

# 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 Canva.com*

*“Come let us go up to the Lord’s mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob” (Is. 2:3)*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, November 26	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Ken Starrs 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Agnes P. Thackston +Lynne Cowper	Rv. 22:1-7; Lk. 21:34-36 Is. 2:1-5; Rom. 13:11-14; Mt. 24:37-44	
Sunday, November 27	<b><i>1st Sunday of Advent</i></b> 8:30 AM +Walter & Anna Karch +Lou Lattanzi 10:00 AM +Daniel Knode +Richard Heuser +Michael McGurkin 11:30 AM +Jeffrey Richards	Is. 2:1-5; Rom. 13:11-14; Mt. 24:37-44	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a>
Monday, November 28	9:00 AM +James M. Kempfski	Is. 4:2-6; Mt. 8:5-11	1:30 PM Book Club, Sr. Lunch Room
Tuesday, November 29	9:00 AM +Kathleen Barndt +James Moretti +Judy Gail Marks	Sir. 44:1, 10-15; Mk. 10:17-21	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena
Wednesday, November 30	9:00 AM +Raymond Kilgallen	Rom. 10:9-18; Mt. 4:18-22	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 3:00 PM Scripture Study, Sr. Kate Room
Thursday, December 1	9:00 AM +Alfred Leinhausner +Donald C. Keating	Is. 26:1-6; Mt. 7:21, 24-27	
Friday, December 2	9:00 AM +Donna Knode	Is. 29:17-24; Mt. 9:27-31	10:00 AM Knit/Crochet, Family Faith Office
Saturday, December 3	9:00 AM (L)+Graiff Family 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Donald C. & Henrietta Keating +Bert Stahlberg	Is. 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt. 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9; Mt. 3:1-12	10:00 AM Communal Penance with Individual Reconciliation
Sunday, December 4	8:30 AM +Judy Drake +Thomas McClean 10:00 AM +John V. Raftery +Dr. Richard & Mrs. Anne Gove +Tony Centofanti 11:30 AM +Mary Santoro	Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9; Mt. 3:1-12	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a> 12:30 PM Order of Franciscan Secular, OFS, Christmas Luncheon

### Mass Schedule **CHANGE** November 26/27 through March 25/26, 2023

**St. Francis of Assisi, Brant Beach**  
9:00 AM Daily Mass  
Reconciliation: 3:30-4:30 PM  
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM  
**Live-Streaming Mass - Sundays 10:00 AM**  
[www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi)

**St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City - CLOSED**  
**St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - CLOSED**  
**St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED**

**Embrace Our Way of Life**  
THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF HOLY NAME PROVINCE  
Franciscan Vocation Ministry  
Br. Basil Valente, OFM  
129 West 31st Street, 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10001-3403  
1-800-677-7788 [www.BeAFranciscan.org](http://www.BeAFranciscan.org)



### Emergency Information

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

#### Read our bulletin online at

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



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



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

**Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia, PA**

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

**St. Francis is a sending Parish to St. Mary Academy**  
(609) 597-3800 or visit: [www.stmaryknights.org](http://www.stmaryknights.org)

## A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,  
Pastor

Letter from the Pastor  
*First Week of Advent*  
November 27, 2022

### Beginning Again

St. Bonaventure writes toward the end of his biography of St. Francis that St. Francis would tell the other friars, *“Let us begin again, brothers, for up until now we have done very little.”* It is an odd saying. I know some friars who are not too keen on the expression, but I like it. Well, let us say, I like the first half of the phrase better. Sometimes it is good to begin again; to hit the reset button and start over. It might give us a chance to correct some of the mistakes we have made or it might offer us an opportunity to try something new. I have not met anyone who likes being in a rut.

With the First Week of Advent, we get to start over again. For the past month or so, our readings have been very apocalyptic. They were dark thoughts of the “end times.” It does make sense as we are heading into the darkest time of the year [at least in the northern hemisphere.] With the beginning of Advent, the start of a new Liturgical year, we focus on the approaching light in the darkness, the coming of the Christ - the light that no darkness can quench.

As you heard last weekend from the state of the parish, our parish is in good shape and heading in the right direction. We do have some work to do, but that is why it is good to begin again.

I would like to thank you again for all of your support and encouragement. Thank you for your faithfulness and thank you for your goodness. With God’s grace, and our cooperation, the Light on Long Beach Island will always be here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

May this Advent season be a blessing to you and your family as we continue to await the Light of the World!

Peace and All Good!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM  
Pastor

## Parish Information - (609) 494-8813

**Emergency Information:** Available on our answering machine (609) 494-8861 and on the following website: [schoolclosingsnj.com](http://schoolclosingsnj.com) and [facebook.com/stfrancisparishbi](https://facebook.com/stfrancisparishbi).

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

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

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

**Family Faith:** For children in grades one through eight. Please call Judith Clayton at (609) 494-8813 ext. 153 for more information.

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

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

### Parish Staff

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

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Franciscan Faith Community of *Holy Name Province* in the Diocese of Trenton. Find out more about Holy Name Province online at: [www.hnp.org](http://www.hnp.org)

## Appeals Box

### Second Collection:

#### Parish Ministry - Family Faith Formation

This collection helps the Family Faith Formation Department in their mission to teach the faith and prepare our children for celebration of the sacraments. Thank you for helping the children of our parish live their faith.

*Due to an early publishing deadline for the Thanksgiving holiday, collection totals will be published in the next bulletin.*



(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



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

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2022

What does **LOVE** have to do with it... *everything!*

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: **\$48,983.00** (49% of Goal)

Total Collected: **\$48,190.00** (48% of Goal)

Total Donors: **198**

Total Gifts: **219**

Average Gift: **\$223.67**

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

## Praying the Rosary

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



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

Maryann Barrek, ofs (609) 661-4441

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

Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,

Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917

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

## An Invitation to Contemplative Living

Our times together invite us into prayerful reading and discussion of Scripture or other spiritual writing through Lectio Divina or "Divine Reading" and a period of silent prayer. In these experiences we support each other in our prayer and faith. We meet by *Zoom* on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM - write Kathy Egan ([klegan.chaplain@gmail.com](mailto:klegan.chaplain@gmail.com)) for the link.

On the second Saturday of the month we meet in person in the Senior Lounge of the Community Center at 9:45 AM when we also have a presentation. We always welcome new folks to join us!

Next **zoom** session - **December 7** and **December 10**

## 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 Fran to reserve your place.

Next scheduled meeting: **December 17, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room**

## 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. *All The Frequent Troubles* by Rebecca Donner. Next meeting Tuesday, **November 28**, 1:30 PM, Sr. Lunch Room.

### Knitting & Crocheting Circle

Meets **weekly on Fridays**, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, in the Family Faith Office. For more information please contact Fr. Scott at (609) 494-8813.

Next meeting Friday, **December 2**, 10:00 AM, Family Faith Office

### Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **December 4**, 12:30 PM *Advent Reflection, Christmas Luncheon, Assemble Christmas Baskets*, Brant Beach Church Hall.

### Scripture Study

Meets **Bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, at 3:00 PM to learn, discuss and reflect on passages of the Sacred Scriptures. Call Tom Troyano at (732) 261-4721 or email: [tomtroyano@comcast.net](mailto:tomtroyano@comcast.net) for more information. Next meeting Wednesday **November 30**, 3:00 PM, Sr. Kate Meeting Rm.

### Survivors of Suicide

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

## St. Francis Liturgical Community

### Family Faith

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

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

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



Family Faith classes are off to a wonderful start.

September class gave parents and children the opportunity to meet and greet each other and their catechist. St. Francis of Assisi was celebrated in all classes. The October class was devoted to the Blessed Mother. Some families made small rosaries, our younger children read a specially prepared book about Mary. Miraculous medals were given to everyone.

Our November class will prepare the families for the Advent season. The Children's Christmas Pageant will be on **December 11<sup>th</sup>** in the Brant Beach Church at 2:00 pm. The children in grades 1-5 will be the pageant characters and the older students will narrate the story of the Birth of Jesus. Permission slips will be distributed during November classes. Everyone is invited to participate/attend.

The Family Faith program consists of Catechists as facilitator with families as participants. We are in a ministry designed to build up the Church in the parish and beyond to the greater world. Our work flows from and to the Eucharist and the life of the parish.

For disciples of Jesus, engaging in the Works of Mercy where love of neighbor can be experienced up-close. We offer the following suggestions:

- **Feed the hungry** – support and volunteer for food pantries, soup kitchens and agencies that feed the hungry.
- **Shelter the homeless** – help neighbors care for their homes and do repairs, support and/or volunteer at a homeless shelter, support and/or volunteer for charitable agencies who care for the homeless.
- **Clothe the naked** – Go through your drawers and closets and find good condition clothes and shoes to donate to agencies that provide assistance for those in need.
- **Visit the sick** – spend quality time with those who are sick or homebound. Take the time to call or send a card or an e-mail to someone who is sick.
- **Visit the imprisoned** – support and/or participate in ministries to those who are incarcerated.
- **Give to those who have been made poor.** Throw your coin change into a jar and periodically donate it to a charity.
- **Bury the dead** – be faithful about attending wakes and visitations; support or volunteer at a hospice; participate in a bereavement ministry.

### Gospel Inspirations:

*“...stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”*

The gospel reminds us to be open to God's unexpected ways in our lives.

*Emmanuel is near. Listen for Him.*



Our annual **Christmas Flower Fund drive** is now underway.

You may memorialize or honor a family member or friend by making a donation toward the Christmas and Advent Flowers and art and environment items. The names of those memorialized or honored will be published during the Christmas season.

Please use the Christmas Flower Envelopes that were mailed to your home, or you can go online to:

[stfrancisparishlbj.org/christmasflowerfund](http://stfrancisparishlbj.org/christmasflowerfund)



\*\*\*\*\*  
Suggested donations:

**\$50.00**

*Wreaths, Garland, and Large Poinsettias*

**\$100.00**

*Sanctuary Christmas Trees and manger trees for the outside display*

All other donations are appreciated. The Arts & Environment team of St. Francis Parish is grateful for your generosity.

### Advent Liturgies and Services 2022

**Weekend Mass Schedules - Brant Beach Church**  
Saturdays – 5:00PM  
Sundays – 8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30am

**First Sunday of Advent November 26/27<sup>th</sup>**

**Please visit the St. Francis Website or Facebook for An Advent Wreath Blessing for the Home.**

**Advent Communal Reconciliation with Individual Confession Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00AM**

### Bible Talks After Mass

**Wednesday, December 14**  
After 9:00 AM Mass

**“Infancy Narratives in Matthew's Gospel”**

Tom Troyano will be doing a brief explanation of the **Infancy Narratives in Matthew's Gospel** after the 9:00 AM Mass.



## Employment Opportunity

\*Full-time positions are offered Health Care, Paid time off (with additional earning for years of service), 15 Paid Holidays, Life Insurance, 403B (retirement plan) w/ company match, & more.

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



### Community Center

#### Counseling Services

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

**Days:** Monday through Friday (Some evening hours required)

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

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

### Parish

**Position:** *Director of Parish Development*, Full time position

This position is responsible for planning, organizing, administering, and evaluating the fund raising initiatives and special events for the St. Francis Parish. Prefer a bachelor's degree and experience in management and fundraising.

Applicants should have good communication skills and computer skills including, Microsoft Office, website management, and the ability to manage multiple social media pages. Applicants must be able to lift 30lbs and have a valid Driver's License. Attendance at Sunday liturgies and Holy days is encouraged.

**Days/Hours:** Monday- Friday, with attendance at Evening/ weekend events required

**Position:** *Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry*, Full time position.

Previous experience as a volunteer or intern providing services in a parish youth ministry program preferred. Responsible for reaching out to our parish young adults and to our post confirmation young people to create a vibrant, inspiring, and relevant faith based program that will foster spiritual and faith based growth. Responsible for recruiting volunteers, coordinating outreach service projects and participating in other parish activities. Must be capable of administrative tasks such as developing and managing the program's budget. Must have excellent communication and leadership skills, and must be an active and participating Catholic.

Bachelor's degree required- Theology or Religious Studies or related field

**Days:** Monday-Friday with some evenings and weekends required

\*\*Background check & fingerprinting required for all employees 18 yrs. & older.

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

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

## Did You Know??

Throughout the course of the year the Center and Parish host MANY events! Some, like the Festival of the Sea and the 18 Mile Run are classics which many of you look forward to each year, others like our Swimming Under the Stars and Open Houses are quickly gaining notoriety and ascending to the top of fun things to do over the summer. This past year we celebrated 50 years of service and we wanted to extend a warm thank you to all who came out and supported us! While the year may be winding down, our list of fun continues to grow. Our annual Christmas Craft Show kicks off the Holiday season the weekend before Thanksgiving which then brings us to our Beefsteak Dinner and Dakota and Elle Christmas Concert in the beginning of December. Tickets to our December events can all be purchased at the Front Desk and online! As always, the funds received from these events go to supporting the many services and programs the Center and Parish offer.

## GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 19—29, 2023

VISITING: ATHENS \* CORINTH \* MYKONOS \* EPHEBUS  
PATMOS \* SANTORINI \* DELPHI \* KALAMBAKA \* THESSALONIKI  
Including a 3-Day Cruise to the Greek Isles & Turkey



Hosted by

FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM

\$3899 FROM NEW YORK\*

\*Air/land tour price is \$3379 plus \$520 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact:

Fr. Andrew Reitz

Tel: (917) 275-5593

Email: [areitz@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:areitz@stfrancislbj.org)

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!



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

**ST. FRANCIS YOUTH CHOIR SINGS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!**

Now accepting members 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.  
Rehearsals are at 5:30 PM in the Brant Beach Church

**DECEMBER 1, 8, 15 & 22**

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

If you are interested in joining us, please contact  
MICHELE BECK at [mbeck@stfrancislbj.org](mailto:mbeck@stfrancislbj.org)

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Order of Franciscan Secular



**Bus Trip to Tropicana**  
**Classic Hits & Holiday Show**  
**Motown, Pop, Rock & Doo Wop**  
**Featuring "Modern Gentlemen"**



**Thursday, December 1, 2022**  
**\$125**

includes: bus, show, \$25 slot credit, bus driver tip.  
 Bus will pickup:

8:45 AM St. Francis north side parking lot  
 9:15 AM Walmart parking lot (Garden Center).

[ Return: 6:00 PM to Walmart; 6:30 PM St. Francis ]

Make checks payable to OFS for \$125.

Mail to: Cheryl Krzaczyk, ofs, 111 E 12th St., Ship Bottom,  
 New Jersey 08008-4519

Email [chumsley@comcast.net](mailto:chumsley@comcast.net) Cell number 609-661-5229

*Benefits Apostolates of the Secular Franciscans*



**Save  
the  
Date!**

## Beefsteak Dinner

**Friday, December 2, 2022**

**\$40**

Dave Sodano Entertains

**50/50 Prize Auction Cork draw**

**BYOB and a Food Bank Item**

Doors open at 5:45 PM; Dinner at 6:15 PM

Groups of 6 or more can save a table  
 Tickets now available to purchase at the  
 Front Desk and online

## Dakota & Elle Christmas Concert

**Friday, December 9**

**7:00 PM**

**St. Francis Church Hall**

**\$30 / Person**



A 50th Anniversary Christmas Concert!  
 Enjoy music from the tenor / soprano duo  
 Dakota and Elle while they perform sacred  
 and classical Christmas music. Wine and  
 cheese to be served during intermission  
 with a meet and greet.

Seating is first come first served.

Tickets on sale now at the Front Desk.

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER & PARISH

4700 LONG BEACH BLVD. LONG BEACH TWP, NJ 08008 609-494-8861



**ANNIVERSARY 50<sup>th</sup>**  
**PROGRESSIVE 50/50**



Please make your check payable to St. Francis Parish  
 & Center and indicate "50th Anniversary Progressive  
 50/50" on the envelope /No phone purchases  
 permitted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be on our mailing list? Yes / No

# of Books Requested (\$10 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Support Services

Human Concerns Food Pantry Hours:

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

*Walk-ins are welcome!*

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

*\*Spanish-speaking staff is available to translate.*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Donations needed for the Food Pantry:

**Canned Vegetables & Soup, Canned Chicken, Canned Baked Beans, Oatmeal, Cereal, Jarred Tomato Sauce, Hamburger Helper, Crackers & Snacks, Coffee/Tea Shampoo, Soap/Body Wash, Toilet Paper, Laundry 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**

## Recreation & Aquatics

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

**SESSION III  
REGISTRATION  
DECEMBER 12  
9:00 AM**



**Tennis Fundamentals**  
**Mondays, January 9 - March 6**  
**Ages 5-8; 5:00-6:00 PM**  
**Ages 9-12; 4:00-5:00 PM**  
**in the Gym**

## Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



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

The LBI Health Department is doing  
**Blood Pressure Screenings**  
the **second Tuesday of each Month**  
**from 11:00 am - 11:30 am**  
in the Community Center Senior Lounge.  
Please call 609-494-8861 ext. 111  
for more information.



## Employment & Career Services

For information call ext. 407.

- **Adult Education Program**
- **First Step to Self Sufficiency**
- **Next Step to Employment**

*All participants must be verified for eligibility through the Ocean County PIC Office. Programs funded through a grant provided by the Ocean County Department of Human Services. For additional information call: (732) 281-8653*

## Children's Services

For information call ext. 114.



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

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

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

**Year-round Childcare for Children  
TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**Available Care 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, 5 Days a Week**

*Full Day and Work Day*

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



## Counseling Service by appointment (609) 494-1554

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

St. Francis Counseling Service is currently accepting participants for our next round of group services **beginning in January!**

Our available groups will be the following:

**Parenting After** – A group for parents who are learning to navigate parenting after a child has experienced sexual violence.

**Surviving to Thriving** – Guidance and skills building for survivors of sexual violence.

**Journey Through Grief** – Education and support for adults that are working through the stages of grief.

All groups are **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** to residents of Ocean County, NJ.

In addition to these groups we continue to provide many other counseling services including individual, couples, and family therapy services with in-person and virtual options.

For more information or to enroll in a service, please contact us at 609-494-1554.

## Community Bulletin Board

### Francis House of Prayer

84 Walnford Rd., Allentown, NJ 08501

#### ADVENT – ONE DAY AT A TIME

Tuesday, **November 29**, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Advent is the beginning of a new Church year. But we aren't promised a whole year, are we? Each day is given to us – singly – as a gift. So, each day it's important to listen to what God is saying and to pay attention to what God is doing. The quiet of Advent – the stillness of hunkering down for an imminent winter – are the perfect conditions for listening and focusing. Let us go forth together one day at a time on our Advent journey to Jesus. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom \$20

#### ZOOM ONLY

#### TRINITY MEANS RELATIONSHIP

Wednesday, **November 30**, 9:30 AM – Noon

Come and explore together how the Holy Trinity is grounded in relationships. Richard Rohr is our guide as we reflect on portions of his book, *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* and his daily meditations which will help us understand how "God is the dance and...we're all invited in." Donation: \$20

#### DRAWN INTO LOVE:

#### THE WRITINGS OF ST. CHARLES de FOUCAULD

Friday, **December 2**, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Let the writings and life of St. Charles de Foucauld, canonized on May 15, 2022, draw you into passion and love for Jesus. The message of his life was simple: love Jesus, stay close to Jesus and love everyone as brothers & sisters. *Charles de Foucauld (Modern Spiritual Masters): Writings* will be used for reflection. Led by Jill Snyder. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom \$20

### Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet distributes free clothing to women in need at 25 Pine Street in Manahawkin. Our hours are every **Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM** and the **first and third Wednesdays of the month from 4:00 to 6:00 PM**. Vouchers are available at the food pantry and at the door. We are accepting donations of Fall and Winter clothing at this time.

## St. Francis Travel

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

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

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



## Sightseeing Trips & Cruises



**May 14-23, 2023**

### British Landscapes Featuring England, Scotland and Wales

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

**October 11-19, 2023**

### Egypt and Nile Cruise

Have you always wanted to take a camel ride by the Pyramids or a hot air balloon ride over the Nile while cruising these ancient ports? Spend two nights in Cairo visiting the National Museum, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the enigmatic Sphinx along with a camel ride. Visit Old Cairo. Fly to Luxor and board the H/S Nebu for a four night Nile cruise visiting Karnak and Luxor Temple, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut, Edfu, Kom Ombo and more. Breakfast daily and full board while cruising. Rate per person double occupancy is at \$3,988.00. Airfare pricing will be available in January.

**November 2-12, 2023**

### 10 night Ultimate Southern Caribbean Cruise Celebrity Reflection

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

## Fundraiser for St. Francis Community Center!

We now have blue Recycle America bins located:

**St. Francis Community Center**

4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church**

2<sup>nd</sup> & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

**St. Clare Church**

56 St. & Long Beach Blvd., Loveladies



These bins can be filled with clothes, purses, shoes, bedding and pillows. Recycle America will collect the items and redistribute them to those in need. In turn, this is a Fundraising opportunity for us – we receive a percentage of every pound collected.