

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



PARISH INFORMATION

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Koons, Pastor
Mrs. Karen Glose, Director of Music
Mrs. Mary LaBianca, Adult Choir Director
Mrs. Susan Parker, 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 E-Mail: bvm1922@rcn.com

Rectory Fax: 610-262-1613
Website: www.bvm-northampton.com

Religious Education: 610-262-7343
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: Ms. Pamela Russo, MSW, MS
Secretary for Youth Protection
Telephone: 610-871-5200 Ext. 2204
Email: prusso@allentowndiocese.org

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]
6:45 a.m.; 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 are always welcome and are asked to register at the rectory. Please notify the rectory if you change your address, phone number, or move out of the parish.

Communion to the Sick

Communion is taken to the sick after the Sunday Masses and during the month. The Anointing of the Sick is celebrated with individual homebound parishioners several times a year or at your request. 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.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 13/14, 2021

Daily Masses

Mar. 15,	Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Janice Kuhenbecker	Friend
Mar. 16,	Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Debbie Nothstein	Louis Tepes, Jr. Family
Mar. 17,	Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Mary Bankos	Daughter, Ann
		6:30 p.m.	†Paul Kovach, Jr.	Joe and Arlene Schwartz
Mar. 18,	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Michael James Janis	Mom and Dad and Family
Mar. 19,	Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Minnie Preisler	Mary Ann Holmes and Family
Mar. 20,	Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Jonathan Keller	Family
Mar. 21,	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
		10:30 a.m.	†Carol Kinney	Steve and Ann Marie Kinney

Sanctuary Lights are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Mary Bankos requested by Daughter, Ann.

Please pray for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Richard Klink, brother of John Klink, who died recently.

From the Pastor

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23; Eph 2:4–10; Jn 3:14–21

The first reading this 4th Sunday of Lent begins with rather startling words: “all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD’s temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.” What happened subsequently was the destruction of King Solomon’s Temple (the 1st Temple) in Jerusalem and the exile of the people to a foreign land, Babylon. Within a few generations, the people were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple (2nd Temple), although much more modestly. At the time of the public ministry of Jesus, the expansion and refurbishment of the Temple had been going on for 46 years, under the reign of King Herod. Jesus was about 30 ½ years old when He said, in the 2nd Chapter of Saint John’s Gospel, “destroy this temple, and I will raise it in three days.”

The 2nd temple was actually completed by the year 63 A.D., but only seven years later, it was permanently destroyed by the Romans in the year 70 A.D. However, the “3rd Temple” had already been under ‘construction’: when Jesus died on the cross, “behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split...” (Matthew 27:51) This sign was that the new and permanent “temple” was that of Christ, crucified (sacrificed), died, and buried, now risen from the dead. The “holy of Holies” was revealed from beyond the torn veil to show us God’s mercy, forgiveness, and love in the temple of Christ’s Body. For “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”

Pope Francis, on December 8, 2020, instituted a Year dedicated to Saint Joseph. This coming Friday, March 19, is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. Bishop Schlert will announce for our diocese a Year dedicated to the Real Presence beginning on Divine Mercy Sunday 2021 and concluding on Corpus Christi Sunday 2022.

In these religious themes, we see the “Temple” of Christ’s Body as His permanent, REAL presence. Saint Joseph was chosen by God to protect and nourish and bring to full manhood the Son of God, along with His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Because God so loved us, He enters into our own lives really and substantially in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, the Holy Eucharist, the sacred Bread of Angels which sustains the “temple” of our own bodies, minds and souls. We are indeed, because of our Baptism, “temples of the Holy Spirit.” And where the Spirit is, so is the Father and the Son. Hence, Jesus has zeal for our own holiness. He wants us to be purified more so than He wanted the Temple to be purified (see last week’s Gospel).

Let us enter into both the Year of Saint Joseph, protector of the Son of God, protector and Patron of the Church, as well as the upcoming Year of the Real Presence to begin the Sunday after Easter. Let us “live the truth [and] come to the light, so that [our] works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

God bless you! Monsignor Koons

Rel. Ed. Classes..... Sundays, 9:00 – 10:05 a.m.
7th & 8th Grade Rel. Ed... Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Adoration..... Wednesdays after Mass
First Friday Adoration.... after Mass
Church Picnic..... Sun., **September 12, 2021**

Lenten Activities:

Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Adoration: Following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesdays until 9:15 a.m.

Additional Mass Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. followed by **Stations of the Cross** at 7:00 p.m.

Confessions: Saturdays from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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: Broccoli Cheese Soup, Captain's Wafers, Citrus Sections OR Grilled Cheese and Tomato Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bread, Banana and Orange Sections.**

Memorial Fund: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Paul Kovach:** \$25 F. Michael Schneider; \$20 Larry and Joanne Hiestand.

Slovak Kolach Sale: Your Easter Slovak Kolach **orders are due by today, Sunday, March 14.** Please complete the salmon colored form and return it with your payment. The cost is \$16.00 each. Additional order forms are available in the church vestibule. Order pick up is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28.

Night at the Ball Game: Come and enjoy an Iron Pigs baseball game on Friday, June 25 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. For ticket reservations call Jane Spengler at 610-262-8138. Cost is \$40 per person. Tickets are limited to 40 people per Coca Cola Park Covid requirements. Because of these social distance requirements tickets are limited to 2 per person, first come, first serve.

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 weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at 610-262-2559.

First Eucharist: Pick a First Eucharist Prayer Partner. Bookmarks are on display in the church vestibule for each child preparing to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time. On the back of the bookmarks are the dates when the children will receive for their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

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.

Good Shepherd Catholic School News: Registrations are now being accepted for grades K through 8 for the 2021-2022 school year. We are also offering a full day 3 year old and 4 year old Preschool program for next year. Classes are filling up quickly for next year, so if you are interested please call the school at 610-262-9171 to set up a private tour or email our Advancement Director Mrs. Tripaldi at mrstripaldigscs@gmail.com.

Calendar:

Monday - March 15

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17-21 / Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday - March 16

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1-9, 12 / Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday - March 17

Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8-15 / Jn 5:17-30

Thursday - March 18

Lenten Weekday

Ex 32:7-14 / Jn 5:31-47

Friday - March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Saturday - March 20

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18-20 / Jn 7:40-53

Sunday - March 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34 / Heb 5:7-9

Jn 12:20-33

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