**Register Today!**

## SOUP & STATIONS OF THE CROSS ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Please join us for Soup and Stations of the Cross on **Fridays** during Lent in the Brant Beach Church. This year, Soup and Stations will begin on Friday, **February 24** with delicious homemade, meatless soups served with bread and butter at 6:00 pm in the Brant Beach Church Hall followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm in the church. If you are not able to join us for soup, please feel free to come at 7:00 pm for Stations of the Cross.

All are welcome to share a meal with us as we continue on our spiritual journey to Calvary each week. Through prayer, hymns, scripture, reflection and meditation, we will reflect on two or three of the Stations of the Cross each Friday as we remember the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

If you plan on coming, why not invite a friend ....all are most welcome!

Soup & Station Dates: **February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24**  
**Soup at 6:00 pm \* Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm**

*Donations of meatless soup for our 6:00pm meal are very much appreciated. Please bring them in a crock pot to the church hall between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm. We will have extension cords for the crock pots.*



#### February 24, Week 1 Stations -

**Station 1 Jesus is condemned to Death**  
**Station 2 Jesus Takes Up His Cross**  
**Station 3 Jesus Falls the First Time**

*Soup at 6:00pm \* Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm*

The 3 pillars of lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In keeping with the practice of almsgiving, you may donate non-perishable food items and other necessities to the **St. Francis Food Pantry**. Thank you.

**Week 1** Pasta sauce & pasta - **Week 2** Detergent -  
**Week 3** Diapers - **Week 4** Oatmeal - **Week 5** Coffee

### Lenten Almsgiving 2023 Soup & Stations of the Cross

We are beginning our annual Lenten Food Drive for the St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry. Each week during lent, we are asking for items that can be brought to the church during Friday's Soup & Stations of the Cross or dropped off at the center.

**February 24 Week 1 - Pasta & Pasta Sauce**

**March 3 Week 2 - Detergent**

**March 10 Week 3 - Diapers**

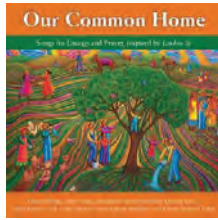
**March 17 Week 4 - Oatmeal**

**March 24 Week 5 - Coffee**



**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](http://www.hnp.org)

## Adult Enrichment/RCIA Living A Laudato Si Lent 2023



**'Praise Be to You My Lord'**  
(Care for our Common Home)  
(uscgb laudato si')

The first line of the letter from Pope Francis, focuses on the care for the natural environment and all people as well as questions of relationships between God, humans, and the Earth.

### Living A Laudato Si' Lent 2023

(May be viewed online)

As we enter into this Lenten season, let us ask ourselves and reflect on how we can live our lives to be protectors of God's handiwork with peace, justice and responsibility.

Here are a few examples to reflect upon for Living A Laudato Si' Lent 2023:

**February 22** – Ash Wednesday – Remember that you are dust – star dust – made of the same stuff as all of creation!

**February 23** – Plan to read Laudato Si' for Lent – you only need to read 5 numbered sections a day!

**February 24** – Get a potted plant that you will especially care for during Lent.

**February 25** – take a few moments to breathe deeply and become aware of the communion of air shared by all breathing things.

## Appeals Box

### Second Collection Today: Central & Eastern Europe

Reestablish seminaries, convents, and religious education programs. Revive its capacity for social ministry. Train the laity to serve as leaders in the new society. Reach out to the young & spread the gospel message.

### Ash Wednesday – St. Francis Food Pantry

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting & almsgiving. This collection helps you observe Lent by feeding the hungry. May God bless us through those we help.

### This Week We Need:

Budgeted: **\$18,000**

### Last Week's Collection:

Collected: **\$15,848**

Budgeted: **\$18,000**

### Last Week's Collection:

**Friars & Sister Stipends**

Collected: **\$6,836**



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

## Adult Faith Enrichment/RCIA



### What is "The Chosen"?

Many people have been following the series "The Chosen" but if you are not aware of it, here is a brief description:

"The Chosen" is a media project about Jesus, helping us see Jesus through the eyes of those who met Him. The project shows us how Jesus encounters various people and various situations and how He deals with them. Whether it is a struggling fisherman, someone who is not accepted by his family, a woman who seems to be possessed or a religious leader questioning his beliefs. This portrayal will show Jesus and his approach to these situations and more. Several of these Scripture based episodes will be shown in the Brant Beach Church Auditorium:

**Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15 at 7:00 PM**

**Thursday, March 2, 9, 16 at 9:45 AM**

(the episodes are the same as those shown the previous evening.)

There will be time after each showing to discuss the episode.

## Gospel Inspirations:

*"...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."*



We are called to love as God loves, not only those who are easy to love. And Jesus says we are capable of much more than we realize.

*Jesus, help me to open my heart and love more perfectly the way you love us - unconditionally.*



**6.5 Million Diocesan Goal**

**St. Francis Parish Goal:** \$100,000.00

**Pledged:** \$2,260.00 (2% of Goal)

**Paid:** \$2,260.00 (2% of Goal)

**Total Donors:** 9

**Total Gifts:** 10

**Average Gift:** \$226.00

Thank you for your support of the Diocese of Trenton. Please visit the [stfrancislbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal](http://stfrancislbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal) for more information from Bishop O'Connell.

## Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



### Spiritual Direction

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

Maryann Barrek, ofs, (609) 661-4441,  
Anne Bock, ofs, (609) 204-3835,  
Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,  
Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917  
Pat Simmons, ofs, (609) 661-1361.

### An Invitation to Contemplative Living

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](mailto: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 sessions - **March 1 and March 11**

### Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group meets in the Senior Lunch Room on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Seating is limited. Please contact Deacon Bob or Father Fran to reserve your place.

Next scheduled meeting: **March 18, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Rm.**

### Order of Franciscan Secular



#### OFS Lenten Day of Reflection

Maris Stella Retreat and Conference Center

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** - 9:30 AM coffee.

Presentation will begin 10:00 AM.

Mass will be offered at 4:00 PM in the Chapel at Maris Stella.

Masks must be worn at Mass

Fr. Paul Keenan, OFM will conduct this Retreat.

Topic: Morning Session: *Lent is a Time for Conversion*  
Afternoon Session: *Achieving Holiness through Conversion*

\$10 per person. Bring your own Lunch and anything you would like to share. Coffee and tea provided.

**This Retreat is open to the entire Parish.  
All are welcome!**

### Prison Ministry in Our Parish

"I was in prison and you came to visit me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (*Matthew 25:36, 40*)

There is a prison ministry being started in the Parish. The ministry will bring Eucharist and review the Gospel readings from Sunday Mass. We will be visiting the Ocean County jail in Toms River. Anyone interested please contact Jim Coltery [jcoltery@gmail.com](mailto:jcoltery@gmail.com).



### Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



#### Bible Talks After Mass

Tom Troyano will be doing brief monthly talks on the bible after the 9:00 AM Mass. Next talk Wednesday, **March 8**, 9:30 AM, Brant Beach Church

#### Book Club

We will meet in person at St. Francis Center in the Knight Wing Conference Room, (Room 212) on the last Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 PM. *The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street* by Trevanian. Next meeting Tuesday, **February 28**, 1:30 PM, Room 212.

#### 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, **February 24**, 10:00 AM, Family Faith Office

#### Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Meets **weekly on Tuesdays**, beginning at 7:00 PM, First meeting Tuesday, **February 21**, 7:00 PM, Surf City Church Hall

#### Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Saturday, **March 4**, 9:30 AM, *Day of Reflection*, Maris Stella;  
Sunday, **March 5**, 12:30 PM, *Fraternity Meeting*, BB Church Hall

#### Scripture Study

Meets **bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, from 10:00-11:30 AM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. Call Tom Troyano at (732) 261-4721 or email: [tomtroyano@comcast.net](mailto:tomtroyano@comcast.net) for more information. Next meeting Wednesday **March 1**, 10:00 AM, Room 102.

#### Survivors of Suicide

Meets the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday** of each month at 7:00 PM in the Knight Wing Conference Room (Room 212). Call Sr. Pat McNiff, ofs at (609) 494-8813 for more information.

Next meeting **March 9**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

### Dinner with Friends

Something is new at St. Francis of Assisi Parish! We would like to start a group for widows and widowers beginning on Tuesday, **February 21, 2023** at 5:30 pm. It will be held in the St. Francis Aquatic Center's Pool Party Room. Please bring a dinner or sandwich and drink with you for this first meeting.

Many of our widows and widowers have expressed how lonely dinner-time can be when you are eating alone or with your TV set. This will be a chance to mix with others and share our feelings and stories [if you'd care to] with others who have been widowed.

At this first meeting, we will discuss how often we would like to hold our meetings, other options for eating [bringing a covered dish] and anything else that would be comfortable and enjoyable for us. We hope you will join us. As the saying goes, "this could be just what the doctor ordered!" If you aren't able to attend this first meeting, check the bulletin or web site for our next gathering!

Don't like to drive at night? Please call Angie Ominski at 609-618-9974 for a ride to and from the dinner. Looking forward to seeing you!

Peace and blessings to all.

Angie Ominski.....Kathleen Brodbeck.....JoAnne Reeder

#### 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](http://www.BeAFranciscan.org)



## Employment Opportunity

### 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.

#### Children's Services-Teacher's Assistant

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. (13-months to 5-years of age). First Aid & CPR Certified and/or Bi-Lingual in Spanish a plus.

**Position:** Full-time (40 plus hours) and Part-time (29 hours)

**Days:** Monday-Friday **Pay:** \$15 per hour

#### Summer Camp Counselor (Seasonal Position)

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. Working with school age children 5 years to 13years of age.

**Position:** Full-time (40 plus hours) and Part-time (29 hours)

**Days:** Monday-Friday **Pay:** \$14.13 per hour

Must be 17 or older and be available 6/20/23 to 8/31/2023

First Aid & CPR Certified and/or Bi-Lingual in Spanish a plus.  
Experience Preferred, but not required.

#### Maintenance Department

**Position:** Full time **Maintenance/Cleaning**- Perform scheduled and unscheduled cleaning of Community Center and Parish properties. Some knowledge/experience in Plumbing, Electric, Carpentry, and HVAC Systems preferred, not required. Assist with scheduled and unscheduled building maintenance, grounds maintenance, setup/take down for events, etc. Must be able to lift 50lbs and must have valid driver's license.

**Pay:** Starting at \$15 per hour (based on experience)

**Days/Hours:** Monday- Friday- Afternoon/Evening hours required (approx. 2pm-10pm).

#### 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.**

**\*Full-time positions are offered Health Care, Paid time off (with additional earning for years of service), 16 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.**

Please send resumes to [abodine@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:abodine@stfrancislbj.org)

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### American Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, February 21, 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM St. Francis Church Hall

Please call the Community Center at  
(609) 494-8861 ext. 118

or visit: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

For detailed eligibility questions, please call  
(800) RED-CROSS or visit: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)



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The  
Annual

# Fish Fry

Dinner

**Friday, March 31, 4:40 - 7:00 PM**

**Thistle of Kearny is back for another delicious  
Fish and Chip Dinner**

Includes: dinner, beverage and dessert.

Dine-in or take-out available.

Take-out starting at 4:30 PM

Seating for Dine-in starts at 5:00 PM

Tickets are on sale online and at the Center's Front Desk

A limited amount of tickets will be available  
the day of the event.

There will be a 50/50 drawing.

*Proceeds to benefit St. Francis of Assisi Parish*



**Congratulations!!**

The Anniversary Progressive 50/50  
winner is

**Lauren Serrano**

## Did You Know??

The Community Center Public Relations department handles all of our social Media and Community Engagement projects. In addition to being active and present on various social platforms, we are an active member of the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce. Through them we attend various monthly meetings where we connect with many local businesses. This year we are proud to host a SOCC Women in Business Meeting as well as two Long Beach Island Chamber Job Fairs. Hosting these events and creating these relationships are important in maintaining a good Public Relations and Community Engagement image- in addition to giving back and showing the community that we all work together. Find and "Like" us on Facebook at St. Francis Community Center and on Instagram [@stfranciscommunitycenter](https://www.instagram.com/stfranciscommunitycenter)

## 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:

**Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Baked Beans, Coffee, Canned Chef Boyardee/Chili, Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, and Soap.**

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



*Spring Dinner Project*

St. Francis Human Concerns Department is seeking donations of the following items for the Annual Spring Dinner Project!

FROZEN TURKEYS & HAMS  
CANNED PEAS, CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, MIXED VEGETABLES, BOXED SCALLOPED POTATOES  
BAGGED RICE AND PASTA SIDES

Please drop off all donations to the Food Pantry by Monday, April 3, 2023. If you are donating a frozen item, please inform the front desk or the Pantry volunteers.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!  
Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/9DjXuSc>

St. Francis Community Center, LB/CC  
4700 Long Beach Blvd  
Long Beach Twp., NJ 08008  
Office Phone: (609) 494- 8861 EXT. 197

## Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



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

The LBI Health Department is doing **Blood Pressure Screenings**

the **second Tuesday of each Month**  
**from 11:00 am - 11:30 am**

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



## Recreation & Aquatics

For info. please call ext. 105. Visit the **Spring Brochure** online at [www.stfranciscenterlbi.org](http://www.stfranciscenterlbi.org) or pick up a Brochure at the Center lobby.

### **Aquatics:**

Water Tots,  
4-Year Old Beginner Swim,  
Beginner Level 1 & 2 swim lessons,  
Intermediate & Advanced,  
Aquatic Aerobics, Aquatic Exercise,  
Deep Water Aerobics,  
Arthritis Aquatic Exercise,  
Spring Swim Clinic,  
Lifeguard Training Hybrid Class.

### **Recreation:**

Basic Boating Safety Courses -NJ Certified,  
All Level Yoga,  
Tot & Tyke Basketball Clinic,  
Spring Basketball Clinic  
Pickleball

## 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*



## 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](http://www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org). We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. [www.grownkids.gov](http://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

## 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.

## TURN THE TOWN TEAL

Did you know that teal is the color for sexual violence prevention?

Join us in April as we decorate our community in teal to show support for survivors of sexual abuse and assault.

Our goal is to raise awareness and show that our community is a safe place for survivors to seek support!

Community organizations, businesses and individuals are welcome to participate!

FOLLOW ALONG ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK TO SHARE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Facebook: @OCNJ.Prevention

Instagram: OCNJ.Prevention

#OCNJSAA2023

Please contact us to receive your teal light bulb!  
Limited quantity available.



St. Francis Counseling Service  
(609) 494-1554 or  
[jpluard@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:jpluard@stfrancislbj.org)  
[kdavis@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:kdavis@stfrancislbj.org)

This event is supported by the State of New Jersey Sexual Assault, Abuse and Rape Care (SAARC) Funds, administered by the Department of Children and Families

## St. Francis Travel

Home Town Travel, 128 Bartlett Ave., Bartlett Commons,  
Rt. 9 South, West Creek, NJ 08092

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

Email: [hometowntravel@comcast.net](mailto:hometowntravel@comcast.net)



## Sightseeing Trips & Cruises



May 14-23, 2023

### British Landscapes Featuring England, Scotland and Wales

Behold the Crown Jewels of Scotland on a guided tour of Edinburgh Castle, discover the narrow Snickelway lanes of York, explore Wales during a tour of the picturesque village of Llangollen in addition to the ruins of an ancient fort during a visit to Hadrian's Wall. Enjoy Stratford upon Avon and Oxford before ending your British adventure with two nights in London. Rate per person double including airfare from Newark \$3,799.00.

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

Cruise round trip from Fort Lauderdale in a balcony cabin visiting: Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Martinique St. Kitts & Nevis. Our special "always included" package incorporates your stateroom in a balcony, all current port and government taxes, all meals, beverage package, Wi-Fi and gratuities. Rate per person is at \$2,069.00.

## Community Bulletin Board

### Diocese of Trenton

701 Lawrenceville Rd., Trenton, NJ 08638

#### Marriage Encounter Weekend; February 24-26, 2023

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 24 - 26, 2023. Please apply ASAP as space is limited.

Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco). Visit us at: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for more information.

### Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet is open every Saturday from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM (except holiday weekends) and the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-6:00 PM. We are currently not taking any clothing donations and will resume taking spring and summer donations in April. Located at 25 Pine Street, Manahawkin, We offer free clothing to women in need. Vouchers are available at food pantries, churches, Stafford Community Center at the door. For further info call Madelyn. 609-276-3308.

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