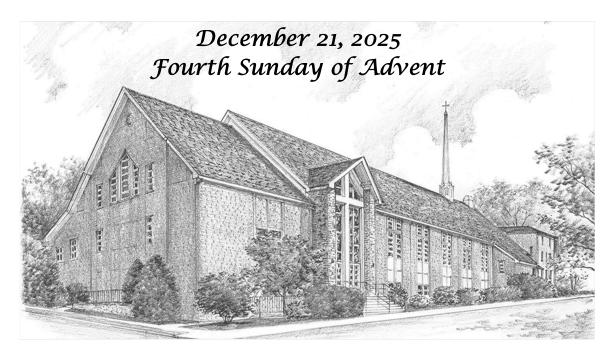
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



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 (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 <u>well</u> 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.

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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 December 21, 2025 is

For a Special Intention
By Jim and Susan Steiner

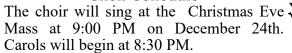
Floral Intentions



Floral intentions for in front of the Holy Family and the Sacred Heart can be offered in memory of a loved one or in honor of a living person(s), or an anniversary of marriage. It is our wish to beautify the altar with your spiritual intention(s).

A donation can be made for live flowers to be placed in front of one statue for \$30.00 or \$60.00 for both places of honor. Names of those whom flowers are for and who they are from will be announced in the bulletin. Please call the church office with your intention, date requested and name of donor (610)-433-6102.

Choir Schedule







Do You Like to Sing?

We could use some additional cantors for our weekend Masses. If you would like to become a cantor, please contact Rosanne Venditto, our Choir Director/Organist at 484-225-2080.

Reminder: If you placed an order for Father Rich's Sweet Indulgence fudge, this weekend, December 20th and 21st, are the dates to pick up.



Parish Office Closing

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday, December 24th, Thursday, December 25th, and Friday, December 26th, 2025 for Christmas break.

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 22, 2025

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

7:00 PM Charles and Marie Epler

Tuesday, December 23rd

Saint John of Kanty

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

8:00 AM Marie Lathrop

Wednesday, December 24th Vigil of Christmas

Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

4:30 PM Celebrant's Intentions **9:00 PM** Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, December 25th The Nativity of The Lord

Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

9:30 AM Christmas Flower Memorials

Friday, December 26th

Saint Stephen

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

No Mass

Saturday and Sunday, December 27th & 28th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

4:30 PM Patrick McFadden

8:30 AM Steven Seibert

10:30 AM Carmine Cerciello

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.

Oplatki Available



Oplatki is still available in the Parish Office for \$3 per pack of 3 wafers. A Christmas tradition from the Polish-

Slovak-Lithuanian cultures, Oplatki is a wafer shared by the family around the dinner table, often at the Christmas Eve Wigilia (Vi-geel-ya). Each family member breaks off a piece and wishes each other good luck and blessings in the coming year.

To inquire about Christian Burial, contact Resurrection Cemetery at (610) 395-3819 X 1 or Holy Savior Cemetery at (610) 866-2372 X 1





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.

Wee Worship Bags Now Available for Our Parish Children

Our Wee Worship Ministry has quiet activity bags for toddlers and preschool aged children to borrow and use during Masses. These bags are designed to serve



as tools to help them learn about their faith while keeping them occupied as your family participates in the liturgy. We kindly ask that you return the bag and it's contents to the designated space after Mass so others can enjoy for the next Mass.

Men of St. Francis Christmas Breakfast



Will be held on Sunday, January 4th. Breakfast is served at your table by our volunteer waitresses from 9:30 AM to Noon. Cost is \$10.00 for Adults, Ages 6 to 12 \$6.00,

ages 5 and under Free. Menu selections include: Eggs, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Ham, Toast, Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate.

Winter Weekend Raffle

There is still time to get in on our Winter Weekend Raffle. Tickets were mailed to parishioners last month, but are available to anyone. Tickets are \$10 each, but if you buy the book of 5, it costs only \$40. There are over \$3,000 in prizes and 26 chances to win! If you need additional tickets, they are available in the Parish Office. Thanks for participating!



Stewardship Forms

Thank you to all who returned their Stewardship Forms. We ask that those who have not yet returned their forms to do so as soon as possible. There are

more forms available in the Parish Office. Contacts will begin to be made in the New Year.



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of December 6 & 7, 2025

Sunday in Pew \$ 6,704.00 Sunday Online \$ 2,405.00 Second Collection in Pew \$ 1,077.00

(Immaculate Conception)

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.

2025 Contribution Statements

2025 Contribution Statements will be automatically mailed to all who donated \$250 or more, or less than \$250, by request.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, January 5th at <u>5:30 PM</u> (note new time) in Heritage Hall. Enter through the Cedar Street ramp. For more info., call Michelle at 610-737-9469.



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



Adoration Chapel Hours: Monday through Friday: 7 AM—7 PM Saturday: 7 AM—3 PM Sunday: 12 PM—7 PM Closed Holidays and Holy Days



THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to all who bought gifts for our Giving Tree recipients. We never fail to marvel at the generosity of our parishioners! A big thank you also goes out to the members of our Outreach Committee who organize this very worthwhile project each year.

We wish you a very merry Christmas!

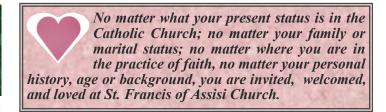
Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena

Closing Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope, on Sunday, December 28th, the Feast of the Holy Family, same feast on which we began the Jubilee Year of Hope one year ago, at 2:00 PM. Choral presentation of Vivaldi's Gloria by the Cathedral Choir; 2-3:00 PM. Sacrament of Penance, available in English and Spanish; 3:00 PM. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass closing the Jubilee Year, celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert.

St. John the Baptist Events 924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA

New Year's Eve Dance, Wednesday, December 31st, 7 PM-12 AM. \$25 per person, \$50 couple. BYOB. Call Bill at 610-432-0034.

Please....No gum in church!
Please be respectful of the Holy Eucharist.



Surviving Divorce Program

Give yourself the gift of encouragement for the new year. Register for the Divorce Recovery class, a national program created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Whether you are newly separated/divorced or still experiencing painful issues years later this program can help. Participants receive expert Catholic guidance to work through practical and emotional troubles brought on by the family breakdown. Topics covered include custody, court hearings and finances as well as the emotional ups and downs of anger, regret, and unforgiveness. Past participants have said they appreciate the program's deep insights of God's personal love for us and desire to heal us. This program has been running twice and three times per year since January 2023. Participants have consistently given it high marks on the end-of-class surveys. Start date is January 12, 2026, and end date is **March 16, 2026.** Meetings are Mondays, 6:15 – 7:15 PM for ten weeks. Location is St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall 18052 in the large Meeting room on the second floor of the parish office. The cost is free. To register, contact Jane Zingelman: jtzing@gmail.com.

The Liturgical Ministers availability sheet is due to Donna Gerancher by Sunday, December 28th.

	<u>Liturgical N</u> Wednesday, Decen	Ministers Schedule	Thursday, December 25th
	4:30 PM	9:00 PM	9:30 AM
Lector	J. Fittipaldi	C. Stockdale	M.K. McMahon
Eucharistic	E. Frankenfield, L. Eberly,	J. Colom, E. Wascavage,	P. Baker, A. Drovich,
Ministers	M. Evans	M. Dietrick, L. Unger (Ch.)	T. Fallon
Cantor	M. Issermoyer	Choir	M. Maramag
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	F. & S. Koerbler	R. Rollins	V. Huynh
Sacristan	L. Moser	D. Wascavage	P. McFadden
	Caturday and Cunday	v December 27th and	2041
	<u>Saturday and Sunday</u> 4:30 PM	y, December 27th and 8:30AM	<u> 10:30 AM</u>
Lector	M. Florentino	K. McFadden	B. Beck
Eucharistic	F. & S. Koerbler, L. Eberly	J. & P. Philapavage,	M.P. Tran, B. Ocasio,
Ministers	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	H. Moyer	T. Racek
Cantor	A. Eaves	M. Issermoyer	A. Huynh
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	V. Herman, M. Joliffe	C. Peischl	J. Martinez, N. Schwenk
Sacristan	J. DeLeo	P. McFadden	P. McFadden



"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us." (Matthew 1:2-3)

Mary's trust in God's plan is a model for all vocations. Could God be inviting you to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony, living fully for Him to bring His presence to others? Embrace His call with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 610-437-0755 or email: jmaria@allentowndiocese.org.

National Right for Life March

Attend National Right for Life March on Friday, January 23, 2026 departing from St. Jane Frances Church in Easton. Motorcoach departing at 7:30 AM and returning around 8:30 PM. Passenger donation \$20.00 – for more information and to reserve a seat, email - andrewazan3rd@rcn.com voice - (484) 259-7740.

Attention Parish Groups



Please share any news of your group with Camille Stockdale so she can promote news, events, etc. on social media (FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM) and Flocknote. Camille

can be reached via email at stockp8792@gmail.com. The more we can promote parish activities, the more chances of being heard and your message received!!!

Support College Students in Their Faith



Studies show that over 80% of Catholic students disengage from their faith during these years. To address

this, the Diocese has partnered with Newman Connection, a national nonprofit that connects graduating seniors with Catholic campus ministries—even at non-Catholic colleges and military bases. This ensures students have immediate access to the Sacraments and a Catholic community upon arrival. Participation is free and easy. Families, visit: Newman Connection High School Outreach. Students register, Newman Connection notifies the appropriate campus minister, and then the campus minister will reach out to the student.

Don't forge

Don't forget to text STFRAN to 84576 on your smartphone to get signed up with Flocknote!

Flocknote

(If you don't have a smartphone, you can visit our website and look for the link that will allow you to sign up from there.) Text messages and emails can be easily sent to members during lock-downs, closures, and emergencies, as well as updates, event notifications, check-ins, prayer requests, and more.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts & Our Lady of Martyrs in Fultonville, New York

Reserve your spot today for the next Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts & Our Lady of Martyrs in Fultonville, New York!

Join Bishop Schlert and Father Hoffa on Wednesday, April 15, 2026-Thursday, April 16, 2026, for a 2-day pilgrimage. Double occupancy \$249/pp which includes hotel & tax, round trip motor coach transfers, breakfast at hotel, boxed lunch on both travel days, Mass at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy and Mass at Our Lady of Martyrs.

Space is limited! Call 570-342-5790 today to secure your spot or register at https://asktravelworld.wetravel.com/trips/divine-mercy-our-lady-of-martyrs-pilgrimage-travelworld-65157968#trip-overview.

For questions about reservations, please visit:

asktravelworld.com or email info@asktravelworld.com or scan the QR code to book your spot today!



STEWARDSHIP A MISSION OF FAITH

Reminder: please stop in our vestibule to see our Resource Center, which is filled with life-changing materials. A large variety of books, CDs, DVDs and brochures are available, covering a wide range of topics, such as relationships, family, spiritual growth, and prayer. Materials are free of charge, however, gift donations are accepted to help cover the cost to replenish the items in the display.



John Patrick Publishing Company prints our weekly bulletin. To place ads on the back of our bulletin, contact Michele Barron, Account Representative, John Patrick Publishing Company, Cell 484-300-2062, www.jppcadvertising.com

Parish Membe	rship
Name	
Street	
City	
Phone No	_
Check One:	
New registration	Change of address
Moving out of Parish	Request envelopes
Request envelopes (returned \overline{h}	ome from college)
Please drop in the collection bask	
Office.	

D. magaz Dangara Dangara	
PARISH PHONE DIRECT BUSINESS MANAGER	ORY
	433-6102 ext 34
dreichard@stfrancisallentown.org	
BULLETIN	
	-433-6102 ext 10
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org	
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST	404
Rosanne Venditto	484-225-2080
EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE	404 241 1006
Paula Rollins "FEED YOUR FAITH" GIFT CARD	484-241-1986
Stephanie Epler	610-433-6102
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org	010-433-0102
LITURGICAL MINISTERS	
Fr. Richard Brensinger	610-433-6102
rbrensinger@allentowndiocese.org	
LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDU	
	-433-6102 ext 15
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org	
MEN OF ST. FRANCIS	40.4.000.1055
Chuck Epler	484-809-1275
OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Helen Moyer	610-439-0922
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	010-439-0922
Michelle Evans	610-737-9469
PARISH OFFICE	610-433-6102
PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR	
Donna Gerancher 610-	122 (102 15
	-433-6102 ext 15
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org	
PARISH NURSES	
PARISH NURSES Barbara Puzzella, RN	
PARISH NURSES Barbara Puzzella, RN PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL	610-433-6102
PARISH NURSES Barbara Puzzella, RN PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Helen Moyer	
PARISH NURSES Barbara Puzzella, RN PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Helen Moyer sfaPPC18@gmail.com	610-433-6102
PARISH NURSES Barbara Puzzella, RN PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Helen Moyer sfaPPC18@gmail.com PARISH SECRETARY	610-433-6102
PARISH NURSES Barbara Puzzella, RN PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Helen Moyer sfaPPC18@gmail.com PARISH SECRETARY Stephanie Epler 610-4	610-433-6102 610-439-0922
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PARISH NURSES Barbara Puzzella, RN PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Helen Moyer sfaPPC18@gmail.com PARISH SECRETARY Stephanie Epler sepler@stfrancisallentown.org PASTOR Fr. Richard Brensinger RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Donna Sciacca (Cathedral) prep@cathedral-church.org SANCTUARY MEMORIAL FUND Anne Palmisano SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP Madeline Klotz ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SO Matthew Carlin, Principal WEBSITE Camille Stockdale stockp8792@gmail.com	610-433-6102 610-439-0922 433-6102 ext 10 610-433-6102 610-432-7655 610-433-6102 610-395-7386 CHOOL 610-435-8981
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"Feed Your Faith" Gift Card Program

"Feed Your Faith" is the Parish's easiest fundraising program. It costs you nothing extra, but it benefits the Parish immensely! Each gift card you buy has a return of 1% to 14% profit to the parish. The number in parenthesis represents the percentage of profit the Parish makes. Please consider buying the gift cards to do your grocery shopping, give as gifts, or just to purchase instead of using cash at the retailers. Please see the list below for our participating retailers. These gift cards are usually available every day in the Parish Office!

Amazon.com (2%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Applebees (8%): \$10, \$25 Banana Republic (14%): \$25 Barnes and Nobles (8%): \$10, \$25 Bath and Body Works (12%): \$10, \$25

Bonefish Grill (10%): \$25

Boscov's (8%): \$25 Carrabbas (10%): \$25

Cheesecake Factory (5%): \$25 Dunkin Donuts (3%): \$10

Dunkin Dunuts (570). \$1

Gap (14%): \$25

Giant (10%): \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50,

\$100

Home Depot (4%): \$25, \$100

Kohl's (4%): \$10, \$25

Longhorn Steakhouse (8%): \$25

Lowe's (4%): \$25, \$100

Macy's (10%): \$25

McDonald's (2%): \$25, \$10

Old Navy (14%): \$25 Olive Garden (8%): \$25

Outback Steakhouse (10%): \$25

Panera Bread (8%): \$10 Red Robin (8%): \$25 Red Lobster (8%): \$25

Redner's Warehouse (5%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Sam's Club (2.5%): \$25, \$100

Starbucks (4.5%): \$10

Target (2.5%): \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100

Texas Roadhouse (8%): \$25

Visa (1.25%): \$25, \$50, \$100 (no activation fee!)

Wal-Mart (2.5%): \$10, \$25, \$50,

\$100

Wawa (1%): \$25

Wegman's (5%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Weis (5%): \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100

