

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



December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**The Lord has done great things
for us; we are filled with joy!**

Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday – December 7, 2024

First Saturday

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9 AM Helen C. Kincade by Joanne & Susan

5 PM Anthony Russo

by John & Anita Catalanotto

Sunday, December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

7:00 John S. Sabatino by Joseph M. Smith

8:30 Egidio “Jiggs” DiMarcantonio, Birthday
by Wife, Tina & Children10 AM Jennifer Emmi Fiorini, 4th Anniv.
by Mom & Dad

Monday - December 9, 2024

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**8:00 Special Intentions of Charles & Mary
Tornetta by Maryann Lutz

Tuesday - December 10, 2024

OUR LADY OF LORETO

8:00 For the People of the Parish

Wednesday - December 11, 2024

St. Damasus I, Pope

8:00 Geoneffa Trosini

by Daughter, Tina Lopez & Family

Thursday - December 12, 2024

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

8:00 Denise Filipone by The Filipone Family

Friday - December 13, 2024

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:00 Angela Juliano by Granddaughter,
Stephanie & Bryan Oscarson

Saturday – December 14, 2024

St. John of the Cross,

Priest & Doctor of the Church

9 AM Dante “Dan” Sciaratta

by Dino & Yolanda Calvarese

5 PM Rose & Anthony D’Innocenzo

by Son, Peter & Donna D’Innocenzo

Sunday, December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

7:00 For the People of the Parish

8:30 Denise Slaughter

by Louis & Brenda D’Amicantonio

10 AM Darlene Rubbo Richter, Birthday
by Francis & Shirley Pietrini**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**What do I need to repent of in order to cross
the main chasm that separates me from God?**PRAYER INTENTIONS***Please pray for the sick and disabled members of our
parish family:* Victor Newton, William Vallejo, CarolePullo, Gloria Biondi, Taylor Boileau, Nick & Kelly Sciaratta,
Barbara Pupek, Catherine Harmer, John Becker, Janet Flem-
ing, Holly Weaver, Louise Fehn, Milena Trosini, Yolanda
Price, Russell Demanczyk, Fran Neary, Gabe Yervelli, Ar-
thur Mattmiller, Ann Koltay, Msgr. Marino, Fr. Woodeshick,
Msgr. Malone, Fr. Carbonaro, Ed Rofi, Maria DiGiacomo,
Kaitlyn Dorris, Marcella Canfarotta, Jim Batalise, Lynette
Donnelly, Meghan Pitts, 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 & Fr. Carey.*Please pray for our parishioners serving in the Military:*John Meixner, Rebecca Robbins, Luke Scilovati,
Joseph Walton and Matthew Wilson.**OLA GIVING TREE***Please return all gifts by this Sunday, 12/08/2024
for the OLA Giving Trees!* We are collecting for the
families of St Patrick’s (in Norristown) CCD Program.
**Gifts with the tags attached may be placed in bins
in the Giving Room by Dec. 8th!****PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS!!!** The
items are laid out for the families to Christmas Shop.
You can donate wrapping materials separately. Gifts
will be delivered to St. Patrick’s on Mon., Dec. 9th.**FLORAL MEMORIAL**In Loving Memory of
Dominic Toscani, Sr.Week of: **December 8, 2024**

By: Pat & Marybeth Walsh

SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING

For: Dante Sciaratta

Week of: **December 8, 2024**

By: Greg, Marge, Lauren & Katie Seedor

ALTAR BREAD & WINE MEMORIAL

For: Angela Juliano

Week of: **December 8, 2024**By: Granddaughter,
Stephanie & Bryan Oscarson

PREP

Our Family Catechesis Parents & Students will meet today at 9:45 AM in Assumption Hall. Our topic will be “Christmas & Advent”. We also celebrate in a special way today the beautiful Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Mother of God. The actual feast is transferred this year because it falls on a Sunday. It will not be celebrated as a Holy Day of Obligation this year in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia but will have a special remembrance on Mon., Dec. 9th.

A special “Advent & Holiday Party” sponsored by the Worship & Fellowship Committee will be held on Sat., Dec. 14th in Assumption Hall. All families are invited to participate and enjoy the anticipation of the beautiful feast of Christmas! Bring Mary, our Mother, a present (for Baby’s Breath), see Santa and enjoy activities & treats from 10 AM - 12 Noon.

WAITING FOR THE GREATEST GIFT OF CHRISTMAS – JESUS CHRIST!

All are invited to attend the Advent Faith Formation event titled *“The Three Comings of Christ”* presented by Deacon Paul Fisher on Thurs., Dec., 12th at 7 PM in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

This will be an Advent discourse on:

- Jesus’ coming in the Manger,
- Jesus’ coming into our Hearts, and
- Jesus’ coming in the End of Time.

“WAITING FOR JESUS” OLA ADVENT SOCIAL

All families are invited to sign up and attend our annual Advent Social on Sat., Dec. 14th from 10 AM - 12Noon in Assumption Hall. Bring a gift for a baby to Mary: diapers (newborn) or clothes for boys or girls (sizes: 0 - 6 months) or 18 months for boys. Scan the QR code to let us know that you are coming!



JOINT ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE WITH ST. KATHARINE OF SIENA PARISH

Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 7 PM
Celebrant: Msgr. Hans Brouwers



ASSUMPTION ACADEMY 2024 News



Advent is a beautiful time of year at Assumption Academy. The children are readying their hearts and our hallways for the coming of Jesus on Christmas day.

Of course, you will also find a lovely

Christmas market in the Imagination Center in Room 3.



Christmas Outreach At Assumption Academy!

Once again this year we will be collecting new women’s pajamas in all sizes. The Wayne Food Pantry gives children of all ages the chance to pick out a brand new pair of pajamas for their mothers for Christmas.



Just drop off new pajamas in any size at the School Office and we will take care of the wrapping.

STEWARDSHIP

YTD Weekend of:	11/24/2024	11/26/2023
Collection:	\$ 117,606	\$ 101,756
Electronic Giving:	\$ 59,080	\$ 52,173
TOTAL	\$ 176,686	\$ 153,929

2024 ANNUAL APPEAL to-date: \$ 96,950

Meditation on the Gospel:

This weekend, we celebrate the *Second Sunday of Advent*. As we light the second candle in our Advent wreath, we are drawn more deeply into this season of watching and waiting and preparation. In striving to prepare our minds and hearts for Christ, the Advent season gives us many characters who shine as models for how to prepare well. From John the Baptist to Simeon, from Anna to the shepherds of Bethlehem, the stories of people connected to Jesus' birth give us a glimpse of the sorts of virtue we need to cultivate to receive Christ at Christmas. Perhaps the brightest light of this season is Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

This week, we join with the universal Church in celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since it has been moved from Sunday to Monday – the Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the feast day – it is not a holy day of obligation and we will celebrate Mass at the usual 8 AM weekday time.

Mary enjoys many wondrous titles but this one is of particular significance. It is so important that it is under this title that Mary is Principal Patroness of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as well as the Patroness of the United States of America, Spain, Tanzania & the Democratic Republic of the Congo. What does this title given to Mary mean & what is the significance of this solemnity? In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, we read:

To become the mother of the Savior, Mary “was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.” The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as “full of grace.” In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God’s grace. (§ 490)

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin. (§ 491)

Unlike the rest of humanity, Mary was free from original sin from the moment of her conception. As we see above, it was a gift from God. The *Catechism* goes on to explain:

The “splendor of an entirely unique holiness” by which Mary is “enriched from the first instant of her conception” comes wholly from Christ: she was “redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son.” The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person “in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” and chose her “in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love.” (§ 492)

Jesus Christ came to redeem humankind. Mary shared in his redemptive power from the moment of her conception. The *Catechism* asserts that God the Father “blessed Mary more than any other created person.” With this special gift, Mary could be “holy and blameless before him in love.” In fact, the *Catechism* explains that “by the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long” (§ 493). The *Catechism* continues to speak of Mary in this way: “espousing the divine will for salvation wholeheartedly, without a single sin to restrain her, she gave herself entirely to the person and to the work of her Son; she did so in order to serve the mystery of redemption with him and dependent on him, by God’s grace.” (§ 494)

And so, as with so many aspects of our faith, while the immediate focus of today’s feast might be on Mary, the real focus is always on her son, Jesus the Christ. Like all Marian feasts, today’s solemnity cannot be celebrated without reference to Jesus. That’s why we hear Pope Pius IX emphasize that the dogma comes about through the “merits of Jesus Christ.” It is Jesus who redeems, but in the mystery of the Incarnation, God has chosen to preserve Mary from original sin so she can be a fitting mother for his Son. Consequently, she plays a unique role in redemption and is properly given the title of Redemptrix. In other words, Mary was sinless so that she could give birth in the flesh to the Savior.

As we honor Mary, the Mother of God on Monday, the feast of her immaculate conception, let us gratefully acknowledge the mercy of God and, like Mary, humbly submit our will to his so that we, like Mary, may be able to continue to cooperate with God as he draws all humanity back to him through his son, Jesus; that’s where we all belong!

