

# *Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church*

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

[www.stfrancisallentown.org](http://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 22, 2019*

*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.

### **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](http://www.allentowndiocese.org) and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

# Mass Schedule

**Monday, December 23rd** Saint John of Kanty

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

No Mass

**Tuesday, December 24th** Vigil, Nativity of the Lord

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

4:30 PM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

10:30 PM Living & Deceased Members of St. Francis

**Wednesday, December 25th** The Nativity of the Lord

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

10:30 AM Christmas Flower Memorials

**Thursday, December 26th** Saint Stephen

Saint Stephen

*Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22*

No Mass

**Friday, December 27th**

*1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8*

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

No Mass

**December 28th & 29th**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

*Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23*

4:30 PM Maria Moc Thi Nguyen

People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

8:30 AM Gerald Quigney

10:30 AM Carmine Cerciello



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 22nd is:

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

Recently Deceased

Please pray for the soul parishioner Louise Mertens, who recently passed away. Grant her eternal rest, O Lord, and may her family know your peace and comfort.



Bulletin Board

Please take a moment to check our bulletin board in the stairwell into the vestibule from the parking lot. There are many events posted for local parishes that we do not always have room to print in the bulletin.

Here we are - the 4th Sunday of Advent. The readings remind us just how close we are to Christmas; to Jesus' coming down to earth....the Word -made-Flesh. May this last week be one of peace and faith-filled preparation as we await the Savior of the world.

*O God, who, through the child-bearing of the holy Virgin, graciously revealed the radiance of your glory to the world, grant, we pray, that we may venerate with integrity of faith the mystery of so wondrous an Incarnation and always celebrate it with due reverence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.  
(Collect for December 19th)*



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](http://www.stfrancisallentown.org) or check the parish bulletin for information to sign up.

Parish Office Closing

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th, Wednesday, December 25th, Thursday, December 26th, and Friday, December 27th for Christmas holidays.

# Christmas Mass Schedule

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

**Christmas Eve: 4:30 & 10:30 PM**

**Christmas Day: 10:30 AM**





- 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](http://www.StJohnVianneySchool.org)



## PREP

Have you noticed that our PREP students attend the 10:30 AM Mass together once a month as a community? It is a wonderful way for our parish children to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eu-

charist together. The students greet, lector, usher, and bring up the offertory during the Mass. It is an integral part of their religious education experience.

Our next Youth Mass is January 12th at 10:30 AM. At that very special Mass, our 8th graders receiving Confirmation will make their Rite of Enrollment. Their sponsors attend with them as they stand in front of their parish and ask to be confirmed. You won’t want to miss it!

### **PREP Calendar:**

December 22nd– Class

December 29th – CHRISTMAS BREAK

January 5th – Class

January 12th – Class and Mass

January 17th – Class

### Outreach Committee Meeting

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

## The Vianney View

St. John Vianney is proud of the excellent Christ centered academic curriculum it provides. In keeping with their mission of educating the whole child, SJV also offers numerous extra-curricular activities.

Sports enthusiasts can join the cross country, soccer, basketball, volleyball, track or cheerleading teams. In the Crochet Club, students not only learn to crochet but then donate their creations to local charities, including the children’s hospital. Students who would like to expand their thinking can become involved in “Odyssey of the Mind,” the world’s longest running creative problem solving program. Yearbook Club is an activity for those whose interests might be writing and/ or photography.

Young leaders in training can hone their skills by serving on Student Council. Peer tutoring provides a valuable learning experience for both tutor and student. Chess Club members learn the game and the strategies necessary to be successful competitors.

For the musically inclined, SJV offers beginner and advanced band as well as the Vianney Voices student choir. Student Ambassadors guide tours for prospective students and parents. Safety Patrol members help the faculty and parents keep our students safe.

Beginning in 3rd grade, students can be of assistance to their parishes as Altar Servers. Students interested in scouting can join a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop through SJV. St. John Vianney students participate in Diocesan wide competitions such as the Spelling Bee, Essay for Life, and Art competitions.

7th and 8th grade students participate in National History Day. NHD is a worldwide program where students conduct extensive historical research on a topic of their choice. They can choose from a variety of formats such as an exhibit, research paper, theatrical performance, a documentary or a website. The SJV and Diocesan Declamation Contest, an oratory competition, is another opportunity afforded to our 7th and 8th grade students. Additionally, Science Fair and PA Junior Academy of Science Club are available for students with an interest in the sciences.

An exciting highlight for the 8th grade class is the spring musical. They can share their talents as actors, singers, set builders, or stage crew members. Last year’s musical was “Beauty and the Beast, Jr.,” directed by the amazing Mrs. Susan McDermott.

During the year, SJV sponsors Middle School Dances, “Bring Someone Special to Lunch” days, a Daddy/Daughter Dance, and special activities during Catholic Schools week. There is something “extra” for every student at SJV!

*The SJV School Board*

## Movie Club

### The Resurrection of Gavin Stone

For January - our movie night is January 25th - it's a Souper Night for a Movie. It's a Pot Luck Soup Dinner! Make and bring a crock pot of your favorite soup so everyone can enjoy!

Doors Open after 4:30 Mass. (Soup can be dropped off ahead of time!)

Movie time is 6:30 PM.

A washed-up former child star, forced to do community service at a local megachurch, pretends to be a Christian to land the part of Jesus in their annual Passion Play, only to discover that the most important role of his life is far from Hollywood.



### Children's Liturgy of the Word

Don't forget to join us in January for Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10:30 AM Mass.

January 5th

January 19th

January 26th



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

## Christmas Tableau



Don't forget – Christmas Tableau is this Tuesday, December 24th at 3:45 PM. Musical prelude begins at 3:15 PM.

Lexi Hannis will sing “Mary Did You Know” at 3:35 and the program begins promptly at 3:45. Some of our cast members

will be sitting in amongst the congregation, to make everyone a true “part” of the celebration.

Please join us in prayer and song. You won't want to miss the children's performance. Merry Christmas!

### “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.



**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

## Liturgical Ministers Schedule

### Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th

#### 4:30 PM

**Lector** C. Stockdale  
**Eucharistic Ministers** A. & H. Moyer, P. Stiles  
**Cantor** S. Kuczynski  
**Organist** D. Badesso  
**Altar Servers** D. & J. Krause  
**Sacristan** J. Burgos

### Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

#### 10:30 AM

J. Reasinger  
L. Unger, J. Young

#### 10:30 AM

N. Lamparella  
J. DeLeo, F. & J. Lenahan  
D. Lamparella  
D. Badesso  
C. Kocon, D. Koury  
E. Beck

#### 10:30 AM

L. Hannis  
D. Badesso  
H. Folligan, D. Martrich  
N. Stofko

### Saturday and Sunday, December 28th & 29th

#### 4:30 PM

**Lector** S. Wascavage  
**Eucharistic Minister** B. Ocasio, B. Nutting  
**Cantor** L. Hannis  
**Organist** C. Hageman  
**Altar Servers** S. Lurwick  
**Sacristan** N. Stofko

#### 8:30 AM

R. Granitz  
S. & D. Gerancher  
S. Kuczynski  
D. Badesso  
H. Folligan  
J. Burgos

#### 10:30 AM

E. Valentin  
C. & N. Wargo  
D. Lamparella  
D. Badesso  
E. Zobel, C. Stano

## PROMISE TO PROTECT



## PLEDGE TO HEAL

**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.

### Outreach Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun

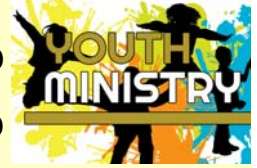
The next bus trip for the Outreach Committee's monthly trip to Mohegan Sun is Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Bus leaves at 9:15 AM and returns by 5:00 PM. \$25 per person will get you \$25 for slot play plus \$5 toward lunch. There are still some seats for this trip; to sign up, call Pat at 610-515-5975 or the church at 610-433-6102.



### Youth Ministry Meetings

**Sunday, January 5th from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Sunday, January 19th from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**



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

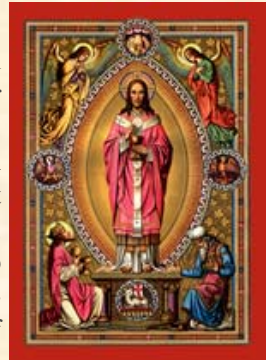
### Oplatki Available

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.



### Prayer for Vocations

Eternal Father, thank you for all priests, here in our Parish and in our Diocese, and throughout the world. Thank you for the way they preach the Gospel, celebrate the Eucharist and care for Your people. Sanctify, heal and guide them. Incline them to constant Adoration and Thanksgiving. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. Send your Holy Spirit to keep the joy and enthusiasm of their Ordination Day alive in their hearts. We ask you to bless our Bishop, our Priests and Seminarians of our Diocese. We ask for a special blessing on Monsignor Finelli, may his witness to Christ inspire other men to offer their lives to you and your Church. Amen.



### Benefits of Eucharistic Adoration

#### Here are a few:

1. Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the heart of Jesus that it is recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity! (St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta)
2. The spiritual lives of our families are strengthened through our Holy Hour (St. John Paul II)
3. A Holy Hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is so important to Jesus that a multitude of souls go to Heaven who otherwise would have gone to hell. (Jesus revelation to Blessed Dina Belanger)
4. Each time you approach the Blessed Sacrament, remember that Jesus has been waiting for twenty centuries for this personal visit from you. (St. Josemarie Escriva)
5. A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is a sharing in the work of Redemption. (Venerable Fulton Sheen)
6. It is impossible in human terms to exaggerate the importance of being in adoration before the Eucharist as often as for as long as our duties and state of life allow. (Fr. John Hardon)
7. Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace. (St. Alphonsus Liguori)



## 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**

