

### 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

For God so  
loved the  
world that  
he gave his  
one and only  
Son, that  
whoever  
believes in  
him shall  
not perish  
but have  
eternal life.

*John 3:16*



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



**March 10, 2024**  
**4th Sunday of Lent**  
**Laetare Sunday**

**MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH**

“  
Let my tongue  
be silenced,  
if I ever forget  
You!

PSALM 138:1

### **LENTEN ACTIVITIES:**

Eucharistic Adoration & Confession,  
Tuesday, 3/12/2024 at 7 PM in church

Stations of the Cross, Friday, 3/15/2024  
at 7 PM in church

Palmweaving Class, Saturday, 3/16/2024  
at 10 AM - 12 PM in Assumption Hall

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK****Saturday –March 9, 2024****St. Frances of Rome, Religious**

- 9:00 Baby Winona Ruth Geralamo  
by The Fernandez Family
- 5 PM Maureen Rebstock by Maureen McCafferty

**Sunday, March 10, 2024****4th Sunday of Lent****Laetare Sunday**

- 7:00 T. Richard Campbell 5th Anniv.  
by Daughter, Nancy
- 8:30 Julia Quici by Daughter, Ann Giacomucci
- 10 AM Rose D'Innocenzo  
by Son, Peter & Donna D'Innocenzo

**Monday - March 11, 2024**

- 8:00 Joanne Calvarese, 5th Anniv.  
by Husband, Vince & Family

**Tuesday - March 12, 2024**

- 8:00 For the People of the Parish

**Wednesday - March 13, 2024**

- 8:00 Darlene Daniels by The DiAddezio Family

**Thursday - March 14, 2024**

- 8:00 Mildred Szwarc  
by Son, Ed Szwarc & Dina Miller

**Friday - March 15, 2024**

- 8:00 Gertrude Verguldi  
by David & Jean Donovan & Family

**Saturday –March 16, 2024**

- 9:00 Margaret Mary Kiley by Her Friends
- 5 PM Maureen Rebstock by Bridie McCafferty

**Sunday, March 17, 2024****5th Sunday of Lent**

- 7:00 Donato "Danny" Bevilacqua  
by Mom & Fabio Bevilacqua
- 8:30 Margaret Mary Kiely by Linda Rickles,  
Rickles Family Charitable Foundation
- 10 AM Deceased Members of  
The D'Ambrosio, Gentile &  
Piccone Families by Their Families

**SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING**

For: Joanne Calvarese, 5th Anniv.  
**Week of: March 10, 2024**  
By: Husband, Vince Calvarese  
& Family

**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, 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 & Allison Rogge.

**Please pray for our parishioners serving in the Military:**

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

**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](http://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.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION  
& LENTEN CONFESSIONS****Holy Hour from 7 PM - 8 PM Tuesday***Come spend an hour with Jesus!***ALTAR BREAD & WINE MEMORIAL**

For: Giacomo & Genoeffa Trosini  
**Week of: March 10, 2024**  
By: Daughter, Tina Lopez & Family

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

Am I willing to live out my faith in the light of day, even when it makes me uncomfortable because I am ridiculed or rejected by much of society?



**PREP**

Confirmation students & parents are encouraged to sign up for the Palmweaving sessions on Sat., 3/16 from 10 AM – 12 Noon and/or on Wed., 3/20 from 6 PM – 8 PM. Finished products will be used on the altar for Palm Sunday.

We continue to collect coins for our “Change for Christ” during Lent. Purple cups can be turned in at any time during Lent during our regular class! The PREP total will be added to the Parish Collection for the Mother Of Mercy House in Kensington.

A reminder that measurements for Confirmation Robes will be taken during the March 17th class period!

**A reminder:** There will be no class on 3/24 & 3/25. There will be class for Levels 1 to 6 on 4/01. This is a change from the yearly schedule!

### **JOINT LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE WED., 3/20 AT 7 PM**

OLA & St. Katharine of Siena parishes are celebrating a joint Penance Service during Lent on Wed., 3/20 at 7 PM at St. Katharine of Siena Church in Wayne. All are invited to attend and have their confession heard.

### **PRO-LIFE ADVOCATE RESOURCE CONFERENCE**

**On Sat., 4/06/2024 from 9 AM - 1 PM**  
**At St. Matthew Church Hall,**  
**219 Fayette Street in Conshohocken**

All are invited to attend this conference to learn how to get involved with pro-life activities & see the pro-life resources offered in the Philadelphia area. This conference is free with a free lunch provided. Registration is required. To register, please send your name & phone number to: [lifeconference@prolifeunion.org](mailto:lifeconference@prolifeunion.org) or call 215-885-8150.

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

**LENT**  
— 40 Days Of Renewal —



## **ASSUMPTION ACADEMY 2024 News**



**Would you like to help us  
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but we would rather be winners after  
the  
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You can sponsor this annual event as a

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

**For God so loved the world,**  
that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have **eternal life.**  
—John 3:16

Dear Friends,

This weekend, we celebrate the *Fourth Sunday of Lent* also known as “Laetare” Sunday. It occurs at the very midpoint of Lent and derives its name from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass, “*Lætare Jerusalem*”—“Rejoice, O Jerusalem”. On this Sunday, flowers at the altar are permitted, the organ may be played more frequently; and Rose-colored vestments may be worn instead of the strictly penitential purple. The contrast between this Sunday and the other Sundays of Lent encourages us to stay strong in our Lenten commitments for soon the joy of Easter will be here!

Our Gospel this weekend shows us the beautiful encounter between Jesus & Nicodemus. Nicodemus is a Pharisee. Keep in mind, at the time of Jesus, those in charge of the religious and social laws of the Jewish people were the Scribes and Pharisees. They had reduced belief in God to rules, laws and regulations. Anyone who could not keep these strict rules was not worthy of God and were generally kept out of the synagogue and the Temple such as the sick, the poor, the widows and tax collectors. According to the Pharisees, they were not worthy of God. But these were the very people that Jesus came to be with. These are the very people to whom Jesus came with the good news that God loved them and that the Kingdom of God belonged to them. Because of this, the Scribes and Pharisees were always looking for a way to undermine Jesus. They even said of him, *Look this man even eats with sinners*. Jesus in return was never afraid to challenge these religious leaders and He accused them of being hypocrites.

Nicodemus comes to see Jesus at night because he is afraid that someone might see him talking with Jesus. He would have had a very set and fixed idea of who God was. However, Jesus offers him a very different image of God. He reveals a much bigger sort of God than Nicodemus can even begin to imagine. The God of the Pharisees tended to be angry and judgmental. The God that Jesus offers is one who does not judge or condemn. The God of Jesus is our God who loves us, who does not punish us, but deeply wants a personal and intimate relationship with us. The God of Jesus is one who does not destroy us but lifts us up.

God loves each of us so much and so deeply that he sent Jesus so that we might have eternal life. God loves us so much and so passionately that he sent Jesus so that we may not be lost, but found. God sent us Jesus so that we will be saved, not condemned. Jesus comes to not only show us how to live but how to live life fully in the light. Jesus invited Nicodemus out of the dark and into the light. As we take another step on our Lenten journey, Jesus invites all of us to do the same!

Palmweaving is a time-honored tradition in our parish. All are invited to come to Assumption Hall to one of the palmweaving sessions (in person) that are scheduled for Sat., 3/16/2024 from 10 AM – 12 Noon and on Wed., 3/20/2024 from 6 PM – 8 PM. All woven palm will be used to adorn the altar for our Palm Sunday Masses on 3/23 & 3/24. Anyone who creates a woven palm is encouraged to please come back to the church after the 10 AM Palm Sunday Mass has concluded to pick up your palm. They are beautiful to place on the grave of a loved one or to have as a reminder in your home.

Just as a reminder, our church will be open for Confessions & a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 7 PM – 8 PM every Tuesday evening during the season of Lent. Also, Stations of the Cross devotions are scheduled for each Friday in Lent at 7 PM. Please consider participating in these traditional Lenten practices & especially bringing your children to participate in them.

I encourage you once again (if you haven't done so already) to take home one of the purple cups available at the exits of the church. Each year, during the season of Lent, we take up our annual appeal called “*Change for Christ*”. This year, we are supporting Mother of Mercy House located in Kensington, Philadelphia. I invite you to visit their website: <https://motherofmercyhouse.org/> to learn more about them. This is a wonderful cause & a special opportunity to teach ourselves and our children the need to make sacrifices for others and to recognize the face of Christ in those who are poor and needy.

Once again, I am so grateful for your prayerful & financial support of our parish. May you and your families continue to have a fruitful and blessed Lent!

*Love & prayers, Fr. Carey*