

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Feb. 22, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Ralph D'Andria	Assumption B.V.M. Young-at-Heart
Feb. 23, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Ed Reimer	M/M John Toolan and Family
	12:00 noon	Living and deceased members of Assumption B.V.M.	Young-at-Heart
Feb. 24, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	†William Roman, III	Carol and Jerry Miletics and Family
Feb. 25, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Helen Farkas	Mickey Knopf
Feb. 26, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Rev. Msgr. Michael Messaros	Rev. Francis P. Straka
Feb. 27, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Virginia Plata	Brother and Sisters
Feb. 28, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
	10:30 a.m.	†Clare Bennett	Son, Joe, and Family

Next Week's Schedule:

Feb. 27, Sat. 4:00 p.m. J. Saylor
Feb. 28, Sun. 8:00 a.m. J. Santee
10:30 a.m. K. Stayt

Lector:

Euch. Min.:

L. Kosciolk
J. Ciecko
A. Kaminsky

Altar Servers:

B. Bankos/E. Ossiander/E. Meister
J. Millan/N. Millan/B. Gallagher
B. DelVecchio/M. Cuchran/C. Cuchran

Greeters:

M. Bitenc/I. Gollatz
J. Haldeman/M. Rossini
J. DelVecchio/C. Marano

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Anna and Carl Bennicas requested by Daughter, Rachael, and Family.

PLEASE PRAY for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Luke Serensits, brother of Frank Serensits, and Roseann Baer, who died this past week.

dear Padre:

Can anyone practice contemplative prayer?

Is contemplative prayer just for monks and other religious people, or can anyone practice it? What should I do?

Saint Teresa of Ávila, a great mystical saint and doctor of the Church, said, "Mental prayer is nothing else, in my opinion, but being on terms of friendship with God, frequently conversing in secret with Him who, we know, loves us" (*The Life of St. Teresa of Ávila*, chapter VIII). By no means is contemplative prayer reserved only for professional religious men and women. Rather, it's open to all people from all walks of life. While we each may have our own individual and/or family prayer habits and preferences, I can think of no better practice for this Lenten season.

Contemplative prayer differs from other forms of meditative prayer because of its intensity, but like all forms of prayer and meditation, in it we seek the person and presence of Jesus. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, "Contemplative prayer is the simple expression of the mystery of prayer. It is a gaze of faith fixed on Jesus, an attentiveness to the Word of God, a silent love. It achieves real union with the prayer of Christ to the extent that it makes us share in his mystery" (CCC 2724).

If you need help getting started, approach your pastor, spiritual director, or another Catholic minister who is familiar with meditative prayer. He or she can guide you and/or direct you to the best resources available.

FR. TOM SANTA, CSsR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Calendar:

Monday – February 22

Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
1 Pt 5:1–4
Mt 16:13–19

Tuesday – February 23

Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16–20
Mt 23:1–12

Wednesday – February 24

Lenten Weekday
Jer 18:18–20
Mt 20:17–28

Thursday – February 25

Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5–10
Lk 16:19–31

Friday – February 26

Lenten Weekday
Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a
Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

Saturday – February 27

Lenten Weekday
Mi 7:14–15, 18–20
Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

Sunday – February 28

Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 3:1–8a, 13–15
1 Cor 10:1–6, 10–12
Lk 13:1–9

PREP CLASSES : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.
PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: 3rd Tues. of month @ 10 a.m.
CHOIR REHEARSAL : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
7th GRADE PREP : Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
BREAKFAST : Sunday, February 28, 2016
BAPTISMAL PREP : Sat., March 5, 10:00 a.m.
DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY : Sunday, March 13
CONFIRMATION : Tue., March 15, 2016, 4:30 p.m.
ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC : Sunday, September 11, 2016

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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Once
 again we will expose the Blessed Sacrament after the 8:00
 a.m. Mass on the 1st Friday of March, March 4. Exposition will
 end at 12 noon. Please sign up for 30 minutes of adoration
 on the sign-up sheet in the church lobby.

FIRST FRIDAY: Friday, March 4, is First Friday. Communion
 calls will be made as usual. If you have anyone at home who
 would like to be visited, please call the rectory.

OUR MONTHLY BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION
 will be held on Saturday, March 5, 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.

LENT COMMUNITY PENANCE SERVICE: On Saturday,
 March 19, there will be a Community Penance Service at
 10:00 a.m. here at Assumption B.V.M. Church. Additional
 priests will be here to assist with confessions.



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: Baked Macaroni
 and Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Fruit Cocktail OR Tuna
 Salad on Pita, Jell-O with Banana Slices.**

SLOVAK KOLACH SALE: Your Easter Slovak Kolach **orders
 are due by next Sunday, February 28.** 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, March 19
 and Sunday, March 20.



SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Breakfast will be served
 after both Sunday Masses **next Sunday,
 February 28.** 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 or omelet, ham, sausage or bacon,
 hash brown, toast, juice, coffee, tea. Cost \$7.00 adults/\$3.00
 children. **Tickets on sale at the door.**



CEMETERY CLEAN-UP: To prepare our
 cemetery (and mausoleum) for spring and the
 Easter holiday you are asked to please remove
 your Christmas plants and decorations **by
 Saturday, March 5.** Any Christmas decorations
 left on the graves or at the mausoleum after this date will be
 discarded. If you know of any non-parishioners having graves
 or crypts on our cemetery please pass along this information.

LENTEN FISH DINNER: St. John Fisher Church will be
 hosting a Fish Dinner this 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.



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

Early Childhood Education Preview will be held
 on Saturday, March 5 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. for
 parents and children entering preschool, Pre-K, and
 Kindergarten. Learn about our programs and meet our
 accredited faculty. To reserve your place please call
 the school at 610.262.9171 or email
 mrs poccia@ptd.net.

Now Enrolling! Good Shepherd Catholic School is
 currently enrolling new students for the 2016-2017
 school year. We offer full day Kindergarten through
 Grade 8, as well as, preschool and Pre-K programs for
 3 year old and 4 year old children. If interested please
 call 610-262-9171 or email mrs poccia@ptd.net to
 schedule a school tour or shadow day!

Shepherd Gift Card Sales are held on 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.

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.

HAVE YOU NOTICED the **CareNotes** display in the back of
 the church? CareNotes offer helpful ideas and inspiration on
 dealing with some of life's most difficult moments. Please
 help yourself.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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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