

THE BRIDGE



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

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



Photo by Pixabay

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>

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 13, 2022

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, March 12	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Betsy Connelly 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Jim Raylman +Paul Kubeck +Mary Sarin	Dt. 26:16-19; Mt. 5:43-48 Gn. 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil. 3:17-4:1 Lk. 9:28b-36	8:00 AM -7:00 PM Men's Cornerstone Retreat, Maris Stella 9:45 AM Contemplative Meeting, Zoom
Sunday, March 13	8:30 AM +Bob Carpenter 10:00 AM +Irene Flanagan +Edmund Flyntz 11:30 AM +Andrew Noll	Gn. 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil. 3:17-4:1 Lk. 9:28b-36	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Monday, March 14	9:00 AM +Thomas Walsh +Joseph Moeller	Dn. 9:4b-10; Lk. 6:36-38	
Tuesday, March 15	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Is. 1:10, 16-20; Mt. 23:1-12	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Adult Faith Enrichment
Wednesday, March 16	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Jer. 18:18-20; Mt. 20:17-28	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, March 17	9:00 AM +Patrick Harrington +Marie Sulkowski, <i>ofs</i>	Jer. 17:5-10; Lk. 16:19-31	
Friday, March 18	9:00 AM +Betsey Connelly	Gn. 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28; Mt. 21:33-43, 45-46	6:00 PM Soup; 7:00 PM <i>Live-Streaming Stations of Cross</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Saturday, March 19	9:00 AM +Brenda Henahan 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Christopher Michael Bagnato +Tom Wallerman	2 Sm. 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom. 4:13- 16-18, 22; Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a Ex. 3, 1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk. 13:1-9	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, March 20	8:30 AM +Michael Segledi 10:00 AM +James Kelley +Lillian Connolly 11:30 AM +Ryan Sterling +Gustavo Acosta	Ex. 3, 1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk. 13:1-9	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

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

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

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.

SOUP AND STATIONS

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

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.
The Stations of the Cross will be *live streamed* for those not
able to attend. www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

Questions?

Contact JoAnne at 609-494-8861 Ext. 164.
Peace and all good!



Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, **March 13**
at 2:00 AM EST

turn Your Clocks AHEAD One Hour.



A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Synod... There's that word again!

Do you remember Ed Koch? When he was mayor of New York City he would always ask, in his thick New York accent, "So how'm I doin'?" Not a bad question to keep asking ourselves!

Right now the Catholic Church is in the midst of asking a similar question, "How are you doing?" It is not the same as Mayor Koch's query, and the motivation is certainly different, but it is an opportunity for the church to get a better sense of the *sensus fidelium* – the sense of the faithful.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines *sensus fidelium* as "the supernatural appreciation of faith on the part of the whole people, when, from the bishops to the last of the faithful, they manifest a universal consent in matters of faith and morals."

Lumen Gentium, from the Second Vatican Council, says, "By this appreciation of the faith, aroused and sustained by the Spirit of truth, the People of God, guided by the sacred teaching authority,... receives... the faith, once for all delivered to the saints. ...The People unfaithfully adheres to this faith, penetrates it more deeply with right judgment, and applies it more fully in daily life." Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew [16:18] that "the gates of Hell will not prevail against it," [the Church.] Fr. Gerard O'Collins, in his book *Fundamental Theology*, defines church as "the Lord's people that carries forward the living tradition of essential beliefs throughout history, with the Bishops overseeing that this tradition does not pursue the way of error."

Everyone is invited to participate in these prayerful conversations. The first will be **after the 10 AM Mass today, Sunday, March 13th, in the Parish Center**. Another will be **Saturday, March 26th at 10 AM** in the church hall and the third is a **zoom meeting at 7 PM on Wednesday, March 23rd**. Please see the letter in today's bulletin for more details. If you have not signed up for today's meeting, don't worry. Just go!

I participated in a diocesan wide conversation as well as facilitated a number of these conversations in preparation for the Synod of 2023. I have found them all to be very affirming and uplifting as I listened to the love that our fellow parishioners have for the church as well as the challenges that we encounter along the path of our own lives.

I would encourage you to participate in one of these conversations. I suspect that you too will find it to be a grace-filled experience and an opportunity to witness the Holy Spirit in action.

Unlike Mayor Koch's appeal, this is not a vote on truth or doctrine. This is not a debate where one side tries to convince the other that they are right. This is simply a time to listen to the church, from the individual voices at a specific meeting, as well as the collective voice of the *sensus fidelium* when ultimately our voice will be added to the collected responses. Fear not, the Holy Spirit is always in charge.

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

1 Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed.). Libreria Editrice Vaticana. 2019. Paragraph 92.

2 Ibid, Paragraph 93

3 O'Collins, SJ, Gerald (2001). *Fundamental Theology*. Wipf and Stock Publishers. VIII



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, Wednesday, March 23**. To sign up for one of these meetings, or for more information, email 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.

St. Francis Liturgical Community

Liturgical Calendar for Lent 2022

All Liturgies in St. Francis of Assisi unless otherwise noted

- **Soup & Stations – March 11, 18, 25 & April 1.**
Soup at 6:00pm - Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm.
The Stations of the Cross will be *live streamed* for those not able to attend.
www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
 - **Second Sunday of Lent – March 13th.**
 - **Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saturday, March 19th 9:00am.**
 - **Third Sunday of Lent – March 20th.**
 - **The Annunciation of the Lord – Friday, March 25th - 9:00am.**
 - **Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 27th.**
 - **Fifth Sunday of Lent – April 3rd.**
 - **Lenten Communal Penance with Individual Reconciliation**
Friday, April 8th at 6:00pm.
Saturday, April 9th 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 14th.
- **Easter Sunday Sunrise Service - April 17th 6:00 AM at the Third St. Beach in Beach Haven.**

Soup and Stations of the Cross

We will be having Soup and Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. 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 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 *Suffering*. Food Pantry needs diapers.

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

Week Five April 1...Praying the 14 Stations of the Cross with *Mary, Mother of God*. Food Pantry needs canned ravioli.

The Stations of the Cross will be *live streamed* for those not able to attend. www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

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!

GOSPEL CHALLENGE:



"This is my beloved Son"

We are all God's beloved children. Each of us. This is personal.

How does this make me see myself?

Praying the Rosary

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



St. Anthony Novena

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



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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



Eucharistic Minister and Lector Sign-up Sheets and Schedules Notice

Spring 2022 for Beach Haven and Surf City

The new sign-up sheets and completed schedule dates for **April 9/10 through June 25/26, 2022** is as follows:

Eucharistic Ministers

- Sign-up sheets will be in file box by BB sacristy door on Friday, **March 11.**
- Completed sheets are due back by Friday, **March 18.**
- Schedules will be in the file boxes by the BB sacristy door on Saturday, **June 26.**

Please return all sign-up sheets in an envelope marked Parish Office/ Eucharistic Minister. They can be returned to the front desk or parish office.

Or you can email them to JoAnne Reeder

jreeder@stfrancislbi.org

Peace and all



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
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

Help Wanted - Altar Server Ministry

CALLING ALL BOYS AND GIRLS



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

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

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

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

The Adult Faith Enrichment group invites you to a talk on

"Christian Social Principals"

Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 PM

in the St. Francis Church, Brant Beach.

Read our bulletin online at www.stfrancisparishlbi.org



Daily gospel reflections can be found on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi



Follow St. Francis Parish on Instagram: [StFrancisChurchLBI](https://www.instagram.com/StFrancisChurchLBI)

Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA

Vocation Office vocations@osfphil.org

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

(609) 597-3800 or visit: www.stmaryknights.org

Embrace Our Way of Life

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF HOLY NAME PROVINCE

Franciscan Vocation Ministry

Br. Basil Valente, OFM

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

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



Peace Prayer Project

Remember to pray the Peace Prayer of St. Francis every Wednesday at noon!



Family Faith

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

jlclayton@stfrancislbj.org

Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



FAMILY FAITH MARCH ACTIVITIES

Catholics celebrate a time in the Church when they follow more closely the way of Jesus. We take up spiritual practices and disciplines that help us identify with Jesus more as we prepare to celebrate Easter.

Our families in the Religious Education program will be reading and discussing scripture, Jesus' practice of prayer and learn what they can do as a family to prepare to journey the forty days. We will think about how we treat others. We will look beyond our own wants and desires. We will pay attention to the needs of others. We will look for some ways we can make changes in our lives to grow closer to God. During this season of Penance we will see that the Church looks simple and plain, little flowers or decorations. The priests wear purple vestments.

The art activity for the 1st through 3rd grades is to make a Lenten resolution egg. The children will choose something to do to make the world a better place and keep the egg chart to see how they are doing, as well as act out a skit about making choices. Grades 4 and 5 will re-enact the way of the cross.

Our 2nd grade children are working with their parents as they prepare for their First Eucharist. We will celebrate the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on **March 21st**.

6th grade students/parents Bible study continues with session 6 of the Ascension Press "Encounter" program videos "Exile, Return and Maccabean Revolt", followed by a short review. Student/parent teams will use their Bibles to look up the upcoming Sunday Gospel and take time for a reflection. The Saint lesson is about St. Benedict of Palermo and includes a QR code with a video on his life. The theme for this class is Lent, handouts will include a QR code with a match game on the Stations of the Cross. We will use Loyola Press Art Print #20 an interpretation of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed after the Last Supper. There will be handouts and worksheets for more at home study on Lent.

Grade 7 Confirmation prep I candidates will be completing their candidate book this month. This session will focus on the meaning of Grace in their lives, how the will and actions of the Holy Spirit inspire the use of their gifts.

As Matthew Kelly, author of Decision Point another book used in this class says "Be Bold, Be Catholic".

The final Decision Point lesson discussion "10 Great Ways to be Catholic"

10. It is unique and original
9. We care for the suffering
8. We have history and mystery
7. We have the Saints
6. We believe in the power of prayer.
5. It is universal
4. We defend human rights
3. We are invited to get involved and be a part of a great mission
2. The Eucharist
1. You don't say no to God when he invites you.

Family Faith Team and Catechists

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

Order of the Franciscans Secular of/s

Sunday, **April 3**, 12:30 PM *Fraternity Meeting*, Brant Beach Church Hall

Scripture Study

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

Wednesday, **March 16**, 3:00 PM, Sr. Kate Meeting Room

Survivors of Suicide

Meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month at 7:00 PM in the Knight Wing Conference Room (Room 212).

Call Sr. Pat McNiff, osf at (609) 494-8813 for more information. Thursday, **June 9**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction

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

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

Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,

Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917

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

An Invitation to Contemplative Living

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

Next scheduled **ZOOM** sessions: **Saturday, March 12, 9:45 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.**

Appeals Box

Second Collection:

Church Buildings & Grounds Maintenance

Living at the shore requires consistent maintenance & repairs to the 4 churches that make up St. Francis Parish. This collection helps us fund the upkeep of our facilities & the significant costs in maintaining our grounds. Please help us serve you by being generous.

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: **\$20,000**

Last Week's Collection:

Collected: **\$23,588.50**

Budgeted: **\$20,000**



Second Collection:

Black & Native American Missions

Collected: **\$4,575**

Ash Wednesday – St. Francis Food Pantry

Collected: **\$4,369**

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



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



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: **\$11,715.00**

Total Collected: **\$10,361.00**

Total Donors: **73**

Total Gifts: **75**

Average Gift: **\$156.20**

*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 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

Employment Opportunity



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

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

Children's Services Toddler Room Supervisor

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

Position: Year-round, Full-time

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

Days: Monday-Friday

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

Prefer a background in early childhood education and/or experience working with children. Must be 18 or older. First Aid & CPR Certified and Bi-Lingual a plus.

Positions: Year-round, Full-time

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

Days: Monday-Friday

Counseling Services

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

Days: Monday through Friday (Some evening hours required)

Must complete 40-hour Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Training (provided free of charge by the agency). On-site clinical supervision is provided.

Must have Current Professional License: LSW, LAC, LPC or LCSW

Bilingual Caseworker

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

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

Days: Monday-Friday

Senior Services

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

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

Pay: \$13 per hour

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

Maintenance- Housekeeping

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

Pay: \$13 per hour

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

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancislbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS



Thistle Catering of Kearny is BACK!!!

SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2022
4:30-7:00PM
\$25 ADULT / \$12 CHILD

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE FRONT DESK. CALL 609-484-9817 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT
FISH & CHIPS
CHICKEN & FRIES

Photo: Thistle Catering Facebook

We are in need of desserts for the Annual Fish Fry.

- Cookies
- Cupcakes
- Brownies

Email Amanda at adefusco@stfrancislbj.org

or Ellen Dombrowski at emdombrowski@gmail.com



EASTER 2022 FLOWER SALE

Sponsored by St. Francis Franciscan Order

DAFFODILS HYACINTHS TULIPS

Palm Sunday, April 9th + 10
 after each mass in the Church Hall
 St. Francis of Assisi
 St. Thomas Villanova

Flowers Donated by Carey Landscaping



Cheers to 50 Years!
 Celebrating our Fiftieth Anniversary!

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

St. Francis Center



THE ANNUAL **BEEFSTEAK Dinner**

JUNE 3, 2022
5:30 PM
 ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER GYM

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH and CENTER



Garden Party By the Sea

Fashion Show

Cedar Bannet Island
 Wednesday, June 22

Recreation & Aquatics

For info, please call ext. 105. Visit the **Fall/Winter Brochure** online at www.stfranciscenterlbi.org or pick up a Brochure at the Center lobby.



SESSION II REGISTRATION
Monday, April 4th
9:00 AM

Session II begins April 19th

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.

Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



St. Francis Community Center's Preschool and Childcare are fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org. We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. www.grownjkids.gov.

Masks will be required for 2 years and up - they will be encouraged to wear a mask throughout the day.

Year-round Childcare for Children TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Available Care 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

Did You Know??

- Vacation Club is a summer camp for school age children from age 5½-13 years of age. The program operates from June 21st until August 26th. It offers a variety of activities designed to promote the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of children, while allowing them to grow in confidence and self-esteem. It provides a comprehensive array of activities in arts and crafts, cooking, sports, daily swimming and weekly fieldtrips. Some themes that the campers will be participating in this year are: "We've Got Spirit", "Farm to Table", "Let's Luau" and much more!

- Children must have completed Kindergarten to attend Vacation Club Parent Registration is Monday, April 25th at 4:00 PM and a parent or legal guardian must be present. Due to COVID only Ocean County children who attended an Ocean County school will be enrolled this year.

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

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.

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

Community Bulletin Board

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

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

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Lenten Weekly Holy Hour for World Peace

Maris Stella Chapel

Thursdays, **March 17th, 24th, 31st, April 7th, 2022**

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Holy hour will provide an opportunity for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and silent prayer for world peace. No registration needed.

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A second presentation will be held on **Friday, March 25, 2022** from 5pm-7pm at St. Francis Center, by Jim Myers from Myers Tours and Home Town Travel.

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

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

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