

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

John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water

but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
Luke 3:16



Knowing-Jesus.com

Our Lady of the Assumption

Roman Catholic Church

35 Old Eagle School Road, Strafford, PA



December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday

MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

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

Gaudete Sunday

- 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

Monday - December 16, 2024

- 8:00 John & Rita Hospodar by Jan Grob

Tuesday - December 17, 2024

- 8:00 Special Intentions of
Hannah Theresa Yessman
by The Staff at Malvern Retreat House

Wednesday - December 18, 2024

- 8:00 Mary Rogers, 26th Anniv.
by Jack & Anne Rogers

Thursday - December 19, 2024

- 8:00 Special Birthday Intentions of
Antoinette Recchi by The Bilotta Family

Friday - December 20, 2024

- 8:00 Katherine Lex by Son, George Lex

Saturday – December 21, 2024

**St. Peter Canisius,
Priest & Doctor of the Church**

- 9 AM Special Intentions of Katie Seedor
by Pat & Marybeth Walsh & Matt Toscani
- 5 PM Nicole Giacche
by John & Anita Catalanotto

Sunday, December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

- 7:00 Nick Recchi
by Wife, Antoinette & Family
- 8:30 Thomas Kincade, Sr. by His Children
- 10 AM Lawrence Lolli by His Children

SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING



For: Andre & Marie-Claude Vittoz
Week of: **December 15, 2024**
By: The Teachers & Students of
Assumption Academy

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for the sick and disabled members of our parish family: Victor Newton, William Vallejo, Carole Pullo, Gloria Biondi, Taylor Boileau, 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, Arthur 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.

OUTREACH HELP

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
Formula & Depends (Adult - Medium)
- ◇ Cleaning supplies

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 24, 2024: CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4 PM Vigil Mass in the Church
- 4:15 PM Vigil Mass in Assumption Hall
- 11:15 PM OLA Christmas Eve Concert in the Church
- 12:00 AM Midnight Mass in the Church

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2024: CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8:30 AM & 10 AM Mass in the Church

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

- 12/31 5 PM Mass in the Church
- 1/01 10 AM Mass in the Church

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What will help remind me to try to see the Lord in those in need?

PREP

Monday PREP students will celebrate a Christmas Prayer Service tomorrow, Dec. 16th in church at 5 PM. All are welcome to attend as we prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. Our Level 1 students will lead us in prayer as they portray the Nativity Scene!

Thank you for the generous response to our many Outreach opportunities! It is a great way to teach our children to care for those in need.



ST. BLAISE MEN'S RETREAT AT MALVERN

Join Us for our 2025 annual St. Blaise Men's Retreat at Malvern on Jan. 31st – Feb. 2nd
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 be part of a group of OLA Men on a shared mission of faith, reflection & fraternity. This year's retreat is being directed by **Fr. Simeon Gallagher**, a renowned Capuchin priest, who will guide us with profound wisdom & insight. We look forward to welcoming you to our retreat!

Sign-up at: <https://www.malvernretreat.com/events/st-blaise-curran-memorial-2025/>

OR

Feel free to use the following QR Code:
 St. Blaise/Curran Memorial 2025



Registration. For more info, contact Anthony Gentile at 610-513-6834 or @ awgentile@verizon.net.



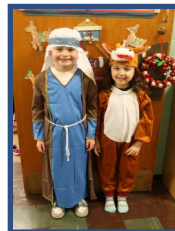
ASSUMPTION ACADEMY 2024 News



JOY!

With hearts full of joy, we count down the days until we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

On December 20th at 10 AM, the school will re-enact the story of Jesus birth in the Church. All are welcome! This always gets even the grinchiest of Grinches in the Christmas spirit.



Thank you to those who participated in the **Pajamas for Mamas Campaign!**

So many children will be able to give their mothers a lovely Christmas gift due to your generosity.



STEWARDSHIP

YTD Weekend of:	12/01/2024	12/03/2023
Collection:	\$ 125,962	\$ 105,736
Electronic Giving:	\$ 60,965	\$ 54,615
TOTAL	\$ 186,926	\$ 160,351

2024 ANNUAL APPEAL to-date: \$ 100,000

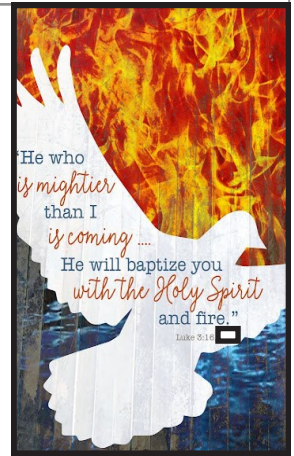
FAITH FORMATION

ASSUMPTION ACADEMY NEWS

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

MEDITATION ON THE GOSPEL:

Today we celebrate the *Third Sunday of Advent* also referred to as “Gaudete Sunday.” The Latin word *Gaudete* means “Rejoice!” On this Sunday, we take a short hiatus from the mostly penitential, somber nature of Advent and rejoice in the nearness of the celebration of Christmas. To outwardly express this joy, rose vestments may be worn by the celebrant on this Sunday, instead of the typical violet for Advent. One will also notice that the third candle on the Advent wreath is rose colored. Rose signifies joy.



Today’s second reading calls us to “rejoice always.” Christian joy goes beyond a mere emotion and, therefore, supersedes circumstances. The joy we have in Christ can always remain with us regardless of what challenges we are facing in life. That is because we know God is in control of all of our circumstances. He is “near,” as Paul says. Therefore, we should “have no anxiety” because we can place our hope and have our peace in God. Let us, therefore, seek Him, trust Him, and obey Him to find the deep joy that can only be found in union with Him.

The Gospel today brings us back again to hear the voice of Saint John the Baptist. We should note that John the Baptist is not at all concerned about being considered great or important. His one concern is to point to Jesus Christ: the One who is to come, whose sandal strap he is unworthy to untie. Saint John the Baptist is a saint of joy because he points always to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. We also can become people of joy when our lives point to Jesus our Lord. We don’t have to be perfect but we do have to keep pointing to the Lord. Just as in the life of John the Baptist, the more we decrease, the more the Lord may increase.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Last weekend concluded our Giving Tree drive for the PREP families in need at St. Patrick’s Parish in Norristown, PA. We thank all of you who have been so generous in offering gifts this year to the poor.

Finally, our *Annual Parish Appeal* which was started in October has been extremely successful in raising most of the additional funds needed to cover the extensive repairs needed for the church & rectory roofs. As of this date, we have received a total of \$ 100,000. We offer heart-felt thanks to all of you for doing whatever you can, within your means, to support OLA!

