

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2016

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 12, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Margaret E. Nederostek	Daughter, Betty, and Family
Dec. 13, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Sons and daughters of John and Mary Wanisko	John and Elizabeth Kuchera
Dec. 14, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Colette Semler	Ann Fry
Dec. 15, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Frances and Louis Pengitore	Daughter, Barbara
Dec. 16, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†John Marhefka, Sr.	Children and Families
Dec. 17, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Fred Gollatz	Mary Arduini
Dec. 18, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†John Filipovits	Wife, Ann
	10:30 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	

Next Week's Schedule:	Lector:	Euch. Min.:	Altar Servers:	Greeters:
Dec. 17, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	D. Hozza	C. Marth	D. Bassert/E. Ossiander	C. Kovacs/J. Kovacs
Dec. 18, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	C. Kroll	J. Ciecko	W. Cuchran/S. Kroll/M. Hudock	B. Cwitkowitz/M.A. Weaver
10:30 a.m.	K. Stayt	D. Maron	A. Nemeth/M. Thierer/M. Hartman	B. Skweir/M. Skweir

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of John and Rosalie Cimino requested by Daughter, Joy Nicosia, 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, Vincenzo Galluzzo, father of Dominick Galluzzo, 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.
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.
PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: Tue., January 17, 10:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST : Sunday, January 22, 2017
CONFIRMATION : Wed., March 8, 2017 4:30 p.m.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath [Week Three] – [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 Desired One of the nations, may we always be awake and alert to your coming. *℟ - Come and make us one.*

Leader: O Judge of the living and the dead, reward us according to our deeds. *℟ - Come and make us one.* **Leader:** O Bringer of Salvation, fill us with joyful longing for your coming. *℟ - Come and make us one.* **Leader:** Lord, hear our prayers and come to us, bringing light into the darkness of our hearts; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN. [Two purple candles and the one rose candle are lighted and left burning during the meal.]**

BAPTISM: We are happy to welcome Mona Marie Burdis, child of Neil and Michele Burdis who began to share in the life of Jesus last Sunday in the Sacrament of Baptism. We will continue to pray for Mona Marie as she continues to grow in our faith.



"DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY": Today, 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.**

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will take place on **Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 10:00 am** in the Parish Religious Education classroom.



VOLUNTEER GIFTS: Gifts for the following volunteers are located in the Church Social Hall: 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.

CHILDREN'S 2017 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.



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



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.

CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS:

Anyone who would like to help with the Christmas decorating is asked to come to the Church **on Sunday, December 18, at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided on Sunday.**

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

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.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church.

Victim Assistance Coordinator
 CONFIDENTIAL TELEPHONE NUMBER
 1-800-791-9209

To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndioocese.org and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

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