

THE BRIDGE



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

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



*What eye has not seen and ear has not heard...what God has prepared for those who love Him.
1 Cor. 2:9*

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, February 11	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM <i>World Day of the Sick</i> +Joanne Cribben 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Lucille Anselmo	Gn. 3:9-24; Mk. 8:1-10 Sir. 15:1 5-20; 1 Cor. 2:6-10; Mt. 5:17-37	9:45 AM Contemplative Living, Zoom
Sunday, February 12	<i>World Marriage Day with Blessing</i> 8:30 AM +Walter Cramer +James McCloskey 10:00 AM +Bruce Brodbeck +Don Daily 11:30 AM +James E. Kempinski	Sir. 15:15-20; 1 Cor. 2:6-10; Mt. 5:17-37	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Monday, February 13	9:00 AM +Matilda Stein	Gn. 4:1-15, 25; Mk. 8:11-13	
Tuesday, February 14	9:00 AM +Bob Dunn	Gn. 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mk. 8:14-21	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena 7:00 PM Men's Cornerstone Plan., Surf City
Wednesday, February 15	9:00 AM +Rachael Foley	Gn. 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk. 8:22-26	9:30 AM Bible Talk After Mass 10:00 AM Scripture Study, Room 102 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, February 16	9:00 AM +Dennis Hughes	Gn. 9:1-13; Mk. 8:27-33	
Friday, February 17	9:00 AM +Margaret "Maggie" Onorata +Michael Hedrich	Gn. 11:1-9; Mk. 8:34-9:1	10:00 AM Knit/Crochet, Family Faith Office
Saturday, February 18	9:00 AM +Catherine Purcell Mahler 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Richard Bomer	Heb. 11:1-7; Mk. 9:2-13 Lv. 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Mt. 5:38-48	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lunch Rm.
Sunday, February 19	8:30 AM +James & Helen Lamb +John McElduff 10:00 AM +Matilda Stein +Anthony McHale 11:30 AM +Derek Chapman +Margaret Dietrich	Lv. 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Mt. 5:38-48	<i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi

Mass Schedule 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

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City - **CLOSED**

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven - **CLOSED**

St. Clare, Loveladies - **CLOSED**



The St. Francis Parish and Center
will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, February 20th
in observance of
Presidents Day.

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.

ST. FRANCIS CHOIRS

LENT/ EASTER SEASON

All that you need to bring is
a love of music, singing, and praising GOD!

REHEARSALS BEGIN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

YOUTH CHOIR (2ND—12TH GRADE) 5:30PM

ADULT CHOIR 7:00PM

RSVP your spot by Monday, February 13th

to Michele Beck, Director of Music Ministry,
at mbeck@stfrancislbi.org or
609-494-8813 ext.159



A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,
Pastor

Parish Finances 101: Assessments

I know this is Super Bowl Sunday but there will be enough talk about this game that I would not dare to add any more. I am looking forward to watching the game, the “finger food dinner” as well as to the only time that I enjoy watching the commercials as much as the TV program. All I will say is may the best team win ... as long as they are from Pennsylvania! [Go Birds!]

On a more serious note, I would like to talk a bit about the parish assessments and the Annual Catholic Appeal. It was only a few weeks ago that I thanked you for your contributions to the *2022 Annual Catholic Appeal*. As I had mentioned, the final tally for the St. Francis of Assisi Parish collection was \$57,123.38, a bit 57% of our \$100,000 goal. Although the last *Annual Catholic Appeal* just ended, as an annual appeal, it is time to start over again. Next weekend we will have prayer cards, pledge cards, and posters in the church as the diocese kicks off the *2023 Annual Catholic Appeal: We are the Body of Christ*. These appeals support of the work of the Diocese of Trenton, its operations, and different initiatives, such as outreach, the diocesan seminarians, as well as the retired priests of the diocese. Donations to the *Annual Catholic Appeal* are paid directly to the diocese. The parish only receives a direct benefit from this appeal as a percentage of the monies received over the goal. Because there is some confusion out there, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few things. Last weekend, the second collection was for the *Parish Assessment*. In addition to the *Parish Assessment*, every parish in the diocese also has a *School/Co-sponsorship Assessment* owed to the diocese. We have 2-second collections during the year to help support that assessment. In our case, it goes directly to St. Mary’s Academy, our local Catholic grammar school.

The *Parish Assessment* is 9% of the total income of funds during the prior year. That total would include any donations from both the first and second collections, funerals, weddings, and special collections, etc. It does not include bequests or wills, mass stipends, etc. This assessment, however, is capped at \$175,000. Because you are a generous community, we are always capped. The *School/Co-sponsorship Assessment* is 9% of our first collection and holiday collections, including the Easter and Christmas collections. The *School/Co-sponsorship Assessment* for our parish for this year is \$118,920.

To be clear, these are three different assessments that are paid to the diocese each year. As I mentioned, the monies donated to the *Annual Catholic Appeal* go directly to the diocese. They are not put toward our *Parish Assessment* nor to our *School Co-sponsorship Assessment*.

It sounds like a lot of money because it is a lot of money, but we also realize that caring for the things that are important in our lives, in many cases, need the support of the community. Our church has a great and long tradition. Included in that tradition is that we are not in this by ourselves or for ourselves. As a church, we continue to strive to fulfill Jesus’ prayer that “we all may be one.” Our to the diocese reminds us of that we do belong to that Body of Christ that goes beyond ourselves and we in turn remind everyone in our local area that they too belong to the Body of Christ.

I continually thank you for your continued generosity and your stewards of our Church and of our parish. May God continue to bless you with all that is 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 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.

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 Office

Michele Beck, Director, Music.....mbeck@stfrancislbi.org
 Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM.....sbrookbank@stfrancislbi.org
 Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation...jclayton@stfrancis.org
 Deacon Robert Cunningham.....thatbrotherbob@aol.com
 Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM.....kdaly@stfrancislbi.org
 Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor.....fdispigno@stfrancislbi.org
 Fr. John Frambes, OFM.....jframbes@stfrancislbi.org
 Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF.....[srpat@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:srvat@stfrancislbi.org)
 Jo Anne Reeder, Director, Worship.....jreeder@stfrancislbi.org
 Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM.....areitz@stfrancislbi.org
 Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence).....srpaklemm@gmail.com
 Marie Maslanka, Parish Secretary.....mhuber@stfrancislbi.org
 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 ejhr@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 Today:

Friars & Sister Stipends

Did you know that the salaries for the Friars and Sisters are paid for through your donations? Thank you for your generosity.

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: **\$18,000**

Last Week's Collection:

Collected: **\$25,627.63**

Budgeted: **\$18,000**

Last Week's Collection:

Black & Native American Missions

Collected: **\$4,897**



(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)

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



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

Ash Wednesday - February 22, 2023

The Journey Begins

Ashes will be distributed during all services and the Mass following the homily.

All services will be held in
St. Francis of Assisi Church in Brant Beach.

Services at 7:15 am, Noon, & 5:30 pm
Mass at 9:00 am

Lenten Regulations

- Ash Wednesday is on **February 22, 2023** and Good Friday is **April 7, 2023**
- Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.
- When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not apply.
- The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence "substantially" or as a whole is a serious obligation.

St. Francis Liturgical Community

Family Faith

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

jlclayton@stfrancislbi.org

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

Mary Lou McGurkin, Registration & Tuition Coordinator (Ext. 177)



Ms. Judith Clayton, M.A., Director of Family Faith Religious Education

Even though we are only a few weeks into the new year, Family Faith is working on the 2023-24 year's activities and classes.

Registration for next year's sessions will begin in **March**. Families will receive their registration forms during the March classes.

Next year's program for all classes will be offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays for all grades. We hope this expanded schedule will help our families with their planning. As a

result, we will need many additional catechists to cover all these classes.

If you have ever considered working with the families of our parish, I urge you to call our office and allow me to explain our program and give you an opportunity to see our classes in action and answer any questions you may have.

Catechists are supported in their ministry through programs offered in-house by the Director to help them in this ministry, as well as provided prepared lesson plans for classes.

At present there are 30 candidates for Confirmation, 23 children preparing for First Eucharist and 23 children preparing for First Reconciliation.

The Confirmation candidates will be attending workshops on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Moral Life and Faith in Action followed by a retreat in March. The Sacrament will be administered on **April 21, 2023** at 4:00 pm.

The First Eucharist children will attend a gathering where, along with their parents they will explore the Gift of the Eucharist.

Our First Reconciliation children will have a retreat workshop to review the Rite of Penance, Examination of Conscience and making good choices.

Please pray for all of our children as they continue their faith journey

Judith Clayton

Order of Franciscan Secular



OFS Lenten Day of Reflection

Maris Stella Retreat and Conference Center

March 4th - 9:30 AM coffee.

Presentation will begin 10:00 AM.

Mass will be offered at 4:00 PM in the Chapel at Maris Stella.
Masks must be worn at Mass

Fr. Paul Keenan, OFM will conduct this Retreat.

Topic: Morning Session: ***Lent is a Time for Conversion***
Afternoon Session: ***Achieving Holiness through Conversion***

\$10 per person. Bring your own Lunch and anything you would like to share. Coffee and tea provided.

This Retreat is open to the entire Parish.
All are welcome!

Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



Spiritual Direction



(The third chair is for the Holy Spirit, the real Director).

How is God active in your life? Where is God in times of crisis? Is your relationship with God what you'd like it to be? Questions like these are the focus of spiritual direction or "soul care". The director or companion is someone trained to listen and respond to spiritual movements in the life of others.

One on one meetings with you can be in person, by video call or phone call. Like to know more? Contact one of the certified spiritual directors in the parish:

Maryann Barrek, (609) 661-4441
Anne Bock, (609) 204-3835
Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651
Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917
Pat Simmons, (609) 661-661-1361

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 - **February 11**

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: **February 18, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch**

Gospel Inspirations:

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment."

Anger, hostility and insults do not belong in the Christian community, for these are the seedbed of sin that destroys God's sacred gift of peace that Jesus left with us.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.



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



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, **March 8**, 9:30 AM, Brant Beach Church

Book Club

We will meet in person at St. Francis Center in the Knight Wing Conference Room, (Room 212) on the last Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 PM. *The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street* by Trevanian. Next meeting Tuesday, **February 28**, 1:30 PM, Room 212.

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, **February 17**, 10:00 AM, Family Faith Office

Men's Cornerstone Planning Meeting

Meets **weekly on Tuesdays**, beginning at 7:00 PM, First meeting Tuesday, **February 14**, 7:00 PM, Surf City Church Hall

Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs

Sunday, **March 5**, 9:30 AM, *Day of Recollection*, Maris Stella.

Scripture Study

Meets **bi-monthly on Wednesdays**, from 10:00-11:30 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 **February 15**, 10:00 AM, Room 102.

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 **March 9**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

At a crossroad? Do you have 26 hours?



Men's Cornerstone Retreat
Friday, March 10, 2023 and
Saturday March 11, 2023
Maris Stella Retreat Center
Harvey Cedars
Register Today!

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

Adult Faith Enrichment

T B A

Programs pending for February and March
Call Sr. Pat McNiff at (609) 494-8813
for more information.

Join us for a Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul

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@stfrancisbi.org

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!



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!

Prison Ministry in Our Parish

"I was in prison and you came to visit me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:36, 40)

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 jcollery@gmail.com.



Employment Opportunity

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.

Children's Services-Teacher's Assistant

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. (13-months to 5-years of age). First Aid & CPR Certified and/or Bi-Lingual in Spanish a plus.

Position: Full-time (40 plus hours) and Part-time (29 hours)

Days: Monday-Friday **Pay:** \$15 per hour

Summer Camp Counselor (Seasonal Position)

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. Working with school age children 5 years to 13 years of age.

Position: Full-time (40 plus hours) and Part-time (29 hours)

Days: Monday-Friday **Pay:** \$14.13 per hour

Must be 17 or older and be available 6/20/23 to 8/31/2023
First Aid & CPR Certified and/or Bi-Lingual in Spanish a plus.
Experience Preferred, but not required.

Maintenance Department

Position: Full time *Maintenance/Cleaning*- Perform scheduled and unscheduled cleaning of Community Center and Parish properties. Some knowledge/experience in Plumbing, Electric, Carpentry, and HVAC Systems preferred, not required. Assist with scheduled and unscheduled building maintenance, grounds maintenance, setup/take down for events, etc. Must be able to lift 50lbs and must have valid driver's license.

Pay: Starting at \$15 per hour (based on experience)

Days/Hours: Monday- Friday- Afternoon/Evening hours required (approx. 2pm-10pm).

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.**

***Full-time positions are offered Health Care, Paid time off (with additional earning for years of service), 16 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.**

Please send resumes to abodine@stfrancisbi.org

St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer


SPECIAL EVENTS

American Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, February 21, 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

St. Francis Church Hall



Please call the Community Center at (609) 494-8861 ext. 118 or visit: www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment. For detailed eligibility questions, please call (800) RED-CROSS or visit: redcrossblood.org



The Annual **Fish Fry** Dinner

SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS

**Friday, March 31
4:40 - 7:00 PM**

Thistle of Kearny is back for another delicious **Fish and Chip Dinner**



Includes: dinner, beverage and dessert.
Dine-in or take-out available.
Take-out starting at 4:30 PM
Seating for Dine-in starts at 5:00 PM

Tickets are on sale online and at the Center's Front Desk
A limited amount of tickets will be available the day of the event.

There will be a 50/50 drawing.
Proceeds to benefit St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Coming Soon

APRIL 20, 2023

- Family Health Fair 
- Volunteer Week Celebration Day 

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:

Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Baked Beans, Coffee, Canned Chef Boyardee/Chili, Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, and Soap.

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

Spring Dinner Project


St. Francis Human Concerns Department is seeking donations of the following items for the Annual Spring Dinner Project!

FROZEN TURKEYS & HAMS
CANNED PEAS, CARROTS, GREEN BEANS, MIXED VEGETABLES, BOXED SCALLOPED POTATOES
BAGGED RICE AND PASTA SIDES

Please drop off all donations to the Food Pantry by Monday, April 3, 2023. If you are donating a frozen item, please inform the front desk or the Pantry volunteers.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!
Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/9DjXuSc>

St. Francis Community Center, LB/CC
4700 Long Beach Blvd
Long Beach Twp., NJ 08008
Office Phone: (609) 494- 8861 EXT. 197



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 **Spring Brochure** online at www.stfranciscenterlbi.org or pick up a Brochure at the Center lobby.

REGISTRATION SESSION I

Monday, February 13

9:00 AM

Aquatics:

Water Tots,
4-Year Old Beginner Swim,
Beginner Level 1 & 2 swim lessons,
Intermediate & Advanced,
Aquatic Aerobics, Aquatic Exercise,
Deep Water Aerobics,
Arthritis Aquatic Exercise,
Spring Swim Clinic,
Lifeguard Training Hybrid Class.

Recreation:

Basic Boating Safety Courses -NJ Certified,
All Level Yoga,
Tot & Tyke Basketball Clinic,
Spring Basketball Clinic

Pickleball

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

Did You Know??

The Community Center Public Relations department handles all of our social Media and Community Engagement projects. In addition to being active and present on various social platforms, we are an active member of the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce. Through them we attend various monthly meetings where we connect with many local businesses. This year we are proud to host a SOCC Women in Business Meeting as well as two Long Beach Island Chamber Job Fairs. Hosting these events and creating these relationships are important in maintaining a good Public Relations and Community Engagement image- in addition to giving back and showing the community that we all work together. Find and "Like" us on St. Francis Community Center on Facebook and @stfranciscommunitycenter on Instagram!

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**.

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.

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Sightseeing Trips & Cruises



May 14-23, 2023

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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

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Community Bulletin Board *cont'd*

Francis House of Prayer

84 Walnford Rd., Allentown, NJ 08501

AN ORDINARY DAY

Monday, February 20, 9:30 AM – Noon

There's a poem which begins, "Normal day, let me be aware of the treasure that you are..." Today is a very ordinary February day. You have the power to transform it into an EXTRA-ordinary day by keeping company with God which is just what God is hoping you will do! Donation: \$20

GIVING UP OR GIVING IN?

Thursday, February 23, 9:30 AM – Noon

We have all become accustomed to approaching Lent with a "giving up," plan. There's nothing wrong with that, but we might want to use this day for considering a "giving in," plan. When we give up something for Lent, we retain control. When we give in, we surrender. Which type of "giving," does God desire for your spiritual growth? Perhaps today is THE day to ask God! Donation: \$20

THE QUALITY OF MERCY

4 Fridays, 10:00 – 11:30 AM

February 24 March 17 March 24 March 31

Deep within every human being is the desire to love our neighbor: i.e. to live the works of mercy. The challenge is to enmesh such a desire into our ordinary lives. Kerry Weber's book, *Mercy in the City*, gives a template to integrate this desire with creativity and joy! Come join us as we explore the call to mercy. Donation: \$60

IN-PERSON OR ZOOM

ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT

Wednesday, February 22, 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

LITURGY AT NOON

We love beginning Lent together with this retreat at Francis House because it provides a gentle structure for the six-week journey ahead. This year I thought you would enjoy *A Simple Life - Changing Prayer* by Jim Manney to guide your Lenten journey. Liturgy is included with the reception of ashes within it. Donation: \$35, includes lunch and book for your 6-week Lenten journey; Zoom \$20.

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

Diocese of Trenton

701 Lawrenceville Rd., Trenton, NJ 08638

Marriage Encounter Weekend; February 24-26, 2023

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 24 – 26, 2023. Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco). Visit us at: www.wwme.org for more information.

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet is open every Saturday from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM (except holiday weekends) and the first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-6:00 PM. We are currently not taking any clothing donations and will resume taking spring and summer donations in April. Located at 25 Pine Street, Manahawkin, We offer free clothing to women in need. Vouchers are available at food pantries, churches, Stafford Community Center at the door. For further info call Madelyn. 609-276-3308.

Community Bulletin Board

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

685 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

February 15-26

Just a couple years ago, on October 10, 2020, young Carlo Acutis was beatified at a special Mass in the city of Assisi, which put the late teenager just one step away from sainthood and allows us Catholics to venerate him as "Blessed Carlo Acutis." Blessed Carlo died in 2006, at the age of 15. Like other boys his age, he was avidly interested in computers, video games and the internet. He was also a devout Catholic who went to Mass daily and persuaded his mother as well to be a regular attendee. One of his pet projects was designing a webpage, exhaustively listing these Eucharistic miracles throughout the centuries associated with the bread and wine consecrated at Mass to be the most Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus.

February 15-17 & 20-24 - 3:00-6:00 PM

February 18 & 25 - 1:00-4:30 PM / 6:00-7:30 PM

February 19 & 26 - 8:00 AM-2:00 PM & 4:00-8:00 PM

For more information on exhibit visit:

parish@stjosephtomsriver.org • www.stjosephtomsriver.org
(732) 349-0018

Community Bulletin Board cont'd. in next column

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