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



Photo by Canva.com

"Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home." (Mt. 1:20)

St. Francis of Assisi, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach, NJ					
DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS		
Saturday, December 17	(L) Living +Deceased 9:00 AM +John Cahill 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Frantisek "Frank" Porubsky +Heather Egan Puig	Gn. 49:2, 8-10; Mt. 1:1-17 Is. 7:10-14; Rom. 1:1-7; Mt. 1:18-24	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm.		
Sunday, December 18	8:30 AM +Genevieve Kaczynski 10:00 AM +Jack Maher +Emma, Sal & Vincent Ferraro +Jim Morrison 11:30 AM +Katherine "Karen" Grundy	Is. 7:10-14; Rom. 1:1-7; Mt. 1:18-24	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi		
Monday, December 19	9:00 AM +Mary Karch +Louise Sorranno	Jgs. 13:2-7; Lk. 1:5-25			
Tuesday, December 20	9:00 AM +Elizabeth Polifroni	Is. 7:10-14; Lk. 1:26-38	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena		
Wednesday, December 21	9:00 AM +Linda Coughlin	Sg. 2:8-14; Lk. 1:39-45	2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament		
Thursday, December 22	9:00 AM +Frank Braun +Patrick Harrington +Maureen Butler	1 Sm. 1:24-28; Lk. 1:46-56			
Friday, December 23	9:00 AM +James W. Forsythe, Sr.	Mal. 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk. 1:57-66	10:00 AM Knit/Crochet, Family Faith Office		
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve 4:00 PM +Richard Cortellino +Mary English +John J. Connelly +Bernard McConnell 6:00 PM +Eugene & Lucille D'Amico +David & Kathleen Barndt +Anne Armstrong, ofs +Gustavo Acosta +Edward W. Shanley +John & Rosa Primerano +Judith & Joseph Filoon +Pasquale Valentini +Jane & George Holland +Rosemary Harrity	Is. 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt.1:1-25			
Sunday, December 25	Christmas 10:00 AM (L)+Stein & Kenpski Families +Henry Scala (L)+Amergael Members +Betty Ann Defusco +Belinda Caputo +Bruce Brodbeck	Is. 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt.1:1-25	10:00 AM Live-Streaming Mass www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi		

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS			
Saturday, December 24	(L) Living +Deceased Christmas Eve 4:00 PM +Leona & Bill Davies			

Emergency Information

1. Call the main office (609) 494-8861. There will be a recording.

2. Check Facebook www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi St Francis of Assisi Parish for updates.

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

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

A Letter From The Pastor...





Parish Council

When a pastor is transferred, the sitting parish council ceases. It is then up to the new pastor to form a new council. The formation of the

new parish council has been in the top 5 of my "To-Do" list since I arrived. There were a few things keeping me from doing that but the time has come. I knew I needed time to get to

know the parish community again before creating a new council. Although I was very familiar with the life and spirit of the parish, my memories were 20 years old. Now, I have a better understanding of the community as it is today. I have gotten to know you and you have gotten to know me.

When I arrived in September 2020 Covid was in full swing and the general rhythm of the parish was not. At this point, we seem to be adjusting to the "new normal" of living with Covid. Related with that, the parish life does seem to be finding its stride once again. Another concern I had when I first arrived was the financial situation of the parish. It too was greatly affected by Covid, but, truth be told, the financial issues of the parish had deeper roots than the pandemic. As reported in the 2022 Annual State of the Parish Report, the parish finance council and I have confidence that the two-pronged approach will move us closer to creating a fiscally sustainable future. This includes engaging the parish in a Stewardship program in the spring of 2023 and creating the first ever endowment for the parish from the sale of some of our properties.

As a consultative body, it is my hope that the parish council will help our community come to understand and live-out the pastoral mission of the parish. It would not get into the daily running of the parish but would take the larger and long-term perspective of our church community.

Our parish has a long and fruitful history but we know we cannot simply rely on what worked in the past. The world has changed and I believe our mode of evangelization must also change.

We all firmly believe that the message does not change: God is with us; God's mercy is without end; and God continues to call all of us to find true joy and the fullness of life in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The task of the parish council is to help me and the pastoral staff to create a vision and pastoral plan for the parish. We will look at the reality of the world today and specifically our reality here on Long Beach Island and beyond as we ask the deeper questions of how best we can spread the Good News.

Stay tuned. After the New Year, I will begin the process of calling forth a new parish council so we can begin a new chapter for St. Francis of Assisi Parish & Center.

Peace and All Good!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM

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 4:00 PM. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible if you are moving.

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

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

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

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

Parish Office

1 di isit office
Michele Beck, Director, Musicmbeck@stfrancislbi.org
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFMsbrookbank@stfrancislbi.org
Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formationjclayton@stfrancis.org
Deacon Robert Cunninghamthatbrotherbob@aol.com
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFMkdaly@stfrancislbi.org
Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastorfdispigno@stfrancislbi.org
Fr. John Frambes, OFMjframbes@stfrancislbi.org
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSFsrpat@stfrancislbi.org
Jo Anne Reeder, Director, Worshipjreeder@stfrancislbi.org
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFMareitz@stfrancislbi.org
Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence)

Parish Office - (609) 494-8813, Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)

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

St. Francis Center

Community Center - (609) 494-8861 Children's Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 114 Counseling Services - (609) 494-1554

Educational & Career Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 407

Family Support Services - (609) 494-8861

Food Pantry - (833) 511-0760

Recreation & Aquatics - (609)494-8861 ext. 105 Senior Services - (609) 494-8861 ext. 108 or 109

Parish Finance Council

Cecelia Fowler	201 264 5965 cgfowler413@gmail.com
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM	609 494 8861 areitz@stfrancislbi.org
Angelo Rinaldi	609 661 9052 clamlbi@comcast.net
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM	609 494 8861 fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org
Jay Pojednic	609 709 2007 jdpojednic@comcast.net
Joe Hummel	609 868 2930 ejhjr@comcast.net
Joe Mack	609 492 1659 josephmack2008@comcast.net
Joe Vaszily	jmpv127@gmail.com
Peter Williams	603 714 4014 peter.l.williams9@gmail.com
Stacey Kelsall, Comptroller	609 494 8861 skelsall@stfrancislbi.org

Appeals Box

Second Collection:

Church Buildings & Grounds Maintenance

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

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$23,000

Last Week's Collection:

Collected: \$19,151 Budgeted: \$23,000 Second Collection:

Religious Retirement Fund

Collected: **\$5,515**

(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

** Thank you for your generosity! **



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



The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal raised over \$6 million. 2022 Annual Catholic Appeal began February 19/20. Goal this year is \$6.5 million.

Goal: \$100,000.00

Total Pledged: \$56,043.38 (56% of Goal) Total Collected: \$55,495.38 (55% of Goal)

Total Donors: 204
Total Gifts: 230
Average Gift: \$243.67

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

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

St. Francis Liturgical Community

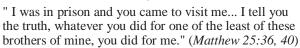
Family Faith



Judith Clayton, Director of Family Faith (Ext. 153) *jclayton@stfrancislbi.org*

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179) Marion Pierri, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)

Prison Ministry in Our Parish



There is a prison ministry being started in the Parish. The ministry will bring Eucharist and review the Gospel readings from Sunday Mass. We will be visiting the Ocean County jail in Toms River. Anyone interested please contact Jim Collery *icollery@gmail.com*.



Gospel Inspirations:



"Do not be afraid..."

Joseph said "yes" to God just as Mary did.

Sometimes God asks us to do things we do not understand or seem too difficult.

As Christmas draws near, take a moment to think about Joseph - his faith and his courage. May we have the strength to say "yes" to God whenever we hear his voice.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Advent and Christmas Season Liturgies and Services 2022-23 All Liturgies in Brant Beach Unless otherwise noted.

- Weekend Mass Schedules Saturdays – 5:00PM Sundays – 8:30AM,10:00AM, 11:30AM
- Sundays of Advent December 18th
- Christmas Eve December 24th Saturday Brant Beach 4:00PM & 6:00PM Surf City 4:00PM
- The Nativity of the Lord
 December 25th Sunday 10:00AM
- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph December 30th Friday 9:00AM
- Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Vigil Saturday December 31st 5:00PM Solemnity January 1st, 2023 Sunday 8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM
- The Epiphany of the Lord
 January 7th Saturday 5:00PM,
 January 8th Sunday
 8:30am, 10:00AM, 11:30AM





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 2nd grade through 12th grade. Rehearsals are at 5:30 PM in the Brant Beach Church **DECEMBER 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@stfrancislbi.org

Blessing the Infant Jesus at Home

Readers and one person are chosen to hold the Infant Jesus.

Soft Christmas hymn playing as family and friends gather around the Christmas tree and the Nativity stable.

Reader 1 begins:
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reader 2:

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ we pause to bless the infant Jesus that we will place in our manger. The practice of erecting such mangers was begun by St. Francis as a means to send forth the message of Christmas. When we look upon the figure of the Infant Jesus, the Christmas Gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God.

The Infant Jesus will now be held up as **Reader 3** reads the Blessing.

God of every nation and people,
From the very beginning of creation
You have made manifest your love;
When our need for a Savior was great you
sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.
Lord, bless all who look upon this infant;

May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

The Infant Jesus is now placed in the manger.

Reader 1: Let us pray the Hail Mary together.

Reader 2: Let us now exchange a Sign of Peace.

You may now choose to sing a Christmas Carol as the Blessing of the Infant Jesus is concluded

Silent Night
Away in a Manger
O Little Town of Bethlehem
The First Noel
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to all.

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) 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 sessions - January 4 & January 14

Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group meets in the Senior Lunch Room on the third Saturday of each month 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

Adults For Confirmation Come and See

Anyone 18 years of age or older who has been baptized and would like to celebrate Confirmation is invited to meet with

Sr. Pat on **January 17** at 7:00 PM in Room 212. For further information about celebrating the Sacrament, please contact Sr. Pat at (609) 494-8861 ext. 157.

GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 19-29, 2023
VISITING: ATHENS * CORINTH * MYKONOS * EPHESUS
PATMOS * SANTORINI * DELPHI * KALAMBAKA * THESSALONIKI
Including a 3-Day Cruise to the Greek Isles & Turkey



FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM \$3899 FROM NEW YORK*

\$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@stfrancislbi.org

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!

Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



Bible Talks After Mass

Tom Troyano will be doing brief monthly talks on the bible after the 9:00 AM Mass. Next talk Wednesday, **January 11**, 9:30 AM, Brant Beach Church

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 23**, 10:00 AM, Family Faith Office

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Meets weekly on Tuesdays, beginning at 7:00 PM, First meeting Tuesday, **January 3**, 7:00 PM, Surf City Church Hall

Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, January 8, 12:30 PM Spiritual Life, Fraternity Meeting, Brant Beach Church Hall.

Scripture Study

Meets bi-monthly on Wednesdays, from 10:00-11:00 AM 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 meeting Wednesday January 4, 10:00 AM, location to be announced..

Survivors of Suicide

Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Knight Wing Conference Room (Room 212). Call Sr. Pat McNiff, osf at (609) 494-8813 for more information. Next meeting **January 12**,

Sacred Silence

In the "General Instruction of the Roman Missal", we find that the Church calls us to Sacred Silence in our liturgical celebrations. The silence enables us to set aside the noise and distraction so that we may meet God. It is in the quiet that we are able to hear and allow the word of God to enter our hearts.

There are five times in the Mass when we are called to silence; the Penitential Act, when the priest says, "Let us pray", after each scripture reading, after the homily, and after receiving communion.

When we arrive at Mass, we prepare ourselves when we hear the quiet music begin and we let the noise and distraction fade as the sacred silence envelops us.

May God's peace be with you.



20th Annual Men's Cornerstone Retreat

Friday March 10, 2023 Saturday March 11, 2023

Maris Stella Retreat Center Brochures at Church Entrances

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

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

<u>Days:</u> 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.

<u>Days/Hours:</u> Monday- Friday, with attendance at Evening/ weekend events required

<u>Position:</u> <u>Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry</u>, 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

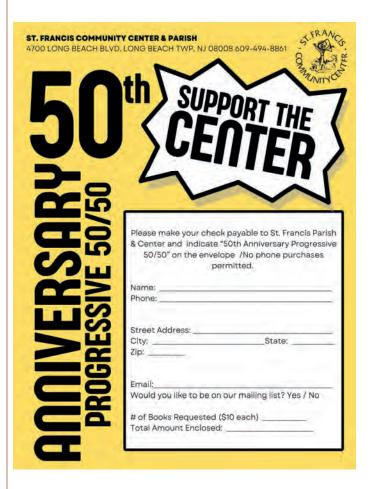
<u>Days:</u> Monday-Friday with some evenings and weekends required

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

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancislbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer

SPECIAL EVENTS



Did You Know??

Did you know that feeling a little sad or depressed around the holidays is normal? We experience a lot of emotions around the holidays which can sometimes cause this season to be less than joyful. If your symptoms of depression last longer than a few weeks and you are looking for more support, give **St. Francis Counseling Service** a call (609-494-1554)! We provide counseling services for general mental health concerns, such as depression, anxiety or grief, on a sliding scale for Southern Ocean County residents. You can reach our office by calling 609-494-1554.

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 Diary-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:

Pasta, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Snacks. Canned Goods: Corn, Peas, Baked Beans, Black Beans, Spaghettios, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Soup, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Juice Boxes, Ensure/Boost Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Body Wash/Soap, Toilet **Paper, Feminine Products**

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.

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

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

Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



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

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.



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.

Classes start January 4, 2023

Aquatics:

Water Tots, 4-Year Old Beginner Swim, Beginner Level 1 & 2 swim lessons, Intermediate & Advanced, Aquatic Zumba Aerobics. Agua Zumba/Arthritis Aguatic Exercise, Aquatic Exercise.

Recreation:

Tot & Tyke Basketball with Coach Manzo, All Level Yoga, Tennis Fundamentals (ages 5-12).

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.

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. We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. www.grownjkids.gov.

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

Year-round Childcare for Children TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

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

Full Day and Work Day
Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2
Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

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



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.

November 2-12, 2023

Airfare pricing will be available in January.

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.

Community Bulletin Board

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

Clothes Closet special December hours:

Saturdays **December 19** 10-4.

Regular hours resume in January: Saturdays from 10-1; First & third Wednesday from 4-6. For further info Call Madelyn 609-276-3308

Francis House of Prayer

84 Walnford Rd., Allentown, NJ 08501

END OF THE YEAR RETREAT

Saturday, December 31, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2022 and expressing gratitude to God. The day will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2023. We reverently say farewell to 2022 and cordially welcome 2023 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch. Donation: Love Offering

ZOOM ONLY OFF TO A PRAYERFUL START FOCUSING THE NEW YEAR

Tuesday, **January 3.** 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Start out 2023 with an evening zoom retreat to set the direction for the year. "Well begun is half done," they say, and establishing a direction is essential for the journey. Where am I going in 2023? What is the desire of my heart, and God's as we begin this year together? Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$15, includes materials.

A CONTEMPLATIVE TELLING OF THE STORY OF MARY & HER SON

4 Mondays, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

January 16 February 6 March 6 April 3

Enter the heart of Mary through the contemplative words of John Lynch's spiritual classic, *A Woman Wrapped in Silence*. We will use the second half of this wonderful narrative to help us to go deeper into the humility and strength of the Blessed Mother and her love for her Son and us all. Donation: \$80

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Please check <u>www.FHOP.org</u> for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

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