

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



February 22, 2026
First Sunday of Lent

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 - 6:45 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 February 22, 2026 is
In Memory of
Mary and Stephen Horvath
By Elizabeth Brennan**

Choir Schedule

The choir will practice on Tuesday, February 24th at 6:30 PM in the Daily Mass Chapel.



The Outreach Committee is currently accepting cash and gift card donations (\$50 value) for the 2nd Annual Lucky Bingo. Contributions may be dropped off to the Parish Office during regular business hours. Thank you!!



We Didn't Forget About You!

We are still working on getting the groups together for the Stewardship Program. The snowy and extreme cold conditions have slowed us down a bit, but we should be ready to make contacts soon!

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be offered each Friday beginning February 20th through Good Friday, April 3rd, at 7:00 PM. In addition, Confessions will be heard on Friday nights from 6:00 - 6:45 PM.



BREAKFAST



Men of St. Francis Breakfast

Will be held next **Sunday, March 1st**. Breakfast is served at your table by our volunteer waitresses from 9:30 AM to Noon. **Cost is \$10.00 for Adults, Ages 6 to 12 \$6.00, ages 5 and under Free.** Menu selections include: Eggs, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Ham, Toast, Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate.

Recently Deceased



Please pray for the souls of Edward Brennan, M. Josephine Santilli (sister of parishioner Joseph Santilli), and Sister Jean L. Wickenheiser, OSF, who recently passed away. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may their families know your peace and comfort.

Mass Schedule

Monday, February 23, 2026

Saint Polycarp

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

7:00 PM Richard Zenz

Tuesday, February 24th

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

8:00 AM Karin Wahlstrom

Wednesday, February 25th

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

8:00 AM People of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

Thursday, February 26th

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

8:00 AM Joseph DeMaio

Friday, February 27th

Saint Gregory of Narek

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

8:00 AM Yvonne Green

Saturday and Sunday, February 28th & March 1st

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

4:30 PM Leann Bernini

8:30 AM Sanctuary Memorial Fund Members

10:30 AM Intentions of Annie Drovich

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.



Movie Club



Mark your calendars! Our March film is scheduled for Sunday, March 8th. Doors Open at 11:30 AM, RIGHT after Sunday Mass. Film begins at NOON.

THE SHROUD ENCOUNTER - A fast-paced big-screen experience and in-depth exploration into the mysteries of the Shroud of Turin using over 200 dramatic images.

Audiences are taken on a thought-provoking adventure through early church history, ancient art, modern science, and medical forensics to explore the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the nature and cause of the Shroud image.

Feel free to bring a "bagged lunch" with you OR we will have pizza slices available for purchase!!!

Movie, popcorn, soda, candy and door prizes - ALL FREE.

2025 Contribution Statements

2025 Contribution Statements were automatically mailed to all who donated \$250 or more. If you need a contribution statement mailed to you for a total less than \$250, please call the Parish Office to request.



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.

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Barry G. Koerbler

by: Frank and Sallie Koerbler

Mary "Mitzi" Kleinschuster

by: Willian and Rosemary Eibach

Betty Kelly

by: Jeff and Diane Kelly

M. Josephine Santilli

by: Marilyn & Rocky Miller

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord

VOCATION MINISTRY February 22, 2026
 Vocations Ministry

"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4)

Lent invites us to rely on God's Word. In holy matrimony, couples live by this Word, nourishing their love with faith. Spend some time this week in scripture and pray together. If you're single, pray for your vocation and the one God may be preparing for you.

We Are Remembered Mass
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 7:00 PM
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, PA

As we prepare to mark the 35th Year of the "We Are Remembered Ministry", we invite you to gather and celebrate our Annual Easter Mass. The Ministry has returned to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Whitehall and the parish family is delighted to welcome our guests to remember and celebrate the lives of so many of our loved ones who have passed on. Please indicate on the enrollment form if you plan on joining us for this very special Liturgy.

We minister and welcome all who mourn the death and passing of a loved one. As a sponsor, it is important that you enroll the name of your loved one (s) each year. This will ensure their inclusion in the enrollment list appearing in the AD Today after the Anniversary Mass. As always, "The Book of Remembered" will be available for your remembrances from 6 - 6:50 PM and again after the Mass.

Friends of the "We are Remembered" Ministry will provide a lovely social & spring flower gifts after Mass in the parish hall. If you'd like to help, please contact us at email: dirreled@sercc.org (include your phone #). We ask a \$5 donation for each name enrolled to cover expenses. Every name submitted will be enrolled regardless of donation.

Starting this weekend, we will offer \$25 Starbucks and Dunkin' gift cards, in addition to the \$10 cards.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule
Saturday and Sunday, February 21st & 22nd

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	J. Fittipaldi	M.K. McMahon	D. Colom
Eucharistic Ministers	V. Herman F. & S. Koerbler	J. & P. Philapavage, L. Unger	J. Colom, M. Dietrick, L. Moser
Cantor	A. Eaves	M. Maramag	J. Fignar
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers		C. Piersza	J. & J. Burgos
Sacristan	D. Wascavage	P. McFadden	P. McFadden



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of February 14th & 15th

Sunday in Pew \$ 5,349.00

Sunday Online \$ 2,769.00

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.

Married Couples Catholic Date Night

Married couples are invited to an evening of connection, conversation, and faith at the Catholic Couples Date Night, hosted by the Office of Marriage & Family Life of the Diocese of Allentown. The evening will take place on Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM at Clover Hill Winery, 9850 Newtown Road, Breinigsville, PA 18031. Couples will enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine from a pre-selected menu, and a souvenir bottle in a relaxed winery setting, along with an engaging presentation by Dr. Ray Guarendi, Catholic psychologist, bestselling author, and nationally known speaker on marriage and family life. Advance registration is required.

Register at www.allentowndioocese.org/date-night.

Women's Lenten Conference

In a world of division and strained relationships, the Women's Lenten Conference offers hope and practical tools for unity. Join the Bishop's Commission for Women on Saturday, March 7 from 8am to 3pm for Mass with Bishop Schlert, lunch, Confessions, Adoration, and keynote talks. Hear from Noelle Mering, an author and cultural commentator known for *Awake, Not Woke* and her writing on faith, culture, and public life, as well as Dr. Ray Guarendi, a Catholic clinical psychologist, author, and national radio and television host known for practical, faith-based advice on parenting, family life, and relationships. Register at <https://www.allentowndioocese.org/catholic-life/resources-women/love-hope-holiness-womens-lenten->

Theology on Tap

"Reflections on G. K. Chesterton" Theology on Tap for young adults ages 21-39, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, social hall, Thursday, March 19th, 7-9:00 PM, with Joseph Grabowski from Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, food and drink offered, zhodgskin@allentowndioocese.org

John Patrick Publishing Company prints our weekly bulletin. To place ads on the back of our bulletin, contact Michele Barron at 484-300-2062.

Congratulations to these students of our Parish who were Recently confirmed by the Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown.

Rianne *Therese* Escueta

Wesley *Timothy* Garvin

Maci *Lucy* Joliffe

Were confirmed on Tuesday, February 3, 2026

At the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena, Allentown, PA

and

Raegan *Kateri Tekawitha* Geake

Was confirmed on Thursday, February 12, 2026

At Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, PA

We pray that, as they are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit, they will continue to be true witnesses to the Catholic Faith.

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love."

St. Francis of Assisi Outreach Committee Presents

LUCKY

Cash and Gift Card



Sunday, March 15, 2026

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall

Doors Open at 12:00pm – Bingo starts at 1:00pm

Ticket Price: \$25 In Advance, \$30 At the Door

Tickets available in the Parish office starting February 14, 2026



20 Games, plus Specials
Cash & Gift Card Prizes range from \$25-\$100

**Food, soda &
water available
for purchase**

**50/50
drawing**

**Irish “Basket
of Cheer”
Raffle**

No Outside Food or Drinks

Bingo proceeds to benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Outreach Committee to continue our efforts of assisting those in need in the Lehigh Valley

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 Puzzeola, 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

