

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

[WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG)

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN

*January 4, 2026  
The Epiphany 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.

### 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](http://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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

### 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.



### 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 4, 2026 is**

*In Memory of  
Lucille Kopack  
By sister Lisa and Family*



### 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 \$30.00 or \$60.00 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

No choir practice on this week, but the choir will sing at 8:30 AM Mass on Sunday, January 11th for The Baptism of The Lord.



### Coming in February: Vocations Ministry Launch

What: Vocations Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi; each parish is encouraged by the Diocese of Allentown to promote and foster vocations.

Kickoff: February 1st and 2nd, 2026 (World Day for Consecrated Life).

Mission: Supporting through prayer those called to the consecrated life, priesthood and marriage.

TBA:

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.

Vocation Reflection: These reflections help us recognize God’s invitation — both to personally follow His call and to encourage others to do the same.

Epiphany of the Lord—January 4, 2026

“They prostrated themselves and did Him homage.” (Matthew 2:11)

Reflect:

The Magi followed the light of a star to find Christ. In the same way, God gives us signs and guidance as we seek our life’s purpose.

What “lights” — people, moments, or experiences — have guided you toward God? How can you be a light for others in their discernment?

Pray:

Pray for clarity and courage for all who are searching for direction, and for our parish to be a guiding light toward Christ.

### Mass Schedule

**Monday, January 5, 2026**

*1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25*

**7:00 PM** Justine Schwartz

Saint John Neumann

**Tuesday, January 6th**

*1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44*

Saint Andre Bessette

**8:00 AM** Anna Cosgrove

**Wednesday, January 7th**

*1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52*

Saint Raymond of Penyafort

**8:00 AM** People of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

**Thursday, January 8th**

*1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22*

**8:00 AM** Marie Menne

**Friday, January 9th**

*1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16*

**8:00 AM** Stephen Schwartz

**Saturday and Sunday, January 10th & 11th**

**The Baptism of The Lord**

*Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17*

**4:30 PM** Adolph Sodke

**8:30 AM** Thomas D. McCarthy

**10:30 AM** Mary Ann Koefer

### 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.





## 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](mailto: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.

**Thank  
You**



### With Grateful Hearts from the Outreach Committee:

Wow, it has been a whirlwind of activity these last two months! Thank you to our fantastic parish family for all the generous donations.

Over 300 gifts were collected for the Giving Tree, 38 families received turkey dinners and 45 families had the opportunity to select cold weather items at our giveaway.

In addition, our Food Pantry helped 84 clients in November and December, a record number. Thank you and May God Bless you all.

### Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, January 5th at **5:30 PM** in Heritage Hall. Enter through the Cedar Street ramp. For more info., call Michelle at 610-737-9469.

### 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!

### Our Weekly Stewardship



Weekend of December 20 & 21, 2025

Sunday in Pew	\$ 5,479.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,285.00

**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.**

### 2025 Contribution Statements

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

### Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge this contribution in memory of:

**Robert "Bob" Williams**

by: Anne E. Palmisano

*Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord*



### Winning Parishioner

Congratulations to our parishioner, Anna Bloch. Anna won 1st place in her category (3rd and 4th grade) for the Cathedral's Local Council of the Knights of Columbus poster contest "Keep Christ in Christmas". She was presented with a diploma and a prize.



Anna's drawing is on the left of the wreath.

Anna's drawing is on the left of the wreath.

### 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





### 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.

## Hope for a Better Marriage

Helping marriages heal and grow.  
Over 100,000 marriages helped.

MARRIAGE WEEKEND  
PROGRAMS HELD AT THE  
MALVERN RETREAT CENTER

Retrouvaille of Delaware Valley

Call 215-766-3944

[marriagehelpdelval.org](http://marriagehelpdelval.org)



### 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 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM

210 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown, PA 18104

[www.stjohnvianneyschool.org](http://www.stjohnvianneyschool.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](mailto:jtzing@gmail.com).



**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!**

QR code

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](mailto:lschultz@acchs.info) with questions.

**Academic Success. Catholic Values.**

301 N Fourth Street, Allentown, PA 18102 | (610) 437-4601 | [www.acchs.info](http://www.acchs.info)

**ENROLL TODAY FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!**

### Liturgical Ministers Schedule

**Saturday and Sunday, January 10th & 11th**

**4:30 PM**

M. Florentino

F. & S. Koerbler, V. Herman

J. Fignar

D. Badesso

J. Fittipaldi

J. DeLeo

**8:30AM**

M. Issermoyer

F. & J. Lenahan, A. Drovich

Choir

R. Venditto

R. Rollins

P. McFadden

**10:30 AM**

G. Rodriguez

J. Colom, B. Ocasio, A. Drovich

A. Huynh

D. Badesso

V. Huynh

P. McFadden

**Lector**  
**Eucharistic  
Ministers**  
**Cantor**  
**Organist**  
**Altar Servers**  
**Sacristan**



*"They prostrated themselves and did Him homage."* (Matthew 2:11)

The Magi offered their gifts to Christ, just as we are called to offer our own. What gifts has God given you, and how is He calling you to use them in service to Him? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 610-437-0755 or email: [jmaria@allentowndiocese.org](mailto: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](mailto:andrewazan3rd@rcn.com) voice - (484) 259-7740.

### Feed Your Faith Monthly Order

There are over 30 different stores in stock every day, and once a month, hundreds of different stores and denominations are available through our monthly order program. To see the entire list of retailers, go to [RaiseRight.com/shop](http://RaiseRight.com/shop) and click home page. The next monthly order will be placed on this **Monday, January 5th**. To order, call the Parish Office at 610-433-6102.



### 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.



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.)

### Food Pantry

**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 14 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.



### 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-Thursday, 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](http://asktravelworld.com) or email [info@asktravelworld.com](mailto:info@asktravelworld.com) or scan the QR code to book your spot today!



### Flocknote

**Don't forget to text STFRAN to 84576 on your smartphone to get signed up with Flocknote!**

(If you don't have a smartphone, you can visit our website and look for the link that will allow you to sign up from there.) Text messages and emails can be easily sent to members during lock-downs, closures, and emergencies, as well as updates, event notifications, check-ins, prayer requests, and more.

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](http://www.jppcadvertising.com)

### 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>.

## 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**

