

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

The 250th Anniversary

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

1776 - SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL - 2026

CELEBRATION MASS

Saturday, July 4, 2026
9:00 AM



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
AND PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Donuts served after Mass



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 June 28, 2026 is
In Memory of Mary Ann Koefer
By The Colom Family**



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 Sacred Heart for the week of June 28, 2026 are
In Memory of Gloria Moser
By Simon & Sonia Porras
The flowers in front of The Holy Family are
In Memory of Gloria Moser
By Larry & Conchita Moser**

Mission Appeal

The United States Bishops' Conference Mission Appeal will be observed in our parish on the weekend of June 27-28, 2026. We have invited a member of the Brothers of the Christian Schools who will share with us some thoughts on the missionary activity of his religious order and offer some insight on how we might assist in the vocation of Lasallian Brothers and other educators who are called to teach the Gospel.

Bro. Edward Hofmann, FSC, has been a DeLaSalle Brother for over 60 years. A native of Trenton, NJ and beneficiary of a solid Catholic education initiated by the Religious Sisters of Mercy from K-12 and then at LaSalle, Loyola of Chicago and Villanova universities as well as at international academic institutions. Brother has taught and labored at home and abroad at several levels of classroom education and in multiple administrative capacities.

Currently, Brother is actively retired while volunteering on campus at LaSalle in the University Art Museum, with the A-10 cross country track and field program and the Pep Band. Beyond campus he offers English instruction three nights a week to new adult learners at an area parish and assists candidates for the GED at a local ecumenical site.

This year marks the 17th non-consecutive summer during which he has appealed for the missions in four score and more parishes in the Middle Atlantic States. Consistently he is inspired by the welcome reception, the active listening and the willingness of parishes to consider how they might assist—spiritually, financially and with their personal time and talents—with the teaching mission of the Church to spread the Gospel of Jesus.

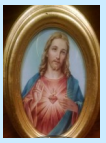
Mass Schedule

Monday, June 29, 2026	Saints Peter and Paul
<i>Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19</i>	
7:00 PM Alex Pretti	
Tuesday, June 30th	The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
<i>Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Mt 8:23-27</i>	
8:00 AM Valerie Willer	
Wednesday, July 1st	Saint Junipero Serra
<i>Am 5:14-15, 21-24; Mt 8:28-34</i>	
8:00 AM People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish	
Thursday, July 2nd	
<i>Am 7:10-17; Mt 9:1-8</i>	
8:00 AM Francis Castellucci	
Friday, July 3rd	Saint Thomas
<i>Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29</i>	
8:00 AM Jerwin P. & Bonifacio D. Soriano	
Saturday, July 4th	Independence Day
<i>Am 9:11-15; Mt 9:14-17</i>	
9:00 AM In Thanksgiving/For Our Nation	
Saturday and Sunday, July 4th and 5th	
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
<i>Zec 9:9-10; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30</i>	
4:30 PM Catherine Zenz	
8:30 AM Sanctuary Memorial Fund Members	
10:30 AM Mary "Mitzi" Kleinschuster	

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.



Parish Office Closing

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **Friday, July 3rd and Saturday, July 4th** to observe Independence Day.

Recitation of the Rosary

The Rosary will be recited before all Masses the weekend of July 4 and 5, 2026. The Rosary begins about 25 minutes before each Mass.



Monthly Food Drive

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee Our monthly food drive will be on **July 4th & 5th**. Our Outreach Team is also collecting for VALOR (Veterans Assisted Living Outreach) and we are in need of pop-top easy open proteins, vegetables and fruits. **No glass jars, please. Also, please, no XL containers or outdated foods.** Collection carts will be available in the vestibule of the church for your donations.



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

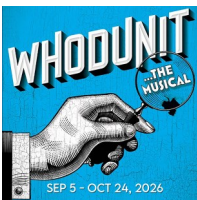
- Preschool Programs, Full Day
 - Kindergarten through 8th Grade
 - Safe Environment, Faith-Filled Curriculum
 - Outstanding Academics
 - Free Tour and Shadow Days
- SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind, and spirit!
Phone: 610-435-8981

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.



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 Stephanie at the Parish Office to reserve your seat, 610-433-6102.

Mark Your Calendar:

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.



June 28, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vocations Ministry

"Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:38)

Following Christ means embracing sacrifice. Are you willing to carry your cross, offering your hopes and dreams in order to follow Him and discover true peace and purpose? Have you asked God what He is calling you to in your life? 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 June 20 & 21, 2026

Sunday in Pew	\$ 3,339.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,346.84

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.

Advertising Committee

Our Advertising Committee is up and running. We thank those folks who have made a commitment to help publicize all things



St. Francis. Feel free to sign up on Flocknote if you'd like to help. If you cannot be a part of the team but want to help in other ways –

Yard Signs – Do you have a business or great front yard that would draw attention to a yard sign? Let us know and we will make sure you get a sign for our events!!!

Social Media – Do you follow us on Facebook or Instagram? If you don't – you should – we post A LOT and you can share any and all of our posts about events, special celebrations, etc. to your page and all your friends will see what a wonderful place St. Francis is and join us often!

Grab flyers from the Parish Office and post them at your business, local grocery store and restaurants "bulletin boards." Stephanie is always happy to copy extras for you. Stop by during Parish Office hours to pick up flyers.

Invite your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and MORE!! When we say ALL ARE WELCOME – we mean it!!! We'd love as many people as possible to join us at Mass, Parish Events, Breakfasts and MORE!!! Any questions – reach out to Camille.



Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul of Diane Kurtz, sister of parishioner Deborah DePari, who recently passed away. Grant her eternal rest, O Lord, and may her family know your peace and comfort.

Young Adult Holy Hours

Friday, July 3rd (First Fridays of the month), Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Adoration 7:30—8:30 PM, Confessions available. Social hour 8:30—9:30 PM. Sign up, <https://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/242492>

Summer Bash Block Party for Young Adults

The Commission for Young Adults invites all young adults to gather for a block party at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield from 6 - 11 PM on Friday, July 10th. Bring your own instruments, snacks, games, crafts...everything! Come to make new friends and enjoy the summer weather together. There will also be some surprises! Sign up at allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/257682.



Host Family Needed

Nacel Open Door is looking for a family that is able to open their caring home to a student from Spain. She will be attending Allentown Central Catholic for only one year, as a Junior in the fall. She holds an F1 visa and travel health insurance. She is 16 years old and speaks Spanish, German, Basque and English. Her interests are: Horseback riding, skiing and golf. She would like to Pursue a degree in International Relations. The host family receives a monthly stipend to help offset expenses. The student has her own spending money for her every day essentials.

It is truly a wonderful experience for the whole family and can create lifetime friendships from across the globe. If you are willing to open your heart and your home to this student, or would like more information about hosting, please reach out to me. Thank you!! Hope Houston HHouston@team.nacel-opendoor.org or call 610-850-1398

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

Holy Trinity Annual Parish Picnic

Sunday, July 12th, at Egypt Memorial Park, 4548 Main St., Whitehall, off Rt. 329 West. Outdoor Mass on Sunday, July 12th, starts at 11:00 AM and festivities will follow Mass until 6:00 PM. Festivities include children's games, adult games, traditional and ethnic foods. Entertainment by Josef Kroboth from 12:00-3:00 PM and The Large Flowerheads from 3:30-6:00 PM. Admission and parking are free. The public is invited. Event held rain or shine.

Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage



Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriage through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of July 31 - August 2, 2026 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org or call 215-766-3944 . All inquiries are strictly confidential.

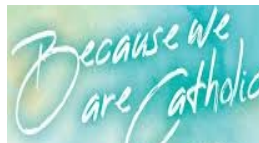
Traveling Statue of Saint Francis of Assisi

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.



BWAC Annual Appeal

The 2026 *Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal* is underway! Our parish support is a vital part of this Diocesan-wide effort to serve children and families in our own community and throughout the Diocese of Allentown. You can scan the QR code and make your gift today at www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org. Thank you!



Liturgical Ministers Schedule Saturday and Sunday, July 4th and 5th

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	J. Fittipaldi	R. Granitz-Jacob	J. Carrasquillo
Eucharistic Ministers	L. Eberly, F. & S. Koerbler	D. Issermoyer, J. & F. Lenahan	M. Evans, E. Frankenfield, L. Moser
Cantor	M. Maramag	M. Issermoyer	G. Rodriguez
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	V. Herman, M. Joliffe	C. Peischl	S. Issermoyer
Sacristan	J. Johnson	T. Jacob	T. Jacob
Rosary	V. Herman	M. Issermoyer	M. Shelley

PARISH PHONE DIRECTORY

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE		
Deb Erkinger		610-433-6102
BUSINESS MANAGER		
Dennis Reichard	610-433-6102 ext 34	
dreichard@stfrancisallentown.org		
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST		
Rosanne Venditto		484-225-2080
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS		
Milly Dietrick		610-433-6102
"FEED YOUR FAITH" GIFT CARD PROGRAM		
Stephanie Epler	610-433-6102	
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org		
LECTORS		
MaryKay McMahan		610-433-6102
LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE		
Donna Gerancher	610-433-6102 ext 15	
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org		
MEN OF ST. FRANCIS		
Chuck Epler		484-809-1275
OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)		
Helen Moyer		610-439-0922
OUTREACH COMMITTEE		
Kate McFadden		610-737-7232
PARISH OFFICE		
		610-433-6102
PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR		
Donna Gerancher	610-433-6102 ext 15	
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org		
PARISH NURSES		
Barbara Puzzella, RN		610-433-6102
PARISH SECRETARY/BULLETIN		
Stephanie Epler	610-433-6102 ext 10	
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org		
PASTOR		
Fr. Richard Brensinger		610-433-6102
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		
Donna Sciacca (Cathedral)	610-432-7655	
prep@cathedral-church.org		
SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP		
Madeline Klotz		610-395-7386
ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL		
Matthew Carlin, Principal		610-435-8981
ST. MARTHA'S MINISTRY		
Tara Burkus		607-760-8743
VOCATIONS COMMITTEE		
Heidi Beck		610-433-6102
WEBSITE		
Camille Stockdale	610-433-6102	
stockp8792@gmail.com		
WELCOMING COMMITTEE/USHERS		
Theresa Racek		610-428-0708
WOMEN WALKING IN FAITH		
Michelle Evans		610-737-9469

"Feed Your Faith" Gift Card Program

"Feed Your Faith" is the Parish's easiest fund-raising 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
- Bonfish Grill (10%): \$25
- Boscov's (8%): \$25
- Carrabbas (10%): \$25
- Cheesecake Factory (5%): \$25
- Dunkin Donuts (3%): \$10, \$25
- 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, \$25
- 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



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.**

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.

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

2026 Donation Drop-off:

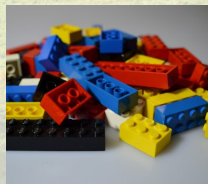
Saturdays:

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.