

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

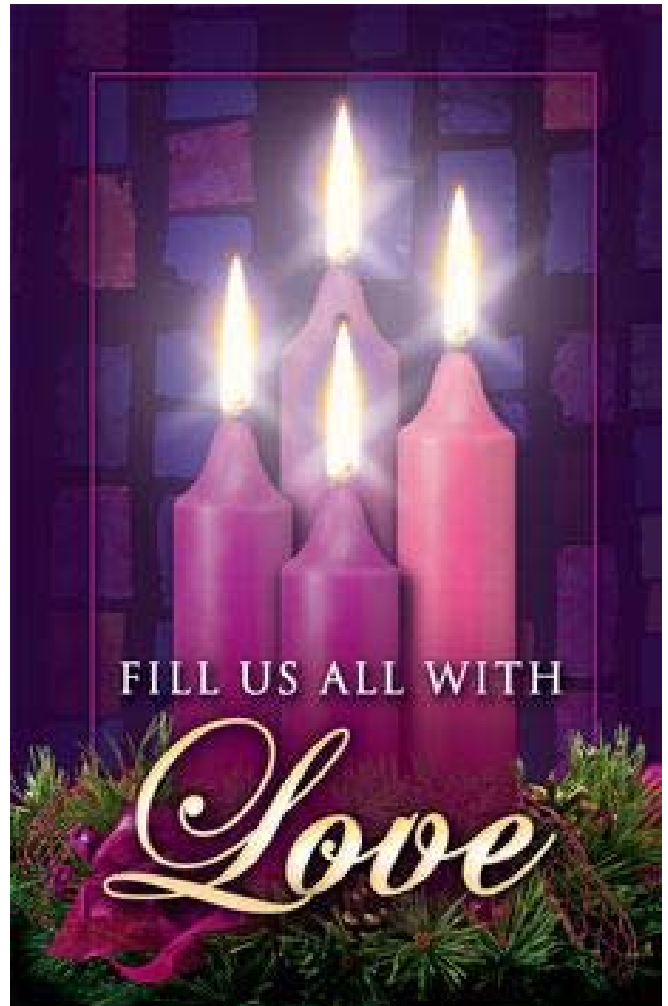
Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM

Anytime by appointment



Adoration Chapel

Our Adoration Chapel is temporarily closed due to COVID19.



December 20, 2020

*Fourth 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 21st

Saint Peter Canisius

Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

No Mass

Tuesday, December 22nd

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

8:00 AM Charles L. Epler (Public Mass)

Wednesday, December 23rd

Saint John of Kanty

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

8:00 AM Alfonso DiMatteo (Public Mass)

Thursday, December 24th

Vigil, Nativity of The Lord

Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25

3:30 PM Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

5:30 PM Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

9:00 PM Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

Friday, December 25th The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)

Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

8:30 AM Christmas Flower Memorials

10:30 AM Christmas Flower Memorials

December 26th & 27th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40

4:30 PM Patrick McFadden

People of St. Francis Parish

10:30 AM Carmine Cerciello

Roger Tracy

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 20, 2020 is

**For the Intentions of
Jim & Susan Steiner**

by: Jim & Susan Steiner

Parish Office Closed

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, Friday and Monday, December 24th and 25th and December 28, 2020 for the Christmas holidays.



ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Final Advent Confessions:

- **Monday, December 21st:** 4:00 - 4:30 PM and 7:00 - 7:30 PM

Calendars

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



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.



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.)



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.

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Lois Ann Englert

by: Todd & Maureen Wendling, Frederick & Patricia Fetzner

Thomas W. Kolowitz

by: Lawrence & Lisa Yannuzzi, Mark & Cookie Weslosky, Glen & Jessica Lehr, Rob & Tina Palenchar, John & Cathy Knouse, Mike & Jean Caffrey, Ed & Tammy Mehlig, Eug & Patti White, Shawn Sassaman, Mike & Pam Sebring, Lou & Wendy Kuscan, Joe Scrizzi, John & Lissette Scrizzi, Joseph Bendekovits

Dolores T. Skripek

by: Theresa Racek

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord



- Preschool Programs, Full Day
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SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind, and spirit!

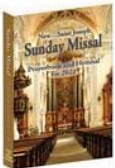
Phone: 610-435-8981 Email: altlsjv@ptd.net

Call us today to schedule a tour at your convenience!

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

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.



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.



Recently Baptized

We welcome to our parish family the following newly baptized child: **Samantha Ruth Kacsur**, daughter of Adam and Kristen (Croll) Kacsur.

We pray that our Lord will be with her all of her days guiding them through life's journey.

PREP

Our PREP children anticipate their Christmas Break beginning on December 23rd. The children return class until January 5, 2021. Their PREP classes have focused on the Advent season so that our children are truly ready for the Christmas Season!

We offer this Christmas Prayer for all of our PREP families, teachers and volunteers.

A Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.



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

Please Note



If you are returning to Mass for the first time for Christmas, please review our **Returning to Mass** video on our website at www.stfrancisallentown.org.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule—Thursday, December 24th

	<u>3:30 PM</u>	<u>5:30 PM</u>	<u>9:00 PM</u>
Lector	H. Moyer	C. Stockdale	N. Lamparella
Cantor	M. Issermoyer	J. DeMatto	D. Lamparella
Organist	J. DeMatto	J. DeMatto	D. Badesso

Friday, December 25th

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	J. Grieff	F. Lenahan
Cantor	P. Rollins	J. Fignar
Organist	D. Badesso	D. Badesso

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@allentowndioocese.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@allentowndioocese.org OR fax to 610-439-7693.



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.

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

SAVE THE DATE

**This year's festival will be
 June 25-27, 2021**



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.



Sanctuary Memorial Fund
 St. Francis of Assisi Church has a Church Memorial Fund which can be used to remember the deceased or to honor the living.

Memorial Books will be used in the following manner: For your offering, a relative or friend will be listed in the Memorial Book; deceased are listed according to the date of death, living are listed on Thanksgiving Day. The listing will include the person's name in memory or honor of, and the donor. Identical books will be on display in the Church vestibule area and the Adoration Chapel vestibule at all times, and names will be added at the close of each month.

The benefits of being enrolled in the St. Francis of Assisi Church Memorial Fund are: in addition to having a loved one's name entered in the Memorial Books, Mass will be celebrated the first Sunday of each month on behalf of the members, members will be remembered in the Prayer of the Faithful, and for donations totaling \$200 (bronze plate), \$500 (silver plate), and \$1,000 (gold plate) their names will be inscribed on the Memorial Plaque in the main vestibule's ramp area or the Chapel vestibule. New memorial plates (All Gold) have been added: 3"x6" - \$5,000, 5"x8" - \$10,000, and 11"x10" - \$25,000. There are limited quantities of these new memorial plates available.

Offerings made to the Church Memorial Fund are used for the Church Proper and Chapel, e.g. vestments, altar cloths, liturgical vessels and furnishings and for capital expenses.

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
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 1.5% 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