

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



PARISH INFORMATION

Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Koons, Administrator
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 Msgr. Koons 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	Msgr. Koons.....	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	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559
Bible Study	Msgr. Koons.....	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	Msgr. Koons.....	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.	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Mary LaBianca.....	610-502-0160
Eucharistic Ministers	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Pro-Life Activities	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559
Finance Committee	Drew Maron.....	610-261-4705	Religious Education	Linda Santucci.....	610-262-7343
First Friday Adoration	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559	RENEW Group	Charlie Walsh.....	610-837-0376
Fund Raising	Barbara Pengitore.....	610-262-3193	RCIA	Msgr. Koons.....	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.....	484-226-0188	Youth Activities	Deborah Heckenberger...	610-760-9491

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Mar. 20, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Rose Bohar	Dorothy Deutsch
Mar. 21, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Members of our Memorial Fund	
Mar. 22, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	†Biss Family	Steve Marsch
Mar. 23, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Joseph Myirski, Jr.	Anna Miklos and Family
Mar. 24, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Lisa Gardner	Parents, Edward and Carol
Mar. 25, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Jonathan Keller	Family
Mar. 26, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
	10:30 a.m.	†James Nicosia	Parents, Joy and Sal Nicosia

Next Week's Schedule:

Mar. 25, Sat.	4:00 p.m.	Lector: A. Molchany	Euch. Min.: C. Marth	Altar Servers: J. Warren/M. Warren	Greeters: M. Bitenc/I. Gollatz
Mar. 26, Sun.	8:00 a.m.	P. Madea	J. Ciecko	J. Confer/C. Confer/E. Confer	J. Haldeman/M. Rossini
	10:30 a.m.	F. Kostecky	M. Sommer	B. DelVecchio/A. Miletics/G. Miletics	J. DelVecchio/C. Marano

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of John and Mary Wanisko requested by John and Elizabeth Kuchera.

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

dear Padre:

Sometimes a priest at Mass skips (or forgets) the blessing after the Confiteor: "May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life." I learned this prayer is important because it prepares us to receive the Eucharist. Is that correct?

The penitential act at Mass concludes with the priest's absolution, but it "lacks the efficacy of the Sacrament of Penance" (GIRM 51). In The Tridentine Missal, the Confiteor was followed by a version of the formula in use today and a second formula: "May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, absolution, and remission of all our sins." This second, quasi-absolution is omitted in the current rite, along with the sign of the cross that accompanied it.

Jesus told Simon and his companions to lower their nets after they had caught nothing. When their boats began to sink with so many fish, Simon fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8). Often, when entering God's presence, we are so filled with awe that we become aware of our own sinfulness. Yet our primary purpose in gathering for worship is not to acknowledge our sins but to acknowledge God's mercy.

Thus, the penitential act exists to unite the faithful as a community and to prepare them to listen to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist (GIRM 46).

*Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org*

Calendar:

- Monday – March 20**
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a
- Tuesday – March 21**
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:25, 34–43
Mt 18:21–35
- Wednesday – March 22**
Lenten Weekday
Dt 4:1, 5–9 / Mt 5:17–19
- Thursday – March 23**
Lenten Weekday
Jer 7:23–28 / Lk 11:14–23
- Friday – March 24**
Lenten Weekday
Hos 14:2–10 / Mk 12:28–34
- Saturday – March 25**
Annunciation of the Lord
Is 7:10–14; 8:10
Heb 10:4–10 / Lk 1:26–38
- Sunday – March 26**
Fourth Sunday of Lent
1 Sm 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a
Eph 5:8–14
Jn 9:1–41

PREP CLASSES : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.
STATIONS OF THE CROSS : Wednesdays after 7 p.m. Mass
CHOIR REHEARSAL : Wednesdays, 7:45 p.m.
7th GRADE PREP : Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: Tue., March 21, 10:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST : Sunday, March 26
BAPTISMAL PREP : Sat., April 1, 10:00 a.m.
DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY : Sunday, April 9
CHURCH PICNIC : Sunday, September 10

LENTEN ACTIVITIES: Mass: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:00 a.m.
Stations of the Cross: Wednesdays after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. **Confessions:** Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.; Saturdays from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

OPERATION RICE BOWL is a wonderful way to bring the spirit of Lenten sacrifice home. Operation Rice Bowl allows millions of our starving brothers and sisters to benefit and it doesn't cost us a cent! To participate, choose one night a week to eat a sacrificial meal. We will publish suggested meals in the bulletin each week. The meal is designed to imitate the quantity of food eaten by the poor. Take the cost of the meal, subtract it from what you normally would have spent for dinner that day, and give the difference to Operation Rice Bowl. **This week's menu: Corn Chowder, Rye Crisps, Fresh Apple OR Baked Cheddar Cheese Stuffed Potato, Pineapple Chunks.**

SLOVAK KOLACH SALE: Your Easter Slovak Kolach **orders are due by today, Sunday, March 19.** Please complete the yellow colored form from last week's bulletin and return it with your payment as soon as possible. The cost is \$15.00 each. Additional order forms are available in the church vestibule. Order pick up is scheduled for Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9.



SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Breakfast will be served after both Sunday Masses **next Sunday, March 26.** Please support this fund raising effort of the parish and enjoy a hearty, homemade breakfast with your friends. Menu includes: French toast, pancakes, scrambled eggs, omelet or cheese steak omelet, ham, sausage or bacon, hash browns, toast, juice, coffee, tea. Cost \$7.00 adults/\$3.00 children. **Tickets on sale at the door.**

MEMORIAL FUND: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of our beloved pastor, Rev. Francis P. Straka:** \$50 Monica Myirski; \$100 Gregory and Catherine Csencsitz; \$25 Karen Delker. **In memory of Elizabeth Strongowski:** \$25 Ann Fry; \$25 Johanna Karr; \$25 Paulette Bordonaro; \$40 Roy and Heidi Detweiler. **In memory of Mary Lizak:** \$20 Richard, Barbara and Joseph Ebner.

BAPTISM: We are happy to welcome Graedan Edward Valletta, child of Arthur and Ashley Valletta, who began to share in the life of Jesus this past Sunday in the Sacrament of Baptism. We will continue to pray for Graedan Edward as he continues to grow in our faith.

7th GRADE/NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS: There will be a Confirmation Retreat for the **children and a parent(s)** on Thursday, March 23, 2017 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. please go directly into the church to begin our evening.

OUR MONTHLY BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION will be held on Saturday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m. in a classroom above the Church. All parents who are expecting to celebrate baptism with their child are asked to attend one of these sessions, even before the child is born. Please call the rectory in advance to register.

"HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2 JR.": Good Shepherd Catholic School Senior Drama Club proudly presents "High School Musical 2 Jr." on Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, March 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. For more information, please call the school at 610-262-9171.

PYSANKY: The Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation will host a demonstration of the art of decorating pysanky (ethnic Easter eggs) on Sunday, April 2 at 1:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 N Front Street, Allentown. Non-members are invited to participate in this creative artwork. A supply of pysanky will be for sale. If you plan to attend, please call Marge Ferri at 610-266-8945 in order that we have the necessary supplies for all. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for the supplies or refreshments.

ANNUAL NORTHAMPTON FOOD BANK MEETING: The Northampton Area Food Bank will hold its yearly general meeting, Tuesday, April 25 in the fellowship hall of Queenship of Mary Church, 1324 Newport Avenue, Northampton. Dinner will be served 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. with the business meeting to follow. The menu includes hot dogs, barbeque and drinks. Covered side dishes and desserts welcome. All persons are encouraged to attend this meeting and slide presentation. If you want to know more about the food bank, are interested in volunteering or are currently volunteering there, please plan to attend. Area churches and businesses are encouraged to have members and employees attend.

LENTEN FISH DINNER: St. John Fisher Church will be hosting a Fish Dinner on Friday, March 24 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The platter includes: breaded haddock, choice of parsley potatoes or halusky, cream cabbage, corn, applesauce, dessert and beverage. Cost is **Adults: \$10.00 (\$12.00 at the door), Children (ages 5 to 10): \$5.00.** For advance tickets please call Joanne at B.V.M. Rectory 610-262-2559 or Annette Englert at 610-264-4758. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

LENTEN FISH BAKE: Knights of Columbus #4050 will hold their annual Lenten Fish Bake on Friday, March 24 and Friday, March 31 at Ruffanach Hall, corner of Chestnut & Ruch Streets, Whitehall from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Adults \$9.00 Children \$7.00. Includes: Fish, Potatoes, Corn, Applesauce, Roll, Dessert, Drink/Coffee. Take out will be available.

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BREAKFAST



Sunday, March 26, 2017

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD
AT THE DOOR ONLY

ADULTS \$7.00

CHILDREN \$3.00

MENU

French Toast

Pancakes

Scrambled Eggs & Hash Brown

Choice of: Sausage, Bacon or Ham

Omelet your way & Hash Brown

Cheese Steak Omelet & Hash Brown

Includes: Juice, Toast, Coffee or Tea