

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 15, 2019

Third 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 16th

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

No Mass

Tuesday, December 17th

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

8:00 AM John Nederostek

Wednesday, December 18th

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

8:00 AM Timothy A. Volack

Thursday, December 19th

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

8:00 AM Louis Romanell

Friday, December 20th

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM Annette Lieberman

December 21st & 22nd

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

4:30 PM Nicholas Troccola

8:30 AM Alfonso & Anna DiMatteo

10:30 AM Frank Junger

People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials

The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week of December 15th is:

**In Memory of Edith Rothrock
by Jason & Kristina Rackawack**

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Sophia "Sunny" Gergel

by: Gwen and Norma Armitage, Sally Roessler, and Anthony and Barbara Solito.

Regina E. Niedrowski

by: The Christ Family

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord

Recently Deceased

Please pray for the souls parishioner Richard Gatti; William Rodriguez, father of parishioner Gladys Rodriguez, and William Wagstaff, brother of parishioner John Wagstaff, who recently passed away. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may their families know your peace and comfort.



Early Closing

The Parish Office will close at 12:00 PM this Friday, December 20th. If you need to visit the Parish Office on that day, please plan to arrive before 11:45 AM.

Saint Joseph Sunday Missal

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



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



Online Giving

Our Online Giving system provides you the opportunity to give to our special collections in addition to regular offerings. You can choose to do a One Time Gift or a special remembrance, or 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 or check the parish bulletin for information to sign up.

Attention All Parish Organizations

Please call Donna Gerancher at 610-433-6102, x15 to schedule all of your organization's activities to ensure the availability of the room or hall of your choice.

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE



The remaining opportunities for confessions before Christmas are:

- **Monday, December 16th:** 4:00 - 4:30 PM and 7:00 - 7:30 PM
- **Saturday, December 21st:** 3:15 - 4:00 PM

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 18th. 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.

- 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



Youth Ministry Meetings

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@sfayouthgroup. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StFrancisAssisiYouthGroup/>

"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 as soon as possible. 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.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The birth of the Christ-Child was a sign of hope for this world. Consider attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend for hope and rebirth in your relationship! For information call 610-449-1859 or visit www.wmme.org.



PREP Students Celebrate the Season of Advent

Our PREP children decked their halls with the colors of Advent, with Nativity Creches, and Advent Wreaths. In addition they are enjoying a Live Advent Calendar all month long with mystery guests "opening the door" and giving the children gifts. On December 8th, the Angel Gabriel visited all of our students and proclaimed the Good News of Jesus' birth! Who will the next guest be?

PREP Calendar

December 15th - Class

December 22nd - Class

December 25th - Merry Christmas

December 29th - NO CLASS



Junior Youth Ministry

Another successful night for Junior Youth Ministry!

On Friday, December 6th our parish 3rd - 5th graders and their younger siblings and friends joined us for a night of Christmas Fun! We played games, ate yummy food and got to play a round of

Christmas hockey with the Youth Ministry kids. We even got to visit them in their cool Youth Ministry Room and play a round of foosball! We concluded our evening with a reading of The Nativity Story. What a great night!!!

Look for details on our next Youth Ministry Meeting - February, 2020! You won't want to miss it! Junior Youth Ministry is a fun and safe way for our parish children to come together in fellowship, faith and fun!



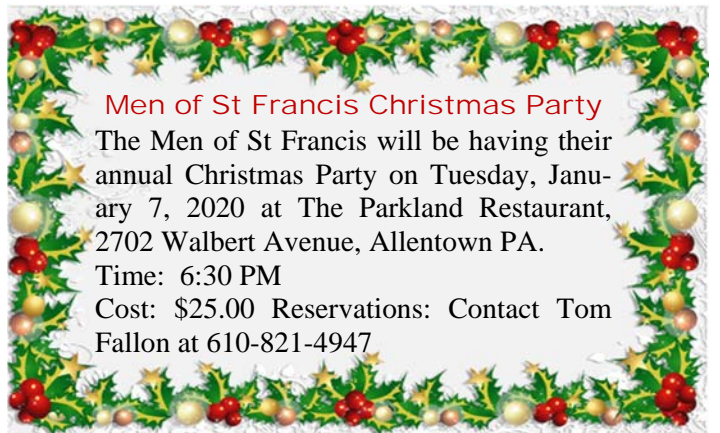
Please support our advertisers on the back of the bulletin who make this publication possible.

Men of St Francis Christmas Party

The Men of St Francis will be having their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at The Parkland Restaurant, 2702 Walbert Avenue, Allentown PA.

Time: 6:30 PM

Cost: \$25.00 Reservations: Contact Tom Fallon at 610-821-4947





Safe Environment Update

Our new Local Safe Environment Coordinator, Camille Stockdale, is doing an audit of all of our parish volunteer records.

Each and every St. Francis volunteer MUST sign a Diocesan Code

of Conduct Policy Acknowledgement Form; a Sexual Abuse Policy Acknowledgement Form and if you work with children, a Child Protective Services Law Acknowledgement Form.

You can read each of the policies on the Diocesan website, under Youth Protection and on the right hand side, drop down menu, <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/youth-protection>. The Child Protection Services Law form is in the Parish Office.

We thus need each and every volunteer at our parish to review the policies and sign an Acknowledgement Form stating you have done so. The forms can be picked up at the Parish Office beginning Sunday, December 15. We would ask that all volunteers complete this process no later than February 2, 2020.

Leaders of our Parish Organizations are encouraged to have their volunteer members review these policies and sign the forms at an organization meeting.

Diocesan Safe Environment Requirements are mandatory for all parish volunteers.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Camille Stockdale at PREP @stfrancisallentown.org or 484 547 6270.

AD Times

Switch to an online subscription of The A.D. Times. To transfer your print subscription of The A.D. Times to instead receive an email notification with a link to each new issue posted on the diocesan website, send the following information to adtimes@allentowndiocese.org or fill out the submission form on the diocesan website, <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/blog/>, click under "Email subscriptions" at right. Email address, Name, Address, Parish, Daytime phone number, Subscriber number (on line immediately above your name printed in the lower left hand corner).

The Liturgical Ministers availability sheet is due to Donna Gerancher by Sunday, December 29th.



Christmas Tableau

We hope you are including the Children's Christmas Tableau as part of your holiday celebrations. The performance begins at 3:45. Prior to that, we will

enjoy a Christmas music prelude DJ'd by Peyton Stockdale, commencing with a solo by Lexi Hannis. Tableau then begins and lasts about 30 minutes. The congregation will join us in song. You won't want to miss it to truly get in the Spirit of Christmas.



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.

Movie Club - Charting Christmas



December 15th, 1:30 doors open/2:00 movie. Take a break from shopping and gift wrapping and enjoy an afternoon with your parish family watching Charting Christmas! We will learn all

about our Christmas traditions and how they developed! We will provide hot cocoa for everyone and YOU bring toppings of your liking to enjoy and share!!! Soda, popcorn, candy and door prizes - always available, always FREE!

All are welcome!

ALSO, PLEASE NOTE:

Come to the Stable - has been rescheduled to Wednesday, December 18th at 5:30/6:00~We hope to see you there!



A Note to our Parishioners

If you are approached in the parking lot, Adoration Chapel, or anywhere on church grounds by a person or persons asking for money or assistance with anything, please direct them to the Parish Office. Do not give them anything. It will encourage only more and more requests.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule - Saturday and Sunday, December 21st & 22nd

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	P. Stiles	J. Kocon	G. Rodriguez
Eucharistic Minister	J. Fittipaldi, A. Holaska	T. Racek, J. Colom	A. Drovich, J. Torres
Cantor	E. Krause	S. Kuczynski	L. Hannis
Organist	C. Hageman	D. Badesso	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	D. & J. Krause	C. Kocon	H. Folligan, E. Zobel
Sacristan	T. Bartman	N. Stofko	
Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders			H. Beck, J. Reasinger



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of December 7th & 8th

# of envelopes mailed:	725
# of envelopes received:	242
% of envelopes used:	34%
Total of First Collection	\$8,349.46
Total of Second Collection	\$1,308.00

Thank you for your continued financial support through our "Joyfully Living, Gratefully Giving" campaign. Your donation is so greatly appreciated.



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.

Designer Handbag Bingo



Make sure to save the date for our Designer Handbag Bingo on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Tickets are now available!

Interested? Questions? Contact the Parish Office at 610-433-6102.

The **LARGE FLOWERHEADS** are coming to St. Francis Parish!

Come join us for a groovy time on Saturday, March 14th from 7 - 10 PM in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$14 each and are first come, first serve. No tickets can be reserved without payment. For questions, please contact the Parish Office at 610-433-6102. Tickets are available now!

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

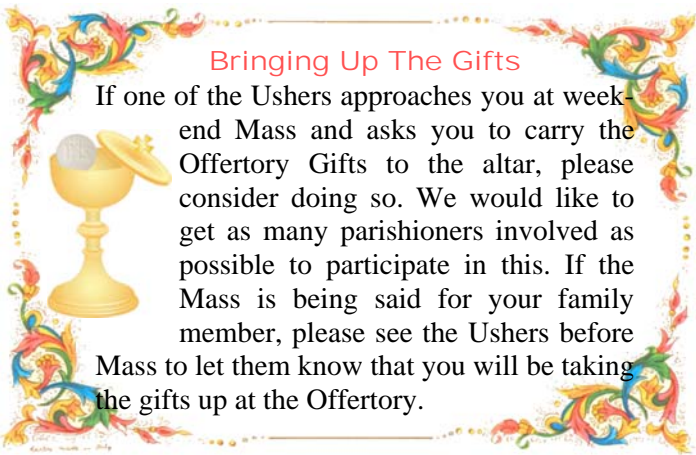
O God, who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, St. Joseph her spouse, St. Junipero Serra and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ, to spend 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.

Catechism Classes For Men

Every first and third Tuesday of the month (December 17th) 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.

Bringing Up The Gifts

If one of the Ushers approaches you at weekend Mass and asks you to carry the Offertory Gifts to the altar, please consider doing so. We would like to get as many parishioners involved as possible to participate in this. If the Mass is being said for your family member, please see the Ushers before Mass to let them know that you will be taking the gifts up at the Offertory.



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!**



Gift cards are available 7 days a week in the Parish Office.

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

Dr. Emily Kleintop, 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. 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 *limited quantity*

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

