

PALM SUNDAY

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”

Mark 11:9

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church March 24, 2024

This year, we hear the Passion from the gospel of Mark. One thing unique about this reading is the emphasis on Jesus being abandoned by his disciples. First, the leaders of the disciples cannot even support Jesus in his agony in the garden: They fall asleep, three times. Then there is Judas, who seeks out the chief priests to make a deal with them, Peter, who denies Jesus three times, and the crowds who cried, “Hosanna!” a few days before, now call for him to be crucified.

What does this tell us? With friends like these, who needs enemies? No, the point is that Jesus died specifically for these people, not because they were once friends, but because they were sinners, who needed Jesus. When we find ourselves in sin, when we think that everything we do is wrong, or when we think we can't possibly deserve to be loved by God—that is when God can help us, if we just stop hating ourselves and start loving and trusting the Lord. It is not the time to pretend we have avoided the big sins, or to brag about some of the good we may have done. Instead simply agree that you need his help. God loves sinners who know they need his forgiveness and don't deserve it.

But maybe you have already been forgiven and wonder what's next. Remember the ones you would not expect to support Jesus: the centurion proclaiming him Son of God, Joseph giving him a burial place, the women who followed Jesus. These were people who did not claim to be worthy, just did what they could to show their love. Ask Jesus each morning when you wake up, “What can I do for you today?” and do what you can.

-Tom Schmidt

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening Vigil:
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning:
8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.

Monday—Friday
9:00 a.m.

Holy Days:
Vigil: 6:30 p.m.
Holy Day:
9:00 a.m.
& 6:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday:
4:00-4:45 p.m.
and by appointment.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC:
Direct telephone: 1-800-791-9209

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MONSIGNOR ROBERT COLL, PASTOR EMERITUS

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Christ's Entrance Into Jerusalem
- Bernhard Plockhorst

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PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Mar. 25, 2024

12:00pm Sewing Sisters—Finnegan Room
7:00pm Lenten Rosary—Church

Tuesday, Mar. 26, 2024

Wednesday, Mar. 27, 2024

10:00am Bible Study—Finnegan Room
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal—Church
7:00pm RCIA—Finnegan Room

Thursday, Mar. 28, 2024

(no morning Mass)
7:00 pm *The Mass of the Lord's Supper* -Church

Friday, Mar. 29, 2024

(no morning Mass)
3:00 p.m. *The Commemoration of the Lord's Passion*—Church
4:00 p.m. Confessions—Church
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Church

Saturday, Mar. 30, 2024

11am-noon Confessions—Church
12:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Food
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil—Church

Sunday, Mar. 31, 2024

8:00 am Mass in Church
10 & 11:30 am Mass in the Hanlon Center



WEEKEND CELEBRANTS

Sat. Vigil, Mar. 30 at 8:00 pm— Msgr. Klinger

Easter Sunday, Mar. 31

8:00 am—Church – Fr. Ripp
10 am— Hanlon Center - Msgr. Klinger
11:30am—Hanlon Center - Fr. Burns

**The celebrants are subject to change.
See our website for updates.**

PALM SUNDAY

On that Sunday so long ago, the Prince of Peace arrived in the city whose name meant peace. The first part of Jerusalem's name is *yiroo*, meaning "they will see" or "they will feel awe," and core of the word is *shalem*, meaning completeness and wholeness. *Shalem* is the root of the Hebrew word for peace—*shalom*. Jerusalem's name literally meant, "They will see wholeness" or "They will feel the awe of completeness." That day they saw the wholeness of God but, sadly, they didn't understand!



The next gathering for the *Young at Heart* Group (our parish retirees group) will be held on **Thursday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Coll

Room. The presenter is Michael Matejcek, CMFC, RTRP. The Estate Planning Workshop will include:

- Learning WHY you need an estate plan of any size and how to put it into action
- Learning WHY sharing your end of life wishes is important
- Learning HOW endowments provide forever support for your favorite Catholic causes
- Learning what information goes in it and how to keep it up to date

Holy Thursday, March 28

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday, March 29

The Commemoration of the Lord's Passion begins at 3:00 p.m.

- ♦ Confessions will be held after the 3:00 p.m. service until 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Stations of the Cross—7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30

The Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:00 a.m. Mass in the church
10:00 a.m. Mass in the Hanlon Center
11:30 a.m. Mass in the Hanlon Center

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

Deacon Maurice Kelly - mkelly@allentowndiocese.org

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Mrs. Marianne Gano, Principal

Assumption Preschool, Mrs. Bethany Stempert: bethany.stempert@yahoo.com

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Mary Williams: x16, Email: abvmrect@ptd.net

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

The time has come. Lent has helped us to prepare for this one great celebration that will unfold in three acts over three days—the dying and rising of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the center and focal point of the entire liturgical year. The liturgies of the Triduum urge us on to celebrate the new life that we have forged out of the struggles of a growth-filled Lent.



The liturgy lasts for three days. The celebration of the Lord's Paschal Mystery is not an historical re-enactment, which finds us on Thursday evening in the Upper Room, on Friday afternoon at the foot of the cross, and on Saturday at the tomb. We do not celebrate Christ's death on Friday and his rising on Sunday. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until Easter Sunday, *we celebrate the mystery of Christ, who died once, but now lives in glory forever.*

Each day of the Triduum, however, calls us to reflect on a different facet of this Mystery. The Mass of the Lord's Supper reminds us of our Hebrew heritage and the experience of a people who relive their passage from slavery to the Promised Land within the context of a meal. On this same night, Christ's mandate to his disciples to serve one another becomes our own. We are to become what we celebrate. **Holy Thursday, March 28**—Mass of the Lord's Supper begins at 7:00 p.m. Family Adoration will be held in the church basement from 8:30-10:00 p.m.

On Friday—the day we call “Good” - we focus on the Mystery through the icon of the cross. We hear the story that takes us from the Garden of Olives to the hill of the Cross. But we are not called together to mourn the death of the Lord. Rather, the saving power of his death causes us to bring the needs of the entire world to the Father in prayer. **Good Friday, March 29**—The Commemoration of the Lord's Passion begins at 3:00 p.m. and Confessions will be held after the 3:00 p.m. service until 5:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross will be held at 7:00 p.m.

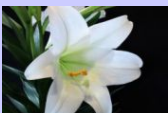
On Saturday night, we gather in darkness. We wait. It is the Easter Vigil, the holiest night of the Christian year. The first glimmer of light from the Easter fire announces that new life is upon us. We listen once again to the stories of God's saving acts in our history as his people. We allow the wisdom of the Scripture texts to inform and form us. Our celebration finds its fulfillment in the Eucharist as we all share in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. **Holy Saturday, March 30**—The Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m.

The Triduum celebrated the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Glorification of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church calls us to remember the Paschal Mystery—not simply to call to mind the persons and places, but to enter into the Mystery itself, and to make the reality present here and now in its power to save. Come together during these most holy days with our parish family of faith to celebrate who were are as Catholic Christians.

Easter Sunday Masses, March 31

8:00 a.m. Mass in the church

10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Masses in the Hanlon Center





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Student Council led Lenten Activities

Our Middle School Student Council has been busy during the Lenten season! Check out what they have done to support our community:

- ◆ Middle School students sacrificed their “Snack Cart” on Fridays and donated what they would have spent on snacks. Donations were used to purchase snacks for those in need who turn to Catholic Charities.
- ◆ They collected Quarters, held a paid dress down day at both schools, and made jewelry to raise money towards The Kenya Water Mission project.
- ◆ They made bracelets, keychains, and other crafts for Catholic Charities clients, mothers and children at Cay Galgon House in Bethlehem, retired priests and religious.
- ◆ During Religion classes, Middle School students wrote “Alms of encouragement letters” to the parish OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) candidates.

Fundraising

Help support our *Night of Knights* Event, our biggest fundraiser of the year!
Saturday, April 20, 2024

Learn more by visiting
www.NOK2024.givesmart.com

Parish Religious Education Program PREP

Congratulations to the 2024 Confirmandi of Assumption Parish:

Lucia Maria Rose	Diego D.
Nathaniel David Christopher	Payton Alexa Joan
Morgan Patricia Catherine	William Rhodes John
Adam James Michael	Antonio William Francis
Edward Kristian Andrew	Alyssa Lucinda Rose
Daniel William Kenneth	Ava Lauren Kathrine
Gavin James John	Tyler Alan Sebastian
Carmen Joseph John	Jake Andrew Francis
Alaina Rose Veronica	Drew Alexander Sebastian
Lucia Liayn Anne	Cecyl Fernanda Rose
Gavin Arnold Vincent	Isaac Paul Luke
Susan Marie Catherine	Benjamin James Francis
Zane Miftar Stephen	Jenna Elizabeth Mary
Harrison Thomas Sebastian	Jules Patrick Matthew
Dylan Martin Sebastian	Ryan Patrick Vitus
Connor Chandler Christopher	Abigail Alexa Mary
Brendan William John	Lon R. Joseph
Ryan Michael David	

(and Kathryn Anna Therese and Ella Mary Therese who will be confirmed at St. Joseph Parish on April 11)



From our newly confirmed:
Many thanks to Bishop Schlert, Monsignor Klinger, Deacon Don, Deacon Stu and Deacon Maurice for their efforts to make our Confirmation a memorable and joyous celebration. Thanks to Mrs. Gano, Mrs. Durback, Mrs. Nancy O’Keefe, Morgan P. and Mrs. Carol Herman for leading us in the ways of faith in St. Michael’s and PREP this year. Thanks to those who helped behind the scenes in countless ways, Kate Varley, Mary Williams, and Jillian Rossi. For providing beautiful music ministry to enhance our celebration, to Patrick Oswald and Missy Janis we are most grateful. To all parishioners who prayed for us, thank you. We thank God for our good sponsors who accompany us on our faith journey Above all, thank you to our parents who have led us in the ways of faith throughout our lives. We remember you all in our prayers. God bless you all!

During Lent our SMS Middle School and PREP children and youth are “getting to the heart of the matter” by reflecting on some passages from Scripture. Join us in pondering God’s Word:

Psalm 25:10 Psalm 119:10 Matt 5:8

Save the dates: **ABVM Vacation Bible Camp 2024** is June 24-27, 9 a.m. – noon. Rising Kindergarten through grade 5 children are welcome to attend. Rising grade 6 – high school youth are welcome to apply to serve as helpers. Registration forms and volunteer applications will be available in April!

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week
in memory of Michael Maurer.



Monday, Mar. 25: Monday of Holy Week

9:00 a.m. Glen Siebert

Tues., Mar. 26: Tuesday of Holy Week

9:00 a.m. Charles Paradis

Wed., Mar. 27: Wednesday of Holy Week

9:00 a.m. Michael Maurer

Thursday, Mar. 28: Holy Thursday

No morning Mass

7:00 p.m. Pastor's Intention

Friday, Mar. 29: Good Friday

No morning Mass

3:00 p.m. *The Commemoration of the Lord's
Passion—Church*

Saturday, Mar. 30: Holy Saturday

No Morning Mass

Vigil 5:00pm Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sun., Mar. 31: Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. Easter Flower Intentions

10:00 a.m. Easter Flower Intentions

11:30 a.m. Easter Flower Intentions

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:

Isaiah 42: 1-7

Gospel: John 12: 1-11

Tuesday:

Isaiah 49: 1-6

Gospel: John 13: 21-33, 36-38

Wednesday:

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Gospel: Matthew 26: 14-25

Thursday:

First Reading: Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14—Second Reading: First Corinthians 11: 23-26

Gospel: John 13: 1-15

Friday:

First Reading: Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: 12
Second Reading: Hebrews 4: 14-16;
5: 7-9—**Gospel:** John 18: 1 – 19: 42

Saturday:

Reading: Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 2 or 1: 1,
26-31a—Reading: Exodus 14: 15 –
15: 1—Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-11
Epistle Reading: Romans 6: 3-11

Gospel: Mark 16: 1-7

Sunday:

First Reading: Acts 10: 34a, 37-43
Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4

Gospel: Mark 16: 1-7



Grocery Gift Cards

Grocery gift cards are on sale in the parish office Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except during the lunch hour).

Our parish receives a profit from all of the stores we purchase from:

- 15% from Boscovs Department Store
- 10% profit from Red Robin
- 5% profit from the following grocery stores: Giant, Gerrity's and Fresh Market.

**It's easy to use
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Better
together

Widow and Widower Social Group

**Join us on Wednesday, April 10, at 1:00 p.m.
in the Finnegan Room for our first meeting!**

Don't be shy! Come and have refreshments, fun conversations, and prayer as we share our journey. We'll laugh and enjoy each other's company. Be a part of this supportive group each month - we have a variety of things planned, so don't miss out!

For more information, contact Mary Williams: 610-867-8424 x 16; Caroline Tucker: 610-838-5116; or Peggy Libsch: 484-860-3245.



The altar flowers for this weekend were donated in remembrance of :



**Joseph & Rose Ciccone
& Helen & William Moscovic.**

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

What more can be said about today's Gospel? We hear the proclamation of this Gospel in several voices, to help us enter into these final days of Jesus' earthly life. The scheming of the chief priests and scribes before the Passover, the woman with the alabaster jar of oil prefiguring the anointing of his body for burial, Judas' plan to betray him, the Last Supper and Jesus' knowledge that he would soon be betrayed, the institution of the Eucharist so that he could remain with us until the end of time, Jesus' prediction that the apostles would be scattered and their faith shattered. And then, all the events of Jesus' profound Passion and Death.

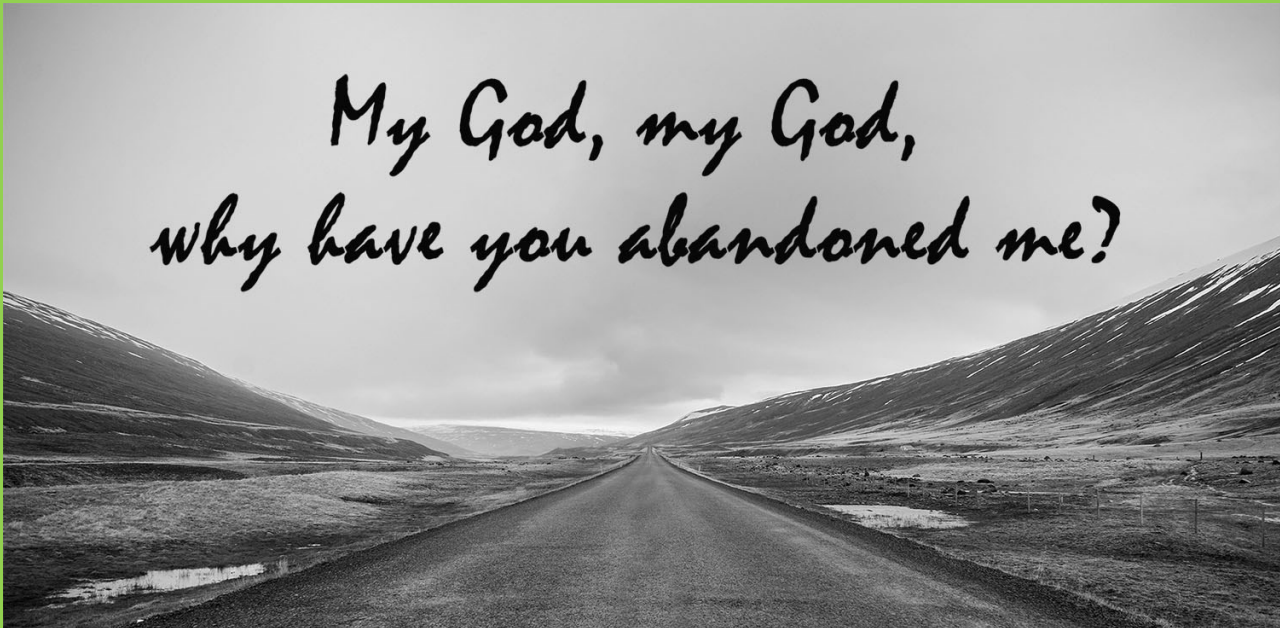
We see his generous Heart, his agonizing Heart, the Heart that moans silently for someone to keep vigil with him for even an hour, the Heart that does not hesitate or draw back from the terrible execution for love of the Father and of us. Throughout all this long suffering, we see Jesus remaining steadfast before the will of the Father and concerned with consoling and strengthening those around him.

We also hear Jesus cry out the first words of Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" While we hear in that cry of his Heart the depths to which he was allowed to sink – to the sense of being forsaken by the Father, to the brink of despair – the psalm is really a painful prayer of hope. Jesus has certainly not given up on his relationship with the Father. He has not let go. Psalm 22 (which those at the foot of the Cross would have known well) begins with an accurate description of the scene on Calvary, from the vicious attack of Jesus' enemies, to the details of the suffering he endured, to the dividing of his clothes. But the psalm then reaches out to God to come and deliver, to save him from this torture, and then moves on to praise the Lord. In his utter agony, Jesus enters into our own suffering and reminds us to cling to hope and to continue to offer praise.

While part of Psalm 22 was heard today as the Responsorial Psalm, we might pause to pray the whole psalm some time during this Holy Week; it is a profound meditation on the words of Jesus' own agonizing Heart from the Cross. It gives us a glimpse of how low he descended into our own suffering, to redeem every last bit of physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual pain for us.

In His Cross, because of the Resurrection, we are all freed to bear our own crosses with love and hope.

-Kathryn Mulderink



*My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me?*





Please help Assumption Parish by completing a 10-15 minute survey.

The survey is **only available until Wednesday, March 27**, so act fast! All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

If you are reading our bulletin on-line, click on this link to complete the survey:

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/bk9ykb>

We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish. Thank you for helping with this important project!

Thanks to all who attended our **STEW & BREW** St. Patrick's Day Party last weekend. Over 160 people enjoyed the live music, dancing and a delicious meal catered by Diana's Café.

Many thanks to the Lou James Funeral Home for sponsoring the band. Special thanks to the *Knights of Columbus* who helped set up the party and the Grand Knight, Gene Terefenko for his hard work and bartending skills! Thanks to those volunteers and members of the "Irish" committee for the set-up and clean-up. It was a huge success!



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY April 7

We will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy after the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 7. Mark your calendars to attend. The Chaplet will start around 12:15 p.m. and last 15 - 20 minutes.



NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Registration is required for the administration of the Sacraments and for sponsor certificates for Baptism and Confirmation.

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

Engaged couples should meet with the parish priest as soon as they become engaged. The diocesan marriage preparation program should be completed at least six months prior to the wedding date.

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

Please email Sandy Zengion at abvmprayers@gmail.com or (610-212-5487) and give her your name and intention.

She will contact other parishioners participating in our Prayer Chain on your behalf.

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.

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

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