BRIDGE



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 21, 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

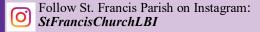
Counseling Services (609) 494-1554

Read our bulletin online at www.stfrancisparishlbi.org



Daily gosper...
found on Facebook at: Daily gospel reflections can be

www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi



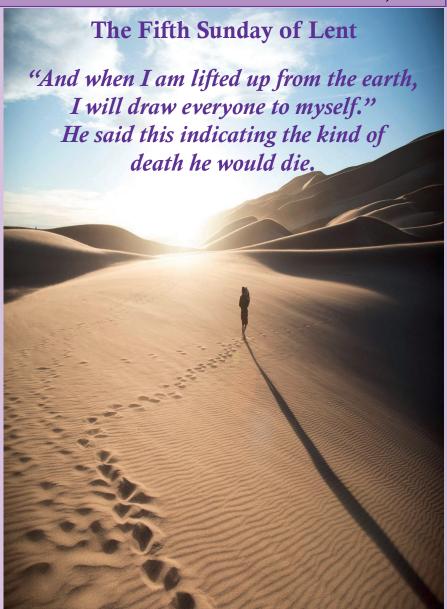
St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Franciscan Faith Community of Holy Name Province in the Diocese of Trenton.

Find out more about Holy Name Province online at: www.hnp.org

Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY Vocation Office vocations@fsallegany.org

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



In the first reading God declares through Jeremiah, "I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more."

This lent have you turned to God for forgiveness?

"Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me sense and knowledge."

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
	(L) Living +Deceased		
Saturday, March 20	9:00 AM +Ryan Sterling 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Henry Klaas +Joseph Donahue	Jer. 11:18-20; Jn. 7:40-53 Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 5:7-9; Jn. 12:20-33	
Sunday, March 21	8:30 AM +Catherine & William Malone +Molly Malone-Palitto 10:00 AM +Sheila Foley +Kenneth Broo 11:30 AM +Gustavo Acosta +Anne McNiff Huey	Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 5:7-9; Jn. 12:20-33	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion
Monday, March 22	9:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League	Dn. 13:41c-62; Jn. 8:1-11	
Tuesday, March 23	9:00 AM +James Frentzen +Walter Williams	Nm. 21;4-9; Jn. 8:21-30	
Wednesday, March 24	9:00 AM +John Cassler	Dn. 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn. 8:31-42	5:00 PM <i>Live-Streaming Adoration</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 7:00 PM Scripture Study <i>Zoom</i> Mtg.
Thursday, March 25	9:00 AM <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> +Hank Casey +James M. Kempski	Is. 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb. 10:4-10; Lk. 1:26-38	
Friday, March 26	9:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League 5:00 PM Tenebrae Service	Jer. 20:10-13 Jn. 10:31-42	9:45 AM Adult Enrichment/RCIA, Sr. Lounge 5:00 PM <i>Live-Streaming Service</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi
Saturday, March 27	9:00 AM +Gladys Ribinsky 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM +Florence Grant	Ez. 37:21-28; Jn. 11:45-56 Is. 50:4-7; Phil. 2:6-11; Mk. 14:1-15:47	
Sunday, March 28	Palm Sunday 8:30 AM +JoVennewald 10:00 AM +James E. Kempski +Patrick Harrington +Daniel Donahue 11:30 AM +Anthony Cardone +Victoria Ninivaggi +Frank Caputo	Is. 50:4-7; Phil. 2:6-11; Mk. 14:1-15:47	10:00 AM <i>Live-Streaming Mass</i> www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion

St. Thomas of Villanova Church 13th & Long Beach Blvd., Surf City			
DATE	MASS INTENTIONS		
Saturday, March 20	(L) Living +Deceased 5:00 PM +Franciscan Mass League		
Sunday, March 21	8:30 AM +Franciscan Mass League 10:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League		
Saturday, March 27	5:00 PM +Franciscan Mass League		
Sunday, March 28	8:30 AM +Franciscan Mass League 10:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League 11:30 AM +Franciscan Mass League		

All Communal Penance Services with Individual Reconciliation CANCELLED

St. Thomas Aquinas Church 2 ND & Atlantic Ave., Beach Haven			
DATE	MASS INTENTIONS		
Saturday, March 20	(L) Living +Deceased 5:00 PM +Franciscan Mass League		
Sunday, March 21	10:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League		
Saturday, March 27	5:00 PM +Franciscan Mass League		
Sunday, March 28	8:30 AM +Franciscan Mass League 10:00 AM +Franciscan Mass League		

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** and **facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi.**

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

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

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

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

<u>Marriage</u>: 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 Collections

Second Collection Today:

Franciscan Missionary Union

The Franciscan Missionary Union helps missions throughout the world. Thank you for your support.

Last Week's 2nd Collection Catholic Relief Services

Collected: \$3,691

This Week We Need:

Budgeted: \$15,000 Last Week's Collection

Budgeted: \$15,000 Collected: \$15,894





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

Weekly Reflections...

Many of us are deeply concerned that younger generations have "Lost their Faith". They don't go to church or believe as we do. Or so it seems.

A very long time ago I went to visit a very wise and holy man because I was concerned about the faith life of my children. During a long conversation he told me that when I was training my children in matters of faith I was looking for results in the distant future. While at first this seemed harsh and depressing, in the context of our conversation I began to understand what he meant. Deep faith is learned through living, through the experience of loving and being loved, rather than through words spoken by another. This Sunday's readings reminded me of that life lesson.

In revealing a new covenant through Jeremiah God tells us that, "I will place my law within them and write it on their hearts...No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the Lord. All from the least to greatest shall know me says the Lord."

God has given us the seed of faith, "written on our hearts". All of us!

What then are we as loving parents, grandparents, friends to do with this great gift - The law of love written on our hearts! It seems to me that we must first of all give up the illusion that we can better communicate with words what God has written. We must allow our illusions of earned wisdom to die so that we are free to access the inner wisdom which is hidden within.

Perhaps this is what Jesus invites us to do in today's Gospel when he says,, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit." He is speaking of His own coming death. Is He, at the same time, inviting us to allow God to be God in our lives by dying to the idea of earned wisdom? Are we being invited to follow St. Francis in preaching the Gospel always, using words if we must?

Pat Simmons *ofs* Certified Spiritual Director

Mass Schedule Passion/Palm Sunday March 27/28

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 10:00 AM *Live-Streaming Mass*

10:00 AM *Live-Streaming Mass* 12:30-1:00 PM "In car" Communion

St. Thomas of Villanova, Surf City

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM

St. Thomas Aquinas, Beach Haven

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30, 10:00 AM

St. Clare, Loveladies - CLOSED

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 for more information.

Next scheduled zoom meeting: March 31

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 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM. Email Kathy Egan for more information at: klegan.chaplain@gmail.com

Next scheduled zoom meeting: April 7

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

A presentation on:

"Holy Week"
with emphasis on Palm Sunday and the Triduum
will be given on Friday, March 26

at 9:45 AM in the Sr. Lounge by Sr. Pat McNiff, osf and Fr. Steve Kluge, ofm Since seating is limited, please call Sr. Pat or Fr. Steve to reserve your place.

Family Faith Formation



Judith Clayton, Director of FFF (Ext. 153) jclayton@stfrancislbi.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, 2nd 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).

Changes in Our Liturgy on Palm Sunday



During the ongoing pandemic, our parish follows the directives issued by the Diocese of Trenton in order to safeguard the health of all those who attend religious services. The dispensation from Sunday/Holy Day obligation remains in effect till further notice. We will continue to social distance and require masks for all who enter the churches. Churches are cleaned

between each Mass, and if you have a fever, we ask that you please do not attend Mass in person. Changes have been made to our Passion [Palm] Sunday services and are as follows:

- There will be no "Procession" and "Solemn Entrance" into the church. We will be using the "Third Form"; the "Simple Entrance" at all Masses.
- Palms will not be distributed before or during the Mass.
 They will be in containers in the sanctuary where they can be seen. At the end of Mass, the presider will bless the palms and they will be taken by palm distributers to the front, hall, and side doors of the church where they will be given to people as they leave church.
- The directives state that hymnals still are not allowed in the pews. The Passion of the Lord will be read as usual by lectors and the presider in the sanctuary. Last year we were not able to gather in church for our Palm Sunday services. In spite of continued precautions, it is with great joy that we are able to gather this year.



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. <u>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY THE NAME/S OF THOSE YOU WISH REMEMBERED OR HONORED and include your phone number in case of questions.</u> The envelopes can be placed in the weekend collection basket, dropped off or mailed to the St. Francis Parish Office by March 27th.

<u>Donations for Easter Flowers & Plants</u> <u>May Be Made In Any Amount.</u>

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!

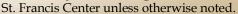
Questions? Please call JoAnne Reeder at the center
(609) 494-8861 ext. 164

Adoration With St. Francis and St. Clare



Wednesdays of Lent Facebook Livestream www.facebook.com/stfrancisparishlbi 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Monthly Meetings:





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

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* to schedule an appointment.



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.

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!

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 c njall (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@stfrancislbi.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.



Surviving to Thriving

A Safe Space for Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Assault. Empower yourself - unlock the skills and tools necessary to move forward and thrive in this *free and confidential online support group*,

Tuesdays, time to be determined.

Open to all residents of Ocean County,

18 years or older.

Please call Bianca Valentini, LSW to register and reserve your space,

(609) 494-1554.

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@stfrancislbi.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.

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

2nd & 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.

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 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

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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 12:15-3:00 PM

in the Gymnasium

NO Pickleball on Friday, March 26

\$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 1:00 PM

Wednesday: 3:00 to 5:00 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-1:00 PM & Wednesday 3:00-5:00 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.naevc.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 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) 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 to schedule an appointment.

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

> Registration 1258 ROUTE 166, Suites A & B TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753 Stella Towne Center

Registration Includes: Intake, Assessments, & Orientation. Visit our website at:

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)

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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



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

<u>Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play</u> <u>September 19-29, 2022</u>

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 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

Silent Directed / Private Retreat

Tuesday, May 4 - Monday, May 10

Spiritual Director: Sr. Anita M. Constance SC Registration due: April 5

For information or to register log on to www.marisstella.org or contact Sr. Pat Dotzauer at pdotzauer@comcast.net or call (609) 494-2917.

Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet is now open by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. With a voucher and an appointment you can choose from: work attire, jackets & coats, everyday clothing, shoes and accessories! Vouchers are available at St. Francis Food Pantry, Churches, & Stafford Community Center.

Call Madelyn at (609) 276-3308 to book an appointment.

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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