

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

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2016

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 05, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Joanne Majewski	Ciecko Family
Dec. 06, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Anne Ciecko	George and Carolyn Wuchter
Dec. 07, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Patricia Reynolds	Barbara Pengitore
	7:00 p.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
Dec. 08, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Anna Plata	Son and Daughters
Dec. 09, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Members of our Memorial Fund	
Dec. 10, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Lucille Mikulcik	Husband, Paul, and Family
Dec. 11, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Michael Hillpot	Louis Tepes, Jr. Family
	10:30 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	

Next Week's Schedule:

	<u>Lector:</u>	<u>Euch. Min.:</u>	<u>Altar Servers:</u>	<u>Greeters:</u>
Dec. 07, Wed.	7:00 p.m. P. Madea	J. Nicosia		
Dec. 08, Thu.	8:00 a.m. N. Kotoris	C. Wuchter		
Dec. 10, Sat.	4:00 p.m. A. Molchany	B. Kosman	E. Meister/G. Heidecker	S. Bankos/L. Stefaniak
Dec. 11, Sun.	8:00 a.m. J. Saylor	N. Birosik	C. Confer/E. Confer/J. Confer	A. Fry/M. Kovalcik
	10:30 a.m. F. Kostecky	L. Assante	A. Miletics/G. Miletics/N. Bischof	E. Lessel/L. Shaak

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Wasyl Boruch requested by wife, Anna.

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

dear Padre:

When I was younger, my faith was very important; but lately I don't feel that closeness to God. Is this a crisis of faith?

How has your life changed since childhood? Do you feel, react, and appreciate things today as you did then? Spirituality is an ordinary part of human experience, and I hope you discover that the God of your youth, although remembered fondly, is not the God of your adult experience.

Many adults discover that their understanding, decisions, and behaviors have expanded and matured. In the interplay of the demands of society and culture, we are forced to grow and develop. What worked for us as a child of five is not usually what we would choose today.

In the spiritual journey, we are not so much forced but invited to grow and mature. Some people miss the invitation and get stuck in a rut. They may cling to childlike images of God and still expect such images to serve them well. The consequences of this are not easily recognized until moments of crisis or dramatic change, when the result is often reflected by the question, "Where is God?"

So it's not so much a crisis of faith but a realization of the desire to pursue (again) the spiritual journey. Begin to relate to God as an adult. Use your skills and knowledge to build a new relationship with God, the Church, and the community of believers. You will discover a living faith, an experience of God, that is important and meaningful for you now.

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

Monday – December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14–17 / Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday – December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Zep 3:1–2, 9–13
Mt 21:28–32

Wednesday – December 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Is 45:6b–8, 18, 21b–25
Lk 7:18b–23

Thursday – December 15

Advent Weekday
Is 54:1–10 / Lk 7:24–30

Friday – December 16

Advent Weekday
Is 56:1–3a, 6–8 / Jn 5:33–36

Saturday – December 17

Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8–10
Mt 1:1–17

Sunday – December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Is 7:10–14
Rom 1:1–7
Mt 1:18–24

Calendar:

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PREP CLASSES : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.
CHOIR REHEARSAL : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: 3rd Tues. of month @ 10 a.m.
KOLACH ORDER PICKUP : Sunday, December 10/11
PENANCE SERVICE : Sat., Dec. 10, 10:00 a.m.
DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY : Sun., December 11
BAPTISMAL PREP : Sat., January 7, 10:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST : Sunday, January 22, 2017
CONFIRMATION : Wed., March 8, 2017 4:30 p.m.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath [Week Two] – [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:** O Flower of Jesse's stem, you are the sign of salvation. *℟ - Come and deliver us; do not delay.* **Leader:** O Key of David, you open and close by your power. *℟ - Come and deliver us; do not delay.* **Leader:** O Daystar, you are the eternal light, the sun of justice. *℟ - Come and deliver us; do not delay.* **Leader:** Stir our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN. [Two purple candles are lit and left burning during the meal.]**

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Thursday, December 8, is a Holy Day of obligation, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses will be celebrated this Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 8 at 8:00 a.m.

BAPTISM: We are happy to welcome Cecilia Lucille Niebell, child of Chad and Corrine Niebell, and Violet Joy Santucci, child of Jonathan and Amy Santucci who began to share in the life of Jesus last Saturday in the Sacrament of Baptism. We will continue to pray for Cecilia Lucille and Violet Joy as they continue to grow in our faith.



"DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY": Next Sunday, December 11, 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 by Juliet Manning.**



SLOVAK KOLACH SALE: Order pick up date is **Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11.**

THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN COLLECTION for the National Appeal of Retired Religious takes place **next weekend, December 10/11.** Envelopes are contained in your packet for this special collection.



STOCKING STUFFER: Need a stocking stuffer? Or just a little something to add to a gift for that special person? 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 Mass the weekends of December 10/11, and 17/18. Calendars must be purchased prior to January 1, 2017.

MEMORIAL FUND: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Mary Lizak:** \$15 Carol Walsh; \$25 Bernice & Louis Tepes. **In memory of Alfred Nederostek:** \$20 Richard, Barbara & Joe Ebner; \$75 Alliance Volunteer Fire Company 1; \$25 Frank & Rita Sipics; \$20 Andy & Gerry Filipovits; \$10 Edward Kosciolk; \$20 Bettyann & Janet Woyewoda; \$25 M/M Martin Spanitz; \$25 Elizabeth Hanzarik; \$10 Theresa Sommers & Mary; \$10 M/M Wass Hewko; \$25 M/M Geoffrey Chambers; \$25 M/M James Piston. **In memory of Anne Ciecko:** \$50 William and Gail Danner, Jr.

COMMUNITY ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: Next Saturday, December 10 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.

CHILDREN'S 2016 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.

OPLATKY (CHRISTMAS WAFERS) are available (free will offering) in the church social hall all weekends during Advent. The 2017 Calendars, which are free, are now available in the church social hall, compliments of Schisler Funeral Home.



TURKEYS/HAMS NEEDED: The Northampton Area Food Bank is looking for donations of Turkeys or Hams to distribute to needy families for Christmas. Anyone interested in donating is asked to please call the church rectory between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at 610-262-2559.



REMEMBER THE NEEDY: Please take a tag from the "Giving Tree" which are located in the Church vestibule. The tags list items needed by the Catholic Charities Office to care for the needs of babies and their families. **Please place your unwrapped gifts under the tree by next Sunday, December 11** and we will take them to the Catholic Charities office.



VOLUNTEER GIFTS: Gifts for the following volunteers will be located in the Church Social Hall **next weekend, December 10/11:** 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. P.R.E.P. teachers gifts will be located in the classrooms. Choir gifts will be located in the choir loft!

"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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