

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
Easter Sunday – April 11/12, 2020

Msgr. Koons will offer Mass for

Apr. 13, Monday	NO MASS	
Apr. 14, Tuesday	†Mary Conarty	Bennett Family
Apr. 15, Wednesday	†Mark Heckenberger	Parents, John & Deb, Brother, Luke
Apr. 16, Thursday	†David Liskanich	Kyle and Michele Kern
Apr. 17, Friday	†Frederick Gollatz	Dale & Barbara Fenstermaker
Apr. 18, Saturday	†Stephen J. Kerbacher, Sr.	Matthew, Cheryl and Jane Kiss
Apr. 19, Sunday	†Stacey Schmidt	Family

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

Please pray for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Rose Bet, mother of Carlo Bet, and Maurice Dimmick, father of Anita Hozza, who died recently.

Dear Padre

April 12, 2020

What's the origin of the word Easter? It's not mentioned in the Bible. Wouldn't a better name be Resurrection Sunday?

Experts trace Easter back to Old-English meanings associated with Eostre, the goddess of spring and fertility. Others point to the German word for east, which is derived from the Latin word for dawn. Regardless, Christianity found new meaning in the ancient celebration of nature's rebirth during the spring equinox. This resurrection of new life over the dead of winter also pointed to Christ's resurrection from the dead at dawn.

Likewise, early Christians gave new meaning to ancient symbols of fertility, such as rabbits and eggs. For example, a hatching chick represented the risen Christ emerging from the shell of a tomb, and the Roman proverb *Omne vivum ex ovo* ("All life comes from an egg") symbolized the resurrection. Eggs, prohibited during the Lenten fast, were reintroduced at the Easter meal and shared as decorated gifts. In 1610, a prayer by Pope Paul V blessed the egg, "that it may become a wholesome sustenance to thy faithful servants, eating it in thankfulness to thee, on account of the resurrection of the Lord."

"Each week, on the day called the Lord's Day, [the Church] commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord, which she also celebrates once a year in the great Paschal Solemnity" (The Roman Missal, "Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar," 1). Thus, every Sunday—even those in Lent—is a Resurrection Sunday in celebration of Christ's triumph over death, which will include our own!

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

Calendar:

Monday – April 13

Octave of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22–33
Mt 28:8–15

Tuesday – April 14

Octave of Easter
Acts 2:36–41
Jn 20:11–18

Wednesday – April 15

Octave of Easter
Acts 3:1–10
Lk 24:13–35

Thursday – April 16

Octave of Easter
Acts 3:11–26
Lk 24:35–48

Friday – April 17

Octave of Easter
Acts 4:1–12
Jn 21:1–14

Saturday – April 18

Octave of Easter
Acts 4:13–21
Mk 16:9–15

Sunday – April 19

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)
Acts 2:42–47
1 Pt 1:3–9
Jn 20:19–31

Rel. Ed. Classes..... CANCELLED
Prayer Shawl Meeting..... CANCELLED
7th & 8th Grade Rel. Ed..... CANCELLED
Choir Rehearsal..... CANCELLED
Adoration..... CANCELLED
Giving Sunday..... Sunday, May 10, 2020
BVM Night – Iron Pigs..... Thursday, August 13, 2020
Church Picnic..... Sunday, September 13, 2020



Pierogie Making for the Church Picnic: MARK YOUR CALENDARS. We will be making pierogies for the church picnic on **Friday, July 31 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and Saturday, August 1 starting at 7:00 a.m.** Friday we will be peeling and cooking potatoes. Saturday we will be making, cooking and packing the pierogies. Please come and help. The more help we have, the faster we get done. **We need both Men and Women. Please come and join us. We do have fun.**

PARISH WEBSITE-

Our parish website is updated: links available for online giving, the bulletin, and videos of Mass, rosary, and Stations of the Cross.

<https://bvm-northampton.com/>

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

Connect to the parish at

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Assumption.BVM.Northampton.PA>

A Special Thank You: This year's Pascal Candle is in memory of James Nicosia. It was donated by his parents, Joy and Sal Nicosia. It is being used for the first time during our Easter Celebrations.



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.

Good Shepherd Catholic School News

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 email her at mrstripaldigscs@gmail.com.

Save Aluminum Pull Tabs – 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.

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. Church Annual Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 13, 2020**

EGYPT MEMORIAL PARK

begins with a Mass at 11:00 a.m.,

continues with music,

games and food until 7:00 p.m.

Featuring the music of "Flirtin' With The Mob"

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
2174 Lincoln Avenue
Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-2559

April 9, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

My prayers are, and have been, with you during this time of fear, uncertainty, suffering and illness. Strange times have come to us during this Season of Lent, while we would have been normally preparing to celebrate the day of Easter, the day of Resurrection, the day of the Lord. The Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Saturday are being celebrated in our Church by your pastor, and Easter Sunday will also be celebrated. Unfortunately, circumstances this year prevent our coming together as a community of faith within our church, a family of believers in the Risen Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Nonetheless, we are still united in faith, hope and charity, and an essential facet of these virtues infused into us at our Baptism is prayer: in prayer, we are still a community of faith, we are a family of believers known as Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

In St. Paul's letter to the Colossians, chapter 1, 24, he writes that he rejoices in his sufferings because they are "filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ." This does not mean that the suffering and death of Jesus Christ were not enough to save us, but that in God's mysterious plan he awaits our participation in them by joining our own sufferings with His for the good of the Church and for the good of the whole world.

The world and the Church have been suffering this Lent and will suffer this coming Easter Season. I think of the people who have contracted this virus and are feeling the ravaging effects on their bodies and souls. I think of the people who have died; for the people who heroically care for the sick, at great personal risk; for those who live in dread fear of contagion; for those who have lost their jobs and are struggling to provide for their families. I think of the many thousands of people who continue in their jobs to provide essential services for the rest of us, again at personal risk to their own health and safety. And let us not forget the people who are alone in this world, whose day-to-day lives ordinarily consist of lonely isolation, made all the deeper because we are all "shut-in" in ways that we never could have imagined, or perhaps, ever prepared for. Please keep them in your prayers.

Yet strangely, Saint Paul uses the word "rejoice." During the past few weeks, I have had opportunities to be outdoors rather often. I have taken these times outdoors as a way to deepen my appreciation of God's creation, to notice the physical world around me, and the beauty inherent in nature even while it is just struggling to come back to life on the cusp of the change of seasons. So where everything is often gray and lifeless, I know and can sense that life awaits, it is ready to spring forth again, and here and there can be seen the promise of "another Spring" and new life. These outdoor times have allowed me to ponder and pray in ways that for most of my priesthood were unavailable to me.

And rather than focus on the fear and wondering “what comes next with this coronavirus?” I have seen signs of hope: children outdoors riding bicycles, playing games outdoors instead of in front of tv screens, couples young and old going for walks together, people passing by each other and saying “hello!” and “good morning!” Outdoors, out of our cars and homes, people just seem nicer and friendlier. And while being “stuck inside” can get on everyone’s nerves, being together as families, reading stories, eating meals together, not having to “live by the clock” is teaching our young people ways of living that perhaps have been forgotten in more recent generations. There are signs, then, of “rejoicing” even though there is much suffering by many people.

And at Easter, we celebrate Christ’s victory over death, the ultimate human struggle, the ultimate human suffering. “The strife is o’er, the battle won” goes the old Easter hymn, and I am learning during these odd times, to understand a little better how those words can fit into my own life: I hope they have meaning for yours.

I have been “live-streaming” Mass and other prayers during these “lock-down” times. You can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Assumption.BVM.Northampton.PA> I also have a Facebook “profile” by which you can see my personal page: just search for “Monsignor Koons” and you’ll see my picture. Or, you can access recorded videos, make online contributions, and see other interesting news at our parish website, bvm-northampton.com

Speaking of online contributions: I am very grateful for those who have made an effort to continue their ordinary contributions to our parish. We depend on Sunday offerings to pay the bills, and many of you have been generous and faithful in your contributions. Thank you! Overall, our Sunday collections have dropped by 50%, but our bills have not.

If you could consider making a contribution, I would very much appreciate it. I know many if not all of you are also struggling financially, but I thought that this letter might serve as a reminder in the midst of all the changes that have been happening this past month. Envelopes can be mailed or dropped off at the Rectory. Or online contributions can be made by credit card. Thank you for your consideration of the parish needs, and God bless you for your generosity.

Praying that you and your loved ones will have a blessed Easter and hope for better things to come. Rejoice! The Lord is Risen, He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Koons
Pastor