

# 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  
**Religious Education:** 610-262-7343

**Rectory Fax:** 610-262-1613  
**Website:** www.bvm-northampton.com  
**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
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## 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**  
**First Sunday of Lent – February 20/21, 2021**

**Daily Masses**

Feb. 22, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Hilda Bendekovits	Simon Family
Feb. 23, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Members of the Michael Biss, Sr. Family	Steve Marsch
Feb. 24, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Sophie and Stephen Bankos	Family
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	†Rose Zangari	Joanne Manning
Feb. 25, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Helen Sommer	Rose Prickler
Feb. 26, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Rosaria Taft	John and Betty Toolan
Feb. 27, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Virginia Plata	Lou Ann and Patrice Currie
Feb. 28, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Clare Bennett	Son, Joe, and Family
	10:30 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	

**Sanctuary Lights** are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Paul Kovach, Jr. requested by Joanne and Juliet Manning.

**Please pray** for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Paul Kovach, Jr. who died recently.

**From the Pastor**

February 21, 2021

*First Sunday of Lent (B)*

Gn 9:8–15; 1 Pt 3:18–22; Mk 1:12–15

This past Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent had begun. Today we observe the First Sunday of Lent. In our readings today, we first hear how God set his covenant with humanity so “that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood.” In fact, this covenantal promise points forward to the stupendous event of the Israelites being freed from slavery in Egypt: when God parted the waters of the Red Sea to let them pass through “dry-shod” to the safety of a new life. But first they had forty years to endure in the desert before they would come to the promised land.

The forty days of Lent are nothing as compared to 40 years. Through the disciplines of Lent- prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, to the extent that we seek to faithfully engage them- we will experience the freedom promised to us in the waters of Baptism, as sons and daughters of God, not slaves of a temperamental and unpredictable god made of stone. But there is the problem: ***we first must enter the desert.*** There the Israelites bemoaned their plight and often looked back with longing on their days in Egypt. When they were thirsty, they thought of the waters of the Nile; when they were hungry, they thought of the onions and leeks they had to flavor their food. They forgot, over and over, their slavery, because their mouths were dry, and their stomachs were growling. We too will suffer the same temptations. BUT: we have Jesus our Savior, led into a desert for 40 days where He himself was tempted, not through any sin or weakness of His own, but because he loves us, His creation, his humanity. He wanted to endure and show us the way to true and everlasting freedom. Imagine having the power of the almighty God at your fingertips, just for the thinking, and NOT using it! What a horrible temptation! But Jesus’s temptation came from the devil, because the devil’s idea of power is dominion over others, whereas God’s idea of power is love; and in our weakness, God loves us still, which absolutely confounds the Father of Lies, the Ancient Enemy of humanity.

Let us pray that our Lenten journeys will bring us the freedom we seek. God bless you all!

*Monsignor Thomas Koons*

## Calendar:

**Monday – February 22**

*The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

**Tuesday – February 23**

*Lenten Weekday*

Is 55:10–11

Mt 6:7–15

**Wednesday – February 24**

*Lenten Weekday*

Jon 3:1–10

Lk 11:29–32

**Thursday – February 25**

*Lenten Weekday*

Est C:12, 14–16, 23–25

Mt 7:7–12

**Friday – February 26**

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 18:21–28

Mt 5:20–26

**Saturday – February 27**

*Lenten Weekday*

Dt 26:16–19

Mt 5:43–48

**Sunday – February 28**

*Second Sunday of Lent*

Gn 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18

Rom 8:31b–34

Mk 9:2–10

**Rel. Ed. Classes.....** Sundays, 9:00 – 10:05 a.m.  
**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rel. Ed...** Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Adoration.....** Wednesdays after Mass  
**First Friday Adoration....** after Mass  
**Church Picnic.....** Sun., **September 12, 2021**

**First Friday Adoration:** The First Friday of March, March 5, our parish will offer a holy hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The 8 o'clock Mass will conclude with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and will last one hour concluding with Benediction at 9:15 a.m.

**Lenten Activities:**

**Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:00 a.m.

**Adoration:** Following the 8am Mass on Wednesdays until 9:15 a.m.

**Additional Mass Wednesdays** at 6:30 p.m. followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** and **Stations of the Cross** at 7:00 p.m., concluding with **Benediction**.

**Confessions:** Saturdays from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**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: French Toast with Syrup, Cinnamon Apple Sauce OR Cottage Cheese on Peach Halves, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies.**

**Adoration:** On Wednesday mornings the Mass will continue with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and conclude with Benediction at 9:15 a.m. This will enable those who stay to make a "holy hour" before the exposed Blessed Sacrament; we will have a period of prayer and a period of silence during that hour. Please consider joining in prayer at Mass and adoration afterwards. The Mass and Exposition/Benediction will be livestreamed to our Facebook page.

**Memorial Fund:** Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Paul Kovach:** \$15 Steve Marsch. **In memory of Rose Zangari:** \$10 Steve Marsch. **In memory of Ann Weber:** \$30 Cynthia and Robert Cunfer.

**Baptism:** We are happy to welcome Paxton Edward Polony, child of Philip and Jami Polony, who began to share in the life of Jesus this past Sunday in the Sacrament of Baptism. We will continue to pray for Paxton Edward as he continues to grow in our faith.



**Thank you to all who have voted and donated to this fun and imaginative diocesan fundraiser. Our parish came in second with \$33,425.00! However, we were #1 in number of donors, so both Notre Dame of Bethlehem and Assumption BVM were "Top winners." Thank you and God bless you! Msgr. Koons**

**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 14 (if the snow every melts)**. 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.

**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

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK  
 Foster Jewelers**

**John and Lucy Schneck - 610-262-4068**  
 Expert Stone Setting and Jewelry Repair  
 1859 Main Street, Northampton, PA 18067  
 Please patronize our bulletin advertisers

**Save Aluminum Pulltabs:** 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.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church  
22<sup>nd</sup> & Washington Avenue  
Northampton, PA 18067  
610-262-2559

# 2021 Hand Rolled Slovak Kolach Sale

Apple

Apricot

Coconut Cream

English Walnut

Lekvar (Prune)

Poppy Seed

Pumpkin Cheese

Seedless Red Raspberry

**\$16.00 each**

Baked and prepared by Country Cottage Bake Shop Tamaqua, PA 18252

*Forms are included in the Sunday Bulletin.*

*Place your order WITH PAYMENT in the Sunday Collection or drop off at the Rectory.*

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## **IMPORTANT:**

**Deadline for Orders: Sunday, March 14**

**Pick-up: After Mass in Church Social Hall:**

**Saturday March 27**

**Sunday March 28**

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*THANK YOU*

