

# THE BRIDGE



With open  
arms for all!

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

**- PARISH STAFF -**

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

Parish Office  
(609) 494-8813  
Mon. - Fri. 9 AM to 3 PM  
(Closed for lunch 12 - 1 PM)  
Family Faith Formation  
(609) 494-8813 ext. 153  
Community Center  
(609) 494-8861  
Counseling Services  
(609) 494-1554

Read our bulletin online at  
[www.stfrancisparishlbi.org](http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org)



Daily gospel reflections can be found on Facebook at:

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



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

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

Find out more about  
Holy Name Province online at:  
[www.hnp.org](http://www.hnp.org)

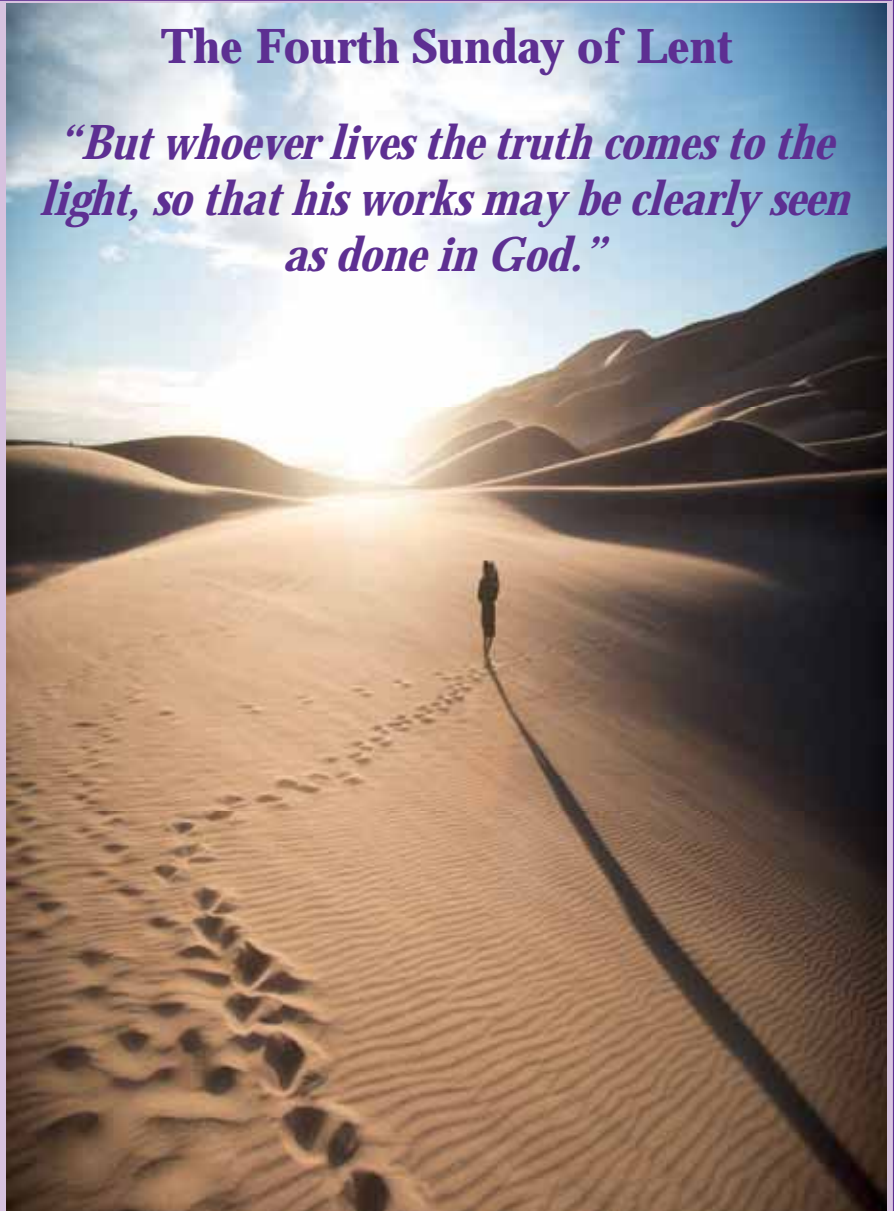
**Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY**  
Vocation Office  
[vocations@fsallegany.org](mailto:vocations@fsallegany.org)

**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)

## The Fourth Sunday of Lent

*“But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”*



In the Gospel, Jesus tell Nicodemus, “The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light.”

Where do you see the light piercing the darkness at this moment?

*“Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me perfect charity.”*

St. Francis of Assisi, “The Prayer Before the Crucifix.” 40

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

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

| DATE                   | MASS INTENTIONS  | READINGS   | EVENTS   |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Saturday,<br>March 13  | <u>(L) Living +Deceased</u><br>9:00 AM +James Powers<br>3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation<br>5:00 PM +Thomas Walsh<br>+Joseph Moeller                        | Hos. 6:1-6;<br>Lk. 18:9-14<br>2 Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23;<br>Eph. 2:4-10;<br>Jn. 3:14-21 |  |
| Sunday,<br>March 14    | 8:30 AM +Jo Vennwald<br>+Paul Kubeck<br>10:00 AM +Irene Flanagan<br>+Jean Cunningham<br>11:30 AM +Mary & Daniel Dempsey<br>+Jeffrey Pocaro               | 2 Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23;<br>Eph. 2:4-10;<br>Jn. 3:14-21                               | 10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i><br><a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a><br>12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion      |
| Monday,<br>March 15    | 9:00 AM (L)Raymond Auger   | Is. 65:17-21;<br>Jn. 4:43-54   |  |
| Tuesday,<br>March 16   | 9:00 AM +Steve Stroik<br>(L)Jacques Auger  | Ez. 47:1-9, 12;<br>Jn. 5:1-16  |  |
| Wednesday,<br>March 17 | 9:00 AM +Marie Sulkowski, <i>ofs</i><br>+Philip Cameron  | Is. 49:8-15;<br>Jn. 5:17-30  | 5:00 PM <i>Live-Streaming Adoration</i><br><a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a><br>7:00 PM Scripture Study Zoom Mtg. |
| Thursday,<br>March 18  | 9:00 AM +John Sweeney  | Ex. 32:7-14;<br>Jn. 5:31-47  |  |
| Friday,<br>March 19    | 9:00 AM +Russell G. Stein  | 2 Sm. 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16;<br>Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22;<br>Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a           | <i>Stations of the Cross</i><br>5:00 PM <i>Live-Streaming Service</i><br><a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a>        |
| Saturday,<br>March 20  | 9:00 AM +Ryan Sterling<br>3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation<br>5:00 PM +Henry Klaas<br>+Joseph Donahue   | Jer. 11:18-20;<br>Jn. 7:40-53<br>Jer. 31:31-34;<br>Heb. 5:7-9;<br>Jn. 12:20-33       |  |
| Sunday,<br>March 21    | 8:30 AM +Catherine & William Malone<br>+Molly Malone-Palitto<br>10:00 AM +Sheila Foley<br>+Kenneth Broo<br>11:30 AM +Gustavo Acosta<br>+Anne McNiff Huey | Jer. 31:31-34;<br>Heb. 5:7-9;<br>Jn. 12:20-33  | 10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i><br><a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi</a><br>12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion      |

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

| DATE                  | MASS INTENTIONS   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Saturday,<br>March 13 | <u>(L) Living +Deceased</u><br>5:00 PM +Franciscan Mass League      |
| Sunday,<br>March 14   | 8:30 AM +Franciscan Mass League<br>10:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League |
| Saturday,<br>March 20 | 5:00 PM +Franciscan Mass League                                     |
| Sunday,<br>March 21   | 8:30 AM +Franciscan Mass League<br>10:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League |

### St. Thomas Aquinas Church 2<sup>ND</sup> & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven

| DATE                  | MASS INTENTIONS  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday,<br>March 13 | <u>(L) Living +Deceased</u><br>5:00 PM +Franciscan Mass League |
| Sunday,<br>March 14   | 10:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League                               |
| Saturday,<br>March 20 | 5:00 PM +Franciscan Mass League                                |
| Sunday,<br>March 21   | 10:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League                               |

### Peace Prayer Project

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



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

## Parish Information - (609) 494-8813

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

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

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

**Baptism:** The sacrament is celebrated three times a month at St. Francis Parish. Group Baptisms are the 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.

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

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

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

## Parish Collections

### Second Collection Today:

#### **Catholic Relief Services**

Catholic Relief Services helps people, Catholic and non-Catholic, throughout the U.S. and the world especially in times of crisis. Please be generous

#### **Last Week's 2nd Collection**

#### **Human Concerns Project**

Collected: \$3,443

#### **This Week We Need:**

Budgeted: \$15,000

#### **Last Week's Collection**

Budgeted: \$15,000

Collected: \$18,387



### February Online Giving Collections

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Collections: | \$13,939        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collections: | \$ 3,990        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$17,929</b> |

## A Letter From The Pastor...



Well, here we are, already, in the middle of March. I'm not sure if March came in like a lion or lamb, but as we soon approach the first anniversary of when the entire nation went into "lockdown," I am sure we can all say *this past year* has been ferocious and we are all ready for the lamb!

Our faith promises us that the lamb is coming. As we enter into the Fourth Week of Lent, we move closer still to that mystery that calls forth life from death, makes sinners into saints, and promises us the light of hope in our darkest moments. The Lamb is coming!

Covid has rocked our world. The death toll is painful to comprehend and the grief has wounded us all. If Covid-19 has any silver lining it is that we were forced to reimage how we connect with one another and how we can be brother and sister to others in a new way.

Whether lion or lamb, one thing that did arrive in the beginning of March are the cameras, in honor of Fr. Jim Scullion, OFM, that will broadcast our 10:00 AM Mass from St. Francis Church, Brant Beach. Actually, thanks to the hard work of Michele Beck, our Director of Liturgical Music, and her sons, Andrew and Jonathan, last Sunday's Mass was broadcast using our new cameras for the first time. The picture was sharp, and the sound was great. Many compliments were shared from those who watched online last weekend. We have come a long way since Fr. Jim started this all with his iPhone, a wonderful creativity, and a strong desire to keep us all praying together. Thank you, Jim for setting these wheels in motion and thank you to our wonderful donors for making it happen!

I am sure that it will take us a while to figure out all the bells and whistles, but hopefully we will soon be able to live-stream daily Mass, funerals, weddings, and other celebrations so that our community can continue to gather, although in a different way.

There is no argument that the in-person gathering of the community is our goal and ideal, however, we have come to learn that we don't always live in an ideal world. We adapt, adjust, and continue on.

When we are fully operational, we will certainly let you know so those people who are house bound, hospitalized, or in a nursing home, can still be a part of our gathered church.

Our Easter joy is near. We are grateful that we can continue to share our journey to that mystery together.

Blessings of Peace and All Good!

Fr. Fran, OFM



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

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

## Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:

### Spiritual Direction

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

*Barbara H. Angeline, ofs, (609) 384-6188,  
Maryann Barrek, ofs, (609) 661-4441,  
Anne Bock, ofs, (609) 204-3835,  
Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651,  
Pat Simmons, ofs, (609) 661-1361.*

### Scripture Study

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

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

Next scheduled *zoom* meeting: **March 17**

### An Invitation to Contemplative Living

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

Next scheduled *zoom* meeting: **April 7**



### Soup and Stations



#### Stations of the Cross

We invite you to Stations of the Cross on **Friday night March 19 at 5:00 PM**

in the Brant Beach Church. Due to the Covid virus we have made some changes to assure safety. We will not be having a meal of bread and soup this year before the Stations, but you may wish to bring a can of soup to put in the St. Francis Food Pantry basket in the church lobby. The Stations will be *live streamed* for those not able to attend. Each week we will contemplate three of the Stations of the Cross through scripture, hymns and reflection. All are invited. Feel free to bring friends and neighbors!

This week we will reflect on **Station 13** - Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross; **Station 14** - Jesus is Laid in the Tomb.

### Monthly Meetings:

St. Francis Center unless otherwise noted.



**Order of the Franciscans Secular ofs**  
**Sunday, April 11, 1:00 PM**  
**Fraternity “Zoom” Meeting**

## Family Faith Formation



Judith Clayton, Director of FFF (Ext. 153)

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

Eileen Bowker, Youth Minister (Ext. 178)

Angie Graiff, Elementary Coordinator (Ext. 150)

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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

In-person registration for 2021-2022 Religious Education Program will be on **April 21** from 1:00 to 6:00 PM in the Family Faith Offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Community Center.

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

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

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

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



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

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

## Weekly Reflections...

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus “the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light”. Where do you perceive light encountering darkness in our community? During this time we can all name so many circumstances that are bringing us darkness. May this prayerful reflection bring some light into your world.

How do you feel when you are alone in the dark?

Look at the light of a candle. How do you feel about this light? Consider for a moment that John calls Jesus “light,” the light that shines in our darkness. Close your eyes and think of Jesus in this way.

John also says the darkness has never put out Jesus' light. How do you feel knowing that Jesus is always with you, always “light” in your darkness?

Our faith assures us that Jesus is the light of the world, a light that darkness has not overcome. This is our joy and our consolation. This is the message we are called to share.

*Jesus, light of the world, help us to believe in the gift of your presence.*

*Please give us the light of faith*

*Jesus, light of the world, help us to trust in the gift of your presence.*

*Please give us the light of trust.*

*Jesus, light of the world, help us to love you and to be present to one another.*

*Please give us the light of love.*

Jesus, help us as we prepare our minds and hearts during Lent. Teach us and our children to hope for your coming and to believe in your light.

May we always live in the light.

Peace be with you.

Judith Clayton

## Easter Flowers and Decorations Memorial Fund Drive



### Easter Flowers

Your participation in our Easter Flower Memorialization Program and Fund Drive allows us to decorate the Surf City, Brant Beach, and Beach Haven churches for the Holy Season of Easter. Names of those memorialized or honored will be published in the online church bulletin. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### Memorialization

Easter flower envelopes have been mailed and placed in the churches. You may also use a plain envelope. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY THE NAME/S OF THOSE YOU WISH REMEMBERED OR HONORED** and include your phone number in case of questions. The envelopes can be placed in the weekend collection basket, dropped off or mailed to the St. Francis Parish Office by **March 27<sup>th</sup>**.

#### Donations for Easter Flowers & Plants May Be Made In Any Amount.

Donations toward the purchase of other specific items to be memorialized:

**\$100 Cherry Blossoms and large Easter Wreaths for the church sanctuary.**

**\$75 Flowers for Sanctuary Urns for Easter & Holy Thursday**

**\$50 Peace Lilies and Hydrangea**


**\$35 Ferns, & Candle Rings**

*Thank you for your support and generosity!*

*Questions? Please call JoAnne Reeder at the center  
(609) 494-8861 ext. 164*

Adoration  
With  
St. Francis and St. Clare

Eucharistic



Adoration

Wednesdays of Lent  
Facebook Livestream  
[www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi)  
5:00 - 8:00 PM



Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Sunday, **March 14**  
at 2:00 AM EST  
turn Your Clocks **AHEAD** One Hour.



## ANNOUNCEMENT:

Bishop O'Connell has issued a diocesan-wide dispensation from the Lenten obligation of abstinence from meat on **Friday, March 19, 2021**, in honor of the Solemn Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary, during this special "Year of St. Joseph." He encourages the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton who wish to take advantage of this dispensation, if possible, to transfer the Lenten abstinence from meat to another day that week, to attend Mass on **March 19** OR to do some special act of penance instead.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### American Red Cross Blood Mobile

**Tuesday, April 20; 1:00 - 6:00 PM**  
St. Francis Church Hall



Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery, organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Please call the Community Center at (609) 494-8861 ext.118 or visit: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.



**Fish & Chip Dinner**  
**Postponed until June**

### Amazon Smile - Fundraiser



#### You Shop....Amazon Gives!

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

It is the same products and the same great prices!

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

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

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

## 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.



Are you a high school or college student with a story to tell about sexual assault through art or poetry? Do you want to raise awareness about the importance of consent through a public service announcement poster?

**SHARE YOUR ART WITH OCEAN COUNTY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT!**

Send your artwork to Danielle at [ddunne@stfrancisbi.org](mailto:ddunne@stfrancisbi.org) by March 27th to be entered for a sexual assault awareness month prize and be featured in sexual assault awareness month promotions!

By submitting artwork for the contest, participants grant St. Francis Counseling Service permission to use their likeness in a photograph, video or other digital media in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration.

Artwork can be submitted as anonymous if needed.

This event was supported by the State of New Jersey Sexual Assault, Abuse and Rape Care (SAARC) Funds, administered by the Department of Children and Families.



ST. FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE

# GRANDPARENTING SUPPORT GROUP

Have you found yourself in a parenting role, raising your grandchild? This FREE, 8-week confidential group provides a safe space for individuals to share their stories, receive support and develop coping skills.

**VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP**  
MONDAYS, 2PM-4PM

Please call 609-494-1554 to register!  
For more information or further questions, please ask to speak to Shannon or Karen.

## Journey Through Grief

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

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

Registration is required.

There is NO FEE for this program.

## Employment Opportunity



### Counseling Services

#### Trauma Informed Licensed Clinicians

Full-time and Part-time Trauma Informed Licensed Clinicians and Bilingual (Fluent English/Spanish).

*Days/Hours:* Monday-Friday (Some night hours required).

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

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

### Preschool

#### Early Childhood Teacher Assistant (Toddler & Preschool)

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

*Position:* Year-round full time (with benefits), Part time and substitute.

*Pay:* Teacher Assistant - \$12/hour.

Preschool Teacher/Lead Teacher - \$13 with BA Degree in Early Childhood

*Days/Hours:* Monday-Friday

### Recreation/Pool

#### Private Swim Lesson Instructors

Year round, part-time employment for an indoor pool and 2 seasonal outdoor pools. Pool lifeguard certification, CPR/AED and First Aid Certification are not required but preferred. For weekend and weeknight lessons, ages 4 years to adults.

*Days/Hours:* Hours range from 8 to 29 per week, (may occasionally exceed 29 hours dependent upon season).

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

Please send resumes to Amy Bodine  
[abodine@stfrancisbi.org](mailto:abodine@stfrancisbi.org)

**St. Francis Center is an EOE/AA Employer**

## Senior Services

For information call ext. 108 or 109.



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

### We are still providing the following:

Information and Assistance  
Telephone Reassurance Calls  
Caregiver Assistance

### Options Counseling:

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

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

## Jersey Cares - Senior Shoppers Program

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

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

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

## Community Center Donations



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

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

Thank you for your continued generosity!

## Recreation & Aquatics

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

### Registration Session II

**Monday, April 5**

9:00 AM



### Spring Swim Clinic Traditional (Ages 5-10)

Monday & Wednesday, 6:00 - 6:45 PM

**April 5 - May 26**



### Lifeguard Training

(Ages 15 & up)

**April 21**, 5:00 - 7:00 PM;

**April 22 - 23**, 4:00 - 8:00 PM;

**April 24 - 25**, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

*Attendance at the above dates & times is required.*

There will be no opportunities to make up missed classes.

*If you have concerns about your ability to complete the pre-requisites, please schedule a swimming skill evaluation by calling the pool reception desk at ext. 187 (there is a \$10 guest fee for all evaluations).*

### Basic Boating Safety Course - NJ Certified

(Ages: 13 & up)



Tuesday & Thursday, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

**April 27 & 29**

The NJ State Police Certification Course for Basic Boating Safety will prepare and certify you to operate a motor boat or a personal water craft vessel in NJ.

*Workbooks will be provided.*

## Pickleball

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



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

**in the Gymnasium**

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

Passes available at the Front Desk  
of the Community Center

## Family Support Services

### Food Pantry Hours:

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

**By Appointment Only**

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

### Pantry based text alerts

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

### Items needed (Personal Products):

Laundry detergent  
Shampoo  
Body Wash/Soap  
Deodorant  
Hand Soap  
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste  
Toilet Paper

Gift Cards to Walmart, ShopRite, Acme & Target

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

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

<http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/donate> via PayPal. <https://a.co/00HTAhy>  
or can be dropped off at the Community Center.

## Parenting and Anger Management Groups

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



## Auto Ownership Program

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

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

## Children's Services

**For information call ext. 114.**



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

[www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org](http://www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families.org). We are also a Grow NJ Kids 4 Star Program. [www.grownjkids.gov](http://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 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM, 5 Days a Week**

*Full Day and Work Day*

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5

## Did You Know??

**St. Francis Counseling Service Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention Program** raised awareness in schools, youth programs and other community events, reaching over 4,500 people in Ocean County in 2020, even in the midst of the pandemic. The program presents media literacy and consent related topics to youths throughout the county and provides information about counseling services and awareness to residents of all ages through interactive and informative presentations.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and St. Francis Counseling Service encourages you to get involved with the variety of events (both virtual and in person!) that will be held. Follow us on Facebook (OCNJ.Prevention) and Instagram (OCNJ\_Prevention) or call/email Danielle Dunne, prevention coordinator ([609-494-1554/ddunne@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:609-494-1554/ddunne@stfrancislbi.org)) for more information about the program and upcoming events!

## Educational Services

**For information call ext. 185.**



### St. Francis Adult Basic Education FREE Distance Learning Classes

*Registration & Testing will be held  
in March for our spring session of classes.*

**ABE/High School Equivalency (HSE)**

Please call 732-281-8653 or email [StfrancisHSE@gmail.com](mailto:StfrancisHSE@gmail.com) to schedule an appointment.

**ESL- English As A Second Language**  
Please call 732-551-2270 to schedule an appointment.

**Registration**

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**Registration Includes: Intake, Assessments, & Orientation.**

**Visit our website at:**

[stfranciscenterlbi.org/educational-support](http://stfranciscenterlbi.org/educational-support).

Classes are provided by the Ocean County Consortium through a grant from the Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development.  
(Classes are subject to change)



## 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



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

### Painted Canyons of the West (featuring Utah's five National Parks)

**October 3-11, 2021**

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

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

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

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

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

### HOME TOWN TRAVEL

#### 14 Night Trans-Atlantic Greenland and Iceland aboard Celebrity Summit (Departure from Bayonne and returning from Southampton. **August 1-15, 2021.**

Ports: Sea day, Halifax, NS, two sea days, Qaqortoq, Greenland, overnight in Reykjavik, Iceland and half-day in Akureyri, Iceland, sea day, Kirkwall, Scotland and a sea day before arriving in Southampton.

#### Thanksgiving Cruise - Anthem of the Seas (Round trip Cape Liberty, NJ)

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

#### Iceland - The Land of Fire and Ice, February 1-6, 2022 A bucket list trip!

Experience the warmth of the therapeutic mud and waters of the Blue Lagoon. Get up close and personal with explosive geysers, glaciers, and immense waterfalls while also experiencing the chance of seeing the Northern Lights. Our flights are from Newark and we will be staying at the Fosshotel Reykjavik with daily breakfast. Rate of \$1,699 double includes all current taxes and fees. Passports (6 month validity) are required.

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

## Community Bulletin Board

### Maris Stella - Harvey Cedars

#### **2021 Lenten Holy Hour for World Peace**

Wednesdays, **March 17, 24 and 31**

3:00 - 4:00 PM; Maris Stella Chapel

Holy hour will provide an opportunity for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and silent prayer for world peace. Registration not needed to attend.

#### **2021 Holy Week Private Retreat**

**Wednesday, March 31 - Easter Sunday, April 4**

Maris Stella is available for those interested in private retreat time during Holy Week. There is no formal retreat program or meals offered. There is limited space available.

**For Reservations Contact:** Sr. Mary Morley, SC

(609) 494-1182 or [mmorleysc@gmail.com](mailto:mmorleysc@gmail.com)

### Coastal VIM Clinic - Volunteers in Medicine

Coastal Volunteers in Medicine is a free health clinic in Forked River serving the uninsured in our neighborhoods. We have recently increased our income eligibility level to accommodate families whose income falls within 300% of the federal poverty guidelines. Spanish translators are available and rides can be arranged for any patient without their own means of transportation. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (609) 384-0102.

## 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.

## Self Help Groups

### Alcoholics Anonymous

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

### AA HOTLINE (609) 494-5130

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

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