

THE BRIDGE



With open
arms for all!

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021

- PARISH STAFF -

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

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

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

Community Center
(609) 494-8861

Counseling Services
(609) 494-1554

Read our bulletin online at
www.stfrancisparishlbi.org



Daily gospel reflections can be
found on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi



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

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
is a Franciscan Faith Community of
Holy Name Province
in the Diocese of Trenton.

Find out more about
Holy Name Province online at:
www.hnp.org

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

Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA
Vocation Office
vocations@osfphil.org

**St. Francis is a sending Parish to
St. Mary Academy**
609-597-3800 or visit:
www.stmaryknights.org

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH: MAY 2021

As we celebrate Older American Month
and its theme this year “Communities Of Strength”
we look back at the past year and realize how true it is.
We celebrate the Strength, Resilience and Patients
of every Older American who has persevered
during these unprecedented and
constantly changing circumstances.
Although we cannot celebrate as we have in the past
with activities, special events and parties
we want to remind you
St. Francis Senior Services is here for you!
We pray for normality to return soon
so we may celebrate together again.

Linda M. Falb, Director Senior Services

St. Francis of Assisi Parish offers ONLINE GIVING
Parishioners who prefer to donate through our Online Giving Service, a
secure and personalized way to give to the Parish, can visit our website at:
<http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org>

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, May 1	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Barbara Knode 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Annette Labanc	Acts 13:44-52; Jn. 14:7-14 Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn. 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8	
Sunday, May 2	8:30 AM +Charles P. Schoeffel +Kate Conroy +Ruth Phelps 10:00 AM +Thomas Roddom +Peggy Doorly McCully +Anne McNiff Huey 11:30 AM +Michael Andrejco +Margaret Lynch	Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn. 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion 1:00 PM OFS Fraternity Zoom Mtg.
Monday, May 3	9:00 AM +Helen Bogdon	1 Cor. 15:1-8; Jn. 14:6-14	
Tuesday, May 4	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 14:19-28; Jn. 14:27-31a	
Wednesday, May 5	9:00 AM +Paul H. Wirth, Jr.	Acts 15:1-6; Jn. 15:1-8	10:30 AM Contemplative Living Zoon Session
Thursday, May 6	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 15:7-21; Jn. 15:9-11	
Friday, May 7	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 15:22-31; Jn. 15:12-17	
Saturday, May 8	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Dolores Pottichen +Mary E. Mathews +Frances Jennette	Acts 16:1-10; Jn. 15:18-21 Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn. 4:7-10; Jn. 15:9-17	
Sunday, May 9	Mother's Day 8:30 AM +Lucille D'Amico +Rose Ridgik +Emma Ferraro 10:00 AM + <i>Intentions of All Mothers</i> 11:30 AM +Edith Nonziato	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn. 4:7-10; Jn. 15:9-17	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion After All Masses, Mother's Day Plant Sale

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, May 1	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, May 2	8:30 AM +Carroll Roessner 10:00 AM +Jo Vennewald
Saturday, May 8	5:00 PM +Patrick Romano
Sunday, May 9	8:30 AM +Denise Taurino 10:00 AM + <i>Intentions of All Mothers</i>

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday, May 1	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 5:00 PM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Sunday, May 2	10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>
Saturday, May 8	5:00 PM +Dona Alfarone Colasurdo
Sunday, May 9	10:00 AM + <i>Intentions of All Mothers</i>

GOSPEL CHALLENGE:

What "fruits" are evident in yourself that give glory to God?

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

Parish Information - (609) 494-8813

Emergency Information: Available on our answering machine (609) 494-8861 and on the following website:

schoolclosingsnj.com and [facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi).

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

Parish Registration: The Parish Office is located on the second floor of St. Francis Community Center, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible if you are moving.

Baptism: The sacrament is celebrated three times a month at St. Francis Parish. Group Baptisms are the 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM and the last Sunday at 12:45 PM each month at St. Francis Church in Brant Beach. Baptisms during Mass are celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the last Mass in each Church. Call the Parish Office for availability and requirements: (609) 494-8813 ext. 154 or 155.

Faith Formation and Education: For children ages six through high school. Please call Judith Clayton at (609) 494-8813 ext. 153 for more information.

Marriage: In accordance with the Common Policy of the five Dioceses of New Jersey, arrangements must be made ONE YEAR in advance. Couples are required to attend Marriage Preparation classes. Weddings are performed on Friday or Saturday. Weddings are NOT performed on Sundays, the beach, Memorial Day, Fourth of July or Labor Day weekends.

Pastoral Visitations: Please notify the Parish Office if you or any of your loved ones are ill, homebound, in SOMC, nursing homes or rehabilitation centers.

Parish Collections

Second Collection Today:

St. Francis Inn & Dwelling Place

Your generosity over the years has helped us reach out to the hungry and the homeless men and women who are served by the St. Francis Inn of Philadelphia and the Dwelling Place in New York City. Thank you for your generous support

Last Week's 2nd Collection

Catholic Home Missions

Collected: \$3,235

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$22,000

Last Week's Collection

Budgeted: \$22,000

Collected: \$11,789



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

stfrancisparishlbi.org

Weekly Reflections...

Here we are in the month of May. This month has traditionally been dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Two of her feasts are celebrated this month: Mary, Mother of the Church (this is a new feast of Mary) and the Visitation. This month we have a few more weeks of Easter during which we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus, Pentecost and the Feast of the Holy Trinity. We cannot forget that we celebrate Mother's Day, graduations and many First Communions during these weeks. God's love and concern for us is manifested in so many ways this month. There is much packed into these weeks. Enjoy!

Many have already been vaccinated and life seems to be opening up slowly. This is a welcome relief to what we have had to go through the past year. Even though many have been vaccinated, the virus is still around and we have to continue to be cautious. I was living in New York City at this time last year and I remember what the city was like because of what the virus did to various sections of the city. I was confined to our church buildings for 12 weeks with the other Friars. There were 6 of us over 75 and we were told that we could not go out. Actually, there was nothing to go out to because most of the stores were closed and there were no events happening. That was the Big Apple! Life here on the shore wasn't that drastic because you could go out even though many stores were closed here too. So, wear your mask, maintain social distancing and be careful where you go and whom you hang out with. Enjoy these days and if you are gardening, there is much to be done but it is worth the time and effort.

Fr. Andrew Reitz, ofm



Celiac Disease and Holy Eucharist

If you have Celiac disease and wish to receive Holy Eucharist, we now have low gluten hosts in all the churches. Please bring your own pyx [*host container*] to mass. If you forget your pyx, please tell the priest. We have some extras in the safe. Please see the priest before mass and he will provide you with a low gluten host. Complete directions are posted in the vesting sacristy.

Peace Prayer Project

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



Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction

- 1: Are you interested in a deeper relationship with God?
- 2: Do you experience a desire to pray always?
- 3: Are you searching for a better understanding of the actions of God's grace in your life?

Our parish has five certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction. If you think this might be a way for you to recognize God's actions in your daily life please call:

Barbara H. Angeline, ofs, (609) 384-6188,

Maryann Barrek, ofs, (609) 661-4441,

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

Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,

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

An Invitation to Contemplative Living

This program calls out to those who desire to live more contemplatively in the world, to grow in union with God and others, and to become more aware, intentional and free. God liberates us and heals us through the practice of contemplative prayer. Monthly "*zoom sessions*" on the practice of contemplative prayer are scheduled the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM. Email Kathy Egan for more information at: klegan.chaplain@gmail.com

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87537640297?pwd=TFdKS05NYlNuNWJvODVibld3KzNVOT09>

Next scheduled *zoom* session: **May 5**

Scripture Study

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

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

Next scheduled *zoom* meeting: **May 12**

Men's Spirituality Group

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

Next scheduled meeting: **June 19**

Cell Phone Drop Off



Please help
St. Francis Parish & Center
by dropping off your old *Cell Phones*
in the lobby at St. Francis Center.
Please NO accessories, chargers, etc.

Family Faith Formation



Judith Clayton, Director of FFF (Ext. 153)

jclayton@stfrancisbi.org

Eileen Bowker, Youth Minister (Ext. 178)

Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Monthly Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **May 2**, 1:00 PM, Fraternity "Zoom" Meeting.

Survivors of Suicide

Meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month at 7:00 PM via
"Zoom". Call Sr. Pat McNiff, ofsf at (609) 494-8813 for
more information.

Mass Schedule through May 22/23

St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach

9:00 AM Daily Mass

Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM

Saturday, 5:00 PM;

Sunday, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM

Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 10:00 AM

www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

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

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00 AM

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 10:00 AM

St. Clare, Loveladies - **CLOSED**



O Lord, be present with these men and women who serve our country. Comfort their spirits with your divine presence and grant them strength, wisdom and grace.

SSgt. Stephen Ballinger
 GySgt. Jason Benedict
 GySgt. Ryan Benedict
 Maj. Michael Berk
 Lt. Col. Maureen Davis-Berk
 PFC Thomas J. Bonder
 LCDR Gary Brose, USN
 Pvt. Matthew Cacace
 Capt. Andrew Cairns
 Spc. Nicholas Campoli
 Sean Michael Campoli, USN
 Maj. Robert Cunningham
 PFC Tim Edwards
 Lt. David Elsenbeck
 Capt. Michael J. Elsenbeck, MD
 Airman Patrick Esmerado
 A1C Matt Fitzpatrick
 Lt. Cmdr. Bob Gerstemeier
 PFC Matthew Gurten
 Sr. Airman John Hall
 PFC Anthony Hardado
 Lt. Cpl. Forrest Hendricks
 Sgt. Matthew Hill
 Lt. Cameron Hockman
 Capt. Ryan Hughes
 Tech Sgt. Bradley Iseminger
 PO Anthony Juliano
 Lt. Col. Michael Kloeppe
 Capt. Timothy Koenig
 Pvt. Emily Jane Konzelmann
 Sgt. Amanda A. Kuchta
 Cpl. Travis Lastfogel
 L Cpl. Cole Lattanzi

SSgt. Stephen Leddy
 Spc. Jose Paul Lopes
 1st Lt. Sean Patrick Mackenzie
 2nd Lt. Christopher Martinelli
 Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Martins
 Sgt. Anthony Mauro
 1st Lt. John McElvenny
 1st Lt. Stephen McNamara
 Lt. Vincent P. Moscatello, USN
 Capt. Brendan Murphy
 Capt. Catherine Murphy
 SSgt. Conor Neil
 Lt. John S. Ondik
 Sgt. Kristopher Pickarts
 Tyler Rallo, PFC
 LTC Brett Robistow
 Sr. Airman Christopher Rossi
 Lt. Michael Rossi, Jr.
 2nd Lt. Marc Schwartz
 Michael Shermeta E4 FT USN
 PFC Kyle Stewart
 Sgt. Robert Taylor
 Sgt. Dillon Thiel
 1st Lt. Shereen Thomas
 2nd Lt. Cody Waits
 Lt. Col. Thomas Walsh
 Sgt. Alex Werner
 Sgt. Brandon K. White
 1st Lt. Daniel White
 SSG Reid Wilbraham
 Lt. Mark Woodard
 Sr. Airman Arrian Youssefi

Make A Gift to St. Francis Parish

If you are planning your will and/or estate and would like to make a gift to St. Francis Parish or LBICC, Inc., please contact:
 Fr. Francis DiSpigno, Pastor
 at: fdispigno@stfrancislb.org or
 Wendy Saunders, Executive Director,
 at: wsaunders@stfrancislb.org or
 call (609) 494-8861 for more information.

Women's Cornerstone Retreat



SAVE THE DATE
October 22 & 23, 2021

Women's Cornerstone Retreat Invitation
 For the Women (18+) of St. Francis Parish & Friends.
 If you've never had the experience of the Women's Cornerstone Retreat this could be the year for you to take time for yourself, or for someone that you love.

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

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

All prevailing COVID-19 regulations will be observed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

SUPER PLUNGE XVII
MAY 8, 2021
@ 1PM

\$20 STUDENT **48TH ST. BEACH**
\$30 ADULT **BRANT BEACH**

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

Order of Franciscan Secular (ofs)



Mother's Day & Spring Flower Sale



Saturday, May 8
 (after 5:00 PM Mass)
Sunday, May 9
 (after all Masses)

Saint Francis of Assisi Church - Brant Beach

*** All proceeds benefit the Saint Francis Food Pantry ***



Fish & Chip Dinner



Thistle of Kearny returns!

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

Craft Show & Sale

Saturday, July 24
 9:30 - 4:00 PM
 Admission: \$2



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.

Journey Through Grief

This program is designed to help men and women, of all ages, work through the normal stages of grief with education and group support. The program stresses that grief is a journey, a natural and normal reaction to a significant loss in our lives. Education and support can ease our way on this journey.

The group is open to all members of the community regardless of religious affiliation.

Registration is required.

There is NO FEE for this program.



When survivors of sexual assault present to the hospital, their clothing is often taken for evidence. St. Francis Counseling Service, in collaboration with the Ocean County Sexual Assault Response Team, is accepting donations of **NEW** clothing items so survivors have clothes to go home in. This includes towels, washcloths, hair ties, women's yoga pants, t-shirts, underwear, sports bras, men's sweatpants, t-shirts, and boxer briefs in all sizes.

A link to our Amazon With List can be found at <https://a.co/1JR3Qcq> which is also linked on our Facebook. Donations will only be accepted by mail through Amazon or a similar retailer. We are not accepting donations in person due to COVID-19 restrictions.

All donations can be sent to:

St. Francis Community Center
ATTN: Delaney Cronin
4700 Long Beach Blvd.
Long Beach Township, NJ 08008

For questions please contact Delaney Cronin at (609) 494-1554 or dchronin@stfrancislbj.org. Thank you for your support!

Find our wish list here: <https://a.co/1JR3Qcq>

Self Help Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

AA HOTLINE (609) 494-5130

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

Employment Opportunity



Preschool Teacher and Teacher Assistant (Toddler & Preschool)

Seeking a person with a warm, nurturing, and friendly personality, be able to relate well with children and families. Be willing to fulfill his/her responsibilities in accordance with the Center's/ Children's Services Philosophy/Mission Statement. Prefer a background in early childhood education and/or experience working with children. Must be 18 or older. First Aid & CPR Certified and Bi-Lingual a plus.

Positions: Year-round- Full-time (with Benefits), Part-time, and substitute

Pay: Teacher Assistant- \$12.00/hr.
Preschool Teacher/Lead Teacher- \$13.00 w/ BA Degree in Early Childhood

Days: Monday-Friday

Counseling Services

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

Days: Monday through Friday (Some evening hours required)
Must complete 40-hour Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Training (provided free of charge by the agency). **Must have Current Professional License:** LSW, LAC, LPC or LCSW.

Recreation/Pool

Private Swim Lesson Instructors

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

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

Job Type: Part-time

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

Please send resumes to Amy Bodine
abodine@stfrancislbj.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

Amazon Smile - Fundraiser



You Shop...Amazon Gives!

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

It is the same products and the same great prices!

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

Amazon Smile:

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

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

Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



During these uncertain times, although we do not know when our exercise, socialization and recreation programs will resume, please keep in mind we are here for you.

We are still providing the following:

Information and Assistance
Telephone Reassurance Calls
Caregiver Assistance

Options Counseling:

Application Assistance for PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled), Meals on Wheels, SHIP Counseling (State Health Insurance Program), Energy Assistance, JACC (Jersey Assistance for Community Caregivers) and many more.

Please call (609) 978-6220 if you are in need of services.

Jersey Cares - Senior Shoppers Program

If you are 60 years or older and in need of food shopping services, you should know that the Ocean County Office of Senior Services and St. Francis Senior Services has partnered with a reputable nonprofit, Jersey Cares, to provide this service.

You can be assured your safety is our top priority and that all volunteers are fully vetted including background checks.

If you are interested in participating in this program please call St. Francis Senior Services at (609) 978-6220 or St. Francis Senior Services Berkeley Office at (732) 244-9600.

Did You Know??

St. Francis Senior Services Staff can fill out your PTR-1 and PTR-2 (Property tax rebate forms) while you wait and many other forms. Just one phone call can connect to you an array of services you may not be aware of. Friendly staff are here to help you with any questions you may have trying to navigate care for yourself or a care recipient. We are also here to help homebound elderly receive in home Covid-19 vaccines. Please call (609) 494-8861 or (609) 978-6220 for any assistance you may need.

Recreation & Aquatics

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

SAVE THE DATE:

Summer Aquatic & Recreation Class
registration begins on
Monday, **June 14** at 9:00 AM.

Three Month Pool Membership

Single only, \$160. Flat rate, no discounts.

Yearly Center Membership

Adults (ages 18 through 59), \$50.
Senior Citizens (60 & up), \$40.

Pickleball

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



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

in the Gymnasium

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

Passes available at the Front Desk
of the Community Center

Community Center Donations



St. Francis Center/LBICC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Our federal tax ID number is 22-2003458. We have provided supportive services to the community for over 45 years and with your help we will continue to do so. Our online donations are processed by *PayPal* so it's fast, easy and secure. We are only able to process online donations from NJ residents only.

If you would like to recognize a donation to the Center in someone's name, donation cards are available at the front desk of the Center and at the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Family Support Services

Food Pantry Hours:

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

Wednesday: 3:00 to 5:00 PM

By Appointment Only

St. Francis Human Concern Food Pantry is operating by appointment only. Food Pantry hours will remain Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM & Wednesday 3:00-5:00 PM. Please call (609) 494-8861 ext. 171 or 172 to schedule your appointment. Upon arrival for your appointment, you will be asked to park in a designated parking spot in the first row of parking spaces in front of the building. Please call when you arrive.

Pantry based text alerts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gift Cards to:

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

Donations for the Food Pantry can be left in the bins marked "donation" in the front of the Community Center.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry it can be made through our website:

<http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/donate> via PayPal. <https://a.co/00HTAhy>

or can be dropped off at the Community Center.

Parenting and Anger Management Groups

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



Auto Ownership Program

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

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

Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



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

www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org. We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. www.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 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM, 5 Days a Week

Full Day and Work Day

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

Vacation Club

June 21 through September 2, 2021
Ages 5 to 13 (must have completed Kindergarten)

Registration: May 3; 4:30PM

Online registration is not available.

Contact the Community Center at 609-494-8861 ext. 114

Or email

vacationclub@stfrancislbi.org

For more information

COVID-19 restrictions will be followed

Educational Services

For information call ext. 185.

St. Francis Adult Basic Education FREE Classes

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

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

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

Email: hometowntravel@comcast.net



Sightseeing Trips & Cruises



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

Painted Canyons of the West (featuring Utah's five National Parks) **October 3-11, 2021**

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

St. Francis Ireland with Father Kevin **October 21-29, 2021**

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

Join Father Steve in Iceland **February 1-6, 2022**

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

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

Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play **September 19-29, 2022**

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

Cont'd. in next column

HOME TOWN TRAVEL cont'd.

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

Thanksgiving Cruise - Anthem of the Seas (Round trip Cape Liberty, NJ) **November 21-28, 2021** Have a Royal Caribbean waiter carve your turkey instead of cooking it. Experience the tallest waterslide in North America or snap a photo 450 feet above the beach in CoCo Cay. Rates start at \$1,179 per person and include a \$50/cabin on board credit.

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

Community Bulletin Board

Maris Stella Retreat Center, Harvey Cedars, NJ

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

Presenter: Anita M. Constance, SC

Registration due: May 15

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

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet is now open by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

With a voucher and an appointment you can choose from: work attire, jackets & coats, everyday clothing, shoes and accessories! Vouchers are available at St. Francis Food Pantry, Churches, & Stafford Community Center. Call Madelyn at (609) 276-3308 to book an appointment.

Declaración de Capacidad

El Centro St. Francis reconoce una comunidad culturalmente diversa y hace un compromiso con los principios de multiculturalismo como un medio para entender, aceptar, valorar y apoyar la diversidad cultural. El término Multicultural se aplica ampliamente para incluir asuntos de minorías o estado de marginalización con respecto a raza, etnicidad, cultura, estado socioeconómico, uso del inglés como segundo idioma, género, orientación sexual, discapacidad, religión, espiritualidad y vejez. El Centro St. Francis propone desarrollar programas y prácticas que ayuden al personal, miembros de la junta directiva y voluntarios a reconocer, aceptar y afirmar las diferencias y similitudes entre la gente así como proveer servicios que apoyen e incluyan a todos los miembros de la comunidad.

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