

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



*December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent*

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
December 14, 2025 is
*In Memory of
Andrew Doran
By Doris Marsicano***

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.



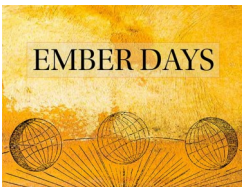
**The flowers in front of The Holy Family
And The Sacred Heart
for the week of December 14, 2025 are
*In Memory of Frank and Emilia Artinger
By Bob and Milly Dietrick***

Choir Schedule

The choir will rehearse on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 PM in the **DAILY MASS CHAPEL**, and they will sing at the Christmas Eve Mass at 9:00 PM on December 24th.



Ember Days



Ember Days are three days of fasting and abstinence that take place on a Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday in each season. They are a time to focus on the good things in God's creation and to pray for vocations.

The Ember Days of Advent are December 17, 19 & 20, 2025. They serve as a spiritual preparation and thanksgiving for the season ahead.

Reminder: Next Saturday and Sunday, December 20th and 21st, are the dates to pick up your Sweet Indulgence Fudge orders.

**Saint Francis of Assisi
sweet fudge
INDULGENCE SALE**

Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree is up and decorated in the vestibule. We will be helping Turning Point, Valor, Catholic Charities (these gifts UNWRAPPED) and Allentown Head Start (these gifts WRAPPED). All gifts should have tree tag attached, and be returned by **THIS** Sunday, December 14th.



Mass Schedule

Monday, December 15, 2025

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

7:00 PM Anthony T. Sorrentino

Tuesday, December 16th

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

8:00 AM Alexander Mazziotta

Wednesday, December 17th

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

8:00 AM Nicholas Troccola

Thursday, December 18th

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

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

Friday, December 19th

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

8:00 AM Anthony & Stella Stranzl

Saturday and Sunday, December 20th & 21st

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

4:30 PM Eugene "Rik" Hafeman

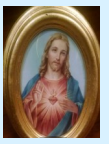
8:30 AM Donna L. Koerbler

10:30 AM Joseph 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.

Oplatki Available



Oplatki is available in the Parish Office for \$3 per pack of 3 wafers. A Christmas tradition from the Polish-Slovak-Lithuanian cultures, Oplatki is a wafer shared by the family around the dinner table, often at the Christmas Eve Wigilia (Vi-geel-ya). Each family member breaks off a piece and wishes each other good luck and blessings in the coming year.

Feed Your Faith Holiday Orders

Last chance before Christmas!!

On Monday, December 15th, the last gift card order before Christmas will go in to Raise Right Scrip Center. Orders must be prepaid and in the parish office by Monday noon on December 15th. Pick up on the weekend of December 20th & 21st. (Lists of available stores with order forms are in the Parish Office.)



Bulletin Deadlines

There will be early bulletin deadlines through the New Year. If you have any bulletin articles or announcements between now and January 11th, please email them to Stephanie as early as possible.



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.

Wee Worship Bags Now Available for Our Parish Children

Our Wee Worship Ministry has quiet activity bags for toddlers and preschool aged children to borrow and use during Masses. These bags are designed to serve as tools to help them learn about their faith while keeping them occupied as your family participates in the liturgy. We kindly ask that you return the bag and it's contents to the designated space after Mass so others can enjoy for the next Mass.



Our Weekly Stewardship

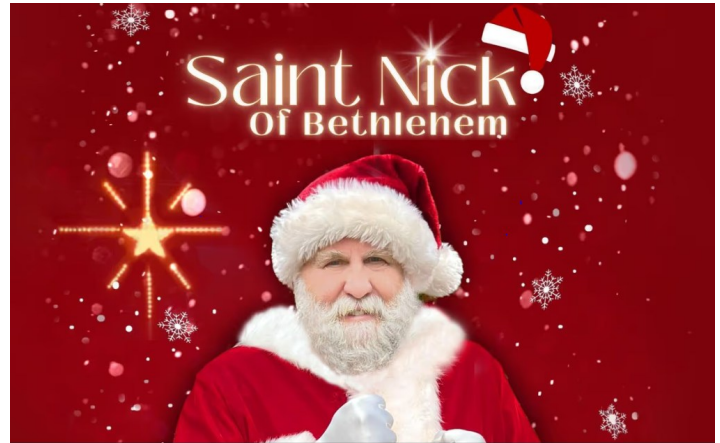
Weekend of November 29 & 30, 2025

Sunday in Pew	\$ 4,715.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,675.00

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.

Winter Weekend Raffle

Parishioners received a mailing last month containing a letter from Father Rich, the Parish Financial Report and 5 raffle tickets for our annual Winter Weekend Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each, but if you buy all 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. Thanks for participating!



Movie Club is Back!

Saint Nick of Bethlehem - from our homegrown, Daniel Roebuck.

Based on a true story about Allen Smith's life, this story follows a man who, after the loss of his son, transforms his grief into a beacon of hope for others by embodying the spirit of Santa Claus. As he brings joy to countless lives, he not only reunites with his true love but also discovers profound healing through the act of giving.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21st - HERITAGE HALL - USE THE CEDAR STREET ENTRANCE. We will open the doors at 3:00 PM, movie at 3:30 PM. I am hopeful everyone can find time to stop and enjoy fellowship, friendship, film and of course POPCORN with us. Running time is 1 hour 33 minutes. We of course will have snacks but feel free to bring your own Christmas Cookies or Candy to share!!!

MOVIE CLUB - ALWAYS FUN, ALWAYS FAITHFUL, ALWAYS FREE.

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

James Kelly

by: Jeff and Diane Kelly

Theodore R. Volack, Sr.

by: Marie Volack

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord

2025 Contribution Statements

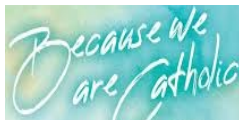
2025 Contribution Statements will be automatically mailed to all who donated \$250 or more, or less than \$250, by request.



Congratulations to Juan Rivera, our OCIA catechumen, who participated successfully in the Rite of Welcoming on Sunday.

Juan is enrolled in our parish's OCIA program and intends on being baptized, receiving Jesus in the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit in Confirmation at our 2026 Easter Vigil.

Juan is pictured here with his wife, Mary Joy, and Helen Moyer, who will be his sponsor and runs our OCIA program.



Because We Are Catholic Progress Report

St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown
Report Date: December 4, 2025

Parish Goal:	\$35,070.00
Total Committed:	\$24,248.90
Total Collected:	\$24,238.90
Number of Donors:	114
Average Gift:	\$ 212.71
# of Registered Families:	985

Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena

Closing Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope, on Sunday, December 28th, the Feast of the Holy Family, same feast on which we began the Jubilee Year of Hope one year ago, at 2:00 PM. Choral presentation of Vivaldi's Gloria by the Cathedral Choir; 2-3:00 PM. Sacrament of Penance, available in English and Spanish; 3:00 PM. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass closing the Jubilee Year, celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert.

Retrouvaille Marriage Healing Retreat Weekend

Retrouvaille of Delaware Valley is a Catholic-based program to help marriages that are stressed or in trouble. Retrouvaille has helped countless married couples in all stages of disillusionment or distress. Retrouvaille can help your marriage too. No marriage is beyond hope. The next program will be held at The Family Life Center at the Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA on February 6-8, 2026. All calls are confidential. For more information call 215-766-3944 or visit the web site at www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org.

Surviving Divorce Program

Give yourself the gift of encouragement for the new year. Register for the Divorce Recovery class, a national program created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Whether you are newly separated/divorced or still experiencing painful issues years later this program can help. Participants receive expert Catholic guidance to work through practical and emotional troubles brought on by the family breakdown. Topics covered include custody, court hearings and finances as well as the emotional ups and downs of anger, regret, and unforgiveness. Past participants have said they appreciate the program's deep insights of God's personal love for us and desire to heal us. This program has been running twice and three times per year since January 2023. Participants have consistently given it high marks on the end-of-class surveys. **Start date is January 12, 2026, and end date is March 16, 2026.** Meetings are Mondays, 6:15 – 7:15 PM for ten weeks. Location is St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall 18052 in the large Meeting room on the second floor of the parish office. The cost is free. To register, contact Jane Zingelman: jtzing@gmail.com.

Adoration Chapel Hours:

Monday through Friday: 7 AM—7 PM

Saturday: 7 AM—3 PM

Sunday: 12 PM—7 PM

Closed Holidays and Holy Days

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Saturday and Sunday, December 20th & 21st

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	G. Rodriguez	H. Moyer	M. Seltzer
Eucharistic Ministers	M. Evans, F. & S. Koerbler	T. Fallon, M. & D. Issermoyer	J. Colom, D. Ruiz, M. Dietrick
Cantor	J. Fignar	A. Huynh	A. Eaves
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	J. Fittipaldi	C. Piersza	S. Issermoyer
Sacristan	D. Wascavage	T. Jacob	T. Jacob



"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3)

John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 610-437-0755 or email: jmaria@allentowndiocese.org.

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.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts & Our Lady of Martyrs in Fultonville, New York

Reserve your spot today for the next Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts & Our Lady of Martyrs in Fultonville, New York!

Join Bishop Schlert and Father Hoffa on Wednesday, April 15, 2026-Thursdays, April 16, 2026, for a 2-day pilgrimage. Double occupancy \$249/pp which includes hotel & tax, round trip motor coach transfers, breakfast at hotel, boxed lunch on both travel days, Mass at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy and Mass at Our Lady of Martyrs.

Space is limited! Call 570-342-5790 today to secure your spot or register at <https://asktravelworld.wetravel.com/trips/divine-mercy-our-lady-of-martyrs-pilgrimage-travelworld-65157968#trip-overview>.

For questions about reservations, please visit:

asktravelworld.com or email info@asktravelworld.com or scan the QR code to book your spot today!



Snow Closings

SNOW DAY! Please note that our usual policy will be in place this winter for snow closings. If the Allentown School District is closed for snow, 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.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes

Open to all levels, this year-round, volunteer-led program supports Spanish speakers and individuals from other communities in learning or improving their English. In addition to language skills, participants are introduced to the Catholic faith, the lives of the Saints, and Church traditions. Classes are held at the Diocesan Hispanic Center: 219 W Susquehanna St, Allentown. We are in need of volunteer teachers and assistants to support this program, which provides a Catholic and Christian environment for those who wish to learn English while strengthening their faith. If you feel called to serve and make a difference in our community, please use contact information below.

For registration, please contact the Office of Hispanic Affairs at 610-866-0581 ext. 2032 or email arodriguez@allentown-diocese.org

St. John the Baptist Events

924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA

New Year's Eve Dance, Wednesday, December 31st, 7 PM-12 AM. \$25 per person, \$50 couple. BYOB. Call Bill at 610-432-0034.

Diocesan Cemetery Mausoleum

The new Diocesan Cemetery Mausoleum, Tongues as of Fire-Assumption of Mary Mausoleum is now available at Holy Savior Cemetery for the purchase of entombment rights in a single or companion crypt or interment in side by side niches for cremated remains. The Resurrection-Ascension Mausoleum is available at both Resurrection (610-395-3819 x1) and Holy Savior (610-866-2372 x1) Cemeteries.

Prayer Requests

Please Join Our Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain operates by phone and email. We are always looking to recruit **more people** to pray for those in need. This is a simple but powerful way to help our parishioners; please consider joining us! Email Stephanie Epler at sepler@stfrancisallentown.org to be added or to make a prayer request. All emails will be kept confidential. A group email will be sent as each prayer request is received. Of course, you may still call in prayer requests by phone at 610-433-6102.

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.jppcadvertising.com

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

