

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

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

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



March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday
of Lent

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 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.

Mass Schedule

Monday, March 22nd

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11

No Mass

Tuesday, March 23rd

Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo

Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

8:00 AM Amelia Kimmerling (Public Mass)

Wednesday, March 24th

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

8:00 AM Bernardino Sebastiani (Public Mass)

Thursday, March 25th

The Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM Timothy Volack (Public Mass)

Friday, March 26th

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

- - - Dolores Scott Lukish (Private Mass)

March 27th & 28th

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

4:30 PM John Fignar

People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

10:30 AM John Maruscak

Mary Ann Schrammel

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.

The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week of March 21, 2021 is

In Memory of James Barney

by: The Fallon Family

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

William B. Stiles, Jr.

by: Al & Helen Moyer, Larry, Conchita & Sonia Moser

William J. Johnson

by: The Svitilla Family: Helene, William & John, Leandra Zellner, Karen Zellner, Ann Trump & William Zellner

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord



Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul of parishioners Luz N. Morales and Louise M. Dennis, who recently passed away. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may their families know your peace and comfort.



Festival News

Our annual International Food Festival will not be held the last weekend of June this year. We hope to reschedule it for the late summer or early fall. Watch for new dates to be announced in a future bulletin.

Thank you.



Unfortunately, we have had to permanently cancel the Large Flowerheads dance for 2021. If you had purchased tickets, please bring the tickets to the Parish Office in person and you will be reimbursed in cash for each ticket that you purchased. Tickets are necessary for reimbursement. For more information, contact Stephanie at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102.

Designer Handbag Bingo

New Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021

Doors open at 12:00 PM
Games begin at 1:00 PM

**New date: October 24, 2021
Hold your tickets for admission on that date.**

Tickets are still available at the Parish Office! For more information, please contact Stephanie at the Parish Office. Tickets are available to purchase at the event. No outside food/drink allowed. Please spread the word and help us advance the Kingdom of God. If you have already purchased a ticket in 2020, that ticket is still valid. **(Tickets will be \$25 at the door)**
Questions? Contact the Parish Office at 610-433-6102.

Sight and Sound Bus Trip has been rescheduled!

St. Francis of Assisi Church will travel to Sight & Sound's "Queen Esther" on **Tuesday, October 26, 2021**. \$112 per person includes transportation, lunch at Shady Maple, and a driver tip. We'll depart church at 10:00 AM for Shady Maple, then on to Sight & Sound for the 3:00 PM show, and leave for home following the show. Call Stephanie at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102 to sign up or for more information.



New date: October 26, 2021

Please support our advertisers on the back of the bulletin who make this publication possible.



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Phone: 610-435-8981 Email: altlsjv@ptd.net

Call us today to schedule a tour at your convenience!

SJVRS: Educating a child's character, mind and spirit!

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Saturday and Sunday, March 27th & 28th

4:30 PM

10:30 AM

Lector

H. Moyer

F. Lenahan

Organist

D. Badesso

D. Badesso

Prayer Requests

Please Join Our Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain operates by phone and email. We are always looking to recruit **more people** to pray for those in need. This is a simple but powerful way to help our parishioners; please consider joining us! Email Stephanie Epler at sepler@stfrancisallentown.org to be added or to make a prayer request. All emails will be kept confidential. A group email will be sent as each prayer request is received. Of course, you may still call in prayer requests by phone at 610-433-6102.



Online Giving

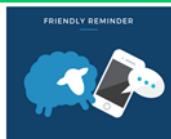
Our Online Giving system provides you the opportunity to give to our special collections in addition to regular offerings. You can set up regularly scheduled contributions that are withdrawn on the date you specify in the system. Even if you typically use your offering envelopes, you may wish to contribute online to a particular collection. It's easy and it's convenient! Go to our parish website at www.stfrancisallentown.org for information to sign up.

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.)



Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens

Congratulations to Jacob Holzer!

Jacob is our TEEN who is completing the RCI-Teen process this Easter. This Sunday, March 21, 2021, he participates in the Third Scrutiny; another exciting step in his conversion. Jacob is a 16 year old attending Emmaus High School. He made the decision this year to become a fully initiated Catholic and worked diligently with Deacon Bob and Camille Stockdale to achieve this goal. We have truly enjoyed working with Jacob, his dad, Michael, and his step-mom, Tina. It has been both a joy and a blessing. Jacob will be fully initiated at our Easter Vigil Mass on April 3, 2021. St. Francis welcomes any and all TEENS who are not fully initiated in the Church to make the journey Jacob did!



PREP



Our Third Grade class has had the BEST time this year with their teacher, Ms. Barb. They have learned so very much about being a part of the Church. They have Students of the Class, they pray, they work hard learning and completing their at home work. They have almost perfect attendance week in and week out!!!! As hard as they work, however, they also have a great time being silly and fun together. Check out these pics of our students having a GREAT ZOOM Class! *PREP Classes continue through March 27, 2021 and then we are on BREAK until April 10th.*

Electronics in Church

Please be sure to turn off your cell phones before entering church. We also ask that any tablets and/or children's video games be turned off. If these devices are on, they become not only a distraction for you, but also for the people around you. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.



Stations of the Cross

Join us Fridays in Lent for the Stations of the Cross - at 11:30 AM in the church, or at 7:00 PM on Facebook and YouTube. We encourage everyone to participate in this holy tradition.

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



Who Was Saint Joseph??

Venerated as a saint in many Christian sects, Saint Joseph is a biblical figure who is believed to have been the corporeal father of Jesus Christ. Joseph first appears in the Bible in the gospels of Matthew and Luke; in Matthew, Joseph's lineage is traced back to King David. According to the Bible, Joseph was born circa 100 B.C.E. and later wed the Virgin Mary, Jesus's mother. He died in Israel circa 1 A.D.

Fact and Fiction

Everything we know about Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus, comes from the Bible, and mentions of him are underwhelming. The 13 New Testament books written by Paul (the epistles) make no reference to him at all, nor does the Gospel of Mark, the first of the Gospels. Joseph first appears in the Bible in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, one of which (Matthew) traces Joseph's lineage back to King David.

To add to the problem of not knowing enough about Joseph, some apocryphal writings — such as the second-century Protevangelium of James and the fourth-century History of Joseph the Carpenter — muddy the historical waters further, presenting him as a widower with children when he met Mary and claiming that he lived to the age of 111. These claims, however, are spurious and are not accepted by the church.

Marriage to Mary

After marrying Mary, Joseph found that she was already pregnant, and being "a just man and unwilling to put her to shame" (Matt. 1:19), he decided to divorce her quietly, knowing that if he did so publicly, she could be stoned to death. An angel, however, came to Joseph and told him that the child Mary carried was the son of God and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, so Joseph kept Mary as his wife.

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, an angel came to Joseph again, this time to warn him and Mary about King Herod of Judaea and the violence he would bring down upon the child. Joseph then fled to Egypt with Mary and Jesus, and the angel appeared again, telling Joseph that Herod had died and instructing him to return to the Holy Land.

Avoiding Bethlehem and possible actions by Herod's successor, Joseph, Mary and Jesus settled in Nazareth, in Galilee. The Gospels describe Joseph as a "tekton," which traditionally has meant "carpenter," and it is assumed that Joseph taught his craft to Jesus in Nazareth. At this point, however, Joseph is never mentioned again by name in the Bible—although the story of Jesus in the temple includes a reference to "both his parents."

Death and Sainthood

The circumstances of Joseph's death are not known, but it is likely that he died before Jesus's ministry began, and it is implied that he was dead before the Crucifixion (John 19:26-27). Already a patron saint of Mexico, Canada and Belgium, in 1870, Joseph was declared patron of the universal church by Pope Pius IX, and in 1955 Pope Pius XII established May 1st as the "Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker" to counter the Communists' May Day. On March 19th we observe the feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pope Francis announced a special year dedicated to St. Joseph starting from December 8, 2020 until December 8, 2021, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.



First Communion

First Communion will be held at the 10:30 AM Mass on April 25, 2021.

Our 15 young men and women receiving Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist will be seated together in the front of the church. Their families will also

be joining us to witness the blessed event. As a result, church will be fuller than a normal 10:30 Mass. If this concerns you, you may want to attend 4:30 PM Saturday Mass instead that week.



KOLBE Kolbe Academy is an Allentown Diocese high school serving teens in recovery from drug and

alcohol addictions. They are hosting two Open Houses - March 24th & April 21st from 5-7 PM. All are welcome to visit during this time: neighbors, friends, supporters, prospective students, parents, and you! Come and see what Kolbe Academy offers its students and the community. Please note that due to COVID-19, masks must be worn. All visitors will be asked to use hand sanitizer, complete a brief health survey and have their temperatures taken upon entry. Staff and students look forward to meeting you!

St. Mary's Basket Social

St. Mary's Parish Center, 122 Union Street, Catasauqua.
Friday, March 26th from 6 to 9 PM
Saturday, March 27th from 9 AM to 6 PM
Sunday, March 28th from 9 to 11 AM
Proceeds benefit St. Mary's CCD Program. For information, call 610-264-0332 or 610-264-9383.

Notre Dame Tricky Trays

Catasauqua & Kelchner Roads, Bethlehem
Saturday, March 27th from 11 AM to 6:30 PM (9-11 AM-Seniors only)
Sunday, March 28th 8 AM to 1:30 PM.
For information call 610-866-4371.

Holy Family Helping Hands Kid's Clothing Closet
In the Wortmann Center, 421 W. Center Street, Nazareth.
Clothing Closet will be open every first Saturday of the month from 10 AM to Noon. No prices are set! Families can choose what they need and make any donation they can afford to give. Come select great kids clothes sizes infant to teen.

Donations needed: Infant to teen size clothing may be brought to the Wortmann Center on the first Saturday of each month when the clothing closet is open or on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 PM, or call/text Kathi for porch pickup if needed (484)542-9637. Monetary donations are accepted.

Movie Club News

Movie Club is BACK!!!! Please join us on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM for Fatima. The doors will open at 6:30. All guests will be hand sanitized and temperature checked. Masks are required when not enjoying popcorn and drinks, and social distancing required.



We cannot wait to see everyone!

Parish Membership

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

Phone No. _____

Check One:

New registration Change of address

Moving out of Parish Request envelopes

Request envelopes (returned home from college)

Please drop in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office.

Prayers for Priests, Deacons, Vocations
Kindly remember in your prayers all of the living and deceased Priests and Deacons of our Diocese. Please also pray for our seminarians and for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and religious life.



Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations

O God, you have constituted your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom he has chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Serran Prayer for Vocations

O God, who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, St. Joseph her spouse, St. Junipero Serra and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Feed Your Faith Gift Card Program

"FYF" is truly the easiest way to help your parish with no extra money out of your pocket! By purchasing gift cards for things you would pay for anyway--you earn money for your parish. Every little bit helps and it adds up quickly.

- 1 parishioner buys a \$100 gift card with a 5% rebate = \$5.00 for St. Francis each week**
- 100 parishioners each buy a \$100 gift card with a 5% rebate = \$500 for St. Francis each week**
- 100 parishioners each buy a \$100 in-stock gift card each week for one year=\$26,000!**

Parish Nurses' Prayer Shawl Ministry

You are invited to create a prayer shawl for parish friends in need of prayer. The ministry, here at St. Francis of Assisi Church, combines knitting/crocheting and praying as you make prayer shawls. When the prayer shawl is completed, it will be blessed, then given as a token of love, comfort and prayer to those in need. We invite you to pick up a sheet of instructions at the Parish Office if you are able to help us to maintain our supply.

At right, 16-year old Austin, who was injured recently in a snowboarding accident, is wearing a prayer shawl crocheted by one of our helpers.



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

DATABASE/CENSUS SECRETARY

Donna Gerancher 610-433-6102 ext 15
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org

DEACONS

Robert Young 610-433-6102
ryoung@stfrancisallentown.org
Ricardo Reyes 610-433-6102
rreyes@stfrancisallentown.org

"FEED YOUR FAITH" GIFT CARD PROGRAM

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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Monsignor Finelli 610-433-6102
vfinelli@stfrancisallentown.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Donna Gerancher 610-433-6102 ext 15
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org

MEN OF ST. FRANCIS

Ray Johnson 610-533-7717

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sheena Kuczynski 610-433-6102
skuczynski@stfrancisallentown.org

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Fran Kryzan 610-434-0983

PARISH OFFICE

610-433-6102

PARISH FAX

610-434-6972

PARISH NURSES

Fran Kryzan, RN 610-434-0983

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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sfaPPC18@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102 ext 10
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

RCIA

Helen Moyer 610-439-0922

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (PREP)

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PREP@stfrancisallentown.org

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Karin Wahlstrom 610-351-0835

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL FUND

Anne Palmisano 610-433-6102

SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

Madeline Klotz 610-395-7386

ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL

Brian Mansfield, Principal 610-435-8981
mrmansfield@stjohnvianneyschool.org

WEBSITE

Ann Holaska 610-433-6102
aholaska@stfrancisallentown.org

WELCOMING/EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Paula Rollins 484-241-1986

YOUTH MINISTRY

Jenn Reasinger 484-433-0265
jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org

"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%): \$25, \$100

Applebees (8%): \$10, \$25

Banana Republic (14%): \$25

Barnes and Nobles (8%): \$10, \$25

Bath and Body Works (12%): \$10, \$25

Bed, Bath & Beyond (7%): \$25

Buy Buy Baby (7%): \$25

Bethlehem Gallery of Floors: mention St. Francis

Bonefish Grill (8%): \$25

Boscov's (8%): \$25

Carrabbas (8%): \$25

Christmas Tree Shop (7%): \$25

Dunkin Donuts (3%): \$10

Gap (14%): \$25

Giant (10%): \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100

Home Depot (4%): \$25, \$100

Kohl's (5%): \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100

Longhorn Steakhouse (8%): \$25

Lowe's (4%): \$25, \$100

Macy's (10%): \$25

Old Navy (14%): \$25

Olive Garden (8%): \$25

Outback Steakhouse (8%): \$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 (7%): \$10

Target (2.5%): \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100

Texas Roadhouse (8%): \$25

Visa (1.25%): \$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

Wendy's (6.5%): \$10

