

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



PARISH INFORMATION

Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Koons, Administrator
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. 2019
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 3:00 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	Lectors	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559
Adult Prayer Group	Vincent Santucci.....	610-262-8428	Ministry to the Sick	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559
Altar Servers	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Music Ministry/Choir	Karen Glose.....	610-691-0525
Baptismal Prep Classes	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Nthmp Area Food Bank	Bella Skweir.....	610-262-2673
Blood Drive	Deborah Heckenberger...	610-760-9491	Parish Family Picnic	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559
Chi-Rho Volunteers	Jane Spengler.....	610-262-8138	Persons w/Disabilities Rep.	Sue Parker.....	610-502-1280
Church Cleaning Teams	Barbara Pengitore.....	610-262-3193	Prayer Chain	Priscilla Koch.....	610-428-9053
CYO	Tim Gribb	610-762-9072	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
Fund Raising	Barbara Pengitore.....	610-262-3193	RENEW Group	Charlie Walsh.....	610-837-0376
Grocery Certificates	GSCS Office.....	610-262-9171	RCIA	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559
Greeters	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Ushers	Michael Sommer.....	610-262-7904
Grief Support	Rosemarie Pengitore.....	484-226-0188	Young at Heart	Anna Hudock.....	610-262-3478
Hospitality Committee	Jane Spengler.....	610-262-8138	Youth Activities	Deborah Heckenberger...	610-760-9491
Knights of Columbus Council #4050.....		484-540-5090			

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2017

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 24, Sunday	4:00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS – †Hannah Bankos	Missimer Family
	9:00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS – †Frank Sipics	M/M Kerry Marsch
Dec. 25, Monday	8:00 a.m.	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS – †Helen Siekonic	Perry, Heidi and Ron Koch, Jr.
	10:30 a.m.	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - Living and deceased parishioners	
Dec. 26, Tuesday		NO MASS	
Dec. 27, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	†Frank Yezzo	Wife, Bonnie, and Family
Dec. 28, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Robin Hall	Polly and Ed Ward and Family
Dec. 29, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Helen Farkas	Helen Fischl
Dec. 30, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Raymie and Colette Semler	Family
Dec. 31, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Deceased members of the Frank and Anna Farkas Family	Sylvia Horvath
	10:30 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
Jan. 01, Monday	9:00 a.m.	†Barbara Bilder	Rev. Msgr. Thomas Koons

Next Week's Schedule:

	Lector:	Euch. Min.:	Altar Servers:	Greeters:
Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m.	M.E. Schwartz	C. Wuchter/T. Melosky/L. Kosciolk	J. Warren/M. Warren/M. Hartman	M. Bitenc/L. Stefaniak
Christmas Eve 9:00 p.m.	L. Nemeth	M. Sommer/C. Walsh/L. Santucci	N. Millan/D. Bassert/N. Bischof	H. Stempo/V. Hall
Christmas Day 8:00 a.m.	A. Molchany	F. Cerino	J. Confer/C. Confer/E. Confer	M. Weaver/J. Haldeman
Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.	J. Santee		A. Miletics/G. Miletics	M. Skweir/B. Skweir
Dec. 30, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	S. Parker	B. Kosman	J. Warren/M. Warren	M. Bitenc/I. Gollatz
Dec. 31, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	M. Heist	K. Bennett	W. Cuchran/C. Cuchran	J. Haldeman/M. Rossini
	10:30 a.m.	K. Stayt	B. DelVecchio/K. & L. Lesisko	J. DelVecchio/R. Marakovits
Jan. 01, Mon. 9:00 a.m.	E. Hozza	C. Marth	K. Cuchran/M. Cuchran	

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Assunta and Pasquale Moccio requested by granddaughter, Nikki.

PLEASE PRAY for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Catherine Holena who died recently.

dear Padre:

An antiphon in the Christian breviary states, "The angel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary, who was engaged to be married to Joseph" (December 20). Was she married or not when Jesus was conceived?

Much of the confusion is due to what constituted marriage at the time of Jesus.

Mary was betrothed to Joseph when she was found to be pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. During the usual betrothal period of a year, the woman remained with her family. However, the bond between the couple was already as permanent as marriage. That's why Mary was legally known as Joseph's wife, even though they didn't yet live together or have all the rights belonging to a husband and wife. In fact, the arrangement during betrothal was so binding that it could only be terminated in divorce.

Moreover, in that patriarchal society, a betrothed woman who had sexual relations with anyone other than her husband was accused of adultery. Had Joseph ended this betrothal in disgrace, Mary would have been deprived of marriage for the rest of her life and dependent on her extended family upon her father's death. But Joseph was an upright man who intended to divorce her quietly without publicly stating the reason, in order to spare Mary and her family's reputation. That's when an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him to have no fear about taking Mary as his wife, for the Child was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

Calendar:

Monday - December 25

Christmas

Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday - December 26

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday - December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday - December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2 / Mt 2:13-18

Friday - December 29

Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:3-11 / Lk 2:22-35

Saturday - December 30

Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

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

Sunday - December 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21 / Lk 2:22-40

PREP CLASSES : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.
CHOIR REHEARSAL : Wednesdays, **7:30 p.m.**
BAPTISMAL PREP : Sat., January 6, 10:00 a.m.
DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY : Sunday, January 14
PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: **Tues., January 16, 10 a.m.**
BREAKFAST : **Sunday, January 28, 2018**
CONFIRMATION : Thursday, March 8, 2018
BASKET SOCIAL : Sat./Sun., May 19/20
BVM NIGHT – IRON PIGS : Thursday, August 16, 2018
PICNIC 2018 : Sunday, September 9, 2018

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!



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. *℟ - Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Inspire in us sincere conversion and repentance. *℟ - Christ, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Help the poor, afflicted, and oppressed this Christmas season. *℟ - 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 lighted 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 Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas. Also, the rectory office will be closed Friday, December 29 thru Tuesday, January 2 for New Year's.

INK CARTRIDGE AND TONER RECYCLING: Recycle your empty ink and toner cartridges and Assumption B.V.M. Church will get \$2 back in Staples Rewards® for each one. So not only will we save on future purchases, but we can also feel good about reducing waste in our landfills. Please deposit them in the box located in the vestibule. **Did you know?** In 2011, Staples U.S. customers recycled more than 67 million ink and toner cartridges. Their goal is to recycle 100 million each year, globally, by 2020.

LOTTERY CALENDARS: The Parish Fund Raising Committee is sponsoring a monthly lottery calendar for January 2018. The calendars are \$5 each and the winners are based on the **evening daily** Pennsylvania Lottery number. Calendars will be on sale before Masses next weekend, December 30/31 and Monday, January 1 before the 9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Mass. This will be the last chance to purchase the calendars.

Assumption B.V.M. Church Annual Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 9, 2018
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 Large Flowerheads"
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

MEMORIAL FUND: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Catherine Snyder:** \$125 Pathology Dept. Health Network Laboratories; \$25 Cindy Lizak.

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM: Please keep saving your Redner's Save-A-Tape Receipts by using your Save-A-Tape Card. If you don't have one, just ask the cashier during your next shopping trip. Our church receives 1% for items you purchase, just by turning in your receipts. **So far this year we have received \$3,695.56. Just think, that's almost \$3,700.00** received from pieces of paper you would normally throw in the garbage. Please place your **full receipts** in the containers located in the church vestibule.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS: We invite and encourage you to participate in the offertory procession at Mass. This is especially appropriate if you have requested the Mass, or if the Mass is being offered for a family member or friend. If you would like to present the gifts, please see one of the greeters at least fifteen minutes before Mass begins.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 Phone No. _____

Check One:

New Registration Change of Address
 Moving out of Parish Request Envelopes
 Request envelopes (returned home from college)

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK
Foster Jewelers

John and Lucy Schneck - 610-262-4068
 Expert Stone Setting and Jewelry Repair
 1859 Main Street, Northampton, PA 18067
Please patronize our bulletin advertisers



BREAKFAST



Sunday, January 28, 2018

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