

# 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 The Most Holy Trinity – May 29/30, 2021

### Daily Masses

May 31, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Veterans of Assumption B.V.M. Parish	
June 1, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†Lisa Gardner	Parents, Ed and Carol
June 2, Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	†Stephen Myirski	Family
June 3, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Rosemarie Meiley	Joseph Sodl and Family
June 4, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†David Plata	Sisters
		(No adoration)	
June 5, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Living and deceased parishioners	
June 6, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Robert Haldeman	Family
	10:30 a.m.	†Frank and Dorothy Geosits	Children and Families

**Sanctuary Lights** are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Herb Bitenc requested by his wife, Marie.

**Please pray** for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish. Also remember in your prayers Albana Gegvata and Frank Straka, father of Rev. Frank Straka, who died recently.

### From the Pastor - The Most Holy Trinity

If any doctrine makes Christianity Christian, then surely it is the doctrine of the Trinity. The three great ecumenical creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—are all structured around God who is Three-in-One, underlying the importance of Trinitarian theology. Saint Augustine once commented about the Trinity that “in no other subject is error more dangerous, or inquiry more laborious, or the discovery of truth more profitable.”

When it comes to the doctrine of the Trinity, most Christians have difficulty in seeing any way in which the doctrine matters in real life. Father Bernard Lonergan, S.J., who wrote a two volume textbook on the Trinity in Latin once quipped, “The Trinity is a matter of five notions or properties, four relations, three persons, two processions, one substance or nature, and no understanding.” All the talk of essence and persons and co-this and co-that seem like theological gobbledy-gook reserved for philosophers and theologians, but certainly not for moms and mechanics and middle-class college students.

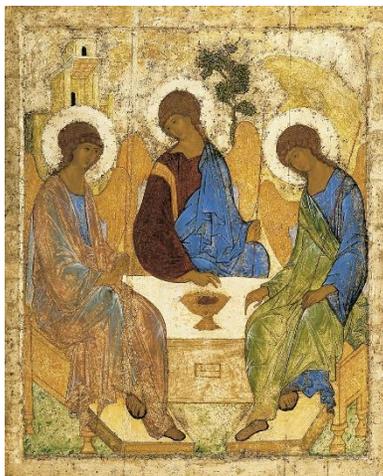
**First, what does the doctrine mean?** The doctrine of the Trinity can be summarized in seven statements. (1) There is only one God. (2) The Father is God. (3) The Son is God. (4) The Holy Spirit is God. (5) The Father is not the Son nor the Spirit. (6) The Son is not the Holy Spirit nor the Father. (7) The Holy Spirit is not the Father nor the Son. All our creeds, the Apostles' creed, the Nicene creed, and the Athanasian creed have to do with safeguarding each one of these statements and doing so without denying any of the other six. The first three centuries of the Church was rife with various heresies concerning the nature and the Persons of the Holy Trinity such that an entire theological language and theology was built up by the Church Fathers in order to hand on the authentic Catholic teaching. The first known usage of the term “trinity” was from Theophilus of Antioch (circa 180 AD), who was the sixth Bishop of Antioch after Saint Peter. He used the Greek word “*trias*.” It was the great theologian of the West, Tertullian (circa 155 AD – 250 AD) who first used the Latin term, “*trinitas*.” The Athanasian Creed, of which most people are completely unaware in the Church today, puts it this way: “Now this is the catholic faith: That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons, nor dividing their essence. For the person of the Father is a distinct person, the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit, still another. But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.”

**Why does it matter?** *The Trinity matters for creation.* God, unlike the ‘gods’ in other ancient creation stories, did not need to go outside himself to create the universe. Instead, the Word and the Spirit were like his own two hands (to use Saint Irenaeus' famous phrase) in fashioning the cosmos. In fact, a famous Russian icon of the Trinity (Rublev icon) portrays the Son and the Spirit as two angels, bowing to the Father, again represented by an angel. Each has a free hand to do the will of the Father. In the Book of Genesis, God created by speaking (the Word) as the Spirit hovered over the chaos. Creation, like regeneration, is a Trinitarian act, with God working by the agency of the Word spoken and the mysterious movement of the Holy Spirit.

*The Trinity matters for evangelism and cultural engagement.* It has been said that the two main rivals to a Christian worldview at present are Islam and Postmodernism (or post-Christianity). Islam emphasizes unity—unity of language, culture, and expression—without allowing much variance for diversity. Postmodernism, on the other hand, emphasizes diversity—diversity of opinion, belief, and background—without attempting to see things in any kind of transcendent unity. Christianity, with its understanding of God as Three-in-One, allows for diversity and unity. If God exists in three distinct Persons who all share the same substance, then it is possible to hope that God's creation may exhibit stunning variety and individuality while still holding together in a genuine oneness.

*The Trinity matters for relationships.* We worship a God who is in constant and eternal relationship with himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ‘Community’ is a buzz word in American culture, but it is only in a Christian framework that communion and interpersonal community are seen as expressions of the eternal nature of God. Likewise, it is only with a Trinitarian God that love can be an eternal attribute of God. Without a plurality of persons in the Godhead, we would be forced to think that God created humans so that he might show love and know love, thereby making love a created thing (and God a needy deity). But with a biblical understanding of the Trinity we can say that God did not create in order to be loved, but rather, created out of the overflow of the perfect love that had always existed among Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who ever live in perfect and mutual COMMUNION.

Monsignor Koons



*The Trinity (also called the Hospitality of Abraham)* is an icon created by Russian painter Andrei Rublev in the 15th century. It is his most famous work and the most famous of all Russian icons, and it is regarded as one of the highest achievements of Russian art. *The Trinity* depicts the three angels who visited Abraham at the Oak of Mamre (Genesis 18:1–8), but the painting is full of symbolism and is interpreted as an icon of the Holy Trinity.

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**Adoration.....** Wednesdays after Mass  
**First Friday Adoration....** July 2, 2021 after Mass  
**Basket Social.....** September 10 – 12, 2021

**Rectory Summer Hours** are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or call for an appointment. **Rectory office is closed on Fridays.**



**Memorial Flowers:** The flowers by the altar this week are in memory of George and Mary Stefaniak. They were donated by daughter, Linda Stefaniak.

**Memorial Fund:** Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contributions **in memory of Albana Gegvata:** \$200 Aferdia Rica; \$200 Mazziotta Family; \$100 Angela Costello.



**Anniversary Flowers:** The roses by Mary's Statue and Saint Joseph's Statue this week are in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Regina and Thomas Krause.

**Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal (BWAC):** We are grateful to all who pledged their support this weekend to the 2021 BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC ANNUAL APPEAL. Your gift will allow our diocese to meet the many and varied needs of the people of this diocese. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how small. If you did not take the opportunity to make your gift, you may do so at any time over the next few weeks by placing your pledge form in the collection basket or visiting the Appeal website at [BecauseWeAreCatholic.org](http://BecauseWeAreCatholic.org). Thank you for your support!

**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](mailto:mrstripaldigscs@gmail.com).

**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.



**Good News!!!** The Assumption B.V.M. Young-At-Heart will resume meetings starting on Tuesday, June 29th, 12 noon, at the 26th Street Playground in Northampton. (Inclement weather: BVM Social Hall) All members will be contacted individually by a club officer. Looking forward to seeing all members attend.

Nancy and Anita (Nikki)

## Calendar:

### Monday - May 31

*Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
 Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–56

### Tuesday – June 1

*St. Justin, Martyr*  
 Tb 2:9–14 / Mk 12:13–17

### Wednesday – June 78/154

*8<sup>th</sup> Week Ordinary Time*  
 Tb 3:1–11a, 16–17a / Mk 12:18–27

### Thursday – June 3

*St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs*  
 Tb 6:10–11; 7:1bcde, 9–17; 8:4–9a  
 Mk 12:28–34

### Friday – June 4

*8<sup>th</sup> Week Ordinary Time*  
 Tb 11:5–17  
 Mk 12:35–37

### Saturday – June 5

*St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr*  
 Tb 12:1, 5–15, 20 / Mk 12:38–44

### Sunday – June 6

*Corpus Christi*  
 Ex 24:3–8  
 Heb 9:11–15  
 Mk 14:12–16, 22–26

### ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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