

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: Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
Telephone: 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019

Courage: 610-334-9147

Diocesan Website: www.allentowndioocese.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
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 22/23, 2020**

Daily Masses

Feb. 24, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Stella Santucci	Vinnie & Linda Santucci & Family
Feb. 25, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Members of our Memorial Fund	
Feb. 26, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Helen Sipics	Brother Boniface Shellock
	7:00 p.m.	†Julia Shara	Assumption B.V.M. Choir
Feb. 27, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Virginia Plata	Sisters
Feb. 28, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Clare Bennett	Son, Joe, & Family
Feb. 29, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Hilda Bendekovits	Tim & Monica Semler
Mar. 01, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Elizabeth Nederostek	M/M John Herman
	10:30 a.m.	Living & deceased members of our Parish	

Next Week's Schedule: Lector:

Feb. 26, Wed. 8:00 a.m. N. Kotoris
7:00 p.m. E. Hozza
Feb. 29, Sat. 4:00 p.m. M.E. Schwartz
Mar. 01, Sun. 8:00 a.m. J. Santee
10:30 a.m. K. Stayt

Euch. Min./help with Ashes:

F. Cerino /J. Ciecko/C. Marth
D. Maron /C. Walsh/T. Melosky
L. Assante
K. Bennett
D. Maron

Altar Servers:

J. & H. Warren
A. Colandrea/M. Warren
W. Cuchran
D. Conrad/A. Miletics

Greeters:

S. Bankos/L. Sefaniak
G. Farkas/L. Gehringer
A. Fry/L. Shaak

Sanctuary Lights are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Louise Kotoris requested by daughter, Nikki.

Please pray for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish.

Good News!

February 23, 2020

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Wow, that's a tall order! But what does perfect mean? The Greek word means "full" or "complete." In the first reading, Leviticus calls us to be holy, a word with cultic allusions—to be set apart to be used for God. Though not possessing exactly the same sense, there is a connection between perfect and holy, for to be set apart to be used for God will certainly make us perfect, fulfilled, and complete. So what does Jesus mean when he tells us to be perfect, as God is perfect?

Continuing our reflection on the Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus telling us how we are to be perfect as God is perfect. He offers two examples of extraordinary behavior. The Mesopotamian code of Hammurabi states "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The punishment may not exceed the crime. This was a step forward in ancient justice.

Jesus said that this is not enough. There is to be no vindictiveness, no revenge, regardless of how equivalent it might appear. The reason for this is that God loves and cares for all, even those who do us injustice. God makes the "sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:46). In this way, we must be like God; we must love all, no exceptions. This is what it means to be perfect. It is indeed a tall order. But it is the way to be fulfilled, to be complete.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Calendar:

Monday – February 24

Weekday
Jas 3:13-18
Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday – February 25

Weekday
Jas 4:1-10 / Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday – February 26

Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Thursday – February 27

Thursday after Ash
Wednesday
Dt 30:15-20
Lk 9:22-25

Friday – February 28

Friday after Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15

Saturday – February 29

Saturday after Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b-14
Lk 5:27-32

Sunday – March 1

First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Rom 5:12-19
Mt 4:1-11

Rel. Ed. Classes.....	Sundays, 9:00 - 10:05 a.m.
Prayer Shawl Meeting.....	3 rd 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.
Adoration.....	First Fridays 8:15 – 9:15 a.m.
Breakfast.....	Sunday, February 23, 2020
Children’s Mass.....	Sunday, Feb. 23, 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation.....	Thursday, March 5, 4:30 p.m.
Donut/Giving Sunday.....	Sunday, March 8, 2020
BVM Night – Iron Pigs.....	Thursday, August 13, 2020
Church Picnic.....	Sunday, September 13, 2020

Ash Wednesday: This Wednesday, February 26, is Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed during the 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Masses. The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that **fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.** The law of **abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.**

OUR LENTEN OBLIGATION: Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting. The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.

Who must fast - all Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

Who must abstain - all Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean? The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two light meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one’s needs.

What does abstinence mean? The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence? Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill? Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their “Easter Duty.” They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (March 1 until June 7, 2020). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins once a year. Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Operation Rice Bowl.

Sunday Breakfast: Breakfast will be served after both Sunday Masses **today, Sunday, February 23.** Please support this fundraising effort of the parish and enjoy a homemade breakfast with your friends. Menu includes: French toast, pancakes, scrambled eggs or omelet, ham, sausage or bacon, hash browns, toast, juice, coffee, tea. Cost \$7.00 adults/\$3.00 children. **Tickets on sale at the door. This month’s special is Creamed Chipped Beef on Toast.** Thank you all for supporting this parish fundraiser.

Good Shepherd Catholic School News

Early Childhood Education Event: Good Shepherd Catholic School will host an Early Childhood Education Event for students entering Preschool and Kindergarten on **Saturday, March 14th, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** The event will begin at 10 am in the front lobby of the school with a general overview of our Preschool and Kindergarten programs followed by tours of the classrooms. Registrations will be accepted for students interested in our 3 year old, 4 year old, and kindergarten programs. For more information call our Advancement Director, Mrs. Lauri Tripaldi, at 610-262-9171 or email her at mrstripaldigscs@gmail.com.

Registrations: Good Shepherd Catholic School is now accepting registrations for the 2020-2021 school year for grades Kindergarten through 8, Preschool 3, and Pre-K 4. For more information, or to schedule a tour please contact our Advancement Director Mrs. Lauri Tripaldi at 610-262-9171 or email her at mrstripaldigscs@gmail.com.

Cemetery Clean-up: To prepare our cemetery (and mausoleum) for spring and the Easter holiday you are asked to please remove your Christmas plants and decorations **by Sunday, March 15.** Any Christmas decorations left on the graves or at the mausoleum after this date will be discarded. If you know of any non-parishioners having graves or crypts on our cemetery, please pass along this information.

Night at the Ball Game: Come and enjoy an Iron Pigs baseball game on **Thursday, August 13** 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. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, July 1. For more information call Jane Spengler at 610-262-8138. Cost is \$40 per person. You can place your payment in the church collection basket to hold your tickets (reservations). Please make checks payable to the church.

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BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 23, 2020

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

Creamed Chipped Beef on toast

Includes: Juice, Toast, Coffee or Tea