

# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



## PARISH INFORMATION

**REV. FRANCIS P. STRAKA**, Pastor  
**Mrs. Karen Glose**, Director of Music  
**Mrs. Mary LaBianca**, Adult Choir Director  
**Ms. Irene M. Quigley**, Principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School

**Mrs. Linda Santucci**, Coordinator of Religious Education  
**Mrs. Deborah Heckenberger**, Youth Activities  
**Ms. Joanne Manning**, Parish Secretary

**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.  
 Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 8:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
 Holy Days 7:00 p.m. [Vigil]  
 8:00 a.m., 7:00 p.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	Lectors	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559
Altar Servers	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Ministry to the Sick	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559
Baptismal Prep Classes	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Music Ministry/Choir	Karen Glose.....	610-691-0525
Bible Study	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559	Nthmp Area Food Bank	Bella Skweir.....	610-262-2673
Blood Drive	Deborah Heckenberger...	610-760-9491	Parish Family Picnic	Fr. Straka.....	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 Grubb .....	610-762-9072	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Mary LaBianca.....	610-502-0160
Ecumenical Rep.	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559	Pro-Life Activities	Fr. Straka .....	610-262-2559
Eucharistic Ministers	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Religious Education	Linda Santucci.....	610-262-7343
Finance Committee	Drew Maron.....	610-261-4705	RENEW Group	Charlie Walsh.....	610-837-0376
First Friday Adoration	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559	RCIA	Fr. Straka.....	610-262-2559
Fund Raising	Barbara Pengitore.....	610-262-3193	Ushers	Michael Sommer.....	610-262-7904
Grocery Certificates	GSCS Office.....	610-262-9171	Young at Heart	Anna Hudock.....	610-262-3478
Greeters	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Young at Heart Bus Trips	Anna Hudock.....	610-262-3478
Grief Support	Rosemarie Pengitore.....	610-262-9012	Youth Activities	Deborah Heckenberger...	610-760-9491

# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Feb. 08, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Memorial Fund Members	
Feb. 09, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Al Marhefka	Louis Tepes, Jr. Family
Feb. 10, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Catherine Sentiwany	Maziar Family
	7:00 p.m.	†Joan Skrapits	Mel and Sandy Lebo
Feb. 11, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Emma Molchany	Carl and Anita Lukow
Feb. 12, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Anthony and Margaret Cuth and Family	Richard and Helen Cuth
Feb. 13, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Health and Blessing – Fritz and Costello Families	Kristen Fritz and Family
Feb. 14, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
	10:30 a.m.	†John and Mary Wanisko	John and Elizabeth Kuchera

## Next Week's Schedule:

	<u>Lector:</u>	<u>Euch. Min.:</u>	<u>Altar Servers:</u>	<u>Greeters:</u>
Feb. 10, Wed. 8:00 a.m.	M. Heist	C. Marth/C. Wuchter/L. Santucci	D. Bassert/J. Warren/M. Warren	N. Birosik/C. Kovacs
7:00 p.m.	C. Fisher	D. Maron/B. Fritz/F. Cerino	A. Weber/A. Paul/B. Paul	J. Haldeman/M. Rossini
Feb. 13, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	S. Parker	L. Assante	D. Bassert/E. Zwolenik	C. Kovacs/J. Kovacs
Feb. 14, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	T. Kovalchik	M. Sommer	E. Confer/C. Confer/J. Confer	B. Cwitkowitz/M. Weaver
10:30 a.m.	C. Kroll	T. Melosky	P. Hunsicker/M. Thierer/S. Heidecker	B. Skweir/M. Skweir

**SANCTUARY LIGHTS** are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of John Lizak requested by wife, Mary, and family.

**PLEASE PRAY** for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish.

# dear Padre:

## What is Church teaching on fasting and abstaining?

*With Lent so early [Ash Wednesday is on February 10], I want to be prepared. Could you clarify the Church's teaching on fasting and abstinence?*

**Lent, the most prominent period** of penitential practice, is not the only time when penance and/or self-denial are encouraged. For example, every Friday is a day to perform a penance, sacrifice, or mortification in memory of Christ's death.

The *Code of Canon Law* (1249–53) cites the meaning of fasting and abstinence. It explains that penance is a human response to divine law. Christians have a responsibility to practice penance. And observing "the days of fasting and abstinence" is a Church precept (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2043).

Abstinence from meat is required on all Fridays of Lent for those who have completed their fourteenth birthday. **Abstinence and fasting are required on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.** Fasting is binding on adults from age eighteen until fifty-nine. The exact meaning of fasting is not explained by the code, and this has led to varying degrees of emphasis and attention to detail as well as some unusual and extreme practices. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states: "When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal."

I praise you for approaching these traditions as a means of growth and improvement rather than a burden.

FR. TOM SANTA, CSsR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

## Calendar:

### Monday – February 8

*Weekday*

1 Kgs 8:1–7, 9–13  
Mk 6:53–56

### Tuesday – February 9

*Weekday*

1 Kgs 8:22–23, 27–30  
Mk 7:1–13

### Wednesday – February 10

*Ash Wednesday*

Jl 2:12–18 / 2 Cor 5:20–6:2  
Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

### Thursday – February 11

*Thursday After Ash*

*Wednesday*

Dt 30:15–20 / Lk 9:22–25

### Friday – February 12

*Friday After Ash Wednesday*

Is 58:1–9a / Mt 9:14–15

### Saturday – February 13

*Saturday After Ash*

*Wednesday*

Is 58:9b–14

Lk 5:27–32

### Sunday – February 14

*First Sunday of Lent*

Dt 26:4–10

Rom 10:8–13

Lk 4:1–13

**PREP CLASSES** : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.  
**PRAYER SHAWL MEETING**: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of month @ 10 a.m.  
**CHOIR REHEARSAL** : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.  
**7<sup>th</sup> GRADE PREP** : Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.  
**DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY** : Sunday, February 14  
**BREAKFAST** : Sunday, February 28, 2016  
**BAPTISMAL PREP** : Sat., March 5, 10:00 a.m.  
**CONFIRMATION** : Tue., March 15, 2016, 4:30 p.m.  
**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC** : Sunday, September 11, 2016

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** This Wednesday, February 10, is Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed during the 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Masses. The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that **fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. The law of **abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent**.

**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.

**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: English Muffin Pizza (Mozzarella/Tomato Sauce) Fresh Pear.

**Assumption BVM Religious Education News**

Ash Wednesday is February 10, 2016, one of the most popular and important days in the liturgical calendar. It marks the beginning of the season of LENT. LENT is 40 days of penance, reflection, fasting, sacrificing, and praying which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday! Our parish children in our Religious Education Program will participate in an activity using "praying hands" during LENT. They will be encouraged to pray, do good deeds and sacrifices. Please be sure to watch for the "colorful hands" that will be placed on the walls going up the church stairwell. Each child will write what they plan to do during LENT on these hands to prepare for JESUS' Resurrection. It is always interesting to see what is on their minds and in their hearts! The Holy Spirit always works His magic with our kids! Bless us all and thank you GOD for the gifts you give us daily. Keep us safe, healthy, and happy! In Your name we pray. AMEN.



**"DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY":** Next Sunday, February 14, our Hospitality Committee will be hosting "Donut/Giving Sunday". Join us after the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses for coffee, donuts and fellowship in our social hall. Parishioners are encouraged to bring cans of potatoes, boxes of Jell-O or pudding. Your gifts will be brought to the altar during the preparation of the gifts. **This month's donuts are being donated in memory of John and Margaret Harhart by their children.**



**YOUNG-AT-HEART NEWS:** The next meeting of the Young-at-Heart will be on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 in the church social hall.

**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS**

**Thank you** to everyone who attended our Annual Catholic Schools Week Open House last Sunday. It was so nice to see you!

**Shadow Day - Tuesday, February 9, 2016** Open to students in Grades 1-8. Spend an entire school day with one of our students here at Good Shepherd Catholic School! An opportunity to meet other students, teachers, experience our family atmosphere, and learn about our academic and extracurricular programs. Call 610-262-9171 to reserve your place!

**Now Enrolling** - students in preschool, Pre-K, full day Kindergarten, and grades 1-8 for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

**Shepherd Gift Card Sales** - Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the school lobby.

**LENTEN FISH DINNER:** St. Mary's Church, 122 Union Street, Catasauqua, will hold a Lenten Fish Dinner on Friday, February 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. The cost for the dinner is \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. Dinner includes a Cup of Soup, Fried Breaded Icelandic Haddock, Corn, Coleslaw, Stewed Tomatoes, Roll, Dessert, Beverage and choice of Baked Potato, Mac & Cheese or Cabbage & Noodles. Take out available. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 610-264-0332 or email kim.bil@verizon.net.



**LENTEN FISH DINNER:** St. John Fisher Church will be hosting a Fish Dinner on Friday, February 26 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The platter includes: breaded haddock, choice of parsley potatoes or halusky, cream cabbage, corn, dessert and beverage. Cost is Adults: \$10.00 (\$10.50 at the door), Children (ages 5 to 10): \$5.00. For advance tickets please call Joanne at BVM Rectory 610-262-2559. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

**CASINO NIGHT AT MERCY:** Mercy School For Special Learning in Allentown is hosting its annual Casino Night on Saturday, March 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the school's auditorium (830 S. Woodward St.). Enjoy table games like poker, blackjack, roulette and more, as well as bingo (which is a cash game). Cost is \$30 per person or \$50 per couple and includes all-you-can-eat food and drink, raffle tickets, and casino play money that can be exchanged to win lots of great prizes. (We are also accepting prize donations at this time.) Attendees must be 21 years or older. For more information for Mercy's Casino Night, please call Tom at 610-797-8242 or e-mail tharper@mercyspeciallearning.org. Thank you.

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

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Northampton, PA 18067 Phone: 610-261-0440

Kevin S. Reichel, Owner/Director

www.reichelfuneralhome.com

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## BREAKFAST



Sunday, February 28, 2016



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