

Exceptional cardiovascular services for all Long Islanders

Catholic Health has expanded the services of St. Francis Heart Center to multiple locations across Nassau and Suffolk.

Former iron worker Michael DeFeo spent years building some of New York City's tallest buildings. The 59-year-old Navy veteran was also a first responder on 9/11, clearing the massive wreckage the very next day.

His inner strength, invincible faith and fierce determination are the reasons he's standing tall, despite suffering three consecutive heart attacks in 2020. Fortunately for DeFeo, this took place while he was at St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center®, being admitted to undergo double hip replacements.

"When I came to, they told me my heart had stopped beating for several minutes," he recalled. "Then they told me I needed a Left Ventricle Assisting Device (LVAD) or I'd die. They said, *Do you want to think about it?* I said, I've thought about it. Let's do it."

DeFeo came through the LVAD implant with flying colors, but his hip replacements had to be postponed. He spent the better part of two years in a wheelchair. But DeFeo is no quitter.

"I honestly believe that life's challenges are an opportunity to prove what we're made of," he said. "We're meant to live, not merely survive. So I kept pushing myself to get in shape for the procedure I knew could restore my mobility."

Today, he is walking 2–3 miles a day in his North Babylon neighborhood. Now DeFeo aspires to a few more milestones.

“We’re meant to live, not merely survive.”

"Believe it or not, I hope one day to take up surfing. Skydiving, too. Maybe even ride a bull in a rodeo," he said with a laugh. "Hey, if I could stand on a steel girder 60 stories high, I can do anything."



(L-R): Rita Jermyn, MD, Director of the Center for Advanced Cardiac Therapeutics; Michael DeFeo, Jr.; Michael DeFeo; Edward F. Lundy, MD, PhD, MBA, Surgical Director of the Kroll Family Center for Heart Failure and Circulatory Support; and John De Pietro, Administrative Director, Mechanical Circulatory Support and LVAD Program.

"The Heart of St. Francis," now streaming on Mediflix.com



New 5-part streaming series, *The Heart of St. Francis* on Mediflix.com, provides an in-depth look at how Chairman of Cardiovascular Services Richard A. Shlofmitz, MD, and his team of experts deliver lifesaving care to cardiac patients.

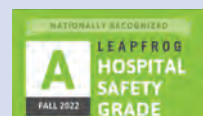
Mediflix.com, a trusted "edutainment" video streaming platform, has produced an exclusive docu-series, *The Heart of St. Francis*. The five-part telecast explores how St. Francis Heart Center is leading the way in minimally invasive cardiovascular care. Tune in and learn how the future of cardiology is happening here on Long Island at St. Francis Heart Center.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

St. Francis Hospital
& Heart Center® is
recognized for excellence
year after year



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& Medicaid Services)



No matter where you live on Long Island, St. Francis Heart Center is minutes away.

Catholic Health has expanded the services of St. Francis Heart Center to multiple locations across Nassau and Suffolk. That's making it much easier for Long Islanders who need the best in cardiac care when minutes count. "When a heart attack occurs, time is heart muscle," said Catholic Health President & CEO Patrick O'Shaughnessy, DO, MBA. "By placing the expertise of St. Francis Heart Center at our hospitals on the south shore, mid island and across both counties, Catholic Health is delivering on our mission to provide the right care, in the right place, at the right time."

St. Francis Heart Center services are accessible at the following Catholic Health locations:

- Good Samaritan University Hospital in West Islip
- St. Joseph Hospital in Bethpage
- Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre
- St. Catherine of Siena Hospital in Smithtown
- St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center® in Roslyn

“If you're being cared for by St. Francis Heart Center, your heart's in the right place.”

Beyond its hospital-based cardiovascular services, St. Francis Heart Center's affiliated cardiologists have practices situated throughout Long Island. Each uses leading-edge technology, diagnostic imaging and the most current restorative therapies to treat patients coping with all forms of heart disease.

The right care, in the right place, at the right time

Patrick Beckley, Regional Director of NYS Homeland Security, started experiencing pain in his chest and in his left arm. His cardiologist,

Ralph Caselnova, MD, ran tests and confirmed he had a 94% blockage of his coronary arteries and would likely require quadruple bypass surgery. He was referred to St. Francis Heart Center specialists at Catholic Health's Good Samaritan University Hospital.

"As someone who is usually the one doing the helping, relying on others isn't something I was used to," he says. "Not feeling in control was hard for me."

But he was reassured after meeting Maksim Rovensky, MD, cardiothoracic surgeon at the St. Francis Heart Center at Good Samaritan, who would perform the needed procedure. Beckley said the entire staff was amazing before, during and after his bypass surgery. They checked in with him frequently, patiently answering all questions, and put his mind at ease. "I felt like I was in the right place, with the right people to take care of me," said Beckley.

"Quadruple bypass may sound scary," said Dr. Rovensky. "But for a patient as young as Mr. Beckley there's a high likelihood of a very strong recovery. And for an experienced surgeon with access to the right tools and a solid support team, it's a fairly routine procedure."



Patrick Beckley (L), Regional Director of NYS Homeland Security, in recovery from quadruple bypass surgery performed by St. Francis Heart Center specialists at Catholic Health's Good Samaritan University Hospital.

The world turns to St. Francis Heart Center

Consistently ranked as a national leader in cardiology & heart surgery, St. Francis Heart Center is emerging as a world leader, now bringing its leading-edge approach to interventional cardiology to the most respected physician conferences—in Europe, India and Australia.

"We've been invited to bring our educational programs to some of the world's top symposiums," said St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center® Chairman of Cardiology Richard Shlofmitz, MD. At these conferences, Dr. Shlofmitz and his team of experts share with fellow physicians the techniques, tools, protocols and supporting technologies that have earned St. Francis Heart Center its longstanding reputation for cardiovascular excellence.



Catholic Health Chairman of Cardiovascular Services Richard A. Shlofmitz, MD, performs minimally invasive precision angioplasty. The breakthrough procedure, made possible by 3-dimensional intracoronary imaging to guide physicians, is now available at multiple St. Francis Heart Center locations across Long Island.



Curtis Winkler of Southold with the Emergency Medicine team at Catholic Health's Mercy Hospital. They transported him to the St. Francis Heart Center Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Mercy in record time to clear his coronary blockage.

Follow your heart.

While on business in Nassau, Curtis Winkler of Southold began to feel chest pain. So he drove himself to Catholic Health's Mercy Hospital. There, the Emergency Department team performed an electrocardiogram—one of the fastest tests to evaluate the heart's condition. It quickly revealed that Winkler was having a heart attack.

Within 11 minutes, he was in the St. Francis Heart Center Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Mercy Hospital, where a team of doctors and nurses performed balloon angioplasty to clear the blockage and reestablish blood flow to his heart.

His "door-to-balloon" time of 49 minutes was substantially faster than the national benchmark of 90 minutes.

St. Francis named Top Hospital

The Leapfrog Group recognizes hospitals nationwide that have achieved true excellence in safety and quality. St. Francis has earned 20 "A" Grades for safety, the most of any hospital in New York State in the 10 years since Leapfrog first began its safety scorings.

In December, Leapfrog also honored St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center® with their prestigious Top Hospital award, an elite list reflecting excellence on the national stage.

"Being cited as a top teaching hospital by The Leapfrog Group is a validation of our intense commitment to safety and high-quality care across all areas of patient engagement," said St. Francis Hospital President Charles Lucore, MD, MBA. "It also reflects our leadership in medical education, having earned a global reputation for our cardiovascular conferences, frequently attended by the world's top cardiologists."



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Unmatched cardiac care across Long Island

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**A HEART AS EXCEPTIONAL AS YOURS
DESERVES THE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CARE
AT ST. FRANCIS HEART CENTER**

AND NOW, IT'S CLOSER THAN EVER

**Our unmatched care is now available in more locations,
so your heart is always in the right place.**

St. Francis Heart Center is now available at more Catholic Health practices and hospitals across Long Island, including Good Samaritan University Hospital, Mercy Hospital, St. Catherine of Siena Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital. This means you have easier access to the most advanced treatments for cardiac diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, no matter where you live on the island.

For a location near you, visit chsli.org/heart



LONG LIVE LONG ISLAND™