

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



*August 9, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time*

PASTOR

REVEREND RICHARD C. BRENSINGER, M. DIV.

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 3:15-4:00 PM
MONDAY: 6:15 PM - 6:45 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 MONDAY-FRIDAY FROM 7:00 AM-7:00 PM
SATURDAY FROM 7:00 AM-3:00 PM
SUNDAY 12:00 NOON TO 7:00 PM
CLOSED HOLYDAYS & HOLIDAYS

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

If you would like to memorialize the red sanctuary lamp for the Tabernacle for a week, the cost is \$10 for the seven day candle. Please contact Stephanie Epler at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102, for information.

**The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week
August 9, 2026 is in memory of
Colleen O'Hare
By *Ronnie Herman***

Floral Intentions

If you would like to offer Floral Intentions in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call the Parish Office. Live flowers can be placed in front of The Holy Family or The Sacred Heart for \$30 each, or \$60 for both sides.



**The flowers in front of The Holy Family
For the week of August 9, 2026 are
In Memory of *Colleen O'Hare*
By *The Staff of Saint Francis Parish Office***

New Lector Training

Are you interested in being entrusted with the privilege of reading the word of God at Mass? Then sign up and come to the training session on Tuesday, **August 11th at 6:30 PM** in the main Church to learn and join the Lector ministry. Contact Mary Kay McMahon at mkm1448@gmail.com or call/text 610-295-4907 to express your interest in attending.

Mass Schedule

Monday, August 10, 2026

Saint Lawrence

2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26

7:00 PM Colleen O'Hare

Tuesday, August 11th

Saint Clare

Ez 2:8—3:4; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

8:00 AM Roger and Beatrice Tracey

Wednesday, August 12th Saint Jane Frances de Chantal

Ez 9:1-7, 10:18-22; Mt 18:15-20

8:00 AM Intentions of Bernadette & Grant Schmidt

Thursday, August 13th Saints Pontian and Hippolytus

Ez 12:1-2; Mt 18:21-19:1

8:00 AM Laura Cleary

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Friday, August 14th

Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63; Mt 19:3-12

8:00 AM People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Saturday, August 15th Assumption of The BVM

Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

9:00 AM Eleanor McGuire

Saturday and Sunday, August 15th and 16th

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 56:1, 6-7; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

4:30 PM Edward Brennan

8:30 AM Bonnie Weller

10:30 AM Leon Brodowski

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.



Seven Sisters Apostolate: Strengthening Our Shepherd Through Prayer

On November 30, 2025, seven women answered God's call to become part of the Seven Sisters Apostolate, each committing to one Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration every week for the sole intention of praying for the social, physical, and spiritual needs of our beloved pastor, Father Rich.

As the Seven Sisters Apostolate explains, this mission is "a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a 'holy wasting' (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavish outpouring of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ."

In addition to the Seven Sisters, several prayerful women have answered the call to serve as substitutes whenever a sister is unable to fulfill her weekly commitment. Their willingness ensures that Father Rich is covered in prayer every day of the week.

Ask any of the sisters about this ministry, and they will quickly tell you that while they pray for Father, the Lord has abundantly blessed them as well. Countless graces have been received—not only for Father Rich, but also for each woman who faithfully spends an hour in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord. Truly, God is good...all the time!

If you feel called to become a substitute, we would love to hear from you. Simply contact the parish office and leave a message with your contact information. Diane will provide you with materials to help guide your Holy Hour and answer any questions you may have.

June 2027 will be here before we know it. As the current sisters complete their one-year commitment, we pray that others will be inspired to answer this beautiful call by committing to one Holy Hour each week before the Blessed Sacrament for the spiritual well-being of Father Rich.

To learn more about the Seven Sisters Apostolate, visit the Apostolate's website: <https://sevensisters-apostolate.org/> or leave a message with the parish office. Diane will be happy to speak with you about this grace-filled ministry and how you, too, can support Father Rich through the powerful gift of prayer.



St. John Vianney Regional School
210 N. 18th St., Allentown, PA 18104

- 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!

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.

Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary



Please note that although the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not a Holyday of Obligation this year because it falls on a Saturday, there will be a Mass to celebrate this special day on Saturday, August 15th at 9:00 AM in the main church.

Please note that our Adoration Chapel will be closed on this date.



Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul of parishioner Josephine Roccamo, who recently passed away. Grant her eternal rest, O Lord, and may her family know your peace and comfort.

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Louise M. Karoly

by: Holly Poplaski, Mike & Judy Kingsley
Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord.



August 9, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vocations Ministry

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

In the midst of uncertainty and challenge, Jesus calls us to trust in His presence. Vocations invite us to step out in faith, whether to priesthood, consecrated life, or sacramental marriage, placing our lives in His hands and allowing Him to guide us. How is He calling you? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 610-437-0755 or via email: jmaria@allentowndiocese.org



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of August 1 & 2, 2026

Sunday in Pew	\$ 4,515.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,416.84
Second Collection in Pew	\$ 1,037.00
Second Collection Online	\$ 80.00

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 info.

Attention All Women! **"Women Walking in Faith"**

Our group of faith-filled women will meet on Wednesday, August 12th at 7:00 PM in Heritage Hall. All women 18 and over are invited to participate. Guests are welcome so don't hesitate to ask your friends and neighbors. Call Michelle Evans 610-737-9469 with questions.

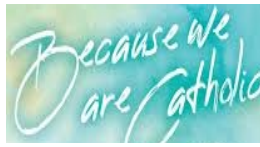


Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

Married couples across the Diocese are invited to renew their vows and thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage during the annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass, Sunday, September 20th at 3 PM. at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Doors will open at 2 PM so couples may receive their certificates. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert. During the Mass, the couples will receive a special blessing and will have the opportunity to renew their vows publicly. Couples will be presented with a Wedding Anniversary Certificate as a token of appreciation. Family members are invited to take part in the celebration to show their support and celebrate the unwavering commitment of the couples on this significant occasion. The registration deadline is Monday, September 7. Register online at allentowndiocese.org/events/anniversarymass.

**Because We Are Catholic
Progress Report
St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown
Report Date: August 3, 2026**

Parish Goal: \$35,070.00
Total Committed: \$23,486.30
Total Collected: \$21,366.30
Number of Donors: 102
Average Gift: \$ 230.26
of Registered Families: 985



LAOH Mass to Commemorate Our Lady of Knock

 The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) invites you to join us in celebrating the feast day of Our Lady of Knock, marking her visitation in Ireland on August 21, 1879. The Mass will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 4:30 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, 1046 W Cedar St, Allentown, PA. We will collect school supplies for the children of St. John Vianney Elementary School, inspired by the generous spirit of Our Lady of Knock. AOH/LAOH welcomes all Catholics of Irish descent, whether by birth or marriage. Our mission is to foster friendship, unity, and charity, and to celebrate our heritage through enjoyable events and good works throughout the year. For more info., please contact Maura O'Donnell Roszyk at lehighvalleyLAOHprez@gmail.com.

Christmas Bus Trip

St. Francis of Assisi will run a Bus Trip to The American Music Theatre's 2026 Christmas Show, "Winter Wonderland" on Wednesday, December 2nd, with a stop at Shady Maple for their lunch buffet prior to the show. \$145 per person covers bus and driver tip, meal and show.



Saint Mary's Summer Cash Bingo

St. Mary's Church, 122 Union St., Catasauqua will hold their Summer Cash Bingo on Sunday, August 16th in their Parish Center. Doors and kitchen open at 11:30 AM with Bingo beginning at 1:00 PM. The cost is \$20 which includes 15 games, seven specials, and one jackpot round. Please no outside food or drinks. The kitchen will be selling your St. Mary's favorites. Please bring your daubers – no hardboards. Reservations: call 610-264-0332 or email kim.stmarys122@gmail.com.

Public Rosary Hours

Please join us for our public Rosary Holy Hours on Saturdays at 12 noon and Sundays at 5:30 PM as we pray for our families, our priests, our country and our world. Your presence is requested.



Low Impact Aerobics Sign-ups



Our instructor, Karen Hoff, is offering 10 weeks of aerobics on Tuesday nights (6:15 – 7:00 PM) from September 1st to November 3rd in St. Elizabeth's parish hall, 435 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall. The cost is \$30.00 per person for the entire 10 weeks for 45 minutes of aerobic exercise only. Registration deadline is August 30th or until the maximum number of participants is reached. Contact Mary Spieker at the parish office to register 610-266-0695 ext. 208 or dirreled@sercc.org. See our website at: www.sercc.org. Bring a friend!

Beginner Low Impact Aerobic Class

Eight weeks on Tuesdays– September 1st – October 20th from 5:30-6:00 PM at Saint Elizabeth's Parish Hall – 435 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall, PA. Registration is required. Only \$20.00 for all 8 weeks. Deadline is August 30. Call or e-mail for more information: Mary Spieker at 610-266-0695 - dirreled@sercc.org. See our parish website: www.sercc.org. Bring a friend!

Update: A Wee Little Worship for the Little Ones!

Welcome, little worshippers! Wee Worship Bags are specially created for toddlers and preschoolers to help them grow in faith through fun, hands-on activities while participating in Mass with their families. Filled with engaging, faith-based items, these bags help little hands stay busy and little hearts focus on God's love.

Before Mass, stop by the parish office to sign out a Wee Worship Bag. After Mass, simply return it to the office so another family can enjoy it, too.

There's even more fun! Every time your child checks out and returns a Wee Worship Bag, they'll be entered into our monthly prize drawing. The winners will be drawn on the first Sunday of each month for the previous month's participants. The more Sundays they participate, the more chances they'll have to win!

Of course, the greatest reward is growing closer to Jesus, learning about our faith, and worshipping together as a parish family. We can't wait to see our little worshippers each week!

A heartfelt thank you to Way to Emmaus for their generous support of our Wee Worship Bags. Your kindness helps our youngest parishioners grow in faith while making Mass a joyful experience for the whole family. We are truly grateful for their generosity!



Parish Religious Education Program 2026-2027



As many of you are aware, the PREP Program at St. Francis Parish is no longer held onsite. We have joined with the Program at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena. Please contact Mrs. Donna Sciacca, Director of Religious Education at the Cathedral now to register your child(ren) from St. Francis of Assisi Parish at 610-432-7655 or by email: prep@cathedral-church.org. Registration forms can be downloaded from St. Catharine of Siena's website. NOW is the time to register. A late fee of \$25 is applied to every registration received after July 29, 2026.

Seeking Catechists and Co-Catechists for our Religious Education Program.

*** Volunteers receive 50% off the total cost of their child(ren)s PREP registration fee. ***

Qualifications:

- ☐ Are over the age of 18, and have received your Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation;
- ☐ You are a practicing Catholic who lives your life in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Attends weekly Mass and receives the Eucharist and attends Confession regularly.
- ☐ All volunteers are required to obtain ALL child clearances specified by the Diocese of Allentown.
- ☐ Prior teaching experience is a plus but not required. We will train you.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the PREP Office via email or phone at:

Donna Sciacca, Director of Religious Education
prep@cathedral-church.org, phone 610-432-7655



Food Pantry

The Outreach Committee's Food Pantry will be open to the public on Wednesday, August 12th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, in the Franciscan Center (former Convent.)



Cursillo Weekend

There are retreats and then there is the "Cursillo Weekend"!

Cursillo How does a Cursillo weekend differ from other retreats? While both offer spiritual renewal, Cursillo is a dynamic, highly interactive three-day learning experience designed to be taken once in a lifetime. In contrast, a retreat usually emphasizes personal solitude, silence, and prayer. Retreats can be taken repeatedly, while Cursillo is a foundational method meant to jump-start everyday Christian life.

2026 Schedule of Cursillo Weekends in the Allentown Diocese

Men's Cursillo Weekend

6:00 PM, Thursday, September 17th thru Sunday evening, September 20, 2026

Place: Mariawald Retreat House, Shillington, PA

Women's Cursillo Weekend

6:00 PM Thursday, September 24th thru Sunday evening, September 27, 2026

Place: Mariawald Retreat House, Shillington, PA

We have some members of our parish, who made a Cursillo weekend and continue to meet regularly in small group format to support one another in their faith journey. It has been a real source of grace for everyone involved. We would love to have you join us. For more information, please contact:

Theresa Racek

tracek@enter.net or 610-428-0708

Attention All Parish Organizations

Please call Donna Gerancher at 610-433-6102, x15 to schedule all of your organization's activities to ensure the availability of the room or hall of your choice.

Hearing Devices Are Available

As a reminder, our *Listen Hearing Devices* are available to sign out while you are attending Mass. They are kept at the Parish Office and can be signed out and borrowed on your way into Mass. They must be returned immediately after Mass.



Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Saturday, August 15th, Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 AM - Lector—R Granitz-Jacob, **Eucharistic Ministers**—H. Moyer, P. Stiles, M. Evans, **Cantor**—M. Maramag, **Organist**—D. Badesso, **Altar Server**—J. Fittipaldi, **Sacristan**—T. Jacob

Saturday and Sunday, August 15th & 16th

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	H. Moyer	K. McFadden	M.K. McMahon
Eucharistic Ministers	E. Wascavage, J. DeLeo, J. Fittipaldi	J. & F. Lenahan, T. Racek	M.P. Tran, C. Wargo, B. Ocasio
Cantor	G. Rodriguez	M. Maramag	A. Huynh
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	V. Herman, M. Joliffe		J. Martinez, N. Schwenk
Sacristan	D. Wascavage	P. McFadden	P. McFadden

St. Francis Attic Treasures

*Attic Treasures
Bake Sale
Food to Eat in or Take out*

Saturday, October 10th —10:00 AM-6:30 PM

Sunday, October 11th —12:00 Noon-5:00 PM

Monday, October 12th—10:00 AM-2:00 PM - BAG DAY

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

Tires, Major Appliances (Stoves, Washers, Dryers, etc. No Upholstered or Large Furniture (sofas, dining tables, etc.) No Encyclopedias, Magazines, Baby Furniture (cribs, walkers, play pens, car seats, high chairs.) No Electronics (computers and accessories.) No Kerosene Heaters or Gas Grills. ***NO VCR's, VHS TAPES, 8 TRACKS, CASSETTES, CD's or BOOKS.***

***Newspapers and plastic bags
are always appreciated.***

DONATIONS NEEDED:

Items can be delivered to Heritage Hall Cedar Street ramp door. Please have items clean and small appliances working. There will be helpers at the ramp for your donations.

2026 Donation Drop-off:

Saturdays:

September 26th

October 3rd

9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Help is needed on Donation Days



We will be working in the Church Hall every Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM beginning September 8th (day after Labor Day) until the event.

All help is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do for our parish!

If you have any questions, please call Phyllis, 484-522-9619.