

# 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.  
Monday & Friday 8:00 a.m.  
Tue., Wed. & Thu. 7:00 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 Advent – December 18/19, 2021**

**Daily Masses**

Dec. 20, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†John Filipovits	Wife, Ann
Dec. 21, Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	†Stephen Kerbacher, Sr.	Wife, Helen, Daughter, Stephanie, Son, Stephen and Family
Dec. 22, Wednesday	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	†Catherine Arnst	Granddaughter, Debra Kay, and Family
Dec. 23, Thursday	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	†Elizabeth and Stephen Balog	Granddaughter, Betty, and Family
Dec. 24, Friday	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Christmas Eve - †Hilda Bendekovits	M/M James Bodnar
	<b>9:00 p.m.</b>	Christmas Eve - Special Intention	Msgr. Koons
Dec. 25, Saturday	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	Christmas Day - †Frank Serensits	Joseph C. Sodl and Family
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Christmas Day – Living/deceased parishioners	
Dec. 26, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Dr. Francis Plucinsky	Ciecko Family
	10:30 a.m.	†Rev. Michael J. Stone	Jane and Ron Spengler
	<b>12:00 noon</b>	Living and deceased parishioners	

**Next Week's Schedule:**

Dec. 24, Fri.	4:00 p.m.
	9:00 p.m.
Dec. 25, Sat.	8:00 a.m.
	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 26, Sun.	8:00 a.m.
	10:30 a.m.

**Lector:**

Mary Ellen Schwartz
Denise Hozza
Anthony Molchany
Larry Nemeth
Marge Heist
Deb Heckenberger

**Euch. Min.:**

Conrad Marth
Drew Maron
Joseph Ciecko
Cindy Walsh
Drew Maron

**Altar Servers:**

Andrew Nederostek/Lena Hartman/Maren Hartman
Mikayla Warren/Hope Warren
Samuel Kroll
Gerald Miletics
Aidan Kraus/Gavin Fritz
Darcy Conrad/Elsie Conrad

**Sanctuary Lights** are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of John Filipovits requested by wife, Ann.

**Please pray** for God's blessings and the gift of good health for the sick people of our parish.

## Good News!

December 19, 2021  
 Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)  
 Mi 5:1–4a; Heb 10:5–10; Lk 1:39–45

It's not only children who are impatient with the lo-o-o-o-ng ride that takes them to a party or an amusement park. Adults can hardly contain themselves as they await the announcement of a winner, the return of an absent loved one, or the birth of a baby. This is the kind of excitement found in today's readings. Micah describes the long-awaited leader promised by God. He will be even more than the people could have imaged: firm, strong, and dependable. They must have asked, "When is he coming?"

By the time the Gospel was written, Jesus' followers knew a lot about him, so they were able to embellish stories a bit, the way we often do to emphasize the greatness of someone. They believed he was so extraordinary that his greatness was recognized even before he was born. His pregnant mother was told, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). She must have been frequently asked, "When are you due? When is he coming?"

The reading from Hebrews does not provide specific details of Jesus' coming. Rather, it tells us why he came: "I come to do your will, O God" (10:7). That is what the people of Micah's era were really longing for—not simply a leader, but one who did God's will and who would lead them to do it too. We're now on the threshold of the fulfillment of that promise. Are you excited? Are we there yet?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## Calendar

**Monday – December 20**

Advent Weekday  
 Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38

**Tuesday – December 21**

Advent Weekday  
 Sg 2:8–14 / Lk 1:39–45

**Wednesday – December 22**

Advent Weekday  
 1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56

**Thursday – December 23**

Advent Weekday  
 Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 / Lk 1:57–66

**Friday – December 24**

Advent Weekday  
 2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16  
 Lk 1:67–79

**Saturday – December 25**

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
 Is 52:7–10 / Heb 1:1–6  
 Jn 1:1–18

**Sunday – December 26**

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
 1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28  
 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24 / Lk 2:41–52

**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.  
**First Friday Adoration....** after 8:00 Mass  
**Prayer Shawl Meeting....** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of month @ 10 a.m.  
**Adoration.....** Wednesdays after Mass  
**Choir Rehearsal.....** Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.



**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**  
**[Week Four] – [Before the evening meal, the family gathers at table.]**

**Leader:** Father, to you belong the seasons and the ages. **All:** *You are the beginning and the end of all things.* **Leader:** Prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth with joy. *℟- Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Inspire in us sincere conversion and repentance. *℟ - Christ, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Help the poor, afflicted, and oppressed this Christmas season. *℟ - Lord, hear our prayer.* **Leader:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN. [Three purple candles and the one rose candle are lighted and left burning during the meal.]**

**Advent Confessions**

Sunday, December 19, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 Monday, December 20, 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.  
 Wednesday, December 22, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Breakfast:** Back by Popular Demand. We will be resuming the BVM Breakfast starting on January 23, 2022. Please watch the bulletin for more information. Also, Donut Sundays are back starting on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Hope to see you there.

**Rectory Office** will be closed Friday, December 24 thru Monday, December 27 for Christmas. Also, the rectory office will be closed Friday, December 31 thru Monday, January 3 for New Year's.

**A Christmas Tree Blessing:** Father in Heaven, we thank you for your goodness. Bless this tree that we have decorated in honor of your Son's birth among us: let its lights remind us that he is Lord, and its decorations recall our joy. Grant that we may receive him as our Savior, and continue to give you glory by our lives. We ask this grace, Father in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Christmas Crib Blessing:** Blessed are you, Lord God, king of all creation: we praise you for your love. We thank you because you have loved us so much that you sent your only Son to bring us eternal life. Bless this crib that we have prepared, and let it be a reminder to us of the Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. Father, we praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Oplatky (Christmas Wafers)** will be available (free will offering) in the church social hall all weekends during Advent. The 2022 Calendars, which are free, will also be available in the church social hall during Advent, compliments of Schisler Funeral Home.

**Christmas thru Epiphany - Mass Schedule**

<b>Christmas Eve – Fri., Dec. 24</b>	<b>4:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Christmas Day – Sat., Dec. 25</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, December 26</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon</b>
<b>Monday, December 27</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 28</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 29</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, December 30</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Friday, December 31</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
<b>New Year's Eve – Fri., Dec. 31</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>New Year's Day – Sat., Jan. 1</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Epiphany – Sat., Jan. 1 (Vigil)</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sun., Jan. 2</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.</b>

**Winter Weather:** With the return to colder temperatures and the possibility of snow and ice, we ask everyone to exercise caution when using the front church steps. A recommended alternative would be to enter thru the side entrance and use the interior Steps/Elevator.

**Lottery Calendars:** The Parish Fund Raising Committee is sponsoring a monthly lottery calendar for January 2022. The calendars are \$5 each and the winners are based on the **evening daily** Pennsylvania Lottery number. Calendars will be on sale before Masses this weekend, December 18/19; **Friday, December 31 before the 4:00 p.m. Mass and Saturday, January 1 before the 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Masses.** This will be the last chance to purchase the calendars.

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