

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 1/2, 2021

Daily Masses

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| May 03, | Monday | 8:00 a.m. | †Elaine Molchany | Mary Molchany |
| May 04, | Tuesday | 8:00 a.m. | †Herb Bitenc | Wife, Marie |
| May 05, | Wednesday | 8:00 a.m. | †Michael Kinney | Steven and Ann Marie Kinney |
| May 06, | Thursday | 8:00 a.m. | †Patricia Guttman | Steve Marsch |
| May 07, | Friday | 8:00 a.m. | †Allen Edelman | Wife and Family |
| May 08, | Saturday | 4:00 p.m. | Parish Mother's Day Intentions | |
| May 09, | Sunday | 8:00 a.m. | Parish Mother's Day Intentions | |
| | | 10:30 a.m. | Parish Mother's Day Intentions | |

Sanctuary Lights are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Joseph Seko, Jr. requested by 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 Karen Martnick who died recently.

From the Pastor Fifth Sunday of Easter

Jesus makes an analogy of vine and branches not just at any time during his public ministry, he does it at the Last Supper. During the Last Supper, he took a chalice of wine and said, "this is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant." In that context of having instituted the Eucharist, it's not trivial that he compares himself to a grapevine. It isn't just any kind of vine, it is a grapevine, which was one of the staples of ancient Israelite agriculture, so it would have been well known. When Jesus starts to talk about a vine and fruit, the context is his just having identified a chalice with the fruit of the grape, or the blood of the grape as the Bible calls it, with his own blood. So that Eucharistic context needs to be kept in mind.

During Passover, the Jews would make a pilgrimage to go into the temple and offer sacrifice, the sacrifice of a lamb. In the temple over the archway leading into it, there was a very visible and sacred decoration, a golden vine. Josephus, the first century Jewish historian who was also a priest in the temple before it was destroyed, gives a description of this golden vine that was above the entryway into the temple: the holy temple... "was covered with gold, and through it the first edifice was visible to a spectator outside in all its grandeur and the surroundings of the inner gate all gleaming with gold fell beneath his eye... It had above it those *golden vines, from which hung grape clusters as tall as a man...*"

If you were a Jewish pilgrim like the disciples going into the temple on Passover, one of the most visible things you'd see was this giant grapevine covered in pure gold, with clusters of grapes as big as a man. They were an allusion to the book of Joshua, when the Israelites went to the promised land and saw the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, carrying clusters of grapes as big as a man. In other words, it was a land flowing with milk and honey. It was a land of abundant produce. So, the temple was like a grand icon of the holy land, the promised land. A vine and its branches are something every Jew would have associated with the temple. When Jesus said "I am the true vine," implicit is a comparison with the earthly temple in Jerusalem and with the golden vine of the Jerusalem temple. Jesus described himself as the true vine of the true temple. It's another instance of Jesus identifying himself as the dwelling place of God on Earth and as the one whose very body was going to replace the new temple.

The branches off of the vine are supposed to bear fruit, because that's why a grapevine is planted. Jesus describes two different kinds of branches on this vine that he himself is. First there are the fruitless branches and then there are the fruitful branches. With regard to the fruitless branches, he says of those who do not bear fruit are cut off from Him. Second, they are burned. He says the branches are cut off and then thrown into the fire. You don't have to be a biblical scholar to figure out what this symbol means, because whenever Jesus uses the imagery of fire in the gospels, he does so with reference to the fires of Gehenna, to the place of the condemned. On the one hand if you are a member of his body, if you're a branch and you're part of the vine, if you're one of his disciples, but you don't keep his word, you don't obey his commandments, you don't actually bear fruit, then God, the vine dresser, the Father, is going to do to you what any vine dresser would do to a branch that's not bearing fruit. He's going to cut it off and throw it into the fire.

By contrast, there are the fruitful branches. Notice too what he says about the fruitful branches. He says every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes that it may bear more fruit. What does pruning mean? How can the Father prune us? If a person is gardening or working with a tree in an orchard, sometimes a branch will bear fruit; in order to get it to bear more fruit you will cut off some of the excess. Anything that's not actually necessary you cut off and then it gives more of the sap to the fruit, so that it is able to bear more fruit. These excess elements are cut off so that the fruit can be more plentiful. Another aspect of this branch is that it abides in the vine, it abides in the main vine, and that apart from the main vine it can't do anything, it becomes lifeless.

Jesus teaches the disciples the necessity of remaining in him and abiding in him. If he is truly the vine and we are the branches, that any fruit we bear really isn't going to be from us. This is a beautiful image here of the life of Christian discipleship and of apostolic activity, of bearing fruit for the kingdom of God. Jesus gives us the essential principle for any kind of apostolic work: unless you abide in Him, we can't do anything, we can't bear any fruit. 'Apart from me you can do nothing,' he says. Sometimes we can be tempted to think, '*apart from Christ I can do some things well, but with Christ I can do even better.*' But what Jesus says is: "apart from me you can do nothing," because the work of the vine dresser and the work of the vine is *supernatural*.

Author Brant Pitre

Dr. Brant Pitre is Distinguished Research Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute, Graduate School of Theology..

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



Memorial Flowers: Memorial Flowers:
 The flowers by the altar this week are in memory of Herb Bitenc. They were donated by his wife, Marie.

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 Fund: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of John Kachmar:** \$1000 Mary Kachmar; \$1000 Kathy and Andy Skrapits and family; \$1000 Ronald and Karen Glassic; \$20 Tom and Sharon Skrapits; \$30 Sandra Glassic; \$50 William and Susan Horn; \$25 Richard and Kathy Kropf; \$50 M/M Steve Everett; \$50 Judith Haldeman; \$50 Michael and Bella Skweir; \$25 Heidi and Steve Skrapits; \$25 Mary Garger; \$25 Juliann and Chloe Skrapits; \$30 Gerald and Tessie Reenock; \$50 Jeffrey Miller; \$25 Dennis and Joyce Blocker; \$15 Steve Marsch; \$25 Mary Legath; \$100 Elaine and Bryan Lebo; \$25 Bill and Mary Ann Holmes; \$25 Conrad Marth. **In memory of Elaine Molchany:** \$75 Robinson & Robinson Incorporated. **In memory of Linda Legath:** \$20 Anita Kotoris.

Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal: This weekend we ask you to visit the Because We Are Catholic website BecauseWeAreCatholic.org to hear from supporters of the appeal why contributing to the Appeal is important to stewardship and their walk with Christ. You will also learn from the ministries the Appeal supports and how your contributions assist those ministries.

Calendar:

Monday – May 3

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
 1 Cor 15:1-8
 Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday – May 4

Easter Weekday
 Acts 14:19-28
 Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday – May 5

Easter Weekday
 Acts 15:1-6
 Jn 15:1-8

Thursday – May 6

Easter Weekday
 Acts 15:7-21
 Jn 15:9-11

Friday – May 7

Easter Weekday
 Acts 15:22-31
 Jn 15:12-17

Saturday – May 8

Easter Weekday
 Acts 16:1-10
 Jn 15:18-21

Sunday – May 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter
 Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
 1 Jn 4:7-10
 Jn 15:9-17

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 email our Advancement Director Mrs. Tripaldi at mrstripaldigscs@gmail.com. to set up a private tour or call the school at 610-262-9171.

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.

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