

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:

Mar. 07, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Irene Kovalcik	Mary Kovalcik
Mar. 08, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Dorothy Kimak	Cliff Reed
Mar. 09, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	†Sue Olesak	Maryann and Barry Brunst
Mar. 10, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Ann Kozatch	George and Carolyn Wuchter
Mar. 11, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Peggy Wright	Anne Bear
Mar. 12, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
Mar. 13, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Emil and Julia Makovsky	M/M Gerald J. Makovsky & Family
	10:30 a.m.	†Nunzia Mancino	Daughter, Luisa Assante, and Family

Next Week's Schedule:	Lector:	Euch. Min.:	Altar Servers:	Greeters:
Mar. 12, Sat. 4:00 p.m.	A. Molchany	B. Kosman	J. Warren/M. Warren/E. Zwolenik	C. Kovacs/J. Kovacs
Mar. 13, Sun. 8:00 a.m.	T. Kovalchik	T. Melosky	M. Hudock/N. Clouse/N. Bischof	B. Cwitkowitz/M.A. Weaver
10:30 a.m.	D. Heckenberger	J. Alba	M. Thierer/A. Miletics/G. Miletics	B. Skweir/M. Skweir

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Kenneth Crouthamel requested by Crouthamel Family.

PLEASE PRAY for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Joseph Grabarits, Rev. Msgr. James J. Mulligan and Bernadine Kradjel, sister of Mary Kovalcik and Joseph Kovalchik, who died this past week.

dear Padre:

Clarifying Pope Francis' announcement on abortion

I heard Pope Francis allows priests to forgive the sin of abortion. Aren't priests able to forgive any sin?

In September 2015, the media announced that for the Year of Mercy Pope Francis is giving priests the ability to forgive the sin of abortion. However, this is not accurate. Priests are able to forgive *any* sin; what the Holy Father is granting to priests is the faculty to remit the penalty attached to the *ecclesiastical crime* of abortion. Let me explain.

Procuring, performing, or facilitating an abortion is always a grave sin. In the Catholic Church, these acts may also constitute a *crime* in canon law (1398). The sin is distinct from the crime, and those who commit the *crime* might also incur excommunication.

To incur the penalty, the person who commits the sin must: be Catholic and at least eighteen years old; be aware of the Church's penalty for abortion; and intend in full freedom to end a human life.

If any one of these elements is not present, the person did not incur excommunication. Yet if the priest discovers that the penalty is incurred, he is obliged to contact the local ordinary (usually the diocesan bishop) for permission to remit the penalty—unless the bishop has already given permission, which is the case in many dioceses in the United States. **For the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is giving all priests the faculty to remove the penalty without contacting the bishop.** In other words, the Holy Father has extended mercy in the realm of Church law.

No one need believe that confessed sins are unforgiven. Pope Francis' announcement is an encouragement for all, especially people who have committed grave sin, to confess their sins and receive the unfailing mercy of God.

REV. PHILIP J. BENÉ
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Calendar:

Monday – March 7

Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17–21
Jn 4:43–54

Tuesday – March 8

Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1–9, 12
Jn 5:1–16

Wednesday – March 9

Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8–15
Jn 5:17–30

Thursday – March 10

Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7–14
Jn 5:31–47

Friday – March 11

Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12–22
Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

Saturday – March 12

Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18–20
Jn 7:40–53

Sunday – March 13

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Is 43:16–21
Phil 3:8–14
Jn 8:1–11

PREP CLASSES : Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:05 a.m.
PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: 3rd Tues. of month @ 10 a.m.
CHOIR REHEARSAL : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
7th GRADE PREP : Thursdays, 6:30 p.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.
BAPTISMAL PREP : Sat., April 2, 10:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST : Sunday, April 24, 2016
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.

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: 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 contribution **in memory of Joseph Grabarits**: \$15 Stephen Marsch.



"DONUT/GIVING SUNDAY": Today, 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.**



SLOVAK KOLACH SALE: Your Easter Season Slovak Kolach orders will be ready for pickup on Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20 in the church social hall.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION: On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual collection for the Holy Land. We ask you to be generous. Your financial contribution will support the works of the Catholic Community in the Middle East and to protect the Holy Places and Christian shrines. There is an envelope in your packet for this special collection.



JUST A REMINDER that Daylight Savings Time begins next **Sunday, March 13, 2016.** Don't forget to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before going to sleep next Saturday night.



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

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 mrspoccia@ptd.net to schedule a school tour or shadow day!

GSCS 5th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Willow Brook Golf Course in Catasauqua to benefit Good Shepherd Catholic School Technology Program. For more information and to register, please go to the Golf Outing Website www.tjplegan.wix.com/GSCS-golf-tournament#!contact-us/ccbt.

SECOND ANNUAL ALUMNI SOCIAL will be held on Sunday, April 17, 2016. The celebration will begin with 9:30 Mass at Queenship of Mary Church. Light refreshments served in the school gym and school tours available. Legacy School alumni please RSVP by emailing eventsrvpgscs@gmail.com.

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Boy Scout Troop 79 will holding a Pancake Breakfast next Sunday, March 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Ruffenach Hall, Stiles (St. John The Baptist Church, Whitehall). Please join them for: pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and orange juice.

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

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Closed Mondays

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Holy Week 2016
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
Northampton, PA

Penance Service - Saturday, March 19, 10:00 a.m. [additional priests available]

Palm Sunday

Masses with the Blessing of Palm: Saturday, March 19, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 20, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Mass - Monday, March 21 **8:00 a.m.**

Mass - Tuesday, March 22 **8:00 a.m.**

Mass - Wednesday, March 23 **7:00 p.m.**

Stations of the Cross - Wednesday, March 23 **following the 7:00 p.m. Mass**

Holy Thursday
March 24, 2016

Mass of the Lord's Supper **7:00 p.m.**
Adoration **8:00 – 10:45 p.m.**
Night Prayer **10:45 p.m.**

Good Friday
March 25, 2016

Service of the Passion with Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion **7:00 p.m.**

Holy Saturday
March 26, 2016

Blessing of Food **12:00 Noon**
Solemn Vigil of Easter **8:00 p.m. (no 4:00 p.m. Mass)**

Solemnity of the Resurrection Easter Sunday
March 27, 2016

Masses **8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**





BREAKFAST



Sunday, April 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