

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 29, 2019

*The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

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 30th

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

No Mass

Tuesday, December 31st

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

8:00 AM Maria Vui Tran

4:30 PM Connie Harkins

Saint Sylvester I, Pope

Vigil, Solemnity of Mary

Wednesday, January 1st Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

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

10:30 AM Maryann Wolfe

Thursday, January 2nd

1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

8:00 AM Rose Kosits

Saint Basil the Great,

Saint Gregory Nazianzen

Friday, January 3rd

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

8:00 AM Thomas Trach

Holy Name of Jesus

January 4th & 5th, 2020

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

4:30 PM Richard A. Gatti

8:30 AM Carole Koerbler

People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

10:30 AM Sanctuary Memorial Fund Members



The Litany of the Sacred Heart will be recited every First Friday (Friday, January 3rd at 7:55 AM before Mass in the Daily Mass Chapel).

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil, Tuesday, December 31st

4:30 PM

Holyday, Wednesday, January 1st

10:30 AM



All Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on this day as we begin our New Year.



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 29th is:

***In Memory of Frank G. Granitz
by Nancy Granitz***

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge these contributions in memory of:

Louise Mertens

by: Mike & Bev Piosa

William Deegan

by: The Sisters: Ann, Angela and Helen

Donna Shurilla

by: The Sisters: Ann, Angela and Helen

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord

Prayer to the Holy Family



We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son, to become part of a family, so that, as he lived its life, he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over this family, so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this thought Christ our Lord. Amen.

(from Catholic Household Blessings)

Respect Life Holy Hour

There is a Respect Life Holy Hour every First Friday (January 3rd) from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the Adoration Chapel. Deacon Bob will be the Presider. All are welcome. For information, call Karin at 610-351-0835.

Recitation of the Rosary



The Rosary will be recited before all the Masses next weekend, January 4th & 5th. The Rosary begins about 25 minutes before each Mass.



Men of St Francis Christmas Party

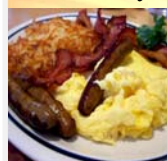
The Men of St Francis will be having their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at The Parkland Restaurant, 2702 Walbert Avenue, Allentown PA.

Time: 6:30 PM

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

Men of St. Francis' Monthly Breakfast

On Sunday, January 5th, breakfast will be served from



9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Church Hall. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children (age 4 and under free!) Menu choices include eggs made to order, egg beaters, French toast, pancakes, ham or sausage, orange juice, coffee, tea or hot chocolate.



- Preschool Programs, Full Day
- Kindergarten through 8th Grade
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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

Children's Liturgy of the Word



Mark your calendar for Children's Liturgy for January. Our leaders are working hard to make it a great way for children to better understand the Word of God. January 5th, January 19th, January 26th at 10:30 Mass

The Parish Office will close at noon on Tuesday, December 31st and remain closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

Monthly Food Drive

Sponsored by
the Outreach Committee

Our monthly food drive will be next weekend, January 4th & 5th.



This month, we particularly need jelly, spaghetti sauce, saltines, fruit and boxed cereals. We do not need any type of pasta at this time, having recently received a large donation of many cases of pastas. We cannot accept any glass jars. Also, please, no XL containers. Collection bins will be available at the entrances of the church for your donations. *Help is needed on collection weekends to help move the food donations from the vestibule area to the pantry after each Mass.*



PREP

Our PREP students are enjoying their Christmas holiday today. **NO CLASS!!!**

January brings with it our second semester of classes, preparing for receipt of the Sacraments, and continuing age appropriate curriculum. Confirmation is February 4th at St. Catharine of Siena. Eleven parish students will be confirmed. First Penance is February 20th. Sixteen parish students will receive.

PREP Calendar

January 5th- Class

January 8th - Confirmation Interviews

January 12th - Class and Youth Mass, including Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation Candidates

January 12th - Confirmation Candidate and Sponsor Luncheon

January 19th - Class

January 26th - Class

Movie Club

Thanks to everyone for coming out and enjoying our December movies, including yummy hot chocolate.

Our January Movie is SOUPER!!!

The Resurrection of Garrett Stone

On Saturday, January 25th, doors will open after 4:30 Mass. Movie begins at 6:00. Pot Luck SOUP Dinner... bring your favorite soup in a crock pot or pot (we will keep warm on the stove) and everyone will enjoy a yummy soup dinner. (You can drop off soups before Mass if you'd like!) Rolls/crackers and butter provided!!!



As always, free movie, free popcorn, free candy, free soda and free door prizes!

Movie Club... Always Free, Always Fun and Always Faithful

Wedding Congratulations

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Christopher Krause and Marjorie Matuczinski as they celebrated their joyful exchange of vows recently. May God grant them many happy and fruitful years together.



Feed Your Faith Monthly Order

There are 40 different stores in stock every day, and once a month, hundreds of different stores and denominations are available through our monthly order program. To see the entire list of retailers, go to www.glscrip.com and click home page. The next monthly order will be placed on **Monday, January 6th**. To order, call the Parish Office at 610-433-6102.





PREP Live Advent Calendar – Week 2
 Mary, Joseph and their Camel, Gunner, visited our PREP classes and brought Christmas bracelets for all!



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!

Health Care Coalition
 Blood Pressures will be taken after all Masses next weekend, **January 4th & 5th**. We thank the Parish Nurses for this invaluable service.




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, January 15th. 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.


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

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. Follow us on Instagram @sfyouthgroup. 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.



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.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule					
<u>Solemnity of Mary, Tuesday, December 31st</u>			<u>Wednesday, January 1, 2020</u>		
	<u>4:30 PM</u>			<u>10:30 AM</u>	
Lector	H. Moyer			B. Sheaffer	
Eucharistic Ministers	A. Moyer, J. Marcus			J. Reasinger, J. Young	
Cantor	E. Krause			L. Hannis	
Organist	D. Badesso			D. Badesso	
Altar Servers	D. & J. Krause			L. Sheaffer, D. Martrich	
Sacristan	J. Burgos			L. Hannis	
<u>Saturday and Sunday, January 4th & 5th</u>					
	<u>4:30 PM</u>		<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	
Lector	P. Stiles		D. Colom	C. Stockdale	
Eucharistic Minister	J. Marcus L. Stofko		R. Reichenbach,	A. Drovich, G. Rodriguez	
Cantor	J. Seng-Austin		M. Issermoyer	S. Kuczynski	
Organist	C. Hageman		D. Lamparella	D. Badesso	
Altar Servers	S. Lurwick		D. Badesso	H. Folligan, L. Sheaffer	
Sacristan	N. Stofko		A. Beck		
			T. Bartman		

Godparents & Confirmation Sponsors Info
You must be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, must attend Mass regularly and, if married, the marriage must be recognized by the church. These requirements are the universal law of the church. All requests for 'Letters of Good Standing' are to be made well in advance to the Parish Office.



Prayer of Intercession
To Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
First American-Born Saint

O God our Father, glorify here upon earth your servant, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, by manifesting the power of her intercession through the favors we now implore (mention intentions here). I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE LARGE FLOWERHEADS

Saturday, March 14, 2020

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

Tickets are available for purchase now for \$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.**

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.



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.

Secretarial Position

Part-time Secretarial position at Immaculate Conception Church, Allentown. Requires Computer skills (Windows 10 & Microsoft Office). Answer phones, detail oriented, and must work well with others. Interested, please call 610-433-4404.



**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT
OUR PARISH WEBSITE:**

www.stfrancisallentown.org

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

