

# *Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church*

1046 West Cedar Street - Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102  
(610) 433-6102

[www.stfrancisallentown.org](http://www.stfrancisallentown.org)

Facebook and Instagram: @stfrancisallentown

## *Pastor*

Reverend Monsignor Victor F. Finelli, V.J., J.C.L.

## *Permanent Deacons*

Deacon Robert Young  
Deacon Ricardo Reyes



## *Mass Schedule*

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 10:30 AM

Daily: see Mass Schedule

Holy Day: (Vigil 7:00 PM) 8:00 AM & 12:05 PM



## *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM

Anytime by appointment



## *Adoration Chapel*

Our Adoration Chapel is  
temporarily closed due to COVID19



*February 14, 2021*  
*Sixth Sunday*  
*in Ordinary Time*

We, the people of Saint Francis of Assisi Church, a Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Allentown, a faith-filled people, united in the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist, strive to be the Body of Christ. We manifest our unity through the joyful celebration of the Sacraments. We pledge to use our gifts and resources to live the Faith, preach the Word, and Service others as we welcome all into our faith community.



## 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 offered on a Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:15 AM. Please contact Mrs. Camille Stockdale, our Director of Religious Education, for more information regarding our PREP (610-435-0364).

### **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 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.

### **Ministry to the Sick**

Visits to the hospital are made on a regular basis. 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 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, Mr. Brian Mansfield (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 Cara Meskill, 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.

# Mass Schedule

## Monday, February 15th

Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13

No Mass

## Tuesday, February 16th

Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21

**8:00 AM** Dorothy Lichman (Public Mass)

## Wednesday, February 17th Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20--6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**8:00 AM** Patrick Gallagher

**12:05 PM** Service of the Word & Distribution of Ashes

**7:00 PM** Eugene Hafeman, Sr.

## Thursday, February 18th

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

**8:00 AM** Mary Chesnavage (Public Mass)

## Friday, February 19th

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

**8:00 AM** Clara Spotts (Private Mass)

### February 20th & 21st

### First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

**4:30 PM** Mary Brienza

**10:30 AM** John Vavryshko, Jr.

Theodore Kubitz

People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

### Welcome Back to Mass

The Church main door will open thirty minutes before the Mass. Please observe social distancing and wear a mask at all times. Please review our "Welcome Back to Mass" video on our website with all other regulations. We will continue to stream the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass live on Facebook for those who are not yet comfortable with the idea of returning to public Mass. Thank you and welcome back to Mass!



### Sanctuary Lamp Memorials

If you would like to memorialize the red sanctuary lamp next to 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 of February 14, 2021 is

**In Memory of Dorothy M. Guzenski**  
by: Mertz Family

### Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

**Helen R. Grieff**

by: Mr. & Mrs. Mark Smith, Bob & Peg Giannangeli, Dennis Giannangeli, Marie Giannangeli & Jim, Ann Giannangeli, John Giannangeli & Janette and Karen Giannangeli

**Victor F. Finelli**

by: The Outreach Committee

*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord*

### Ash Wednesday Pandemic Procedure

Ash Wednesday is February 17th, and the familiar ritual of receiving ashes will be a little different this year because of the pandemic. The Vatican has asked Priests around the world to sprinkle ashes on the heads of the faithful rather than using the ashes to make the sign of the cross on foreheads.



In addition, the celebrant will say "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" only once, before the distribution of ashes, and will not say it over each recipient.

The idea is to minimize contact, and to eliminate the need for the celebrant to speak in close proximity to the recipient of the ashes.

Sprinkling ashes on the tops of slightly bowed heads, rather than using them to mark foreheads, is not a new practice; it is the norm in many countries of the world.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time when Catholics are called to prayer, to fasting, and to almsgiving (which means donating money or goods to the poor, and performing other acts of charity).

The ashes are rich in symbolism. They are a call to repentance, a physical sign that we are sinners in need of forgiveness. They remind us that God created us from the earth, and that we will return to it when we die. They also symbolize God's promise that even though our bodies will return to dust, our souls are meant to live forever with Him.

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from burning last year's blessed palm branches.

As a reminder, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting, and of abstaining from meat. Fasting is defined as eating one full meatless meal, as well as two smaller meals that are not equal to a full meal. Catholics also do not eat meat on the other Fridays in Lent.

## Stations of the Cross

**Join us Fridays in Lent for the Stations of the Cross - at 11:30 AM or 7 PM in the church. We encourage everyone to participate in this holy tradition.**

**We will eliminate one of these times after the first week determines which time is better attended.**

*"Behold, O Kind and most sweet Jesus,  
before Thy face I humbly kneel..."*  
(from the Prayer before the Crucifix)



### Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul of parishioner Robert Fix who recently passed away. Grant him eternal rest, O Lord, and may his family know your peace and comfort.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule  
Ash Wednesday, February 17th

**8:00 AM      12:05 PM      7:00 PM**

Lector R. Granitz      F. Lenahan      N. Lamparella  
Organist ---      ---      D. Badesso

Saturday and Sunday, February 20th & 21st

**4:30 PM      10:30 AM**

Lector P. Stiles      B. Beck  
Organist D. Badesso      D. Badesso



**Youth Ministry**

The Youth Ministry will be meeting via Zoom on Sunday, February 21st at 7 PM. Please contact Ms. Jenn for more info at

jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org.

*The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 15th to observe Presidents' Day.*



De Sales University Accounting STUDENTS TO PROVIDE FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

Junior and senior accounting students from DeSales University will provide tax preparation assistance free of charge to senior citizens, those with incomes below \$54,000, people with disabilities, students, military and those who speak English as a second language. The DeSales University VITA program will begin Monday, February 15th through Friday, March 26th. The program is part of the United States Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

This marks the twentieth consecutive year that DeSales students have participated in the program. Since it was first offered, DeSales students have completed more than 5,100 tax returns for more than 2,400 Lehigh Valley taxpayers.

To schedule a VITA appointment, individuals can call (610) 282-1100, ext. 1868. A DeSales student will return the phone call and provide assistance accordingly. Individuals needing assistance should bring all printed tax information and all documents pertaining to federal, state and local taxes with them to their appointment. All in-person appointments will be conducted with all COVID-related precautions, and visitors to the DeSales campus are required to be masked.

The program is sponsored by the IRS and supervised by Dr. Christopher R. Coccozza, division head of DeSales University's Division of Business and professor of business. Coccozza has served as VITA coordinator at DeSales since the program was initiated at DeSales in 2001. Coccozza holds a bachelor's in accounting and law degree from Fordham University and a master's of law from New York University.

**COOKS WITH COLLARS: VOTE NOW!**

Deadline to vote is tomorrow, February 15th!

Monsignor Finelli and a group of bakers from the parish represented St. Francis of Assisi Parish in COOKS WITH COLLARS, an online cooking competition to raise funds for parishes and Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Allentown. Visit [www.cookswithcollars.com](http://www.cookswithcollars.com) to see Priests from around the Diocese, along with parishioners, creating delicious kitchen concoctions. Each vote is just \$10.00. All voting proceeds benefit our parish. Thank you for making Monsignor Finelli and St. Francis of Assisi Parish a winner!



**PREP**



PREP is enjoying a much needed Spring Break from their classes this week.

We wish all of our students and families a Happy Valentine's Day, a Congratulations to our Confirmation Candidates who are scheduled to receive on

February 16th and a Blessed Ash Wednesday!!!

All classes resume on Sunday, February 21st.

Next Youth Mass is Sunday, February 28th.



**2021 - Low Impact Aerobics Sign-ups**

Looking for a night out with friends? Our instructor, Karen Hoff, is offering 10 weeks of aerobics on Tuesday nights at 6:15 – 7:00 PM from February 23 to April 27, 2021 in St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall, 435 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall. The cost is only \$25.00 per person for the entire 10 weeks. Registration deadline is February 22<sup>nd</sup> or until the maximum number of participants is reached. Please contact Mary Spieker at the parish office to register 610-266-0695 or [dirreled@sercc.org](mailto:dirreled@sercc.org). Temperatures will be taken at the door. Bring a friend!

**New Beginner Low Impact Aerobic Class**

Haven't exercised in a while but ready to ease your way back in? Other classes are not a fit for you? Join us for eight weeks on Tuesdays – February 23 to April 13, 2021 from 5:30-6:00 PM at Saint Elizabeth's Parish Hall, 435 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall. Registration is required. Only \$15.00 for all 8 weeks. Call or e-mail for more information: Mary Spieker at 610-266-0695 - [dirreled@sercc.org](mailto:dirreled@sercc.org).

This 1/2 hour class will help you start the process of getting back to exercise while increasing your flexibility and move at a slower pace than our other class.

Come and check out the class and see if it is a fit for you! Bring a friend!



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## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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### 2021 LENTEN PASTORAL LETTER

Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord.  
See to it that no one be deprived of the grace of God, that no bitter root spring up  
and cause trouble, through which many may become defiled.

Hebrews 12:14-15

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The quote above from Hebrews is not frequently cited in Lenten reflections. This Lent, however, these words especially strike me as we embrace this Season as a time of reconciliation which comes as the fruit of penance.

True repentance includes reconciliation with God, the Church, neighbor, and self. The many manifestations of division that we have seen so clearly in our Church and Nation enjoin us to the repentance that leads to true reconciliation with God, the Church, and our brothers and sisters.

It is often said that we create the times in which we live. We determine through our thoughts, words, and actions whether our individual and societal lives will be created by a preference for division or a preference for reconciliation. Through prayer, fasting, and charitable works, we can more easily see our neighbor, in the light of God's precious creation, like ourselves rather than as an adversary to vanquish by words, violence, or pre-judgments.

Finally, we cannot achieve the reconciliation desired without our faith, devotion, and reception of the Most Holy Eucharist which is the Sacrament of unity and charity. Our real presence at Mass and reception of Holy Communion, the Real Presence of Christ, is the bedrock of any true peace and reconciliation that begins within us.

May we accompany one another this Lent with prayer, fasting, good works, and reception of the Holy Eucharist to build a Church and Nation of reconciliation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Alfred A. Schlert', with a small cross symbol above the first letter.

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert  
Bishop of Allentown

# Lent 2021



**PRAYER:** Lent is a time to raise our hearts and minds to God in adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition; a time to sit and reflect. We lead very busy lives, but make an effort to set aside time to meditate on the Lord's call in your life. Read scripture, pray the rosary, spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, or simply attend Stations of the Cross. There are many moments during the day to take time to talk to God, to thank Him, and to praise Him.

**ALMSGIVING:** Lent is a time for doing good deeds. The Church has long cared for the needs of the poor; therefore, it is seen as a condition of true discipleship. Almsgiving is not just an act of monetary charity. It can be any opportunity to reach out to those in need – volunteering at a soup kitchen or visiting family and friends who are lonely. Any material, monetary, or time offering you can give, prompted by charity, is a true Lenten offering to God.

**FASTING:** Lent is a time to sacrifice willingly the provisions we take for granted each day in hopes of facing our weakness and need of nourishment for God, our provider, who is the “Bread of Life”. We need to choose the type of fasting that truly relates to how we need to grow spiritually and deepen our relationship with God. Remember, we need not always fast from our favorite treat. We can fast from activities that keep us from spending time from our family. We can fast from actions, such as complaining or idle gossip.



## OUR LENTEN OBLIGATION

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting. The Lenten obligation as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

### *Who must fast?*

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59 must fast. The obligation ceases when one begins his or her 60<sup>th</sup> year on his or her 59<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### *Who must abstain?*

All Catholics who are 14 years of age or older must abstain.

### *What does fasting mean?*

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may have only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals, which should not equal to another full meal, may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

### *What does abstinence mean?*

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

### *Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fasting and/or abstinence?*

Individuals with just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In the Diocese of Allentown, all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill, or have a similar serious reason, are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

### *Are there other obligations which we should fulfill?*

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their “Easter Duty.” In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent (February 21, 2021) until Trinity Sunday (May 30, 2021). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins once a year.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity.



# Easter Egg Sale



This year Easter is Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Why not celebrate the day with some great **HOMEMADE** Easter eggs in a variety of flavors. Choose from: Peanut Butter, Coconut Cream, Butter Cream, or Peanut Rolled Eggs (either with butter cream or peanut butter centers). All varieties come in milk or dark chocolate and will be sold for only



**\$9.00 or \$10.00 per 1/2 pound or \$17.00 or \$19.00 per pound. Reasonably priced for homemade candy. All these wonderful confections will be made by our volunteers right here at Saint Francis. This will surely be a big and popular fundraiser because who doesn't love a homemade Easter egg to celebrate the season? Make sure you get your order in early in case we have to close sales due to just too many orders that we wouldn't be able to fulfill.**



Orders are due no later than Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> with pick up on Palm Sunday Weekend: March 27<sup>th</sup> (from 3:30 to 5:30 PM) and March 28<sup>th</sup> (from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM). For those with allergies, the peanut butter eggs will be made separately for no cross-contamination. Checks made payable to: Saint Francis

## Homemade Easter Egg Sale ORDER FORM



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Half Pound**

**Pound**

Peanut Butter Cream Eggs: milk chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17 = \_\_\_\_\_  
dark chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17 = \_\_\_\_\_

Coconut Cream Eggs: milk chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17 = \_\_\_\_\_  
dark chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17 = \_\_\_\_\_

Butter Cream Eggs: milk chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17 = \_\_\_\_\_  
dark chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17 = \_\_\_\_\_

Peanut Rolled Eggs w/  
Peanut Butter Centers: milk chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$19 = \_\_\_\_\_  
dark chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$19 = \_\_\_\_\_

Peanut Rolled Eggs w/  
Butter Cream Centers: milk chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$19 = \_\_\_\_\_  
dark chocolate: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$19 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders due no later than March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**