

# 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.....	484-226-0188	Youth Activities	Deborah Heckenberger...	610-760-9491

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

Jan. 09, Monday		No Mass
Jan. 10, Tuesday	11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass of Christian Burial – Rev. Francis P. Straka</b>
Jan. 11, Wednesday		No Mass
Jan. 12, Thursday		No Mass
Jan. 13, Friday		No Mass
Jan. 14, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†John Zampino
Jan. 15, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Edna Halcin
	10:30 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners

Karen Stefanick  
Fred and Rose Hurban

<b><u>Next Week's Schedule:</u></b>	<b><u>Lector:</u></b>	<b><u>Euch. Min.:</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Servers:</u></b>	<b><u>Greeters:</u></b>
Jan. 14, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	J. Saylor	C. Marth	S. Haldeman/M. Warren/J. Warren	C. Kovacs/J. Kovacs
Jan. 15, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	P. Madea	M. Sommer	J. Millan/N. Millan	B. Cwitkowitz/M.A. Weaver
10:30 a.m.	F. Kostecy	D. Maron	M. Cuchran/C. Cuchran	B. Skweir/M. Skweir

**SANCTUARY LIGHTS** are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of John and Mary Wanisko requested by John and Elizabeth Kuchera.

**PLEASE PRAY** for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish. Also remember in your prayers our pastor, Rev. Francis P. Straka, who died this past week.

dear Padre:

***If God wants everyone to believe in him, why doesn't God offer undeniable proof of his existence? Surely more would join the Church if adequate proof were available?***

Perhaps what is missing is the ability to perceive and understand the evidence before our eyes. In the Catechism we are taught that God “provides men with constant evidence of himself in created realities” (CCC 54).

Despite the evidence, however, God does seem to be hidden from the sight of some. Why might this be? Again, the Catechism offers an important truth: While faith is a grace, it is also dependent on the “free assent” of the human person to accept what God has revealed (CCC 150). Faith is a gift, but it is also a human act: “Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace” (CCC 155; see Summa Theologica, II-II.2.9).

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31), Abraham declares to the rich man, “If they [his brothers] will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead” (16:31). So evidence of God's presence, the witness of the Church, and even the most persuasive arguments might not be enough to convince every person to come to faith.

Fr. Tom Santa, CSsR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

**Monday – January 9**

The Baptism of the Lord  
Is 42:1–4, 6–7  
Mt 3:13–17

**Tuesday – January 10**

Weekday  
Heb 2:5–12  
Mk 1:21–28

**Wednesday – January 11**

Weekday  
Heb 2:14–18  
Mk 1:29–39

**Thursday – January 12**

Weekday  
Heb 3:7–14  
Mk 1:40–45

**Friday – January 13**

Weekday  
Heb 4:1–5, 11  
Mk 2:1–12

**Saturday – January 14**

Weekday  
Heb 4:12–16 / Mk 2:13–17

**Sunday – January 15**

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 49:3, 5–6 / 1 Cor 1:1–3  
Jn 1:29–34

**Calendar:**

**PREP CLASSES** : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.  
**CHOIR REHEARSAL** : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.  
**PRAYER SHAWL MEETING**: Tue., January 17, 10:00 a.m.  
**BREAKFAST** : Sunday, January 22, 2017  
**BAPTISMAL PREP** : Sat., February 4, 10:00 a.m.  
**CONFIRMATION** : Wed., March 8, 2017 4:30 p.m.

**BLESSING OF A HOME ON THE EPIPHANY: The leader begins:** ✧ *In the name of the Father... Peace be with this house and with all who live here.* **All respond:** And also with you. **The leader introduces the blessing:** *During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding at Cana. Today Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place. Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to John: "In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, And without him nothing came to be. And the Word became flesh And he made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. This is the Gospel of the Lord."* **All respond:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. **After a short silence, the leader continues:** *O God, by your heavenly star, you guided those who were wise to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. May your blessing come to rest on our home and all of us. Make our lives wise with your wisdom, true to your teaching, and enlivened by your love. May your Word made flesh make his home among us. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN. Everyone then processes from one room to another. In each room, God's blessing is asked on all that takes place in that room. Holy Water is sprinkled. The front and rear door frames are marked: 20 + C + M + B + 17.* [The traditional names of the 3 Kings are: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.]



**SUNDAY BREAKFAST:** Breakfast will be served after both Sunday Masses on **Sunday, January 22**. 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. **This month's special is Creamed Chipped Beef on Toast. Tickets on sale at the door.**

**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.

**GIFT CARD BINGO: Next Sunday, January 15,** (snow date is January 22) Good Shepherd Catholic School will be having their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual School Bingo. This year the prizes will be featuring \$100 gift cards and items from local businesses, restaurants, and department stores. The doors open at 11:30 a.m. and bingo begins at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. The kitchen will be open with a variety of foods and baked goods. There will also be a Chinese auction. Please contact the GSCS office for tickets or call Kelly Milisits at 610-462-2679. Please consider coming to our event to support our regional school. All proceeds benefit Good Shepherd Catholic School.

**Funeral arrangements for Rev. Francis P. Straka**

Calling hours: Sunday, January 8 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 Assumption B.V.M. Church  
 Vigil Service: Sunday, January 8 7:00 p.m.  
 Assumption B.V.M. Church  
 Calling hours: Tuesday, January 10 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 Assumption B.V.M. Church  
 Mass of Christian Burial: Tuesday, January 10 11:00 a.m.

**SOUPER SUNDAY OF CARING:** On Super Bowl weekend, February 4/5, students from our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P.) will be present at all Masses collecting funds for the Northampton Area Food Bank. Throughout the country Billions of dollars will be spent to celebrate the Super Bowl. Can you afford \$5 or \$10 to help feed the needy? Drop your donations in the soup pots that the teens will be holding after all Masses on Super Bowl weekend.

**NORTHAMPTON AREA FOOD BANK** will hold a Designer Bag Bingo on **Sunday, February 5, 2017** in the Good Shepherd Catholic School Gym, 1300 Newport Avenue, Northampton. There will be 20 games for \$20 and five specials for \$5. Chinese Auction - 50/50 - Door prizes - Mystery Envelope Game - Cash Drawing - Food. Doors open at 12:00 p.m. and Bingo will begin at 2:00 p.m. All paper bingo. Additional boards are available for purchase. To purchase tickets or for more information contact: Pam Kametz at 610-439-4814. "Snow Date: Sunday, February 12."



**YOUNG-AT-HEART NEWS:** The next meeting of the Young-at-Heart will be on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 in the church social hall.

**ASSUMPTION B.V.M. 2016 OFFERING STATEMENTS**

will be mailed the week of January 9 to those who contributed \$1000 or more during 2016. If you desire a statement of your 2016 contributions and your contributions are under \$1000 please complete this form and drop it in the collection basket or place it in your church envelope any Sunday during the month of January.

ENVELOPE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

**SACRED HEART SENIOR LIVING by the creek**  
 Sacred Heart Senior Living  
 Assisted & Independent Living  
 Northampton – 610-262-4300  
 "Excellence in Living with Sacred Heart Care"  
 Please patronize our bulletin advertisers



**BREAKFAST**  
Sunday, January 22, 2017



**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**

**Creamed Chipped Beef & Hash Brown**

**Includes: Juice, Toast, Coffee or Tea**