

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



Priests

Reverend Richard C. Brensinger, Pastor
Reverend Kevin M. Gualano, In Residence

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Robert Young

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 & 12:15 PM

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 daily from 7:00 AM—9:00 PM.

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.

Holy Week Schedule



Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

- ✘ Monday, March 25th: 6 - 6:30 PM (prior to the 7:00 PM Mass)
- ✘ Tuesday, March 26th: 10-11:00 AM
- ✘ Wednesday, March 27th: 5-6:00 PM

Holy Thursday, March 28th

- ✘ Morning Prayer: 8:00 AM in Daily Mass Chapel
- ✘ Mass of The Lord's Supper: 7:00 PM followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Church -Private Adoration until 10:00 PM, with Night Prayer at 9:45 PM

Good Friday, March 29th

- ✘ Morning Prayer: 8:00 AM in Daily Mass Chapel
- ✘ The Church will be open for private prayer from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM
- ✘ 3:00 PM: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
- ✘ Stations of the Cross: 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday, March 30th

- ✘ Morning Prayer: 8:00 AM in the Church
- ✘ Blessing of the Easter Foods: 12:00 PM
- ✘ Easter Vigil: 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday, March 31st

- ✘ Masses celebrated at: 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Week:
PM
0 AM
00 PM

Mass Schedule

Monday, March 25, 2024 **Monday of Holy Week**
Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
7:00 PM Joan Richardson

Tuesday, March 26th **Tuesday of Holy Week**
Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
8:00 AM Intentions of Adeb Khoury

Wednesday, March 27th **Wednesday of Holy Week**
Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
8:00 AM Jeffrey Burnatowski

Thursday, March 28th **Holy Thursday**
8:00 AM Morning Prayer in Daily Mass Chapel
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
7:00 PM **Mass of the Lord's Supper** - Living and Deceased Members of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

Friday, March 29th **Good Friday**
8:00 AM Morning Prayer in Daily Mass Chapel
Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42
3:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, March 30th - Easter Vigil
8:00 AM Morning Prayer in Daily Mass Chapel
8:00 PM Easter Vigil—Easter Flower Memorials
Gn 1:1-2:2; Gn 22:1-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of The Lord
March 31st
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9
8:30 AM Easter Flower Memorials
10:30 AM People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Pray, Fast, Give Through Operation Rice Bowl This Lent

You may have heard your parish priest talk about Rice Bowl. Rice Bowl is a simple way to help those in need around the world. What are Rice Bowls? They are small, foldable cardboard bowls that that you can drop in loose change and bills throughout Lent as a form of alms giving. Pick up your very own Rice Bowl for your household at your parish and then drop it back off before the end of Lent. Learn more on the CRS Rice Bowl website: <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials

The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week March 24, 2024 is

*In Memory of Christy Seminavage
 By John and Pegg Philapavage*

Choir Schedule

The Choir will rehearse on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 PM in the choir loft. The choir will sing at the 7:00 PM Mass on Holy Thursday, March 28th and at 8:00 PM Mass on Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30th.



Recently Deceased



Please pray for the souls of Rev. Msgr. Dennis A. Rigney and parishioners Marie Epler and Paul Horvath, who recently passed away. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may their families know your peace and comfort.

Hearing Devices Are Now Available

We are pleased to announce that our new *Listen Hearing Devices* are available to sign out while you are attending Mass. They will be kept at the Parish Office and can be signed out and borrowed on your way into Mass. They must be returned immediately after Mass.



Old Palm Collection

Once again this year, we will be collecting your old palm to burn them for ashes. The basket is located outside the ramp doors, just inside the main entrance.

Parish Office Closing

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **Good Friday, March 29th, Holy Saturday, March 30th, Easter Sunday, March 31st, and Easter Monday, April 1st.**



If you ordered our Homemade Easter Eggs, pick-up is this weekend after all Masses.





- 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!

We're Hiring! Join our Team!

St. John Vianney Regional School is looking to fill the following positions for the 2023-2024 School Year:

- STEM Teacher
- Daily Substitute Teachers
- Extended Care Assistants

If you are interested in joining our dedicated and talented team, please contact Mrs. Beth Serrano, St. John Vianney Regional School Principal at mrserrano@stjohnvianney-school.org or 610-435-8981.

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.

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Rev. Msgr. Dennis A. Rigney

by: Steve & Donna Gerancher and Family, Stephanie Epler, Colleen A. O'Hare & Stephanie Lukow-Drobins, Theresa M. Racek, Larry & Conchita Moser and Simon & Sonia Moser-Porras

Elizabeth C. Nutting

by: Larry & Conchita Moser

Marie E. Epler

by: Theresa M. Racek, Stephanie Epler, The Hirschman Family and Madeline Klotz

by: *Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord*

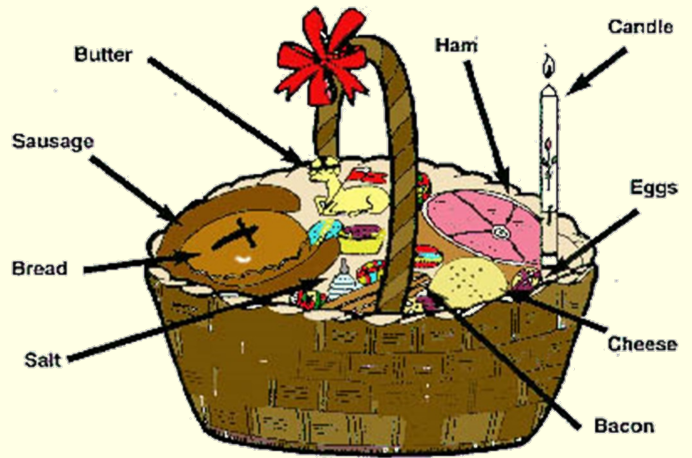


JOHN PATRICK
publishing company, inc.

John Patrick Publishing Company prints our weekly bulletin. To place advertisements on the back of our bulletin, contact Karen Donehower at 484-363-9475.

A Traditional Easter Basket

A traditional Easter basket has the above items in it, plus a few extra, which are all symbolic or remind us of something about Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord.



Butter: Often shaped into a lamb or a cross; reminds us of the good will of Christ that we should have toward all things.

Easter Bread: Often topped with a cross or fish; symbolic of Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.

Horseradish: Symbolic of the Passion of Christ, still in our minds.

Eggs: Decorated; indicating new life and Christ's Resurrection from the tomb.

Sausage: Symbol of God's favor and generosity.

Smoked Bacon: Symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy and generosity.

Salt: Considered a necessary element in our earthly life; Symbolic of prosperity and justice and to remind us that we are the "salt of the earth."

Cheese: Symbolic of the moderation that we should have at all times.

Candle: Represents Christ as the Light of the World

Colorful Ribbons & Greenery/Grass: Attached to the basket as signs of joy and new life in celebration of the Resurrection.

The baskets then have a linen cover placed ovetop, awaiting the trip to the church where it will join other baskets in being blessed. Then the blessed food is set aside and enjoyed on Easter Sunday. Even if you can't do the traditional basket, consider bringing your basket to Church for the blessing. It's a wonderful tradition to start with children or grandchildren.

Easter Food Blessing: Holy Saturday at 12:00 PM

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

March 28th (Holy Thursday) 7:00 PM

Lector K. McFadden
Eucharistic Ministers S. & D. Gerancher, F. Lenahan
Cantor Choir
Organist R. Venditto
Altar Servers T. Bauer, L. Moser
Sacristan L. Moser

March 29th (Good Friday) 3:00 PM

D. Colom
 J. Colom, E. Wascavage

 D. Wascavage

March 30th (Easter Vigil) and March 31st (Easter Sunday)

8:00 PM

Lector H. Moyer
Eucharistic Ministers A. Moyer, L. Eberly, V. Herman
Cantor Choir
Organist D. Badesso
Altar Servers F. & S. Koerbler
Sacristan J. DeLeo

8:30 AM

R. Granitz-Jacob
 P. Baker, D. Issermoyer
 D. Lamparella
 R. Venditto
 C. Peischl
 T. Jacob

10:30 AM

M.K. McMahon
 E. Frankenfield, C. Wargo
 G. Rodriguez
 D. Badesso
 C. & E. Stano, J. Martinez



Bringing Up The Gifts

If you will be attending a weekend Mass for one of your loved ones, and would like to carry the Offertory Gifts, please call the Parish Office at 610-433-6102 and ask that a note be left for the ushers to let them know, so they do not ask someone else.

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.



Our Weekly Stewardship

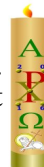
Weekend of March 16th & 17th

Sunday in Pew	\$ 5,231.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,996.90
Second Collection in Pew	\$ 596.00
Second Collection Online	\$ 105.00

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 information.

Weekend Sacristans

We are in need of a couple more weekend sacristans. If you are interested in training, please contact Deacon Bob at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102.



For the Diocesan survey that Deacon Bob spoke about - the link is: <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/byxd15>

This survey is a first step in the Next Generation Diocese journey. The purpose of this survey is to make OUR PARISH the best it can be. As awesome as our Saint Francis parish is, improvement is always a good thing. The Diocese of Allentown has partnered with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI), a lay apostolate headquartered just outside of Philadelphia that inspires Catholic leaders to revitalize the Church for a Christ-filled and joy-filled future through a close accompaniment. There is no cost to you or our parish. The goal is to make our parish a renewed place of worship, prayer, holiness and welcome. Another goal is make our Diocese a place of evangelization where disciples are formed. Additionally, this Disciple Maker Index will help YOU find ways to make an impact. The survey should take you 10 to 15 minutes to complete. We hope you are able to join us in making St. Francis, our Diocese and our own selves the best we can be.

Surveys are due by March 27th

"Make me an instrument of your peace."
 Francis of Assisi



Disciple Maker Index

portal.catholicleaders.org/1/aa3kaa

Step 1: Follow the link or scan the QR code

Step 2: Find your parish and click on the survey link for your individual parish





Plan to Visit Churches on Holy Thursday

The Holy Thursday tradition of visiting seven churches is an ancient practice most likely originating in Rome, where early pilgrims visited the seven major basilicas as a sign of penance. This noble practice has continued throughout the centuries into our day.

The Office for Divine Worship of the Diocese of Allentown has created a list of all the parishes by deanery and their visitation times. At the close of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, in nearly every church in the diocese, a single altar of repose has been adorned with candles and flowers. Here the Blessed Sacrament remains to await the coming of Good Friday. Parishioners are encouraged to spend

time with the Lord in the Holy Eucharist on this evening and, if possible, to visit seven churches. If you can't visit seven churches, any number of churches is acceptable. May our time spent with the Lord on Holy Thursday renew our relationship with Him so that we may experience the glory and joy of the Resurrection on Easter Morning.

Adoration Schedule for Holy Thursday, March 28th

Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown	8:00 - 10:00 PM, Night Prayer 10:00 PM
Immaculate Conception, Allentown	8:00 - 9:30 PM
Our Lady Help of Christians, Allentown	7:30 - 10:00 PM
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Allentown	8:30 PM - Midnight
St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown	8:15 PM - 10:00 PM, Night Prayer 9:45 PM
St. John the Baptist, Allentown	8:00 - 10:00 PM
St. Paul, Allentown	8:45 - 11:00 PM
St. Stephen of Hungary, Allentown	8:00 - Midnight
St. Thomas More, Allentown	9:00 - Midnight
Ss. Peter and Paul, Allentown	8:00 - 10:00 PM
Annunciation B.V.M., Catasauqua	8:15 - 10:00 PM
St. John Fisher, Catasauqua	8:30 - 11:00 PM
St. Joseph, Coopersburg	8:00 - 9:00 PM
St. Peter, Coplay	7:30 - 10:00 PM, Night Prayer 10:00 PM
St. Ann, Emmaus	8:15 - 10:45 PM, Night Prayer 10:45 PM
Assumption B.V.M., Northampton	8:00 - 10:30 PM, Night Prayer 10:30 PM
Queenship of Mary, Northampton	6:00 - 10:00 PM, Night Prayer 10:00 PM
St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield	8:15 PM - Midnight, Night Prayer 11:00 PM
Assumption B.V.M., Slatington	8:00 - 9:30 PM
Holy Trinity, Whitehall	8:15 - 11:00 PM, Night Prayer 10:45 PM
St. Elizabeth, Whitehall	8:00 - 10:00 PM, Night Prayer 10:00 PM
St. John the Baptist, Whitehall	7:30 - 10:00 PM



St Francis of Assisi Basket Raffle

May 18 - 11 am to 6 pm and May 19 - 9 am to 2 pm

**Tickets – one sheet for \$10 -
3 sheets for \$20**

**Baskets are all valued at \$50
or more**

**There will be baskets for
every member of your
family – the littles, men,
women, your pets –
everyone!!!**

**As always – there will also
be gift cards and adult
beverage “baskets” to bid
on!**

**Food will be available for
purchase – dine in or take
home**

April Showers

Bring Many Blessings!

The Saint Francis of Assisi Outreach Committee will be hosting a baby shower to benefit **Cay Galgon Life House**.

The organization is a non-profit in Bethlehem that assists pregnant women and mothers of infants through a residential program and a community outreach program throughout the Lehigh Valley.

We invite all parishioners to attend the baby shower after each mass on April 13th & 14th in Heritage Hall.

We kindly ask that you bring along an unwrapped gift for either baby or mother. Below is a list of needed items.

In addition to the list, the Life House needs small collapsible umbrellas. If you are unable to attend the shower in person but want to donate, please leave your gift at the parish office before April 13th.

Please stop by the shower to learn more about Cay Galgon Life House and enjoy a cupcake, coffee or tea!!

Thank You
for your
support!

INFANTS NEEDS LIST

Diaper Cream
Baby Wash/Shampoo
4oz/8oz Bottles
Bibs
Preemie to 3t Clothing
Pacifiers
Bath Towels
Wash Cloths
Receiving Blankets

MOTHERS NEEDS LIST

2-in-1 Shampoo
Deodorant
Body Wash
Toothpaste
Tampons
Body Lotion
Shaving Cream
Razors

OUR PARTNER
LIFE HOUSE

