

# THE BRIDGE



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

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

## The Ascension of the Lord



### Our Advocate

Lord Jesus,  
you who ascended into heaven,  
grant that we too may see the Father  
and rejoice with him in eternal life.  
As you sit at the right hand of the  
Father, look tenderly at your followers

on earth. May the Holy Spirit give us  
the strength to continue the mission  
of spreading the Good News  
to all we encounter.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, May 12, 2024**  
**Never Alone**



*Today's readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 1:17–23 or Ephesians 4:1–3 or 4:1–7, 11–13; Mark 16:15–20.* On Jesus' final day on earth, the disciples might be expected to be sad. They also might be confused about what will occur. Jesus did not attempt to clear their confusion; his intent was to set them on their mission. To the disciples' concern over whether Jesus would restore the kingdom of Israel, he replies, "It is not for you to know. . . . You will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth." Still, they needed to be stirred to action by the angels who asks, "Why are you standing there looking at the

sky?" The Gospel depicts the disciples as being more confident. After hearing that they are to "go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel," the disciples went forth and preached everywhere." In the reading from Ephesians, we hear that the holy ones will be equipped "for the building up of the body of Christ." By our baptism, we have been given a responsibility to continue the building up of the kingdom of God on earth. This week reflect on your role in spreading the Gospel. Are there ways that your parish can help equip you for the mission that is yours? Consider joining a faith formation session or a Bible study group.

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS	READINGS	EVENTS
Saturday, May 11	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> 9:00 AM +Lawrence Robert Mather 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation <b>Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord;</b> <b>Mother's Day Blessing</b> 5:00 PM +Rosemarie Massimiano +Vincent & Tess Sharkey +Alice B. Schiano	Acts 18:23-28; Jn. 16:23b-28  Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn. 4:11-16; Jn. 17:11b-19	
Sunday, May 12	<b>Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord;</b> <b>Mother's Day Blessing</b> 8:30 AM +Lucille D'Amico +Dolores Pottichen +Virginie Richard +Lillian Robillard <b>10:00 AM Intentions of All Mothers</b> 11:30 AM +Edward W. Shanley +Helen Filipovsky +Theresa Kron +Emma & William Pyatt +Patricia Bradley	Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn. 4:11-16; Jn. 17:11b-19	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish</a>
Monday, May 13	9:00 AM +George Holland +Patrick Soranno	Acts 19:1-8; Jn. 16:29-33	
Tuesday, May 14	9:00 AM +John Smith +Pat Carlo	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn. 15:9-17	9:45 AM St. Anthony Novena Novena 5:15 PM Dinner With Friends, Church Hall
Wednesday, May 15	9:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>	Acts 20:28-38; Jn. 17:11b-19	9:30 AM Bible Talks After Mass 2:00 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, May 16	9:00 AM +Thomas Ackers +Noreen & Jim Sullivan +Char Yearicks	Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn. 17:20-26	7:00 PM Survivors of Suicide, Room 212
Friday, May 17	9:00 AM +Richard Pumphrey	Acts 25:13b-21; Jn. 21:15-19	11:00 AM OA, Room 102
Saturday, May 18	9:00 AM +John V. Raftery 3:30 - 4:30 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM <b>Solemnity of Pentecost - Vigil</b> +Fran Jennetté +Helen & Jerome Lala +Joyce Thompson	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn. 21:20-25 Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn. 20:19-23	10:00 AM Men's Spirituality, Sr. Lounge
Sunday, May 19	<b>Solemnity of Pentecost</b> 8:30 AM +Georgeann E. Esmerado +Lucia Brun <b>10:00 AM</b> +Lynn Waszkiewicz +William Wade +Jeannette Herrman +Eugene D'Amico +Dennis Hughes (L)+Stein & Kempiski Families 11:30 AM +John McTague +Gerard Pizzillo +Joan Guariglia	Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn. 20:19-23	<i>Live-Streaming 10:00 AM Mass</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish">www.facebook.com/stfrancisparish</a>

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

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, May 12	<u>(L) Living +Deceased</u> <b>Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord;</b> <b>Mother's Day Blessing</b> 10:00 AM + <i>Intentions of All Mothers</i>
Sunday, May 19	10:00 AM + <i>Franciscan Mass League</i>

### Emergency Information

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

## Parish Information - (609) 494-8861

**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 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 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) 494-8861 ext. 154 or 155.

**Family Faith:** For children in grades one through eight. Please call Judith Clayton at (609) 494-8861 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, Liturgy & Music  
Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM  
Judith Clayton, Director, Family Faith Formation  
Deacon Robert Cunningham  
Fr. Kevin Daly, OFM  
Fr. Francis DiSpigno, OFM, Pastor  
Fr. John Frambes, OFM  
Amy Marks, Director, Parish Operations  
Sr. Patricia McNiff, OSF  
Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM  
Sr. Pat Klemm, OSF (in-residence)  
Parish Office - (609) 494-8861,  
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM)  
Family Faith Formation - (609) 494-8861 ext. 153

### **Parish Finance Council**

Cecelia Fowler	Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM
Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM	Jay Pojednic
Joe Hummel	Joe Mack
Joe Vaszily	Peter Williams
Stacey Kelsall, Comptroller	

Anyone who needs to contact the Parish staff or Finance Council can do so by visiting our website at: [www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/contact](http://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/contact)

### **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

## A Letter From The Pastor...



Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM,  
Pastor

### First Communions and Our Mothers!

As I had mentioned last week, this weekend we continued the celebration of First Holy Communion with our younger brothers and sisters.

Yesterday, Saturday, May 11th, *Tanner Bass, Zander Bass, Brielle Banos, Colette Banos, Shane Carey, Grady Casaletto, Teagan Casaletto, Bennett Chandler, Reese Dugan, Tyler Hoffman, Ryder Ivancich, Lincoln Johnson, Evangeline Kawash, Norah O'Brien, RJ Petrillo, Nicholas Povlosky, Josephine Raban, and Greyson Walker* receive their First Holy Communion. What a blessing they are to us as a church. *Congratulations to them and thank you to their parents and teachers!!*

This weekend we also stop to recognize our mothers. There is no one like our mothers. Together we pray in gratitude for their love and relentless dedication to their family, their unconditional love toward their children, and the unique role that mothers have bringing new life into our world, into God's creation.

God we ask your special blessing on all mothers this day and every day.

*O God, you have fashioned creation in such a beautiful way that no one may enter this life except through a mother; how truly important and special moms are.*

*We ask you to bless all women that you have called to the holy vocation of motherhood.*

*May they persevere in every trial, rejoice in every blessing and never cease praying for their children.*

*By their maternal encouragement, patient love, and good example, may they lead their children to the bliss of heaven.*

*O Virgin Mother of God, Mary most holy, be every mother's inspiration in all that they think, say, and do.*

*Amen*

Happy Mother's Day!

Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM  
Pastor

## Offertory Collection

### This Week's First Collection:

Needed: \$24,300

### This Week's Second Collection:

#### **Catholic Communication Campaign**

The National Catholic Communication Campaign, in partnership with the communications office of the Diocese of Trenton, is an important Catholic voice in the media: educating, entertaining, inspiring and informing the public about Gospel values. Your donation helps continue the work of bringing the Good News to people everywhere.



### Last Week's First Collection:

Collected: \$23,403

Needed: \$24,300

### Last Week's Second Collection:

#### **Youth Ministry Scholarship Fund**

Collected: \$7,460

*(Online Giving totals are included in the above figures)*

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



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

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2024

**Goal:** \$85,000

**Pledged:** \$33,424.00 (39% of Goal)

**Paid:** \$30,406.00 (36% of Goal)

**Total Donors:** 168

**Total Gifts:** 180

**Average Gift:** \$185.69

## Gospel Inspirations:

*“Holy father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one.”*

**Jesus prays that we will all be united in love just as He is united with God, His Father.**

*Let us join with Jesus and pray and work for unity among all people.*

*We have been consecrated for this mission.*



## Family Faith

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

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

Mary Lou Ligus, Administrative Assistant (Ext. 179)

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



## First Eucharist May 11, 2024

Tanner Bass  
Zander Bass  
Brielle Banos  
Colette Banos  
Shane Carey  
Grady Casaletto  
Teagan Casaletto  
Bennett Chandler  
Reese Dugan  
Tyler Hoffman  
Ryder Ivancich  
Lincoln Johnson  
Evangeline Kawash  
Norah O'Brien  
RJ Petrillo  
Nicholas Povlosky  
Josephine Raban  
Greyson Walker



### Revised Summer Mass Schedule 2024

	Beach Haven	Brant Beach	Surf City*	L'ladies
<b>April 6/7 - May 18/19</b>				
		5:00 PM		
		8:30 AM		
<b>May 4/5</b>	10:00 AM	<b>10:00 AM*</b>		
		11:30 AM		
<b>MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - May 25/26</b>				
	5:00 PM	5:00 PM	5:00 PM HALL	5:00 PM
		7:15 AM		
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM HALL	8:30 AM
	10:00 AM	<b>10:00 AM*</b>	10:00 AM HALL	10:00 AM
		11:30 AM		
<b>June 1/2- June 22/23</b>				
	5:00 PM	5:00 PM		
		7:15 AM		
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM		
	10:00 AM	<b>10:00 AM*</b>		
		11:30 AM		
<b>June 29/30 - August 31/September 1</b>				
	5:00 PM	5:00 PM	5:00 PM HALL	5:00 PM
		7:15 AM		
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM HALL	8:30 AM
	10:00 AM	<b>10:00 AM*</b>	10:00 AM HALL	10:00 AM
	11:30 AM	11:30 AM	11:30 AM HALL	

\* BB 10 AM Mass Online Mass via the Parish Website and Parish Facebook Page



## Franciscan Spiritual Center Presents:



### Spiritual Direction

- 1: Are you interested in a deeper relationship with God?
- 2: Do you experience a desire to pray always?
- 3: Are you searching for a better understanding of the actions of God's grace in your life?

Our parish has four certified Spiritual Directors offering *free* Spiritual Direction. If you think this might be a way for you to recognize God's actions in your daily life please call:

Kathy Egan, (215) 694-4651  
Mary Lou Jacoby, (732) 995-6917  
Fr. Andrew Reitz, ofm, (609) 494-8861  
Pat Simmons, (609) 661-1361

### An Invitation to Contemplative Living

Our times together invite us into prayerful reading and discussion of Scripture or other spiritual writing through Lectio Divina or "Divine Reading" and a period of silent prayer. We meet by Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM - write Kathy Egan ([klegan\\_chaplain@gmail.com](mailto:klegan_chaplain@gmail.com)) for the link. On the second Saturday of the month we meet in person in the Senior Lounge of the Community Center at 9:45 AM when we also have a presentation. We always welcome new folks to join us!

**Next sessions:** Wednesday, **June 5**, 10:30 AM, Zoom  
Saturday, **June 8**, 9:45 AM, Sr. Lounge

### 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 meeting:** Saturday, **May 18**, 10:00 AM, Sr. Lunch Room.

### 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, **May 15**, 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. *Saints for All Occasion*, by J. Sullivan.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, **May 28**, 1:30 PM, Room 212

#### Order of the Franciscans Secular offs

Will meet the First Sunday of every month, March thru June, 12:30 PM, New members welcome!

**Next meeting:** Sunday, **June 2**, 12:30 PM, Church Hall

#### Overeaters Anonymous OA

Friday mornings from 11:00 am - noon. Join us for our 3-fold recovery: Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Call Joan T. at (609) 978-2805 or (732) 261-0173 for more information.

**Next meeting:** Friday, **May 17**, Room 102, Parish Center.

#### 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](mailto:tomtroyano@comcast.net) for more information.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, **May 22**, Room 102, Parish Center.

#### Survivors of Suicide

Meets the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday** of each month at 7:00 PM in the Knight Wing Conference Room (Room 212).

Call Sr. Pat McNiff, ofm at (609) 494-8861 for more info.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, **June 13**, 7:00 PM, Room 212

### Employment Opportunity

For the most up to date listing of employment opportunities for St Francis Parish and Community Center please visit: The Community Center website

[www.stfranciscenterlbi.org/employment-opportunities](http://www.stfranciscenterlbi.org/employment-opportunities)

The Parish website <https://www.stfrancisparishlbi.org/careers>  
Indeed.com <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/St.-Francis-Parish-and-Center-1/jobs> or you can go to the Community Center front desk to fill out an application.

Questions regarding employment opportunities? Please contact Amy Bodine at [abodine@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:abodine@stfrancislbi.org)

Our "Dinner with Friends" meeting for widows and widowers will be on Tuesday, **May 14<sup>th</sup>** at 5:15pm in the Brant Beach Church Hall. No need to bring dinner this month. Pizza and salad are being provided. All are welcome.

**ST. FRANCIS Liturgy Music & Music**

**Altar Linen Ministry**

## Ministers needed for the Beach Haven Church

We are looking to form a Beach Haven Church branch of the Altar Linen Ministry to care for the linens used at weekend liturgies. Directions and training are available for anyone interested- no experience necessary.

**JOIN US:**  
Contact The Office of Liturgy and Music ministries@stfrancislbi.org  
609-494-8813 ext.159



**THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON** is committed to the initiative outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines regarding the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

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



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



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

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

**SPLENDORS OF OLD-WORLD EUROPE:**  
Featuring an *Eight Day Danube River Cruise on board the Luxurious MS Amadeus Riva*

**12 DAYS: OCTOBER 13 - 24, 2024**

Hosted by **FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM**

Optional Shore Excursion Package Available! Request Brochure for Details!

**STARTING AT \$5399 FROM NEW YORK**  
(Including Government Taxes & Airline surcharges of \$550\*)  
Estimated as of August 27, 2023

**FOR A BROCHURE WITH COMPLETE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
4700 Long Beach Blvd.  
Brant Beach, NJ 08008  
Tel: (917) 275-5593  
Email: [areitz@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:areitz@stfrancislbi.org)

**Tour Features:** Roundtrip airfare from New York, first class/select hotel on land portion, accommodations on the MS Amadeus Riva in handsomely appointed state-rooms sharing in twin-bedded cabins, all meals on board the cruise and breakfast daily on land portion, free-flowing red & white regional wines, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard the cruise portion of the tour, comprehensive sightseeing by private motorcoach including services of professional English-speaking guides and much more!

**NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.**

**LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP**

**PROGRESSIVE 50/50**

**DRAWING JULY 6th 10PM FESTIVAL FAIR GROUNDS**

\$2 PER TICKET  
\$10 PER BOOK OF 6 TICKETS


TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER FRONT DESK


**2023 WINNER RECEIVED \$9,469**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

  
4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp 08008  
609-494-8861

**Sight and Sound**  
October 9, 2024



 **\$192**  
Includes: Show, Lunch, Transportation & Driver's Tip

From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, **DANIEL** is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theaters.

Daniel Package Includes:

- Show Ticket
- Smorgasbord Lunch
- Shopping at Shady Maple

Contact Info.: Cheryl Krzaczyk, 609-661-5229  
Mary Lou Ligus, 215-850-7809

**Bus pick up at Walmart in Manahawkin & St. Francis LBI**  
St. Francis Parish, 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ 08008



## SPECIAL EVENTS

Save the Date

The Annual Garden Party by the Sea  
A Fashion Show

Bonnet Island Estate  
June 17, 2024  
2:00pm-4:30pm

TICKETS GO ON SALE AT THE FRONT DESK  
MAY 1, 2024  
TICKET PRICE - \$65

Scan for more info

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN  
FOOD FASHION PRIZES

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH 9:30 - 3PM

**SUMMER SOLSTICE CRAFT SHOW**

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER  
4700 LBI BLVD. BRANT BEACH NJ • \$2 ADMISSION

## Did You Know??

The St. Francis Community Center has arranged several upcoming events for May and June, and we hope that you join us. Our **2nd Annual Golf Outing** is scheduled for Monday, **May 6<sup>th</sup>** at LBI National Golf Course. *Thank you for participating in the Golf Outing.*

Next up is the **Summer Solstice Craft Show** on Saturday, **June 15<sup>th</sup>** and will be showcasing 70 talented local artists and craft vendors.

As the summer months approach, the St. Francis Community Center is offering a variety of exciting events. On **July 24<sup>th</sup>**, **Swimming Under the Stars** will take place, while **August 8<sup>th</sup>** will be our Family Fun Swim Night.

The First Annual **Funky Flea Market** is set for **Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**. For those seeking further event or vendor information, inquiries can be directed via email to [mdibella@stfrancislbi.org](mailto:mdibella@stfrancislbi.org) or by calling 609-494-8861 x107.

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

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! It has been honored as a month-long awareness campaign since 1970! St Francis Counseling Service provides the sexual violence hotline for Ocean County, which is staffed 24/7/365 by advocates trained to assist survivors of sexual violence and can be reached by calling 609-494-1090. Join SFCS and sexual assault programs across the world in honoring this awareness month by wearing teal (the color of sexual violence awareness) and celebrating Denim Day (the last Wednesday in April, which is April 24<sup>th</sup> this year!) Check out our facebook page: [stfrancisounselingservice](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisounselingservice) for more information on events and programs! If you or someone you know has been the victim of a violence crime and needs counseling support, call 609-494-1554.

ST FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER  
ST FRANCIS COUNSELING SERVICE  
IS NOW OFFERING

**Support for Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders**

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO OCEAN COUNTY RESIDENTS WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF THREE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA AND HAVE POSTPARTUM SYMPTOMS

GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE COUNSELING FOR PARENTS IN THE PERINATAL PERIOD, ADDRESSING NEW PARENTHOOD STRUGGLES, PERINATAL MOOD AND ANXIETY DISORDER, INFERTILITY, MISCARRIAGE, STILLBIRTH, SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME, AND TRAUMA

Call 609-494-1554 for more information  
St Francis Counseling Service-4700 Long Beach Blvd. Long Beach Twp. NJ

SUPPORTED BY COUNTY OF OCEAN, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT

## 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.

## Educational & Career Services

For information call 732-281-8653

Introducing the 23-24 FY Senior Employment Assistance Program (SEA) for Ocean County residents ages 55 & up. Whether impacted by COVID-19 or seeking to enhance skills for reentry into the workforce, the SEA Program breaks down age-related barriers. Our mission is to empower seniors by creating an inclusive environment, redefining the narrative around senior employment. We provide tailored support, skill development, and personalized career guidance, fostering a community that values the expertise seniors bring. Services include soft/hard skills assistance, on-the-job training, resume building, tech & career training, community resource linkages, and counseling. Join us in shaping a future where age is a source of strength and unmatched value.



The poster for SEA BINGO features a blue and white color scheme with a background of waves and birds. It includes logos for St. Francis Community Center and The SEA Program. The text is centered and provides all necessary details for the event.

**SEA BINGO**  
May 18th, 2024  
10AM-12PM

This FREE event is hosted by the Senior Employment Assistance (SEA) Program: Open to the Ocean County public 55+ looking to upskill & re-enter the workforce. Join us for a fun-filled morning of games and exciting prizes. Light refreshments will be provided.

St. Francis Community Center  
1258 Route 166  
Stella Towne Center  
Toms River, NJ 08753

Must pre-register!  
Please call:  
732-281-8653

## Cultural Competency Statement

The St. Francis Center recognizes a culturally diverse community and makes a commitment to the principles of multiculturalism as a means of understanding, accepting, valuing, and supporting cultural diversity. The term Multicultural is applied broadly to include issues of minority or marginalized status as it relates to race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, use of English as a second language, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, spirituality, and the elderly. The St. Francis Center proposes to develop programs and practices that assist staff, board members, and volunteers to recognize, accept, and affirm differences and similarities among people and provide services that are supportive and inclusive of all members of the community.

## 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\*\**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Items needed:

*ALL Canned Vegetables & Beans  
Canned Chicken  
Soup  
Tea  
Nutritional Drinks (ie. Boost)  
Pasta & Jarred Sauce  
Oatmeal*

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

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

*Full Day and Work Day*

Toddlers: Ages 13 months to 2 1/2

Preschoolers: Ages 2 1/2 to 5



## 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](http://www.stfranciscenterlbi.org) or pick up a Brochure at the Center lobby.

### Basic Boating Safety Course - NJ Certified

Session II:  
Tuesday & Thursday,  
**May 21 & 23; 5:00-9:00pm**  
Ages: 13 & up  
Fee: \$90



The NJ State Police Certification Course for Basic Boating Safety will consist of a total of 8 hours of lecture and video with homework and test. This class will prepare and certify you to operate a motor boat or a personal water craft vessel in NJ. Certified operators ages 13-15 may operate vessels with up to a 1 hp motor. However, if the vessel is over 12 feet long, then motor may be up to 9.9 hp. Certified operators ages 16 and older may operate any motor boat or personal watercraft. Workbooks will be provided. Must attend both classes. Instructor: Joseph Gozdieski, Capt. Joe  
Place: Pool Multi-Purpose Room (Max: 15 Min: 4)

( Session III: June 18 & June 20; 5:00-9:00pm )



Are you looking for a place to hold a birthday party? St. Francis Community Center offers a wet and wild time! Each party is two hours. We provide the party room, which includes: tables, chairs, a full kitchen and garbage cans.

You supply the party decorations, food and beverages. Call the Aquatic Center today for more information or to book a Party; 609-494-8861 ext. 187.

## Community Bulletin Board

### St. Joseph's Parish

685 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ

<http://www.donovancatholic.org>

732-349-0018 x2223

**PLEASE JOIN AREA WIDE ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETIES FOR A**  
*Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™*  
*Saturday, June 1 at 9:30am*

Ever dream of visiting Lourdes, France in person but just couldn't get there? The next best thing is a pilgrimage journey without the travel and go there virtually!

Hosted by St. Joseph's Church, volunteers from the North American Lourdes will present a 2-hour Virtual Pilgrimage Experience to Lourdes, France. During this guided encounter, you will:

- immerse yourself in the Message of Lourdes as given by Our Lady to St. Bernadette
- touch the Grotto Rock and the healing grace of Lourdes Water
- receive a Eucharistic blessing, pray a candlelight Rosary, and receive a bottle of Lourdes water
- Plenary Indulgence will be granted by Papal Decree

Come and experience the healing grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ through His Immaculate Mother. Prepare a petition to be placed in the Grotto in Lourdes, France. Our Lady extends her invitation to all. Invite your family, children, and friends. There is no admission fee, however a free-will offering will be taken. For more information or questions contact JoAnn at 732-349-0018 x2223. **NO REGISTRATION NEEDED.**

### Maris Stella Retreat Center

Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008

#### Summer Retreats

##### Guided Retreat: "Images of God in Sea, Sky, and Sand"

**Sunday, June 16 – Saturday, June 22, 2024**

Each day of the retreat will focus on an element of creation: water, wind, sun, clouds, sand, etc. through poetry and photography. Retreatants will be invited to tap into their own creativity. Silence will be enjoyed on this retreat with sharing in the gift of conversation at the dinner meal only. Presenter: Ellen Dauwer, SC

##### Preached Retreat: "The Gift of Aging Contemplatively"

**Sunday June 23 – Saturday, June 29, 2024**

We will take a deep dive into reimagining Aging as an invitation to live our lives with passion and gratitude. A quiet retreat offers the needed environment for prayer and rest and welcomes the gift of conversation at meals.

Presenters: Rev. Jack Rathschmidt and Gaynell Cronin

##### Silent Directed/Private Retreat

**Monday, July 22 – Sunday, July 28, 2024**

**Directed:** Private prayer, mass and meet each day with a Spiritual Director.

**Private:** Private prayer, mass and quiet time away.

Spiritual Director: Eileen McGovern, SSI

For more information or to register: [www.marisstella.org](http://www.marisstella.org) or Call Sr Pat 609-494-1182 or [pdotzauer@comcast.net](mailto:pdotzauer@comcast.net)

### Soroptimist Clothes Closet

Stafford Community Center, 25 Pine St., Manahawkin

The Soroptimist Clothes Closet is open every Saturday, 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 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.

#### Get Updates on Closings sent directly to your phone:

1. Go to [Rainedout.com](http://Rainedout.com)
2. Search St. Francis Center, LBICC, INC.
3. Opt-in to your organization
4. Validate your phone number



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