

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

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
Third Sunday of Lent – March 6/7, 2021**

Daily Masses

Mar. 08, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Lilly Kammerer	John and Betty Toolan and family
Mar. 09 Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Rudolph and Mary Nemeth	Family
Mar. 10, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Dorothy Schisler	Son, Arthur, and family
	6:30 p.m.	†Kelly Koons	Fred and Lisa Koons
Mar. 11, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Members of our Memorial Fund	
Mar. 12, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Susan and Rudolph Bauer	Carol and Gary Houck
Mar. 13, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Nunzia Mancino	Daughter, Luisa Assante, and family
Mar. 14, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Julia and Emil Makovsky	M/M Gerald J. Makovsky
	10:30 a.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	

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 blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish.

From the Pastor

March 7, 2021 - *Third Sunday of Lent (B)*

Ex 20:1–17 or 20:1–3, 7–8, 12–17; 1 Cor 1:22–25; Jn 2:13–25

“I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me.”

This is how the Book of Exodus introduces what we know as the “Ten Commandments.” How often do we fall into the trap of feeling or thinking that God’s commandments, or to use another term, “God’s laws”, are things that restrict our freedom to do as we please? They can seem so restrictive, especially the ones which seem to impede our freedom to do what we want. *Honor your father and mother.* What child, what teenager, what young adult, what grown son or daughter doesn’t get annoyed at their mother or father? *Why do I have to put my toys away? Why do I have to be home by ten o’clock? Why don’t you approve of me going out to the bars at college? Why do you express your opinions so forcefully and embarrassingly with my in-laws? Can’t you get out of the car any quicker, I’ll lose that good parking spot?* At every age of our lives (and our parents) those might be examples of how we can feel ‘frustrated’ by one of the commandments which is formulated in a *positive* way. *Honor your father and mother.*

But God sees His commandments to us differently. *“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.”* It is not without reason that God reminds His chosen people, before giving His commandments, that ***they were freed by Him***, that He brought them out of slavery. Slavery! It stands to reason that God gives the ten commandments ***not to enslave us, but to set us free.*** Free to live as His sons and daughters, free to choose what is right and good, free to love Him above all *things* and at all *times* and in all *places.* *And to love our neighbor as ourselves.* Is it ever loving to be envious, or jealous, or bear false witness, or take another man’s wife or another woman’s husband? To steal? Of course not. The commandments free us to live our potential as God’s children, to actually be the best person God wants us to be, holy and capable of enjoying the vision of His glory in heaven.

Jesus reveals righteous anger in today’s Gospel. He actually made a whip out of cords and drove the moneychangers out and overturned their tables. Apparently, Temple worship was a profitable business. I suppose Jesus saw that other gods, shiny coins, silver and gold, were “set-up” besides the One, True God. We all have a tendency to “backslide” when it comes to any one or several of the commandments, even to the point that we replace God with “idols” that consume our attention quite easily. As the Gospel notes, Jesus knew only too well our human nature. So he let us lead Him to the Cross, where he would sacrifice His life for our sins. At the cross, at the Altar of Sacrifice, Jesus has set aside the whip made out of cords, and replaced them with the Sacrament of His Mercy, the Sacrament of Forgiveness: the Holy Eucharist. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Calendar:

Monday - March 8

Lenten Weekday
2 Kgs 5:1—15ab
Lk 4:24–30

Tuesday - March 9

Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:25, 34–43
Mt 18:21–35

Wednesday - March 10

Lenten Weekday
Dt 4:1, 5–9
Mt 5:17–19

Thursday - March 11

Lenten Weekday
Jer 7:23–28
Lk 11:14–23

Friday - March 12

Lenten Weekday
Hos 14:2–10
Mk 12:28–34

Saturday - March 13

Lenten Weekday
Hos 6:1–6
Lk 18:9–14

Sunday - March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23
Eph 2:4–10
Jn 3:14–21

Monsignor Koons

Rel. Ed. Classes..... Sundays, 9:00 – 10:05 a.m.
7th & 8th 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**

Lenten Activities:

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

Adoration: Following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesdays until 9:15 a.m.

Additional Mass Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. followed by **Stations of the Cross** at 7:00 p.m.

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: Corn Chowder, Rye Crisps, Fresh Apple OR Baked Cheddar Cheese Stuffed Potato, Pineapple Chunks.**

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:** \$25 Conrad Marth; \$50 Karen and Bill Glose; \$25 Donald Bahnick; \$50 Jo Ann Koehler; \$25 Joan and Bill Filipovits; \$25 Joseph and Diane Zawada and Family; \$25 Vicki Markley; \$20.21 John Yurish; \$25 Ed Hozza, Sr.; \$25 Mike and Sue Spengler. **In memory of Rose Zangari:** \$25 Tonya Weiner.

Slovak Kolach Sale: Your Easter Slovak Kolach **orders are due by next Sunday, March 14.** Please complete the salmon colored form and return it with your payment. The cost is \$16.00 each. Additional order forms are available in the church vestibule. Order pick up is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28.

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.

Good Shepherd Catholic School News: Registrations are now being accepted for grades K through 8 for the 2021-2022 school year. We are also offering a full day 3 year old and 4 year old Preschool program for next year. Classes are filling up quickly for next year, so if you are interested please call the school at 610-262-9171 to set up a private tour or email our Advancement Director Mrs. Tripaldi at mrstripaldigscs@gmail.com.

Join us for Stations of the Cross every Thursday during Lent in Queenship of Mary Church. Stations will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Fish Bake Dinners Notice: Due to concern over the incidence of coronavirus infections during this winter season, Knights of Columbus 4050 will not hold its annual Fish Bake Dinners during Lent 2021. Instead, K of C will hold an outdoor Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday May 8. Watch for information in the future about this fundraiser. All funds raised support the council's charitable giving. The Knights appreciate your support!

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church.

Victim Assistance Coordinator
DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER
1-800-791-9209

Email: victimassistance@allentowndiocese.org

To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndiocese.org and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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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
22nd & 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.

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

