

# THE BRIDGE



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

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



***St. Francis of Assisi 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>*

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, February 26	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Bryan Connelly 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Agnes P. Thackston +Gloria Carlo	Jas. 5:13-20; Mk. 10:13-16 Sir. 27:4-7; 1 Cor. 15:54-58; Lk. 6:39-45	
Sunday, February 27	8:30 AM +Sheldon London 10:00 AM +Sal Ferraro +Jane Huebner, <i>ofs</i> 11:30 AM +Joseph M. Keegan +Nancy Venturo	Sir. 27:4-7; 1 Cor. 15:54-58; Lk. 6:39-45	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a>
Monday, February 28	9:00 AM +Neno Venturo	1 Pt. 1:3-9; Mk. 10:17-27	
Tuesday, March 1	9:00 AM +Neno Venturo	1 Pt. 1:10-16; Mk. 10:28-31	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Adult Faith Enrichment/RCIA 7:00 PM Men's Cornerstone Planning Surf City
Wednesday, March 2	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7:15 AM Prayer Service 9:00 AM (L)+Stein & Kempinski Families 12:00 PM Prayer Service 5:00 PM Prayer Service	Jl. 2:12-18; 2 Cor. 5:20-6:2; Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18	10:30 AM Contemplative Living, Zoom 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 3:00 PM Scripture Study, Sr. Kate Room
Thursday, March 3	9:00 AM +Samuel Bayley	Dt. 30:15-20; Lk. 9:22-25	
Friday, March 4	9:00 AM +Beverly Klingler +Filomena Marinaccio +Beverly Klingler	Is. 58:1-9a; Mt. 9:14-15	6:00 PM Soup 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 5	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Jack Guld	Is. 58:9b-14; Lk. 5:27-32 Dt. 26:4-10; Rom. 10:8-13; Lk. 4:1-13	
Sunday, March 6	8:30 AM +Vince McHale +Betsy Connelly 10:00 AM +Russell G. Stein +Elana Madigan 11:30 AM +Ann t. Davey	Dt. 26:4-10; Rom. 10:8-13; Lk. 4:1-13	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a> 9:30 AM OFS Information Day, Sr Kate Rm. 1:15 PM Speaker from Birthright followed by OFS Fraternity Meeting, Church Hall

### Mass Schedule - **Until Further Notice**

#### 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 for the Season**  
St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - **Closed for the Season**  
St. Clare, Loveladies - **Closed for the Season**

### Praying the Rosary

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



### St. Anthony Novena

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



### 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.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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





Letter from the Pastor  
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 27, 2022

### Summer, already? Not quite yet!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,  
Pastor

The other day in the friary Fr. Kevin said, “Isn’t it great, it’s still light outside at ten to 6!” To which Fr. Steve said, “Yes, but that only means the traffic lights will be turned on soon.” Although we are at the end of February, Steven is right. Those lights will be turned on in just a few months. In most parishes the summer is the time to slow down while the “academic year,” September through May, is their busy times. One might think that because our summers are out of the park busy, crazy, and wonderful, the “academic year” would be our slow time. Relatively speaking it is but St. Francis Parish turns into a “normal” parish during the months of September – May and we are just as busy as all those other parishes. Like the seasons in Florida, hot and hotter, the tempo of our parish is busy and busier. But honestly, that is one of the things I like about our parish. There is always something going on.

The Men’s Cornerstone Retreat will be March 11 – 12. The sign-up sheets are in the foyer of the church. I have heard so much about this retreat, and how powerful it is, I decided to go. If you have any inklings of participating, perhaps that’s God’s way of saying, “Do it!” For the women of our parish, yours will be in the Fall. For those looking for more of a one on one support in your spiritual journey our parish has four wonderful spiritual directors. They have all been trained in the art of spiritual direction and are ready to welcome you to a conversation to talk about your own spiritual journey. You will find the contact information in this bulletin. When going through the bulletin you will find that there are many different opportunities in how can engage your spiritual life, be it through the Book Club, Men’s Spirituality Group, Scripture Study, Survivors of Suicide, or the Secular Franciscan Community, based here in our Parish.

There are two upcoming events that I would like to bring to your attention. The first is the *Spiritual Conversations* that will be taking place during the month of March. A few weeks ago I shared with you that Pope Francis hopes to hear from every baptized Catholic in preparation for the Synod in 2023. Jen and Anthony Mauro, the co-chairs of the Synod 2023 Steering Committee, also have a letter to the parish in this week’s bulletin. They explain a bit about the process as well as the times when you can participate in one of these conversation. I do hope that you can add your voice to not only this parish-wide listening session, but this world-wide listening session.

The other exciting news that I would like to share with you is that this year *St. Francis Center is celebrating 50 years, 1972 – 2022!* I am sure that there are many people who remember when it was built. They would be the same people who remember Fr. Andrew with long hair and mutton-chops. [Remember, it was the 70’s] He probably wore bell-bottoms under his habit but we don’t have any pictures to prove it! If you do have any pictures of Andrew and or the parish and center from years ago and would like to share them us, I would love to see them. You can scan them and send them to me or drop them off at the parish center.

To mark this anniversary, we do have a number of events planned. We will be hosting two *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Houses*: May 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM; and July 10<sup>th</sup> also from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We welcome you to come and explore the Center and learn about all the services that we offer. You may be surprised at all that goes on in the building behind the church! *Swimming under the Stars* on July 13 from 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM. Last year was the first year we held this event and it was a great success. It’s a wonderful family event and the kids can even watch a movie as they swim. We will sponsor a *Game Day Grab Raffle* [the winner will be picked at the May 1<sup>st</sup> Open House] and a *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>*. You can find more details on all of the Anniversary events in the Center’s Spring Events pamphlets.

So yes, the traffic lights will be turned on soon and the summer will be here before we know it, but we have plenty of things going on now!

Peace and All Good  
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM  
Pastor

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

“USCCB”

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Services: 7:15am, Noon, 5:00pm

Mass: 9:00am

Ashes will be distributed safely after the end of the Mass and all services.

## Liturgical Calendar for Lent 2022

All Liturgies in St. Francis of Assisi unless otherwise noted

- **Ash Wednesday - March 2** – Services 7:15am, Noon, 5:00pm  
Mass 9:00am.
- **Soup & Stations** – March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1.  
Soup at 6:00pm - Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm.
- **First Sunday of Lent** – March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Second Sunday of Lent** – March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00am.
- **Third Sunday of Lent** – March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **The Annunciation of the Lord** – Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am.
- **Fourth Sunday of Lent** – March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Fifth Sunday of Lent** – April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Lenten Communal Penance with Individual Reconciliation**  
Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.  
Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.
- **Palm Sunday - April 9/10 in Brant Beach 5:00pm, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am.**  
10:00am in St. Thomas Villanova, Surf City.

Lent ends before the celebration of Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

## LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



### Fasting

Ash Wednesday

Good Friday

Ages 18-59

### Abstinence

Every Friday

during Lent

Ages 14+

### How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

### Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).



## SOUP AND STATIONS

We will be needing donations of meatless soup in a crockpot to share at our Soup and Stations on **March 4, 11, 18, 25, & April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Please bring the soup to the church hall between 5:00pm and 6:00pm.

Soup will begin at 6:00pm followed by Stations of the Cross.

Questions?

Contact JoAnne at 609-494-8861 Ext. 164.

Peace and all good!



## Soup and Stations of the Cross

We will be having Soup and Stations of the Cross this year beginning on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Soup will be served at 6:00pm and Stations of the Cross will begin at 7:00pm in the Brant Beach church. We will be having a meal of bread, homemade meatless soup and ice water in the church hall. It is a time to make our Lenten journey fruitful as we walk the way of the cross with our brothers and sisters and continue to grow in our personal relationship with God. The three pillars of lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Pope Francis tells us that “lent is a privileged time for prayer.” Our prayer strengthens us for fasting and almsgiving as we put aside some of our own needs and provide for those in need during lent. At each of the five Fridays there will be baskets on the sanctuary steps for much needed items for the food pantry.

**Week One March 4**...Praying the 14 Stations of the Cross with St. John XXIII. Food Pantry needs personal items...soap, shampoo.

**Week Two March 11**...The Mystery of the Cross, Praying the 14 Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis. Food Pantry needs canned pork and beans.

**Week Three March 18**...Praying the 14 Stations of the Cross with Mary, Mother of God. Food Pantry needs diapers.

**Week Four March 25**...Praying the 14 Stations of the Cross for the Suffering. Food Pantry needs personal items...toothbrush, toothpaste.

**Week Five April 1**...Praying the 14 Stations of the Cross for Healing. Food Pantry needs canned ravioli.

The Stations of the Cross will be live streamed for those not able to attend.

Please join us for a simple meal of soup as we begin our Lenten journey.

Please feel free to bring neighbors or friends. All are welcome!

## Appeals Box

### Second Collection:

#### Franciscan Missionary Union

The Franciscan Missionary Union helps missions throughout the world. Thank you for your support.

### This Week We Need:

Budgeted: **\$20,000**

### Last Week's Collection:

Collected: **\$22,207.67**

Budgeted: **\$20,000**



### Second Collection:

#### Human Concerns Project

Collected: **\$5,458**

*(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)*

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



**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**  
**Online Giving!**  
[stfrancisparishbi.org](http://stfrancisparishbi.org)



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

2022 Annual Catholic Appeal begins February 19/20.

Goal this year is \$6.5 million.

Goal: **\$100,000.00**  
Total Raised: \$ **500.00**  
Total Collected: \$ **500.00**  
Total Donors: **2**  
Average Gift: **\$252.50**

**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.stfrancisparishbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal](http://www.stfrancisparishbi.org/annual-catholic-appeal)

## Celebrating Marriage



*Celebrating the Beauty of Catholic Marriage from the Catechism - read more at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) under "Resources".*

The love of the spouses requires, of the very nature, the unity and indissolubility of the spouses' community of persons, which embraces their entire life: "so they are no longer two, but one flesh." They "are called to grow continually in their communion through day-to-day fidelity to their marriage promise of total mutual self-giving." This human communion is confirmed, purified, and completed by communion in Jesus Christ, given through the sacrament of Matrimony. It is deepened by lives of the common faith and by the Eucharist received together.." *(Catechism of the Catholic Church)*

## Weekly Reflections...



Fr. Stephen Kluge, OFM, Pastoral Associate

### *Saints of God, the Lord be with you.*

Next week we begin the liturgical season of Lent: 40 days of preparation in order to celebrate the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. During Lent, it is the custom of the Church to fast, pray, and give alms as a way to open ourselves to the upcoming feasts of Christ. As

I meditate on today's Gospel for the Eight Sunday in Ordinary time, [Luke 6:39-45] I find that I'm invited to fast from more than food.

In today's Gospel Jesus raises the question, "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, [and let's not leave out the eyes of our sisters], but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" I don't know about you, but for me at this point in my life, it's a habit. And often times it's fun and a great distraction from looking at, and naming, the wooden beam in my own eyes. I think Jesus is reminding us that we find what we look for. And instead of finding fault in others, we should begin to look for and name the good in others.

I've often said that my vocation as a priest is to highlight the everyday good that you do. So often when I do this, the response is usually some words of dismissal along the lines of "that's really nothing, Father." Well it is something...a very important something because the good we do is empowered by our God Who is the source of all good. The good we do is the Holy Spirit working within us and we cooperating with that same Spirit. My response to words of dismissal is usually, "Just say thank you." Thanksgiving is a great response to the fact that God in Christ chooses us to work and reveal himself in the world.

So as we prepare for Ash Wednesday and Lent, let's fast not just from food, but from judgement and condemnation. Let us feast on the goodness that flows through one another.

Fr. Stevek, ofm

## GOSPEL CHALLENGE:



*"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"*

**Jesus asks us to be honest and assess ourselves with a critical eye.**

*How can I better examine my own attitude and motives before criticizing others?*

## St. Francis Liturgical Community

### Family Faith

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

[jlclayton@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:jlclayton@stfrancislbj.org)

Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



When our in-person parent/child classes resume in February, our classes from grades one to five will be discussing different sacraments. For grade one they will experience a re-enactment of Baptism initiated by our Pastor with a follow up activity. Grade two will talk about the Last Supper, do an art project and watch a video in preparation for First Communion. Grade three is talking about all sacraments and creating a sacrament game. Grade four is talking about Reconciliation and forgiveness. They will be using an activity pamphlet to learn more about the Sacrament. Grade five is preparing for Reconciliation with an examination of conscience activity. There are examples for discussion and a prayer service.

All classes begin at 5:30 PM with temperatures taken and masks worn by all, parents, children and catechists.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students/parents Bible study will resume with session 4 of the Ascension Press "Encounter" program videos on the Old Testament: Desert Wanderings and Conquest and Judges. Student/parent teams will be using their Bibles for a Bible search as well as looking up the upcoming Sunday Gospel. The Saint lesson is about St. Helena, there is a QR code which contains a very informative video/movie on St. Helena. The Theme for this class is Celebrating Mass with a puzzle activity. There will be handouts and worksheets for more at home study of the Mass.

Our seventh grade families will discuss the question, "If you decided to commit your whole life to doing good what would you do?" Through scripture reading this question will be explored in light of the teachings of Jesus. Continuing with the preparation process for Confirmation the candidates will discover that the Apostles began the Church's public ministry at Pentecost, ritual actions of the Sacrament, ways in which Baptism and Eucharist are connected to Confirmation. The saint lesson will be on Venerable Mother Henriette DeLille. Closing prayer will be the Daily Examen.

Our Confirmation candidates will gather on **January 31** for their workshop on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our Pastor Fr. Fran will speak on the ways in which ritual actions in the Sacrament

### Help Wanted - Altar Server Ministry

#### CALLING ALL BOYS AND GIRLS



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

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

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

## 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/stfrancisparishlbj](https://facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbj).

**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 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 Staff

Michele Beck, Director, Music

Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM

Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation

Deacon Robert Cunningham

Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM

Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor

Fr. John Frambes, OFM

Fr. Stephen Kluge, OFM

Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF

Jo Anne Reeder, Director, Worship

Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM

Barbara Truncellito, Director, Parish Development

Parish Office - (609) 494-8813

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

(Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)

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

Community Center - (609) 494-8861

Counseling Services - (609) 494-1554

## Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



### Book Club

We will meet in person at St. Francis Center in either Room 102 or the Knight Wing Conference Room, (Room 212) on the last Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 PM.

*Pachinko* by Min Jim Lee.

Tuesday, **March 29**, 1:30 PM, Sr. Lunch Room

### Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Tuesday, **March 1**, 7:00 PM, Maris Stella

### Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **March 6, 9:30 AM**, *OFS Information Day*, Sr. Kate Rm.;

**1:15 PM** Speaker from Birthright of Ocean County followed by *Fraternity Meeting*, Brant Beach Church Hall

### Scripture Study

Meets **Bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, at 3:00 PM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. Call Tom Troyano at (732) 261-4721 or email: [tomtroyano@comcast.net](mailto:tomtroyano@comcast.net) for more information.

Wednesday, **March 2**, 3:00 PM, Sr. Kate Meeting Room

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

The **Secular Franciscans** will have a speaker, Lynn Monboeau, from **Birthright of Ocean County** at our **March 6, 2022**, fraternity meeting.

She will be speaking about how we can help support mothers and their babies.

Anyone from the parish is welcome to attend this meeting.

We will be meeting in the

**Brant Beach Church Hall at 1:15 PM.**

All are welcome!

We will be collecting:

**Baby lotion**

**Baby body wash**

**Baby clothes sizes 0-3 months and 3-6 months (boy or girl)**

**Baby bottles**

**Gift cards to: Walmart, T.J.Max, Target**



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

The Adult Faith Enrichment group invites you to a talk on

**"Lenten Spirituality and the San Damiano Cross"**

**Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM**

in the St. Francis Church, Brant Beach.

**There will be NO class on February 22.**

## Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



### Spiritual Direction

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

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

*Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,*

*Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917*

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

### An Invitation to Contemplative Living

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. All our meetings, will be on Zoom for both Wednesdays and Saturdays through March then back in person for April through July 2022. Email Kathy Egan for more information

at: [klegan.chaplain@gmail.com](mailto:klegan.chaplain@gmail.com)

Next scheduled **ZOOM** sessions: **Wednesday, March 2, 10:30 AM**

### Men's Spirituality Group

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

Next scheduled meeting: **March 19, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Rm.**

## REGISTER NOW !

### 2022 ST. FRANCIS MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT

This could be the time for you to take a break from your busy schedule and reconnect to what really matters.

Friday, **March 11<sup>th</sup>** - 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Saturday **March 12<sup>th</sup>** - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Maris Stella - Harvey Cedars

Brochures with pertinent information are available at the Church entrances.

Please contact Jim Brady with questions or for additional information at [sabrady@hotmail.com](mailto:sabrady@hotmail.com)



Greetings Parishioners and Friends,

Please let us introduce ourselves – Jennifer and Anthony Mauro, co-chairs of the Synod steering committee. We are honored to have been asked to be part of the Synod of Bishops process, as St. Francis of Assisi Parish has been our spiritual home for more than 15 years.

As you may have heard, Pope Francis has called for a Synod of Bishops to meet in 2023. The overarching objective is for the Church to become a listening Church. For us to listen to each other about our faith journeys.

As part of this process, the Pope wants to hear from as many Catholics (both practicing and drifting) as possible. To that end, our parish is organizing a Spiritual Conversation Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to encourage all parishioners and all baptized Catholics to gather and offer their insights and to encounter one another in prayer and active listening. Questions will be asked, and a synopsis of each conversation will be recorded via notetaking and sent to the Diocese. All participant names will be kept in confidence, and no names will be included in the report. The Diocese will then condense and send this information on to the Vatican.

The questions are as follows:

1. What have been the joys and obstacles in your journeying together with the Church?
2. Consider the comments from the other participants in the first round. What resonated the most for you?
3. Reflecting on our conversation, how might the Holy Spirit be prompting you, and all of us as Church, to improve the ways we are able to journey together?

A group of parish volunteers have been trained as facilitators and notetakers. All parishioners and viewpoints will be welcomed and listened to. Open-mindedness and open-heartedness will lead to prayerfulness and a reaffirming spirit within each listening session. We hope for a large number of participants. ***We also encourage each parishioner who plans on participating to extend an invitation to any family member, friend or acquaintance who may not be actively practicing our faith.*** It is important that we hear from them. Understand that we will not look to evangelize but will only provide non-judgmental listening. Our prayers will be offered to the Holy Spirit seeking guidance, discernment and support for all shared views, opinions, suggestions and hopes given by each and every active participant.

There will be **two Spiritual Conversation Meetings**, one held on **Sunday, March 13, after the 10:00 AM Mass in the Parish Center** and another on **Saturday, March 26, at 10 AM in the Brant Beach Church Hall**. There will also be a **Zoom meeting at 7 PM, Monday, March 7**. To sign up for one of these meetings, or for more information, email [synod.stfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:synod.stfrancis@gmail.com).

We pray now that the Holy Spirit will help you make the decision to participate and we extend our gratefulness in advance for you doing so.

## SPECIAL EVENTS



## 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

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Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2 Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

## Did You Know??

"St. Francis Educational & Career Services serves eligible participants from the Ocean County One Stop and the Board of Social Services. We provide opportunities to gain employability skills, obtain stackable credentials, increase literacy skills and attain High School Diplomas. Our programs provides job related workshops to increase skills for participants seeking employment and/or career training. Participants are provided training and work experience relevant to the jobs in demand in Ocean County. We also assist eligible participants to gain employability skills through a variety of workshops, identify barriers to employment; resume building, work readiness, credentials and computer skills. Each participant will create an individualized plan to build skills towards self-sufficiency"



## Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

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

*Walk-ins are welcome!*

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Donations needed for the Food Pantry:

**Cereal, Canned Soup, Rice Side Packets, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Vegetables such as Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Carrots, Detergent, Soap, Personal Products, Dish Detergent.**

Donations for the Food Pantry can be left in the bins marked "donation" in the front of the Community Center. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry it can be made through our website: <http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/donate> via

### 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

## 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.

## Recreation & Aquatics

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



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## Community Bulletin Board

### St. Mary Academy

400 Doc Cramer Blvd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050

I am pleased to announce that St. Mary Academy received favorable recognition and accreditation from Cognia, formerly AdvancEd. Below is the link to the article in the Sandpaper. You'll have to cut and paste into your browser.

[https://www.thesandpaper.net/articles/st-mary-academy-recognized-for-philanthropic-effort-educational-prowess/?fbclid=IwAR2EzIMWtdjvwu90\\_L3k-AdW\\_kfUps\\_sKt5yzcBjtH2u4M3GOH13b-5sGM](https://www.thesandpaper.net/articles/st-mary-academy-recognized-for-philanthropic-effort-educational-prowess/?fbclid=IwAR2EzIMWtdjvwu90_L3k-AdW_kfUps_sKt5yzcBjtH2u4M3GOH13b-5sGM)

Also noted in the article is a proclamation from Senator Corrado's office for some of our service work.



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### A private Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

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**October 26-November 3, 2022**

A second presentation will be held on **Friday, April 1st, 2022** from 5pm-7pm at St. Francis Center, by Jim Myers from Myers Tours and Home Town Travel.

RSVP is required to attend. Please call Tara at Home Town Travel to confirm your attendance and find out more what this great trip entails. (609) 597-5100

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

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

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