

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARYCHURCH



PARISH INFORMATION

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Koons, Pastor
Mrs. Karen Glose, Director of Music
Mrs. Mary LaBianca, Adult Choir Director
Mr. John-Paul Crescenzo, 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
Mr. John-Paul Crescenzo, M.Ed., Principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School

Rectory Address: 2174 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067-1257
Rectory Phone: 610-262-2559 **Rectory Fax:** 610-262-1613
Rectory E-Mail: bvm1922@rcn.com **Website:** www.bvm-northampton.com
Religious Education: 610-262-7343 **Youth Activities:** 610-760-9491
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: Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
 Telephone: 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019
Courage: 610-334-9147
Diocesan Website: www.allentowndiocese.org

Masses

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday 8:00, 10:30 a.m.
 Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 8:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

 Holy Days 7:00 p.m. [Vigil]
 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 living in the parish boundaries are asked to register at the rectory. Please notify the rectory if you change your address or phone number or move out of the parish.

Communion to the Sick

Communion is taken to the sick after the Sunday Masses and on First Fridays. The Anointing of the Sick is celebrated with individual homebound parishioners on First Fridays several times a year. 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.

Parish Activities/Contacts

Adult Education	Msgr. Koons.....610-262-2559	Lectors	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559
Adult Prayer Group	Vincent Santucci.....610-262-8428	Ministry to the Sick	Msgr. Koons.....610-262-2559
Altar Servers	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559	Music Ministry/Choir	Karen Glose.....610-691-0525
Baptismal Prep Classes	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559	Nthmp Area Food Bank	Bella Skweir.....610-262-2673
Blood Drive	Deborah Heckenberger...610-760-9491	Parish Family Picnic	Msgr. Koons.....610-262-2559
Chi-Rho Volunteers	Jane Spengler.....610-262-8138	Persons w/Disabilities Rep.	Susan Parker.....610-262-7343
Church Cleaning Teams	Barbara Pengitore.....610-262-3193	Prayer Chain	Priscilla Koch.....610-428-9053
CYO	Tim Gribb610-762-9072	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Mary LaBianca.....610-502-0160
Eucharistic Ministers	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559	Pro-Life Activities	Msgr. Koons.....610-262-2559
Finance Committee	Drew Maron.....610-393-9126	Religious Education	Susan Parker.....610-262-7343
Fund Raising	Barbara Pengitore.....610-262-3193	RENEW Group	Charlie Walsh.....610-837-0376
Grocery Certificates	GSCS Office.....610-262-9171	RCIA	Msgr. Koons.....610-262-2559
Greeters	Joanne Manning.....610-262-2559	Ushers	Michael Sommer.....610-262-7904
Grief Support	Rosemarie Pengitore.....484-226-0188	Young at Heart	Anna Hudock.....610-262-3478
Hospitality Committee	Jane Spengler.....610-262-8138	Youth Activities	Deborah Heckenberger...610-760-9491
Knights of Columbus Council #4050484-540-5090		

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 17, Monday	8:00 a.m.	†Catherine Holena	Reggie DeLong
Dec. 18, Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	†John Filipovits	Wife, Ann
Dec. 19, Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	†Connie Marth	M/M Robert Friel and Family
Dec. 20, Thursday	8:00 a.m.	†Frank Serensits	Wife, Elaine and Family
Dec. 21, Friday	8:00 a.m.	†Elizabeth and Stephen Balog	Granddaughter, Betty and Family
Dec. 22, Saturday	4:00 p.m.	†Catherine Arnst	Granddaughter, Debra Kay and Family
Dec. 23, Sunday	8:00 a.m.	†Helen Marhefka	Barbara Grabarits and Family
	10:30 a.m.	Living and deceased members of our parish	

Next Week's Schedule: Lector:

Dec. 22, Sat.	4:00 p.m.	S. Parker
Dec. 23, Sun.	8:00 a.m.	M. Heist
	10:30 a.m.	D. Heckenberger

Euch. Min.:

C. Marth
N. Birosik
R. Shearman

Altar Servers:

N. Bischof
W. Cuchran
J. Bobko/S. Kroll

Greeters:

L. Bet/P. Schuler
N. Birosik/D. Cesanek
H. Stempo/B. Yezzo

SANCTUARY LIGHTS are burning this week in loving memory and for the pious intention of Connie Marth requested by Husband, Conrad and Family.

PLEASE PRAY for God's blessing and gift of good health for all the sick of our parish. Also remember in your prayers, Andrea Dias, sister of Brenda Fritz, who died recently.

Good News!

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

There was anxious anticipation amongst the Jews about the coming Messiah. Yet, we have no reason for anxiety.

Anxiety comes from fear of the unknown. When we're unsure of how things will turn out, we get anxious. When we lack control or can't plan for our security, we get anxious.

Fear and anxiety are the enemies of intimacy and love. Fear makes us run far enough away so we feel removed from danger, safe from the aggressor. Or it drives us to hold someone, seeking strength in attachment. But fear doesn't create space for true intimacy. It either creates excessive distance or suffocating closeness.

John the Baptist didn't want to create fear or caution of God. Rather, he wanted to open hearts to receive God in love. Ours is not a God of fear, but of love.

In Jesus' Incarnation, he shows just how much he wants to be with us. He comes to make his home among us, while waiting for us to accept him and make room for him. He doesn't force, but comes with patience and love.

Knowing that he loves and wants the best for us, we merely need to make ourselves known to him by revealing our deepest needs to him with prayer.

John the Baptist came to prepare the path for the Messiah, and many responded by asking, "What should we do to prepare?" Put aside anxiety and fear, simply prepare a home for the Lord, and then let him in.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Calendar:

Monday - December 17

Advent Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8-10

Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday - December 18

Advent Weekday

Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday - December 19

Advent Weekday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a

Lk 1:5-25

Thursday - December 20

Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38

Friday - December 21

Advent Weekday

Sg 2:8-14

Lk 1:39-45

Saturday - December 22

Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28

Lk 1:46-56

Sunday - December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:39-45

- Rel. Ed. Classes** : Sundays, 9:00 - 10:05 a.m.
Prayer Shawl Meeting : 3rd Tues. of month @ 10 a.m.
7th & 8th Grade Rel. Ed. : Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal : Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Church Decorating : Sunday, Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m.
Baptismal Preparation Class: Wed., Jan. 9, 5:30 p.m.
Donut/Giving Sunday : Sunday, January 13
Breakfast : Sunday, January 27
Confirmation : Tuesday, March 12 at 4:30 p.m.
BVM Night – Iron Pigs : Thursday, August 22, 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE: On Christmas Eve starting at 8:30 p.m. the Choir will sing Christmas Carols. Come and enjoy the caroling followed by our Eucharistic Celebration at 9:00 p.m. Merry Christmas!



Lighting of the Advent Wreath [Week Three] – [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:** O Desired One of the nations, may we always be awake and alert to your coming. **R - Come and make us one.** **Leader:** O Judge of the living and the dead, reward us according to our deeds. **R - Come and make us one.** **Leader:** O Bringer of Salvation, fill us with joyful longing for your coming. **R - Come and make us one.** **Leader:** Lord, hear our prayers and come to us, bringing light into the darkness of our hearts; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN. [Two purple candles and the one rose candle are lighted and left burning during the meal.]**

ADVENT CONFESSIONS: **Monday,** December 17 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.; **Tuesday,** December 18 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.; **Wednesday,** December 19 following the 7:00 p.m. Mass; **Thursday,** December 20 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. **Friday,** December 21 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.; **Saturdays,** December 22 from 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

RECTORY OFFICE will be closed Monday, December 24 thru Wednesday, December 26 for Christmas. Also, the rectory office will be closed Monday, December 31 thru Wednesday, January 2 for New Year's.

MEMORIAL FUND: Gratefully the parish acknowledges the following memorial contribution **in memory of Robert Strohl:** \$20 Bill and Louise Procanyn. **In memory of Judy Nikischer:** \$10 Steve Marsch. **In memory of Thomas Balent:** \$50 Wife, Edna, and Family.

OPLATKY (CHRISTMAS WAFERS) is available (free will offering) in the church social hall all weekends during Advent. The 2019 Calendars, which are free, are now available in the church social hall, compliments of Schisler Funeral Home.

STOCKING STUFFER: Need a stocking stuffer? Or just a little something to add to a gift for that special person? The Parish Fund Raising Committee is sponsoring a monthly lottery calendar for January 2019. The calendars are \$5 each and the winners are based on the **evening daily** Pennsylvania Lottery number. Calendars will be on sale before Mass the weekends of December 15/16, 22/23 and 29/30. **Calendars must be purchased prior to January 1, 2019.**



CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS:

Anyone who would like to help with the Christmas decorating is asked to come to the Church **today, Sunday, December 16, at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided.**

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING: The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will take place **this Tuesday, December 18 at 10:00 am** in the Parish Religious Education classroom.



HAMS/TURKEYS NEEDED: The Northampton Area Food Bank is looking for donations of Turkeys or Hams (**by December 18**) to distribute to needy families for Christmas. Anyone interested in donating is asked to please call the church rectory between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at 610-262-2559.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve	4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 Phone No. _____

Check One:

New Registration Change of Address
 Moving out of Parish Request Envelopes
 Request envelopes (returned home from college)

Please drop in the collection basket or mail to the Rectory



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.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Foster Jewelers

John and Lucy Schneck - 610-262-4068

Expert Stone Setting and Jewelry Repair
 1859 Main Street, Northampton, PA 18067

Please patronize our bulletin advertisers



BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 27, 2019

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD
AT THE DOOR ONLY

ADULTS \$7.00

CHILDREN \$3.00

MENU

French Toast

Pancakes

Scrambled Eggs & Hash Brown

Choice of: Sausage, Bacon or Ham

Omelet your way & Hash Brown

Cheese Steak Omelet & Hash Brown

Includes: Juice, Toast, Coffee or Tea