

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARYCHURCH



PARISH INFORMATION

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Koons, Pastor
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. Susan Parker, Director 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. 2019

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.

Confessions

Saturday 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 or by request

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	Lectors	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559
Adult Prayer Group	Vincent Santucci.....610-262-8428	Ministry to the Sick	Msgr. Koons.....610-262-2559
Altar Servers	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559	Music Ministry/Choir	Karen Glose.....610-691-0525
Baptismal Prep Classes	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559	Nthmp Area Food Bank	Bella Skweir.....610-262-2673
Blood Drive	Deborah Heckenberger...610-760-9491	Parish Family Picnic	Msgr. Koons.....610-262-2559
Chi-Rho Volunteers	Jane Spengler.....610-262-8138	Persons w/Disabilities Rep.	Susan Parker.....610-262-7343
Church Cleaning Teams	Barbara Pengitore.....610-262-3193	Prayer Chain	Priscilla Koch.....610-428-9053
CYO	Tim Gribb610-762-9072	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.....610-393-9126	Religious Education	Susan Parker.....610-262-7343
Fund Raising	Barbara Pengitore.....610-262-3193	RENEW Group	Charlie Walsh.....610-837-0376
Grocery Certificates	GSCS Office.....610-262-9171	RCIA	Msgr. Koons.....610-262-2559
Greeters	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559	Ushers	Michael Sommer.....610-262-7904
Grief Support	Rosemarie Pengitore.....484-226-0188	Young at Heart	Anna Hudock.....610-262-3478
Hospitality Committee	Jane Spengler.....610-262-8138	Youth Activities	Deborah Heckenberger...610-760-9491
Knights of Columbus Council #4050484-540-5090		

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 24, Monday	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass – Special Intention	Msgr. Koons
	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass – †Rev. Francis P. Straka	Fred and Rose Hurban
Dec. 25, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass – †Rose Zastko	Anna Palonski
	10:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass – Living and deceased members of our parish	
Dec. 26, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	†James Kovacs	Rita Pavlick
Dec. 27, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Frank Yezzo	Wife, Bonnie and Family
Dec. 28, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Members of our Memorial Fund	
Dec. 29, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Elizabeth Strongowski	Rita and Ron Deutsch
Dec. 30, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased members of our parish	
	10:30 a.m.	†Colette and Raymie Semler	Family

Christmas and

Next Week's Schedule: Lector:

	Lector:	Euch. Min.:	Altar Servers:	Greeters:
Dec. 24, Mon.	4:00 p.m. M.E. Schwartz	B. Kosman/L. Kosciolęk/T. Melosky	A. Nederostek/G. Heidecker	M. Bitenc/L. Stefaniak
	9:00 p.m. D. Hozza	M. Sommer/D. Maron/C. Walsh	N. Millan/J. & M. Warren	B. & M. Skweir
Dec. 25, Tue.	8:00 a.m. A. Molchany	F. Cerino	W. Cuchran/S. Kroll	B. Cwitkowitz/M. Weaver
	10:30 a.m. P. Madea	L. Assante	A. & G. Miletics/A. Colandrea	A. Fry
Dec. 29, Sat.	4:00 p.m. S. Parker	B. Fritz	M. Hartman	M. Bitenc/I. Gollatz
Dec. 30, Sun.	8:00 a.m. T. Kovalchik	J. Ciecko	K. Cuchran	J. Haldeman/M. Rossini
	10:30 a.m. L. Nemeth	L. Santucci	G. Heidecker	J. DelVecchio/R. Marakovits

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

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

Good News!

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

God is often present in the little, hidden things of life. Take for example the small town of Bethlehem. This place barely appeared on the maps of the time. Yet in this dull town, overlooked by all, God wished to be born. God isn't into bling.

In her womb the Virgin Mary quietly carried the Light of the World, but it happened in a way unknown to anyone. He is the Light of the World, shining to catch our attention, but he does so in silence, humility, and intimacy.

There is a second aspect of the Incarnation to learn here. Christmas was about a real sacrifice. Mary and Jesus offered their very selves. Hebrews says it wasn't an animal or a wheat offering but Jesus' very body and blood. The same for Mary, as it was her life, her virginity, her very intimacy, that she was opening to God when she agreed to be the mother of the Lord. It's easy to be generous when it doesn't touch too close to home.

So try not to look for glitz and externals this Christmas but for God's hidden presence. And imitate Jesus and Mary by giving of your very self. It's not about a fast, a donation, or extra prayers—as good as those Advent practices are. But all of this prepares us to give our very selves to him in trust through the hidden acts of love of every day.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Calendar:

Monday - December 24

Advent Weekday

2 Sm 7:1-5,
8b-12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday - December 25

Christmas

Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday - December 26

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

Thursday - December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Friday - December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2
Mt 2:13-18

Saturday - December 29

Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Sunday - December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21
Lk 2:41-52

Rel. Ed. Classes : Sundays, 9:00 - 10:05 a.m.
Prayer Shawl Meeting : 3rd Tues. of month @ 10 a.m.
7th & 8th Grade Rel. Ed. : Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Baptismal Preparation Class: Wed., Jan. 9, 5:30 p.m.
Donut/Giving Sunday : Sunday, January 13
Breakfast : Sunday, January 27
Confirmation : Tuesday, March 12 at 4:30 p.m.
BVM Night – Iron Pigs : Thursday, August 22, 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE: On Christmas Eve starting at 8:30 p.m. the Choir will sing Christmas Carols. Come and enjoy the caroling followed by our Eucharistic Celebration at 9:00 p.m. Merry Christmas!



Lighting of the Advent Wreath [Week Four] – [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: Prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth with joy. *℟ - Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Inspire in us sincere conversion and repentance. *℟ - Christ, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Help the poor, afflicted, and oppressed this Christmas season. *℟ - Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN. [Three purple candles and the one rose candle are lit and left burning during the meal.]**



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 Monday, December 24 thru Wednesday, December 26 for Christmas. Also, the rectory office will be closed Monday, December 31 thru Wednesday, January 2 for New Year's.

LOTTERY CALENDARS: The Parish Fund Raising Committee is sponsoring a monthly lottery calendar for January 2019. The calendars are \$5 each and the winners are based on the **evening daily** Pennsylvania Lottery number. Calendars will be on sale before Masses next weekend, December 29/30; Monday, December 31 before the 4:00 p.m. Mass and Tuesday, January 1 before the 9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Mass. **This will be the last chance to purchase the calendars.**

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
New Year's Eve	4:00 p.m.
New Year's Day	8:00 a.m.

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM: Please keep saving your Redner's Save-A-Tape Receipts by using your Save-A-Tape Card. If you don't have one, just ask the cashier during your next shopping trip. Our church receives 1% for items you purchase, just by turning in your receipts. **So far this year we have received \$3,348.43. Just think, that's almost \$3,350.00** received from pieces of paper you would normally throw in the garbage. Please place your **full receipts** in the containers located in the church vestibule.

Assumption B.V.M. Church Annual Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 8, 2019
EGYPT MEMORIAL PARK
begins with a Mass at 11:00 a.m.,
continues with music, games and food
until 7:00 p.m.



SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Breakfast will be served after both Sunday Masses **on Sunday, January 27.** 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.**

"DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY": Sunday, January 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 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 Bill Farkas by wife, Gloria, son, George & family and daughter, Valarie Gross & family.**

SAVE ALUMINUM PULLTABS – Save the pull tabs from cans of soda and bring them to the church. Place them in the receptacle in the lobby of the church. Tabs will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia. The tabs are recycled and generate income to defray the cost of running the Ronald McDonald House, where parents of chronically ill children stay while their children are being treated in nearby hospitals.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK
NORTHAMPTON SELF SERVE CAR WASH
 Open 7 Days - 24 Hours
 Area's Newest Touchless Automatic Wash
 542 East 21st Street Northampton
Please patronize our bulletin advertisers



BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 27, 2019

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