

# 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

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

Feb. 29, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Hannah Bankos	Steve Morekin and Kristi
Mar. 01, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†F. Parker Lessel	M/M John Kozero
Mar. 02, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	†Rev. Michael Begany	Rev. Francis P. Straka
Mar. 03, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Members of our Memorial Fund	
Mar. 04, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Family and Friends of Katherine Benarcik	
Mar. 05, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Mary Poandl	Family
Mar. 06, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
	10:30 a.m.	†Colette Semler	Assumption B.V.M. Choir

<b>Next Week's Schedule:</b>	<b>Lector:</b>	<b>Euch. Min.:</b>	<b>Altar Servers:</b>	<b>Greeters:</b>
Mar. 05, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	C. Fisher	R. Shearman	A. Weber/A. Paul/B. Paul	S. Bankos/L. Stefaniak
Mar. 06, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	P. Madea	N. Birosik	E. Confer/J. Confer/C. Confer	A. Fry/M. Kovalcik
10:30 a.m.	E. Hozza	C. Walsh	A. Nemeth/P. Hunsicker/S. Heidecker	E. Lessel/L. Shaak

**SANCTUARY LIGHTS** are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Louise Kotoris requested by Daughter, Nikki.

**PLEASE PRAY** for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Joseph Yurish, brother of John Yurish, who died this past week.

# dear Padre:

## Can we donate our bodies or have them cremated?

*Can I donate my body to science after death? What about cremation?*

Some find Catholic funerals odd. We sprinkle the deceased with holy water and bless the body with incense. We pray over burial sites and put a white cloth over the caskets. If a person is dead, why do we care about the "empty shell?"

Many Christians think God is only concerned with our souls, but Scripture has a surprising amount of teaching on the sacredness of the body. Saint Paul writes, "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?...Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?" (1 Corinthians 6:15, 19). What we do with and to our bodies is important. God loves us as bodily creatures—he made us that way!

Christ's body was raised with him, and so will ours (1 Corinthians 15). We honor God when we revere our bodies as destined for glory. So as long as we treat them with "respect and charity," the Church permits us to use our bodies to help others after death:

"The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy.... Autopsies can be morally permitted for legal inquests or scientific research. The free gift of organs after death is legitimate and can be meritorious. The Church permits cremation, provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body" (CCC 2300-01)

FR. MATTHEW BONK, CSsR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

## Calendar:

### Monday – February 29

*Lenten Weekday*  
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab  
Lk 4:24-30

### Tuesday – March 1

*Lenten Weekday*  
Dn 3:25, 34-43  
Mt 18:21-35

### Wednesday – March 2

*Lenten Weekday*  
Dt 4:1, 5-9  
Mt 5:17-19

### Thursday – March 3

*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 7:23-28  
Lk 11:14-23

### Friday – March 4

*Lenten Weekday*  
Hos 14:2-10  
Mk 12:28-34

### Saturday – March 5

*Lenten Weekday*  
Hos 6:1-6  
Lk 18:9-14

### Sunday – March 6

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
Jos 5:9a, 10-12  
2 Cor 5:17-21  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**PREP CLASSES** : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.  
**PRAYER SHAWL MEETING**: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of month @ 10 a.m.  
**CHOIR REHEARSAL** : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.  
**7<sup>th</sup> 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.  
**PENANCE SERVICE** : Sat., March 19, 10:00 a.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 1<sup>st</sup> 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: Corn Chowder, Rye Crisps, Fresh Apple OR Baked Cheddar Cheese Stuffed Potato, Pineapple Chunks.**

**SLOVAK KOLACH SALE:** Your Easter Slovak Kolach orders are due by today, 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 **today, 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.**

**MEMORIAL FUND:** Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Theresa Acerra:** \$10 Michael Sommer.

**THANK YOU:** The John Yurish Family would like to express their gratitude to the parishioners of Assumption B.V.M. Your many acts of kindness, prayers, memorial donations, sympathy cards or Mass cards on the sad occasion of the death of Joseph Yurish, are greatly appreciated.



**"DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY":** On Sunday, March 13, 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 jars of peanut butter, 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 in memory of Annette Yurish by her family and friends.**



**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 next 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.



**YOUNG-AT-HEART NEWS:** The next meeting of the Young-at-Heart will be on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 in the church social hall.

**Early Childhood Education Preview** will be held **next 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](mailto: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](mailto:mrs poccia@ptd.net) to schedule a school tour or shadow day!

**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

**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, 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