

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

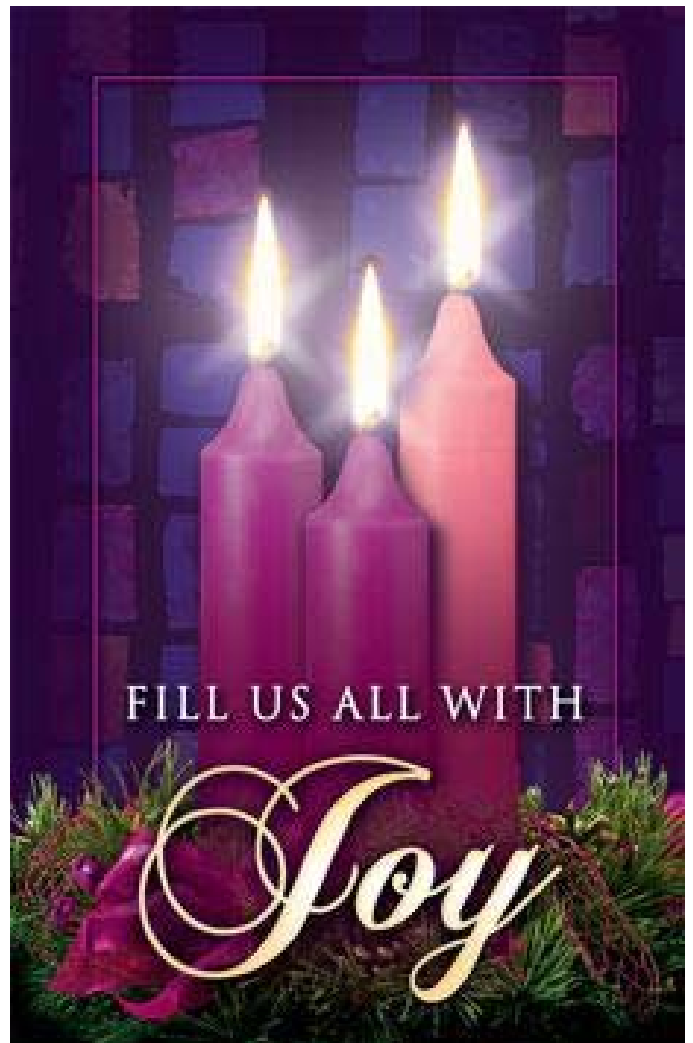
Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM

Anytime by appointment



Adoration Chapel

Our Adoration Chapel is temporarily closed due to COVID19.



December 13, 2020

*Second 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, December 14th Saint John of the Cross

Nm 24:2-7,15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

No Mass

Tuesday, December 15th

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

8:00 AM Connie Harkins (Public Mass)

Wednesday, December 16th

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

8:00 AM Mary Lee Schibel (Public Mass)

Thursday, December 17th

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:11-17

8:00 AM Peter J. Fontine (Public Mass)

Friday, December 18th

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

8:00 AM Michael Pakosky (Private Mass)

December 19th & 20th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

4:30 PM Mark Bernhard

10:30 AM Frieda Gyory

Frank Drauch & Margaret Drauch

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 December 13, 2020 is

In Memory of

Lucy Maruscak

by: The Maruscak Family

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Lois Ann Englert

by: Joanne Camp, Pam, Veronica, Marena & Fred Paulino, and Louise Karoly

Hazel Carter

by: Anna M. DiGiacomo

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord



"Feed Your Faith"

Our Parish Gift Card Program

The final order for special gift cards (that is, gift cards not normally held in our parish inventory) will be **tomorrow, Monday, December 14th**. Orders must be prepaid and into the parish office by Monday noon on December 14th. Pick up on the weekend of December 19th & 20th after Mass. (List of hundreds of these stores is available in the parish office.)



Youth Ministry

Next meeting dates are:

Sunday, December 13th: "Cards for Seniors" Due by Noon

Sunday, December 20th: Lehigh Valley Zoo Winter Light Spectacular at 6:30 PM (Must RSVP by 12/6/2020.)

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

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**.



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



ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

- **Saturday, December 19th:** 3:15 - 4:00 PM
- **Monday, December 21st:** 4:00 - 4:30 PM and 7:00 - 7:30 PM

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

Liturgical Ministers Schedule
Saturday and Sunday, December 19th & 20th

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

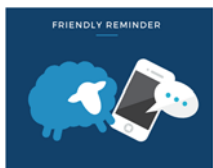


Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul of parishioners Dolores Skripek and Jean Dichysyn, who recently passed away. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may their families know your peace and comfort.



A reminder, for your safety and well-being, please lock your car doors and keep any valuables out of sight before coming into 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.)

Oplatki Available

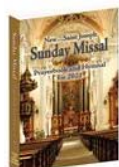
Oplatki is available in the Parish Office for \$3 per pack of 3 wafers. A Christmas tradition from the Polish-Slovak-Lithuanian cultures, Oplatki is a wafer shared by the family around the dinner table, often at the Christmas Eve Wigilia (Vi-geel-ya). Each family member breaks off a piece and wishes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



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



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.



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of November 28th & 30th **UPDATE**

Sunday in Pew	\$ 3,886.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,571.50
Second Collection in Pew	\$
Second Collection Online	\$

During these very trying days of the pandemic, we ask all parishioners to PLEASE keep up with their normal weekend collection. Don't forget about Online Giving as a possibility. It's easy, safe, and secure. Once you sign up you'll be happy you did.

Advent Prayer

4, 3, 2, 1... Count the weeks 'til Jesus comes.
Each week we add another light.
Our hope for Jesus growing bright.
We pray, we share, we do our part...
to welcome Jesus to our heart!



PREP

Our PREP children from youngest to oldest are all celebrating Advent via ZOOM; from Away in a Manager, to Creche Nativity Scenes and Advent wreaths. In addition, all of our classes have moved onto their second Unit of study. Even with ZOOM, the children are learning, moving forward in their faith.

Our 8th graders are growing closer to Confirmation Day - February 2nd; while our 2nd graders and 2 older students prepare to receive First Penance on February 23rd.

Even with COVID, even with ZOOM, a faith filled life is possible!!!

We hope PLENTY of our children attend our next Youth Mass - in person or via FACEBOOK. it is our last one of 2020 - December 20th at 10:30 a.m.

December 13 - 20th - ZOOM classes

December 20th - Youth Mass

December 21st, 22nd - ZOOM Classes

December 23rd - January 5th - CHRISTMAS BREAK

Retrovaille: Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage
Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 12 - 14, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Holy Saviour Cemetery – Skilled Laborer

Full time job, 40 hours per week, \$14 per hour, working 7:30 AM. - 4:00 PM., including Saturdays, working at Holy Saviour Cemetery. Maintain cemetery grounds, grass cutting, trimming, removal of trees and shrubs, leaf maintenance, spring clean up, digging foundations, snow removal, assisting with burials and entombment. Must operate small tractor, small truck and lawn mower. Valid driver's license required, as position is also responsible for snow removal. Must be capable of heavy lifting and working in all weather elements. On the job training provided with promotion possibilities. High School diploma/GED required. Excellent benefits include health, dental, vacation, etc.

Please email: resumes@allentowndiocese.org OR fax to 610-439-7693.

Job Opportunity

Holy Family Villa, a private home for retired priests, is seeking Personal Care Aides or Medication Assistants. Holy Family Villa offers a family-like work environment in a pleasant, residential setting. Duties include compassionate care of the residents and assistance with their daily activities. Prior direct care experience preferred, but we will train a PCA to become a Medication Assistant, with a salary increase at that time. Pay: \$12.00 - \$13.50 per hour. Please email to resumes@allentowndiocese.org OR fax to 610-439-7693.

Catholic Charities Ecumenical Kitchen Continues to Serve "Meals To Go"

On November 27th, the Kitchen served 165 guests. Our guests enjoyed handmade Thanksgiving cards, oven roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, fresh pumpkin bread and Edith's homemade pumpkin pie, as well as assorted snack cakes and cookies.

Catholic Charities purchases food through grants, as well as Second Harvest Food Bank, food drives and personal donations. Due to insufficient funding, we have suspended serving "Meals To Go" on Saturday. Usual hours for meals are Friday and Monday, 12-1. Sundays are devoted to meeting the needs of the seniors in the community, with the distribution of food boxes and other programs.

Monetary donations to purchase food are much appreciated. Please make checks payable to "Catholic Charities", memo line "Ecumenical Kitchen", mailed to: Catholic Charities -Attention: Robert Nicoletta 900 S. Woodward Street Allentown, PA 18103.



On December 16th, Edith will be hosting a socially distanced Christmas party, 3:30-6:30 PM. We are looking for volunteers, if you are able to help, please contact

Edith at: eburga@allentowndiocese.org or call/text 484-784-8109.

Movie Club News

As we continue to enjoy your faith filled movies, and I know we are all enjoying lots of holiday ones right now!, there is currently a movie in limited release throughout the United States. We are hopeful by the time we reconvene for in person movie showings (with free popcorn, candy and soda!) this will be out on DVD.



PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON is an inspiring documentary about a poor, uneducated Irish immigrant who sets sail for America in 1928 with nothing but his faith and dreams of becoming a millionaire. Arriving in Pennsylvania and unable to find work, he accepts the position as a janitor at the cathedral, which rekindles his long lost desire to become a priest and changes the course of his life. Nearing ordination, his life takes a radical turn when he is stricken with tuberculosis. Facing certain death, he sinks into despair. A visit from his mentor, who delivers a simple message to pray, lifts the darkness. Taking his advice to heart, Patrick prays fervently to Mary, the Mother of Christ, for her intercession and he experiences a miraculous recovery. Feeling deep gratitude, he dedicates his life to telling all the world about the power of prayer and encourages families everywhere to bring prayer into their homes. Never taking "No" for an answer, he convinces Hollywood's biggest stars to help him spread the message, "The family that prays together stays together," through the power of mass media including radio, television, and film. Father Peyton's fame spreads around the world and audiences in the millions flock to his public prayer rallies. This is the story of a tireless missionary, an unlikely hero, and one of history's greatest advocates for family prayer.

Paid Position at ACCHS

ACCHS needs a Girls Lacrosse Coach. It is a stipend position. Interest and questions can be directed to Dennis Csensits, Athletic Director, at 610-437-4601 X119 or dcsensits@acchs.info.



New Parishioners

As a parish community, we always welcome new members with open arms and hearts. At this time we would like to welcome Christopher Adorno and Celeste Torres and Armani and Noah Adorno, and Nicholas Yates.



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
principal@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





Turkey Barbeque Sale

The new year will soon be here. Why not get some delicious homemade Pennsylvania Dutch style Turkey Barbeque (white style) and forget about cooking for a night and go do something fun instead! Wouldn't that be a great idea? Well, you now have the chance to do just that and support the parish in the process. You can pick-up your homemade Turkey Barbeque (with both white and dark meat) on Saturday, January 16th from 3:30 – 5:30 PM or Sunday morning, January 17th from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

We will be selling the Turkey Barbeque in quart containers only. Plenty for a good number of sandwiches. The barbeque freezes great too if you'd like to use some now and save some for later. The cost for this: only \$10.00/quart! It's a real deal!

Orders are due no later than Sunday, January 10th.

If you could, please do us a favor and help us spread the word. Put this great deal on homemade food on your social media or communicate it any way you can. We'd really appreciate it.



Here's a little secret...just to give you a heads up, but don't tell anyone yet....we're planning on another great food fundraiser for February: "Soup and a Sandwich for Super Bowl Weekend." More information coming about the selection of scratch made soups and hoagies we'll have available.



Turkey Barbeque Sale



ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Quantity of quart containers you want: _____ at \$10.00/container = \$ _____

- ✓ Checks made payable to: Saint Francis of Assisi
- ✓ Please mark down on your calendar the pick-up dates and times: Saturday, January 16th from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM or Sunday, January 17th from 10:00 AM– 12:00 PM
- ✓ Orders due by Sunday, January 10th