

This document contains our church's complete Guide Book & Directory, including our members' contact information. This version was developed to allow the Pastor, the office staff, and designated members of the congregation, to have the Guide Book & Directory in an electronic format.

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Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



2019 Guide Book

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As a parish community united in Jesus and dedicated to Mary,
we are called to discipleship through worship and service.

Fall, 2019

Dear Parish Family,

As you receive this Third Edition of the Guide Book about who our wonderfully welcoming parish is and some highlights of what we do, I encourage you to read it from cover to cover. While many of you have been involved in the various activities of our parish perhaps for quite some time, some of you may not be aware of all the opportunities that exist both for serving one another and the larger community, all of which give glory to our Perfect Father Who is God. A fairly careful look at this book's contents will clearly show we are a vibrant parish family, whom I am privileged to serve. Since the last edition of the Guide Book, our parish has registered new families and is preparing to implement the new Sacramental Preparation Program for Confirmation. While our parish is vibrant and growing, we are convinced that we are merely doing what loving and faith-filled followers of Jesus do for one another and for newcomers to our family, as each of us is on a journey towards perfection and we are called to move our vibrant parish family to excellence. Are you perhaps wondering how you and I contribute to this "movement"? Give some thought, at least once in a while, to what others have said to you about what you do well; each of us has talents and gifts. The message is personal for us; we can all contribute to our parish, and I thank you for sharing yourselves with the family. As a family member, I encourage each of you to introduce yourself to fellow parishioners whom you do not know yet.

Peace and blessings to you all.

Father Mike

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How does one register in the parish?

Parish registration is important for many reasons. Please register soon after you have moved into the parish by contacting Deacon Eric, the Parish Services Director, or Father Mike, the Pastor, at 215-357-1221.

How does one obtain a Letter of Eligibility to be a godparent for Baptism or a sponsor for Confirmation?

The Letter of Eligibility, required of all Catholics who are asked to be godparents or sponsors, is a document issued to a registered parishioner. This document declares that a prospective godparent or sponsor is at least 16 years of age; fully initiated as a Catholic by the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation; if married, is validly married in the church; and is a practicing Catholic. To obtain a Letter of Eligibility, contact Deacon Eric or Father Mike at 215-357-1221 for an appointment.

How do parents arrange for their child's baptism?

Parents are encouraged to begin the preparations for the Sacrament of Baptism before their child is born. First call the Parish Office at 215-357-1221 to register for the baptism and make an appointment to meet with either Deacon Eric or Father Mike. A letter explaining the process and eligibility forms for godparents will be mailed to you. You will need to attend a required baptism class ("Meet and Greet" gathering) prior to your child's baptism.

How do engaged couples arrange for the Sacrament of Matrimony?

Deacon Bob, Deacon Eric and Father Mike Davis welcome engaged couples to prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. While marriages celebrated during Mass must be witnessed by a priest, marriages celebrated during a wedding ceremony outside Mass may be witnessed by a deacon. The first step is to call Father Mike at 215-357-1221 to book the date. Attendance at a Pre-Cana program is required. One option is a session hosted by married couples from our parish under the leadership of Deacon Bob. Other program options exist as well. If you would like Deacon Bob or Deacon Eric to witness your marriage during a wedding ceremony outside Mass, please call the Parish Office at 215-357-1221. For questions about Annulments, Declarations of Nullity, when a Catholic may be married in another Christian Church and related questions, please call Father Mike at the Parish Office.

Who may have the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and when is the sacrament celebrated?

Like the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament of healing for persons who are facing surgery, who are suffering from chronic illnesses and who are experiencing the progressive weaknesses due to old age. Many years ago, “Extreme Unction,” or “Last Rites,” was reserved for persons who were close to death as a preparation for death. Since the reform of the sacraments following Vatican Council II, the understanding of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as practiced in the early Church allows us to properly celebrate spiritual healing, sometimes physical healing, the forgiveness of sins and God’s peace by being anointed with the Oil of the Sick. As a sacrament of healing, the Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated more than once. Our parish celebrates a Mass with the Anointing of the Sick every year in the Spring. Please ask Father Mike to be anointed before you have surgery and please call the Parish Office at 215-357-1221 at any time when a family member who is homebound worsens.

How does an individual obtain an annulment?

The process for obtaining an annulment is a pastoral aid for a divorced Catholic or non-Catholic who wishes to remarry in the Catholic Church. Archbishop Charles Chaput, based on the wishes of Pope Francis, has decreed that the \$800.00 legal fee for this process will be covered by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, so that individuals will no longer be deterred from the process because of financial shortfalls. They are simply asked to contribute something out of charity according to their means.

To begin the process, go to the Archdiocesan website (www.archphila.org). On the top right of the webpage, under the heading “How do I”, click on the tab “Start the Annulment Process”. Follow the instructions, fill out the form on your computer, print out the form, obtain the proper documents, and send everything to the Tribunal. When your application is received, you will be contacted to begin your case with formal testimony. For questions, please call the Tribunal at 215-587-3750.

Schedule of Masses

Saturday Vigil:	5:00 p.m.
Sunday:	8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. in Malayalam 3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday; in English 1st & 2nd Sunday.
Monday- Friday:	8:30 a.m.
Holy Days:	6:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Holidays:	9:00 a.m.

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Scrip Hours - Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Rectory
and before all weekend Masses.

Parish Websites

www.abvmfeasterville.org
www.facebook.com/AssumptionFeasterville
www.newsfromthepews.org - Parish Newsletter
www.abvm-youth.org - CYO
www.pack153cubscouts.org/home - Pack 153
www.skdschool.org - Parish Regional School

Staff

Reverend Michael J. Davis	Pastor Extension #26
Reverend Renny Abraham.....	Resident Extension #30
Reverend John J. Kelly.....	Resident Extension #29
Reverend Shaji Silva	Chaplain Indian Catholic Community
Deacon Robert J. Stewart.....	Permanent Deacon
Deacon Eric M. Umile	Parish Services Director Extension #24
Mrs. Patricia Criniti	Coordinator of Religious Education
Ms. Kathleen McLaughlin.....	Director of Liturgical Music
Mrs. Susanne Brooks.....	Coordinator of Youth Ministry Extension #21
Mrs. Dot E. Vogel	Parish Secretary Extension #20
Ms. Linda Vogel.....	Office Manager Extension #33
Mr. Fred Perazzelli	Business Manager Extension #32



The Assumption BVM MyParish app for smart phones was launched with much fanfare in May, 2018. Its many features include:

- Connecting with our Parish through Groups and Messages
- Setting Prayer Reminders and Sending Prayer Requests
- Following the Mass Readings
- Accessing many Parish resources like the Church Bulletin, the “News From the Pews” newsletter, the Parish Guide Book, the Church website, and more.

The app comes with a Tech Support Calendar so that folks will always know who to contact if they have questions or issues.

If you haven’t downloaded the app yet, go to myparishapp.com today to make sure you will be up-to-date on all the latest parish happenings!

For more information, contact myparishabvm@gmail.com.

Finance Council

The Finance Council is comprised of parishioners appointed by the Pastor. It is one of the two advisory bodies to the Pastor. The Finance Council members have financial, accounting, and managerial expertise and are equipped to advise the Pastor in all matters related to the parish fiscal health, based on attention to proper stewardship of parish resources. The Parish Business Manager serves as a Consultant to the Finance Council which meets bi-monthly. For more information, contact Father Mike at 215-357-1221.

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council, the other advisory body to the pastor, is comprised of parishioners who are nominated by the parish or appointed by the Pastor, and ex officio Parish Staff members. The Pastoral Council members assist the Pastor by being available to the parishioners for their concerns and suggestions, as the parish continually forms a vision for the journey towards excellence. The Council also assists the Pastor in addressing parish needs. The Pastoral Council meets bi-monthly. For more information contact Father Mike at 215-357-1221.

Worship

Altar Servers

An altar server assists the priest at Mass and at other liturgical functions such as Holy Week services, Forty Hours and weddings. As a representative of all the lay people in the parish, the altar server plays a prominent, visible role in the church's worship. For this reason, he or she must commit to take this responsibility seriously and perform assigned duties with dignity and reverence. The ministry of altar server is open to applicants from grade 4 and up. Adults are also welcome especially for funerals during the school year. A period of preparation and training is necessary before undertaking this ministry. Contact Deacon Eric at 215-357-1221 or email deaconeric.abvm@gmail.com.

Liturgical Music Ministries

Kathleen McLaughlin, Music Director

Cantors: The cantor's role is to encourage the enthusiastic participation of the assembly by leading the acclamations, hymns, and songs and to proclaim the Responsorial Psalm at the liturgy. Men or women who are interested in preparing for ministry as cantors should contact Kathleen McLaughlin, 215-880-7257 or email KMcl924@comcast.net.

Choir: The parish choir offers musical enhancement to special celebrations throughout the year. The group also sings at two weekend liturgies each month, from September through Pentecost Sunday. Choir practices are held every other Monday evening at 8:00. High school and college students as well as adults of all ages may add their voices to the ensemble by contacting Margie Crooks at 215-355-7348 or email crks118@aol.com.

Instrumentalists: An organist, keyboardist, or guitarist provides accompaniment to the assembly's singing at each parish liturgy. Student or adult musicians who play solo instruments (violin, cello, clarinet, trumpet, flute, etc.) are most welcome to share their talents with the parish; they should contact Kathleen McLaughlin at 215-880-7257 or email KMcl924@comcast.net.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers (EM) of Holy Communion are confirmed adult members of the community who help distribute the Body and Blood of Christ to the assembly during Sunday and daily liturgies. The pastor and parish staff select our EMs to meet the needs of our community. Some of our members also bring the Holy Eucharist to the sick and homebound of the parish, to nearby hospitals, and to those in area nursing homes within our parish. Contact Glen C. Michaels at 267-307-0248 or email lionphan@verizon.net.

The “Good News” Guitar Group

Our founder, Dot Oschell, who went home to heaven, gave the group its name the “Good News” Guitar Group. “Good News” was taken from the New Testament of the Bible where the “Good News” is so often mentioned. We devote our time and talents to make the Mass more meaningful. It is our “ministry”. Dot always said, “When you sing you pray twice.” Our mission is to encourage our parish family to sing and give praise to God. It is a commitment for us to attend practice in church every Tuesday evening at 7:30 from September through June. The group provides the music usually for the first and third Sunday of the month. We are a very loving and caring “family”. It makes our job much lighter and more joyful. The door is always open to new members who feel called to make the commitment. For more information please contact Veronica Schoen at 215-752-7273 or email voschoen@gmail.com.

Greeters

Church Greeters are an important part of our hospitality ministry at Assumption. A friendly face and a smile make people feel welcome and at home. We can be found at the church doors before Mass. We also help hand out special information, handouts, or booklets after Mass. In addition, these volunteers keep a lookout for visitors and anyone in need of special assistance. Joining the Greeters is a great way to meet members of the parish too. To become part of this ministry, please contact the rectory.

Liturgical Environment

The job of environment requires devotion, imagination, and sacrifice. Much of what we do is only temporary. Liturgical colors change with the season. The Church year dictates changes in decorations. For example, the simplicity of Lent contrasts with the joy of Christmas. On some occasions there is very little time to transform the environment, but we must always keep in mind that the setting should inspire faith in others. Help is always welcome with flower arranging as well as set up and clean up, especially for ‘special’ celebrations throughout the year! Contact Rich Korimsak at 215-355-0625 or email dkorimsak@gmail.com.

Liturgy Board

Since Liturgy is the highest form of prayer and “the source and summit of the Christian life,” it is crucial that close attention be given to preparing liturgical celebrations that are both reverent and relevant.

The Liturgy Board is a group comprised of the Pastor, Deacons, CRE, and coordinators/representatives of each liturgical ministry: Altar Servers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Music, Environment, Ushers, Greeters, and Assembly/“People of the Pews.” Representatives are invited by the Pastor to serve for an unspecified term.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month and agenda items include evaluation of recent liturgical celebrations, preparing for upcoming seasons and special liturgies, dealing with issues related to specific ministries, etc. In addition, the Liturgy Board has sponsored sessions to inform lay ministers and all members of the parish about updated liturgical practices, as well as Holy Hours to encourage spiritual growth and community.

An important component of each meeting is ongoing formation and education. Upon acceptance of the Pastor's invitation to join the Board, the new member is given a copy of the first document promulgated by Vatican II – *Sacrosanctum Concilium (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)*. The Board has also read and discussed works which include the 2010 revision of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, *A Biblical Walk through the Mass* (by Edward Sri), and, more recently *The Joy of the Gospel* and *The Joy of Love* by Pope Francis.

Questions or comments may be directed to Deacon Bob at 215-357-1221 or email psykman@verizon.net.

Readers

A reader proclaims the Word of God at Mass and other liturgical events. In a sense, they “lend their voice” to God who speaks to his people through them. Success as a reader depends on reverence for scripture, conviction, preparation, and effective delivery. Candidates of sufficient age (high school and up) and competence undertake this ministry after fulfilling a period of preparation and training. Contact Deacon Eric at 215-357-1221, ext. 24, or email deaconeric.abvm@gmail.com.

Ushers

The most important job of an usher is to make parishioners and guests feel welcome at each Mass celebration. The usher invites members of the congregation to serve as gift bearers and, as needed, helps with seating and coordinating movement of the congregation during Holy Communion. In addition, the usher assists with the collection basket during the offering. Ushers also offer assistance in case of medical or other emergencies. If you would like to become part of this special ministry or would like more information, please contact Ray Burkett at 215-357-1283 or email gatorinpa@verizon.net.

Faith Formation

Bible Study

Each fall the parish provides a weekly bible study experience for members of the parish and their friends. Past topics have included: The Bible Timeline, Matthew, Acts, Revelation, James, Psalms and John. Beginning in October participants will be delving into The Prophets. Registration for this bible study will continue through September.

Beyond Welcome to Belonging

From the church to the gym, we want all of our families to feel welcome and become involved in parish life. This initiative hopes to connect with parish families in an effort to understand and eliminate any barriers that cause them to feel disconnected from the parish.

Over the past years Scout leaders and coaches have shared how their programs include our young parishioners who experience learning differences and/or special challenges. Scout leaders and coaches are hopeful that more children will come out and join the various teams/groups. In addition, the Religious Education Office wants to make all parishioners aware that religious education is always available to any child including those with learning differences. The religious education staff are committed to working with children and families to ensure access to a religious education. We bring this effort to all our parishioners and request that you spread the word that everyone is not only welcome but important to our parish. Help us to know what the parish can do so all children and families feel connected and part of the Assumption community! We are all valued and special in God's eyes.

For more information or to volunteer contact Noelle Murphy at 215-429-9596 or email noellemrph@gmail.com.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Assumption Charismatic Prayer Group has been meeting every Monday evening since 1973 to offer praise, thanksgiving and petitions to our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The purpose of our prayer meeting is to seek a close personal relationship with Jesus and experience the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives in a deeper way. The word "charismatic" refers to the charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit which we prayerfully seek through praise, both verbally and in song, scripture reading, sharing of answered prayer, prophecy and petition. Some of our members have been involved for over forty years and have experienced many answers to prayer and personal transformation. We meet every Monday evening at 7:15 in the Rectory Meeting Room. If you have any questions, contact Jean Ambs at 215-355-4974.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

Children from Kindergarten to those who have not yet received First Holy Communion are invited to take part in the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11:00 Mass through the school year. After the opening prayer at Mass the celebrant will invite the children to leave with the catechist and an assistant. They return to the assembly following the Presentation of the Gifts. CLW is held in the hall on the stage. Children listen to the same Mass readings on a child's level. The catechist leader educates the children through discussion, role playing or activity. Adult volunteers are welcome as assistants and catechists. Contact Nora McDonough at 215-357-3445 or email clansmcd@aol.com.

Continuing Faith Journey (CFJ)

Continuing Faith Journey meetings are held once a month the year following reception of new and fully initiated members of Assumption Parish through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The purpose as stated in the name is to continue to explain and experience the Catholic Faith through the rituals and celebrations of the liturgical year while further expanding topics introduced during the RCIA process. The monthly gatherings also offer the opportunity to explore current church issues or just time to share the ongoing faith journey of each new member. The Holy Spirit is truly alive and active in this new group of fully initiated Catholics!

For more information, contact Deacon Eric at 215-357-1221, ext. 24, or email deaconeric.abvm@gmail.com.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

The Divine Mercy prayer group meets weekly on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. during Eucharistic Adoration in the church to say the Divine Mercy Chaplet and to pray for the sick in the parish. The group also promotes Divine Mercy Sunday devotion by distributing information and material with the Novena and the Chaplet. Contact Janice Bauer at 215-364-1378 or email jbauer49@verizon.net.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is held every Tuesday, beginning immediately after the 8:30 a.m. Mass and concluding at 6:45 p.m. with Evening Prayer from *“The Liturgy of the Hours”* followed by *Benediction*. Stop in for a visit any time. Better still, consider signing up for a holy hour of personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Bring your needs to the Lord! For more information contact Deacon Eric at 215-357-1221, ext. 24, or email deaconeric.abvm@gmail.com.

Faith Sharing

A Bible/Faith Sharing Group meets on Wednesday mornings after the 8:30 Mass in the Mary Chapel, September through May. We use the “Word Among Us” monthly publication and focus on the Scripture for the following Sunday. Come grow with us in gaining insight into readings for Mass. Everyone is invited to join our informal group. Contact Theresa Poitras at 215-357-3933 or email theresaj38@verizon.net.

Flame of Love

The Flame of Love Movement is a Catholic Marian Movement inspired by the Blessed Virgin Mary through the writings of Elizabeth Kindelmann. The mission is to evangelize, particularly the families, with the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that the Love of the Eternal Father and of the Sacred Heart of Jesus set all hearts on fire. Our parish cenacle meets to say the rosary on Tuesday evenings at 7:15pm immediately following *Benediction* in the Mary Chapel. For more information or a copy of the book and prayers, contact Janice Bauer at 215-364-1378 or email jbauer49@verizon.net.

Men of Malvern

The Malvern Retreat House hosts a variety of day, evening, overnight, and weekend retreats throughout the year. A group of men in the parish attends a weekend Men of Malvern retreat in early November each year. Parishioners have attended other retreats, such as the Valentine's Day evening of reflection in February. Those needing a ride can usually carpool with another parishioner. For more information, contact Kevin Flood at 215-499-4196 or email kevinf@spectraassociates.com.

Pre-Baptism Program

Expectant or new parents register for a child's baptism by calling the parish office with the necessary information. Parents will receive a letter explaining the program with dates of upcoming Meet and Greet/class gatherings. Eligibility forms for godparents will also be enclosed.

Fr. Mike, Deacon Bob, or Deacon Eric present to "Meet and Greet" gatherings, and explain the meaning of each part of the ritual during the celebration of the sacrament. The second part of each gathering is led by couples who cover living out the call to plant and nourish the seeds of faith by suggesting ways to bring religion into the home and make it a part of everyday family life. Our wonderful team of couples become a great source of information to expectant or new parents in the weeks and months ahead.

Baptisms are celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month at 12:15 p.m. They may also be scheduled to be celebrated during a weekend Mass. Please contact the rectory for more information at 215-357-1221.

Pre-Cana

The Pre-Cana Team is composed of married couples from the parish. Each March the team presents a Pre-Cana Day on a Saturday for couples engaged to be married within the upcoming year. Topics include Communications, Intimacy/Sexuality, Adjustments and Spirituality. The team is under the direction of Deacon Bob Stewart who may be contacted at 215-357-1221 or email psykman@verizon.net.

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)

The Parish Religious Education Program is dedicated to the religious instruction and Christian formation of children in grades 1 through 7 who attend public schools. Children grow in their faith and knowledge of Catholic beliefs and practices, as well as prepare for reception of sacraments.

Religious education sessions are held during the school year on:
Sunday morning: 9:15 to 10:45 a.m.--Levels 1 through 7.
(allows families to attend 8:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Mass together)

Monday evening: 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.--Levels 1 through 7.

We also offer "catch up" classes on Monday evenings for students who are Grade 3 and older who have had no previous religious education.

For additional information and registration materials, or if you'd like to volunteer, please contact the Religious Education Office at 215-357-3445 or email abvmreo18@gmail.com.

Sacraments (Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation)

God pours his grace out to us in Sacraments. The celebration of Sacraments is a graced time for the individual, the family, the parish, and the Church. Two years of preparation are required for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Catechesis and preparation may be provided in an Archdiocesan or private Catholic school or in PREP (Parish Religious Education Program). Guidelines set by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia concerning baptized children specify that the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be received prior to First Eucharist. **Archdiocesan policy also requires that a child receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) in the parish where the family is registered, regardless of where they attend school.**

The children generally receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Grade/Level 2 in late winter. They receive First Eucharist at a weekend Parish liturgy during the Easter Season. Beginning in the 2019/2020 school year, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on students in Grade/Level 7 during the Easter Season. Unbaptized children of catechetical age will be initiated following the Order of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Additional details about celebration of Sacraments can be obtained by calling the Coordinator of Religious Education, Patricia Criniti, at 215-357-3445 or email abvmreo18@gmail.com.

Please note: For information about Sacramental preparation for adults, please see RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) in this directory or on the Religious Education Office webpage.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

“The Rite of Christian initiation is designed for adults who consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. By God’s help they will be strengthened spiritually during their preparation and at the proper time will receive the sacraments fully. This rite includes not simply the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist but also all the rites belonging to the catechumenate.” (Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*).

RCIA is open to those who have never been baptized, those who were baptized in another faith community and those who were baptized Roman Catholic but never completed the Sacraments of Initiation.

If you are an adult and would like to learn more about Catholic beliefs and practices, would like to complete the sacraments, or are interested in becoming part of the RCIA team, please contact Deacon Eric at 215-357-1221 ext. 24, or email deaconeric.abvm@gmail.com. Inquiries about unbaptized children (age 7 and above) should be directed to the Religious Education Office at 215-357-3445 or email abvmreo18@gmail.com.

Parish Services

Aid for Friends Program

Our parish supports the Aid for Friends Meal Program that provides meals for the elderly and home bound in need in the greater Philadelphia and surrounding counties including Bucks. Consider making extra portions a few times a week and freezing them to provide home-cooked meals for those unable to cook for themselves. Aluminum foil containers and soup containers are available in the cabinet in the hallway near the Sunday nursery. Directions on filling out a form of the contents are available. Keep dinners in your freezer and bring them to church on the weekend. An usher will see that your meals are put in the parish freezer. As the freezer gets full, a volunteer takes them to the Aid for Friends Warehouse on Townsend Road. For more information on the program go to www.aidforfriends.org. To be more involved in our local effort, contact Nora McDonough at 215-357-3445 or email clansmcd@aol.com.

Altar Linen Society

The Altar Linen Society is a ministry of women who wash and iron the linens used at Mass. This is ideal for anyone who wants to serve but cannot get out for meetings. For more information contact Janice Bauer at 215-364-1378 or email jbauer49@verizon.net.

Bereavement Group

Bereavement Care notes are provided by the group in the back of the church. Bereavement Support groups are held for eight (8) weeks on Monday nights in the Fall and Spring. Each meeting begins with new grief topics giving the bereaved an opportunity to speak about his/her loss. For information contact Barbara Wutzer at 215-355-8897 or email barbnjohnw@gmail.com.

Caregiver Support Group

The “Caregiver Support Group” is a group for those caring for loved ones at home, nursing homes and even long distance. It can be a challenging, frustrating, overwhelming, and rewarding experience. So, we share our stories and offer encouragement and support. There is education about various community resources. The group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the rectory meeting room at 7:00 p.m. It is so important for “self-care!” Come once, come monthly. All are welcome. You do not have to be a parishioner to attend. Please feel free to join us for support, laughter, resources and prayer. For more information, please contact Teresa McCausland, RN at 267-991-2003 or email tmccausland@stmaryhealthcare.org.

Church Cleaning Committee

Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Mondays and Fridays a great group of parishioners spruce up the church. We welcome volunteers as you are available, every Monday and/or Friday or according to one's changing schedule. Come, exercise with us! Contact Christine Oberlander at 267-304-0629 or email Chrissy62869@gmail.com.

Evangelization

Before his Ascension into Heaven, Jesus commissioned his disciples, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Mt. 28:19)

The word “evangelization” as found in the Scriptures means “communication of the Good News.”

Assumption BVM Evangelization team strives to encourage spreading the “Good News” in many ways throughout the year. Specific yearly activities include Door to Door visitation, presence at the Craft Fair with handouts and information, Advent and Lenten religious articles or handouts and a Pentecost celebration of languages and ethnic foods. Occasional activities such as Public Witness over the years have also been done.

The committee meets monthly September through June to discuss ways to deepen our understanding of challenges to living the Catholic faith across all age groups. We engage parishioners, coworkers and others in ways to live the Catholic faith more deeply. New energetic members are always welcome! Contact Glen Michaels at 215-396-0475 or email lionphan@verizon.net.

Family Promise of Lower Bucks at ABVM

Family Promise of Lower Bucks (www.fplb.org) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides services to homeless children and their families through faith-based congregations and community volunteers. In 2019, ABVM became the first Catholic host congregation for FPLB. That means we provide dinner and overnight lodging in the unused school building for up to 14 individuals-- typically 3 to 4 families-- for one week 4 times during the summer months when there are no PREP classes. These carefully screened “guest families” sleep on cots provided by Family Promise, and each morning a van transports the guests back to the Family Promise Day Center on Woodbourne Road. From there, they go to school or work or participate in training.

Volunteers are needed at ABVM to provide meals, eat and socialize with the guests, and stay overnight—as well as donate supplies and materials, transport cots, and assist with cleaning. Those who interact directly with the guests must complete all mandated Catholic clearances and attend Family Promise training. Volunteers are also needed at the Day Center to be “Office Angels” and substitute van drivers.

If you would like to learn more about how you can live the “Works of Mercy” as a volunteer with FPLB at ABVM or to get on our email list, contact Rose Jacobs at 215-364-8131 or email r1jacobs@verizon.net.

Food Pantry

We provide food for both individuals and families in need of assistance. To receive food from our pantry, please call the rectory during business hours. We prepare bags of groceries once a week throughout the year. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Our pantry needs “non-perishable” of the following items: canned meats, vegetables, fruits, beans, pasta, tuna or salmon fish, peanut butter, jam, jelly, soups (including hearty chunky soups), chili, rice, spaghetti sauce, tea, coffee, crackers, cereal, boxed dinner kits, ready to make pasta, rice or soup mixes, Jell-O puddings, and cake mixes.

All food donations that come to the pantry are checked for expiration dates. Please check dates before dropping off. For more information contact Sarah Brotman at 267-980-4411 or email quilteress@aol.com.

Garden Angels

As parishioners, we are dedicated to enhancing all the church’s property with flower gardens to show how much we can honor and glorify our Heavenly Father through His gift of nature.

Years before the group was formed, two dedicated and faithful women, Helen Sroba and Connie Patrick, always kept the entrance of our church looking like we had a professional landscaper on duty. Since then we have numerous gardens all around the property that need attention at various times during the year. Help is always welcome and appreciated. For more information contact Rosemarie McCafferty at 215-355-9017 or email Billrose219@hotmail.com.

Helping Hands

The Helping Hands group is made up of wonderful people that have come together for one reason--to help those individuals that just need a little “helping hand.” In this program at Assumption BVM, parishioners in need are matched up with parishioners that are able to help them. The members of the group help those parishioners accomplish tasks that they may no longer be able to do for themselves. Here are some examples of the type of help we offer:

- Take newspapers to recycle collection bins
- Pick up prescriptions at local pharmacies
- Light grocery shopping
- Change smoke detector batteries
- Any small job you are unable to do anymore!

Parishioners that would like to help those in need of our services, please consider becoming part of Helping Hands. You decide how much you would like to get involved. Once a request is received from the rectory, it is sent out to the members of the group. From there, members volunteer for assignments that they would like to do. The time commitment is totally up to each individual, but usually zero to three hours monthly, depending on the demand.

We welcome any parishioner to become part of our group. If you are under sixteen years of age, then we ask that your parent/guardian join with you. Please consider making a difference in someone’s life by becoming a “helping hand”. Also, for those parishioners that need a “helping hand,” please consider contacting us. For more information contact Lisa Shire at 215-322-7421 or email newsfromthepews@outlook.com.

Hospitality

The ministry of Hospitality at Assumption BVM follows a practice that began in Genesis when Abraham invited three men to stay with him and refresh themselves before they traveled on. Many more times throughout the Old Testament and on through the Gospels we can read of the hospitality that is extended to people: Bread given to the Israelites in the desert (Ex. 16), the widow that fed Elijah (1 Kings 17) and the feeding of the five thousand people with fives loaves and two fish by Jesus (Mt. 16) to name a few. Each time God abundantly provides exactly what people need.

It is in this spirit that the members of the Hospitality Committee would like to invite the parish community to join us in this ministry. We organize, set up, decorate, serve, and clean up at ten functions a year. Perhaps you love to bake, cook, decorate, or just enjoy hosting a party. We look at this as a divinely inspired gift, grace and talent and would be thrilled to add your name and number to our list of parishioners who come to help and will reach out to you by phone or email in advance for help. Possibilities include: our annual Mission in the Fall, a social after the All Souls Mass in November, or any type of celebration called upon by Fr. Mike.

To those already on our call list, we thank you from our hearts. We invite you to contact us. To join our group, the Hospitality Committee, please contact Debbie at 267 619-4573 or Nora at email Clansmcd@aol.com.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organization founded by the Servant of God, Frank Duff, in Dublin, Ireland on September 7, 1921. Long before the recognition that the laity is vital to the work of the Catholic Church after Vatican Council II, the Legion of Mary, as a lay apostolic association with the approval of the Catholic Church and the intercession of Mary Immaculate, seeks the holiness of its members as they actively invite other people to holiness by doing the works assigned them by their Spiritual Director. In our parish, Our Lady of the Assumption Praesidium, the basic unit of the Legion, meets on Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. in the Mary Chapel, which is to the right of the church vestibule as you enter our church.

Currently, Father Mike Davis, Spiritual Director, asks the legionaries to visit homebound parishioners, residents of nursing homes and to bring the Pilgrim Virgin Statue to parishioners' homes as requested. The primary purpose of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue home visitation is to help families to respond to the requests of the Blessed Mother Mary during the 1917 apparitions at Fatima: to return to God, make reparation for sins and to pray the Rosary for Peace. For more information, please contact Elaine Flood at 215-962-4312 or email laine39forever@yahoo.com.

News from the Pews

News from the Pews is the parish's online publication. The newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The staff of the newsletter concentrates on showcasing the many activities and events that continually take place at Assumption BVM. The format of the newsletter is photojournalistic in nature and places a great deal of emphasis on displaying the parishioners' active involvement in the life of our parish. Please check us out on our website at newsfromthepews.org.

Interested in becoming part of the News from the Pews team? All you need is a desire to keep the Assumption BVM community up to date on all that the parish has to offer. The newsletter staff meets quarterly for approximately one and a half hours to discuss the upcoming issue. Then over the next two months, each member completes the tasks assigned to them; these tasks take approximately two hours to complete.

We would love to have you as a member of our staff. We are looking for Photographers, Reporters and Data/Research. The time commitment and responsibilities are minimal and no experience is necessary, only a willingness to keep our parishioners informed of all that is happening at our parish. If you would like to be a part of our team, please send an email to Lisa Shire, Editor at newsfromthepews@outlook.com.

Prayer Line

A group of parishioners volunteer to pray for the special intentions of our parish. If you have a request that you would like prayers for, please call Ginger Henry at 215-357-3394.

SCRIP Program

Our parish scrip program stocks over 40 retailers, restaurants and specialty stores for all your shopping and gift giving needs. A full list of the stores we carry can be found on the parish website or in the scrip office. There are over 600 other stores that can be special ordered at any time; ask for details at the scrip office. Because we buy in bulk at a discount, this credit is split between the parish and our customers. Scrip credits may be used for tuition for PREP, any Catholic Grade school or High school or ANY college. You can also opt to get a check for yourself once a year. Using scrip is a great way to support the parish and earn some extra money for yourself.

Scrip is sold at the rectory Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and before all the weekend Masses.

New scrip sellers are always welcome. No special computer skills needed. Please consider joining our Scrip team. Volunteer for one or two days of your choosing a month or for a weekend Mass for about an hour and a half each selling time. Laughter is guaranteed!

Any additional information, please contact Susanne Brooks at 215-357-1221 or email Assumptionbvmscrip@gmail.com.

Sunday Nursery

“Let the children come to me” is frequently quoted as parents are encouraged to bring even little ones to Sunday Mass. However, the ideal is not always practical! Therefore, children from age one until they enter kindergarten are welcome to play in the Sunday nursery which is held during the 11 a.m. Mass. The Sunday sacristy doubles as the nursery just past the restrooms. Proper supervision is maintained. The team of volunteers ranges from 5th grade students to grandparents! Bring your wee ones or join our team. Contact the parish office at 215-357-1221 for more information.

Parish Organizations

Fabulous 55 Plus

This club was established in 1955 to meet the needs of the senior citizens of the parish. It provides the opportunity for people in this age group to meet with those who have similar issues and life experiences. The group meets on the second and fourth Friday of each month from September until June. We have many social events throughout the year, such as our “pot luck” Oktoberfest and Memorial Day Picnic. There are several luncheons: our Christmas luncheon in December, our Anniversary luncheon in February and the End-of-year luncheon in June. We also sponsor trips during the Christmas season and in the Spring. Guest speakers are invited to come to share topics of interest to our seniors throughout the year. Fabulous 55 Plus is based on the principle of non-discrimination as to race, creed, color, or gender. If you have any questions or would like to become a member, contact George Dolnycky at 215 806-7654 or email dolny@comcast.net.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is the largest fraternal Catholic organization in the world with over 1.9 million members. The Regina Mundi Council at Assumption is involved in many charitable endeavors including Special Olympics, adopt a highway, work around the parish grounds and service at the veterans’ home. The Council also runs the parish St. Patrick’s Day party and pancake breakfasts.

The Knights are open to any Catholic man at least 18 years of age. For information contact Grand Knight Richard Spencer at 267-242-4968 or email spencers51@verizon.net, or our membership director Raymond Burkett at 215-357-1283.

Respect Life Committee

All life is precious from conception to natural death. Our committee assists most specially those programs emphasizing the beginning of life and supporting new and young Moms searching for assistance, both financial help and counseling during pregnancy and early childhood. Fathers and families are invited to participate. Outreach efforts include support of the Baby Bottle campaign in May that donates the money raised to the Bucks County Pro-life Coalition. The contribution goes to programs for women in need such as The Women’s Center in Bristol.

We participate in the Life Chain and weekly and monthly prayer vigils at Planned Parenthood facilities that perform abortions in Warminster, on Comly Rd in Northeast Philadelphia, and at 12th and Locust. Once again in January, we had a parish bus transport us to Washington DC for the March for Life. God Bless you and all of our Assumption Pro-Life supporters. Please join us in any or all of these ventures to promote the Right to Life. Any questions, please contact Steve Jackson at 267-315-5294 or email sjjackson76@aol.com.

Women's Club

The Women's Club consists of an active group of women in the parish who meet several times a year to coordinate our activities. Some of these include monthly Bingo which is usually held the 1st Friday of the month. Another is the Christmas Craft Fair which is held in November. We also do prep for other parish events. We welcome new members and any new ideas for ways to help the parish. Contact Joan Corcoran at 267-987-3776 or email joanc2128@gmail.com.

Youth

Many opportunities for our young people to become involved in parish life are offered at Assumption. As always, no program can be effective without parents and adults willing to share their time and talents with our youth. Please consider joining us to continue our ability to offer these opportunities to our youth. Archdiocesan Safe Environment policies must be followed. For more information, contact Susanne Brooks, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, at 215-357-1221 or email assumptionbvmyouthministry@gmail.com.

Boy Scouts

For over 100 years the Boy Scouts of America has been providing young men with programs and activities that allow them to have adventures with friends, provide service to their community, and reinforce the ethical standards for a young man of faith. We have a dedicated set of leaders and are always looking for new Scouts (Grades 6-12), involved families, and Merit Badge Counsellors to be part of Assumption BVM's BSA Troop 153. We meet every Tuesday 7:30-9:00 p.m.; interested scouts and volunteers are invited to visit us! Parish members of all ages can also check out www.bsa.com and www.meritbadge.org to learn about scouting and to see the full list of 137 Merit Badges for everything from American Business to Woodworking. Contact us via www.feasterville153.mytroop.us.



Cub Scout Pack 153

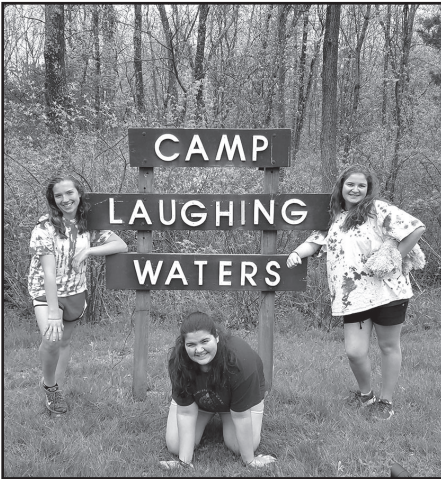
Cub Scout Pack 153 is an active and fun group for boys to learn about nature, their community, their faith, family, and themselves. Cub Scouts is a family oriented program and we welcome moms, dads, grandparents, guardians, etc. to be part of the fun as well. Cub Scouts allows the boys opportunities to learn things that they will never get in a traditional class room setting while having a great time in the process.

Our dens (consisting of boys from the same grade) usually meet once a week and the Pack (all of the age groups together) meets once a month. We generally have a trip or activity every month as well. This year we are planning trips to the Lakota Wolf Preserve and an overnight at the Franklin Institute, among others, in addition to our annual Pine Wood Derby and Blue and Gold Banquet. We offer fund raising opportunities to off-set the cost of the trips.

For more information, please contact Erik Seckinger at 215-359-6898 or email etseckinger@yahoo.com, or Tina Fisher at 215-801-6364 or email tfisher1996@yahoo.com.

Girl Scouts/Brownies

Assumption Girl Scouts, volunteers and girls (Grades K-12th) alike, have tons of fun, make new friends, and go on fantastic new adventures. The program centers on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience -- Discover, Connect and Take Action! Girl Scouts meet on Wednesday nights throughout the school year with their age level groups (Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, Ambassadors) doing a collection of activities and experiences as they earn badges, go on exciting trips, attend Neshaminy Service Unit Events, and explore the outdoors. We also do Take Action projects that make a difference in our parish and community. We are always seeking new Volunteers to lead or co-lead a new age level Troop! Visit www.gsep.org to Register, Learn More and Connect with us. You can also reach us through girlscouts.neshaminy@gmail.com.



Youth in Action (YIA)

The key word in our name is ‘action’ and we make sure that all our meetings and activities make use of our boundless energy!

Our activities benefit the homeless, shut-ins, and the parish itself. We make meals for Aid for Friends; we make keepsakes for our shut-ins; and we have made Valley Youth House our special charitable focus. We recognize our blessings and want to share them with others who may not be as fortunate. And through all this we have fun!

Youth in Action is open to 7th and 8th graders from any school. Our meetings are held during the school year on every 4th Monday of the month, from 6:15-7:45 p.m. Each meeting includes prayer, scripture, and a charitable work/social justice project; we usually find time to play a game too! Come join us and bring a friend! Contact Sharon Koob at sharonkoob@gmail.com.

High School Teen Youth Group

Our Teen Youth Group welcomes all students in 9th through 12th grades for fun, friendship and service while growing in our faith. The Haunted Hallway, Christmas Love Tree, Living Stations and the “Senior Social” are some of our activities throughout the year. Meetings are held after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sundays, once or twice a month. Check bulletin for times.

Adult volunteers are always welcome. Archdiocesan Safe Environment requirements must be followed.

For more information, please contact Susanne Brooks, coordinator, at 215-357-1221 or email assumptionbvm youthministry@gmail.com.

Sports CYO

Is your child the next Kevin Durant or maybe the next Lionel Messi?

Sports CYO can start them on the road to greatness!

At Assumption, all of our Sports Programs are first class, leading the way throughout the region in providing a learning environment suitable for any child to grow in their athletic ability while promoting growth in their relationship with God.

Our current slate of Sports Programs includes basketball, cheerleading, and soccer.

Each of our Assumption Sports CYO Youth Ministry Programs is at the top of their class in providing a safe environment for our children. All coaches are required to have the full complement of Security Clearances before having any contact with parish youth. Online pursuit of clearances makes it easy for any parent to step up and lend a hand.



Always looking for sharp players, coaches and volunteers, CYO Sports encourages our youth to become responsible members of our faith community and assists our Coaches, Volunteers and Parents in nourishing the emotional, spiritual and physical needs of our young people.

Enroll your child or volunteer today for one of our many exciting CYO Sports Programs by visiting our website at www.abvm-cyo.org, our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/assumptioncyo, or by sending an email to our President, Joe Wenzel at bcthskid@msn.com.





Saint Katharine Drexel Regional Catholic School

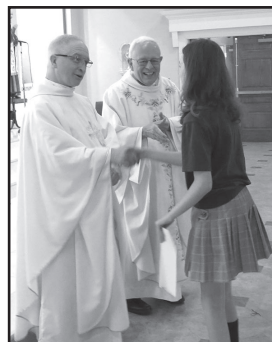
Embracing Leadership, Love, & Legacy
A school community formed from the roots
of Assumption BVM and St. Bede Schools

WHY SKD?

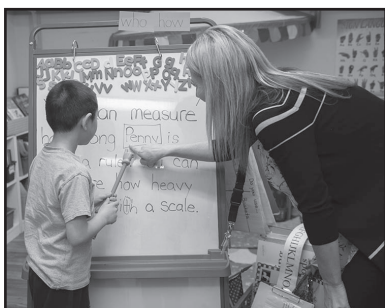
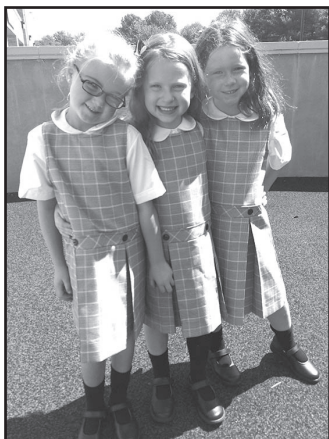
Choosing a Catholic Education at Saint Katharine Drexel (SKD) Regional Catholic School means that your child will receive the tools, skills, and guidance he/she needs to not only overcome 21st-century challenges but also to flourish academically, socially, and spiritually.

Some highlights of SKD School include:

- St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School has the full support of the Pastors of Assumption B.V.M. and St. Bede the Venerable parishes, as well as a dedicated Board of Directors of Limited Jurisdiction.
- Standardized test scores in the top 15% of the country based on the National Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence standards.
- Wide use of technology integrated across the curriculum, including a recently implemented 1:1 learning environment, in which each student has his/her own personal device. Google Chromebooks for students in grades 4-8 and iPads for students in grades 1-3. Upgraded school wide Fiber Optics wiring and Wi-Fi access for enhanced digital learning in the classroom.
- Digital Literacy courses take place in a State-of-the-Art Media Center completed in September 2016, equipped with a Television Studio for student produced newscasts.
- Fully degreed, highly qualified, certified, and dedicated educators who use various teaching techniques and individual attention to instill moral and spiritual values that will last a lifetime.
- Reinforcement of Catholic morals and values throughout the school day in daily instruction and school activities.
- Fully operational Arts & Science Center which contributes to the development of your child's thinking, social and motivational skills by emphasizing active engagement, disciplined and sustained attention, persistence and risk taking.



- Elective Courses & STEM Tools utilized to broaden the academic level of excellence and achievement in each student.
- Fully endorsed by The Healey Education Foundation and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.





The Holy Spirit Sisters Society

The Society of the Apostolic Life of the “Holy Spirit Sisters” was founded in Germany in May 28, 1950 by Fr. Bernhard Bendel. In 1964, the Society was extended to Tanzania, East Africa in the Diocese of Moshi.

The Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Society is to serve the church in the world; to bring Christ, God’s incarnate love to all people and to all spheres of humanity; and as a church in miniature, to continue and bring to perfection the mission of the Lord in the Holy Spirit so that “God may be all in all.” (1 Cor. 15:28)

The Society is called a Missionary Community and so the sisters are striving to influence the world by their life and works. This call is understood as mission among other people. The main apostolic activities are centered on pastoral, educational and medical fields.

The Society of the Holy Spirit Sisters is an Easter Pentecost Community in the spirit of the east Christian Community. Therefore, the sisters are living the Easter-Pentecost Spirituality in witness to the Incarnate Presence of the Risen Lord.

As a missionary, we came to Philadelphia in 2009 and resided with the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer while searching for our place. Through the kindness and generosity of Fr. Bill and the Assumption Community, we were welcomed to Assumption Parish in 2013. We are happy to be among the ABVM family. We are involved in the parish activities such as Communion Ministry and cleaning the church every Monday and Friday. Also, we like to participate in the parish events including St. Patrick’s Day Party, Pentecost and all offerings of our culture. We are currently working at the Holy Redeemer/St. Joseph’s Manor caring for the elderly.

In Gratitude

I thank Sister Diane Wolf for taking the lead in arranging for this book, and the team who assisted her in making this book a reality: Pat Basgil, John and Nancy Chiodo, Francine Dwyer, Bill McCafferty, Mario Milletti, and Deacon Eric Umile. Thanks also to each leader, coordinator, and staff member who contributed to the contents of this book. Finally, thanks to each of you for sharing your talents and gifts with our parish family.

Fr. Mike

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