

Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

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

www.stfrancisallentown.org

facebook: @stfrancisallentown

Pastor

Reverend Monsignor Victor F. Finelli, Th. M., J.C.L.

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Robert Young
Deacon Ricardo Reyes



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 & 12:05 PM



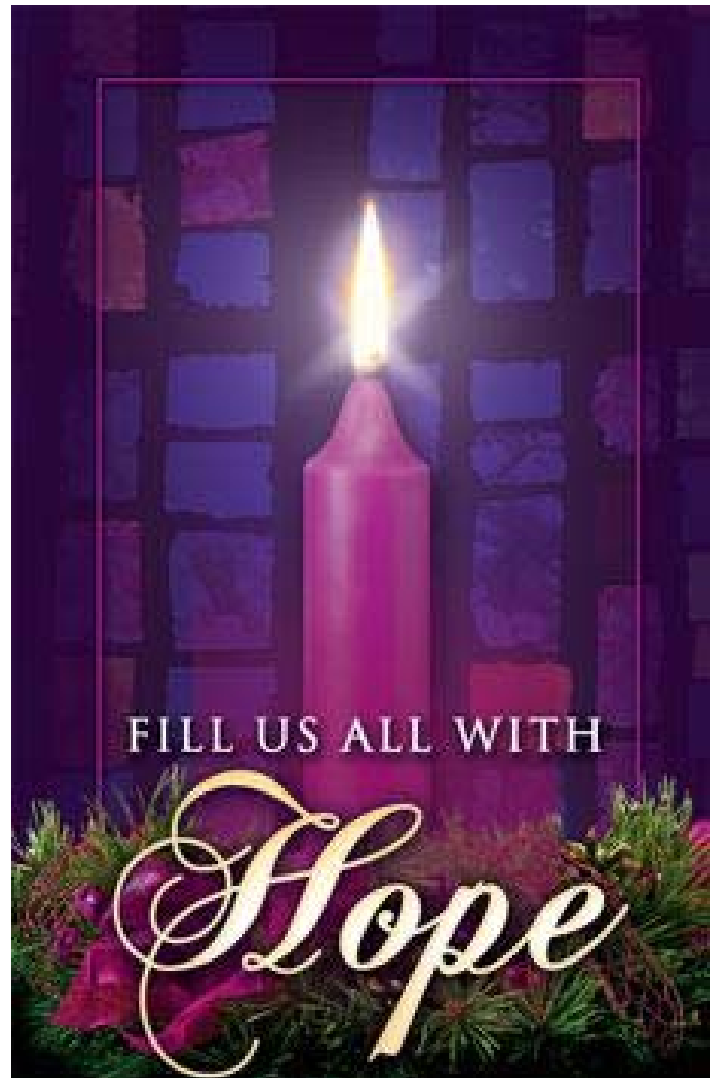
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM
Anytime by appointment



Adoration Chapel

Please consider spending some time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Adoration Chapel is open daily from 6:00 AM—9:00 PM.



December 1, 2019

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.

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, Dr. Emily Kleintop (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.

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.

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

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
610-332-0442, ext. 2019

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.

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 2nd

Is 4:2-6, 8-20; Mt 8:5-11

No Mass

Tuesday, December 3rd

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

No Mass

Wednesday, December 4th

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

8:00 AM Alfonz Szoldatits

Karl & Phyllis Dunst

Thursday, December 5th

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

8:00 AM Josephine Zaengle

Friday, December 6th

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

8:00 AM Janet Garger

December 7th & 8th

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

4:30 PM Michael O'Callaghan

People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

8:30 AM Donald Fallon

10:30 AM John Gulla

Saint Francis Xavier

Saint John Damascene

Saint Nicholas



The Litany of the Sacred Heart will be recited every First Friday (Friday, December 6th at 7:55 AM before Mass in the Daily Mass Chapel).



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials
The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week of December 1st is:

In Memory of Louis and Catherine Zenz by Dave, Kathy, Bob and Rosemary

Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul of parishioners Theresa Murphy and Sophia Gergel, who recently passed away. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may their families know your peace and comfort.



Respect Life Holy Hour

There is a Respect Life Holy Hour every First Friday (December 6th) from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the Adoration Chapel. Deacon Bob will be the Presider. All are welcome. For information, call Karin at 610-351-0835.



Health Care Coalition

Blood Pressures will be taken after all Masses next weekend, **December 7th & 8th**. We thank the Parish Nurses for this invaluable service.

St. Francis Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens group will hold their Christmas Party on Monday, December 9th at the Parkland Restaurant. For more information, call Madeline Klotz at 610-395-7386.

"Joyfully Living, Gratefully Giving" Program

Thank you to all our parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card to the church. As a reminder, all commitments need to be submitted to the church no later than Sunday, December 8th in order to be accounted for in the final Summary Report. Please complete and submit your card to the church even if you are unable to make a change to your current level of giving. For those registered parishioners not currently supporting the church with regular offertory gifts, please consider a monthly gift to support the needs of our parish.



Online Giving

We are keeping up with technology! Our parish provides Online Giving as an electronic tool for contributions so you can give via the 'web'. Online Giving helps you maintain your giving even if you cannot be here at Mass. This also helps the parish streamline our cash flow, especially during bad weather or vacation times. Go to our parish website at www.stfrancisallentown.org to get started today.

Outreach Committee Meeting

The Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 PM in Heritage Hall. Please enter through the Cedar Street ramp. New members are welcomed!

Catechism Classes For Men

Every first and third Tuesday of the month (December 3rd) at 7:00 PM, The Catholic Men of Good News are showing videos to deepen our knowledge of the faith in our Franciscan Center. For info call the Parish Office.



Recitation of the Rosary

The Rosary will be recited before all the Masses the first weekend of each month. The Rosary will begin about 25 minutes before each Mass on December 7th & 8th.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO OUR PARISH BREAKFAST!



On Sunday, December 8th, breakfast will be served from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Church Hall. Enjoy a great breakfast and a visit with Santa. Breakfast: \$6.00 adults & \$4.00 for children. Pictures with Santa: \$3.00. The Men of St. Francis, and Santa Claus, look forward to seeing you there.

- 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: altlsjv@ptd.net

Call us today to schedule a tour at your convenience!
SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind and spirit!

St. John Vianney Regional School is looking for a few good people!

- We are seeking an Instructional Assistant for the Middle School Aquinas classroom. Under the supervision of the Aquinas teacher, the assistant would help monitor students, deliver scripted lessons, and assist students in studies.
- Substitute teachers needed. Work on a day by day basis as desired.

Please contact Dr. Kleintop in the Main School office to submit your application for any of these positions.

www.StJohnVianneySchool.org



Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree is up and decorated in the vestibule. We will be helping Catholic Charities Children, Manor Care, and Allentown Head Start. Gifts should be wrapped and returned no later than **Sunday, December 15th.**



Feast of Saint Nicholas December 6th

We would like once again to celebrate the Feast of Saint Nicholas for our children here at St. Francis. Please bring in one shoe (marked with your child's name on the bottom with masking tape) and place it on the steps by the Blessed Mother statue. We'll hope that Saint Nicholas brings some goodies to our kids!

All shoes need to be placed on the step by Sunday, December 1st. The Feast falls on Friday, December 6th so all shoes should be picked up on the weekend of December 7th and 8th.

PREP News

December looks to be an exciting, educational and inspirational month for our PREP students.

During this month, our 6th Graders are leading us in a Reverse Advent Calendar donation drive (collecting various food throughout the month for our Outreach Committee). We are also collecting new books and games for children in the Children's Hospital during the holiday. Our students are learning about the Season of Advent as part of their curriculum and each class has a Nativity Scene (first started by our beloved St. Francis) and Advent Wreath. In addition, each week they will experience a LIVE Advent Calendar with a mystery guest opening the door and bringing them Christmas "treats". Many of our students are participating in our Christmas Tableau. Last but certainly not least, our students will participate in a PREP Advent Penance Service on December 12 at 6:00 p.m.

We are proud of everything PREP and St. Francis offers our children to develop their relationship with Jesus, especially at this beautiful time of year!

- Dec. 1st - NO CLASS
- Dec. 8th - Class and Youth Mass
- Dec. 12th - Penance Service 6:00
- Dec. 15th - Class
- Dec. 22nd - Class
- Dec 29th - NO CLASS



Movie Club

Tonight's the night for laughs to make your heart ring out with joy! Come to the Stable - Movie Club's first December film

"Come to the Stable" is a charmingly entertaining tale of two French nuns attempting to establish a children's hospital through their faith in God and their fellow man. Loretta Young and Celeste Holm are wonderful as the nuns - Loretta as the feisty Sister Margaret and Celeste as Sister Scholastica with the unshakable faith. Elsa Lanchester is exceptional, this time in her role as the reluctant aide to the nuns. Hugh Marlowe is wonderful as the harried and frustrated songwriter/neighbor.

Doors open 6:00 - movie at 6:30

Our second film will be Chartering Christmas - December 15 at 2:00 (doors open at 1:30) with a hot cocoa bar! Always Fun... Always Free.. Always Faithful

No matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church; no matter your family or marital status; no matter where you are in the practice of faith, no matter your personal history, age or background, YOU are invited, welcomed, and loved at St. Francis of Assisi Church.



"Feed Your Faith"

Our Parish Gift Card Program

Stress-free Christmas shopping is here! The next gift card order to Great Lakes Scrip Center will go in for Christmas gifts and shopping on **Monday, December 2nd**. Orders must be prepaid and in the parish office by Monday noon on December 2nd and 16th. Pick up by Friday or on the weekend after Mass. (Lists of available stores in the Parish Office.)



Christmas Tableau
Our parish children are working incredibly hard to bring you the best Christmas Tableau ever. Please plan to join us at 3:45 PM for the performance on Christmas Eve. We will ask everyone to join us in song and prayer! Musical prelude begins at 3:15 PM, featuring soloist Lexi Hannis.



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.



Youth Ministry

On Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 PM, members of the Youth Ministry will be participating in Wreaths Across America at Cedar Hill Memorial Park. This program remembers and honors our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Ms. Jenn: jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org or 484-433-0265 call/text

Attention All Women!

"Women Walking in Faith"

This group of faith-filled women meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in Heritage Hall beginning with some social time at 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 4th. The group takes time to pray, reflect, learn, and to support one another in the faith. Women 18 and over are invited to participate. Guests are welcome so don't hesitate to ask your friends and neighbors to come along. Call the Parish Office if you need more information.



Happy St. Nicholas Day



Junior Youth Ministry

All 3rd through 5th graders are invited to attend our Junior Youth Ministry St. Nicholas Night !! We will play Christmas music, play Christmas Games - Santa Limbo anyone?!?; eat yummy Mac & Cheese, play Jesus Bingo and visit with our Youth Ministry friends!
Junior Youth Ministry Night is December 6th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the "School Hall". All are welcome to join us - parishioners or not, Catholic or not!
Parents - why not take this opportunity while your kids are safe, and having a great time, to shop a little or go for a quiet dinner! We hope to see you all there!

Youth Ministry Meetings

Friday, December 6th - Game Night
6:30-9 PM (in our room)

Sunday, December 15th - Regular Youth Group Meeting 11:30 AM-1 PM

For information call or text Ms. Jenn: 484-433-0265 or email jreasinger@stfrancisallentown.org. Follow us on Instagram@sfyouthgroup. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StFrancisAssisiYouthGroup/>



Saint Joseph Sunday Missal

We now have the new Saint Joseph Sunday Missal for 2020 for sale in the Parish Office. The cost is still only \$5.00.



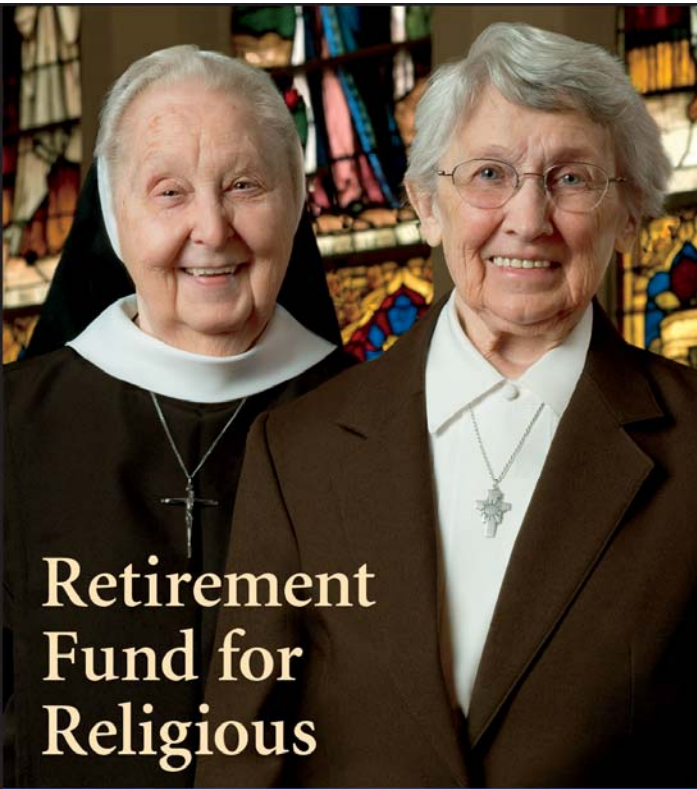
ADVENT CONFESION SCHEDULE

Please mark your calendars with this year's Advent Confession Schedule:

- **Saturday, December 7th:** 3:15 - 4:00 PM
- **Thursday, December 12th:** 6:30 - 7:30 PM
(extra priests will be available)
- **Saturday, December 14th:** 3:15 - 4:00 PM
- **Monday, December 16th:** 4:00 - 4:30 PM and 7:00 - 7:30 PM

Liturgical Ministers Schedule - Saturday and Sunday, December 7th & 8th

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	M. Florentino	N. Lamparella	PREP Students
Eucharistic Minister	A. Holaska, F. Kryzan	F. & S. Koebler	M. Dietrick, B. Ocasio
Cantor	J. Seng-Austin	D. Lamparella	S. Kuczynski
Organist	C. Hageman	D. Badesso	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	D. Martrich	A. Beck	H. Folligan, C. Stano
Sacristan	L. Hannis	T. Bartman	



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give generously to the upcoming collection.

December 7th & 8th

From left: Sister de Lourdes Okoniewski, OSF, and Sister Florence Kruczek, OSF. ©2019 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.



Sight and Sound Bus Trip

St. Francis of Assisi Church will travel to Sight & Sound's new show, "Queen Esther" on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. \$113 per person includes transportation, lunch at Shady

Maple, show, and bus driver tip. We'll depart church at 10:00 AM for Shady Maple, then on to Sight and Sound Theatre for the 3:00 PM show, and leave for home immediately following the show. Call Stephanie at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102 to sign up or for more information.

Christmas Mass Schedule

We look forward to offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass together as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Mass will be offered at the following times:

Christmas Eve (Tuesday, December 24th):
4:30 PM and 10:30 PM

Christmas Day (Wednesday, December 25th):
10:30 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Tuesday, December 31st): 4:30 PM
Wednesday, January 1, 2020: 10:30 AM

"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. 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!*

- A.C. Moore: \$25
- Amazon.com: \$25, \$100
- Applebees: \$10, \$25
- Banana Republic: \$25
- Barnes and Nobles: \$10, \$25
- Bath and Body Works: \$10, \$25
- Bed, Bath & Beyond: \$25
- Buy Buy Baby: \$25
- Bethlehem Gallery of Floors: *mention St. Francis*
- Bonefish Grill: \$25
- Boscov's: \$25
- Carrabbas: \$25
- Christmas Tree Shops: \$25
- Dunkin Donuts: \$10
- Gap: \$25
- Giant: \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100
- Home Depot: \$25, \$100
- Kohl's: \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100
- Longhorn Steakhouse: \$25
- Lowe's: \$25, \$100
- Macy's: \$25
- Old Navy: \$25
- Olive Garden: \$25
- Outback Steakhouse: \$25
- Panera Bread: \$10
- Red Robin: \$25
- Red Lobster: \$25
- Redner's Warehouse: \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100
- Ruby Tuesday: \$25
- Sam's Club: \$25, \$100
- Target: \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100
- Texas Roadhouse: \$25
- Visa: \$50, \$100
- Wal-Mart: \$10, \$25, \$100
- Wegman's: \$25, \$50, \$100
- Weis: \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100
- Wendy's: \$10



CHRISTMAS NUT ROLL SALE

Want a perfect treat for Christmas? Homemade nut rolls baked by Country Cottage Bake Shop are the perfect snack with a cup of coffee or tea. These nut rolls freeze wonderfully, making them easy to save for Christmas! Consider buying a nut roll or two and supporting your Parish. *(We need to sell 100 nut rolls to place our order.)*

All orders are due by Sunday, December 8th. NO ORDERS will be accepted after that date. All payments are due with order. Please make checks payable to Saint Francis Church.



Price: \$16 per roll

Size: 15" long - 1.5 lbs

Flavors: Nut (English Walnut), Poppyseed, Apricot, Prune (Levkar), Red Raspberry (seedless), & Pumpkin Cheese

Pick-up Date: December 21st & 22nd in the Parish Office

NUT ROLL ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Quantity (per flavor): _____ Nut _____ Poppyseed _____ Prune

_____ Apricot _____ Red Raspberry _____ Pumpkin Cheese

Total Nut Rolls: _____

Total Payment: _____

All orders MUST be in by December 8th. No orders will be accepted after that date. Please make checks payable to Saint Francis Church.