

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 Advent – December 19/20, 2020

Daily Masses

Dec. 21, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Stephen Kerbacher, Sr.	Wife, Helen, Daughter, Stephanie Son, Stephen, & Family
Dec. 22, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Elizabeth and Stephen Balog	Granddaughter, Betty, & Family
Dec. 23, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Catherine Arnst	Granddaughter, Debra Kay, & Family
Dec. 24, Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve – †William Birosik	Eleanor Burnatowski
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve – †Frank Yezzo	Wife, Bonnie, & Family
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve – †Helen Swankoski	Mary Christoff
	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve – Living and deceased parishioners	
Dec. 25, Friday	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day – Special Intention	Msgr. Koons
Dec. 26, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
Dec. 27, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Archangel and Anna DeLucia	Daughter, Mary Herman, & Family
	10:30 a.m.	†Julius Strongowski	Daughter, Rita, and Family

Sanctuary Lights are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Connie Marth requested by Husband, Conrad, and Family.

Please pray for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Dorothy Geosits and Robert Chickilly, brother of Lynda Janis, Nancy Kowaleski, daughter of Rose Zangari, who died recently.

Good News!

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25–27; Lk 1:26–38

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, “How can this be?” (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You’ve got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: “You’ve got to be kidding!” She replied: “If that’s what you want, I’m willing.”

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You’ve got to be kidding! But God was not kidding.

Now we are ready for Christmas.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Calendar:

Monday – December 21

Advent Weekday

Sg 2:8–14 / Lk 1:39–45

Tuesday – December 22

Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56

Wednesday – December 23

Advent Weekday

Mal 3:1–4, 23–24

Lk 1:57–66

Thursday – December 24

Advent Weekday

2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

Lk 1:67–79

Friday – December 25

Christmas

Is 52:7–10

Heb 1:1–6

Jn 1:1–18

Saturday – December 26

St. Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59

Mt 10:17–22

Sunday – December 27

*The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph*

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14

Col 3:12–21

Lk 2:22–40

Rel. Ed. Classes..... Sundays, 9:00 – 10:05 a.m.
Bible Study..... **Tuesdays, after Mass**
7th & 8th Grade Rel. Ed... Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration.... **Wednesdays after Mass**
First Friday Adoration.... **after Mass**
Confirmation..... Thursday, February 4
Church Picnic..... Sun., **September 12, 2021**



Lighting of the Advent Wreath [Week Four] – [Before the evening meal, the family gathers at table.] **Leader:** Father,

to you belong the seasons and the ages. **All:** *You are the beginning and the end of all things.* **Leader:** Prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth with joy. *℟- Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Inspire in us sincere conversion and repentance. *℟ - Christ, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Help the poor, afflicted, and oppressed this Christmas season. *℟ - Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN. [Three purple candles and the one rose candle are lit and left burning during the meal.]**

Advent Confessions: Saturday, December 19 from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; **Sunday, December 20** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; **Tuesday, December 22** from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.; **Wednesday, December 23** from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

Rectory Office will be closed Thursday, December 24 thru Monday, December 28 for Christmas. Also, the rectory office will be closed Thursday, December 31 thru Monday, January 4 for New Year's.



A Christmas Tree Blessing: Father in Heaven, we thank you for your goodness. Bless this tree that we have decorated in honor of your Son's birth among us: let its lights remind us that he is Lord, and its decorations recall our joy. Grant that we may receive him as our Savior, and continue to give you glory by our lives. We ask this grace, Father in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



A Christmas Crib Blessing: Blessed are you, Lord God, king of all creation: we praise you for your love. We thank you because you have loved us so much that you sent your only Son to bring us eternal life. Bless this crib that we have prepared, and let it be a reminder to us of the Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. Father, we praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oplatky (Christmas Wafers) is available (free will offering) in the church social hall. The 2021 Calendars, which are free, will also be available in the church social hall, compliments of Schisler Funeral Home.

Memorial Fund: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Martha Hozza:** \$500 Grandchildren; \$50 Theodore and Mary Seal. **In memory of Dorothy Geosits:** \$20 Virginia Haldeman; \$15 Steve Marsch; \$20 Joanne and Larry Hiestand; \$20 Anita Kotoris and Hope Stempo; \$50 Dennis Miletics; \$100 Carol Donovan; \$25 Frank and Eileen Laufik; \$25 Joan and Bill Filipovits; \$25 Eric and Kathy Smith; \$25 Mary Ann Liskanich; \$50 Mark and Anne Stibitz; \$25 M/M George Hitcho; \$20.20 John Yurish; \$20 Jane and Ron Spengler; \$50 Delores Meltsch.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	2:00 p.m.
	4:00 p.m.
	6:00 p.m.
	8:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	9:00 a.m.
New Year's Eve	4:00 p.m.
New Year's Day	9:00 a.m.

Stocking Stuffer: Need a stocking stuffer? Or just a little something to add to a gift for that special person? The Parish Fund Raising Committee is sponsoring a monthly lottery calendar for January 2021. The calendars are \$5 each and the winners are based on the **evening daily** Pennsylvania Lottery number. Calendars will be on sale before Mass next weekend, December 26/27. Calendars must be purchased prior to January 1, 2021.



Volunteer Gifts: Gifts for the following volunteers will be located in the Church Social Hall: Altar Servers, Breakfast Workers, Church Cleaning Crew Members, Eucharistic Ministers, Finance Committee Members, Funeral Team Members, Greeters, Hospitality Committee Members, Lectors, Choir Members, Picnic Committee Members and Ushers.

Good Shepherd Catholic School is now accepting registrations for the 2021-2022 school year. We offer full day Preschool and Pre-K programs as well as Kindergarten through grade 8. 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.

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*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
Northampton, PA*

*Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24, 2020*

Mass 2:00 p.m.

Mass 4:00 p.m.

Mass 6:00 p.m.

Mass 8:00 p.m.

*Christmas Day
Friday, December 25, 2020*

Mass 9:00 a.m.

