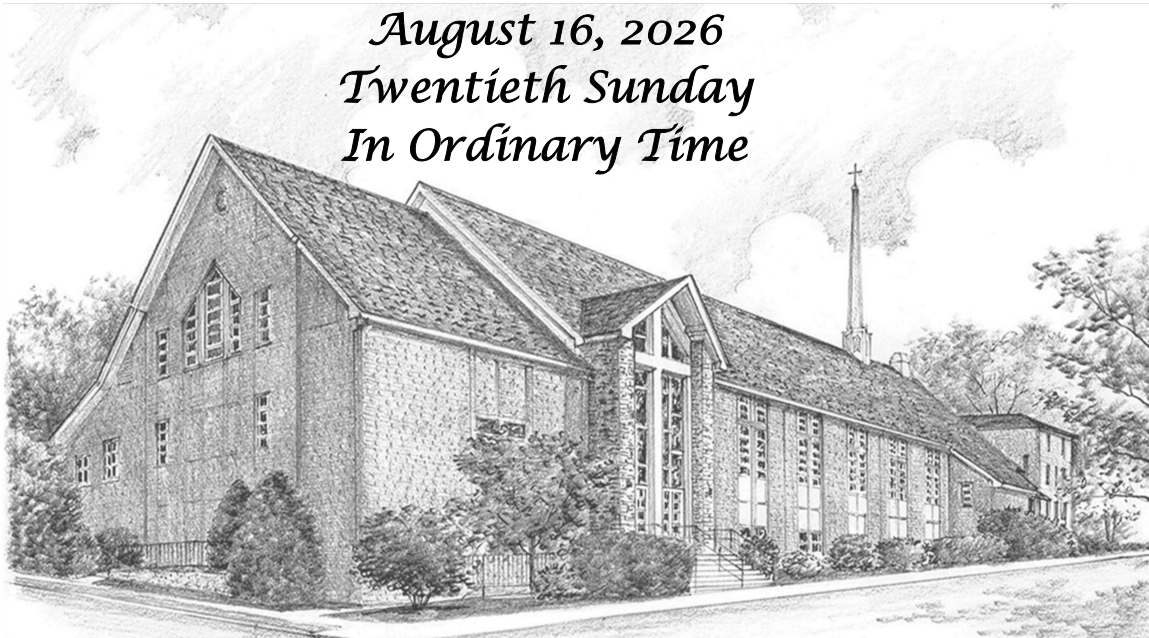


SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



*August 16, 2026
Twentieth 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 of August 16, 2026 is in memory of
Nancy Lewullis and son Joseph
By Joanne Lewullis

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 16, 2026 are
In Memory of Eleanor McGuire
By Stephanie Epler

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Louise M. Karoly

by: Nancy Schwartz, Sheila Kozuch, Annette Eckert,
Helaine Barclay

Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord.

Mass Schedule

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ez 24:15-23; Mt 19:16-22

7:00 PM Catherine Hersh

Tuesday, August 18th

Ez 28:1-10; Mt 19:23-30

8:00 AM Myra M. Schuster

Wednesday, August 19th

Ez 34:1-11; Mt 20:1-6

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

Thursday, August 20th

Ez 36:23-28; Mt 22:1-14

8:00 AM Intentions of Teresa & Dustin Skvasik

Friday, August 21st

Ez 37:1-14; Mt 22:34-40

8:00 AM Intentions of Becky Dommel

Saturday and Sunday, August 22nd and 23rd

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

4:30 PM Janet Quinn Piperato

8:30 AM Kathryn Lichman Schlacter

10:30 AM Dorothy Zakrewski

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.

Warming our Church - Nourishing our Future



Look for more details coming in your mail this week!



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.

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.



August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vocations Ministry

"Woman, great is your faith!." (Matthew 14:27)

In discerning a vocation, we are called to courage and perseverance, trusting God's plan for our lives. Whether called to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony, answering His call requires faith that He will guide and sustain us every step of the way. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 610-437-0755 or via email: jmaria@allentowndiocese.org



St. John Vianney Regional School
APPLY TODAY!



Grades Pre-K through 8
Quality Education at an Affordable Price

210 N 18th Street, Allentown, PA | www.stjohnvianneyschool.org



We're Hiring!

Join our team at St. John Vianney! We are currently looking for...

- Substitute Teachers
- PM Extended Care Monitors
- 3rd grade Long-Term Substitute
- Cafeteria Monitor

In Faith - Celebrating Today, Embracing Tomorrow!



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.

School Sisters of St. Francis Programs

Simply Prayer- Keeping Our Eyes Fixed on Jesus

Facilitator: Sister Barbara Brown, OSF

September 1st, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, first-floor conference room at St. Francis Center at Monocacy Manor, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017 Free Will Offering. Register by phone 610-867-8890 or online at www.SchoolSistersOsf.org

When the Heart Waits, 6 Week Book Series-

Facilitator: Sister Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF

(Wednesdays) September 16th - October 21st, 9:30-11:30 AM, St. Francis Center at Monocacy Manor, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Register online at www.SchoolSistersOsf.org or by phone 610-867-8890. Deadline to register Sept. 9th.



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.

Pennsylvania March for Life Bus Trip

Attend Pennsylvania March for Life (Harrisburg State Capitol) on Monday, September 21st. Leave by motorcoach from Sacred Heart Church in Bethlehem @ 8:00 AM & returning @ 4:00 PM. \$20.00 per person, must pay in advance. Contact Andrew at andrewazan3rd@gmail.com / (484) 259-7740. Potentially second pick up point in Allentown area.



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 info: Mary Spieker at 610-266-0695 -dirreled@sercc.org. See our parish website: www.sercc.org. Bring a friend!

Red, White, and Blue Mass on 9/11

Join the Diocese of Allentown for a special Red, White & Blue Mass honoring those who serve our communities and our nation. On Friday, September 11th, Bishop Alfred Schlert will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 8:46 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena in Allentown. The 8:46 start time commemorates the moment the World Trade Center's North Tower was struck on September 11, 2001. There will also be a reception at 10:00 a.m. Police, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, members of the military, legal professionals, elected officials, and their families are warmly invited to attend. Those who serve are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

Following Mass, join us for a light reception and remarks from Sr. Deirdre (Dede) Byrne, M.D., U.S. Army Colonel, renowned surgeon, and consecrated religious.

RSVP to stewardship@allentowndiocese.org.



Pines Dinner Theatre Show

We will be attending a show as a group at Pines Dinner Theatre, 315 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, on Thursday, October 1, 2026. No bus required; you will drive there yourself or carpool with friends. Your group ticket includes your reserved seat for the show, along with a meal of garden salad, entree, dessert, iced tea, coffee and fountain sodas, and covers gratuity for your server. Meal is served at noon and show begins at 1:30 PM. The all-inclusive price is \$75.00. Call the Parish Office to reserve your seat, 610-433-6102.

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



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of August 8 & 9, 2026

Sunday in Pew \$ 3,981.00
Sunday Online \$ 2,896.84

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.



Cursillo

Cursillo Weekend

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

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

Church Picnic

St. John the Baptist RC Church, 3024 S. Ruch St. Whitehall (Stiles) will have their Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 6th from 1 to 9 PM on the parish grounds. Music provided by The Pennsylvania Villagers 1-4 PM and Joyous 5-9 PM. All are invited to join us for delicious foods, including homemade pierogies, children's games, raffles, refreshments, Basket/gift card raffle stand and Bake Sale. Bring your lawn chair or use our tables and chairs under the tents. Free Parking. Rain or Shine.

John Patrick Publishing Company prints our weekly bulletin. To place ads on the back of our bulletin, contact Michele Barron at 484-300-2062.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule Saturday and Sunday, August 22nd & 23rd

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	P. Stiles	R. Granitz-Jacob	D. Colom
Eucharistic Ministers	F. & S. Koerbler,	J. & P. Philapavage,	G. Rodriguez, J. Colom,
Cantor	J. Fittipaldi	P. Baker	E. Frankenfield
Organist	M. Maramag	M. Issermoyer	J. Fignar
Altar Servers	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Sacristan	V. Herman, M. Joliffe	C. Peischl	J. & J. Burgos
	J. DeLeo	T. Jacob	T. Jacob

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.