

### 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**

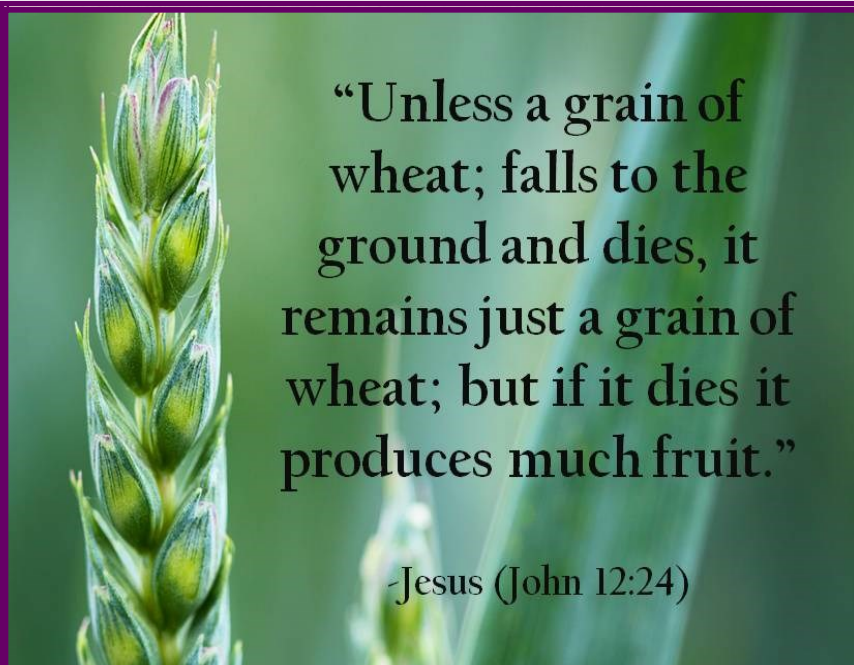
Call the Parish Office and press 1.

#### **PREP OFFICE**

Sr. Rita Marian Angelilli, IHM

#### **ASSUMPTION ACADEMY**

Patricia Welsh 610-688-5277



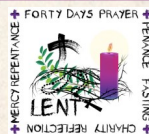
“Unless a grain of wheat; falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies it produces much fruit.”

—Jesus (John 12:24)

## *Our Lady of the Assumption*

### *Roman Catholic Church*

35 Old Eagle School Road, Strafford, PA



March 17, 2024  
5th Sunday of Lent

MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH

Create in me  
a clean heart,  
O God

### **LENTEN ACTIVITIES:**

Eucharistic Adoration & Confession,  
Tuesday, 3/19/2024 at 7 PM in church

Palmweaving Class, Wednesday, 3/20/2024  
at 6 PM - 8 PM in Assumption Hall

Joint Penance Service, Wednesday, 3/20/2024  
at 7 PM at St. Katharine of Siena Church

Stations of the Cross, Friday, 3/22/2024  
at 7 PM in church

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK****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

**Monday - March 18, 2024****St. Cyril of Jerusalem,****Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

- 8:00 Keith Gratkowski  
 by Holly Gratkowski & Family

**Tuesday - March 19, 2024****ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

- 8:00 Darlene Daniels  
 by Joanne & David Williams

**Wednesday - March 20, 2024**

- 8:00 Francis Angelini & Family

**Thursday - March 21, 2024**

- 8:00 Michael J. Grob, Birthday  
 by Wife, Jan & Family

**Friday - March 22, 2024**

- 8:00 Brother George Ruhl, CSSR  
 by Nephew, George Lex

**Saturday –March 23, 2024**

- 9:00 Deceased Members of The He Family  
 by Michael He & Family  
 5 PM Carmen & Cecelia Saia  
 by the Salamone Family

**Sunday, March 24, 2024****Palm Sunday**

- 7:00 Angela Juliano  
 by Granddaughter, Stephanie & Bryan Oscarson  
 8:30 Darlene Daniels  
 by Vinnie DiMartini & Family  
 10 AM Deceased Members of The Sarmento &  
 DiFronzo Family  
 by Virginia & Ralph DiFronzo

**SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING**

For: Mildred Szwarc  
 Week of: **March 17, 2024**  
 By: Edward Szwarc &  
 Dina Miller

**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 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](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.

**LENT**  
 — 40 Days Of Renewal —

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

What part of myself that I’ve become attached to in a self-centered way can “die” so that I will clear more space in my heart and my schedule for love of neighbor?



**PREP**

Happy St. Patrick's Day! We will measure the Confirmation Class for their Ceremony robes today during class time!

Levels 1 to 6 will attend the "Stations of the Cross" as part of their class period tomorrow! This prayer form will help deepen their understanding of Lent.

We continue to collect coins for the Mother of Mercy House during March and April. Thank you for all who have participated so far!

### **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.

**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 & sweatshirts for the homeless men in Norristown, PA!
- ◇ Diapers (all sizes), wipes, baby food, bottles and formula
- ◇ Cleaning supplies



## **ASSUMPTION ACADEMY 2024 News**

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

Here at Assumption Academy, we are surrounded by Lucky Charms!



When Irish eyes are smiling  
Sure, 'tis like a morn' in Spring  
In the lilt of Irish laughter  
You can hear the angels sing!

When Irish hearts are happy  
All the world seems bright & gay  
And when Irish eyes are smiling  
Sure, they steal your heart away!

**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).

## PASTOR'S CORNER



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Dear Friends,

This weekend, we celebrate the *Fifth Sunday of Lent*. Historically, this time of the year (these two weeks leading up to Holy Saturday) was once its own liturgical season called Passiontide. It was a period of time to focus more intently on the Passion and death of Jesus and so accompany Him on His way to Calvary. While this season formally no longer exists as a result of the liturgical changes which followed the Second Vatican Council, remnants of it can still be felt in some of the readings and prayers at Mass as well as the retained option to cover statues and images in churches. This time of year now “shifts” our hearts and minds to thoughts of our Lord being handed over to suffer and die on the cross. When speaking about Himself in the Gospel He says; *‘unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.’* Farming and gardening are processes of *transformation*. Seeds are sown in the earth. The ground is tended to and cared for; weeds are removed, and the seeds are watered. Then the waiting starts until what was sown slowly and somehow mysteriously transforms from a single seed into something altogether new and different; a plant bursting with new life. The old gives way to the new. There is in this a sense of sacrifice and dying; the seeds let go, yield and are transformed. One can imagine that this is a painful process of the seed seemingly losing itself. But new life does come from this painful transformation; new life comes from this loss and death.

Holy Week and Easter are in sight, but we are not there yet. The Gospel this weekend leads and points towards the great event of the passion of Jesus. He is the seed that will be ‘sown’ in the earth. He will let go, yield, offer his life for us and be transformed. From his death will come new life. Through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus offers us the fruit of eternal life. From this apparent loss will come the ultimate good. Only with death is there resurrection; what seems like Jesus’ loss is our gain. Next week, we begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday. We are being called & invited by Jesus to stay with Him so we can experience Good Friday and the stark reality of the cross. These are only steps on the way. The story does not end there; but we are called to stand at the cross before we can stand at the empty tomb at Easter. The cross is central not only to Lent, but to the whole message of Christianity. In the gospel today, Jesus clearly says, *‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.’* This glory will not come through power or prestige but through his dying and rising. He is the seed that will be ‘sown’ in the earth. He will let go, yield, offer his life for us and be transformed. From his death will come our new life.

This coming Wed., March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, we will have our annual combined communal celebration of Penance at St. Katharine of Siena Parish in Wayne. We offer these communal gatherings during both Advent and Lent. We invite you to come and pray together and receive the generous gift of Christ’s mercy and forgiveness in this great sacrament in preparation for Easter Sunday.

Palmweaving is a time-honored tradition in our parish. All are invited to come to Assumption Hall to our last palmweaving session (in person) 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.

Please remember to return your purple “Change for Christ” cup and deposit it with an usher or in one of the glass jars at the entrances 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*