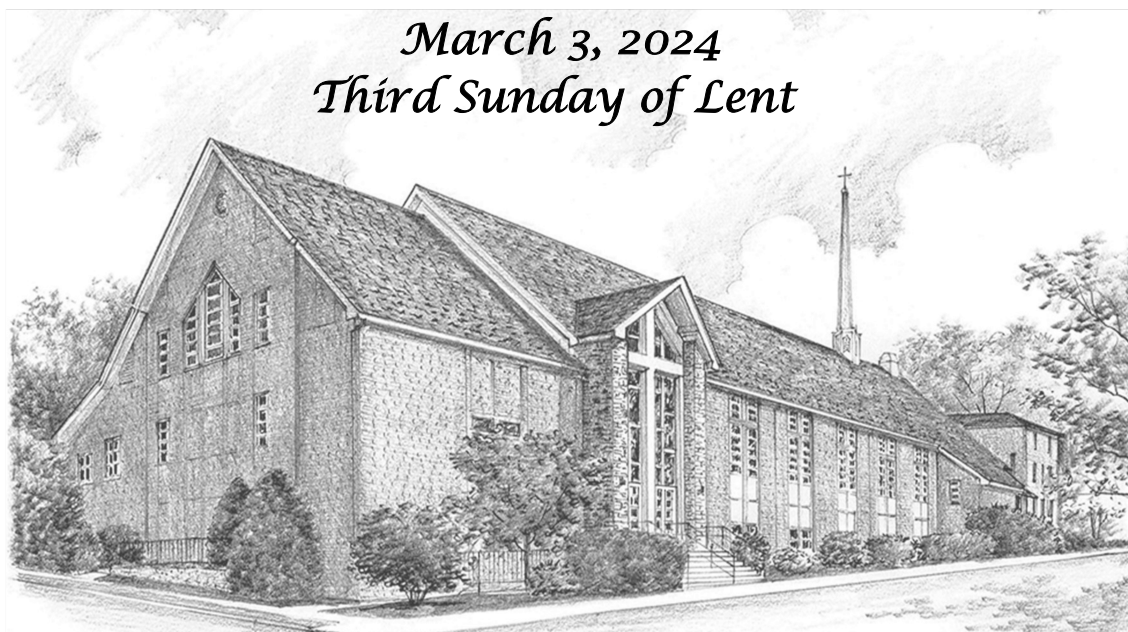


SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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.



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials

The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week March 3, 2024 is **In Memory of Bill Stiles** By Pam Stiles

Choir Schedule

The Choir will rehearse on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30 PM in the choir loft. The Choir will sing on Sunday, March 10th at 10:30 AM Mass.



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.



Lenten Mission

We will have our Lenten Mission on March 10, 11, and 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Father John Maria, Pastor of Saint Mary's in Kutztown has accepted the invitation to lead us in prayer and reflection for these three evenings. We hope you can join us for all three evenings, but attend as many as you are able.

Recently Deceased



Please pray for the soul of parishioner Mary Jane Bernhard, 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:

Jeffrey F. Burnatowski

by: Mother Eleanor and Sister Maria Burnatowski, Michele & Todd Lobien & Marge Kern, Jean DiFebo

Michaelina "Mickey" Palmisano

by: Anne E. Palmisano & Terese Eckert

Michaelina "Nonna" Palmisano

by: Jenny, Andrea, Casey, Rowan, Nora & Callan

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord

Mass Schedule

Monday, March 4, 2024

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Lk 4:24-30

Saint Casimir

7:00 PM Lesley Steigerwalt

8:00 AM Rocco Bognet

Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35

8:00 AM Rocco Bognet

Wednesday, March 6th

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

8:00 AM Gloria C. Frank

Thursday, March 7th

Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

Saints Perpetua and Felicity

8:00 AM Mary Radio

Friday, March 8th

Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

Saint John of God

8:00 AM Bertha Bisco

Saturday and Sunday, March 9th & 10th

Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

4:30 PM Pat Della sara

People of Saint Francis

8:30 AM Nicholas Troccola

10:30 AM Emilia Ilagan

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.



New Parishioners

As a parish community, we always welcome new members with open arms and hearts. At this time we would like to welcome Janis Geist,

Olvin Lopez, Lucio Lopez and Inocensia Reyes; Yolanda Hernandez, Nicolas Martinez and Jasmine Martinez; Joan Nagle; Karina Yunez, Anthony Rodriguez, Aidan Rivas and Avery Rodriguez.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, March 4th at **6:00 PM** in Heritage Hall. Enter through the Cedar Street ramp.

Men of St. Francis Parish Breakfast

Will take place this Sunday, March 3rd.

Breakfast is served at your table by our volunteer waitresses from 9:30 AM to Noon. Menu selections include: Eggs, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Ham, Toast, Cereal, Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate. Cost: Adults \$8.00, Children (age 6-12) \$5.00, Age 5 and Under Free.



This month your breakfast ticket will include a chance to win an Easter themed basket. There will be two baskets raffled off during breakfast hours.



A TIME FOR PRAYER

Allentown Diocese Commission for Men presents a Morning of Reflection

Saturday, March 2, St. Jane de Chantal, 4049 Hartley Ave., Easton

Mass at 9:00 AM, coffee and doughnuts, with speakers starting at 10:00 AM

Speakers: His Excellency Alfred Schlert; Father Alex Brown, St. Anne's Bethlehem; Father Keith Laskowski, Our Lady of Mercy, Easton

Confessions available, admission is free, but please register at

www.menaliveinchrist.org

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERY MAN THERE!

The Men Alive in Christ Morning of Reflection will replace the Men of St. Francis Day of Recollection.



- 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.

February Winter Weekend Raffle Winners

- February 3rd \$50 - Philip Lathrop
 - February 4th \$500 - Sam Kalny
 - February 10th \$50 - James Frick
 - February 11th \$100 - Deborah L. Miller
 - February 17th \$50 - Mary Ann Pitcher
 - February 18st \$100 - Sue Cassium
 - February 24th \$50 - Mike Burkus
 - February 25th \$100 - Karen Janotka
- Tickets can still be purchased in the Parish Office if you'd like to get in on the March drawings.

Congratulations to our February winners!!!

Walk with us, St. John Vianney Regional School, at the 65th St. Patrick's Parade 

SUNDAY MARCH 17TH AT 1:30 PM



AT THE ALLENTOWN FAIRGROUNDS
 SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP

From SJVRs

Thank you to all who donated rosaries for the children of Saint John Vianney Regional School. We are grateful for the overwhelming number of rosaries we received!



ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL



PRESCHOOL

In Faith - Celebrating Today, Embracing Tomorrow!

Enroll your 4-5 year old child in our enriched full-day preschool program! We provide a healthy, safe, spiritual, and educational environment that is filled with opportunities for social interaction, fun, and learning.

Receive a \$1,000 Scholarship!

Apply today for our Preschool program!
 Catholic Mission. Traditional Values. Scholarships Available.

Visit StJohnVianneySchool.org | Call Us: 610.435.8981 | 210 N 18th Street, Allentown, PA 18104

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be offered twice each Friday through March 22nd at 11:30 AM and 7:00 PM. (On Good Friday, March 29th, at 7:00 PM only.)



**Liturgical Ministers Schedule
 Saturday and Sunday, March 9th & 10th**

| | <u>4:30 PM</u> | <u>8:30AM</u> | <u>10:30 AM</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lector | J. Carrasquillo | K. McFadden | L. Bauer |
| Eucharistic Ministers | V. Herman, J. Fittipaldi | J. & P. Philipavage | A. Drovich, M. Dietrick, C. Novak |
| Cantor | G. Rodriguez | P. Rollins | Choir |
| Organist | D. Badesso | D. Badesso | R. Venditto |
| Altar Servers | J. & J. Burgos | | S. Issermoyer, T. Bauer |
| Sacristan | T. Jacob | P. McFadden | P. McFadden |

SJV UPDATE

The official newsletter of your parish school



OUR NEW COMPUTER LAB UPDATES

The computer lab will be named "The Acutis Lab", named after Bl. Carlo Acutis. Equipped with Chromebooks, chairs, tables, and a copier, the lab aims to enhance computer skills, research methods, and internet safety in the media and library curriculum for the upcoming school year. Plans include purchasing desktops, obtaining an electrical quote, and painting and decorating the room for the 24-25 school year launch.

OUR SCHOOL PLAY HAS BEEN CHOSEN... "ALADDIN JR."

We are thrilled to bring the magical world of "Aladdin" to life on stage this year! Join us on Friday, May 10th, and Saturday, May 11th, for an unforgettable experience. Be sure to keep an eye out for an update on the showtimes.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK WAS A SUCCESS!

Here is a recap of what happened during Catholic Schools Week:

Our community outreach project for the Ecumenical Kitchen raised \$1,111.38. Students were celebrated with a family night out at Jordan Lanes, Pastors with heartfelt letters, and teachers with yummy food! We ended the week with a pep rally featuring games, prizes, and patriotic activities. The week highlighted the unity and faith within the school community.



Library News



The library purge has been completed. There are lots of books that we have taken down off our shelves. Please stop by the Parish Library between now and March 7th to take any of the "free to a good home" books. You can keep them forever. After March 7th, all purged materials will be donated to a local thrift shop. If you would just like to "check out" materials from the shelves, you are welcome to do so during our "construction phase."

Ultimately, our new library will have more current materials with more current authors, as well as, your old favorites! Thanks to our volunteers undertaking this project. If you would like to help, contact Camille Stockdale.



Bus Trip to “Daniel” In Danger of Cancellation

St. Francis of Assisi will run a bus to Sight and Sound for the new play, “Daniel” on Wednesday, April 10th, with a stop at Shady Maple’s lunch buffet before the show. \$165 per person covers transportation, lunch, show, and driver tip. To sign up, please contact Stephanie at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102.

If you have been putting off signing up for our Spring trip to Sight and Sound’s “Daniel”, now is the time to call! We are in danger of having to cancel the trip due to low sign-ups. We realize prices are higher than in past, but the theatre has raised their ticket prices substantially this year, and we have no choice but to pass along that increase. At this time, only 21 persons have signed up; we need to have approximately 50 persons to break even.



Pray, Fast, Give Through Operation Rice Bowl This Lent

Operation Rice Bowl, an annual giving program that began in the Diocese of Allentown 49 years ago, is a great way to answer the Church’s call for almsgiving during Lent. Families eat a simple meal

one day a week, and give the money they would have spent on a more elaborate meal to Operation Rice Bowl. One-quarter of the funds remain in the Diocese to help those in need locally, and the balance is contributed to hunger relief efforts nationwide and in 100 countries around the world, distributed by Catholic Relief Services. Rice Bowl boxes are available in the church vestibule and in the Parish Office.

**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 St 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.

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

SPONSOR A BASKET



Did you see that the St Francis Basket Raffle is being held May 18th and 19th, 2024!

We have a new program this year – it’s called “Sponsor a Basket”. You and your loved ones can donate funds to purchase some of our higher item baskets. For example, perhaps we want to have a “Camper’s Delight” basket with camp chairs, a tarp, lantern, barbeque materials, fire making materials, and MORE. BUT... you are unable to purchase all of these items yourself. You can send in cash or a check with SPONSOR A BASKET on an envelope and we will put these funds towards a basket or two!!! We thank you in advance for your generosity. As always, we will also be collecting made-up baskets!! Empty baskets and gift cards are always welcome as well!!!! Look for a “Wish List” on social media and in the bulletin soon for other items that can be purchased and donated towards our Basket Raffle event.

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.



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



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG SALE

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024
Pick-up 9am - 12 NOON

**ORDERS MUST BE IN BY
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024**
NO ORDERS TAKEN AFTER MARCH 17, 2024.



| ITEM | SIZE | PRICE | X | QTY | = | COST |
|---|--------|----------|---|-----|----------|------|
| PEANUT BUTTER EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | \$ 19.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT BUTTER EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 11.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT BUTTER EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 19.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT BUTTER EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 11.00 | X | | = | |
| COCONUT CREAM EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 19.00 | X | | = | |
| COCONUT CREAM EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 11.00 | X | | = | |
| COCONUT CREAM EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 19.00 | X | | = | |
| COCONUT CREAM EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 11.00 | X | | = | |
| BUTTER CREAM EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 19.00 | X | | = | |
| BUTTER CREAM EGGS — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 11.00 | X | | = | |
| BUTTER CREAM EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 19.00 | X | | = | |
| BUTTER CREAM EGGS — DARK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 11.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT ROLLED WITH PEANUT BUTTER CENTER — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 21.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT ROLLED WITH PEANUT BUTTER CENTER — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 12.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT ROLLED WITH PEANUT BUTTER CENTER — DARK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 21.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT ROLLED WITH PEANUT BUTTER CENTER — DARK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 12.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT ROLLED WITH BUTTER CREAM CENTER — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 21.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT ROLLED WITH BUTTER CREAM CENTER — MILK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 12.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT ROLLED WITH BUTTER CREAM CENTER —DARK CHOCOLATE | 1 lb | 21.00 | X | | = | |
| PEANUT ROLLED WITH BUTTER CREAM CENTER —DARK CHOCOLATE | 1/2 lb | 12.00 | X | | = | |
| NOTE: ALL PEANUT ITEMS WILL BE PREPARED SEPARATELY, SO THERE WILL BE NO CROSS-CONTAMINATION. | | | | | TL \$ | |

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

RETURN ENTIRE COMPLETED FORM & PAYMENT IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "EASTER EGGS" VIA COLLECTION BASKET, OFFICE MAIL SLOT OR PARISH OFFICE. CASH OR CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI.