

# *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 and Instagram: @stfrancisallentown

## *Pastor*

Reverend Monsignor Victor F. Finelli, V.J., J.C.L.

## *Permanent Deacons*

Deacon Robert Young  
Deacon Ricardo Reyes

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## *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

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## *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM

Anytime by appointment

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## *Adoration Chapel*

Our Adoration Chapel is temporarily closed due to COVID19



*December 24 - 25, 2020  
The Nativity of the Lord*

*December 26 - 27, 2020  
The Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*



# *Merry Christmas*





## 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](http://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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

# Mass Schedule

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

**Monday, December 28th** The Holy Innocents

*1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18*

No Mass

**Tuesday, December 29th** Saint Thomas Becket

*1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35*

**8:00 AM** Theresa Roma (Public Mass)

**Wednesday, December 30th**

*1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40*

**8:00 AM** Rose Griffiths Price (Public Mass)

**Thursday, December 31st**

*1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18*

No 8:00 AM Mass

**4:30 PM** Maria Vui Tran

**Friday, January 1, 2021** Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

*Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; 2:16-21*

**10:30 AM** Dayna Mardis

**January 2nd & 3rd**

**Epiphany of the Lord**

*Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12*

**4:30 PM** Lois A. Englert  
People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

**10:30 AM** Sanctuary Memorial Fund Members  
Thomas Trach

## Welcome Back to Mass

The Church main door will open thirty minutes before the 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!

**Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, a holyday, are 4:30 PM Eve (Thursday, December 31st) and 10:30 AM Day (Friday, January 1st).**



## PARISH OFFICE CLOSING

*Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 28, 2020, closing at noon on Thursday, December 31, 2020 and closed on Friday, January 1, 2021.*



**Dear Parishioners of Saint Francis Parish:**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Saint Francis Parish is great for many reasons. On the top of those reasons are the parishioners who comprise the parish. We have so many dedicated people who work diligently for the betterment of the parish and her members. I wish to thank all those who participate in any way in the life of our parish. Saint Francis wouldn't be Saint Francis if it weren't for you.

As we continue in this Christmas season, I pray that our newborn King will continue to shower His blessings upon you and your families. May you know of His peace and love in your life and may 2021 be a year that sees an increase of faith in your life. As your faith grows so will the greatness of your life. That's my prayer for you.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,**

**Rev. Msgr. Victor F. Finelli**  
Pastor



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



Next weekend is the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Traditionally, there is a custom of blessing ones home, recalling the visit of the Magi. In celebration of this feast, we will once again be offering home blessing kits to all who would like one. There will be blessed chalk and the instruction cards available by the manger after Mass. Holy water bottles will be available, but we ask that if you already have one to not take another.



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Interested in joining?  
Want to stay in touch?

Visit our parish website:  
[stfrancisallentown.org](http://stfrancisallentown.org)

OR

Find us on Facebook:  
[@stfrancisallentown](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisallentown)

## A Christmas Prayer

*Come, Lord Jesus, Light of the World, Prince of Peace, and Beloved Savior. Come into our hearts this Christmas, and fill us with your gifts of love and joy.*

*With Mary and Joseph, we rejoice and thank God for you. With the angels and saints in heaven we sing, "Glory to God in the highest." With the magi and shepherds we bow before you with hearts full of wonder.*

*Dear Jesus, help us to follow you faithfully, and to share the good news of your coming with everyone we meet. Amen.*



**THE LARGE FLOWERHEADS**

**New Date: Saturday,  
April 17, 2021**

**7 - 10 PM in the Church Hall  
Doors open at 6 PM**

Tickets are available for purchase now for only \$14 each. Food and drink will be available for purchase at the event. No outside food or drink items permitted. **A seating chart will be completed for the event as we have in the past. If there is a group that you know you are sitting with, please make sure we know that when you purchase your tickets.** If you purchased tickets in 2020, your tickets are still valid.



### Sight and Sound Bus Trip has been rescheduled!

St. Francis of Assisi Church will travel to Sight & Sound's "Queen Esther" on **Tuesday, April 20, 2021**. \$113 per person includes transportation, lunch at Shady Maple, show,

and bus driver tip. We'll depart church at 9:30 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.

**We have only 11 openings left, so please call to reserve your seats as soon as possible!**

**Designer Handbag Bingo**

**New Date: Sunday,  
April 18, 2021**

**Doors open at 12:00 PM  
Games begin at 1:00 PM**

Tickets are still available for only \$20 each in the Parish Office! Food and drink will be available to purchase at the event, and we ask that no one bring any outside food/drink items in with you. Spread the word and help us advertise! If you already purchased a ticket in 2020, that ticket is still valid. **(Tickets will be \$25 at the door)** **Questions?** Contact the Parish Office at 610-433-6102.



### Catholic and Curious

Is it true the animals in a Nativity Scene/Creche have a symbolic meaning?

Yes. The traditional animals are chosen for a reason. The donkey/ and ox are a reference to Isaiah 1:3 which says, "The ox knows its owner/and the donkey its master's crib/but Israel does not know/my people does not understand."

This biblical verse is actually rather unflattering. In effect, it declares the animals are somehow smarter than we. Sure enough, there was no room at the human city so the animals welcomed Christ.

As far as the sheep who arrive with the shepherd, they surely point to Jesus whom John called the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and clearly points to the Passover!

### 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!

# SAVE THE DATE

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



### 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.)



### 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 27, 2020 is  
**In Memory of Adam A. Kistler**  
*by: Kistler Family*

### Recitation of the Rosary

The Rosary will be recited before both the Masses next weekend, January 2-3, 2021. The Rosary begins about 25 minutes before each Mass.



### Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

***Dolores T. Skripek***

by: Sarah E. Fox, Mr. & Mrs. Mary Herman Mulligan, RN, and Robert Stevenson

*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord*



### 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](http://www.stfrancisallentown.org) for information to sign up.

### Liturgical Ministers Schedule Thursday and Friday, December 31st and January 1st

	<b><u>4:30 PM</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 AM</u></b>
Lector	J. Fittipaldi	D. Colom
	C. Hageman	D. Badesso
	Saturday and Sunday, January 2nd and 3rd	
	<b><u>4:30 PM</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 AM</u></b>
Lector	C. Stockdale	J. Reasinger
Organist	D. Badesso	D. Badesso

### Calendars



We still have some 2021 calendars available for our parishioners to pick up. If you missed getting one or would like another one, please feel free to take one.

## 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**

**Bonefish 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 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 5:30 PM or Sunday morning, January 17<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

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 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM or Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM– 12:00 PM
- ✓ Orders due by Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>