

# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH



## PARISH INFORMATION

**REV. FRANCIS P. STRAKA**, Pastor  
**Mrs. Karen Glose**, Music Director  
**Ms. Joanne Manning**, Parish Secretary  
**Ms. Irene M. Quigley**, Principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School

**Mrs. Linda Santucci**, Coordinator of Religious Education  
**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.  
 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 | Pro-Life Activities         | Fr. Straka .....        | 610-262-2559 |
| Ecumenical Rep.        | Fr. Straka .....         | 610-262-2559 | Religious Education         | Linda Santucci.....     | 610-262-7343 |
| Eucharistic Ministers  | Joanne Manning.....      | 610-262-2559 | RENEW Group                 | Charlie Walsh.....      | 610-837-0376 |
| Finance Committee      | Drew Maron.....          | 610-261-4705 | RCIA                        | Fr. Straka.....         | 610-262-2559 |
| First Friday Adoration | Fr. Straka.....          | 610-262-2559 | Ushers                      | Michael Sommer.....     | 610-262-7904 |
| Fund Raising           | Barbara Pengitore.....   | 610-262-3193 | Young at Heart              | Anna Hudock.....        | 610-262-3478 |
| Grocery Certificates   | GSCS Office.....         | 610-262-9171 | Young at Heart Bus Trips    | Anna Hudock.....        | 610-262-3478 |
| Greeters               | Rita Roman.....          | 610-262-6669 | Youth Activities            | Deborah Heckenberger... | 610-760-9491 |
| Grief Support          | Rosemarie Pengitore..... | 610-262-9012 |                             |                         |              |

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

|                    |            |                                  |                                  |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jan. 04, Monday    | 8:00 a.m.  | †Frank Stelzman                  | Frank and Elaine Serensits       |
| Jan. 05, Tuesday   | 8:00 a.m.  | †Charles Flanagan                | Raymond and Mary Flanagan        |
| Jan. 06, Wednesday | 8:00 a.m.  | †Helen Marhefka                  | Carol Yarsevich                  |
| Jan. 07, Thursday  | 8:00 a.m.  | †Thelma Trobetsky                | Assumption B.V.M. Young-at-Heart |
| Jan. 08, Friday    | 8:00 a.m.  | †Rita Roman                      | Rachael Suranofsky               |
| Jan. 09, Saturday  | 4:00 p.m.  | †John Zampino                    | Paul, Kathy and Corinne Gergel   |
| Jan. 10, Sunday    | 8:00 a.m.  | †Andrew Madea                    | Michael and Lucretia Roman       |
|                    | 10:30 a.m. | Living and deceased parishioners |                                  |

|                              |                |                    |                                   |                        |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Next Week's Schedule:</b> | <b>Lector:</b> | <b>Euch. Min.:</b> | <b>Altar Servers:</b>             | <b>Greeters:</b>       |
| Jan. 09, Sat. 4:00 p.m.      | C. Fisher      | B. Fritz           | A. Paul/B. Paul/E. Zwolenik       | S. Bankos/L. Stefaniak |
| Jan. 10, Sun. 8:00 a.m.      | C. Kroll       | N. Birosik         | M. Hudock/N. Clouse/N. Bischof    | A. Fry/M. Kovalcik     |
| 10:30 a.m.                   | D. Hozza       | J. Nicosia         | A. Miletics/G. Miletics/A. Nemeth | E. Lessel/L. Shaak     |

**SANCTUARY LIGHTS** are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Joseph, Elizabeth and Mark Tanzosh requested by Tanzosh Family.

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

# dear Padre:

## **Atheism vs. Agnosticism**

*What is the difference between atheism and agnosticism?*

The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** defines **atheism** as the rejection or denial of the existence of God and warns against numerous phenomena that can be categorized as atheistic, such as materialism and humanism and some movements that champion economic or social liberation (CCC 2123–2125). **Agnosticism**, somewhat conversely, makes no judgment about God's existence—instead, it says it's impossible to prove or deny. The Catechism identifies this viewpoint as expressing "indifferentism... and a sluggish moral conscience" (CCC 2128). Both viewpoints are sins against the First Commandment.

Some people believe that religious thought and practice no longer meets the needs of contemporary humanity. On the other side stand faith communities who fear modern culture and life will erode or eradicate the basics of faith and morality. Both stances are extreme and inaccurate, and striving for mutual respect and reverence seems more valid.

Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes* (19) says, "those who willfully shut out God from their hearts and try to dodge religious questions are not following the dictates of their consciences, and hence are not free of blame; yet believers themselves frequently bear some responsibility... To the extent that they neglect their own training in the faith, or teach erroneous doctrine, or are deficient in their religious, moral or social life, they must be said to conceal rather than reveal the authentic face of God and religion."

FR. TOM SANTA, CSsR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

# Calendar:

- Monday – January 4**  
*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*  
1 Jn 3:22–4:6  
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25
- Tuesday – January 5**  
*St. John Neumann, Bishop*  
1 Jn 4:7–10  
Mk 6:34–44
- Wednesday – January 6**  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 4:11–18  
Mk 6:45–52
- Thursday – January 7**  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 4:19–5:4  
Lk 4:14–22
- Friday – January 8**  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 5:5–13  
Lk 5:12–16
- Saturday – January 9**  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 5:14–21  
Jn 3:22–30
- Sunday – January 10**  
*Baptism of the Lord*  
Is 42:1–4, 6–7  
Acts 10:34–38  
Lk 3:15–16, 21–22

**PREP CLASSES** : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.  
**CHOIR REHEARSAL** : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.  
**7<sup>th</sup> GRADE PREP** : Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.  
**DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY** : Sunday, January 10  
**BREAKFAST** : Sunday, January 24, 2016  
**BAPTISMAL PREP** : Sat., February 6, 10:00 a.m.  
**CONFIRMATION** : Tue., March 15, 2016, 4:30 p.m.  
**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC** : Sunday, September 11, 2016

**BLESSING OF A HOME ON THE EPIPHANY: The leader begins:** ✕ *In the name of the Father... Peace be with this house and with all who live here.* **All respond:** And also with you. **The leader introduces the blessing:** *During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding at Cana. Today Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place. Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to John: "In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, And without him nothing came to be. And the Word became flesh And he made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. This is the Gospel of the Lord."* **All respond:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. **After a short silence, the leader continues:** *O God, by your heavenly star, you guided those who were wise to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. May your blessing come to rest on our home and all of us. Make our lives wise with your wisdom, true to your teaching, and enlivened by your love. May your Word made flesh make his home among us. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN. Everyone then processes from one room to another. In each room, God's blessing is asked on all that takes place in that room. Holy Water is sprinkled. The front and rear door frames are marked: 20 + C + M + B + 16.* [The traditional names of the 3 Kings are: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.]



**"DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY":** Next Sunday, January 10, 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.



**SUNDAY BREAKFAST:** Breakfast will be served after both Sunday Masses on **Sunday, January 24**. 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.**

**BINGO:** Mercy School for Special Learning will host a Designer Bag Bingo **next Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016**, beginning at 1 p.m. (doors open at noon) at the school, located at 830 S. Woodward St. in Allentown. Tickets are \$20 for 20 games if purchased by Thursday, Jan. 7; cost is \$25 for 20 games after that date and at the door. Bingo specials, auction tickets and food will be available for purchase. For more information, please call the school at 610-797-8242.



**YOUNG-AT-HEART NEWS:** The next meeting of the Young-at-Heart will be on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the church social hall.

**NORTHAMPTON AREA FOOD BANK** will hold a Vera Bradley Bingo on Sunday, February 7, 2016 in the Good Shepherd Catholic School Gym, 1300 Newport Avenue, Northampton. There will be 20 games for \$20 and five specials for \$5. Chinese Auction - 50/50 - Door prizes - Mystery Envelope Game - Cash Drawing - Food. Doors open at 12:00 p.m. and Bingo will begin at 2:00 p.m. All bingo prizes and specials will be Vera Bradley products. All paper bingo. Additional boards are available for purchase. To purchase tickets or for more information contact: Barbara Budnik at 610-262-6156. "Snow Date: Sunday, February 14."

**MEMORIAL FUND:** Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contribution **in memory Rita Roman:** \$100 Stephen and Kathryn Wallo.

**HELP NEEDED:** We will be taking down the Christmas Decorations **this Friday, January 8 beginning after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and Saturday, January 9 beginning at 8:00 a.m.** All help is welcomed and greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your help.

### PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Check One:

New Registration  Change of Address

Moving out of Parish  Request Envelopes

**Request envelopes (returned home from college)**

Please drop in the collection basket or mail to the Rectory

### ASSUMPTION B.V.M. 2015 OFFERING STATEMENTS

will be mailed the week of January 11 to those who contributed \$1000 or more during 2015. If you desire a statement of your 2015 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

**Northampton Memorial Company**  
**Memorialize A Life**

Ben Porobenski, Proprietor

342 Main Street, Northampton 610-262-5568

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## BREAKFAST



Sunday, January 24, 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