

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



February 8, 2026
Fifth 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 (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 February 8, 2026 is
In Memory of
Gloria Moser
By Larry and Conchita Moser**

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 February 8, 2026 are
In Memory of Mary Sagmeister
By Barbara Puzzella**

**And
The flowers in front of the Sacred Heart are
In Memory of James and Theresa Murphy
By Kelly Murphy**

Choir Schedule

The choir will practice on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30 PM in the Daily Mass Chapel, and they will sing at 8:30 AM Mass on Sunday, February 15th.



St. Francis Senior Citizens Meeting

On Tuesday, February 10th, the Senior Citizens will meet at 1:00 PM in Heritage Hall for their monthly meeting, weather permitting. For info, call Madeline Klotz at 610-395-7386.

Food Pantry



The Outreach Committee's Food Pantry will be open to the public on Wednesday, February 11th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, in the Franciscan Center (former Convent.)

Attention All Women! "Women Walking in Faith"

Our group of faith-filled women will meet on Wednesday, February 11th 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.



2025 Contribution Statements

2025 Contribution Statements were automatically mailed to all who donated \$250 or more. If you need a contribution statement mailed to you for a total less than \$250, please call the Parish Office to request.

Mass Schedule

Monday, February 9, 2026

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56

7:00 PM Dr. Mario F. Visperas

Tuesday, February 10th

Saint Scholastica

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13

8:00 AM People of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

Wednesday, February 11th

Our Lady of Lourdes

1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23

8:00 AM Nicholas Troccola

Thursday, February 12th

1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30

8:00 AM Walter Groller

Friday, February 13th

1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19; Mk 7:31-37

8:00 AM Michael Horvath

Saturday and Sunday, February 14th & 15th

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

4:30 PM Kathy Mantz

8:30 AM Pam Menichini

10:30 AM Mary Sagmeister

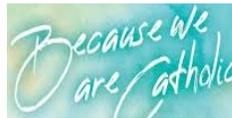
Sacred Heart and Miraculous Medal Novenas



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.



Because We Are Catholic Progress Report

St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown
Report Date: January 22, 2026

Parish Goal:	\$35,070.00
Total Committed:	\$25,779.84
Total Collected:	\$25,779.84
Number of Donors:	121
Average Gift:	\$ 213.06
# of Registered Families:	985

Recently Deceased

Please pray for the souls of parishioners Mary (Mitzi) Kleinschuster and Barry Koerbler, who recently passed away. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may their families know your peace and comfort.

Snow Closings

Please note that our usual policy will be in place this winter for snow closings. If the Allentown School District is closed for snow or on virtual, the Parish Office will also be closed for snow. If there is an hour or two hour delay for the school district, the Parish Office will also open an hour or two late. If the school district closes schools early due to snow, the Parish Office will also close early due to snow.



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.

January Winter Weekend Raffle Winners

- January 3rd \$50 - Joan Webre
- January 4th \$500 - Isaiah Slonaker
- January 10th \$50 - Gregory Unger
- January 11th \$100 - Sharon Saby
- January 17th \$50 - Michael P. Realo
- January 18th \$100 - Tom Fallon
- January 24th \$50 - Bess Estrella-Aquino
- January 25th \$100 - Philip Lathrop
- January 31st \$50 - Joyce Parks

Tickets can still be purchased in the Parish Office if you'd like to get in on the February and March drawings.

Congratulations to our January winners!!!

VOCATION MINISTRY February 8, 2026
Vocations Ministry

In his Letter, the Fifth Bishop of Allentown, Bishop Schlert, announced the 65th Jubilee Anniversary Year of the Diocese of Allentown as a Eucharistic and Marian Year of Grace. He is asking every parish to promote the Holy Rosary, Marian devotions, and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, since Mary shows us the way to peace, humility, and trust in God's providence.

In a special way, he is asking all the faithful to join him in praying for two great intentions during this Jubilee Year: An abundance of holy vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Consecrated Religious Life and the return of those who have drifted from the practice of the faith, that they may rediscover the salvation, mercy, and joy of Christ in His Church.

With that in mind St. Francis of Assisi Parish will celebrate two very important events.

World Day for Consecrated Life (First Weekend of February) Recognizes those who are from your parish/diocese who are in a religious order, bringing awareness to consecrated life. Please pray for seminarians and future seminarians to discern this vocation.

National Marriage Week- February 7-14 each year
 Purpose: To affirm those who have said yes to the vocation of marriage, so that they recognize the joys of this vocation as they did on their wedding day.

We invite you to register for the celebration of the World Marriage Day Mass at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 9 AM. A light continental breakfast will follow Mass. Please join us to help us celebrate this most important sacrament. We look forward to seeing you and your spouse! There are a few things we want to prepare, so fill out the form by **February 8th** and we'll see you there.

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

Liturgical Ministers Schedule
Saturday and Sunday, February 14th & 15th

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	H. Moyer	K. McFadden	M.K. McMahon
Eucharistic Ministers	M. Evans, F. & S. Koerbler	D. Issermoyer, T. Fallon, T. Racek, M. Issermoyer (C)	J. Young, C. Wargo, M.P. Tran
Cantor	J. Fignar	Choir	A. Huynh
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	V. Herman, M. Joliffe	C. Peischl	V. Huynh
Sacristan	J. DeLeo	P. McFadden	P. McFadden

"The Hail Mary" Movie Premiere

"The Hail Mary" is a heart-warming and funny movie about a religious sister who convinces a handyman in need of redemption to coach her hapless football team at a fictional all-boys Catholic school. The movie is written and directed by Daniel Roebuck, a Bethlehem Catholic High School graduate and Hollywood film and TV actor. On Feb. 21st, the public can see the movie for the first time and meet Roebuck and other cast members at 11 AM. at the Frank Banko Alehouse Cinemas at ArtsQuest in Bethlehem; at Bethlehem Catholic at 3 PM and at the historic Roxy Theatre in Northampton at 7 PM. View the trailer and purchase tickets for the premieres at <https://www.ticket signup.io/thehailmarypremiere>.



Movie Club

Mark your calendars! Our March film is scheduled for Sunday, March 8th. Doors Open at 11:30 AM, RIGHT after Sunday Mass. Film begins at NOON.

THE SHROUD ENCOUNTER - A fast-paced big-screen experience and in-depth exploration into the mysteries of the Shroud of Turin using over 200 dramatic images.

Audiences are taken on a thought-provoking adventure through early church history, ancient art, modern science, and medical forensics to explore the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the nature and cause of the Shroud image.

Feel free to bring a "bagged lunch" with you OR we will have pizza slices available for purchase!!!

Movie, popcorn, soda, candy and door prizes - ALL FREE.

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Anita M. Schlosser

by: Rose T. Draina, Martina Burkhard, Stefan Jorg and Family, Debbie and Mike Schlosser, Siomara Villagran and Family, David and Joanne Moll, Lena Fonatno, Charlie and Linda Apple, Richard and Susan Kuhns, Mong Tran and Tin Thi To

Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord

Special Year of St. Francis



Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a "Special Year of St. Francis" to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. During this time of grace, which will extend until January 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

This Franciscan Jubilee Year, considered a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal, was inaugurated on Jan. 10 with a decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See.

Until Jan. 10 of next year, the faithful can obtain this grace under the usual conditions — sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope — by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world.

Furthermore, the elderly, the sick, and those who, for serious reasons, cannot leave their homes can obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining in the jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God.

In a world where "the virtual takes over the real, disagreements and social violence are part of everyday life, and peace becomes more insecure and distant every day, this Year of St. Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities, to imitate the poor man of Assisi, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ," the decree states.



Our Weekly Stewardship

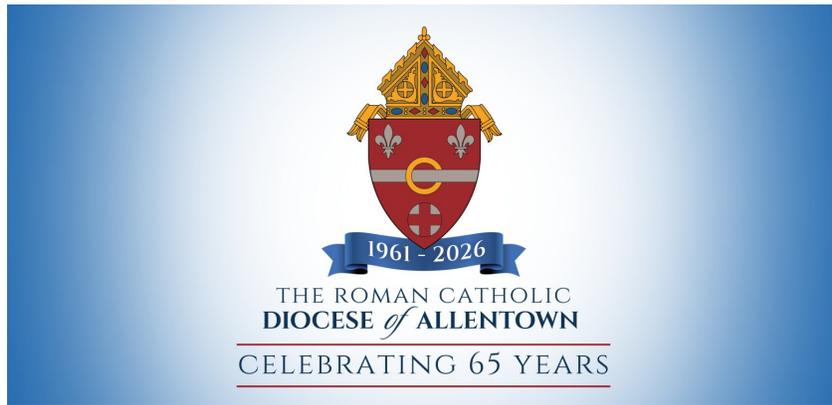
Weekend of January 31st & February 1st

Sunday in Pew	\$ 5,888.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,324.00

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.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Join us for an intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment, you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations and activities flowing from the meditations, you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For registration information contact: Carol Swavely, MA, OSF at 1-866-3RACHEL (Toll free) or 610-435-1541ext 5341. You may also email Carol at cswavely@allentowndiocese.org. The retreat will be held April 24-26, 2026. Deadline for registration is April 17, 2026.



***Letter of the Fifth Bishop of Allentown
On the 65th Jubilee Anniversary Year of the Diocese of Allentown
A Eucharistic and Marian Year of Grace***

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, 28 January 2026, we celebrate the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of our beloved Diocese of Allentown and the beginning of a Jubilee Year of Grace, which will continue until 28 January 2027.

This sacred year will be both Eucharistic and Marian—giving thanks for the blessings we have received and asking for new graces for the future of our local Church, especially for vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life.

Our Diocese was established by Pope Saint John XXIII on 28 January 1961, formed from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to serve the faithful of Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties. Since then, generations of clergy, religious, and laity have worked together to build a vibrant Catholic community rooted in faith, education, and service.

From our first Bishop, Most Reverend Joseph McShea, to his successors—Bishops Welsh, Cullen, and Barres—each shepherd has guided our Church through the joys and challenges of the times. Today, we continue that legacy with gratitude, standing on the faith and dedication of those who came before us.

The Holy Eucharist is at the heart of our Diocese. During this Jubilee Year, I encourage every parish, school, and household to deepen devotion to the Eucharist through Adoration, processions, catechesis, and the reverent celebration of Holy Mass. Let our parishes become truly Eucharistic communities, alive in faith and overflowing in charity.

This Jubilee is also a Marian Year. Under the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are called to grow in love for her Son, Jesus Christ. I invite every parish to promote the Rosary, Marian devotions, and consecration to her Immaculate Heart. May Mary guide us in faith, hope, and joyful discipleship.

During this Jubilee Year, let us pray for two special intentions:

An abundance of holy vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Consecrated Life.

The return of those who have drifted from the practice of the faith, that they may rediscover the mercy and joy of Christ in His Church.

As we celebrate sixty-five years of grace, let us walk together—clergy, religious, and laity—as a family of faith, united in the Holy Eucharist, devoted to Mary, and committed to bringing Christ's light to every soul.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and Saint Catharine of Siena, Patroness of our Cathedral, may this Jubilee Year be a time of renewal, healing, and joy for all.

With heartfelt gratitude and every prayerful wish, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Bishop Alfred A. Schlert

St. Francis of Assisi Outreach Committee Presents

LUCKY

Cash and Gift Card



Sunday, March 15, 2026
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall
Doors Open at 12:00pm – Bingo starts at 1:00pm
Ticket Price: \$25 In Advance, \$30 At the Door
Tickets available in the Parish office starting February 14, 2026



20 Games, plus Specials
Cash & Gift Card Prizes range from \$25-\$100

**Food, soda &
water available
for purchase**

**50/50
drawing**

**Irish “Basket
of Cheer”
Raffle**

No Outside Food or Drinks

Bingo proceeds to benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Outreach Committee to continue our efforts of assisting those in need in the Lehigh Valley