

"Lord, make me
an instrument
of your peace."

— Saint Francis of Assisi

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH PARISH MISSION 2026

T
Celebrating the 800th Anniversary
of the Death of Our Patron

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
1226 ✠ 2026

"REBUILD MY CHURCH"

OCTOBER 4 • 5 • 6, 2026
7:00 PM EACH EVENING

Join us for three inspiring evenings of prayer, reflection, worship, and renewal as we celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. Experience the beauty of Franciscan spirituality and discover anew the Gospel call to holiness, joy, peace, and love.

✠ MISSION SCHEDULE ✠

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
THE RADICAL GOSPEL
*The Conversion and Poverty
of Saint Francis*



Mission Talk
Followed by the Sacrament
of Reconciliation
Guest Confessors Available

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
BROTHER TO ALL
*Saint Francis and
the Wonder of Creation*



Mass with Homily

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
THE WOUNDS OF LOVE
*The Stigmata and
the Suffering Christ*



Benediction with Homily

*"Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible,
and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*

— Saint Francis of Assisi

ALL ARE WELCOME

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
A Three-Night Spiritual Renewal Celebrating the Franciscan Jubilee Year
October 4-6, 2026 • 7:00 PM

*Peace
Goodness
All Creation
Praises God*



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 Sicca 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
October 4, 2026**

*In Memory of Stanley Hughes
Offered by: Doris Marsicano*



Floral Intentions

Floral intentions for in front of the Holy Family and the Sacred Heart can be offered in memory of a loved one or in honor of a living person(s), or an anniversary of marriage. It is our wish to beautify the altar with your spiritual intention(s). A donation can be made for live flowers to be placed in front of one statue for \$30 or \$60 for both places of honor. Names of those whom flowers are for and who they are from will be announced in the bulletin. Please call the church office with your intention, date requested and name of donor, 610-433-6102.

Choir Schedule

The choir will rehearse on Tuesday, October 6th at 6:30 PM in the choir loft. They will sing at 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, October 11th.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, October 5th at 5:30 PM in Heritage Hall. Please enter through the Cedar Street ramp.

Baked Goods Needed for Attic Treasures



Please consider donating your marvelous baked goods for the Parish to sell at Attic Treasures! Goodies can be dropped off this Friday, October 9th (9 AM to 2:30 PM), Saturday, October 10th or Sunday, October 11th. Thank you so much for donating to our big Parish Event!

Saint Martha's Ministry

Saint Martha's Ministry will clean the church on Saturday, October 10th (second Saturday of each month) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Questions: call Tara at 607-760-8743.

Mass Schedule

Monday, October 5, 2026

Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37

Saint Faustina Kowalska

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

7:00 PM Eugene and Yvonne Green

Tuesday, October 6th

Gal 1:13-24; Jn 10:38-42

Saints Bruno,

Blessed Marie Rose Durocher

8:00 AM The People of Saint Francis of Assisi

Wednesday, October 7th

Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Lk 11:1-4

Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00 AM Michael Napolitano

Thursday, October 8th

Gal 3:1-5; Lk 11:5-13

8:00 AM Nancy Pizolato

Friday, October 9th

Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26

Saint Denis and companions,

Saint John Leonardi

8:00 AM Intentions of Karen Fragnito

Saturday and Sunday, October 10th & 11th

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14

4:30 PM Lillian McGorry

8:30 AM Simon and Adele Covelesky

10:30 AM Carmen Montalvo

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.

Welcome to our new Ministry Scheduler

Software! Beginning with the November 6th schedule there will be a new way to schedule for the following ministries: lectors, EMs, altar servers, cantors, sacristans, the rosary team, and even the stream team. It is called Parish Solutions which is very easy to use, and requires very little effort on your part. For the ministry schedule beginning November 6 and ending January 31 you will receive a predetermined schedule. If you have any conflicts or need a sub, you will be able to use the app to use the sub request feature in the event you are scheduled during a date you cannot attend. Below are tutorials to help you manage your account. Any questions about this exciting new app, please call the parish office.

Tutorials

You can also find tutorials on how to interact with Ministry Scheduler here:

<https://www.parishsolutionsco.com/ms-ministers.html>



*Peace
to all
God's
creatures*

~ St. Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis of Assisi

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

*Great
Items
Good Food
A Worthy
Cause*



Shop Support Build Community



St. John Vianney Regional School
210 N. 18th Street
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!



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: Began September 27th after the 10:30 Mass in the Weekend Sacristy, still welcome to attend!

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

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. **We have 2 openings remaining.**



WEE WORSHIP Bags

Wee Worship Committee has supplied quiet Activity bags for toddlers and preschool children during liturgy. You can sign a bag out before Mass in the parish office before Mass begins. We kindly ask you to return the bags after Mass So that other children can use them.



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, 2026. 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*

St. Francis Center at Monocacy Manor

395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Three Evenings with Three Franciscan Saints: Saint Clare of Assisi, Saint Bonaventure, Blessed John Duns Scotus, facilitator: Sister Barbara Brown, OSF, Thursdays, October 8, 15 and 22nd, 6:30-8:00 PM, first floor conference room at St. Francis Center, Monocacy Manor. \$15 per session or 3 sessions for \$35.00. Register online for both events at www.SchoolSistersOsf.org or by phone 610-867-8890.

Someone will call you within the next couple of weeks if you have requested a call regarding your boiler contribution.

Warming our Church - Nourishing our Faith



Traveling Saint Francis of Assisi Statue

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.



Cooks With Collars

Thank you for your votes for Father Rich in this year's Cooks with Collars contest. We were able to raise **\$5,848.00** for upgrades to our church kitchen.

Men's Conference 2026

Catholic men, renew and strengthen your faith at our annual Men's Conference on Saturday, November 21st at DeSales University. The Conference will take place from 8 AM to 4 PM.

What does it mean to "come home" to Mary? In a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, we all long for a place of belonging, peace, and hope. As our spiritual mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary leads us to her Son and invites us to find refuge in the heart of the Church. Join us for a day of inspiring speakers, prayer, fellowship, and spiritual renewal as we discover what it means to come home to Mary. Learn more and sign up at www.menaliveinchrist.org/events.

"Speak, Lord"

Women's Vocational Discernment Group

Young women ages 18–40 in the Diocese of Allentown are invited to the "Speak, Lord" Women's Vocational Discernment Group, for those discerning a vocation to marriage or religious life. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month in a hybrid format, with opportunities to attend in person or via Zoom. Each gathering includes Eucharistic Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, a presentation on vocational discernment, and time for fellowship. The next meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Old St. Paul's School, 219 W. Susquehanna St., Allentown. For more information, call 267-775-1222 or email marianmisioneras@gmail.com



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of September 26 & 27, 2026

Sunday in Pew	\$ 5,017.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,245.84
Second in Pew	\$ 1,166.00

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.

Volunteers Needed!!

For Mercy School's Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday, October 17, 2026. Mercy School for Special Learning is looking for clean-up help in the kitchen while the event is occurring/at the end of the event. If you are interested, we would love to have you and your friends volunteer for kitchen clean-up. We have a need for the 6:30-9:00 PM shift. There is also a 4:30 PM clean up shift. Mercy School encourages you to come enjoy the dinner prior to volunteering, the dinner starts at 4:00 PM. The food is delicious! Respond to Kiersten at 570-401-7953 or email kierstennice10@gmail.com

Holy Hour of Petition and Hope

The St. Monica Ministry will sponsor a Holy Hour of Petition and Hope on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 5:30 PM at the Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena, 1825 W. Turner St., Allentown. All are invited to gather before the Blessed Sacrament and pray for the return of those who have left the Church. The evening will include the Sacrament of Confession, the Rosary of Supplication for Our Prodigals, Vespers and Benediction. The Holy Hour will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend. For more info., email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Saturday and Sunday, October 10 & 11, 2026

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	B. Beck	K. McFadden	J. Carrasquillo
Eucharistic Ministers	S. & F. Koerbler,	F. & J. Lenahan,	M. Dietrick, J. Colom,
Cantor	E. Wascavage	T. Racek	B. Ocasio, L. Unger
Organist	M. Maramag	P. Rollins	Choir
Altar Servers	D. Badesso	D. Badesso	R. Venditto
Sacristan	J. Fittipaldi	R. Rollins	T. Bauer
Rosary	J. DeLeo	P. McFadden	P. McFadden
	J. Quinn	M. Shelley	M. Gaudiuso

PARISH PHONE DIRECTORY

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Deb Erkinger 610-433-6102

BUSINESS MANAGER

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

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

Rosanne Venditto 484-225-2080

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Milly Dietrick 610-433-6102

"FEED YOUR FAITH" GIFT CARD PROGRAM

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

LECTORS

MaryKay McMahon 610-433-6102

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

Kate McFadden 610-737-7232

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 SECRETARY/BULLETIN

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

SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

Madeline Klotz 610-395-7386

ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL

Matthew Carlin, Principal 610-435-8981

ST. MARTHA'S MINISTRY

Tara Burkus 607-760-8743

VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Heidi Beck 610-433-6102

WEBSITE

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

WELCOMING COMMITTEE/USHERS

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 fundraising 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%): \$20, \$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

