

4TH SUNDAY of Easter

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

In the reading from Acts, Peter explains to the leaders of Israel how they cured a crippled man. They probably expected Peter to take credit for the cure, so they were waiting for him to hang himself by his words. Peter, of course, gives the credit to Jesus and then makes two important points.

First he calls Jesus the “stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.” Jesus was rejected by fellow Jews when he was crucified, but was actually doing God’s will when he gave his life on the cross. This gave comfort to those who had expected the leaders of Israel to follow Jesus and recognize him as the Messiah.

The second point made by Peter was that Jesus is the one and only savior of the world. In those days, the Roman emperor was considered to be a god and was called a savior. While we no longer look to politicians to be saviors, we need to remember that Jesus is **the** Savior: he forgives our sins, shows us how to love God and our neighbors, and hears our prayers. And in the end, he is with us when we die to bring us to eternal life. Now the choice is yours: to reject the Savior or make Him the cornerstone of your life.

-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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April 13-14, 2024: \$11,752.50

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. 22, 2024

12:00pm Sewing Sisters—Finnegan Room

Tuesday, Apr. 23, 2024

Wednesday, Apr. 24, 2024

10:00am Bible Study—Finnegan Room

4:30pm PREP

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal—Church

7:00pm RCIA—Finnegan Room

Thursday, Apr. 25, 2024

7:30pm Adult Volleyball—Hanlon Center Gym

Friday, Apr. 26, 2024

6:00am Top Gun Group—Finnegan Room

Saturday, Apr. 27, 2024

4:00-4:45pm Confessions—Church

5:00pm Mass—Church

Sunday, Apr. 28, 2024

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

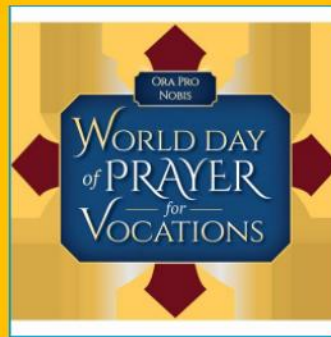
8:45am Adult Ed—*Lives of the Saints* -

Finnegan Room

8:45am PREP

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today 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.

*Because We
are Catholic*



The 2024 *Because We Are Catholic* Annual Appeal is underway! Our parish support is a vital part of this Diocesan-wide effort to serve children and families in our own community and throughout the Diocese of Allentown. You can scan the QR code and make your gift today at www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org. Thank you!

WEEKEND CELEBRANTS

Sat. Vigil, April 27 at 5:00 pm– Fr. Maco

Sunday, April 28

8:00 am– Fr. Shaju

10 am– Monsignor Klinger

11:30 am– Monsignor Klinger

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



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

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 – Bulletin – x11, Email: abvmkate@ptd.net

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

**Assumption Garden Ministry
Saturday, May 18 at 9:00 a.m.**

NEW DATE

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.



A copy of the book, *Beautiful Eucharist*, was given to families on Easter thanks to the generous donation of a parishioner. Please read the book and join us for conversation and refreshments on:

Monday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.
in the Spiritual Library
of the Finnegan Room.



After the book discussion,
we will go to the church for:
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
and Benediction from 7:15-8:00 p.m.**

What is Adoration? When Catholics say they are ‘going to Adoration,’ they are typically referring to Eucharistic Adoration. Which, in the most basic terms, is the worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass. The Eucharistic Host is displayed in a monstrance on the altar so that all can see and pray in the presence of Christ. The Blessed Sacrament need not be exposed in the monstrance for us to be able to adore Christ. In fact, the normative way adoration takes place in our churches is to for the faithful to spend a few moments before Christ in the tabernacle. It is available to us anytime the church is open.

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.



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.



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Thank you to everyone who supports 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!

Thanks to our sponsors!



**Our Auction Site is LIVE
until 8PM on April 21st!**
**Go check out some amazing items
and bid for a great cause!**

Visit NOK2024.givesmart.com



**Parish Religious Education Program
PREP**

Final 2023-2024 PREP Sessions are Wednesdays, **April 24**, and Sundays, **April 21 & 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.

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.



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!



**The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week
in memory of Ann Nestor.**



Monday, Apr. 22: Weekday
9:00 a.m. Laurel Slobodnick
Tues., Apr. 23: St. George
9:00 a.m. Suzanne Watts
Wednesday, Apr. 24: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
9:00 a.m. Edward Kokoszka
Thursday, Apr. 25: St. Mark
9:00 a.m. Joanne Kostecky Petito
Friday, Apr. 26: Weekday
9:00 a.m. Janet Connelly
Saturday, Apr. 27: Weekday
No Morning Mass
Vigil 5:00pm Luke & Florence Snell
Sun., Apr. 28: 5th Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
10:00 a.m. Mary Ann Freund
11:30 a.m. Catherine Tighe

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: First Reading: Acts 11: 1-18
Gospel: John 10: 1-10
Tuesday: First Reading: Acts 11: 19-26
Gospel: John 10: 22-30
Wednesday: First Reading: Acts 12: 24 – 13: 5
Gospel: John 12: 44-50
Thursday: First Reading: First Peter 5: 5b-14
Gospel: Mark 16: 15-20
Friday: First Reading: Acts 13: 26-33
Gospel: John 14: 1-6
Saturday: First Reading: Acts 13: 44-52
Gospel: John 14: 7-14
Sunday: First Reading: Acts 9: 26-31
Second Reading: First John 3: 18-24—Gospel: John 15: 1-8

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 **National Eucharistic Revival** was launched in July 2022, as a national response to the Lord's call with widespread Eucharistic processions and adoration on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

We are entering in the **Year of Parish Revival**. (June 11, 2023 – July 17, 2024). The Revival is now reaching the pews! This year is about fostering Eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening our liturgical life through the faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic adoration, missions, resources, preaching, and organic movements of the Holy Spirit.

One of the four key Invitations of the Eucharistic Revival is the **Invite One Back Initiative**. Please watch the bulletin for more information on the Year of Parish Revival!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There are few openings for “Shepherds” in the classified ads today, but few occupations are as dear to the Christian heart. Most of us tenderly place shepherds by our Christmas cribs, name the Twenty-third Psalm as our favorite, and recognize “Good Shepherd” as a title of Jesus. Bishops carry a staff, called a crozier, modeled after the shepherd’s walking staff. Long before Christian artists painted Jesus on the cross, they traced on the walls of their worship places images of a strong young shepherd, shouldering a lost sheep and bringing it to safety. Springtime is the season of lambing, a time when the shepherd not only learns the faces of the new arrivals, but also when the newborn sheep become attuned to the voice of the shepherd. This is exactly what we do as a community in Easter as we shelter and guide the newly received Christians, and also put our Lenten muscles to good use: listening more attentively to God’s Word, and responding with springtime vigor to God’s call.



-Rev. James Field

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SHEPHERDING OUR HEARTS TO THE FATHER'S

The Holy Spirit is burning within Peter, the first of the Apostles, as he proclaims the truth about Jesus to the leaders of the Jews in today's First Reading: Jesus Christ is the stone they rejected and executed, the cornerstone of the Church, in Whom all salvation and healing is found.

In Christ, the Son of God, we also become children of God. In Christ, who calls himself the Good Shepherd, we are known and healed and saved. This Good Shepherd has sacrificed everything for our sake, laying down His life willingly, and taking it back up again.

Jesus is always the one in control. No one forces him to do anything. The Father sent him into the world on a mission of salvation, and his whole life is dedicated to saving all of us. It is a struggle, but he is not struggling to protect or save himself; he is struggling to save all of us as he gives all of Himself. The enemy does not make him recoil or run away from his mission; the "wolf" will not make him anxious, because he cannot lose. Jesus is not worried. He does not need to recalculate his battle plan. The Plan is set from the beginning: He must take on all our fallenness and woundedness and sin and death itself, and carry it all the way to Golgotha in his own Perfect Heart – completely human and completely divine; he must sacrifice himself wholly by laying down his life, and then transform every darkness into light when he takes up his life again.

And His glorious promise to us is that ultimately, all will be drawn together so that there will be one flock without division, under the one Shepherd of love. The love of the Father has willed that we be called His children, as St. John tells us. God has created a world and a Heaven that would not be complete without us, because we are all members of one family in Christ, each of us beloved sons and daughters. Through Christ's rejection and death, we are redeemed, received, and given eternal life. In this freedom, we are called to accept this great gift and follow the commands of our Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd



-Kathryn Mulderink





The Women's Bible Study group will be discussing the book entitled "Walking with Mary, a Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross" by Dr. Edward Sri. All women are invited to the

Jubilee Center on Tuesday, April 30th from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon for the book discussion **AND... they have added an evening discussion on Tuesday evening, May 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

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

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. The mission of the Cay Galgon Life House is to prepare pregnant women and mothers of infants for a life of self-reliance.

You can help make a difference in the lives of mothers and babies in need by picking up an empty baby bottle on Mother's Day. Fill it with coins, cash or checks and return it before our deadline of June 16. For more information, contact Joe Vichot at 410-937-3322.



New Volunteer Opportunity



The Southern Lehigh Area Samaritan Fund has enabled area churches to assist the less fortunate in our area. At present, 5 volunteer screeners answer calls, completing intake interviews and forms. They answer calls for 1 week, then rotate back on the schedule every 5 weeks.

They are looking for volunteers to follow up with one or two calls to clients, providing resource information. Training and a resource booklet will be provided.

A similar schedule, on one week, rotating back on every 5 weeks, is anticipated.

If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer position, please email Joelle by emailing: jbhower@aol.com

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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