

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1046 WEST CEDAR STREET - ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18102
(610) 433-6102

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Priests

Reverend Richard C. Brensinger, Pastor
Reverend Kevin M. Gualano, In Residence

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Robert Young

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Daily: see Mass Schedule

Holy Day: (Vigil 7:00 PM) 8:00 AM & 12:15 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM

Monday: 6:15 PM (before 7:00 PM Mass)

Anytime by appointment

Adoration Chapel

Please consider spending some time with
our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Our Adoration Chapel is located
between the Church and the school building.

Open daily from 7:00 AM—9:00 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the family of
Saint Francis of Assisi,
aim to inspire hearts of

compassion, kindness,
and love through
our worship of the
Holy Eucharist.



SACRAMENTAL AND PARISH INFORMATION

New Members

Welcome to Saint Francis Parish. Please call the Parish Center Office in order to register in our parish, or stop in during office hours or on the weekend after all Masses. One needs to be a member of our parish three months in order to receive a certificate of eligibility. Please notify the office if you change your address or move away.

Religious Education (PREP)

All children of the parish should be receiving religious instruction through our parish school or through our Parish Religious Education Program which has been combined with the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena. Please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education, Donna Sciacca at 610-432-7655 or by email at prep@cathedral-church.org

Marriage

We look forward to celebrating God's gift of love in the sacrament of marriage for any registered and practicing parishioner. Diocesan policy states that contact should be made one year, but no later than six months, prior to the proposed date of marriage in order to begin pre-nuptial instructions. Call the Parish Center Office for further information.

Baptisms

Baptisms are held for our registered (at least three months) and practicing parishioners normally the first Sunday of the month immediately after the 10:30 Mass. Parents are to register for a Baptismal Preparation Class held normally on the Wednesday before each baptism in the Parish Center. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic for the valid reception of baptism. That person must also be able to receive a certificate of eligibility from their Catholic parish. A Non-Catholic Christian is permitted to act as a witness. Parents should begin to make arrangements for a baptism during pregnancy.

Godparents & Confirmation Sponsors Info

You must be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, must be known to attend Mass regularly and, if married, the marriage must be recognized by the church. These requirements are the universal law of the church. All requests for 'Letters of Good Standing' are to be made well in advance to the Parish Office.

Ministry to the Sick

Please notify the Parish Center Office when a parishioner is in the hospital or home and would like to receive communion or the anointing of the sick. Visits can also be made to those parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive confession and communion.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We welcome and support all whose faith journey brings them to seek full communion with the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Center Office for further information.

Saint John Vianney Regional School

We encourage all our parents to consider sending their children to our parish school, Saint John Vianney Regional School. Our school is located at 210 North 18th Street in Allentown. Please contact our school principal at 610-435-8981 to register your child for a faith based, middle-states accredited, Catholic education.

Allentown Central Catholic High School

We encourage our high school students to consider attending our local Catholic high school - Allentown Central Catholic. Please contact the Director of Admissions, at (610) 437-4601 for more information.

Wills and Memorials

As a lasting remembrance or final gift to your parish, all parishioners are encouraged to include St. Francis of Assisi in their wills or as a beneficiary on an insurance policy. At the time of passing of a relative or friend, consider enrolling them in the Sanctuary Memorial Fund. Memorials are available in the Parish Center Office and are often used in lieu of flowers.

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC
Direct Telephone Number (800)791-9209

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church. To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndiocese.org and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials

The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week March 17, 2024 is
In Memory of Charles R. Brensinger
By *The Lenahan Family*

Choir Schedule

The Choir will rehearse on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 PM in the choir loft. The choir will sing at the 4:30 PM Mass on Saturday, March 23rd (Palm Sunday Vigil.)



Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Jeffrey F. Burnatowski

by: Joanne M. Bailer, Monica Hodges

Mary Jane Bernhard

by: Thomas Good

by: *Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord*

Recently Deceased



Please pray for the soul of parishioner Richard Seip, who recently passed away. Grant him eternal rest, O Lord, and may his family know your peace and comfort.

Weekend Sacristans

We are in need of a couple more weekend sacristans. If you are interested in training, please contact Deacon Bob at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102.



Traveling Statue of Saint Francis of Assisi



Our blessed statue of Saint Francis can come and spend some time in your home. Each parish household can sign up for a week to "house" Saint Francis. Please call the Parish Office at 610-433-6102 to schedule your week.

Men of St. Francis Meeting

The Men of St Francis will meet on Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 PM in Heritage Hall. All men of the parish age 18 and over are welcome to attend. For additional information, contact Bob Webre at 484-225-0984.

Hearing Devices Are Now Available

We are pleased to announce that our new *Listen Hearing Devices* are available to sign out while you are attending Mass. They will be kept at the Parish Office and can be signed out and borrowed on your way into Mass. They must be returned immediately after Mass.



A Gentle Reminder:

This Sunday, March 17th, is the last day to order Fish Dinners and Easter Eggs.



Mass Schedule

Monday, March 18, 2024

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11

7:00 PM Kenneth S. Fekete, Jr.

Tuesday, March 19th **Saint Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

8:00 AM Intentions of Maggie Sweet

Wednesday, March 20th

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

8:00 AM Victor Finelli, Sr.

Thursday, March 21st

Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

8:00 AM JoAnn Humanick

Friday, March 22nd

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

8:00 AM Claire Ritz

Saturday and Sunday, March 23rd & 24th

Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord

Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

4:30 PM Joseph Embiscusso

8:30 AM Theresa J. Pinter

10:30 AM Glenn (Gordy) Evans

People of Saint Francis

Sacred Heart and Miraculous Medal Novenas

The Miraculous Medal Novena is recited every Monday after the 7:00 PM evening Mass. The Novena to the Sacred Heart is recited on the First Friday each month at the 8:00 AM daily Mass. Each novena comes with special benefits. All are invited. Father Rich will hear confessions prior to the Monday 7:00 PM Mass, in addition to the Saturday confessions at 3:15 PM.



Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross will be offered twice each Friday through March 22nd at 11:30 AM and 7:00 PM. (On Good Friday, March 29th, at 7:00 PM only.)

Pray, Fast, Give Through Operation Rice Bowl This Lent

Operation Rice Bowl, an annual giving program that began in the Diocese of Allentown 49 years ago, is a great way to answer the Church's call for almsgiving during Lent. Families eat a simple meal one day a week, and give the money they would have spent on a more elaborate meal to Operation Rice Bowl. One-quarter of the funds remain in the Diocese to help those in need locally, and the balance is contributed to hunger relief efforts nationwide and in 100 countries around the world, distributed by Catholic Relief Services. Rice Bowl boxes are available in the church vestibule and in the Parish Office.



Extra Confessions Holy Week:

Monday, March 25th 6-6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 26th 10-11:00 AM

Wednesday, March 27th 5-6:00 PM





- Preschool Programs, Full Day
 - Kindergarten through 8th Grade
 - Safe Environment, Faith-Filled Curriculum
 - Outstanding Academics
 - Free Tour and Shadow Days
- SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind, and spirit!
Phone: 610-435-8981

Email: principal@stjohnvianneyschool.org
Call us today to schedule a tour at your convenience!
SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind and spirit!

We're Hiring! Join our Team!

St. John Vianney Regional School is looking to fill the following positions for the 2023-2024 School Year:

- STEM Teacher
- Daily Substitute Teachers
- Extended Care Assistants

If you are interested in joining our dedicated and talented team, please contact Mrs. Beth Serrano, St. John Vianney Regional School Principal at mrserrano@stjohnvianney-school.org or 610-435-8981.

School Mission Statement

St. John Vianney Regional School is a Catholic community dedicated to living our faith in Jesus Christ from Preschool through 8th Grade. Our school and families partner together to encourage an appreciation for our diverse world. In a caring and respectful environment, we develop independent thinkers through spiritual values and strong academics. St. John Vianney students celebrate each day through prayer, education, and service; and embrace tomorrow committed to faith, leadership, and community.



Movie Club

Join us for Movie Club on April 7th at 3:30 PM (doors open) 4:00 PM showing of **Jules**. **THERE IS NO MOVIE ON MARCH 17TH**, due to circumstances beyond our control.

A man's quiet life gets upended when a UFO crashes in his backyard in rural Pennsylvania. As he befriends the mysterious extraterrestrial, things start to get complicated when two neighbors discover it and the government quickly closes in. 84% score on Rotten Tomatoes. All are welcome!

Join us for the film, free popcorn, soda and other snacks – and most importantly FUN and FELLOWSHIP.



JOHN PATRICK
publishing company, inc.

John Patrick Publishing Company prints our weekly bulletin. To place advertisements on the back of our bulletin, contact Karen Donehower at 484-363-9475.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL

In Faith - Celebrating Today, Embracing Tomorrow!

Enroll your 4-5 year old child in our enriched full-day preschool program! We provide a healthy, safe, spiritual, and educational environment that is filled with opportunities for social interaction, fun, and learning.

Receive a \$1,000 Scholarship!
Apply today for our Preschool program!
Catholic Mission. Traditional Values. Scholarships Available.

Visit StJohnVianneySchool.org | Call Us: 610.435.8981 | 210 N 18th Street, Allentown, PA 18104



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of March 9th & 10th

Sunday in Pew	\$ 5,231.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,996.90

Thank you for your continued contributions to our parish. We appreciate all that you do, financially and other ways, to make our parish great. Please consider online giving. It's safe, easy and secure. Visit our website for more information.



For Those Who Give Online:

In order to have your loved ones remembered in Easter Flower intentions, please place your envelope with names inscribed into the collection no later than the weekend prior to Easter. Mark that you have given online. If you no longer receive parish envelopes, simply write the names of those you want remembered on a slip of paper and place in the collection basket.

Old Palm Collection

Once again this year, we will be collecting your old palm to burn them for ashes. The basket is located outside the ramp doors, just inside the main entrance.



Healing Retreat

Join us for a healing retreat, Monday, April 8th from 1 to 4 PM. There will be an afternoon of healing prayer, testimony, music and anointing with oil from the Holy Land. Please register by Monday, April 1st by calling St. Francis Retreat House at 610-258-3053 ext. 0. All are welcome!

Mini-Retreat Presented by Bishop Schlert

Bishop Alfred Schlert will present "Restlessness and Distraction in Our Lives: Can the Synod Process Help Me?" at the Monday Mini-Retreat on April 15th at St. Francis Retreat House in Easton. Dinner at 6:00 PM precedes the presentation from 7:00 - 9:00. Donation is \$40 for in-person or \$25 for virtual participation. Register by April 5th at www.stfrancisretreathouse.org.

**Liturgical Ministers Schedule
Saturday and Sunday, March 23rd & 24th**

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
<i>Lector</i>	H. Moyer	K. McFadden	C. Stockdale
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	A. Moyer, J. Fittipaldi, J. DeLeo	L. Eberly, T. Racek	M. Tran, D. Ruiz
<i>Cantor</i>	Choir	P. Rollins	G. Rodriguez
<i>Organist</i>	R. Venditto	D. Badesso	D. Badesso
<i>Altar Servers</i>	F. & S. Koerbler		J. & J. Burgos
<i>Sacristan</i>	T. Jacob	P. McFadden	P. McFadden



St Francis of Assisi Basket Raffle

May 18 - 11 am to 6 pm and May 19 - 9 am to 2 pm

**Tickets – one sheet for \$10 -
3 sheets for \$20**

**Baskets are all valued at \$50
or more**

**There will be baskets for
every member of your
family – the littles, men,
women, your pets –
everyone!!!**

**As always – there will also
be gift cards and adult
beverage “baskets” to bid
on!**

**Food will be available for
purchase – dine in or take
home**

**For the Diocesan survey that Deacon Bob spoke about - the link is:
<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/byxd15>**

This survey is a first step in the Next Generation Diocese journey. The purpose of this survey is to make OUR PARISH the best it can be. As awesome as our Saint Francis parish is, improvement is always a good thing.

The Diocese of Allentown has partnered with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI), a lay apostolate headquartered just outside of Philadelphia that inspires Catholic leaders to revitalize the Church for a Christ-filled and joy-filled future through a close accompaniment.

There is no cost to you or our parish. The goal is to make our parish a renewed place of worship, prayer, holiness and welcome. Another goal is make our Diocese a place of evangelization where disciples are formed.

Additionally, this Disciple Maker Index will help YOU find ways to make an impact. The survey should take you 10 to 15 minutes to complete. We hope you are able to join us in making St. Francis, our Diocese and our own selves the best we can be.

Surveys are due by March 27th

"Make me an instrument of your peace."

Francis of Assisi



Disciple Maker Index

portal.catholicleaders.org/1/aa3kaa

Step 1: Follow the link or scan the QR code

**Step 2: Find your parish and click on the
survey link for your individual parish**





It's the
Saint Francis of Assisi



LENTEN FISH DINNER

JOIN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SAINT FRANCIS COMMUNITY AND OUR NEIGHBORS

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

FROM 4:30 -6:30 PM FOR A GREAT FISH MEAL



Meals Include:

Baked Haddock, Tossed Salad, Green Beans,
Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes
Coffee, Tea, Water OR Soda

Kids Meals – Fish Sticks and Mac & Cheese

ALL for the price of:

\$15 Adults, \$10 Youth (12-18 yrs.), \$7 Kids (under 12)



FISH DINNER ORDER FORM

March 22, 2024

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Please place the number of meals purchasing and totals on the lines below:

Adults _____ X \$15 = \$ _____

Youth (12-18 yrs) _____ X \$10 = \$ _____

Kids (under 12) _____ X \$7 = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION OF FORM & PAYMENT IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "FISH" VIA COLLECTION BASKET, OFFICE MAIL SLOT OR PARISH OFFICE. CASH OR CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO SAINT FRANCIS.

RESERVATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 17, 2024.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME BASIS.

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG SALE

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024
Pick-up 9am - 12 NOON

**ORDERS MUST BE IN BY
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024**
NO ORDERS TAKEN AFTER MARCH 17, 2024.



ITEM	SIZE	PRICE	X	QTY	=	COST
PEANUT BUTTER EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	\$ 19.00	X		=	
PEANUT BUTTER EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	11.00	X		=	
PEANUT BUTTER EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	19.00	X		=	
PEANUT BUTTER EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	11.00	X		=	
COCONUT CREAM EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	19.00	X		=	
COCONUT CREAM EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	11.00	X		=	
COCONUT CREAM EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	19.00	X		=	
COCONUT CREAM EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	11.00	X		=	
BUTTER CREAM EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	19.00	X		=	
BUTTER CREAM EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	11.00	X		=	
BUTTER CREAM EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	19.00	X		=	
BUTTER CREAM EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	11.00	X		=	
PEANUT ROLLED WITH PEANUT BUTTER CENTER — MILK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	21.00	X		=	
PEANUT ROLLED WITH PEANUT BUTTER CENTER — MILK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	12.00	X		=	
PEANUT ROLLED WITH PEANUT BUTTER CENTER — DARK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	21.00	X		=	
PEANUT ROLLED WITH PEANUT BUTTER CENTER — DARK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	12.00	X		=	
PEANUT ROLLED WITH BUTTER CREAM CENTER — MILK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	21.00	X		=	
PEANUT ROLLED WITH BUTTER CREAM CENTER — MILK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	12.00	X		=	
PEANUT ROLLED WITH BUTTER CREAM CENTER —DARK CHOCOLATE	1 lb	21.00	X		=	
PEANUT ROLLED WITH BUTTER CREAM CENTER —DARK CHOCOLATE	1/2 lb	12.00	X		=	
NOTE: ALL PEANUT ITEMS WILL BE PREPARED SEPARATELY, SO THERE WILL BE NO CROSS-CONTAMINATION.					TL \$	

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

RETURN ENTIRE COMPLETED FORM & PAYMENT IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "EASTER EGGS" VIA COLLECTION BASKET, OFFICE MAIL SLOT OR PARISH OFFICE. CASH OR CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI.