

## OLA MISSION STATEMENT

Through our devotion to Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption, we strive to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ to:

- ◇ Know God through Scripture and Prayer
- ◇ Encounter God through the Liturgy and the Eucharist
- ◇ Love God through Service

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5 PM  
Sunday: 7 AM, 8:30 AM and 10 AM  
Weekdays: 8 AM  
Saturday: 9 AM  
Holy Days: 7 PM Vigil, 8 AM and 12:05 PM

## SACRAMENTS

**Reconciliation:** Sat. 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM,  
or by appointment.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Tues. 7 PM – 8 PM

**Baptism:** 1st & 3rd Sunday each Month.

Pre-Jordan class is required and held on the 3rd Monday of every month. Please call the Parish Office to schedule.

**Marriage:** Engaged couples must meet with the Pastor at least six months prior to the Wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Holy Communion for the homebound or Sacrament of the Sick upon request. Anointing in preparation for surgery after Masses.

### **PASTOR:**

Rev. Gerald P. Carey

### **IN RESIDENCE:**

Fr. Augustin Kassa, SMA

### **PERMANENT DEACON:**

Deacon Paul Fisher

### **PARISH SECRETARY:**

RoseAnn Westerfer

### **BUSINESS MANAGER:**

Vince Buggy

### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:**

Anne Sprissler

**PARISH OFFICE PHONE:** 610-688-1178

**WEBSITE:** olastrafford.org

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon.-Fri.: 8:30AM - 4PM

### **Emergencies**

Call the Parish Office and press 1.

### **PREP OFFICE**

Sr. Rita Marian Angelilli, IHM

### **ASSUMPTION ACADEMY**

Patricia Welsh 610-688-5277



*Our Lady of the Assumption*  
*Roman Catholic Church*  
35 Old Eagle School Road, Strafford, PA

January 5, 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF  
THE LORD

MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH



Lord, every nation on  
earth will adore you

Psalm 72

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**First Saturday – January 4, 2025**  
**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

- 9 AM Giulio & Rosa Odorisio  
by Vincent Falcone
- 5 PM John Garzarella by His Family



**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

- 7:00 Elizabeth Marley by Jeanne Marley
- 8:30 Simon Shudy, Jr.  
by Daughter, Millie, Robert & Millie Slifer
- 10 AM Michael DiFronzo  
by Mother, Lucille & Siblings

**Monday - January 6, 2025**

**St. Andre Bessette, Religious**

- 8:00 Carmine & Maria Falcone  
by Son, Vincent Falcone

**Tuesday - January 7, 2025**

**St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest**

- 8:00 For the People of the Parish

**Wednesday - January 8, 2025**

- 8:00 Nicole Giacche by Joseph Ellis, Jr.

**Thursday - January 9, 2025**

- 8:00 Albert DiGinto by Gloria Toroni

**Friday - January 10, 2025**

- 8:00 Joseph Croce  
by John & Vera DiMaio & Family

**Saturday – January 11, 2025**

- 9 AM Nicole Giacche  
by Barbara & Richard Merman
- 5 PM Nicole Giacche, 1st Anniv.  
by Her Mom, Erma Giacche

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

- 7:00 Virginia Gaeto by Joe & Sue Paolantonio
- 8:30 Carmelo & Sebastiano Calvarese  
by Son, Dino & Yolanda Calvarese
- 10 AM Genoeffa Trosini  
by Daughter, Tina Lopez & Family

**SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING**



For: Rosa & Giulio Odorisio  
 Week of: **January 5, 2025**  
 By: Daughter, Lisa Mari & Family

**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

*Please pray for the sick and disabled members of our parish family:* William Vallejo, Carole Pullo, Gloria Biondi, Taylor Boileau, Nick & Kelly Sciaratta, Barbara Pupek, Catherine Harmer, John Becker, Janet Fleming, Ed Rofi, Holly Weaver, Louise Fehn, Milena Trosini, Yolanda Price, Russell Demanczyk, Fran Neary, Gabe Yervelli, Meghan Pitts, Kaitlyn Dorris, Arthur Mattmiller, Msgr. Marino, Fr. Woodeshick, Msgr. Malone, Fr. Carbonaro, Fr. Carey, Maria DiGiacomo, Marcella Canfarotta, Jim Batalise, Lynette Donnelly, Rose Rogers, Philomena Mozanni, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Bella Reid, John Catalanotto, Elizabeth Maratea, Mike Long, Kristen Boyer, Goldie Trowery, Mary Lewis, Jim Spang, Brian Hunsberger, Carla Santoleri, Helen Carver, Ronnie Kelly, Marian Quick, Ralph D'Ignazio, Martha Marcantonio, Mark Michaels, Dave Flinn, Joe Ellis, Jessica Recchi, Joseph Carver, John H. Shelsy, Carolyn DiDomizio Weber, Jay Fogarty, Cassie Hunt, Di McTiernan, Carol Barbera, Mike Howley, Tammy Kohal, Theresa Flanagan, Allison Rogge, Michael Kerns, Trish Lee, Freddie DeFlaviis & Mark Gregory.

*Please pray for our parishioners serving in the Military:* John Meixner, Rebecca Robbins, Luke Scilovati, Joseph Walton and Matthew Wilson.

**OUTREACH HELP**

**ITEMS COLLECTED BY OUTREACH:**

- ◇ **Dry & canned food/pantry items**  
*(OLA food pantry is extremely low)*
- ◇ Frozen casseroles  
*(pans & recipes in the Giving Room)*
- ◇ Gently used Men's shirts, pants/jeans & sweatshirts for the homeless men in Norristown, PA!
- ◇ Diapers (all sizes), wipes, baby food, bottles  
Formula & Depends (Adult - Medium)
- ◇ Cleaning supplies

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Holy Hour from 7 PM - 8 PM Tuesday**

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

Have I had an epiphany, a sudden insight, after an experience where I've recognized an encounter with Christ? If I cannot recall one, can I imagine how it could happen?

**ALTAR BREAD & WINE MEMORIAL**



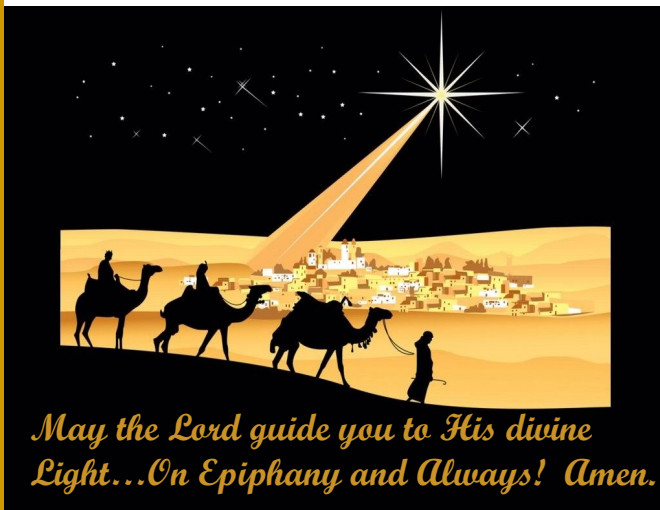
For: Deceased Members of the Seedor, McTaggart & Quick Families  
 Week of: **January 5, 2025**  
 By: Greg & Marge Seedor



**PREP**

The PREP Outreach for January & February will be a “Souper Bowl” collection of canned or boxed soups. These donations will be brought to the Parish Giving Room and distributed as needed. “Caring and Sharing” are the hallmarks of a Catholic tradition. Parents, please use this opportunity as a teachable moment.

The Confirmation Retreat for Parents & Students will be held next Sunday, Jan. 12th at the Blessed Raphaela Retreat Center. Please arrive at 12:45 PM. The Sunday Mass obligation will be fulfilled at the 4 PM Mass which is the closing event of the day.



**ST. BLAISE MEN’S RETREAT AT MALVERN**

Join Us for our 2025 annual St. Blaise Men’s Retreat at Malvern on Jan. 31st – Feb. 2nd  
**Prayer      Discernment      Fellowship**

It’s time to get away from the busyness of everyday life & spend time with our Lord.

**Mass, Confession, Rosary,  
 Stations of the Cross, Adoration**

Come be part of a group of OLA Men on a shared mission of faith, reflection & fraternity. This year’s retreat is being directed by **Fr. Simeon Gallagher**, a renowned Capuchin priest, who will guide us with profound wisdom & insight. We look forward to welcoming you to our retreat!

Sign-up at: <https://www.malvernretreat.com/events/st-blaise-curran-memorial-2025/>

OR

Feel free to use the following QR Code:  
 St. Blaise/Curran Memorial 2025



Registration. For more info, contact Anthony Gentile at 610-513-6834 or @ [awgentile@verizon.net](mailto:awgentile@verizon.net).



**ASSUMPTION ACADEMY**  
 2024 News



**Happy New Year!**

2025 promises to be another exciting year at Assumption Academy!

May your year be filled with health, happiness and love!

**Drivers Wanted!**

Looking for children ages 18 months to 3 years of age to be part of the best school in the area!

**Mommy and Me** classes meet every Monday from 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM.

There is no registration necessary, just show up and enjoy some fun time with your toddler & Ms. Terry.

A second day is being considered, if you would prefer a Wednesday.

Please call the school and let us know at:  
 610-688-5277.

\$15 a session  
 or \$130 for a 10 session punch card.



**STEWARDSHIP**

Due to an early publication date, the financial information could not be provided. We will give an update in the 1/12/2025 bulletin.

We thank you for your generosity!

2024 ANNUAL APPEAL to-date: **\$ 105,565**

FAITH FORMATION

ASSUMPTION ACADEMY NEWS

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed this marvelous festive season as we celebrated once again the birth of our Savior at Christmas as well as the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph last Sunday. Gathering together with family and friends is certainly a wonderful way to commemorate our Lord joining our human family so that we could become once again worthy to be part of God's family! The Christmas season ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord next Sunday.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord. As you surely know, Epiphany means "to appear to" and today, it refers to the manifestation of the infant Jesus to the gentiles, personified in the wise men who came from the East. As we hear in today's Gospel, "magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem saying, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.'" However, in the writings of early Christians, the term "epiphany" was also used in reference to his birth since it was then that God appeared in human form. In fact, "epiphany" often referred to his baptism and the wedding feast at Cana as well, since these were events where Jesus' divinity was made manifest.

Down through the past 2,000 years of Christianity, it has taken on significance in a variety of ways around the world. In the Western Church, Christians began celebrating the Epiphany in 354 AD, associating it with the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus. The three kings - tradition has given them the names Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar (representing Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively) - followed the star of Bethlehem to meet the baby Jesus where they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth. The gold represented his royal standing as the new king in the line of David, frankincense symbolized his divinity and myrrh anticipated his death (myrrh is a balm used to prepare a body for burial).

The Solemnity of the Epiphany began to be celebrated in the Eastern Church around 361 AD. Even today, many Eastern Churches consider the Epiphany as important as – if not more important than – Christmas. During the medieval period, Christmas was celebrated for the 12 days from Christmas Eve on December 24th, until the Epiphany. Even up until the 19th century, January 6th was as big a celebration as Christmas Day in many countries.

We Catholics observe Epiphany on a single day, usually on the Sunday after January 6th or, as it happens this year, on January 5th when it occurs on a Sunday. For many Protestant churches, however, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6th until Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. The last Sunday of the Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday. And, some Orthodox Christians, who celebrate Christmas on January 7th, observe the Epiphany on January 19th each year. Across the world, the day's celebration is observed in a variety of ways. In the Spanish speaking world, Epiphany is known as El Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings' Day). In some Latin American countries, believers gather to taste the Rosca de Reyes – the Kings' bread. A Jesus figurine is often hidden in the bread and whoever finds the small statue of the baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de Reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.

Yes, we celebrate our God becoming apparent to us through his Son, born of Mary, made manifest to the wise men who came from the East, baptized by John in the Jordan when God's voice from heaven declared "this is my beloved Son on whom my favor rests; listen to him", and showing his love and concern for everyone he met by his miraculous acts – the first of which was changing water into wine at Cana. In these – and countless other ways – the Sacred Scriptures recall God's revelation to us in his Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the Epiphany today, let us be grateful to our God, who has made his presence known to all who open their eyes of faith to see!

