

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 Maryann Barrek

"...when you see these things happening, know that he is near..."

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, November 13	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Joseph DiSpigno 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Eugene Patten +Mariano Veal	Wis. 18:14-16, 19:6-9; Lk. 18:1-8 Dn. 12:1-3; Heb. 10:11-14, 18; Mk. 13:24-32	10:00 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, November 14	7:15 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 8:30 AM +Lucille D'Amico +Jo Vennwald +Constantine DeMeo 10:00 AM +Marc Perugini +Rita McAndrew +Doug MacMarlane 11:30 AM +Eileen Guerrero	Dn. 12:1-3; Heb. 10:11-14, 18; Mk. 13:24-32	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Monday, November 15	9:00 AM +Patricia Forsythe +Ryan Sterling	1 Mc. 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk. 18:35-43	7:00 PM Reconciliation Talk, Grade 5 and Parents
Tuesday, November 16	9:00 AM +John T. "Jack" Miaskowski +James Frentzen	2 Mc. 6:18-31; Lk. 19:1-10	9:30 AM St. Anthony Novena 9:45 AM Adult Faith Formation/RCIA 5:30 PM 4 th Grade Parent/Child Session
Wednesday, November 17	9:00 AM +Elizabeth Connelly +Steven Robertson	2 Mc. 7:1, 20-31; Lk. 19:11-28	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, November 18	9:00 AM +Betty Ann Goodwin +Rita Neyer +Robert Carpenter	1 Mc. 2:15-29; Lk. 19:41-44	
Friday, November 19	9:00 AM +Kathryn Fiore +Ken Starrs	1 Mc. 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk. 19:45-48	
Saturday, November 20	9:00 AM +Margaret & Albert Virili +Thomas McGinn 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Nick Korcz	1 Mc. 6:1-13; Lk. 20:27-40 Dn. 7:13-14; Rv. 1:5-8; Jn. 18:33b-37	10:00 AM Contemplative Living, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, November 21	7:15 AM <i>Franciscan Mass League</i> 8:30 AM +Harold Russell +Jack Ross +Alvin Blazik 10:00 AM (L)+Stein & Kempinski Families +Rocco Scarlotta +Noel & Judy Sharkey 11:30 AM +Gustavo Acosta (L)+Cornerstone Sisters +Lucille D'Maio	Dn. 7:13-14; Rv. 1:5-8; Jn. 18:33b-37	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

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



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, 7:15, 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

A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Two Things

Hello good people. This weekend I only have two things that I would like to highlight.

As was announced at the Masses last weekend, if you would like to place a picture of a loved one who has died in our *Remembrance Memorial*, please feel free to do so. As a community of hope we remember in our prayer all of those who have died as we also pray for those who grieve their loss. Our *Remembrance Memorial* reminds us to pray for one another.

Next Sunday we bring the liturgical year to a close as we celebrate *The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*. That is why the readings at Mass for the past few weeks have focused on the “end times,” as in today’s readings we hear about the “days after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light.” It sounds scary and overwhelming, and at times it very much is. But, of course, as people of faith in the Resurrection we know that there is no darkness that can put out the light of Christ.

As we contemplate the “end times” we also remember that we too must look at our life in the context of our own death. At times that can be a daunting and sobering task. It is for that reason St. Paul reminded the community in Thessalonica, “let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.” (1 Thessalonians 5:6) We are a people of great faith that tells us that life is changed, not ended. Let us continue to live the hope of that faith as we walk with one another today and every day on our journey to the fullness of God’s Kingdom.

The other point of interest I would like to share with you is not nearly as important, yet, very relevant to our common worship. A few weeks ago I shared with you that we will be getting new speakers for the Brant Beach Church. I want to let you know that Michele Beck, our Director of Music, informed me that they are on back order. Our hope is they will be in by Christmas but we were told that it could also be January.

As we continue to adjust to the curve balls life throws at us we hold on to what is truly important. This month of November reminds us what is important, that even death has no power over us. We can wait for the speakers and will be grateful when they arrive.

Many blessings on you and your families, now and always.

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM
Pastor



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

We are coming back together after a long time apart due to COVID. Our first season back will be to prepare for Christmas Eve Mass. Since the season is short and there is much to do, make sure you can commit to the rehearsals and Christmas Eve Mass listed below.

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

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH CHOIR

Now accepting members 2nd grade through 12th grade. Rehearsals are at 5:30 PM in the Brant Beach Church
November 18, December 2, 9, 16 & 20

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

ST. FRANCIS ADULT CHOIR

Rehearsals are at 7:00 PM in the Brant Beach Church
November 18, December 2, 9, 16 & 20

Adult Choir will sing at the 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass



Eucharistic Minister Sign-up Sheets and Schedule Notice

The new sign-up sheets and completed schedule dates for the 2021-2022 Fall/Winter season beginning **November 27/28, 2021 through April 2/3, 2022** in our Brant Beach Church is as follows:

- **Blank Sign-up sheets** were emailed on **November 2, 2021** and placed in file box by BB sacristy door for those without computers.
- **Completed sign-up sheets** should have been emailed back to csulkowskifineart@gmail.com by Monday, **November 8, 2021**. If you can't email them, please return sign-up sheets in an envelope marked **Eucharistic Minister Parish Office**. Please make sure your name is on all pages. They can be mailed or returned to the front desk or parish office.
- **Completed Schedules** will be emailed to you by **November 15, 2021** and there will also be copies in file box by BB sacristy door for those without computers.

Please call JoAnne Reeder at the Parish Office [609-494-8813 ext. 164] if you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister.

Thanks and God bless you for your ministry.
Peace and all good!

Weekly Reflections...



Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM, Pastoral Associate

This week is the old Christ the King Sunday. But I'm looking ahead to advent! That's next weekend.

One of our family memories and traditions was preparing for Christmas with a live tree. My father was an engineer and believed in a live Christmas tree for safety. This was a major production involving all our parents and children. First Dad had to pick a spot, using a yard plan and slider ruler. Then my brother Matt and I would dig a hole. The ground was not yet frozen. We then put the unfrozen dirt in a wheel barrel and put that into the heated garage. We covered the other hole up with a plywood board which would eventually be covered with snow by Christmas. We brought the tree up the stairs into the house. Children in front pulling and children in back pushing the tree. It reminded me of building the pyramids.

Next my oldest sister supervised the tree trimming. Matt and I were fired because we did not do a good enough job. Finally we had to water the live tree every day.

Lights, camera, action! The Gang did a really good job by the way.

Christmas would come and my mother would say. "enough with the tree already." Take it out to the garden. We planted the tree first by putting peat moss in the hole, then the tree with all its roots, next the warm dirt from the heated garage. In all the years we did this Christmas tradition we only lost one tree. Amazing!

This reminds me of Christmas joy and family. Everyone involved working together to celebrate a new birth and a new beginning.

Christmas was the beginning of a new relationship, incarnation and Emanuel "God among us".

Sad to say, I'm still terrible at decorating the Christmas tree but it is a group project. Many hands, different ideas and ways of doing things. Unity is the key word in these times of confusion. My prayer is that I do not forget to be tolerant of others not agreeing with me. Unity is the key to a faith community.

Happy pre Advent celebration.

Fr. Kevin Daly, ofm

GOSPEL CHALLENGE:

"Learn the lesson...when you see these things happening, know that it is near."

Jesus tells us that he is with us in good and bad times. He will never abandon us.

How do I perceive the presence of Jesus in my life...especially in troubled times?



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.

Faith Faith: For children ages six 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

Appeals Box

Second Collection Today:

Gift of Warmth

Help us give the "Gift of Warmth" to children this holiday season.

Last Week's 2nd Collection

Parish & Center Administration Expenses

Collected: \$10,462

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$23,000

Last Week's Collection

Budgeted: \$19,750.50

Collected: \$23,000



(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

** Thank you for your generosity! **



St. Francis of Assisi Parish Online Giving!

stfrancisparishlbi.org

2021 Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: **\$100,000.00**

Gift Count: **413**

Donors: **302**

Raised: **\$63,035.00**

Collected: **\$60,832.84**

Pledge Balance: **\$ 1,697.16**



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.

Support St. Francis Community Center When you shop amazon.com!

Your favorite online retailer just got better!
Amazon will donate 0.05% of the profits from your order to help support the Center simply by signing-up for the Amazon Smile program!
<http://smile.amazon>

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



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

The Adult Faith Enrichment group invites you to watch the movie **BABETTE'S FEAST Part 2** as a way to prepare for Thanksgiving.

Part 1 will be shown on **Tuesday, November 16th** at 9:45 in the morning in the Senior Lunch room.

Family Faith

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

jclayton@stfrancislbi.org

Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



Classes for all grades 1-8 are under way.

The schedule for our next parent and child sessions are as follows:

Grade 4 - November 16

Grade 6 - November 30

These dates are 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Grade 7 - November 1

Grade 8 - November 29 - Confirmation Encounter 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Grade 5 - and any additional candidates -

First Reconciliation talk for parent and children receiving Reconciliation for the first time will be November 15 - 7:00 PM in the Brant Beach church.

Contact Marion Pierri at mpierri@stfrancislbi.org or (609) 494-8813 ext. 177 for more information on the tuition process.

New families to our programs should contact our Director, Judy Clayton at jclayton@stfrancislbi.org or (609) 494-8813 ext. 153.

The Rosary Project



St. Francis Parish Women's Cornerstone

ladies are now collecting gently used rosaries to clean and re-package and send to hospital patients. Please place your donation of used rosaries in the collection basket in the lobby of the Brant Beach Church and we thank you!

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 Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction

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

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

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

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

Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,

Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917

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. We will continue meeting by *zoom* on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM for Centering Prayer and Lectio along with resuming our in-person sessions with presentations on the 2nd Saturday from 9:45 AM to noon. Email Kathy Egan for more information

at: klegan.chaplain@gmail.com

Next scheduled sessions: **November 13, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lounge**

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 or Father Steve to reserve your place.

Next scheduled meeting: **December 18, 10:00 AM, Sr.**

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Book Club

Now through November 2021 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. We will be reading "*Behold the Dreamers*" by Imbolo Mbue.

Next scheduled meeting: **November 30, Sr. Lunch Room**

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Tuesday, **December 7, 7:00 PM**, St. Thomas Church, Surf City

Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **December 5, 12:30 PM**, Brant Beach Church. *Fraternity Meeting.*

Scripture Study

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

Next scheduled meeting: **December 1, 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, ofs at (609) 494-8813 for more information.

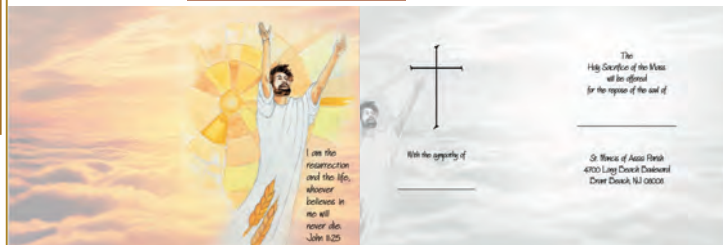
Next scheduled meeting: **December 9, Room 212**

We now have new updated
Welcome & Mass Cards available
at the Parish Office.

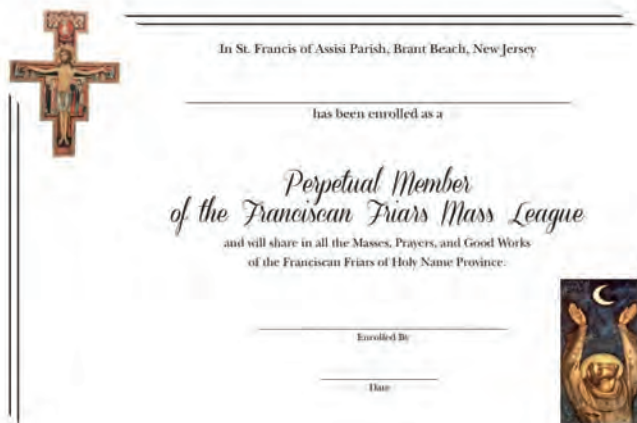
New Welcome to St. Francis Parish Card



New Mass Card



Perpetual Member of the Franciscan Friars Mass League



Employment Opportunity



Children's Services Toddler Room Teacher

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 experience working with Toddlers (13 months-2 years of age). First Aid & CPR Certified and Bi-Lingual a plus.

Position: Year-round, Full-time

Hours/Pay: \$13.00 w/ BA Degree in Early Childhood

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: \$12.00 per hour

Days: Monday-Friday

Counseling Services

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

Days: Monday through Friday (Some evening hours required)

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

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

Front Desk

The Front Desk is seeking an afternoon/evenings and weekend receptionist. Applicants must have experience with customer service, answering telephones, and basic computer software knowledge. Bilingual (Fluent English/Spanish) is a plus. Applicants must be able to lift at least 40 pounds.

Position: Year round part-time

Day/Hours: Approximately 15 to 26 hours per week, including some weekends.

Pay: \$12 per hour

Recreation/Pool

Position: Year-round Part-time Lifeguard for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. MUST currently possess Red Cross pool lifeguard certification, CPR/AED and First Aid Certification.

Days: Monday-Friday, and/or weekend – Daytime shift coverage needed.

Pay: \$12 per hour

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. Case worker will be required to travel throughout Ocean County for home visits and to provide transportation to clients.

Days: Monday-Friday

Pay: starting \$15 per hour (depending on experience)

****Background check and fingerprinting required for all positions.**
****All full-time positions are offered benefits including Health Care, Paid time off, life insurance, 403B (retirement plan) with company match, and more.**
**** Part-time positions are offered paid sick time and employee discounts.**

Please send resumes to
abodine@stfrancislbj.org
St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Francis Community Center
4700 Long Beach Blvd.
Long Beach Twp., NJ, 08008
609-494-8861
www.stfranciscenterlbi.com

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

"HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTS HERE!"

SATURDAY **SUNDAY**
NOV. 20TH & **NOV. 21ST**
9:30AM-4:30PM **9:30AM-2:00PM**

ADMISSION \$2

IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER GYMNASIUM
CHANCE AUCTION

4TH ANNUAL BEEFSTEAK DINNER

DECEMBER 3, 2021
SEATING BEGINS AT 5:30PM DINNER SERVED AT 6:15

\$40
BYOB & A CANNED FOOD ITEM

ALL YOU CAN EAT
FILET MIGNON

SALAD DESSERT

50/50 SILENT AUCTION

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
4200 Long Beach Blvd.
Long Beach Twp., NJ 08008

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.

Co-Ed Recreation Basketball League

(2nd - 8th grade; ages 7 - 14)

**Registration thru
December 3rd at 5:00 PM**



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.

MEDICARE PART D OPEN ENROLLMENT:

St. Francis Senior Services staff are trained State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselors for assistance in Medicare A, B, C or D information. Do you know the difference? Medicare A primarily pays for a stay in the hospital, or a skilled nursing facility, B is for doctor's services and outpatient services such as lab tests, C pays for the Medicare Advantage or managed care alternative to traditional Medicare and D of course is the prescription drug plan.

Soon Medicare beneficiaries will once again need to make a decision about their prescription drug coverage. Medicare Part D open enrollment period **runs through December 7th**. During this time, people with Medicare can sign up for a prescription drug plan or switch their current Medicare Part D plan in order to have the best coverage beginning January of 2020. And yes, it's best to check each year for changes. Open enrollment is also the perfect time to review your Medicare Advantage plan with a SHIP Counselor to be notified of any changes. What if you cannot afford a Medicare Part D plan? There is federal assistance available for people with Medicare who have limited income and resources. If you qualify, you can receive assistance with premiums, deductibles and prescription co-payments. For an appointment please call (609) 978-6221. We have 3 locations to serve you; LBI, Manahawkin and Berkeley.

Please be advised
we can no longer take donations
of durable medical equipment
or adult undergarments;
we do not have the space
to store them.

Thank you, Sr. 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.

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 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, 5 Days a Week
Full Day and Work Day

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

Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

Services are currently being offered via telephone or various online platforms. We have openings for new clients at this time. Please call (609) 494-1554.

Cultural Competency Statement

The St. Francis Center recognizes a culturally diverse community and makes a commitment to the principles of multiculturalism as a means of understanding, accepting, valuing, and supporting cultural diversity. The term Multicultural is applied broadly to include issues of minority or marginalized status as it relates to race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, use of English as a second language, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, spirituality, and the elderly. The St. Francis Center proposes to develop programs and practices that assist staff, board members, and volunteers to recognize, accept, and affirm differences and similarities among people and provide services that are supportive and inclusive of all members of the community.

ST FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER

Available Funding

Utility Assistance for Ocean County Residents

St. Francis Community Center has funding available through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) grant to assist community members with electric and gas bills.

To find out your eligibility, contact us at
(609) 494-8861 ext 197

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 PayPal.

Family Support Services:

To learn more about our programs visit our website at <http://stfranciscenterlbi.org>

- Parenting & Anger Management Groups
- Auto Ownership
- Parents As Teachers
- Maintaining the Integrity of Spanish Speaking Families

Did You Know??

Did you know that the **Family Support Department** offers Parenting classes? Parenting, Parenting in Recovery and Anger Management Groups are offered for residents of Ocean County. Parenting groups are grant funded and offered to clients free of charge. Parenting Groups focus on Child Development, appropriate discipline, parent coping skills, parenting styles and more. Anger Management is a fee for service group to help clients learn about their anger, develop appropriate coping skills, problem solve, learn appropriate communication skills and more. All groups are currently being offered in-person in Manahawkin and Toms River. To register please call 609-494-8861 ext. 197.

Community Bulletin Board

Interfaith Health and Support Services

Employment Opportunity

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