

**YOUR STEWARDSHIP
IS THE SOURCE OF OUR GROWTH**

April 27-28, 2019: \$10,635.00

Thank you for your support and generosity. The statement printed above expresses the gratitude felt in response to the generosity of the people of Assumption parish. For it is your weekly contributions that make much of what is done here possible. Thanks are extended to those who use envelopes and those who contribute through our Online Giving.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 6, 2019

10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Finnegan Room
12:00 p.m. Sewing Sisters—Finnegan Room
7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Group—Fritz Room

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

1:00 p.m. *Yarns of Love*—Finnegan Room
6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group—Finnegan Rm.

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

3:15 p.m. VBS Preparation Mtg.—Dining Hall
6:30 p.m. RCIA—Finnegan Room
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Church

Thursday, May 9, 2019

9:00 a.m. Respect Life Group—Coll Room
1:00 p.m. Young at Heart—Hanlon Center
6:30 p.m. Rosary—Church
7:30 p.m. Contm Ensbl practice—Church
7:30 p.m. CoDa—Fritz Room
8:00 p.m. Adult Volleyball—Hanlon Center

Friday, May 10, 2019

6:00 a.m. Top Gun—Finnegan Room

Saturday, May 11, 2019

10:30 a.m. First Eucharist

Sunday, May 12, 2019

**Please come and say the Rosary
on Thursday, May 9th.**

The rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m. in the church on the second Thursday of each month in the church. Come and place your intentions before the Blessed Mother.



Next weekend, we will kickoff the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA). The funds collected from the Appeal offer vital services like Catholic Charities, care for our retired and infirmed priests, education of Seminarians and Deacons, Catholic schools and support for our centers for special learning. Please watch the bulletin for details and prayerfully consider a donation this year.

**PARISH NIGHT
AT THE IRON PIGS**



The annual Assumption parish night to see an Iron Pigs game will be on **Friday June 14**. Tickets are \$11 with a \$2 food voucher.

♦ All Altar servers will receive a free ticket, but it must be ordered.

Anyone interested can make a reservation by calling Dennis Eddinger 610-791-1758 or emailing: dfe60@msn.com.

**The deadline for ordering
tickets will be next Sunday,
May 12.**



**Eucharist Ministers, Lectors,
Hospitality Ministers
and Altar Servers:**

The new liturgical schedule for May through August is now complete and is on our website. Please go to: www.assumptionbethlehem.com and click on **Ministry** heading and then go to the **"Liturgical Schedule Link"** to view the new schedule.

Mission Statement

The Church of the Assumption B.V.M. is dedicated to becoming a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. As disciples we make Jesus Christ a living reality in the lives of the members of our parish family. By guiding and encouraging our people to discipleship through a heightened awareness of our Lord's presence in their lives, the parish community becomes a visible and active expression of the living Christ in our world today.

Assumption Parish Staff

Parish Office: 610-867-7424 - ext. 10

Rev. Msgr. Nevin Klinger J.C.L., M.A., Pastor

Deacon Don Elliott - ext 18, Deacon Stu Herman - ext. 19

Saint Michael the Archangel School: 610-867-8422

Mrs. Colleen Weiss, Principal; Mrs. Erin Faust, Vice Principal

Assumption Preschool, Mrs. Andrea Powell, Director: powellandrea725@gmail.com

Christina Durback, DRE: Parish & St. Michael Middle School: 610-814-0712

Dr. Dennis Varley: Director of Music: dennis.varley@desales.edu

Mary Williams/Parish Office – x10, Email: abvmrect@ptd.net

Kate Varley –Room Scheduling/Bulletin – x11, Email: abvmkate@ptd.net



The May meeting of the "Young At Heart" group will be held on **Thursday, May 9** at 1 p.m. in the Hanlon Center gym. We will be entertained by the Lehigh Valley POPs Orchestra (sponsored by the Active Live Center in Allentown). Retired and semi-retired parishioners are invited to attend along with any guests you wish to bring. Our St. Michael's School students are also attending the concert so this should be an enjoyable multi-generational event. Light refreshments will be served to all adults in the Finnegan Room immediately following the concert to give you time to socialize with orchestra members and each other.

- ◆ Special thanks to **Mrs. Mary Martocci** for her 30 years of service as wedding minister coordinator for our parish weddings. We thank Mary for her years of time and effort on behalf of the many couples who celebrated their weddings here at Assumption B.V.M. parish.
- ◆ Many thanks to Barb Paluszek, and the Liturgy Board, for leading and hosting the Fellowship Book Discussion on *Shaken* by Tim Tebow. Parishioners enjoyed a lively discussion.
- ◆ The *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* was chanted last Sunday by Paul DiBenedetto and Makayla Schmid accompanied by Sandy Andreucci. Many thanks for their gifts of music to our parish community. Thanks to Deacon Don for leading the Chaplet.

thank
you!

Assumption Church Vacation Bible School

June 24-27, 2019

9 a.m. - noon

"Holy Hikers – Power Up to the Peaks!"

Climb with us on a fun, faith-filled adventure as we journey with Jesus up hills and mountains to grow in friendship with Him! Registration and Volunteer Applications are available at: durback@ptd.net, in the Religious Education Office, and in the Parish Office.



Register early for a discount; space is limited!

- Participant registration deadline: May 31



Widowed people created *Soaring Spirits* because we discovered that connecting with other widowed people made the challenges of surviving a spouse or partner a little easier to manage. There is a widowed community here at *Soaring Spirits* that offers widowed men and women understanding, friendship, inspiration, and encouragement as they learn to live without the person with whom they intended to spend the rest of their lives. Join us for local events: Saturday May 11 at **11:00 a.m. Bonfish Grill**, Lehigh Valley Mall, 901 Leigh Lifestyle Center Whitehall, PA 18052 and/or Tuesday May 21 at **5:30 p.m. Bar Louie The Promenade** 2960 Center Valley Pkwy Suite 700, Center Valley, PA 18034. For more information contact Sonja at 610-297-0057.



www.st-mikes.com

Mrs. Colleen Weiss, Principal
Mrs. Erin Faust,
Assistant Principal

MUSIC COMPETITION

A job well done to those students that placed accordingly in the ACCHS Music Competition Awards among all participating schools:

7th-8th Grade Vocal

1st place – Sophia Frey
3rd place – Nicole Hoang

4th-6th Grade Vocal

2nd place – Madeline Janis

7th-8th Grade Piano/String/Percussion

3rd place-Elizabeth Daley

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2019

DID YOU KNOW ST. MICHAEL'S HAS...

- *1: iPADS for all students K-8
- *All PA certified faculty
- *Many faculty with Master's Degrees
- *Full religious curriculum
- *Two gymnasiums
- *Art studio
- *A full science lab
- *A computer lab
- *Weekly STEM programming
- *Coding and Robotics
- *A CYO Musical Theater program
- *Students that excel in high school
- *Full Day/ 5 Day Pre-K and K programs

If interested, contact the Advancement Office at 610-867-8422. Space is limited in most grades.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL ANNUAL FUND: Our appeal will be ending on June 30, 2019. If you have given in support of our efforts, thank you! If you have not donated to date, we ask you to prayerfully consider helping us toward our goal.



2018 - 2019 school theme:

*Called to be Holy
Called to be Saints*

**Parish Religious Education Program
PREP**

During this Easter season, we ask for **prayers for our 41 First Communion candidates** who will celebrate this Sacrament on May 11. Preparation of children and youth for the Sacraments is the responsibility of first their parents, then of the pastor and the entire parish community. Your prayerful remembrance is a significant contribution to our young people's preparation. Thank you.



Closing Session for PREP are April 24 and 28. As we complete another blessed **PREP season**, we offer prayers in thanksgiving to God for the dedicated, loving service our catechists and aides give in sharing the Good News with our children. May God bless these adult parishioners for their offering of time and talents in assisting parents in the Catholic faith formation of their children: Leslie Cherry, Nikki Guerra, Kim Heitzer, Jackie Russ-Harford, Carla Kologie, Nicole King, Lynette Martins, Barb Paluszek, Kathleen Paul, Tracy Chaffier, Donna Weston, Rich Kolecki, Tammy Napolitano, Kelly Spradlin, Barb Rouland, Rose Perrelli, Kris Corcoran, Peggy Brock, Lindsay Albert, Kyle Gangewere, Lisa Niescier, Frank Lynch, and Nancy O'Keefe. We are equally grateful for our teens who assist faithfully as PREP aides: Alex, Grace, Cora, Claire, Allison, Hope, Sean, Calista, Jackson, Jordan, Sofia, Michael, and Jerry. Thanks to Anne Chadwell-Slutz, our PREP assistant, hospitality minister Penelope Tervalon, and to office helpers Renee Mulhall, and Kathleen Ascani, Ed and Conor. They are fine witnesses of Christian service to our children. God bless you all!

FIRST EUCHARIST 2019 REMINDER

First Eucharist Special Preparation Session:

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8 for all children who will celebrate First Eucharist this year. Children are to meet in the church at 5 p.m. Parents, please return at 6 p.m. for specific instructions about the reception of First Eucharist and for some prayer time.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week
in memory of R. W. Stout.



Monday, May 6: Easter Weekday

8:15 a.m. Frank Haney

Tuesday, May 7: Easter Weekday

8:15 a.m. Joanne Kostecky Petito

Wednesday, May 8: Easter Weekday

8:15 a.m. Margaret Niedenberger

Thursday, May 9: Easter Weekday

8:15 a.m. Maureen Heath

Friday, May 10: Easter Weekday

8:15 a.m. Peg & George Martin

Saturday, May 11: Easter Weekday

No Morning Mass

Vigil 5:00pm Mother Day Flower Intentions

Sunday, May 12: Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:30 a.m. Mother's Day Flower Intentions

10:00 a.m. Mother's Day Flower Intentions

11:30 a.m. Mother's Day Flower Intentions

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

The Respect Life meetings will be held every 2nd Thursday of the month from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Coll Room. The May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9. All are welcome! We will be discussing current and upcoming parish pro-life activities AND prominent "life" issues confronting our culture today.

- For more information, contact Lisa Temple at lisa_temple3@yahoo.com.

Grocery Gift Cards

April 2-29: \$4,275.00

We sell Gifts Cards in the parish office during weekly office hours and after the 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses on weekends. Remember, this program does not cost you anything. We receive 5% of every dollar sold. Try it, it's easy!

Here's how it works:

- The church purchases gift cards from local grocery stores at a 5% discount. (**Copperhead Grille gives us 7%. Macy's and Red Robin Restaurant gives us a 10% discount!**)
- Parishioners purchase the cards from the church, paying the amount stated on each card.
- The discount profit percentage helps to pay the maintenance and upkeep of the Hanlon Center.
- Parishioners redeem the card for full face value at the participating store.



ASSUMPTION
PRESCHOOL

Summer Camp:

Imagine mornings with time to roam and play, both inside and out. Imagination is exactly the opportunity we plan to offer this summer! Available weeks are **June 10, 17, July 8, 15, 22, 29 and Aug. 5**. Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to noon. Each week will have a different theme! Children who are 3 years old by 6/11/19 are welcome to join! Tuition is \$125 per week and must be paid by June 1st. Contact Catherine Beck at cmbeck24@gmail.com for more information.

SALESIAN RETREAT

Join us for a Salesian Retreat with **Bro. Mickey McGrath, OSFS**, Salesian visiting artist

on

SATURDAY, MAY 11 FROM 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

DeSales University Center

The retreat is Free and open to the public. Event includes lunch so registration is required. www.desales.edu/salesian (scroll to visiting artist) For more information contact Lore McFadden lore.mcfadden@desales.edu or 610.282.1100 x 1244.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Gospel today sees Peter and his colleagues after the Resurrection, returning to Galilee and resuming the family business. They are fishing by night. Although it is true that fish feed by night, the mention of darkness here is more about the human spirit than it is about fishing advice. Modern life keeps darkness effectively under control; much of the world has been glowing radiantly through the night for a century. Yet just as surely as the Risen Christ breaks into Peter's fishing, so does he break into the usual patterns of our own darkness, electric lights notwithstanding. It is Easter, and we are the people of the light.

In our tradition, Evening Prayer, celebrated in monasteries, parishes, cathedrals, and homes everywhere, is a kind of solemn protest against the darkness and its claims, an act of praise for our light-bearing God, and a commitment to carrying that light forward. Sunset is a turning point of our day, felt less acutely in an electrified world, but still an effective reminder that one day darkness overtakes us all. Yet our Eastering has taught us in a hundred ways that the victory belongs to the Bearer of Light. Easter summons us to transform our everyday "blackouts," perhaps in a way as simple as a whispered prayer of thanks at evening for the blessings of the day.



It is never too early to hear God's call to be a catechist! If you think God may be calling you to serve as a catechist or aide in Assumption PREP starting this September (Parish Religious Education Program for children and youth in grades K – 8), contact Christina Durback at 610-814-0712 or durback@ptd.net for more information. No commitment is necessary; this is simply an invitation to explore!



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Because We Are Catholic

The Bishop's Annual Appeal united 84 parishes, 32 Catholic Elementary Schools, 7 Catholic High Schools, and 3 Special Learning Centers in our diocese in common effort to share the Catholic faith. This year's Bishop's Annual Appeal goal is \$4.6 million, which helps to fund projects, programs, and ministries serving children, adults and families in the Diocese of Allentown.

Please be generous in your support of the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Make your pledge by phone (1.800.831.4443) or online at www.faithhopecharitygives.org.

Faith and Spirits – St. Ignatius Loyola and the Discernment of Spirits. Join us on Monday, May 6, 2019, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Braveheart Highland Pub in Hellertown as **Rev. Christopher Walsh** explores the Spirituality of Saint Ignatius Loyola. Who is Saint Ignatius Loyola? What is discernment, and how do we know if we are doing it correctly? These questions and more will be discussed. There is no cost to attend and no registration is required. Braveheart is located at 430 Main Street, Hellertown and they will have menus available for ordering food and drink at your expense. For questions contact the Office of Adult Formation by email at adultformation@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900, Ext. 2021

Care Packages for the Troops



Blue Star Mothers of America, Lehigh Valley Chapter PA201 is planning to send care packages to deployed military members in June. We'd love to send a package to your family members or friends. If you know someone deployed, serving overseas, or even stateside and would like them to receive a package, please email their name and address to Joan Glover at jglover@ptd.net or give her a call at 610-349-7791. If you'd like to know more about the Blue Star Mothers, please call or email Judy Miller, President of the LV Chapter @ 610-428-0778 or jmillerbsmx2@gmail.com.

Fund to Compensate Abuse Victims Begins Operation

The Diocese of Allentown has started a fund designed to compensate victims for the harm done by some members of the clergy during a dark chapter in the Diocese of Allentown's history. *The program will be independent of the Diocese and will not be funded by donations.*

Victims of clergy sexual abuse can apply to receive compensation as one aspect of their healing. Cases will be assessed individually, and customized compensation offers will be made by independent administrators.

The Diocese has set aside millions of dollars for victim compensation by using available cash, by selling assets, and by borrowing money. No parish or school assets, and no money donated to the **Bishop's Annual Appeal**, will be used for victim compensation. Future collections at parish Masses also will not be used.

"If you suffered abuse at the hands of a priest in our Diocese, I invite you to seek compensation through this fund," said Bishop Alfred Schlert. "While I know that money alone cannot fully compensate you for the harm you have suffered over these years, my sincere hope is that compensation will meaningfully assist in your healing and recovery. I humbly apologize to all victims and their families, and to anyone who has harmed by these heinous acts," said Bishop Schlert.

An **Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program** will be administered by Washington D.C.-based Attorney Kenneth Feinberg and his colleague, Camille Biros, who have a national reputation for fairness and independence in compensating victims of clergy sexual abuse and other tragedies. It will be open for applications through September 30, 2019.

The program is designed to provide victims with prompt compensation, without the need for the uncertainty of years-long litigation. Applying to the fund is voluntary, and victims are not required to accept offers made by the administrators.

The program website is found at: **www.AllentownDioceseIRCP.com** and contains the full protocol for the program, including questions and answers.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Please contact the parish office to register.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are scheduled in the parish office after receipt of sponsor certificates. Baptisms take place **immediately following the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass**. Contact the parish office at 610-867-7424 x10 at least six weeks in advance. Parents must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class.

WEDDINGS

Couples must contact the pastor at least 6 months prior to the wedding.

BULLETIN

All copy must be received in writing two Fridays prior to the intended Sunday publication. We reserve the right to edit all copy. All inserts must be received at least two weeks in advance.

PRAYER CHAIN

Call Carol Herman at 610-838-1048 or email her at prayer@ealvinc.com and give her your name and intention. She will contact other parishioners participating in our Prayer Chain on your behalf.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Council welcomes any comments or suggestions by parishioners. Please contact Jeanine Faust at faust2@epix.net this month.

PARISH MEMORIALS

Following the death of a relative or friend, offerings may be made to the Church in loving memory of the deceased. The offerings may specify a particular request or placed in the Parish Memorial Endowment, The Parish Education Endowment, or the Health Ministry Endowment.

Our website:

www.assumptionbethlehem.com