

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 Easter - April 24/25, 2021

Daily Masses

Apr. 26, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Gisella Yurasits Royer Herman	Children and Grandchildren
Apr. 27, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Catherine Arnst	Granddaughter, Debra Kay and Family
Apr. 28, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Margaret Mason	Rose Hurban and Family
Apr. 29, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Rheta Botteon	Assumption B.V.M. Young-at-Heart
Apr. 30, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Robert Chickilly	Brenda and Bob Fritz
May 01, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Virginia Plata	Sisters
May 02, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Gerald J. 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 the sons and daughters of John and Mary Wanisko requested by John and Elizabeth Kuchera.

Please pray for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish. Also remember in your prayers John Kachmar and John Morgan, brother of Butch Morgan, who died recently.

From the Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

Did you know that domesticated sheep must be sheared to maintain their health? An official Statement from the American Society of Animal Science Board of Directors stated: [*Source: <https://www.asas.org/taking-stock/taking-stock/2014/07/14>*]

"As long as there are sheep, shearing must be practiced for the health and hygiene of each individual animal. Unlike other animals, most sheep are unable to shed. If a sheep goes too long without being shorn, a number of problems occur. The excess wool impedes the ability of sheep to regulate their body temperatures. This can cause sheep to become overheated and die. Animal waste and other materials can become trapped in the wool, attracting flies, and other pests. This causes irritation, infections and endangers the health of the animal. Sheep with large amounts of wool can become immobilized by physical obstacles in their path and are more susceptible to predator attacks." [You can find almost anything on the internet just for the looking!]

The Board goes on to state: *"Responsible sheep producers care about the animals they are entrusted with. Livestock farming and ranching is not easy. It is physically demanding; the hours tend to be long and there are no vacation days. Many factors which cannot be controlled such as weather, disease challenges, and predators can impact livelihoods. Despite these challenges, farmers and ranchers raise livestock out of a labor of love and an inborn fondness for animals."*

Now if we can say such admirable things about 'farmers and ranchers' who raise livestock sheep, how much more can we say about Jesus, the Good Shepherd of His people?

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is shown caring for the health and life of people. He healed their ills: blindness, paralysis, leprosy, deafness. But he also knew their sins, and these too, he healed, for the accumulation of sins also attracted 'pests' which endangered the health of poor souls possessed of demons. He drove out the demons [wolves] from his beloved brothers and sisters. The Prophet Isaiah spoke: [Is 1:18] "Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool."

Wool is dirty when it is on the sheep. If the wool of a sheep is symbolic of the accumulation of the sins of the person, then carrying those sins around endangers our health, both physical and spiritual. We need a "Good Shepherd" to "shear" away those sins. When the shepherd is Jesus, he is not going to nick or cut us. He knows how to do it and trains his priests to do the same. Only when the wool is sheared, can it be cleaned, and whitened, so that what had been a danger to health, can become a symbol of the warmth of God's love.

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

First Friday Adoration: The First Friday of May, May 7, 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.



Memorial Flowers: Memorial Flowers: The flowers by the altar this week are in memory of Hutnick and Lessel Families. They were donated by Eleanor and Suzanne Lessel.

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.

We are excited to announce the plans for our first "Shepherd Walk". Our school has been growing, and with that comes the need for many different things that are not covered by our tuition and parish subsidies. In this ever-changing world, there is a great need to raise the funds ourselves to give us the tools we need to provide the best education possible to our students. The walk will take place the week of May 3rd. Because of Covid protocols, we will have the students walk with their class during gym class that week. Friday of that week (May 7th) there will be a whole school celebration. Here are some of the items we are "walking" for: SMARTboards, Picnic tables/benches for the playground, Freshening up of our gym, New Social Studies & Science books. If you would like to sponsor our walk, please send your donation to: Good Shepherd Catholic School, 1300 Newport Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067 Attn. Walk Committee.

Anniversary Flowers: The flowers by the statues of Mary and Joseph this week are in honor of the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Joy and Sal Nicosia. They were donated by their family.

Night at the Ball Game: Come and enjoy an Iron Pigs baseball game on Friday, June 25 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. For ticket reservations call Jane Spengler at 610-262-8138. Cost is \$40 per person. Tickets are limited to 40 people per Coca Cola Park Covid requirements. Because of these social distance requirements tickets are limited to 2 per person, first come, first serve. **Reminder: Payment must be received by Sunday, April 25.**



Chicken Dinner: Saturday, May 8, the Knights of Columbus Council #4050 will hold a take-away Chicken Dinner Fundraiser in Holy Trinity parking lot. Dinners are \$12.00 each. Pre-orders ONLY. Order form at the entrances of church or attached to our Online Bulletin. Order and payment due Sunday, May 2. All funds raised support the council's charitable giving. The Knights appreciate your support. For more information email: KofC4050@gmail.com or call 814-694-4050.

Calendar:

Monday - April 26

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:1-18

Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday - April 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:19-26

Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday - April 28

Easter Weekday

Acts 12:24-13:5a

Jn 12:44-50

Thursday - April 29

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Acts 13:13-25

Jn 13:16-20

Friday - April 30

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:26-33

Jn 14:1-6

Saturday - May 1

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:44-52

Jn 14:7-14

Sunday - May 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31

1 Jn 3:18-24

Jn 15:1-8

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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Ben Porobenski, Proprietor

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Knights of Columbus Council 4050

Chicken Dinner \$12.00

Saturday, May 8, 2021

Pick Up Times -3PM to 6PM

Holy Trinity Church 4102 S. Church Street, Whitehall

½ Roast Chicken, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Roll & Bread

Prepared by Lorah's Farm Market – Take Away Only

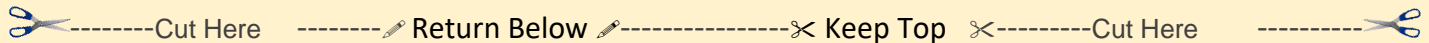
Orders and Payment must be received by Sunday, May 2, 2021

On site purchases will not be available

Questions KofC4050@gmail.com or 814-694-4050

All funds raised support the council's charitable giving. The Knights appreciate your support.

Name _____ Qty _____ Pick up time _____



Return This Order Form by May 2, 2021

Pick up time: __3:00-3:30 __3:30-4:00 __4:00-4:30 __4:30-5:00 __5:00-5:30 __5:30-6:00

Name _____

Email _____

Quantity _____ x \$12.00 each = Total Cost _____

Place form and payment, cash or check in a sealed envelope labeled "Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner," in collection basket by May 2nd
Or mail form and payment to "Knights of Columbus Council 4050, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 4102 S. Church Street, Whitehall, PA 18052
Make Checks Payable to: Knights of Columbus Council 4050

Orders and Payments must be received by Sunday, May 2, 2021