

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



PARISH INFORMATION

Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Koons, Administrator
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 Msgr. Koons 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	Msgr. Koons.....	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	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559
Bible Study	Msgr. Koons.....	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	Msgr. Koons.....	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.	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Mary LaBianca.....	610-502-0160
Eucharistic Ministers	Joanne Manning.....	610-262-2559	Pro-Life Activities	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559
Finance Committee	Drew Maron.....	610-261-4705	Religious Education	Linda Santucci.....	610-262-7343
First Friday Adoration	Msgr. Koons.....	610-262-2559	RENEW Group	Charlie Walsh.....	610-837-0376
Fund Raising	Barbara Pengitore.....	610-262-3193	RCIA	Msgr. Koons.....	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:

Apr. 03, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Hannah Bankos	Sue and Chuck Albert and Family
Apr. 04, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Vincent Santucci, Sr.	Son Vinnie’s PREP Family
Apr. 05, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	†Gisella Herman	Daughter, Cindy, and Family
Apr. 06, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Annie Onkotz	Assumption B.V.M. Young-at-Heart
Apr. 07, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Andrew and Margaret Nederostek	Son, Stephen, Christine and Family
Apr. 08, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
Apr. 09, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Mike Plata, Sr.	Daughters
	10:30 a.m.	†Frank Geosits	Stella Wolfer

Next Week’s Schedule:	Lector:	Euch. Min.:	Altar Servers:	Greeters:
Apr. 08, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	S. Parker	Deacon Gene	E. Meister/G. Heidecker/N. Bischof	C. Kovacs/J. Kovacs
Apr. 09, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	M. Heist	Deacon Gene	W. Cuchran/S. Kroll/M. Hudock	B. Cwitkowitz/M.A. Weaver
10:30 a.m.	P. Madea	Deacon Gene	M. Cuchran/C. Cuchran/M. Thierer	B. Skweir/M. Skweir

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Anne Ciecko requested by Joanne and Juliet.

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

dear Padre:

What happened to “hellfire and brimstone” preaching, like I remember from parish missions in my younger years?

Hellfire and brimstone recalls Genesis 19:24: “The Lord rained down sulfur upon Sodom and Gomorrah, fire from the Lord out of heaven.” It refers to a harsh preaching style and “doom and gloom” content focused on God’s wrath, punishment, and hell. Puritans—those English Calvinists who colonized Massachusetts in the 1600s—adhered strongly to their belief in eternal damnation, innate sin, and diabolical power. Likewise, American Baptists were known to “out-Calvin Calvin” in their preaching.

While Catholics also adhere strongly to our belief in the possibility of eternal damnation, innate sin, and evil forces, we believe in the grace of baptism to remove original sin, the outpouring of God’s grace to strengthen our weakness due to original sin, and in the extraordinary power of conversion to prevent everlasting damnation. To that end, parish missions and revivals strengthen the spiritual life of the faithful and welcome lapsed Catholics.

Preaching orders have been conducting missions since their earliest days in America. Saint Alphonsus encouraged his Redemptorist missionaries to be lions in the pulpit and lambs in the confessional. One preacher in the 1850s described the fires of hell with such intensity that the nearby fire engine crew was mistakenly dispatched to the church to extinguish the conflagration. Yet the fire most desirable during a mission is the one in people’s hearts for God. “Fear of God” means a dread for God’s judgment, but it can also mean a reverential marvel for God. Many preachers today prefer to instill that awe for God’s inviting mercy instead of a paralyzing fear of God’s anger.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Calendar:

- Monday – April 3**
Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62
Jn 8:1–11
- Tuesday – April 4**
Lenten Weekday
Nm 21:4–9
Jn 8:21–30
- Wednesday – April 5**
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95
Jn 8:31–42
- Thursday – April 6**
Lenten Weekday
Gn 17:3–9
Jn 8:51–59
- Friday – April 7**
Lenten Weekday
Jer 20:10–13
Jn 10:31–42
- Saturday – April 8**
Lenten Weekday
Ez 37:21–28
Jn 11:45–56
- Sunday – April 9**
Palm Sunday
Is 50:4–7
Phil 2:6–11
Mt 26:14–27:66

PREP CLASSES : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.
STATIONS OF THE CROSS : Wednesdays after 7 p.m. Mass
CHOIR REHEARSAL : Wednesdays, 7:45 p.m.
SLOVAK KOLACH PICKUP : Sat./Sun., April 8 & 9
DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY : Sunday, April 9

BLESSING OF FOOD : Saturday, April 15, 12:00 noon
PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: Tue., April 18, 10:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST : Sunday, April 23
BAPTISMAL PREP : Sat., June 3, 10:00 a.m.
IRON PIGS GAME : Tuesday, August 8
CHURCH PICNIC : Sunday, September 10

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. **Confessions:** Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.; Saturdays from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE: Please see the enclosed insert for our Holy Week Masses and Services.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: This week's menu: Yankee Bean Soup, Saltines, Fresh Orange OR Cheese Ravioli with Tomato Sauce, Peach Slices.



DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER:

We will begin decorating the church for Easter Sunday on Good Friday, April 14, after the 3:00 p.m. services. Any anyone wishing to help, your assistance would be appreciated.

MEMORIAL FUND: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Rev. Francis P. Straka:** \$25 Donald and Marie Genovese. **In memory of Elizabeth Strongowski:** \$50 Joann and Bernard Nederostek.

SLOVAK KOLACH SALE: Your Easter Season Slovak Kolach orders will be ready for pickup **next weekend of Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9** in the church social hall.



"DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY": On Sunday, April 9, 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, jars of peanut butter, boxes of Jell-O or pudding.** Your gifts will be brought to the altar during the preparation of the gifts. This month's coffee and donuts are being donated by Joy and Sal Nicosia in memory of their son, James Nicosia.



SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Breakfast will be served after both Sunday Masses on Sunday, April 23. 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, omelet or cheese steak omelet, ham, sausage or bacon, hash browns, 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.

HAMS NEEDED: The Northampton Area Food Bank is looking for donations of Hams to distribute to needy families for Easter. 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.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION: On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual collection for the Holy Land. We ask you to be generous. Your financial contribution will support the works of the Catholic Community in the Middle East and to protect the Holy Places and Christian shrines. There is an envelope in your packet for this special collection.



NIGHT AT THE BALL GAME: Come and enjoy an Iron Pigs baseball game on Tuesday, August 8 on the Party Porch, 1st base line, at Coca-Cola Park, 1050 Ironpigs Way, Allentown hosted by B.V.M. Choir. Food will be available from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Game starts at 7:05 p.m. Cost is \$37 per person and is due at time of reservation. Deadline for reservations is Saturday, July 1. For more information please call Jane Spengler at 610-262-8138.

Now Enrolling! Good Shepherd Catholic School is currently enrolling new students for the 2017-2018 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!

GSCS 6th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: It's time to put your foursome together, round up your friends, family and co-workers. **Good Shepherd Catholic School will be holding their 6th Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, May 6, 2017** at Willow Brook Golf Course in Catasauqua. Please pick up a sign up sheet in the church vestibule or if you have any questions please contact Tim Egan at 610-261-4649 or Pat Wright at 484-221-5044.

ANNUAL NORTHAMPTON FOOD BANK MEETING: The Northampton Area Food Bank will hold its yearly general meeting, Tuesday, April 25 in the fellowship hall of Queenship of Mary Church, 1324 Newport Avenue, Northampton. Dinner will be served 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. with the business meeting to follow. The menu includes hot dogs, barbeque and drinks. Covered side dishes and desserts welcome. If you want to know more about the food bank, are interested in volunteering or are currently volunteering there, please plan to attend. Area churches and businesses are encouraged to have members and employees attend.

HEALTH FAIR: St. Francis of Assisi Church will hold their 16th Annual Health Fair on Sunday, April 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in their newly remodeled Church Hall, 1046 W. Cedar Street, Allentown. Information – Testing – Demonstrations – Massages. For more information please call 610-433-6102.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Reichel Funeral Home

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Kevin S. Reichel, Owner/Director

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BREAKFAST



Sunday, April 23, 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 on Toast

Includes: Juice, Toast, Coffee or Tea