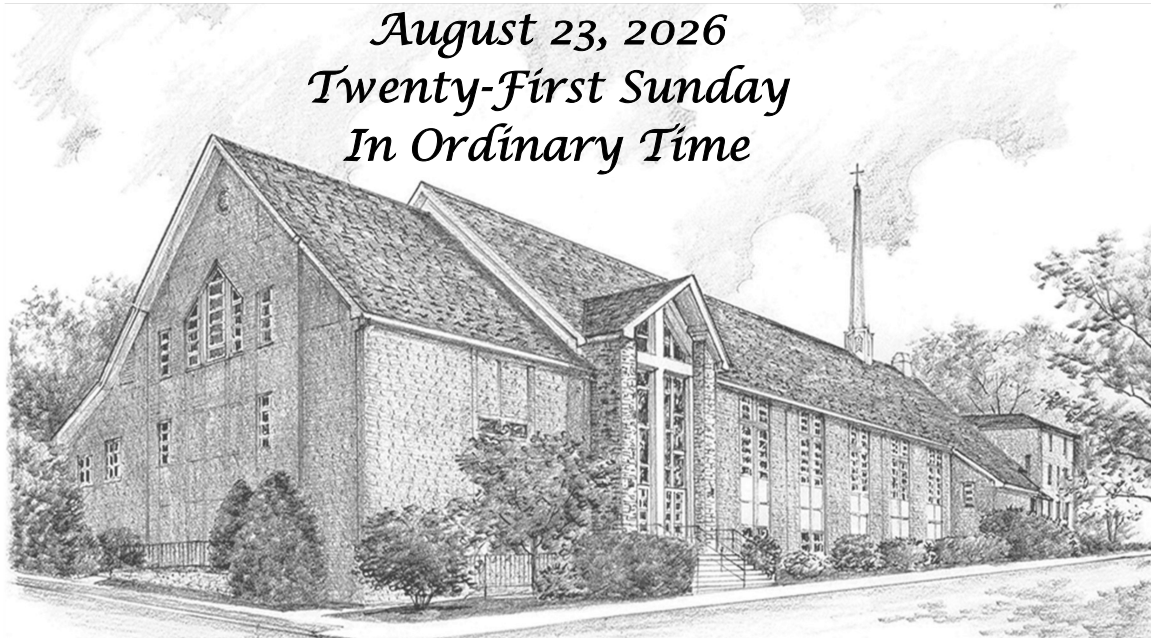


SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 - 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 23, 2026 is
In Memory of Mary Romanic
By The Steiner 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 Holy Family
For the week of August 23, 2026 are
In Memory of Mary "Mitzi" Kleinschuster
By Maryann and Frank Reisinger



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.

Mass Schedule

Monday, August 24, 2026

Saint Bartholomew

Rv 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51

7:00 PM Mark Neely

Tuesday, August 25th

Saint Louis, Saint Joseph Calasanz

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Mt 23:23-26

8:00 AM Karl & Phyllis Dunst

Wednesday, August 26th

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32

8:00 AM Joanne Mackenzie

Thursday, August 27th

Saint Monica

1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51

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

Friday, August 28th

Saint Augustine

1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13

8:00 AM Michael Lysek

Saturday and Sunday, August 29th & 30th

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

4:30 PM Louis Zenz

8:30 AM George Signarovitz

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.

Warming our Church – Nourishing our Faith



As a member of Saint Francis, you should have already received our mailing regarding the need for new boilers.

If not, please contact the office and we will make sure you receive this important information for your involvement.



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.



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



A reminder, for your safety and well-being, please lock your car doors and keep any valuables out of sight before coming into Mass.



August 23, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.” (Matthew 16:18)

God does not call the perfect or extraordinary. Like Peter, ordinary men and women are invited to play extraordinary roles in His plan through priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony. Whatever your gifts or weaknesses, God can use you to build His Church and bring His love to the world. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 610-437-0755 or via email:

jmaria@allentowndiocese.org



IT IS FOR: Adults (18 years or Older) who are:

- Not Baptized or
- Baptized in another Christian Church and interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or
- Baptized into the Catholic Faith but have not received First Eucharist or Confirmation.

Curious About the Catholic Faith? Join Us!

Is your spouse, fiancé, or a friend not Catholic, or do they want to learn more about the Church? We warmly invite spouses and loved ones to attend our OCIA sessions. You do not have to commit to joining the Church. This is a safe space to ask questions, share faith, and learn together.

When & Where: Specific dates to be announced, but we hope to begin by mid-September

Contact: To learn more or sign up, reach out to Helen Moyer at 610-730-8263 or the Parish Office at 610-433-6102.

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

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day



On Wednesday, October 21st from 8 AM to 11 PM, Boscov's Department Store will again host their popular **FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS** event, a special day filled with fun

and fundraising. **Shopping passes for this special event are available at the Parish Office for only \$5 each.** Each pass includes a 25% discount shopping pass* for purchases made only on October 21, 2025. St. Francis of Assisi will keep the entire \$5 made on each pass. Help us to earn even more by purchasing your Boscov's gift cards at the Parish Office! *Some exclusions apply

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 15 & 16, 2026

Sunday in Pew	\$ 5,793.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,856.84
Assumption of The BVM	\$ 1,037.00

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.



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

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Louise M. Karoly

by: K2 Construction Consultants, Inc., Michele Kratzer

Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord.

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.



The Liturgical Ministers availability sheet is due to Donna Gerancher by THIS Sunday, August 23rd.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule Saturday and Sunday, August 29th & 30th

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	J. Fittipaldi	H. Moyer	C. Stockdale
Eucharistic Ministers	F. & S. Koerbler, P. Stiles	M. & D. Issermoyer, L. Unger	L. Moser, J. Colom, M.P. Tran
Cantor	G. Rodriguez	P. Rollins	A. Eaves
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	V. Herman, M. Joliffe	R. Rollins	S. Issermoyer
Sacristan	J. DeLeo	T. Jacob	T. Jacob

Mass for the Memorial of St. Monica

The annual Mass for the Memorial of St. Monica, celebrated by Bishop Schlert, will take place on Thursday, August 27, at 6:00 PM at Queenship of Mary Church, 1324 Newport Avenue, Northampton. All members of the Diocese are invited to come join in prayer for the return to the Faith of fallen-away loved ones. A buffet dinner (\$15 per person) will follow the Mass. Register for the dinner by emailing dre@carloacutisprep.org. This evening of prayer and fellowship is sponsored by the St. Monica Ministry.

Bingo Buffet at Incarnation

Incarnation of Our Lord Parish is sponsoring its annual Bingo Buffet on Saturday, August 29, 2026. This social event, organized by our Parish Activities Group (PAG), will be held in LaBuda Hall (church basement.) Doors will open at 5:15 PM (after 4:15 PM Mass), and bingo will start at approximately 6:15 PM. Tickets are \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. The ticket includes 15 bingo games on cards, a buffet supper, and non-alcoholic beverages. Call the rectory at 610-866-3391 for advance tickets.

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.

Divorce Recovery Support Group

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, Saturday, September 6th (First Saturdays). 9-10 AM, prayers, donuts, encouraging conversation. BYOC (coffee). Questions, call 505-688-8663.

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.

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.

Last Chance to Sign Up!



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 7th.** Register online at allentowndiocese.org/events/anniversarymass.

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 are always appreciated.

We have enough bags for this year.

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.