



3rd Sunday of Easter

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Third Sunday of Easter, April 14, 2024

Peter seems to be pretty tough with his listeners in the first reading. He practically says they handed Jesus over, denied him before Pilate, asked for a murderer to be released in his place, and put Jesus to death. They must have thought they were doomed. But then he tells them that God had planned all this long ago. So is he saying Jesus' death is their fault, or just fate?

The answer of course is that it's everyone's fault. We deny Jesus when we choose to be selfish instead of loving. We crucify Jesus when we follow the crowd instead of following the Lord. It is only "fate" in the sense that our sins needed to be forgiven and God plan's for salvation was through Jesus' death and resurrection. There were sinners long before Jesus' time and God knew there would be sinners after that. Jesus rose from the dead to show that God's forgiveness raises us up from guilt to a new life.

So Peter wasn't laying a guilt trip on the listeners: this is good news. God planned all this to show how much he loved us. Our response should be one of joy that we are forgiven because of that love. All we have to do is tell God we are sorry, mean it, and start living our response of love. Sins may be our fault, but Love is our fate.

-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

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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

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

4101 OLD BETHLEHEM PIKE,
BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, 18015
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**YOUR STEWARDSHIP
IS THE SOURCE OF OUR GROWTH**

April 6-7, 2024: \$11,503.50

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, Apr. 15, 2024

12:00pm Sewing Sisters—Finnegan Room

Tuesday, Apr. 16, 2024

9:30am Women's Bible Study—Jubilee Center

Wednesday, Apr. 17, 2024

10:00am Bible Study—Finnegan Room

4:30pm PREP

4:30pm 1st Euch. Kids - Holy Home Tour—Church

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal—Church

7:00pm RCIA—Finnegan Room

Thursday, Apr. 18, 2024

7:30pm Adult Volleyball—Hanlon Center Gym

Friday, Apr. 19, 2024

6:00am Top Gun Group—Finnegan Room

Saturday, Apr. 20, 2024

4:00-4:45pm Confessions—Church

5:00pm Mass—Church

Sunday, Apr. 21, 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 20 at 5:00 pm— Msgr. Klinger

Sunday, April 21

8:00 am— Fr. Lannen

10 am— Fr. Shaju

11:30 am— Msgr. Klinger

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

*Because We
are Catholic*

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we kickoff the 2024 *Because We Are Catholic* Annual Appeal in our parish and throughout the Diocese. The Appeal will provide support for evangelization, vocations, Catholic education, Catholic Charities and care for our retired and infirmed priests.

I am so grateful for your continued generosity to this important Diocesan fundraising initiative and ask you to prayerfully consider joining me in making your gift to the Appeal and support these vital ministries. Let's strive for 100% participation from our parish families! Remember, every gift counts and no gift is too small. To make your gift, please return the pledge form that you will receive in the mail or visit the Appeal's secure website at: BecauseWeAreCatholic.org or call the Appeal Office at 1-800-831-4443.

With gratitude,
Msgr. Klinger

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.



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

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



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!”



Online Giving

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.

Assumption Garden Ministry Saturday, April 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Roll up your sleeves and bring your garden tools to help plant our yearly annuals. Join us—we need you! We have a lot of **ground** to cover! Contact the parish office at 610-867-7424 or abvmjillian@ptd.net if you can help, or if you need volunteer hours. All are welcome.

Call the office if you can weed and care for one of our flower beds throughout the summer.



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 at kdottavio3@yahoo.com.





www.st-mikes.com

Principal,
Mrs. Marianne Gano

*“Nurturing Students. Challenging Minds.
Inspiring Faith-Filled Leaders.”*

Support our school and BID BID BID!

Thank you to everyone who will support our *Night of Knights* Fundraiser. As you know this is our biggest fundraiser of the year and the goal is to raise \$55,000 for our school!



Our Auction Site will be available for preview on Monday, April 15th!

Bidding starts at 9AM on Friday, April 19th and goes until 8PM on Sunday, April 20th.

We have Vacations, Golf excursions, Baseball Tickets, Football tickets and so much more!

Visit NOK2024.givesmart.com



**Parish Religious Education Program
PREP**

Final Sessions

Final 2023-2024 PREP Sessions are Wednesdays, **April 17 and 24**, and Sundays, **April 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.

Don’t Forget: First Eucharist Candidates: You are invited to “Our Holy Home Tour” this Wednesday, 17 April, 4:30 – 5:30. Meet in church and learn about the treasures in our holy home, our Catholic church! Parents welcome, too!

VBC Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) is back!
June 24-27, 9 a.m. - noon

This year’s theme: God’s Superheroes!

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 next week!

**PREP Outreach:
Last call for food bank donations!**

LAST CALL

+ ABVM PREP is collecting **noodles and rice** during April for area food banks. Any other non-perishable items for our final collections this PREP season are also appreciated.

+ Many thanks to the PREP families and other parishioners who generously donated to our food collections this PREP season. We have been able to supply area food banks with goods for those in need, as well as helping some families of Mercy Special Learning Center students to have some staples for their meals.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week
in memory of Christin Lynch.



Monday, Apr. 15: Weekday

9:00 a.m. Peter & Margaret Capozello

Tues., Apr. 16: Weekday

9:00 a.m. Special Intention

Wednesday, Apr. 17: Weekday

9:00 a.m. Bill & Addie Weiss

Thursday, Apr. 18: Weekday

9:00 a.m. Timothy Joseph Curry

Friday, Apr. 19: Weekday

9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

Saturday, Apr. 20: Weekday

No Morning Mass

Vigil 5:00pm Special Intention:

Chip & Diane Harpster

Sun., Apr. 21: 4th Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. Special Intention: 70th Birthday of

Susan Chenowith

10:00 a.m. Denise Molinaro

11:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

Grocery Gift Cards

March 2024 Total: \$2,275.00

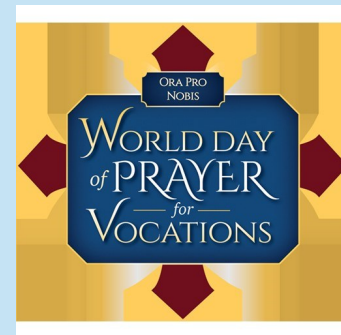
Grocery gift cards are on sale in the parish office Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except during the lunch hour).

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!

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 21



World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be observed this year next Sunday, April 21. It is also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to "Pray the Lord of Harvest to send laborers into his harvest." (MT 9:38; LK 10:2.) Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, or to societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

The Serra Club of Bethlehem encourages everyone to be open to the Lord's call.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6: 8-15

Gospel: John 6: 22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7: 51-60

Gospel: John 6: 30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8: 1b-8

Gospel: John 6: 35-40

Thursday: Acts 8: 26-40

Gospel: John 6: 44-51

Friday: Acts 9: 1-20

Gospel: John 6: 52-59

Saturday: Acts 9: 31-42

Gospel: John 6: 60-69

Sunday: Acts 4: 8-12 - First John 3: 1-2

Gospel: John 10: 11-18



Food Pantry Needs

DID YOU KNOW that 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!



Many thanks to Deacon Don for leading the Chaplet of Divine Mercy last Sunday.

We also thank Seth Jacoby and Susan Woodhouse for leading the chant. The Chaplet was well attended and a beautiful expression of our faith.

Third Sunday of Easter

The Wounds of Christ

Back in 2007, a group of researchers compared the amount of food consumed between two groups. They were curious to discover if the evidence of food already eaten (in this case, individuals were given chicken wings to eat while watching a football game) would impact the amount they ate altogether. They found that the participants ate less at the tables where the bones were left out in plain sight in comparison to the tables where the bones were removed. “The results suggest that people restrict their consumption when evidence of food consumed is available to signal how much food they have eaten.” (Brian Wansink, *Cornell Chronicle*, April 9, 2007).

In today’s Gospel, Jesus miraculously appears before the apostles. If His resurrected body wasn’t shocking enough, He still bore the wounds of His crucifixion. There is nothing that Jesus cannot do. His very presence before the Apostles is a testament to that. So if He can do anything, why did He choose to leave those wounds, the very gruesome and heart wrenching places that we, humanity, created?

The wounds of Christ bear witness to the truth of His sacrifice. His wounds are proof to the Apostles that He is who He says He is. In a way, Jesus is providing them a second chance to look upon Him on the cross. Only John was at the foot of the cross, but he was not the only one to witness the marks of it. We too, are invited to gaze upon the broken body of Christ. We need to see, we need to remember.

Each time we enter a church, we see the cross behind the altar. Without the cross, there would be no resurrection. St. Augustine said, “The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.”

For the same reason that the people eating chicken wings need a visual to remind them of how much they have eaten, we need Jesus’ wounds to vividly remind us of the lengths He was willing to go to save us. We humans are slow to learn and quick to forget. We quickly forget the price that was paid for our salvation. We bemoan all the things we are lacking, rather than lifting our empty hands in adoration to the God who gave us everything we have.

Jesus’ wounds should shock us, yes. But they are also the most precious things we have ever received, for through them we are reborn to eternal life.

-Kate Taliaferro





Thousands of mothers with infants in the Lehigh Valley are without a support system. There are complex and multi-layered challenges that lead to homelessness, joblessness, and financial instability for pregnant women and mothers of infants. They include absent paternal figures, rising housing costs, limited job opportunities, wages below the poverty line, a lack of access to childcare, and mental and physical health disparities.

The Life House equips mothers who are marginalized with the resources and tools to be self-reliant. While navigating the challenges of motherhood, women are offered counseling and referrals to partner agencies to ensure their overall well-being.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Our *Knights of Columbus* group will hold a baby bottle campaign starting on Mother's Day this year for the Cay Galgon Life House. Watch the bulletin for more information on how you can help make a difference in the lives of mothers and babies in need!



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!

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

