

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

Christmas Eve: 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM, 9:00 PM

Christmas Day: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM



Sacrament of Reconciliation

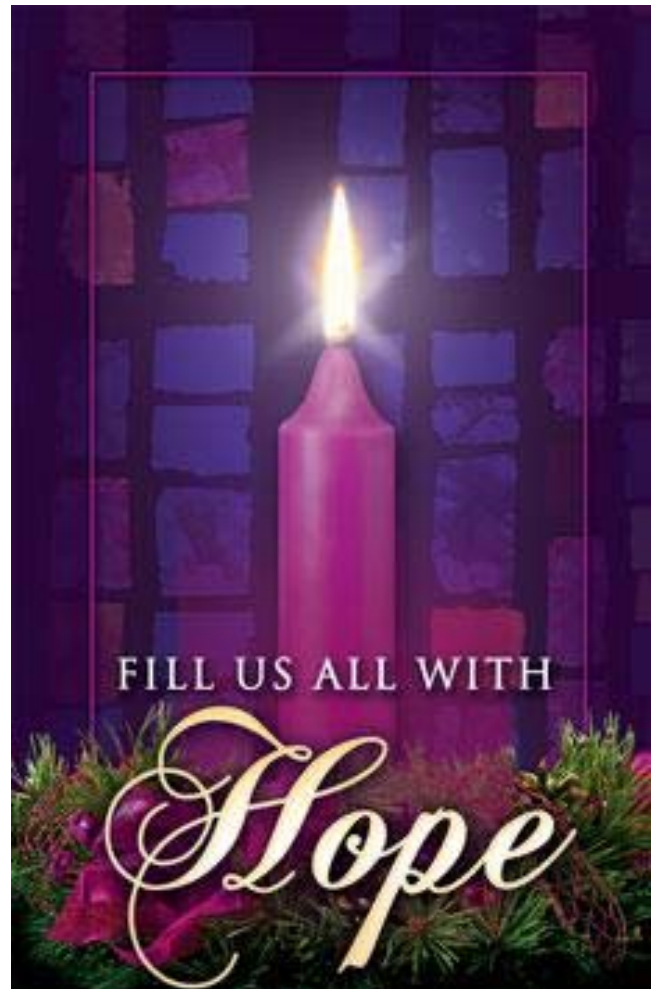
Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM

Anytime by appointment



Adoration Chapel

Our Adoration Chapel is temporarily closed due to COVID19.



November 29, 2020

*First Sunday
of Advent*

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, November 30th Saint Andrew, Apostle

Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

No Mass

Tuesday, December 1st

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

8:00 AM Vivian Bothilo (Public Mass)

Wednesday, December 2nd

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-31

8:00 AM Salvatore Garofalo (Public Mass)

Thursday, December 3rd

Saint Francis Xavier

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7-21, 24-27

8:00 AM Margaret Granitz (Public Mass)

Friday, December 4th

Saint John Damascene

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

8:00 AM Barbara Marino (Private Mass)

December 5th & 6th

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

4:30 PM Sanctuary Memorial Fund Members

10:30 AM Joseph & Joseph Francis Philapavage

Richard A. Gatti

People of St. Francis Parish

Welcome Back to Mass

The Church main door will open thirty minutes before the weekend 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 November 29, 2020 is

In Memory of

John Maruscak

by: The Maruscak Family

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

Youth Ministry

Next meeting dates are:

Sunday, December 6th: Zoom meeting 7 - 8 PM

Friday, December 18th: Annual Game Night in YM Room, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Please contact Ms. Jenn for more info at 484.433.0265 or jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org



"Feed Your Faith"

Our Parish Gift Card Program

The next order for special gift cards (that is, gift cards not normally held in our parish inventory) will be **this Monday, November 30th**. Orders must be prepaid and into the parish office by Monday noon on November 30th and December 14th. Pick up on that Friday or on the weekend after Mass. (List of hundreds of these stores is available in the parish office.)

Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree is up and decorated in the vestibule. We will be helping Manor Care residents (these gifts can be wrapped), Catholic Charities Children, and Turning Point Babies (children and baby gifts should NOT be wrapped, but placed in clear plastic bags that can be seen through). Gifts should be returned by **Sunday, December 20th**.



Little Books

This weekend, Little Books for Advent will be distributed. However, because of COVID-19, we realize that many people are not coming to church these days.

Little Books can be ordered directly from the website at littlebooks.org. They are available in paper and ebook formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices. To learn more about the app, go to littlebooks.org/app

Christmas Mass Schedule

Our Mass Schedule for Christmas Eve & Day will be as follows:

Christmas Eve: 3:30, 5:30 and 9:00 PM

Christmas Day: 8:30 & 10:30 AM



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.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

As we begin our Advent journey, guide us, dear God of Love. Help us to recognize the great gift you have us in Jesus, and may we prepare well for His rebirth in our hearts.

On each day of this journey, may we move closer to Jesus, the Prince of Peace and Light of the World. Shine the light of your grace upon us that we may follow him faithfully.

In all our preparations for Christmas, may we always remember that Jesus is the reason for the blessed season.

Thank you, loving God, for this time of joy and expectation. Walk with us and show us the way today and every day of Advent. Amen.



Attention Parents

If you have a college student, whether they are attending classes in person or virtually, would you please call and give us their name and address? We would like to send them a special Christmas greeting from their parish!

Respond to Stephanie at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102.



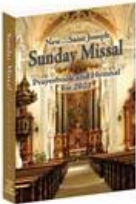
Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Saturday and Sunday, December 5th & 6th

	4:30 PM	10:30 AM
Lector	H. Moyer	D. Colom
Organist	D. Badesso	D. Badesso

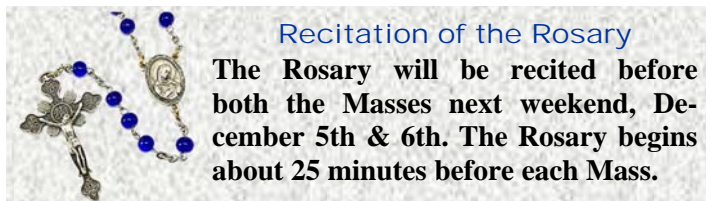
Saint Joseph Sunday Missal

We now have the new Saint Joseph Sunday Missal for 2021 for sale in the Parish Office. The cost is still only \$5.00.



Recitation of the Rosary

The Rosary will be recited before both the Masses next weekend, December 5th & 6th. The Rosary begins about 25 minutes before each Mass.



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.)



Monthly Food Drive Sponsored by the Outreach Committee

Our monthly food drive will be next weekend, December 5th & 6th.

This month, we particularly need sauce, tuna, Tuna Helper, meat products (Spam, etc.), cereal, soup, peanut butter, jelly, vegetables, crackers, macaroni & cheese, rice and canned fruit. (We do not need pasta at this time.) Please note: We cannot accept any glass jars. Collection bins will be available at the entrances of the church for your donations.

Help is needed on collection weekends to help move the food donations from the vestibule area to the pantry after each Mass.

Catholic Charities Soup Kitchen - Help Needed
Hot meals for take-out only are currently being served at the Diocese's Ecumenical Kitchen at 179 W. Chew Street, Allentown on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays each weekend. Many volunteers are needed to assist in this massive outreach to feed our brothers and sisters who struggle with food insecurities. Can you help? CDC and Department of Health guidelines are followed and because the program serves children and families, State and Diocesan background checks are required. Please contact Edith Burga at 484-784-8109 or e-mail at eburga@allentowndiocese.org.



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.



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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!

Oplatki Available

Oplatki is available in the Parish Office for \$3 per pack of 3 wafers. A Christmas tradition from the Polish-Slovak-Lithuanian cultures, Oplatki is a wafer shared by the family around the dinner table, often at the Christmas Eve Wigilia (Vi-geel-ya). Each family member breaks off a piece and wishes each other good luck and blessings in the coming year.



PREP

Our PREP Program hopes that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

In addition to thanking our wonderful

students and families for being a part of our fantastic program; we most want to thank our teachers and aides for EVERYTHING they have done this summer to get ready for PREP and for the first few months teaching Religious Education. They have gone above and beyond to make sure our children are learning about their Catholic Faith and their relationship is growing with Jesus.

Thank you so very, very much to Mrs. Gladys Rodriguez; Mrs. Lea Unger; Mrs. Barbara Puzzella; Mrs. Bertha Ocasio; Mrs. Christina Novak; Mr. John Wagstaff, Mrs. Jenn Reasinger; Mrs. Paul Rollins; Mrs. Rita Granitz and Mrs. Ervida Valentin.

YOU have changed the world this year with your service, dedication and faith.

Thank you!



ST. FRANCIS RETREAT HOUSE



Advent Evening Guided Meditations

December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd



Wednesday Evenings

Dates: Dec 2, 9, 16, 23

Time: 7:30- 8:00 PM

Fee: \$10 per evening or \$35 for all four evenings. Join for one or all four!

All meditations are online. No prior meditation experience necessary. Facilitator: Ms. Maureen DeBellis, Spiritual Director Registration: HERE, or call 610-258-3053, ext. 10. **Please register by 4 PM on the Monday before the Wednesday meditation evening. Thank you.**

Zoom link will be provided after your registration. Guided Heart Rhythm Meditations each Wednesday in Advent: Each week we will join together and meditate as a community on the sacred gifts of the Advent season. Peace and all goodness!

Calendars

Our 2021 calendars are now available for our parishioners to pick up.

We thank Trexler Funeral Home for once again providing these beautiful calendars for our parish!



Volunteer Opportunity

Hello Friends! Would you help a neighbor in need? Consider volunteering for SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice. Make friendly visits or supportive phone calls to our hospice clients. Still serving our clients for over 20 years in Berks, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties. For more information please call Cathy Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator at 570-599-5390.

Spiritrust Lutheran™ Home Care & Hospice

402 W. Chew Street

Allentown, PA 18102

St. Elizabeth Christmas Cookie Bake Sale



Pick up Sunday, December 13 from 9 AM – 1 PM. Orders due by December 7. Items include: Chocolate Chip, Cream Cheese Cupcakes, Nut Tossies, Oatmeal Raisin and Dusty Dog Treats. For more information,

please call 610-349-7791 or check parish website for an order form: <http://www.sercc.org/st-elizabeth-church/religious-education/> Send orders and payment to: St. Elizabeth Church, 618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall, PA 18052.

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

Diane Colom 610-751-6079
sfaPPC18@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY

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

RCIA

Helen Moyer 610-439-0922

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (PREP)

Camille Stockdale 610-435-0364
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
drkleintop@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 1.5% to 10% 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

Bonfish 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

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



 *Christmas Candle Sale* 

The celebration of Christmas brings many traditions to mind: baking cookies, wrapping presents, decorating the Christmas tree, and so much more. Christmas is in the “air” when we celebrate these traditions and the scents are so often something we can recall by memory. Here’s your chance to capture some of those wonderful Christmas scents that will make your Christmas traditions even more special and memorable.

All Blue Mountain 24 oz. candles are double wicked and only \$15.00/candle. Comparable candles the same size are substantially more money so this is really a super good deal. Samples are available in the Parish Office if you’d like to smell the scent before purchasing it.

Orders are due no later than Sunday, December 6th. The order will be placed the next morning. Pick-up will be the weekend of December 19-20th. Just in time for Christmas!

Choose from:

- Apple Balsam**
- Balsam Fir**
- Bayberry**
- Cranberry**
- Fireside**
- Hollyberry**

- Holiday Medley**
- Home for the Holidays**
- Gingerbread**
- Snowflake**
- Sugarplum**
- Twisted Peppermint**

----- ✂ -----
 *Christmas Candle Sale* 
ORDER FORM 

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Candle Scent: _____
 (please print)

Quantity: _____
 Quantity: _____
 Quantity: _____
 Quantity: _____

Total # of candles ordered: _____ @ \$15.00 each = _____

Checks made payable to: Saint Francis of Assisi

