

*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024*

*Let us
rejoice and
be glad!*

Alleluia!



MONSIGNOR NEVIN KLINGER J.C.L., M.A., PASTOR
MONSIGNOR ROBERT COLL, PASTOR EMERITUS



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 and those who contribute
 through our Online Giving.

Dear Parishioners,
 During the past year we have continued to grow as a community of love and faith in God. We have witnessed our faith being expressed not only in our Sunday Eucharist but also in the very spirit and tone of the parish; a warm love that reaches out to each other.
 My prayer and wish for the parish is that this Easter will bring us all a deeper awareness of our faith in God and our need to “love one another.”
 Have a Blessed and Joyous Easter!
 In Christ, Monsignor Klinger



PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK
Monday, April 1, 2024
 12:00pm Sewing Sisters—Finnegan Room
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
 9:30am Women’s Bible Study—Jubilee Center
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
 10:00am Bible Study—Finnegan Room
 4:30pm PREP
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal—Church
 7:00pm RCIA—Finnegan Room
Thursday, April 4, 2024
 1:00pm Young at Heart—Coll Room
 7:30pm Adult Volleyball—Hanlon Center
Friday, April 5, 2024
 6:00am Top Gun Group—Finnegan Room
Saturday, April 6, 2024
 4:00-4:45pm Confessions—Church
 5:00pm Mass—Church
Sunday, April 7, 2024
 8:00; 10:00; 11:30am—Sunday Masses-Church
 8:45am Adult Ed—*Lives of the Saints* -
 Finnegan Room
 8:45am PREP

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
OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT
 Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

WEEKEND CELEBRANTS
Sat. Vigil, April 6 at 5:00 pm— Fr. Shaju
Sunday, April 7
 8:00 am— Fr. Lannen
 10 am – Msgr. Klinger
 11:30 am— Msgr. Klinger
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.

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@allentowndioocese.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



The next gathering for the *Young at Heart* Group (our parish retirees group) will be held this **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

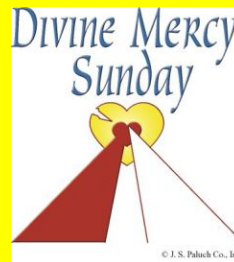
The Women's Bible Study group at Assumption parish is inviting any woman in the parish to read the book entitled "Walking with Mary, a Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross" by Dr. Edward Sri. Women will read the book on your own time and then meet as a group and discuss the book on **Tuesday, 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.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY April 7

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



DID YOU KNOW?



Our parish conducts a monthly collection of spaghetti sauce and pasta. Regular ground coffee, sugar and parmesan cheese is also appreciated. This food will be distributed or served at *New Bethany* in Bethlehem. Containers are available at the entrances of the church for your donations.

- We have a team from our parish who volunteer at *New Bethany Soup Kitchen* on the fourth Friday of every month. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!



Support our parish by contributing on-line! See our website at www.assumptionbethlehem.com and click on the Online Giving link, it's quick and easy.



www.st-mikes.com

Principal,
Mrs. Marianne Gano

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Happy Easter



Easter is a reminder that even in our darkest hours, there is a light waiting to shine bright and blessings to be had.

Blessings come in so many forms.

Some we can see and some we can feel.

As we approach this Holy day, let us open our hearts to the gifts that life offers.

We count each and every one of our parishioners a light, a blessing and a gift to the St. Michael the Archangel School community. We wish you a blessed Easter and we pray that you can carry the hope of Easter in your hearts each and every day.

God Bless you all!

Marianne Gano
Principal



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

Final 2023-2024 PREP Sessions are Wednesdays, **April 3, 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.

During Lent our SMS Middle School and PREP children and youth went “to the heart of the matter” by reflecting on some passages from Scripture. Join us in pondering one more passage from God’s Word as we celebrate Easter: ***Colossians 3:15***.



HOLY 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.



COMMUNION

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.



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SAVE THE DATES:

VBC ***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!



Monday, April 1: Monday Octave in Easter

No Morning Mass

Tues., April 2: Tuesday Octave in Easter

No Morning Mass

Wed., April 3: Wednesday Octave in Easter

9:00 a.m. Joanne Kostecky Petito

Thursday, April 4: Thursday Octave in Easter

9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

Friday, April 5: First Friday Octave in Easter

9:00 a.m. Special Intentions

Saturday, April 6: Saturday Octave in Easter

No Morning Mass

Vigil 5:00pm Special Intention for Franny Berry's 70th Birthday

Sun., April 7: 2nd Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. Donald T. Okner

10:00 a.m. Special Intention for Eileen Sweeney's Birthday

11:30 a.m. Jimmy, Mark, Dick Thompson and Joseph & Elizabeth Katona

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Acts 2: 14, 22-33
Gospel: Matthew 28: 8-15
- Tuesday:** Acts 2: 36-41 - **Gospel:** John 20: 11-18
- Wednesday:** Acts 3: 1-10 - **Gospel:** Luke 24: 13-35
- Thursday:** Acts 3: 11-26 - **Gospel:** Luke 24: 35-48
- Friday:** Acts 4: 1-12 - **Gospel:** John 21: 1-14
- Saturday:** Acts 4: 13-21 - **Gospel:** Mark 16: 9-15
- Sunday:** Acts 4: 32-35 - First John 5: 1-6
Gospel: John 20: 19-31

THE EASTER OCTAVE

Easter Sunday – The First Sunday of Easter

Easter time lasts fifty days: seven weeks of seven days (seven equals Biblical perfection) plus one day: perfection plus! Like an eight-day Jewish wedding, or a child who can't bear to let go of Christmas, birthdays, and school vacation, the Church celebrates the Easter Octave: "the marriage of heaven and earth," as the Vigil calls Jesus' resurrection; our new members' baptismal rebirth; our renewal of baptismal vows; our hearts' "divine vacation" (Latin *vacare*, "to be empty"), newfound time and space for love of God and neighbor. Make home an Easter garden! Adorn the dining table with a pillar candle (your "paschal candle"), a bowl full of water (ideally, from the parish's baptismal font), a vase of flowers or bowl of sprouting grain with Easter eggs. Even non-singers can handle the three-fold Gospel Alleluia! Let that be your grace before meals, perhaps with a prayer recalling Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35): "Be known to us, Risen Lord Jesus, as you were to the first disciples, in your word, in the breaking of bread, and in everyone we meet."

Grocery Gift Cards

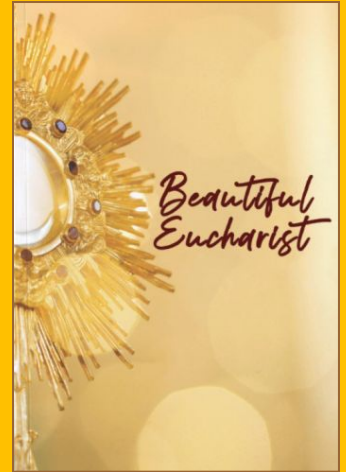
Grocery gift cards are on sale in the parish office Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except during the lunch hour.) Assumption Church receives 5% of every dollar sold. Credit Cards can be used to buy grocery gift cards.

**It's easy to use
TRY IT!**



Many thanks to all parishioners who participated in the parish survey. 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!

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



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!"

Matthew Kelly,
DynamicCatholic.com

GOD'S DIVINE PLAN

"God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness, freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Saviour. In his Son and through him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life." -CCC 1



This is the first paragraph from the catechism and I think it perfectly sums up what we celebrate today on this beautiful Easter morning. In today's first reading we hear the entire Gospel story being preached by Peter. This is the same Peter who denied Jesus three times just a few days before, and who we read about in the Gospel as not fully understanding what Christ was doing until he saw the empty tomb. Peter then knew the plans of God and could easily and succinctly proclaim them to all people.

The goal of the lenten season is to bring us to a point where we can realize that our destiny is to share in the divine life of God. This isn't just a vague sentimental idea or ambiguous theology, but it is the entire point of our lives. Jesus loved you enough to die on a tree in order that you might receive adoption as his beloved. It seems simple enough, but do we really grasp the depth of the meaning? Easter morning is the good news that not only were you bought back at a price, but that the death of God was not the end. Rather, it was just the beginning. Christ rising from the dead defeated sin and death once and for all and claims us back as adopted children.

This is why Easter is the most important feast in our liturgical calendar. And God wants us to feast. We might be a little rusty after 40 days of fasting, but God wants us to pull out all the stops. I recommend making the nicest dinner you can within your means and celebrate as a family what Christ has done in conquering sin and death. The Easter egg hunts are fun and everybody likes baked ham, but let's not forget the reason for this season. That God desired for you to be saved and come to share in his divine life. This is enough to make even the worst of sinners or hardened criminals rejoice. As John Paul II said often, "We are an Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song." Now go feast!

-Tommy Shultz



Not So "Only"

She said, 'Oh, I'm not lonely'
I'm happy as can be.
It's just that since my husband died
I tend to be "Only."

"My wife died," too, he answered,
"some days are pretty long."
When that "only" feeling sets in deep,
I know I must stay strong.

Together we are better,
They happily agreed.
They joined a group of 'only's'
All with a common need.

Come and join our brand new group
We'll laugh and have some fun.
We won't be quite so 'only'
When all is said and done.

**Join Us April 10 at 1:00 p.m.
in the Finnegan Room.
Please R.S.V.P**

**(so we know how many refreshments we need)
Call Mary: 610-867-7424 x 16
Or email abvmrect@ptd.net**

***Widow and Widower
Social Group***

DID YOU KNOW?

ADULT VOLLEYBALL

There is an open adult volleyball game every Thursday night in the Hanlon Center! Are you looking to improve your 3-hit volleyball skills and meet fun people? Come to the Hanlon Center gym from 7:30-10:00 p.m. most Thursday nights from August through June. Once you join us, an email will keep you updated on schedule changes.



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.

Our website:

www.assumptionbethlehem.com



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