

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:

In Transition

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

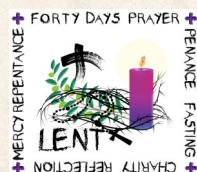
Sr. Rita Marian Angelilli, IHM

ASSUMPTION ACADEMY

Patricia Welsh 610-688-5277



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



February 18, 2024
1st Sunday of Lent

MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH



LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

Eucharistic Adoration & Confession,
Tuesday, 2/20/2024 at 7 PM

+

Stations of the Cross, Friday, 2/23/2024 at 7 PM

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday –February 17, 2024

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

- 9:00 Michael Audet
by Sister, Marguerite Paolantonio
- 5 PM Deceased Siblings of the Rogers Family
by Brother, Jack & Anne Rogers

Sunday, February 18, 2024

1st Sunday of Lent

- 7:00 Nick Recchi
by Wife Antoinette & Family
- 8:30 Henry “Hank” Ginnona
by Mr. & Mrs. Viola & Family
- 10 AM Charles B. Herrin by Comcast TPX SLT



Monday - February 19, 2024

- 8:00 Darlene Daniels by Jim Calvarese & Family

Tuesday - February 20, 2024

- 8:00 For the People of the Parish

Wednesday - February 21, 2024

St. Peter Damian,**Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

- 8:00 Gertrude Verguldi
by Dino & Yolanda Calvarese

Thursday - February 22, 2024

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

- 8:00 Confraternity of St. Peter by Chris Renzi

Friday - February 23, 2024

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

- 8:00 Gertrude Verguldi by Vince Calvarese

Saturday –February 24, 2024

- 9:00 Joseph Somers
by Daughter, Christine & Mark Gaeto & Family
- 5 PM Margaret Layton
by Joseph & Francis Schuda

Sunday, February 25, 2024

2nd Sunday of Lent

- 7:00 Holy Souls In Purgatory by Jeanne Marley
- 8:30 H. James, Michael & Alicia D'Ignazio
by Their Brothers & Family
- 10 AM Antoinette Falcone
by Tony & Yolanda Falcone

SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING

For: Nick Recchi

Week of: **February 18, 2024**

By: Wife, Antoinette Recchi & Family

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How will I minister to others during these forty days of Lent? Who is in need of my help?

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, Nick & Kelly Sciaratta, 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, 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 remember in your prayers the deceased mem-

bers of our parish family, especially for Thomas Phelan & Angie Sciaratta. May his soul & all the souls of the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.

Please pray for our parishioners serving in the Military:

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

CHANGE FOR CHRIST WATER JUGS

During Lent, we are collecting alms for the Mother of Mercy House in Kensington. This inner city ministry was started by 2 Philadelphia priests and an IHM sister. You can learn more about this ministry supporting the poor at: www.motherofmercyhouse.org/about. Please pick up a purple cup and return it during Lent to an Usher or the Parish Office. There are water jugs in both vestibules. It is also possible to donate online using “Change for Christ” in Parish Giving.

OLA CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Open to ages 7 - 13, begins its Spring Season on Feb. 28th. New members are welcome. Rehearsals are held on Wed., 6 PM-7 PM in the church choir loft. To join, contact Anne Sprissler, Dir. of Music at ParishOffice@olastrafford.org or call the Parish Office at 610-688-1178.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
& LENTEN CONFESSIONS**

Holy Hour from 7 PM - 8 PM Tuesday

PREP

All families have received an email regarding the Safe Environment lesson. Please respond to that email only if you are opting out of the in-class instruction.

We continue our canned soup drive until the end of February. Please bring your cans with you to your PREP class. We are helping to add to the OLA Giving Pantry.

The Confirmation Retreat is on February 25th at the Blessed Raphaela Retreat Center at 616 Coopertown Rd, Haverford, PA 19041. Please arrive by 12:45 PM to check in.

"THE SAMARITANS CHOICE - AN ACT OF LOVE."

On Mon., Feb. 19, 2024 at 7 PM at St. Joseph Church, (332 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, PA), in the church, the Archdiocesan Office for Life & Family in partnership with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, American Association will present an educational program designed to help stem the tide of human trafficking in our local community. The presentation is provided free of charge and open to all. The focus is on prevention and protection for you, your family and those who fall into your sphere of influence by raising awareness on how to identify the signs, how to report it, and how to support survivors. For more information on this program please visit the website: <https://phillycatholiclife.org/>.

LENTEN FAITH FORMATION

All are invited to attend on Mon., Feb. 26th at 7 PM in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Deacon Paul Fisher will give a presentation on *Finding Peace and Joy in the Crosses of Life*. He will guide us on: How to use the crosses we suffer from in life as a springboard to a deeper relationship with Jesus, and how to accept our crosses and find joy in them.

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LENT
— 40 Days Of Renewal —



ASSUMPTION ACADEMY 2024 News



Love is in the air...
and we are always ready to share it!



The children have been busy making valentines to give to our friends at Brightview.

They have been painting, stamping and coloring so many beautiful cards.

Coming soon...
the **Go For The Gold** raffle is back.
Tickets will be available for purchase
in a few short weeks.
You could be like Janet
and win \$10,000!



CONTRIBUTION LETTER: To request your 2023 Contributions Letter for tax filing, contact the Parish Office at 610-688-1178 or email: ParishOffice@olastrafford.org.

PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

This weekend, we celebrate the *First Sunday of Lent*. Our Gospel this Sunday sees Jesus being led into the desert.

The desert is very symbolic. When God freed and saved the People of Israel from slavery in Egypt, they spent forty years in the desert. They wandered and sometimes got lost as they tried to find their way to the Promised Land. This was not an easy journey for them. At times, they lost faith in each other and in God. They forgot the promise that God made with them: *"I will be your God and you will be my people."* As they made their way through the desert, many would have stopped travelling and given up. Others would have joined other tribes and religions that they met along the way. And remember, when they were at their lowest, they made a statue of a golden calf and began to worship it. They had forgotten where they had come from, what God had done for them and lost sight of where God was leading them.

It is no surprise that we begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. Like his ancestors, He too is tried, tested and tempted. However, Jesus refused to give up or give in so quickly or so easily. Jesus knows who He is, where He comes from and where He is going on His own journey. He leaves the desert with these powerful words which he offers us today; *"The time has come, the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."* What is this Good News that Jesus asks us to hear and believe? It is the good news that each of us is created, loved and forgiven by God.

As we begin our own Lenten journey today, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side every step of way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. He did not rely on his own strength. He turned to God and asked for help which He received. We will not be able to walk the Lenten journey on our own. We need to realize that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when He was in the desert. God will never abandon us.

As a reminder, we have begun our annual Lenten campaign called "Change for Christ". Purple cups are available for you to take home and fill up with "spare change" reflecting your sacrifices for others in need. You can return your cups of change during the season of Lent placing your donations in the receptacles in the church. This year, we are supporting Mother of Mercy House located in Kensington, Philadelphia. Our priests and religious are active there in serving the needs of the poor. I would invite you to visit their website: <https://motherofmercyhouse.org/> to learn more about them. The Kensington area of Philadelphia has been in the news lately regarding many challenges that they face to help those who are struggling with poverty and addiction. This is a wonderful cause and a special opportunity to teach our children the need to make sacrifices for others and to recognize the face of Christ in those who are poor and needy.

And so on this First Sunday of Lent, we enter a desert experience, a time of simplicity (no flowers at the altar, no extra organ playing). Our music for Mass then has been chosen to reflect this ethos. Over the past two weeks, I have discussed the simpler Antiphons that we will use for the Entrance & Communion parts of Mass. These will be very simple melodies based on the liturgical texts of the day. Another feature is that we will sing some parts of the Mass in Latin, again, to simple melodies. Not only will these simple melodies echo this season's overall simplicity but it will also help us to honor the Second Vatican Council's desire that all Catholics must know some parts of the Mass in Latin to preserve our universal language as a Latin Rite Church. I have a fond memory of a trip to Rome where many pilgrims were gathered from around the world. I could not speak to them in conversation, but at the Mass we were all able to sing together with one voice. I know that sometimes it's hard to adjust to a different language but knowing Latin makes us more aware that the Church is bigger than just our local community and that when we have a common "liturgical" language, we are made one then with many cultures around the world. Mass Aids have been prepared to facilitate your participation at Mass and I hope that the care we have taken to make Lent a unique and prayerful experience will enrich you and your families.

May God bless you all on our journey towards Easter.

Love & prayers, Fr. Carey