

# 2ND SUNDAY of Easter

## *Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church Second Sunday of Easter, April 7, 2024*

### **Peace Be With You**

Chapter 20 of the Gospel of John emphasizes Peace and the Holy Spirit abiding within us. Christ's first word following His death is "Peace". We are all flawed. Yet so much greater than this is that we are also loved. Above all else, Christ has laid down his life for me. We owe it to Him to do our best to try to find an inner peace. It is often a battle. It is by listening to the word of God that we are calmed down and reminded of who we really are. Through dedicating time to Him in prayer and good deeds, He will rejuvenate us, like the Living Water He declares to the Samaritan woman.

Again and again we must acknowledge that the Holy Spirit resides in each of us, guiding us, and that in each passing moment we can become more like Christ. We may not always know where we belong or how each passing moment might unfold. While we may not be at peace on my own accord, with God's grace, He will remain in us as a source of peace through the Holy Spirit. He will help us find the way.

"Loving God, please grant us peace of mind and calm our troubled heart. Give us the strength and clarity of mind to find our purpose and walk the path you've laid out for us."

-Alexis Dallara-Marsh

### **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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prusso@allentowndioocese.org

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**PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, Apr. 8, 2024**

12:00pm Sewing Sisters—Finnegan Room

**Tuesday, Apr. 9, 2024**

1:15pm Yarns of Love

**Wednesday, Apr. 10, 2024**

10:00am Bible Study—Finnegan Room

1:00pm Better Together Group-Finnegan Rm.

4:30pm PREP

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal—Church

7:00pm RCIA—Finnegan Room

7:30pm Knights of Columbus Mtg.—Coll Rm.

**Thursday, Apr. 11, 2024**

7:30pm Adult Volleyball—Hanlon Center

**Friday, Apr. 12, 2024**

6:00am Top Gun Group—Finnegan Room

**Saturday, Apr. 13, 2024**

4:00-4:45pm Confessions—Church

5:00pm Mass—Church

**Sunday, Apr. 14, 2024**

8:00; 10:00; 11:30am—Sunday Masses-Church

8:45am Adult Ed—*Lives of the Saints* -

Finnegan Room

8:45am PREP

**WEEKEND CELEBRANTS**

**Sat. Vigil, April 13** at 5:00 pm— Msgr. Klinger

**Sunday, April 14**

8:00 am— Fr. Shaju

10 am— Msgr. Klinger

11:30 am— Fr. Burns

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

**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.

Better  
together

Widow and Widower Social Group

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

Come join other widowed parishioners 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.

**May gathering**



The May meeting of the "Young At Heart" group will be held on **Thursday, May 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** in the Hanlon Center gym. We will be entertained again this year 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 children are also attending the concert so this should be an enjoyable multi-generational event.

Light refreshments will be served immediately following the concert to give you time to socialize with orchestra members and each other.

♦ **Can you help with this event?** If so, please contact Charlotte at [cbuckenmyer@gmail.com](mailto:cbuckenmyer@gmail.com).



## 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

Saint Michael the Archangel School: 610-867-8422

Mrs. Marianne Gano, Principal

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

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

Mr. Mike Horvath, Director of Music: mshorvath7@gmail.com

Jillian Rossi/Parish Office – x10, Email: abvmjillian@ptd.net

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

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

Deacon Stu is now recovering from heart surgery and is in rehab. He asks for your continuing prayers. He is very grateful for your concerns and prayers for him as you support him in his healing.



### Special thanks to our Deacons:

Don Elliott, Stu Herman and Maurice Kelly who assist Monsignor Klinger with weekend Masses and especially with our Holy Week and Easter liturgies.

We pray through music...so we thank our parish Music Director, Mike Horvath, organists Mary Siddons and Patrick Oswald and Seth Jacoby, for helping our parish family to worship. Many thanks to the cantors who used their gifts on Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.



### Art & Environment

Special thanks to members of our *Art & Environment* team, and especially **Christine Lynch, the coordinator**, for helping to make our worship space beautiful in the church and in the Hanlon Center. Thanks to those who helped unload the Easter flowers, set up the church basement for the Altar of Repose, and place the flowers in the church and gym.

Special thanks to John Sanky for hanging our Holy Week banners and Sharon and Ralph Ganssle for the care of the flowers.



A copy of the book, *Beautiful Eucharist*, is available for each parish family this Easter, thanks to the generous donation of a parishioner. The book is by Matthew Kelly, DynamicCatholic.com



Nothing will transform your life quite like a personal encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. When we encounter Jesus, he changes us in powerful and unexpected ways. He heals us, brings us peace and clarity, models how to relate with others, and teaches us the lessons we need to learn to navigate the everyday situations of our lives. In the Eucharist we meet with the same Jesus who healed the blind, forgave sins, and rose from the dead. *Beautiful Eucharist* is a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives.

**“Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist should be like touching Heaven, and that should change the way we live here on earth!”**





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Congratulations to our five 8th graders who won the Bishop's Scholarship Award! This scholarship is given to students who will be attending a Catholic High school and who are currently registered parishioners in the Allentown Diocese. Through their applications, these students were selected based on their academic performance as well as their service and leadership activities.

Pierce E., William F., Anna G., Ryley S. and Jack S. will all be attending Allentown Central Catholic High School in the fall!

**Way to go!**

**ALUMNI SHOUT OUT**



Go to see “Cinderella” at ACCHS!  
Congratulations to our Alumni  
who will be performing:  
Tyler J. (Prince Charming)  
Molly G. (Cinderella)  
Gigi R. as (Lionel)

**BREAK A LEG!**

**Parish Religious Education Program  
PREP**

Blessed and joyous Easter to all from our PREP community! We rejoice knowing that, at Easter: ***Goodness wins, life wins, love wins, God wins!***

**Final Sessions**

Wednesdays, **April 10, 17 and 24**, and Sundays, **April 7, 14, 21 and 28**. We thank all who have faithfully participated in PREP sessions this year, and we offer special prayers of thanks for our catechists and aides who provide an experience of a Catholic learning community for our children and youth.

In this glorious Easter Season, please pray for ABVM’s 38 children and youth who will come to the Lord’s Table for the first time to receive **Holy Communion** on May 4.

Our ***Children’s Liturgy of the Word*** at the 10 a.m. Mass continues through the month of May. Many thanks to Nancy Saks, Lisa Temple, Erin Miller, Kathy McCarthy, and Kim Heitzer for their faithful devotion to helping our littlest parishioners understand Gods’ message for them as proclaimed in the Sunday readings.

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!

As we prepare to close another **PREP season**, we thank all who have faithfully participated in PREP sessions this year. We offer prayers of thanks for our catechists & aides who provide excellent Catholic faith formation for our children & youth.



**Catechists and aides:**

Leslie Cherry, Nikki Guerra, Tracy Chaffier, JoAnne Pavolko, Tammy Napolitano, Nancy O’Keefe, Frank Lynch, Doreen Reilly, Cindy Stanton, Melissa Vedder, Peggy Brock, Matt Ford, Marcia Voth, Courtney McGeehan, Deacon Don Elliott, Donna Torres, Laura Fell, Nicola Rachiele, Kathleen Paul, O’Neill F., Allison L., Sarah L., Morgan P., Justin P., Jake P., Sophia F., Liliana F., and Aidan V.

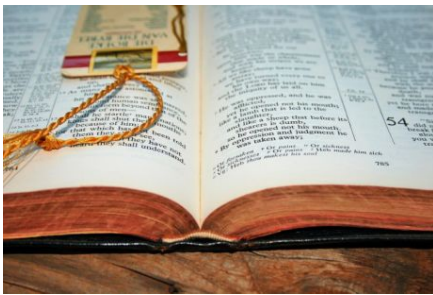
**The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week  
in memory of Dave Kiefer.**



**Monday, Apr. 8: The Annunciation of the Lord**  
9:00 a.m. Gerald Repash  
**Tues., Apr. 9: Weekday**  
9:00 a.m. Dr. Robert Saks  
**Wednesday, Apr. 10: Weekday**  
9:00 a.m. Erwin Paul Hoeing  
**Thursday, Apr. 11: St. Stanislaus**  
9:00 a.m. Holden Barndt  
**Friday, Apr. 12: Weekday**  
9:00 a.m. Ann Higgins  
**Saturday, Apr. 13: St. Martin**  
No Morning Mass  
Vigil 5:00pm Living & Deceased Parishioners  
**Sun., Apr. 14: 3rd Sunday of Easter**  
8:00 a.m. Theresa Wilkins  
10:00 a.m. Stephen J. Fabian  
11:30 a.m. Pasquale & Nina Castiello

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Isaiah 7: 10-14; 8: 10 - Hebrews 10: 4-10 - **Gospel:** Luke 1: 26-38  
**Tuesday:** Acts 4: 32-37 - **Gospel:** John 3: 7b-15  
**Wednesday:** Acts 5: 17-26 - **Gospel:** John 3: 16-21  
**Thursday:** Acts 5: 27-33 - **Gospel:** John 3: 31-36  
**Friday:** Acts 5: 34-42 - **Gospel:** John 6: 1-15  
**Saturday:** Acts 6: 1-7 - **Gospel:** John 6: 16-21  
**Sunday:** Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19 - First John 2: 1-5a - **Gospel:** Luke 24: 35-48



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maxine Shemanski who passed away. May the angels lead her into paradise, may the martyrs come to welcome her and lead her to the Holy City, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

**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% profit from Boscovs
- 10% profit from Red Robin
- 5% profit from the following grocery stores: Giant, Valley Farm and Fresh Market.

**Try it ... it's easy!**



The Women's Bible Study group at Assumption parish is inviting any woman in the parish to read the book entitled "Walking with Mary, a Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross" by Dr.

Edward Sri. Women will read the book on your own time and then meet as a group and discuss the book on **Tuesday, April 30th from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.** The book can be purchased on Amazon.com for \$13.50 plus shipping.

Here is a brief description of the book: In "Walking with Mary" we will follow the Blessed Mother, step by step through the New Testament account of her life, reflecting on what the Scriptures tell us about how she responded to the dramatic events unfolding around her. The author, Dr. Edward Sri is an internationally known Catholic speaker who appears regularly on EWTN. He is a professor of Theology at Augustine Institute. Other well-known Catholics like Dr. Scott Hahn and Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Philadelphia have praised this book.

**For more information, contact  
KrissAnn at 717-309-1435 or email her  
kdottavio3@yahoo.com.**

**Collection Counters**

Our parish is most grateful to the volunteers who count our collection each Sunday. It is a ministry of confidentiality and accuracy with respect to the offerings of our people. We thank the 8 teams of counters for their goodness and faithful service to our parish community.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the  
Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

**I Trust In You!**

# DIVINE MERCY

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska OLM was a Polish Catholic religious sister and mystic. Faustyna, popularly spelled "Faustina", had apparitions of Jesus Christ which inspired the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy and earned her the title of "Secretary of Divine Mercy". Throughout her life, Kowalska reported having visions of Jesus and conversations with him, which she noted in her diary, later published as *The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul.*

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy Novena began on Good Friday. The word "novena" is derived from the Latin word for nine, or "novem." Typically, a novena refers to nine days of prayer, asking God for a specific intention, often through a Saint's intercession. Novenas are a beautiful way to grow purposeful, consistent, and persistent in daily prayer.

The Chaplet can be said anytime, but the Lord specifically asked that it be recited as a novena. He promised, "**By this Novena (of Chaplets), I will grant every possible grace to souls.**"

For each of the nine days, our Lord gave Saint Faustina a different intention: "I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw therefrom strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death" (Diary, 1209).

## **What is Divine Mercy?**

Divine Mercy is when God's love meets us and helps us in the midst of our suffering and sin. In fact, because this side of eternity we're all sinners and because suffering is our lot in life, God's love for us here always takes the form of mercy.

**Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday  
at Assumption Parish this  
Sunday, April 7, after the 11:30 A.M. Mass  
We will sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet**



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**St. Monica Ministry Retreat** for the families and friends of fallen-away Catholics will be held on Friday, April 19 - Sunday, April 21 at the Peace Retreat House, 484 Pump House Road, Weatherly, PA. Speakers include:

◆ **Rev. Pio Mandato, FMHJ**

“Padre Pio: Man of Living Hope and Crucified Love.” Father will bless all present with the glove of stigmatic Padre Pio.

◆ **Dr. Michael Behe**

“Science As the Handmaid of Faith: How Nature Points Insistently to God”

◆ **Deacon Chris May**

“Male and Female He Created Them”

◆ **Rev. Adam Sedar**

“The Fire and the Hearth: Why We Need to Be Both Spiritual and Religious”

PLUS an “Irish Music Night” with **Rev. Alexander Brown**, Friday Holy Hour ~ Saturday and Sunday Masses and Wine & Cheese Mixer ~ Rosary Walk

**There will also be “How-To” sessions with St. Monica Ministry leaders. The Retreat fee of \$200 per person includes meals, accommodations, and incidentals. Saturday-only fee is \$50.**

Email [StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com) before April 10 for more information or for registration.



### **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](mailto: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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

**Our website:**

**[www.assumptionbethlehem.com](http://www.assumptionbethlehem.com)**



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