

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



January 11, 2026
The Baptism of The Lord

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
January 11, 2026 is
In Memory of
Walter Kleinschuster
By The Kleinschuster 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 January 11, 2026 are
In Memory of Rosa Sanchez
By Dalia and Richard Ruiz**

St. Francis Senior Citizens Meeting

On Tuesday, January 13th, 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.

Attention All Women! "Women Walking in Faith"

Our group of faith-filled women will meet on Wednesday, January 14th 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.



Pasta Dinner at Saint Francis



Please join us for a Pasta Dinner on Saturday, January 24th after the 4:30 PM Mass. This is the first in a series of meals designed to raise money for the parish and encourage fellowship.

The menu includes ziti with homemade sauce, homemade meatballs, salad, rolls, soft beverages and baked goods. Gluten-free options available with advance notice. \$8-Adults, \$5-Child under 6, Children under 3 Free.

Reservations can be made by calling the Parish Office, with payment made January 24th at the door. Some takeouts will be available on the day on a first come first served basis.

SAVE THE DATE!! The Outreach Committee will be having their 2nd Annual Lucky Bingo on Sunday, March 15, 2026, in the St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall. More details in February bulletins.

Mass Schedule

Monday, January 12, 2026 Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20

7:00 PM Intentions of Mary Anne Freeman Brndjar

Tuesday, January 13th

Saint Hilary

1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28

8:00 AM Intentions of Bill Hourigan

Wednesday, January 14th

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39

8:00 AM Ed Granitz

Thursday, January 15th

1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

8:00 AM People of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

Friday, January 16th

1 Sm 8:4-7; Mk 2:1-12

8:00 AM Kerry Schlosser

Saturday and Sunday, January 17th & 18th

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

4:30 PM Teresa M. Fronheiser

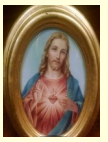
8:30 AM Joey Fernandes

10:30 AM Maureen & Tony Jerant

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.

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. Thank you for participating!

Men of St Francis Christmas Party

Hops at The Paddock

Tuesday, January 13, 2026,
6:00 PM

We will order off the menu.

Contact Chuck Epler for
more info, 484-809-1275





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.



Our Weekly Stewardship

January 1, 2026

Total collections \$ 2,581.00

Weekend of January 3rd & 4th

Sunday in Pew \$ 5,151.00

Sunday Online \$ 2,280.00

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.



January 11, 2026

Vocations Ministry:

As the Diocese of Allentown encourages each parish to promote and foster vocations, St. Francis of Assisi will move forward with celebrating and supporting vocations through action and prayer.

We will begin with ***World Day for Consecrated Life*** celebrated in the Church over the weekend of February 1-2, 2025. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Baptism of the Lord – January 11, 2026

"You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

Reflect:

At baptism, we are all called to holiness. Our unique vocation is how we live out that holiness — as priests, religious, married, or single.

Discuss:

How can you remind others of their baptismal call to love and serve? How does your family live out its faith day to day?

Pray:

Pray in thanksgiving for your baptism and for the grace to live faithfully as a beloved child of God. (repeat)

A Prayer for Vocations

*Gracious God,
 You call each of us by name and have a special plan for our lives.*

We ask you to bless our parish, St. Francis of Assisi, with an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. Give those you are calling the courage to say "yes" and the joy to serve your people with a whole heart. Help us all to live out our own vocations with faith and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Liturgical Ministers Schedule Saturday and Sunday, January 17th & 18th

| | <u>4:30 PM</u> | <u>8:30AM</u> | <u>10:30 AM</u> |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Lector | B. Beck | M. K. McMahon | D. Colom |
| Eucharistic Ministers | M. Evans, E. Wascavage, J. Fittipaldi | T. Fallon, D. Issermoyer, L. Unger | M. P. Tran, G. Rodriguez, E. Frankenfield |
| Cantor | A. Eaves | M. Issermoyer | M. Maramag |
| Organist | D. Badesso | R. Venditto | D. Badesso |
| Altar Servers | V. Herman, M. Joliffe | C. Peischl | J. & J. Burgos |
| Sacristan | D. Wascavage | T. Jacob | T. Jacob |



Food Pantry

The Outreach Committee's Food Pantry will be open to the public on Wednesday, January 14th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, in the Franciscan Center (former Convent.)

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.



St. John Vianney Regional School

OPEN HOUSE

Come and see the Vianney Way! Join us for our Open House (Grades PK-8) and experience what makes St. John Vianney Regional School so special. Tour our classrooms, meet our dedicated teachers and Admissions Team, and discover how faith, learning, and community come together each day.

Sunday, January 25th at 1:00 PM

210 North 18th Street, Allentown, PA 18104

www.stjohnvianneyschool.org



Allentown Central Catholic OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, FEB. 1, 2026, 2-4PM



**PRE-REGISTER FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE AND
ENTER A CHANCE TO WIN A \$500 TUITION CREDIT
FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!**

Meet our Principal and Administrators, tour the campus with our Student Ambassadors, and learn about our clubs and activities.

Contact our Admissions Director Lisa Schultz at lschultz@acchs.info with questions.

Academic Success. Catholic Values.

301 N Fourth Street, Allentown, PA 18102 | (610) 437-4601 | www.acchs.info

ENROLL TODAY FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!



Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul of Joanne L. Camp, who recently passed away. Grant her eternal rest, O Lord, and may her family know your peace and comfort.

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Joanne L. Camp

by: Cecilia Kocon, Marseline & Joe Fasolka

Karin U. Wahlstrom

by: Christiane Selvini, Hildegard Janssen

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord

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.jpccadvertising.com



Men of St. Francis Meeting

The Men of St Francis will meet on Tuesday, January 20th at 7:00 PM in Heritage Hall. All men of the parish age 18 and over are welcome to attend. For additional info., contact Chuck Epler at 484-809-1275.

Fill Your Cup: Morning Retreat for Homeschooling & Young Mothers

On Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 8 AM-12 PM at Sacred Heart Church, Bethlehem, the Office of Marriage & Family Life invites you to come and "Fill Your Cup" during a peaceful and uplifting morning designed especially for YOU, the woman who is always serving others. Allow yourself to be served - rest, reconnect, and be renewed in the presence of Christ and the company of women walking a similar journey. Enjoy a light breakfast, inspiring talk, small groups, and panel discussion. Mass & Confession will also be offered in the Church before the retreat starts. Register for FREE before January 19th at <https://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/238296>.

Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love In Your Marriage

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages 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 February 6-8, 2026 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.





29 December 2025
The Fifth Day of The Octave of Christmas

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



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, As we approach the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the establishment of our beloved Diocese of Allentown, I invite you to join me in celebrating this milestone as a Jubilee Year of Grace, beginning 28 January 2026, and ending 28 January 2027. This sacred time will be a Eucharistic and Marian Year dedicated to giving thanks for the blessings we have received and imploring new graces for the future of our local Church, especially for vocations to the Priesthood and the Consecrated Religious Life.

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

From our first Bishop, Most Reverend Joseph McShea, who laid the foundations of diocesan life and Catholic education; to his successors—Bishops Welsh, Cullen, and Barres—each shepherd has guided our Church through the joys and challenges of the times, ever striving to proclaim Christ in our region of Pennsylvania. Today, we continue to stand on that legacy, grateful for all who have handed on the Faith with courage and love. The 65th Jubilee coincides beautifully with the Church's renewed call to deepen our love for the Most Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist is the heart of our Diocese. Christ is truly present among us and is the source and summit of our Catholic life.

Throughout this Jubilee Year, I invite every parish, school, and household to rekindle devotion to the Holy Eucharist through increased opportunities for Adoration, Eucharistic processions, catechesis, and an intentional commitment to the reverent celebration of Holy Mass. Let us return to the Altar with renewed awe and gratitude, that our parishes may be truly Eucharistic communities where faith is alive and charity overflows.

The Diocese has always been placed under the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Mary, Mother of the Church. During this Jubilee, we turn again to her as our Mother and Model of Faith. Just as she carried Jesus to the world, may she lead us to a deeper love of her Son and to a spirit of joyful discipleship and evangelization.

Therefore, I am also designating this year as a Marian Year, asking every parish to promote the Holy Rosary, Marian devotions, and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In a world often marked by division and discouragement, Mary shows us the way to peace, humility, and trust in God's providence.

In a special way, I ask all the faithful to join me in praying for two great intentions during this Jubilee Year:

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

The Lord continues to call, and His mercy never tires. May our parishes become welcoming homes for all who seek spiritual comfort, forgiveness, and belonging.

As we celebrate sixty-five years of grace, we look back with gratitude and forward with hope. The same Holy Spirit who inspired the founding of our Diocese continues to guide us today. Let us walk together—clergy, religious, and laity—as a Roman Catholic family of faith, united in the Holy Eucharist, devoted to Mary, and steadfast in our mission of bringing the Light of Christ 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 of us.

With heartfelt gratitude and every prayerful good wish, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

✠ Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown

PARISH PHONE DIRECTORY

BUSINESS MANAGER

Dennis Reichard 610-433-6102 ext 34
dreichard@stfrancisallentown.org

BULLETIN

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102 ext 10
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

Rosanne Venditto 484-225-2080

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Paula Rollins 484-241-1986

"FEED YOUR FAITH" GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Fr. Richard Brensinger 610-433-6102
rbrensinger@allentowndiocese.org

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

Michelle Evans 610-737-9469

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 PASTORAL COUNCIL

Helen Moyer 610-439-0922
sfaPPC18@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY

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

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL FUND

Anne Palmisano 610-433-6102

SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

Madeline Klotz 610-395-7386

ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL

Matthew Carlin, Principal 610-435-8981

WEBSITE

Camille Stockdale 610-433-6102
stockp8792@gmail.com

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

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

Bonefish Grill (10%): \$25

Boscov's (8%): \$25

Carrabbas (10%): \$25

Cheesecake Factory (5%): \$25

Dunkin Donuts (3%): \$10

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

