

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:

Nicole Giacche

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 7, 2024 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, every nation
on earth
will adore you.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday – January 6, 2024

St. Andre Bessette, Religious

- 9:00 Carmela & Sebastiano Calvarese
by Daughter, Yolanda & Tony Falcone
- 5 PM Special Intentions of Irene Foley
by Daughter, Andrea & Robert Sinnamon
& Family

Wise Men
Still Seek
Him!The
Epiphany
of the
Lord

Sunday, January 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- 7:00 Elizabeth Marley by Jeanne Marley
- 8:30 Simon Shudy, Birthday
by Daughter, Millie, Robert & Millie Slifer
- 10 AM Michael DiFronzo, 11th Anniv.
by Mother, Lucille

Monday - January 8, 2024

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

- 8:00 For the People of the Parish

Tuesday - January 9, 2024

- 8:00 Jacob Ervin Wattering by The Custer Family

Wednesday - January 10, 2024

- 8:00 Darlene Daniels by Daniel & Lori DiNardo

Thursday - January 11, 2024

- 8:00 Marie Moussayan by Maryrose Rovatti

Friday - January 12, 2024

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

- 8:00 John Konrad by The O'Reilly Family

Saturday – January 13, 2024

St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

- 9:00 Jean & Joseph McNulty by Granddaughter,
Christine & Michael He & Family

- 5 PM Grace Goessel

by Daughter, Donna & Peter D'Innocenzo

Sunday, January 14, 2024

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 For the People of the Parish
- 8:30 Sebastiano & Carmela Calvarese
by Son, Dino & Yolanda Calvarese
- 10 AM Genoeffa Trosini
by Daughter, Tina Lopez & Family

SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING

For: Nick & Laura Desiderio

Week of: **January 7, 2024**

By: Diane & Paul Norcini

PRAYER INTENTIONS**Please pray for the sick and disabled members of our parish family:**

Nicole LaMonaca, Ed Drill, Anthony Ciarlone, Elsa Marsili, Josephine Sorrentino, Logan Schweiter, Margaret Cox, Victor Newton, William Vallejo, Carole Pullo, Gloria Biondi, Taylor Boileau, Dan, Angie, Nick & Kelly Sciarratta, Barbara Pupek, Catherine Harmer, John Becker, Janet Fleming, Holly Weaver, Louise Fehn, Milena Trosini, Yolanda Price, Russell Demanczyk, Fran Neary, Gabe Yervelli, Carolyn Weber, Arthur Mattmiller, Ed Rofi, Msgr. Marino, Fr. Woodeshick, Msgr. Malone, Fr. Carbonaro, Ann Koltay, Maria DiGiacomo, Kaitlyn Dorris, Marcella Canfarotta, Jim Batalise, Lynette Donnelly, Meghan Pitts, Rose Rogers, Philomena Mozanni, Erin & Noah Vandiver, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, John Catalanotto, Nicole Giacche, Bella Reid, Elizabeth Maratea, Julia Whalon, Mike Long, Kristen Boyer, Goldie Trowery, Mary Lewis, Jim Spang, Brian Hunsberger, Carla Santoleri, Helen Carver, Ronnie Kelly, Jerry Rineer, Marian Quick, Ralph D'Ignazio, Martha Marcantonio, Mark Michaels, Dave Flinn, Joe Ellis, Jessica Recchi, Joyce Kleiber, John H. Shelsy, Joseph Carver, Carolyn DiDomizio Weber, Jay Fogarty, Cassie Hunt, Di McTiernan, Amie Hamel, Carol Barbera, Mike Howley, Tammy Kohal & Theresa Flanagan.

Please pray for our parishioners serving in the Military:

John Meixner, Rebecca Robbins, Luke Scilovati,
Matthew Wilson & Bryan Dixon.

OUTREACH HELP

Outreach helps those in need in our community. Donations can be made to the Giving Room. If you find yourself in need, you can reach a member of the Outreach Team by calling the Parish Office at 610-688-1178 or calling Vince Caprio at 610-644-3482.

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 & sweat-shirts for the homeless men in Norristown, PA!
- ◇ Diapers (all sizes), wipes, baby food, bottles and formula

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**Holy Hour from 7 PM - 8 PM Tuesday***Come spend an hour with Jesus!***QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

Is there something I realize that I changed after encountering the Lord? Is there something I realize now that I should change?

PREP

We extend to all our PREP families a wish for a very Happy & Blessed Christmas season and a Healthy & Peaceful New Year in 2024!

Our next Family Catechesis session will be on Sun., 2/04/2024 at 9:30 AM.

The Confirmation Class will be at 11:15 AM on Sun., 1/21/2024.

PREP Levels 1 - 6 Monday classes resume on Mon., 1/08/2024.

Our Outreach for January & February will be "A Souper Bowl" collection of canned or boxed soups. These will be taken to the OLA Giving Room for distribution!

Join Us for our Annual St. Blaise/Curran Memorial Men's Retreat at Malvern on February 2 - 4, 2024

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 as you are and be part of a group of OLA men on a shared mission of faith, reflection & fraternity. We look forward to welcoming you to our next retreat!

Feel free to use the following QR Code to register:



Or Signup at: <https://www.malvernretreat.com/evenmts/st-blaise-curran-memorial-3/>

Contact Tony Gentile @ 610-513-6834 or email: avgentile@verizon.net for more information.

AOP METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

Do You Know Your Tribunal? The Tribunal is available to help people who have experienced divorce and who may wish to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you are divorced and want to marry in the Church, or are remarried outside the Catholic Church, please call the Tribunal Office at 215-587-03750 or go to: www.archphila.org.

BE ENCOURAGED

Is a website with resources to support those who are experiencing mental health struggles. The website offers links to find Catholic clinicians, local crisis response phone numbers & ministries that can assist with recovery & healing. Information is available at: www.archphila.org/support.



ASSUMPTION ACADEMY

2024 News



Happy New Year!



It's time to start thinking about next September!

Scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year are being accepted now. Just complete a simple form found at:

<https://online.factsmgt.com>.

No tax information will be required until March 31st.

Please do not allow the cost of enrollment at Assumption Academy keep you from enrolling in our wonderful full day Kindergarten.

Scholarships are available for all classes.

Please call 610-688-5277 .

There is more information available at:

<http://Assumption.Academy>.

STEWARDSHIP

NOTE: The Financial Report for the YTD Weekend of 12/20/23 will be available in next week's Parish Bulletin.

PASTOR'S CORNER



THE EPIPHANY OF
THE LORD

Dear Friends,

This weekend we celebrate the *Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*. With this weekend and with Monday's celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we formally conclude the season of Christmas. Most of us are familiar with the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." It certainly is a classic and heard often among the many other favorite carols at Christmas time. But not everybody thinks about the "real" twelve days of Christmas. In the Church, the Christmas season actually begins the day after Christmas and ends twelve days later. Christmas is not just for a day, but it is a "season". And so, this weekend, on the twelfth day of Christmas, this most wonderful time of year comes to a close with the ancient celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany.

In celebrating the Epiphany, we celebrate the revelation that Jesus was born as the Son of God and a Savior for all the nations. Today's gospel illustrates this revelation by the familiar story of the three wise men who traveled afar from the East to visit Jesus following His birth. They embarked on a journey of faith, following the great star of Bethlehem until they reached the manger where Jesus laid. They brought gifts that symbolized the revelation of His divinity: Gold, which associated Jesus as a king. Frankincense, which was often used in worship, and symbolized the holiness of Jesus and His priestly identity. And Myrrh, a perfume used for embalming, which symbolized that Christ would one day die for our sins.

As we start a new calendar year, it's a time of rejuvenation for many of us and maybe perhaps even some new resolutions. A chance for a new beginning. A chance to discover new things and perhaps make our own revelations (or discoveries) with regards to our relationship with God. As the wise men in today's gospel did, we too can continue to follow our faith throughout this coming year. The wise men had a revelation that the Son of God was coming, and they were not afraid to follow their hearts. Let us not be afraid to follow our hearts when we hear God's call in our own. May we, like them, seek to follow Him and in turn, reveal His presence in our world today.

I was truly edified by the ceremonies here at OLA throughout the Christmas season and the cooperation of so many people to make our Masses so beautiful and prayerful. I want to thank all of our staff and volunteers for all they did to decorate the church as well as our hall for our Christmas Masses. Everything looked beautiful! I also want to thank all of our liturgical ministers, especially our Choir under the direction of Anne Sprissler for the beautiful performance of music they provided prior to Midnight Mass as well as for the Mass itself. And finally, I want to thank all of you, my dear parishioners, for your generosity in this year's Christmas collection which reached \$15,284. It certainly is always a wonderful time of the year and I pray that the love of the Christ Child will remain in your hearts and homes throughout the coming New Year.

It is around this time of the year that we highlight and encourage participation in our Annual Parish Retreat for Men at Malvern Retreat House which traditionally occurs at the beginning of February. This weekend we will invite some of our parishioners to speak at all of our Masses regarding this annual spiritual event. The Men of the St. Blaise/Curran Memorial Group will be attending this annual retreat February 2nd to 4th, 2024. For additional information and registration, please visit the Malvern Retreat House website at www.malvernretreat.com or you may call **Tony Gentile @ 610-513-6834**.

This weekend our own IHM Sisters (who reside in our convent at 139 Fairfield Lane) are hosting an Open House Walk-Through on Sunday, January 7th from 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM. Won't you consider making a short visit to the convent to meet our sisters and see their convent-home and thank them for answering the call to religious life? We are blessed to have 5 sisters with us here at OLA. Some of them work here and others in various ministries outside OLA. It is very kind of them to open their home to share a little bit more about themselves with us.

I take this opportunity to thank all of those who have responded so generously to this year's *Annual Appeal*. If you have not returned your contribution as of yet, I invite you to do so. Once again, I offer heartfelt thanks to all of you for doing whatever you can within your means to support OLA. I am truly grateful!

As we conclude this wonderful season of Christmas may God continue to bless you and yours with the peace of the Christ Child in the coming New Year!

Love & prayers, Fr. Carey