

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:

Nicole Giacche

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

Anne Sprissler

PARISH OFFICE PHONE: 610-688-1178

WEBSITE: olastrafford.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 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 31, 2023

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
MY OLA † MY FAMILY OF FAITH**

The Rosary will be prayed 20 minutes prior
to all Masses next weekend.



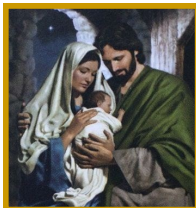
The Parish Office will be closed on Monday,
1/01/2024 and reopen on Tuesday, 1/02/2024.
Have a Blessed New Year!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**Saturday – December 30, 2023**

- 9:00 Graziella Lalwani
by Florence D'Ignazio & Family
- 5 PM Special Birthday Intentions of
Joanne Bouvier by Husband, Chris

Sunday, December 31, 2023**THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

- 7:00 Jane Cannan, Birthday
by Mimi Mira
- 8:30 Margaret Daltwas, 16th Anniv.
by Daughter, Sr. Marlene Daltwas, IHM
- 10 AM Mary Jane Powers by The OLA Choir

**Monday - January 1, 2024**

- 9:00 For blessings in the New Year -
For the People of the Parish

Tuesday - January 2, 2024**Sts. Basil, the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops & Doctors**

- 8:00 Special Intentions of Barbara M., Patricia &
Michael Grob by Mom, Jan Grob

Wednesday - January 3, 2024**THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

- 8:00 Marcella Baumann by Gail Nelson

Thursday - January 4, 2024**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

- 8:00 Holy Souls In Purgatory
by The Gentile Family

Friday - January 5, 2024**St. John Neumann, Bishop**

- 8:00 Darlene Daniels by Amadio & Alicia Barlow

Saturday – January 6, 2024**St. Andre Bessette, Religious**

- 9:00 Carmela & Sebastiano Calvarese
by Daughter, Yolanda & Tony Falcone
- 5 PM Special Intentions of Irene Foley
by Daughter, Andrea & Robert Sinnamon
& Family

Sunday, January 7, 2024**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

- 7:00 Elizabeth Marley by Jeanne Marley
- 8:30 Simon Shudy, Birthday
by Daughter, Millie, Robert & Millie Slifer
- 10 AM Michael DiFronzo, 11th Anniv.
by Mother, Lucille

SANCTUARY LAMP IS BURNING

For: Deceased Members of the
Marrella & Caprio Families

Week of: **December 31, 2023**

By: Vince & Cathy Caprio

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, Angie, Nick & Kelly Sciarratta, 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, Nicole Giacche, 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.

Please remember in your prayers the deceased members of our parish family, especially for Gertrude Verguldi & Florence Cunningham. May their souls & all the souls of the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.

Please pray for our parishioners serving in the Military:
John Meixner, Rebecca Robbins, Luke Scilovati,
Matthew Wilson & Bryan Dixon.

OUTREACH HELP

Outreach helps those in need in our community. Donations can be made to the Giving Room. If you are in need, you can reach someone by calling the Parish Office at 610-688-1178 or **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
- ◇ Diapers (all sizes), wipes, baby food, bottles and formula

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**Holy Hour from 7 PM - 8 PM Tuesday***Come spend an hour with me. ~ Jesus***QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

What can I do for my parents/siblings/spouse/children to make my family more holy, more like the ideal that God calls us to?

PREP

We extend to all our PREP families a wish for a very Happy & Blessed Christmas season and a Healthy & Peaceful New Year in 2024!

Our classes begin after the New Year holiday. The Family Catechesis session will be on Sun., 1/7/2024 at 9:30 AM.

The Confirmation Class will be at 11:15 AM on Sun., 1/07/2024.

PREP Levels 1 - 6 Monday classes resume on Mon., 1/08/2024.

Our Outreach for January & February will be "A Souper Bowl" collection of canned or boxed soups. These will be taken to the OLA Giving Room for distribution!

Join Us for our Annual St. Blaise/Curran Memorial Men's Retreat at Malvern on February 2 - 4, 2024

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 as you are and be part of a group of OLA men on a shared mission of faith, reflection & fraternity. We look forward to welcoming you to our next retreat!

Feel free to use the following QR Code to register:



Or Signup at: <https://www.malvernretreat.com/event/st-blaise-curran-memorial-3/>

Contact Tony Gentile @ 610-513-6834 or email: awgentile@verizon.net for more information.

AOP METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

Do You Know Your Tribunal? The Tribunal is available to help people who have experienced divorce and who may wish to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you are divorced and want to marry in the Church, or are remarried outside the Catholic Church, please call the Tribunal Office at 215-587-03750 or go to: www.archphila.org.

BE ENCOURAGED

Is a website with resources to support those who are experiencing mental health struggles. The website offers links to find Catholic clinicians, local crisis response phone numbers & ministries that can assist with recovery & healing. Information cards are available in the vestibules of the church or at: www.archphila.org/support.



ASSUMPTION ACADEMY 2023 News



Happy New Year!



It's time to start thinking about next September!

Scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year are being accepted now. Just complete a simple form found at:

<https://online.factsmgt.com>.

No tax information will be required until March 31st.

Please do not allow the cost of enrollment at Assumption Academy keep you from enrolling in our wonderful full day Kindergarten. Scholarships are available for all classes.

Please call 610-688-5277 .

There is more information available at: **<http://Assumption.Academy>**.

STEWARDSHIP

YTD Weekend of:	12/13/2023	12/14/2022
Collection:	\$124,578	\$124,294
Electronic Giving:	\$ 54,615	\$ 58,105
TOTAL	\$179,193	\$182,399

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, we celebrate the *Feast of the Holy Family*. This liturgical feast is always celebrated the Sunday following Christmas. This year is rather unique as we celebrate it just one day after Christmas. A priest friend of mine recently remarked, "Jesus grows up very quickly this year!" In any case, this beautiful feast simply recognizes the gift of family and that the family itself often forms the core relationships which shape our faith. Yet when it comes to honoring the Holy Family, we can easily sentimentalize them. After all, they are perfect: Mary is the Immaculate Conception, Joseph is a saint, and Jesus is the Son of God. Like beautiful statues or stained glass windows, the Holy Family seems worthy of our admiration, but not a real flesh and blood example for our imitation. However, we are invited to go beyond such sentimentalizing today, for though we recognize that they are holy, we remember that they are human. In other words, the reason we celebrate the Holy Family is not because they are perfect, but because they are faithful. The story of the Holy Family is the story of faithfulness both in the midst of unexpected crisis and in the daily routines of everyday life.

First, there are the moments of family crisis. The story of the Holy Family begins with the account of a young teenager who conceives before she is married. It's the story of a confused, anxious groom, who contemplates divorce in the face of this embarrassing scandal. It's the story of a frantic father, who searches for shelter for his laboring, pregnant wife in the chaos of a crowded city. It's the story of two new parents and a fragile child forced to flee as refugees to a land that enslaved their ancestors. It's the story of three desperate days of searching for a missing child in a crowded city.

Second, between these unexpected crisis moments, it's an ordinary story. In fact, for the most part, it's a silent story. Again, the theme which emerges from these stories of struggle and daily routine is not that the Holy Family was particularly extraordinary or successful, but that it was always faithful. Mary is faithful to Gabriel's words to trust that "nothing is impossible for God." Joseph overcomes his natural fear and shame and cares and provides for Mary and her child. Jesus is faithful in all things to do the will of His Father.

This week, we are reminded of the story of the Holy Family, because in many ways it is our story. The Holy Family stands by all those who struggle, search and pray. But they also uplift us by their faithfulness. Even the silent, ordinary story of their lives gives us hope that God is present within the routine of our daily lives. Their example of faithfulness is a powerful witness to all of us that we are not alone. The Holy Family always walks with us to discover God's presence wherever life's journey leads!

Love and prayers, Fr. Carey



WE WISH YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY A
BLESSED NEW YEAR
IN 2024!