

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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2016

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 26, Monday		NO MASS	
Dec. 27, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Frank Yezzo	Wife, Bonnie, and Family
Dec. 28, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Alfred Nederostek	Lenny and Paula Kosciolek
Dec. 29, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Raymie Semler	Family
Dec. 30, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Helen Farkas	Mary Arduini
Dec. 31, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Members of the Anna and Frank Farkas Family	
Jan. 01, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
	10:30 a.m.	†Helen Siekonic	Perry, Heidi and Ron Koch, Jr.

Next Week's Schedule:

	<u>Lector:</u>	<u>Euch. Min.:</u>	<u>Altar Servers:</u>	<u>Greeters:</u>
Dec. 31, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	C. Fisher	B. Kosman	G. Heidecker/E. Meister	M. Bitenc/I. Gollatz
Jan. 01, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	T. Kovalchik	K. Bennett	M. Hudock/S. Kroll	J. Haldeman/M. Rossini
10:30 a.m.	E. Hozza	B. Fritz	B. DelVecchio/A. Miletics/G. Miletics	J. DelVecchio/C. Marano

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Assunta and Pasquale Moccio requested by granddaughter, Nikki.

PLEASE PRAY for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish. Also remember in your prayers, Frances Peters and Bernard Payonk, brother of John Payonk, who died recently.

dear Padre:

Should a Catholic school teach both evolution and creation?

A Catholic school should teach in a style that conveys Catholic Tradition. It also cannot ignore the insights and questions or the disagreements and misunderstandings that occur when the arts and sciences rub shoulders with Catholic teachings and perspectives. Our belief in God's creation of humanity and the scientific understanding of evolution are not fundamentally at odds with one another, as long as our Catholic vision of life is preserved. However, "faith obliges us to hold that souls are immediately created by God" (Humani Generis, 36).

Science is the careful study of details and theories that leads to the development of generalized statements (or hypotheses). If so many scientists, many of whom are people of faith, can intellectually justify the creation of humans through an evolutionary process, this itself shows the application of thought and discovery to deepen an understanding of our world and ourselves.

We need our faith to harmonize with other branches of knowledge, and this means respecting their proper domain of research and methods. It would seem prudent for a Catholic school to teach evolution in science class and the stories of creation in religion class. A calm, reasoned discussion that respects the limits of each discipline and espouses a unified search for God's revealed truths would be best. The attitude should be that evolution and creation are not mutually exclusive but complementary explanations for our human origins that arise from different perspectives.

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

Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Tuesday - December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4 / Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Wednesday - December 28
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5–2:2 / Mt 2:13–18

Thursday - December 29
Fifth Day in the Octave of
Christmas
1 Jn 2:3–11 / Lk 2:22–35

Friday - December 30
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Saturday - December 31
Seventh Day in the Octave of
Christmas
1 Jn 2:18–21 / Jn 1:1–18

Sunday - January 1
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother
of God
Nm 6:22–27
Gal 4:4–7 / Lk 2:16–21

Calendar:

Monday - December 26

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

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

A Christmas Tree Blessing: Father in Heaven, we thank you for your goodness. Bless this tree that we have decorated in honor of your Son's birth among us: let its lights remind us that he is Lord, and its decorations recall our joy. Grant that we may receive him as our Savior, and continue to give you glory by our lives. We ask this grace, Father in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



A Christmas Crib Blessing: Blessed are you, Lord God, king of all creation: we praise you for your love. We thank you because you have loved us so much that you sent your only Son to bring us eternal life. Bless this crib that we have prepared, and let it be a reminder to us of the Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. Father, we praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECTORY OFFICE will be closed Friday, December 23 thru Monday, December 26 for Christmas. Also, the rectory office will be closed Friday, December 30 thru Monday, January 2 for New Year's.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: The new Altar Server Albs, now being worn by the Altar Servers, were donated in memory of Connie Marth by her family and friends.

DID YOU NOTICE the beautiful landscape around the church rectory which was an Eagle Scout project under the direction of Dalton Bassert of Boy Scout Troop 79? Thank you to: Teenworks and United Way for the grant that made this project possible, Boy Scout Troop 79 for their contributions throughout the duration of this project, and Mr. Steirer and Artistic Treescapes for the installation of the new stone boarder on the 22nd Street side of the rectory. To Dalton Bassert and his parents, Maria and Robert, we thank you for a job well done.

BAPTISM: We are happy to welcome Haylie Rose Stevens child of Jourdan Seeley and Darrin Stevens who began to share in the life of Jesus this past Sunday in the Sacrament of Baptism. We will continue to pray for Haylie Rose as she continues to grow in our faith.

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.

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.

LOTTERY CALENDARS: 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 Masses New Year's weekend, December 31/January 1. This will be the last chance to purchase the calendars.

MEMORIAL FUND: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Anne Ciecko:** \$350 Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra. **In memory of Mary Lizak:** \$100 Dann and Patricia Smith.

Assumption B.V.M. Church Annual Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 10, 2017
EGYPT MEMORIAL PARK
begins with a Mass at 11:00 a.m.,
continues with music, games and food until 7:00 p.m.
Featuring the music of "The Pennsylvania Villagers"
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS THANKS:

THANKS: Father Straka expresses his thanks to all who sent cards and gifts to the rectory, for all who helped clean and decorate the church, for all who assisted at our Christmas Masses, for the choir, and for everyone who through their personal sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure, made our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord so meaningful.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU is extended to all the volunteers who helped with our fund raisers during the year. The monthly Breakfast, Basket Social, Church Picnic, Kolach Sales and Lottery Calendars would not be a success without the help of the dedicated volunteers. Thank you once again for all your help in making these fund raisers a success.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE SHUT-INS to all the parishioners who sent Christmas Cards and for their prayers. Also to Father Straka and all the Eucharistic Ministers who visit us. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU to the B.V.M. Young-at-Heart for their donation of \$500 to our church.

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: _____

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