

*OUR LADY OF THE
ASSUMPTION
PARISH*



**GUIDE TO
PARISH ORGANIZATIONS
2017 - 2018**



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PARISH STAFF

<i>Pastor:</i>	Rev. Gerald P. Carey frgcarey@olastrafford.org
<i>Senior Priest:</i>	Rev. Martin E. Woodeshick
<i>In Residence:</i>	Rev. Msgr. Richard Malone
<i>Permanent Deacon:</i>	Deacon John P. Rose jrose@olastrafford.org
<i>Parish Secretary:</i>	Rose Ann Westerfer - ext. 115 rwesterfer@olastrafford.org
<i>Parish Services Assistant:</i>	Marge Seedor - ext. 129 mseedor@olastrafford.org
<i>Maintenance:</i>	John Catalanotto - ext. 119 jcatalanotto@olastrafford.org
<i>Business Manager:</i>	Nicole Giacche - ext. 150 ngiacche@olastrafford.org
<i>Director of Religious Education:</i>	Sr. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, IHM kfitzpatrick@olastrafford.org 610-688-6590
<i>Preschool/Kindergarten Principal:</i>	Patricia Welsh pwelsh@olastrafford.org 610-688-5277
<i>Director of Music Ministry:</i>	Rick West rickwest1@verizon.net 610-647-1434

Parish Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Mass

Vigil on Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday Morning: 6:45am, 8:00am, 10:00am, 12 Noon

Daily Mass

Post-Labor Day to Memorial Day

Monday to Friday: 6:30am & 8:00am

Saturday: 9:00am

Post-Memorial Day to Labor Day

Monday to Friday: 8:00am

Saturday: 9:00am

Holy Days

Vigil: 7pm

Monday - Friday: 6:30am, 8:00am & 12:05pm

Saturday: See the Parish Bulletin

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

or by appointment.

Contact Information

Mailing Address: 35 Old Eagle School Road
Strafford, PA 19087

Telephone Number: 610-688-1178 Office
610-293-9680 Fax

Website: www.olastrafford.org

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the family of God; we are the children of Our Lady of the Assumption. We are the Church, brothers and sisters of Christ in Baptism. With Mary, our mother, raised up as her son's first disciple, and our model, we pledge to lift up one another and all who seek God.

As a family of believers, we worship God in Word and Sacrament, and like Mary, we give praise and thanks to God, and intercede for our brothers and sisters.

Nourished in the Eucharist, we are called to sacrifice ourselves as Christ did for us. Like Mary's Son, we offer loving service to all in need, and we evangelize, welcome and teach the truth of the Gospel to all.

Like Mary who was filled with God's grace, we will strive to become living examples of Jesus, her son.

Approved June 2008

Rev. Msgr. Joseph T. Marino

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

With God's grace, devoted to and inspired by the Assumption of Our Lady, our parish community dedicates our physical and spiritual being to advancing the kingdom of God.

Acknowledging that the Holy Eucharist is the very source and summit of our lives as Catholics, we commit ourselves to worshiping God with our whole heart, mind and soul, and to celebrating all the sacraments with reverence and devotion.

Living in and ever attentive to building up our communal life, we will avail ourselves to the teachings of Christ and his holy Church, and in turn, teach others the truth of the Gospel.

Deeply grateful for the word of God proclaimed to us and the faith shared with us, we will take every opportunity to invite and welcome others into the communion we have in Christ.

Recognizing all the blessings and gifts that God has entrusted to us as individuals and as a community, we pledge to share our time, talent and treasure as generously as God has shared Himself with us, giving special care to those in need.

May God bless the work of our hands, and may our Lady of the Assumption pray for us.

Approved June 2009

OLA Pastoral Council and Rev. Msgr. Joseph T. Marino

STEWARDSHIP, A WAY OF LIFE

Stewardship is based on the fact that all that we have and all that we are comes from God. We commit ourselves to stewardship as a way of thanking God for all his blessings, returning to him a portion of the time, talent and treasure he has allotted to us.

1. *Each week, we choose what will be done with the 168 hours we have available to us.*

Good stewardship of time

means that we will share some of our time with God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving, and caring for the needs of others.

2. *Every person has a flair for something!*

Good stewardship of talent

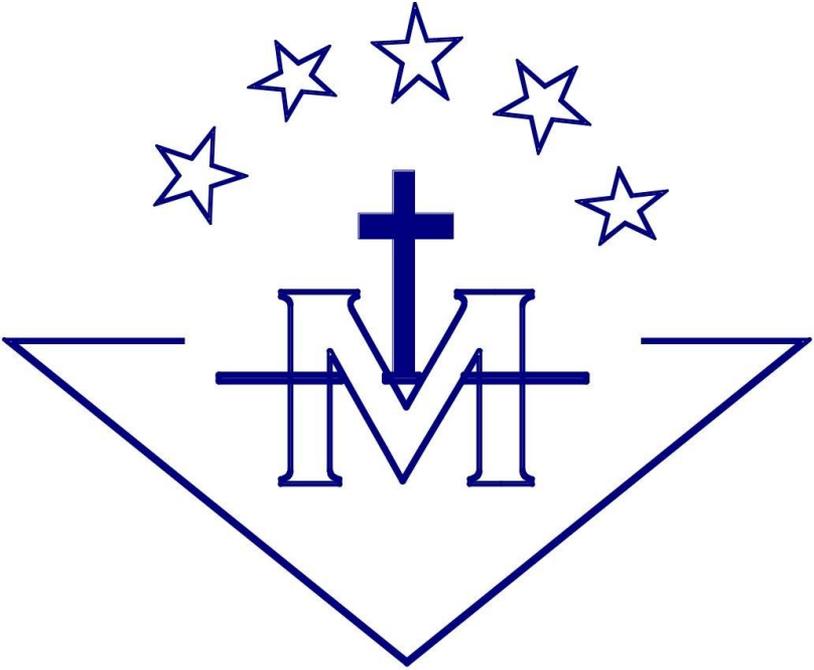
means that we identify our talents and use them to glorify God and to help other people.

3. *We all bring some kind of revenue into our households.*

Good stewardship of treasure

means that we intentionally plan to donate a set percentage of our income to the church and to other charities. As a final act of stewardship, we can prayerfully consider bequeathing a portion of our assets to the church.

“In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of Free will gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means. For the Lord is one who always repays, as he will give back to you sevenfold.” (Sir 35:7-10)





PASTORAL

SUPPORT

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Rev. Gerald P. Carey

610-688-1178

frcgcarey@olastrafford.org

Herb White

484-443-3070

whiteh@tuhs.temple.edu

Mission: *“The Finance Council, which is governed, in addition to universal law, by norms issued by the diocesan bishop. Members of the Christian faithful, selected according to these same norms, are to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to the prescript of Canon 532. The Council assists the pastor/ administrator in achieving the most responsible stewardship of parish material goods and resources.”*

The Parish Finance Council is currently made up of eight active members of the parish, along with a Pastoral Council representative, the Parish Business Manager, and the Pastor. Members of this group are responsible for reviewing parish financial statements, assisting in the preparation of annual budgets and providing the pastor with recommendations with regards to parish finances.

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Celia Paolantonio

610-688-4066

celiapal@aol.com

Christine Gaeto

610-995-2069

csomersgaeto@aol.com

Mission: *“To be the repository of all data and artifacts of historical significance to the parish (i.e., memorabilia, reminiscences, oral histories, documents, artifacts).*

To continue to gather and preserve these items.

To record and document parish events of historical significance.

To give periodic presentations, exhibits or publications pertaining to events of historical significance to the parish or of spiritual or educational interest to the parish.

To work toward establishing a permanent home for our archive collection.”

The History Committee was formed in 2006 prior to the Parish Jubilee Year with the purpose of researching and writing a book chronicling the parish’s 100-year history. **The History Committee continues to solicit and welcomes donations of personal artifacts, especially old family photographs.** We already possess a sizable collection of photographs and are looking to add to this collection for a future exhibit and a possible keepsake book. We look forward to your contributions. Nothing is too trivial!

LITURGY BOARD

Deacon John Rose

610-964-0461

jrose@olastrafford.org

Rev. Gerald P. Carey

610-688-1178

frgcarey@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“Plans/ coordinates the principal Catholic Parish mission – the Worship of God. The celebration of worship includes Mass, devotions and prayer services in conjunction with the Roman Catholic Church calendar.”*

Plans for worship include coordinating the faithful:

- † to proclaim the Scripture (lectors);
- † to assist in distribution of communion (extraordinary ministers) at Mass and to the homebound;
- † to lead and enhance worship through music (cantors and choir);
- † to assist the priests in service at the Altar (servers);
- † to greet and assist those attending our celebrations, and to gather and present the offerings from our community;
- † to maintain our Worship area (environment) with God’s own gifts, elements of Nature in season and expressions of Artwork, to encourage our focus towards the giver of all gifts.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rev. Gerald P. Carey

610-688-1178

frgcarey@olastrafford.org

Rose Ann Westerfer

610-688-1178

rwesterfer@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“With the pastor, the Parish Pastoral Council develops the mission statement for the entire parish. With the pastor, the Parish Pastoral Council defines the pastoral plans, goals, and objectives for the entire parish. The Parish Pastoral Council works with all parish organizations.”*

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body whose role is to assist the Pastor in areas of pastoral concern. The council is composed of the Pastor, who presides over the council, and representative parish staff members and lay members of the parish. Because the council is meant to be representative of the parish, an effort is made to have the members reflect the diversity within the parish.

The purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council is to foster full participation of the entire parish in the life and mission of the parish and of the Universal Church. The Council, under the leadership of the pastor, develops and recommends parish pastoral plans and directions through a consensus process and prayerful reflection.

The Parish Pastoral Council cooperates with parish committees to address such areas of parish life as worship, spirituality, community, evangelization, education, and service.

Parishioners become members through a process of nominations and elections.

PARISH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Richard McCormick

610-687-2267

asteelfab7@gmail.com

Mission: *“To assist the pastor with the management and maintenance of the “Church Campus”.*

The Property Committee meets every other month from September through June and serves as an advisory group to the Pastor with regard to future renovations and general maintenance activities. Appointments are made based on talents and professional background: engineering, management, architecture, insurance, real estate, electrical, etc.

PARISH WEB TEAM

Chris Bouvier

610-917-3352

cjbouvier@olastrafford.org

Chris Renzi

610-688-5524

crenzi@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“To establish and maintain a current virtual presence for the parish that supports and furthers the mission of Our Lady of the Assumption Church .”*

Establish and maintain a web presence for the parish.
Assist parish organizations with posting and updating their messages and images on the parish website.

The team values the assistance of those with some experience with web design, web support or information technology.

LITURGICAL

MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS

Deacon John Rose

610-964-0461

jrose@olastrafford.org

BetteJo Rose

610-964-0461

jandbjrose@verizon.net

Mission: *“We promote and provide for worship through our actions during the Mass. Altar Servers prepare and train for the Mass by being familiar with different rites that may be celebrated during Mass (e.g. Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage)”*

Altar Servers provide service to the Priests during Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Our Altar servers guide the congregation by their actions through the Mass. We provide training sessions periodically and Mass scheduling is done to work with family activity and schedules.

ARTS & LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Chris Renzi

610-688-5524

crenzi@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“As children of Our Lady of the Assumption, we strive to lift up our parish family through beautiful and dignified art and environment that complements the liturgical season or spiritual event being celebrated.”*

We strive to:

- Create a respectful, beautiful floral complement within the church which honors the appropriate liturgical season, specific holy day, Mary our patroness and sacramental liturgies.
- Select and care for appropriate altar paraments symbolic of the liturgical season or specific spiritual event.
- Create a visual experience for our center of worship through color and floral choices that reflect the desired symbolism for our clergy and parishioners.

**CANTORS
CHOIR
MUSIC MINISTRY**

Rick West, Music Director

610-647-1434

rickwest1@verizon.net

Mission: *“To instruct and inspire our congregation to active participation in the Liturgy. We are dedicated to enhancing the prayer of the community in song, and we dedicate our work to the greater glory of God.”*

We are always looking for new Choir members. The audition is easy. If you can climb our staircase, and carry a tune, we will teach you the music and take care of the details. Come and join us!

Also, we are always looking for Cantors to lead the assembly in song. If you would like to take part in this important ministry, please see Rick after Mass.

EVANGELIZATION

Parish Pastoral Council

Rose Ann Westerfer

610-688-1178 ext. 115

rwesterfer@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“Deeply grateful for the word of God proclaimed to us and the faith shared with us, we will take every opportunity to invite and welcome others into the communion we have in Christ.”*

The goal of all OLA Evangelization programs is to:

- ✝ Bring OLA to the parishioners and invite all to participate fully.
- ✝ Send the message: The Church is interested in you and needs you!
- ✝ Make personal connections...create a parish network of relationships, friendships, knowledge, and support.
- ✝ Gather/validate Census information.
- ✝ Discover parishioner needs: physical/special needs, spiritual, and/or personal.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Chris Bouvier

610-213-6043

cjbouvier@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“To assist the ordained ministers of the Church in the reverent distribution of Holy Communion during the Sacred Eucharistic Liturgy of the Mass, and to reach out to those OLA parishioners who are unable to participate in the Sunday Eucharist; thus we unite in a visible way the infirm and elderly with the entire OLA Parish community. Ministers bring the Holy Eucharist, share the Scripture from the Sunday Mass, and inform the individual about the happenings of the Parish (through the Sunday bulletin).”*

The Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist distributes Holy Communion, either within Mass or by taking it to a sick or homebound parishioner, when an ordained minister (bishop, priest or deacon) is not able to do so. Training is provided.

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

GREETERS

Cathy Kunsch

610-902-0202

cathykunsch@verizon.net

Mission: *“To create a spirit of hospitality and community for each person entering the doors of Our lady of the Assumption church by welcoming and supporting them in a positive, friendly and spiritual manner.”*

Greeters are the first to welcome those who enter our church to worship and make them comfortable in our community. The purpose of this ministry is to provide an enthusiastic, positive, spiritual and friendly welcome to each person entering OLA before every liturgy

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

USHERS

Vince Caprio
610-644-3482
capri1237@hotmail.com

Mission: *“To welcome all who enter our church and to assist with any concerns or needs that might arise during Mass.”*

Our job is to set a warm and friendly tone during the liturgies. To accomplish this, we assist with seating, take up collections at the Offertory, direct the presentation of the gifts, ensure that communion is received in an orderly fashion, hand out the weekly bulletin and see our visitors and parishioners off. Men, women and our youth of the parish are welcome to be a part of this ministry.

LECTORS

Mary Murphy

610-687-6421

toad664@aol.com

Mission: *“The ministry of lectoring offers one of the most explicit opportunities for Catholic laypeople to literally announce the sacred words of God’s own Word, the sacred expression of God’s inner self, revealed as the heart of what is absolutely real.”*

Lectors are lay men and women, practicing confirmed Catholics, who proclaim the Word of God at liturgical celebrations, including weekend and weekday Masses. The ability to project one’s voice and to convey the meaning of Scripture are desirable assets. A willingness to prepare on one’s own for each proclamation is necessary for this ministry.

SUNDAY COLLECTION COUNTERS

Chris Bouvier

610-213-6043

cjbouvier@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“To accurately count, tally and deposit the Parish collections in the bank.”*

Members of the Committee are in five teams of two that rotate counting the Sunday and Christmas collections once every five weeks. The collections are counted and summarized, then deposited in the bank. Members of the Money Counters have been chosen by the Pastor through his contact with the parishioners or from suggestions from the members. Training is provided.

YOUTH CHOIR

Sister Kathleen Fitzpatrick

610-688-6590

kfitzpatrick@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“To provide the opportunity for young people to give praise and honor to the Lord by lifting their voices in joyful song and to enhance the Eucharistic Liturgy once a month and on special occasions.”*

The **OLA Youth Choir** is comprised of girls and boys in grades 2 to 8 who enjoy singing and desire to use their God-given voices to praise God and enhance our Parish Liturgical Celebrations. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons from 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm in the Upper Room from September to May.

Young people are also instructed in the art of vocal music: note reading, use of dynamics, singing in harmony and proper use of their vocal chords. A wide variety of liturgical music, including Latin and Spanish selections are taught.

All young people are most welcome to join us! No audition is necessary. The only requirement is a desire to praise the Lord with the gift of your voice!

RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Patricia Welsh, Principal

610-688-5277

pwelsh@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“With the love of Jesus Christ to guide us and under the protection of the mantle of Mary, our Mother, the staff and parents of Our Lady of the Assumption School endeavor to foster the spiritual, intellectual, emotional and social development of each child entrusted to our care. We share in the mission of the parish by providing religious formation and instruction in the Catholic faith, while welcoming everyone, respecting the faith traditions of all our students.”*

Assumption Academy is a Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten School. The core curriculum, both teacher-directed and self-directed, includes activities in the areas of religion, art, music and movement, role playing, fine and gross motor skills, number concepts, language experience, story times, cooking and science. Students are also offered training in religion, library, foreign language and gym. Classes are taught in accordance with the PA State Common Core Standards and the Archdiocesan guidelines. Our Lady of the Assumption Preschool and Kindergarten is Middle States & National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accredited.



OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN CARES PROGRAM

Patricia Welsh, Principal

610-688-5277

pwelsh@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“To provide working parents with a safe and loving environment that cares for their children outside the educational experience at Our Lady of the Assumption Preschool.”*

OLA offers working parents an after-school CARES program from 3:00pm - 6:00pm. Run by long-time OLA teacher’s aide Suzanne Domenick, and staffed by existing OLA faculty, this program provides continuity for students and safety and peace of mind for parents. Activities include outside play, circle reading, library time, and game play to build on skills children learn in their core curriculum. Combined with the early drop-off program and Lunch Bunch, this provides working parents full-day coverage from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day.

PRE-JORDAN

Deacon John Rose

610-964-0461

jrose@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“To prepare parents for the Sacrament of Baptism for their child(ren).”*

Pre-Jordan provides an evening of reflection/ instruction on the Sacrament of Baptism for parents expecting their first child.

The Parish office provides the first contact with the new family. The office obtains appropriate information from the family (Baptism Information Form) about the parents and the child to be baptized, schedules a date for the Sacrament with the family (during Mass or outside of Mass on the first or third Sunday each month) and explains the need for certain eligibility documentation from the Godparents.

The Pre-Jordan evening presentation addresses the theology and the ritual of the Sacrament of Baptism to the Parents and Godparents as well as their responsibility in raising their children in a family of faith (home & church).

The evening shares educational material and encourages discussion to provide better understanding of faith and Sacrament in order to reinforce the importance of family.

PREP

Sister Kathleen Fitzpatrick, IHM

610-688-6590

kfitzpatrick@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“The Parish Religious Education Program aims to help both children and parents grow in knowledge of their Faith and in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ through word and sacrament. Religious instruction is based on the six tasks of Catechesis: CREED, LITURGY, MORALITY, PRAYER, COMMUNITY and MISSION. Devotion to Mary, our Mother and our Model, is an integral component of our Faith Formation Program. Like Mary who was filled with God’s grace, we strive to become living examples of Jesus, her Son.”*

The Parish Religious Education Program for children has two parts. Every Sunday at the 10am Mass, young children are invited to attend “Children’s Liturgy of the Word” in which the message of the Sunday Scripture Readings, especially the Gospel, is presented in an enjoyable, age-appropriate manner.

The PREP Program for children in Level 1 through 6 is held on Monday from 4:30 to 6:00 PM from September to May. Well-trained Catechists share the teachings of Jesus Christ in such a way that the child comes to know about & believe in God & is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist & Confirmation is an integral component of the program.

The Confirmation Class is strongly urged to participate in parish youth activities.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Deacon John Rose

610-964-0461

jrose@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“RCIA is a process of initiation in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Our primary concern is with living the fundamental values of the Christian way of life. The process is focused on conversion, both for those entering the Catholic Church, and for those who try to live the values of Christ each day. Our goal is for an experience of growth in faith for those who wish to enter the Catholic Church, as well as all who join us.”*

RCIA is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. The Rite includes the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and also all the rites belonging to the catechumenate (e.g., Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, etc.) The rites include guidelines for preparing uncatechized Catholics for Confirmation and Eucharist and the rite of reception of baptized Christians into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

There are four periods:

- a) Precatechumenate – hearing the first preaching of the Gospel;
- b) Catechumenate – for catechesis and for the rites in this period;
- c) Purification/Enlightenment (Lent) – for intense Spiritual preparation, assisted by the Scrutinies and Presentations;
- d) Mystagogy or Postbaptismal catechesis – marked by the new experience of Sacraments and community.

YOUTH GROUP

Sr. Kathleen Fitzpatrick

610-688-6590

kfitzpatrick@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“Youth Group serves the needs of many individual young people who are at different levels of development, maturity and stages of faith and life. We attempt to offer opportunities to gather, have fun, do something for someone in need and reinforce our faith. Youth Group needs to be fun! The lessons of faith come in our interactions and discussions around the table of service.”*

Come and become a part of the Parish Youth. We invite all the youth in grades 6 through 12 to come together, serve and have fun. Feel free to bring a friend. Everyone is welcome to join us.

- ‡ Social activities
- ‡ Fundraising activities
- ‡ Service to others in the community
- ‡ Service within the Parish

SPIRITUAL
GROUPS

IHM (IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY) COMPANIONS IN PRAYER & MINISTRY

Sister Kathleen Fitzpatrick, IHM

610-688-6590

kfitzpatrick@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“United by bonds of friendship, the members of the IHM Companion in Prayer and Ministry pledge to strive to deepen our commitment to daily prayer and to strengthen and nurture our personal faith life and that of each person we come in contact with by openly witnessing to and proclaiming the immense love of Jesus Christ for each human person. Like Mary, who was filled with God’s grace, we endeavor to make our life of prayer and deep faith overflow into service to our parish community.”*

IHM Companions in Prayer and Ministry is a parish organization bound together by bonds of friendship and a deep desire to pray and to grow in our life of faith by sharing our journey to the Lord. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10 AM to 11:30 AM **OR** the 2nd Weds. of each month from 7 PM to 8:30 PM from October through May in the OLA Convent or at the IHM Motherhouse.

What takes place at a gathering?

- Time for personal/communal prayer
- sharing some aspect of the spirituality of the IHM Congregation
- Time for refreshments and socializing

*In addition to the local gatherings, twice a year the 200 men and women who participate in **IHM Companions in Prayer** are invited to our Motherhouse in Immaculata for **RETREAT**.

**OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
CONVENT
SISTERS OF THE
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

Sister Judy Trumbore, IHM

610-688-7889

olaihm@comcast.net

Mission: *“The Sisters strive to incorporate themselves into the life of the Trinity through Jesus Christ and the perfection of their baptismal consecration by commitment to the building up of the Body of Christ, the Church. Through the living of our vowed life and our commitment to Catholic education, we combine contemplation with apostolic love in witness of and in service to Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, and to his Church.”*

A religious institution with the norms of:

- Public profession of the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience
- Common life for all members
- Visible sign of consecration to God and to the service of God’s people

LAY CARMELITES

Angelina Piccoli-Steady

(610) 459-2550

angelinap@aol.com

Mission: *“Our primary mission is to follow Jesus Christ through prayer, fraternity and prophetic services and presence in the spirit of Mary and Elijah. Our chief means of fulfilling this Mission is by our lives and our ministries. Therefore, we need to develop and encourage a sense of contemplative service to all God’s people with special attention to the poor and to developing lay participation in the Church.”*

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm. We say Evening Prayer of the Office. We do a Lectio Divina. We have an update of events. The Carmelite Formation Program is followed and discussed.

LEGION OF MARY (PRAYER CIRCLE)

Diane McTiernan

610-688-0363

dimctiernan@yahoo.com

Mission: *“To Jesus Through Mary.” To bring the Spirit of Mary to our lonely and suffering OLA parishioners.*

Join the Legion of Mary and bring joy, solace and comfort into the lives of others in our community.

Feel touched by the incredible people you meet. Gain inspiration by the conviction of their faith despite their challenging circumstances.

Be enlightened by their courage and enhance your own spiritual life.

Join the sisters and brothers of the Legion. See if this unique and energetic group is for you.

The Legion of Mary meets every Wednesday, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Lower Church.

LIVING BRIDGES MEN'S FAITH SHARING (FRIDAY MORNINGS)

Bob Iatesta
610-525-4770

Mission: *“The ministry work of Living Bridges has always focused on the following three major aspects of our mission: Serving Children, Strengthening Families, Stirring Faith in GOD.”*

Living Bridges celebrates over 30+ years serving U.S. families and needy children through educational programs, Scripture and faith sharing programs, group support activities for men and women, multi-media outreach, hosting of older orphaned children, new trans-cultural and digital learning programs. Bob and Anna Iatesta, our Co-Founders, were personally blessed at the Vatican by Pope John Paul II, in 1990 following his trip to Mexico.

Ministry to Men was our first outreach after publication of Bob's book, Fathers – A Fresh Start for the Christian Family. Our Men's Scripture Group meets every Friday morning (7-8 am) at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Strafford, PA. We collaborate with other groups to expand this work, drawing together Catholic men and men's groups in the Philadelphia Archdiocese and the Delaware Valley. A typical morning includes fellowship, teaching on the Sunday Scriptures, group sharing and intercessory prayer. While men come and go, depending on their schedules, this basic gathering has been in operation for over 25 years and has borne wonderful fruit, while spinning off other groups. Our group is responsible for the weekly Radio Maria Broadcast and Internet Program – – “Living the Word.”

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE HOLY LOVE

Angela Varrichio

610-687-4335

angelavarrichio@aol.com

Mission: *“Through the MSHL lay apostolate of devotion to prayers we pledge to lift up one another and all who seek God. We offer intercessory prayers for all people in the world. Like Jesus, we offer loving service to all in need. We evangelize, welcome and teach the Gospel of truth to all. Like Mary who is filled with God's grace, we are striving to become living examples of her son Jesus living in Holy Love and demonstrating the two greatest commandments by our actions.”*

The Missionary Servants of Holy Love (MSHL) is an ecumenical lay apostolate committed to living a life of personal holiness by loving God above all else and neighbor as self through consecration to the United Hearts of Jesus and Mary; to evangelize this way of life. MSHL gather to pray the rosary for an end to abortion, for all priests, for peace in the world and for conversion of hearts of the world.

The Missionary Servants of Holy Love prayer group meets every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel of the Lower Church. The group is dedicated to the power of prayer through the Immaculate Heart of Mary to convert the hearts of the world to be living examples of the two greatest commandments: to love God above all else and to love your neighbor as yourself. The group prays the Rosary, meditating on the Passion of our Lord. Each week varies in theme from focusing prayer on the end of abortion, to praying for all priests, to praying that everyone will live according to the Will of God. We pray the Litany for Life and the Divine Mercy chaplet for all the souls on this earth.

If you are concerned with the direction the media and society is headed, remember there is power in prayer. Come and devote 1 ½ hours to join our dedicated members for these special all embracing prayers for the conversion of the heart of the world.

SODALITY

Prefect: Tony Coyer

610-688-2252 TonyCoyer@aol.com

Mission: *“The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Our Lady of the Assumption has continuously existed here at our parish for over 70 years, and is dedicated to increasing devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, our Mother and our Patroness.”*

The Sodality assembles every Saturday to recite the Rosary and pray the Miraculous Medal Novena after our 9am Mass, and also celebrates the 11:30am Mass together on the third Sunday of each month, remaining afterwards to recite a few special prayers. Members participate in other events throughout the year as well, including the May Crowning, field trips, the October Communion Breakfast and the Christmas party.

Once installed, you become a life-long member. If you have an interest or any questions, please contact the Prefect for more information, or see us after the Saturday morning devotions.

SERVICE

GROUPS

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS

Vince Caprio
610-644-3482
capri1237@hotmail.com

Mission: *“To provide meals for those in need in the wider community.”*

Casseroles for the Homeless is an opportunity for the OLA Parish community to prepare a full meal for eight people. The meal should include protein, vegetables and a starch, with heating instructions, and should be frozen. The pans are provided in the Giving Room on top of the freezer where the casseroles are placed when prepared. If you need a recipe idea, there are several in an envelope on the freezer. If you are looking for a way to participate on your own schedule, consider making a casserole.

As the freezer fills up, the casseroles are dropped off at My Brother’s House in Philadelphia. If you would like to assist with the delivery, we always welcome assistance with this task. Please call us to discuss.

Each year, the number of casseroles prepared grows. Thank you for your generous support.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COUNCIL # 13562

Nick Santoleri, Grand Knight

(215) 850-5616

ncsanto@aol.com

Mission: *“The Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 to provide a means by which Catholic men could support the Catholic Church, provide financial protection to protect their families, and engage in works of charity to benefit the less fortunate.”*

We are a council (similar to a local chapter) of the largest Catholic Men’s Fraternal Organization in the world. The Knights of Columbus have 1.8 million members worldwide, while our local OLA Council #13562 has 66 members, of whom about 25 are active members participating in council and Parish events. One of the major objectives of our Knights of Columbus council is to support the pastor and the parish financially, using profits from various fundraising activities and from the profits of ever-popular Pancake Breakfasts. In addition, the Knights volunteer their time and talents and document their volunteer hours in four categories: Church, Youth, Community, and Brotherhood.

OLA COOKING NIGHT FOR THE NEEDY

Diane Norcini

610-687-9109

dnorc@aol.com

Sue Norcini

610-254-9236

Mission: *“To provide nutritional meals for our less fortunate neighbors who need our help.”*

The Cooking Program services the homeless shelter My Brother’s House in Philadelphia. We cook once or twice a month with the help of the generous contributions of our parishioners at OLA. They supply the OLA pantry with food along with the Parish Outreach Program. The volunteers who donate their time come out and help cook. They also bring any needed supplies for the recipes.

OUTREACH

Vince Caprio

610-644-3482

capri1237@hotmail.com

Dee Bilotta

610-688-1819

deedles@bilottas.com

Mission: *“We, the family of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, in our Outreach Ministry are committed to loving service to our brothers and sisters in need. In community we strive to become living examples of Jesus Christ through many working hands.”*

The Outreach Program services those in need by the generous donations of time, talent and treasure of our OLA parishioners. We strive to be aware of the continuing changing needs of our parish.

There is the collection and distribution of non-perishable items from the food pantry, bread donations from Panera’s, and clothing donations throughout the year. The items are distributed to individuals in the area, and to the Patrician Society, the Missionary Sisters of Charity and Piarist missions on the East Coast of the United States.

Outreach provides for the collation of gifts, cards, and booklets to be given to our homebound and those in skilled nursing care through visitations by the Extraordinary Ministers, the Legion of Mary, and the IHM Sisters (when asked).

We assist other non-profit organizations when called upon, e.g., TECares.

RIGHT FOR LIFE

Vince Silveri

610-888-4723

vsilveri13524@gmail.com

Mission: *“To save life at the moment of conception; in other words, an end to abortion.”*

We, the Pro-Life Committee at OLA, want to bring together the OLA family for prayer and service to stand for what is right in God’s eyes, an end to breaking the Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill or murder...murdering of the unborn in the womb. Everyone is invited to participate in our activities throughout the year, such as:

- † Monthly, pray at Vigil For Life at St. Agnes Church in West Chester, and then march and pray in front of Planned Parenthood. There is a Vigil For Life in Center City Philadelphia as well.
- † March For Life held in January in Washington, DC, where we march with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- † Mother’s Day Flower Sale proceeds benefit the Chester County Pro-Life Coalition.
- † Stand Up For Life March held in October in Paoli, PA.
- † Stand Up For Life Banquet Dinner held in November in Center City Philadelphia.

SOCIAL GROUPS

BAKERS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Barb Fitting

(610) 687-2876

barbfitting@gmail.com

Marge DiGiacomo

610-688-3453

michael.digiacomom@comcast.net

Mission: *“As a part of LOLA, we help build community in the parish by bringing everyone together in the sharing of bread and desserts.”*

There are three times each year that we hold a parish-wide bake sale: Palm Sunday, the OLA Festival, and the Christmas Bazaar. Every parishioner is welcome to contribute a tasty treat. Each item will be given a nominal price. After the Masses, parishioners are welcome to come and purchase any of the items. The proceeds from the Bake Sale are donated to the parish.

COOKING WITH KIDS

Diane Norcini

610-688-5277

dnorcini@olastrafford.org

Mission: *“To integrate our older parishioners with the young ones. Together, they can ensure that our traditions around the preparation of food can continue.”*

Once a week, older members of the OLA Parish come and teach the Kindergarten class from OLA Preschool & Kindergarten to cook. Everyone looks forward to the delightful and scrumptious recipes and food. They cook a sufficient quantity so that they can taste and take some home to share with their families...if it isn't eaten on the car ride home!

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Pierre Rebello

(267) 252-2678

pierrerebello@yahoo.com

Mission: *“To celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, our patroness.”*

On or the closest Sunday to August 15, when the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother, our patroness, we host an annual festival as a reminder of our parish’s heritage and to honor Our Lady. It is a day of communal gathering by both parishioners and surrounding neighbors to pray and celebrate the beautiful Feast of her Assumption into heaven. We celebrate the Triduum of the Feast of the Assumption with the sharing of music and food at the end of each evening.

LADIES OF OLA (LOLA)

Marge DiGiacomo

610-688-3453

michael.digiacomom@comcast.net

Dina Gentile

610-688-6834

ddgentile@verizon.net

Becky Moscia

610-688-1197

bmoscia@aol.com

Mission: *“We build our Church community by welcoming and inviting parishioners to join us and share their time and talents with our parish community. We foster family traditions, ethnic and cultural activities, and lively social affairs.”*

The Ladies of O.L.A. (LOLA) is a social and fundraising organization for the women of the parish. With a welcoming spirit, we function in the role of physical and social nurturers for ourselves and the whole parish community. We host a social opportunity approximately once a month, either an event or food gathering.

Some of the most popular and well-known events are the Christmas Bazaar, the Seven Fishes Dinner, Nite at the Races, the Assumption Triduum evening treats and the Assumption Feast.

The Christmas Bazaar showcases and promotes small businesses in our parish and the surrounding community.

OLA VOLUNTEER FORM

(Complete and Return to Parish Office or place in Collection.)

I am interested in sharing my gifts of time and talent with my parish family. I volunteer so that I may fulfill my Baptismal call to Christian Service and be an active member of the parish community. Please share my information with the leaders of the selected parish organizations.

1

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

2

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

3

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

4

Name: _____

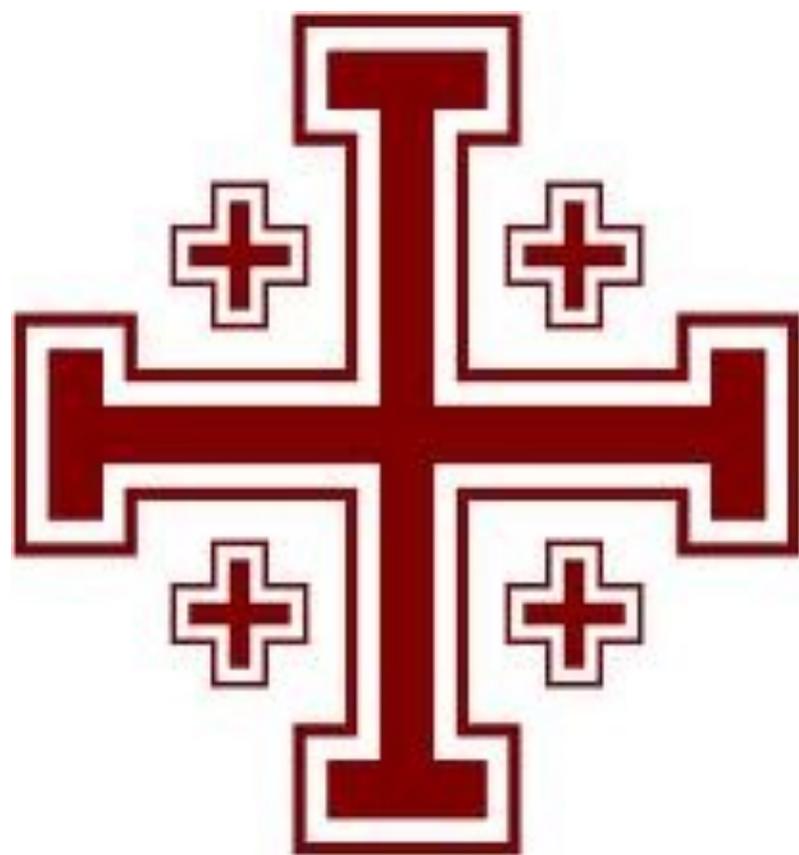
E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Space has been provided on this form for up to 4 family members to volunteer. Please attach a list of any additional family members who wish to volunteer and their interests. Youth are encouraged to participate as much as possible.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Altar Servers	_____	_____	_____	_____
Arts & Liturgical Environment	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bakers for Special Events	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cantors/Choir/Music Ministry	_____	_____	_____	_____
Casseroles for the Homeless	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cooking With Kids	_____	_____	_____	_____
Eucharistic Adoration	_____	_____	_____	_____
Evangelization	_____	_____	_____	_____
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	_____	_____	_____	_____
Festival Committee	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hospitality Ministers: Greeters	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hospitality Ministers: Ushers	_____	_____	_____	_____
IHM Companions of Prayer & Ministry	_____	_____	_____	_____
Knights of Columbus Council #13562	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ladies of OLA (LOLA)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Landings	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lay Carmelites	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lectors	_____	_____	_____	_____
Legion of Mary	_____	_____	_____	_____
Living Bridges -Men's Faith Sharing	_____	_____	_____	_____
Missionary Servants of the Holy Love	_____	_____	_____	_____
OLA Cooking Night for the Needy	_____	_____	_____	_____
Outreach	_____	_____	_____	_____
Parish Property Committee	_____	_____	_____	_____
Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Parish Web Team	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pre-Jordan	_____	_____	_____	_____
Right for Life	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sodality	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sunday Collection Counters	_____	_____	_____	_____
Youth Choir	_____	_____	_____	_____
Youth Group	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Please complete and return To Parish Office
or place in the Collection.**





OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

*O Mary, God's Son became your Son
and you became both our Mother and
our Queen.*

*From your heavenly throne, intercede for
your subjects who are daily confronted
with life's trials.*

*Help us to find comfort in our recourse
to you and bring us closer to your Divine
Son whose glory and honor we proclaim
forever.*

Amen.