

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



PARISH INFORMATION

REV. FRANCIS P. STRAKA, Pastor
Mr. Eugene M. Flanley, Deacon
Mrs. Karen Glose, Director of Music
Mrs. Mary LaBianca, Adult Choir Director
Mr. John-Paul Crescenzo, M.Ed., Principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School
Mrs. Linda Santucci, Coordinator of Religious Education
Ms. Joanne Manning, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Deborah Heckenberger, Youth Activities

Rectory Address 2174 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067-1257
Rectory Phone 610-262-2559 **Rectory Fax** 610-262-1613
Rectory E-Mail: bvm1922@rcn.com **Website:** www.bvm-northampton.com
Religious Education 610-262-7343 **Youth Activities:** 610-760-9491
Religious Ed. E-Mail bvmspirit777@rcn.com
Good Shepherd Catholic School 610-262-9171
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC
 Direct Telephone: 1-800-791-9209
Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
 Telephone: 610-332-0442 Ext. 19
Courage: 610-334-9147
Diocesan Website: www.allentowndiocese.org

Masses

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday 8:00, 10:30 a.m.
 Weekdays 8:00 a.m.
 Holy Days 7:00 p.m. [Vigil]
 8:00 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
or by appointment

Baptism

Every Weekend after Mass on request. Baptismal preparation classes are the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the classrooms above the church. Please call the rectory in advance to schedule class attendance and Baptism.

Sponsors

Parishioners need to meet with Fr. Straka to determine whether they are eligible to serve as a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. Please call the rectory.

Marriage

Please call the rectory at least one year in advance to schedule a wedding. Attendance at diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes is required six months prior to the wedding date, as well as three or four sessions with the priest. Current Baptism and Confirmation certificates are needed for the Catholic parties. In the case of previously existing marriages, a death certificate or declaration of nullity is necessary before another marriage can be considered.

Parish Registration

New parishioners living in the parish boundaries are asked to register at the rectory. Please notify the rectory if you change your address or phone number or move out of the parish.

Communion to the Sick

Communion is taken to the sick after the Sunday Masses and on First Fridays. The Anointing of the Sick is celebrated with individual homebound parishioners on First Fridays several times a year. Please call the rectory to request being included on the homebound Communion list.

Please call the rectory when parishioners are admitted to a local hospital.

Parish Activities/Contacts

Adult Education	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559	Hospitality Committee	Jane Spengler.....	610-262-8138
Adult Prayer Group	Vincent Santucci.....	610-262-8428	Knights of Columbus Council #4050.....	484-540-5090	
Altar Servers	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Lectors	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559
Baptismal Prep Classes	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Ministry to the Sick	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559
Bible Study	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559	Music Ministry/Choir	Karen Glose.....	610-691-0525
Blood Drive	Deborah Heckenberger...	610-760-9491	Nthmp Area Food Bank	Bella Skweir.....	610-262-2673
Chi-Rho Volunteers	Jane Spengler.....	610-262-8138	Parish Family Picnic	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559
Church Cleaning Teams	Barbara Pengitore.....	610-262-3193	Persons w/Disabilities Rep.	Sue Parker.....	610-502-1280
CYO	Tim Gribb	610-762-9072	Prayer Chain	Priscilla Koch.....	610-428-9053
Ecumenical Rep.	Fr. Straka	610-262-2559	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Mary LaBianca.....	610-502-0160
Eucharistic Ministers	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Pro-Life Activities	Fr. Straka	610-262-2559
Finance Committee	Drew Maron.....	610-261-4705	Religious Education	Linda Santucci.....	610-262-7343
First Friday Adoration	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559	RENEW Group	Charlie Walsh.....	610-837-0376
Fund Raising	Barbara Pengitore.....	610-262-3193	RCIA	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559
Grocery Certificates	GSCS Office.....	610-262-9171	Ushers	Michael Sommer.....	610-262-7904
Greeters	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Young at Heart	Anna Hudock.....	610-262-3478
Grief Support	Rosemarie Pengitore.....	610-262-9012	Youth Activities	Deborah Heckenberger...	610-760-9491

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2016

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 19, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Bernard G. Hudak	M/M Jason Renner and Family
Dec. 20, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Connie Marth	Husband, Conrad, and Family
Dec. 21, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Stephen and Elizabeth Balog	Granddaughter, Betty, and Family
Dec. 22, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Catherine Arnst	Granddaughter, Debra Kay Bennett, and Family
Dec. 23, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Anna Demchyk	Children
Dec. 24, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - Living and deceased parishioners	
	9:00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - †Rose Zastko	Rose Laury
Dec. 25, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - †Mary Pesarcik	Jean Motsko
	10:30 a.m.	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - †F. Parker Lessel	Bill Klucsarits

Next Week's Schedule:

	Lector:	Euch. Min.:	Altar Servers:	Greeters:
Dec. 24, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	M.E. Schwartz	C. Wuchter/T. Melosky/L. Kosciolk	S. Haldeman/M. Warren/J. Warren	M. Mraz/P. Schuler
9:00 p.m.	L. Nemeth	L. Santucci/C. Walsh/M. Sommer	J. Millan/N. Millan/N. Bischof/D. Bassert	
Dec. 25, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	A. Molchany	F. Cerino	J. Confer/C. Confer/E. Confer	N. Birosik/D. Cesanek
10:30 a.m.	J. Santee	L. Assante	M. Cuchran/C. Cuchran	H. Stempo/B. Yezzo

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Joseph, Elizabeth and Mark Tanzosh requested by Family.

PLEASE PRAY for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish. Also remember in your prayers, Francis Pany, brother of Hilda Pany, who died recently.

dear Padre:

Why is St. Joseph called "the Worker?" Shouldn't he be honored primarily as the father of Jesus?

Devotion to St. Joseph has developed along an interesting path. It was not until the eighth century that Joseph, underneath the title "Spouse of Mary," was even publicly acknowledged—except perhaps as an afterthought or silent participant in the Christmas story. The Church has always acknowledged that Joseph's relationship with Jesus was unique, but there was, and continues to be, reluctance to call him the father of Jesus. We understand the father of Jesus is not Joseph but rather God the Father.

A consensus about Joseph's role in the plan of salvation seems to be in place by the early fourteenth century. In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared Joseph the patron of the universal Church. By the early twentieth century, worldwide devotion had found a home at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

The title of "the Worker" was used most often by Pope Pius XI in his references to Joseph as the patron of the Church's battle against atheistic communism. Pope Pius XII established the May 1 feast in 1955 to emphasize the Catholic teaching concerning the dignity of labor.

Saint Joseph could be summarized best as a man who did the best he could when God's will became clear. This image and model seems the best and most helpful for deepening our understanding of and devotion to him.

*From Dear Padre: Questions People Ask, Liguori, 2003
sundaybulletin@liguori.org*

Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday – December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday – December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14
Lk 1:39-45

Thursday – December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56

Friday – December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66

Saturday – December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67-79

Sunday – December 25
The Nativity of the Lord
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18

Calendar:

Monday – December 19

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PREP CLASSES : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.
CHOIR REHEARSAL : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
BAPTISMAL PREP : Sat., January 7, 10:00 a.m.
DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY : Sun., January 8, 2017
PRAYER SHAWL MEETING : Tue., January 17, 10:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST : Sunday, January 22, 2017
CONFIRMATION : Wed., March 8, 2017 4:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE: On Christmas Eve starting at 8:30 p.m. the Choir will sing Christmas Carols. Come and enjoy the caroling followed by our Eucharistic Celebration at 9:00 p.m. Merry Christmas!

CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: Anyone who would like to help with the Christmas decorating is asked to come to the Church **today, Sunday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided.**



Lighting of the Advent Wreath [Week Four]
– [Before the evening meal, the family gathers at table.]

Leader: Father, to you belong the seasons and the ages. **All:** *You are the beginning and the end of all things.* **Leader:** Prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth with joy. *ꝛ - Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Inspire in us sincere conversion and repentance. *ꝛ - Christ, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Help the poor, afflicted, and oppressed this Christmas season. *ꝛ - Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN. [Three purple candles and the one rose candle are lit and left burning during the meal.]**



A Christmas Tree Blessing: Father in Heaven, we thank you for your goodness. Bless this tree that we have decorated in honor of your Son's birth among us: let its lights remind us that he is Lord, and its decorations recall our joy. Grant that we may receive him as our Savior, and continue to give you glory by our lives. We ask this grace, Father in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



A Christmas Crib Blessing: Blessed are you, Lord God, king of all creation: we praise you for your love. We thank you because you have loved us so much that you sent your only Son to bring us eternal life. Bless this crib that we have prepared, and let it be a reminder to

us of the Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. Father, we praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECTORY OFFICE will be closed Friday, December 23 thru Monday, December 26 for Christmas. Also, the rectory office will be closed Friday, December 30 thru Monday, January 2 for New Year's.



VOLUNTEER GIFTS: Gifts for the following volunteers are located in the Church Social Hall: Altar Servers, Baptismal Prep Leaders, Breakfast Workers, Chi-Rho Members, Church Cleaning Crew Members, Eucharistic Ministers, Finance Committee Members, Funeral Team Members, Greeters, Hospitality Committee Members, Lectors, Picnic Committee Members and Ushers.

BAPTISM: We are happy to welcome Jonathan Lawrence Mazziotta child of Gregory and Ermira Mazziotta who began to share in the life of Jesus last Sunday in the Sacrament of Baptism. We will continue to pray for Jonathan Lawrence as he continues to grow in our faith.

MEMORIAL FUND: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Mary Lizak:** \$500 Cindy Lizak and John Lizak; \$250 Tom and Jen Clemons; \$15 Anna Boruch; \$25 M/M Stephen Paukovits; \$20 Dorothy Geosits; \$20 Stella Onuschak; \$20 Michele and Roland Price; \$30 Stephen and Jeanette Stangl; \$20 Sandy and Zane Deckhut; \$50 Barbara Rose Hildenbrant and Family; \$50 Monica and Frank Paukovits; \$50 Lorraine and Leonard Shellhammer, Jr.; \$25 Frank and Eileen Laufik; \$25 Irene Tanzosh; \$50 Leonard and Judith Makovsky; \$25 Bill and Joan Filipovits; \$50 Jamie and Mike Horvath; \$20 Helen and Richard Cuth; \$20 Alfred and Elizabeth Kosman; \$20 Hilda Frisch. **In memory of Alfred Niderostek:** \$20 Rachael Suranofsky. **In memory of Louis Jany:** \$25 Rev. Francis P. Straka. **In memory of John Ritz:** \$25 Rev. Francis P. Straka. **In memory of Dorothy Fota:** \$20 Martha Karahuta.

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will take place on **Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 10:00 am** in the Parish Religious Education classroom.

CHILDREN'S 2017 ENVELOPES are located in the Church Social Hall. Please look for yours and take them home. Religious Education Student envelopes (grades 2-7) were placed in the Religious Education Classrooms; Good Shepherd Student envelopes (grades 2-8) were taken to the School.

LOTTERY CALENDARS: The Parish Fund Raising Committee is sponsoring a monthly lottery calendar for January 2017. The calendars are \$5 each and the winners are based on the **evening daily** Pennsylvania Lottery number. Calendars will be on sale before Masses New Year's weekend, December 31/January 1. This will be the last chance to purchase the calendars.

Assumption B.V.M. Church Annual Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 10, 2017
EGYPT MEMORIAL PARK
begins with a Mass at 11:00 a.m.,
continues with music, games and food until 7:00 p.m.
Featuring the music of "The Pennsylvania Villagers"
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

"CARE NOTES": Please check the "Care Notes" rack in the back of the church for helpful pamphlets in dealing with the loss of a loved one.

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