

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

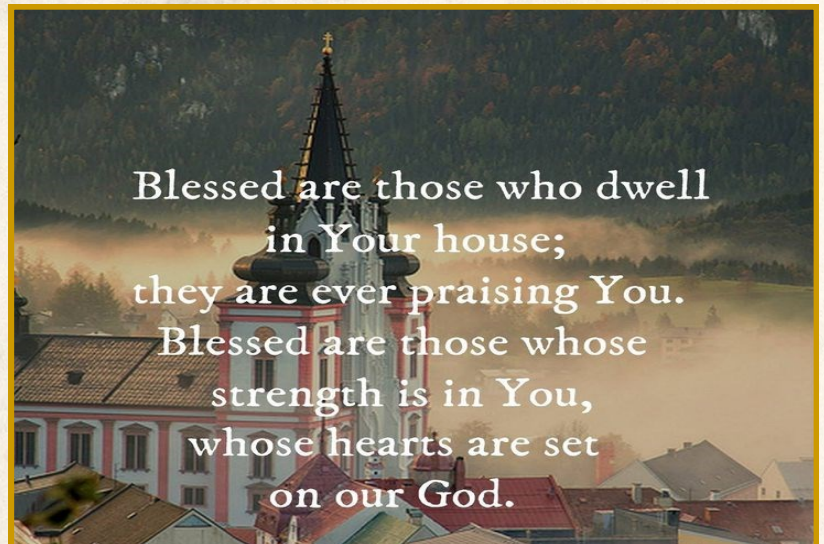
Roman Catholic Church

35 Old Eagle School Road, Strafford, PA

December 29, 2024

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH



Blessed are those who dwell
in Your house;
they are ever praising You.
Blessed are those whose
strength is in You,
whose hearts are set
on our God.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday – December 28, 2024

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

- 9 AM Anthony Lemma
by Maria Lemma & Family
- 5 PM Agnes McCafferty, Birthday
by The McCafferty Family



Sunday, December 29, 2024

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

- 7:00 Marie-Claude Vittoz
by Diane & Paul Norcini
- 8:30 Dominic & Nancy Toscani,
Beloved Parents by Son, Matt
- 10 AM Deborah Scavello by Her Family

Monday - December 30, 2024

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

Tuesday - December 31, 2024

St. Sylvester I, Pope

- 8:00 Margaret Daltwas, 17th Anniv.
by Daughter, Sr. Marlene Daltwas, IHM
- 7 PM Marie Bowie by Ann McGarvey

Wednesday - January 1, 2025

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

- 10:00 For the People of the Parish -
Blessings for the New Year

Thursday - January 2, 2025

**Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops & Doctors of the Church**

- 8:00 Irma Mackenzie by Christine Walsberg

First Friday - January 3, 2025

HOLY NAME OF JESUS

- 8:00 William Herlihy
by Herbert P. White & Family
- First Saturday – January 4, 2025**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

- 9 AM Giulio & Rosa Odorisio
by Vincent Falcone
 - 5 PM John Garzarella by His Family
- Sunday, January 5, 2025**

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

- 7:00 Elizabeth Marley by Jeanne Marley
- 8:30 Simon Shudy, Jr.
by Daughter, Millie, Robert & Millie Slifer
- 10 AM Michael DiFronzo
by Mother, Lucille & Siblings

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for the sick and disabled members of our parish family: William Vallejo, Carole Pullo, Gloria Biondi, Taylor Boileau, Nick & Kelly Sciarratta, Barbara Pupek, Catherine Harmer, John Becker, Janet Fleming, Ed Rofi, Holly Weaver, Louise Fehn, Milena Trosini, Yolanda Price, Russell Demanczyk, Fran Neary, Gabe Yervelli, Meghan Pitts, Kaitlyn Dorris, Arthur Mattmiller, Msgr. Marino, Fr. Woodeshick, Msgr. Malone, Fr. Carbonaro, Fr. Carey, Maria DiGiacomo, Marcella Canfarotta, Jim Batalise, Lynette Donnelly, 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.

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

OUTREACH

GIVING TREE THANK YOU

The Outreach Team is so grateful for the generosity of the OLA parish family. We gathered 387 gifts and \$3,780 in gift cards. The Outreach Team would like to thank members of the team who help to bring the gifts to Norristown including Jim Glasgow, Jacques Gordon and most especially, Diane Norcini who organizes all the donations!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: How can I help my family be more reflective of the Holy Family? What difficulties stand out in our family life?

SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING



For: Dante “Dan” Sciarratta
Week of: **December 29, 2024**
By: Rose Ann Westerfer

PREP

PREP classes will begin on Sunday, Jan. 5th for the Family Catechesis & Confirmation Classes and on Mon., Jan. 6th for Levels 1 - 6. We especially ask for prayers for the Confirmation Class as they prepare for the reception of the Sacrament on Sunday, March 2nd at the 10 AM Mass!

The Confirmation Retreat for Parents & Students will be on Sunday, Jan. 12th at Blessed Raphaela Retreat Center. More information to come.

Our next Family Catechesis session will be on Sun., Jan. 5th at 9:45 Am in Assumption Hall. The topic will be "Prayer".



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



ASSUMPTION ACADEMY 2024 News



Happy New Year!

2025 promises to be another exciting year at Assumption Academy!

May your year be filled with health, happiness and love!

Drivers Wanted!

Looking for children ages 18 months to 3 years of age to be part of the best school in the area!

Mommy and Me classes meet every Monday from 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM.

There is no registration necessary, just show up and enjoy some fun time with your toddler & Ms. Terry.

A second day is being considered, if you would prefer a Wednesday.

Please call the school and let us know at: 610-688-5277.

\$15 a session or \$130 for a 10 session punch card.



STEWARDSHIP

YTD Weekend of:	12/15/2024	12/17/2023
Collection:	\$ 145,509	\$ 121,750
Electronic Giving:	\$ 66,559	\$ 59,415
TOTAL	\$ 212,067	\$ 181,165

2024 ANNUAL APPEAL to-date: **\$ 105,565**

FAITH FORMATION

ASSUMPTION ACADEMY NEWS

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



As we continue our celebration of the Christmas Octave on this feast of *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*, this Sunday we hear readings at Mass that are about just that: family. They are accented by dedication to the Lord, and faith and trust in God with an openness to His will. In our first reading from *1 Samuel*, we hear Hannah, the mother of Samuel, dedicate her only son - whom she bore at an old age - to the Lord. Samuel would grow up to be a very important figure in Salvation History, anointing first Saul and then David as King of Israel. And, as we all know, the Messiah was promised to come from the family line of David. Hannah, who prayed in desperation but with unwavering faith, hoping against hope, symbolizes the hope we are all called to have in our lives. What family doesn't have struggles that require strong faith? And, Hannah, along with her husband, Elkanah, are great models of parents who realize that their role is to nurture and freely give back to God the children given to their care.

In our second reading, we are reminded of one of the great gifts that comes to us at Christmas. In becoming a man, Jesus, the Son of God, draws us into God's family so that, as we hear from the *First Letter of Saint John*, we are "called children of God." Like a loving parent, God is intimately involved in each of our lives. In fact, at our baptism, he calls us by name into his family! And, like any loving father, God wants us to "be like him."

Our gospel account today provides us with the only scriptural insight into the Holy Family in their everyday lives as Jesus was growing up. It demonstrates the faithfulness of the family by relating that "each year, Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover." And, it shows that Joseph and Mary had passed on their faith well to their son, Jesus. They found him in the temple, "sitting in the midst of the teachers...and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers." Joseph and Mary's faith in God would allow them to give their son the freedom to follow God's plan for him, just as Elkanah and Hannah had done with their son, Samuel.

As you see, all three readings center on family, faith and an openness to God's will. Elkanah and Hannah, Joseph and Mary, Simeon and Anna were all righteous people of deep faith. All received divine promises that God fulfilled because they believed. Furthermore, Jesus, who is a descendant of David, Jacob, Isaac and Abraham, will be a blessing for all the families of the earth, thus bringing the promise that God first made to Abraham to deeper fulfillment. As we celebrate the *Feast of the Holy Family*, these readings invite us to think about our family, our dedication to the Lord, and our faith and trust in God with an openness to His will. As we honor the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph because they were righteous people, attentive and faithful to God's promises to them, we acknowledge that we, too, are called to live in faithful obedience to God's plan for us in our families.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 **\$ 105,565**. We offer heart-felt thanks to all of you for doing whatever you can, within your means, to support OLA!

A box to drop off a Happy Retirement card for John & Anita Catalanotto is located in the main vestibule of the church. We ask God to bless both John & Anita in this new exciting chapter of their life together!