Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 14, 2025

May you find Christ here… May you bring Christ to the world.

Welcome!

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass
Monday-Friday: 6:30am, 8am
Saturday: 8am

Weekend Mass
Saturday Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5:30pm

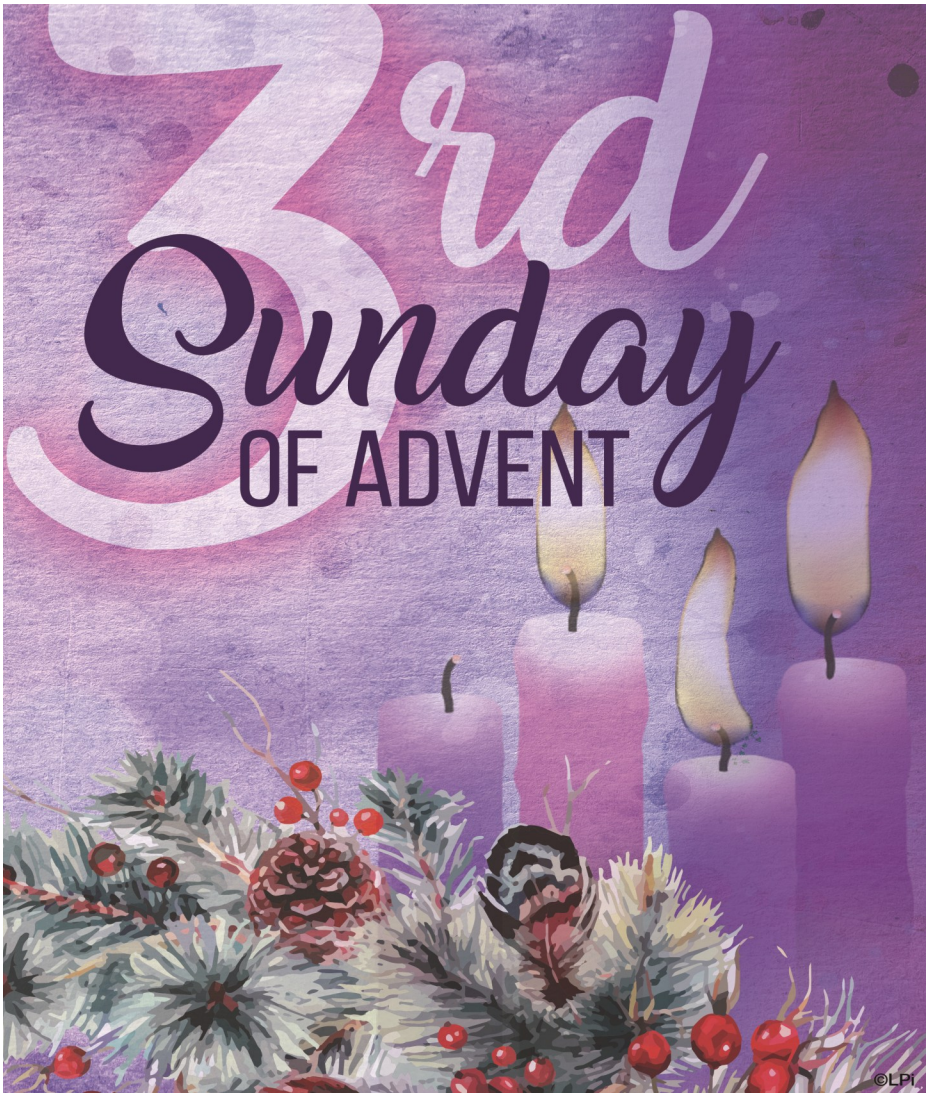
Confessions
Monday-Friday: 7:30-7:50am (Church)
Saturday: 4-4:50pm (Church) or by appointment
Sunday: by appointment

Holy Days
Vigil for Feast Day: 5:30pm

Parish Information

403 N. Main Street
O'Fallon, MO 63366
Parish Office: 636-240-3721

Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 8am-4pm
Friday: 8am-3pm; Summer 8am-2pm



SACRAMENTS AND PARISH INFORMATION

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Please call the Parish Office, 636-240-3721. Select Option #2.

BAPTISM
Baptism is scheduled every Sunday at 1:15pm. Baptism preparation class is required. Call Angie Gloriod, ext 235.

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE
Contact the Parish Office six months in advance. One party must be a registered member of Assumption and living an active, practicing Catholic life. Contact Angie Gloriod at the Parish Office, ext 235.

CONFIRMATION
Preparation begins in September for students entering eighth grade. For more information, call Holly Woytus, 636-240-1020.

FIRST COMMUNION
Preparation begins in September for students entering second grade. For more information, call Holly Woytus, 636-240-1020.

FUNERALS
Please call Debbie Collins at the Parish Office at 636-240-3721, ext 221.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (formally RCIA)
Process through which adults are initiated into the Catholic Church by Baptism or Profession of Faith. Contact Missy Lowrey, 314-630-3983.

Welcome

403 N. Main St.
O'Fallon, MO 63366
assumptionbvm.org

Assumption Staff
636-240-3721 and Ext:

Pastor
242 Rev. Nick Kastenholz
nicholaskastenholz@archstl.org

Senior Associate Pastor
226 Msgr. Dennis Stehly
dennisstehly@archstl.org

In Residence
Rev. Patrick Russell

Deacons
Deacon Fred Volansky
Deacon Richard Tadlock
deaconrichard@charter.net

Parish Manager
225 Mark Vogt
business@abvmtech.org

Parish Secretary
221 Debbie Collins
debbiecollins@abvmtech.org

Bulletin Announcements:
bulletin.assumption@gmail.com
(by Tuesday at 9am)

Bookkeeper
234 Mary Knapp
accounting@abvmtech.org

Director of Religious Education and PSR Director
328 Holly Woytus; 636-240-1020
hwoytus@abvmtech.org

Baptism/Wedding Coordinator; Records and Scheduling
235 Angie Gloriod
agloriod@abvmtech.org

Director of Youth Ministry
243 Becky Whitaker
beckywhitaker@abvmtech.org

Director of Music Ministry
Elizabeth Smith
music@abvmtech.org

Director of Communication
239 Nancy Gomer
ngomer@abvmtech.org

Parish Day School/Preschool Principal: Jamie Burbridge
636-240-4474

Child Safety Coordinator
Lynn Crews 314-578-0741
lynncrews@abvmtech.org

Parish Council
abvparishcouncil3721@gmail.com

School Board
abvmschoolboard@gmail.com

Hello,

Well, this week is Gaudete Sunday, when we light the rose candle on the advent wreath and the priest wears rose vestments at Mass. A simple answer to the reason for this is to say that Gaudete means to rejoice, (found in the Opening Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent), and the color rose is a symbol of joy. There is actually one other day in the year when the priest can wear the rose vestment and that is on Laetare Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, (when we are also called to rejoice.) It's when the penitential period of Lent is halfway over and we are rejoicing in anticipation of the Easter to come.

Since we have the advent wreath and the rose candle being lit when we are halfway through Advent, and everyone sees this, it seems natural that we would wear a rose vestment. It is kind of obvious if we don't, but it is also kind of backwards. Actually, the rose candle was incorporated in the advent wreath following the vestment colors. The wreath originally had 20 red candles for weekdays and four white candles for Sundays as a countdown to Christmas. In the early 20th century this changed and the use of the 3 purple candles for penance and preparation along with the rose candle for joy began being used.

Wearing the rose vestment during Lent, while less common since we don't have the wreath to enforce the image, is actually the older tradition and was later copied into Advent. The rose vestment for Gaudete Sunday can only be traced back to the early 16th century, but practices of wearing a rose vestment for Laetare Sunday in Lent can be traced back to the 13th century. This was preceded by the custom on this Sunday of the pope blessing and giving a golden rose, a symbol of Christ as the flower sprouting from the root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1) to a Catholic monarch or other public figure loyal to the Holy See. This coincided with the middle of the Lenten Season and the practice of a joyful break taken from the 40 day fasting dating back to the 4th or 5th century.

As you can see, the rose vestment didn't just simply come from copying the rose candle from our Advent wreaths, but it is a strong tradition of anticipatory joy, halfway through our preparatory season, awaiting the coming of Christ.

Peace,

Fr. Nick

ASSUMPTION PRAYER CHAPEL

Adoration is available 24/7 in the Chapel (the old church) by using the code at the north transit entrance. You can call or come to the Church Office to receive the code.

EXPOSITION is on Tuesdays, 9am-10pm. At 6:15pm, the Rosary is prayed, followed by our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions. Exposition continues until 10pm.

PRAY THE ROSARY BEFORE WEEKEND MASSES

Please join us in Church 30-minutes before each weekend Mass for the Rosary (except 5:30 pm Mass on Sundays). We gather and pray before the Holy Family Statue.

BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINES

It's that time of year again! Articles are needed early for the busy holiday season.

- Articles for the **December 28 bulletin will be due on Friday, December 19 by 9am** (instead of Tuesday, December 23)
- Articles for the **January 4 bulletin will be due on Tuesday, December 23 by 9am** (instead of Tuesday, December 30)

Please send articles to bulletin.assumption@gmail.com.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Shirley McGuire
mother of Chris (Steve) Mickel

ROSARY AND MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

On Tuesday, December 23, the Rosary and Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions will begin at 6pm (instead of 6:15pm) so we may finish before the Christmas Novena starts at 7pm.

Please come all to pray this beautiful devotion.

ADVENT SEASON MASSES AND EVENTS

Sunday, December 14: Christmas Choral Concert
3pm in the Chapel

Assumption School Christmas Program
Tuesday, December 16, 6pm:
1st-4th Grade in the Church

December 17-23: Christmas Novena
7pm in the Chapel

Christmas Masses

Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Vigil
4pm, 6pm (Church) and 4:15pm (Chapel)
10pm (Church) final night of Novena begins at 9:30pm

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day
8am, 10am and 12pm (Church)

New Years Eve/New Years Day Masses

Wednesday, December 31: New Year's Eve
6:30am, 8am, and 5:30pm (Vigil) (Church)

Thursday, January 1: New Year's Day
Feast of the Solemnity of Mary
8am and 10am (Church)

Confessions Schedule

Monday–Friday: 7:30–7:50am before 8am Mass (Church)
Saturdays: 4–4:50pm before 5pm Mass (Church)

O'FALLON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #2269 UPCOMING EVENTS

Queen of Hearts raffle | Every Tuesday

Join us every Tuesday for our weekly raffle. Doors open at 5pm with drawing at 7pm. Food and beverages available for purchase.

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 | 3PM

The Choral Arts Singers invite you to join us for our 53rd year of musical performance as we present our annual Christmas Concert here at Assumption Parish in the CHAPEL.

"Winter Wonderland" features our concert title song, the joyous and expansive "Te Deum" by Karl Jenkins, a "White Christmas (choral medley)," as well as other beautiful and fun holiday favorites. We hope that you can join us for a fun and festive afternoon of music with our new director Wendi Dicken.

Admission is free, but donations are appreciated to help the Concert Arts Association continue their efforts of bringing musical enjoyment to our community.

For additional information and concert dates, contact Bonnie Lang at 636-887-2899 or visit concertarts.org and Facebook (Choral Arts Singers).

50 PLUS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 15 | 6:30PM

Join us on Monday, December 15 in Hall C. Doors open at 6pm, dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Dean Andrew catering will be here serving fried chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad, and rolls. Please bring some type of dessert or cool whip salad. We will have coffee, water, and lemonade for drinks.

Ken Follett will be entertaining us after dinner with some Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tom Jones, and Elvis. The cross that you glazed will be available for pick up at the dinner also. God bless us with good weather on December 15!

ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY NIGHT
DECEMBER 16 | 6:30PM

Would you like to make Scripture part of your daily life? Join us Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30pm in Parish Center Hall A.

Bring your Bible and dive into God's Word with reflection, discussion, and prayer. This is a welcoming space for all young adults to grow in faith together.

For more details, contact Logan at 636-541-0765.

Mass Times and Intentions	SUNDAY 12.14.25	MONDAY 12.15.25	TUESDAY 12.16.25	WEDNESDAY 12.17.25
	8:00am Bill Thomas	6:30am Mason Keeven	6:30am Alice Forbeck	6:30am Jeff Phillips
	10:00am People of the Parish	8:00am Wayne Stoll Sr.	8:00am Kevin Hale	8:00am Herbert O. and Jiri W. Simon
	12:00pm Jack Begley			
	5:30pm Margaret and Everett Hallett			
Reconciliation	By Appointment	7:30-7:50am Church or by appointment	7:30-7:50am Church or by appointment	7:30-7:50am Church or by appointment

ATTENTION MEN OF THE PARISH
WANT TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER?

Now you can when register for the upcoming Men's RENEWAL Retreat Weekend (formerly CRHP) planned for Saturday, February 21 and Sunday, February 22, 2026.

This two-day walk with Christ allows you and other fellow parishioners to energize your faith by strengthening your connection with Him. RENEWAL Weekend is a spiritual weekend (Saturday 8am–Sunday 4pm) designed to help you grow in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. During the break from your daily routine, you will likely hear Him speak to you.

RENEWAL is...
Changing Lives.
Building Lasting Relationships.
Helping Parishioners Find True Peace.

What are you waiting for? Scan the QR Code to register or contact Tony Serino, tserino25@gmail.com or 314-479-1043 for more information about how you can experience one of the most spiritual journeys of your life in only 36 hours.

MEN OF ASSUMPTION JOIN US FOR EXODUS 90

The world tells us that freedom is doing whatever you want, whenever you want, with whomever you want: to do your own will. True freedom is to do God's will. Freedom is for worship, sacrifice, and love.

Men if you're tired of being held back by the comforts and distractions of our time and desire to grow closer to God, Exodus 90 may be the path you have been searching for. The Exodus 90 journey begins January 5 and ends with the resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

For more information about Exodus 90, contact Scott Perhacs, sperhacs@hotmail.com, Rick Schenk, rwschenk3@gmail.com, or visit exodus90.com to learn more and see if this is God calling you to uncommon Freedom.

LADIES' WHITE HOUSE RETREAT
FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 1, 2026

Spend some time with the Lord by attending a White House Retreat with Assumption Ladies. The retreat given by Jesuit Priests, and based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, will be held at the White House Retreat Center, located at 7400 Christopher Dr. St. Louis. **The retreat will begin on Thursday, February 26, with check-in from 4:30-6:30pm and will end after lunch on Sunday, March 2.**

The cost of the retreat for the Jesuits is $425 per participant for retreat participation, lodging, and meals. No worries if you are unable to pay the $425, a free-will offering is taken after the retreat and participants are asked to give what they are able. The amount given for the free-will offering is known only by the participant giving the offering.

For more information or to register, contact Mary Keen, mlkeen155@icloud.com or 636-699-0407. Space is limited and reservations are not guaranteed after January 12.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA)

In the readings for the Third Sunday of Advent, Isaiah's prophecy uses images of humanity; the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears cleared, the tongue of the mute will sing. The gospel proclaims Jesus answering John's message. "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised."

Do you know what a sacrament is? Do you know how many there are? Can you name them? Do you know what they do? These are the questions we will answer as we began our Introduction to the Sacraments. These are important questions that every Catholic should be able to answer. Sunday's session, we started with the Anointing of the Sick.

THURSDAY 12.18.25	FRIDAY 12.19.25	SATURDAY 12.20.25	SUNDAY 12.21.25
6:30am Lorraine Keeven	6:30am Kevin Schneider	8:00am Alice Forbeck	8:00am Christopher Crum
8:00am Millie Craig	8:00am Joseph Pham	5:00pm People of the Parish	10:00am Ron Hanebrink
			12:00pm Stephanie Carpenter
			5:30pm Philomene Orf
7:30-7:50am Church or by appointment	7:30-7:50am Church or by appointment	4-4:50pm Church or by appointment	By Appointment

JUBILEE OF MARY
VOTIVE MASS RORATE CAELI AND BREAKFAST POTLUCK
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 | 6:45AM

The Rorate Caeli Mass is a traditional Advent devotion in which a candlelit Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent is offered just before dawn. Those who attend can expect to be rewarded with a uniquely beautiful Mass. The Mass takes it's title, Rorate Caeli (Drop down dew, ye heavens) from the initial Latin words of Isaiah 45:8. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.

Join us at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in New Melle | 8 West Hwy D, New Melle 63365.

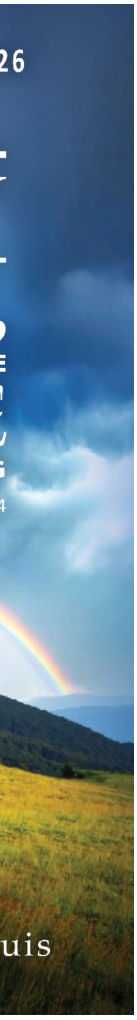
6:45am Jubilee Mass with IHM Pastor Fr. David Skillman
Solemn Votive Mass Rorate Caeli in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary during Advent
Breakfast Potluck in the Grand Hall

RESPECT LIFE APOSTOLATE (PRO-LIFE) MINISTRY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
ROSARY AT 7:30AM | MASS AT 8AM

RESPECT LIFE APOSTOLATE

Unite to celebrate and pray for life at the Archdiocese of St. Louis Monthly Pro-Life Mass and Rosary at St. Gianna Parish, 450 East Hwy N, Wentzville, 63385.

For more details, scan the QR Code, visit stlrespectlife.org, or call 314-792-7598.



MOScholars
Missouri's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program
Powered by the Today & Tomorrow Educational Foundation

100% TAX CREDITS
Available to Corporations, Small Businesses and Individuals!

FINAL CALL: RESERVE YOUR 2025 MISSOURI TAX CREDITS BEFORE DECEMBER ENDS.
Families are counting on MOScholars Scholarships to make Catholic education possible, and $5 million in tax credits are available right now through the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation. Don't let these credits go unused — reserve yours today and turn your 2025 tax liability into an opportunity for a child who needs it.

Scan here to make your reservation today!

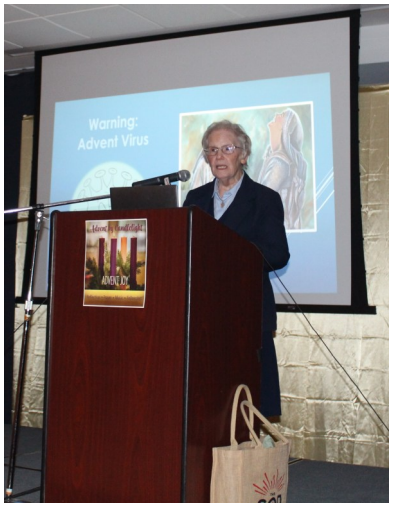
https://ttef-stl.org/moscholars-donor/

Questions? Contact Our Team!
Pete Cerone, Excutive Director
314-792-7732 | petecerone@archstl.org

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

LET IT BE CONTAGIOUS! BRING THAT ADVENT JOY WHEREVER YOU GO!

Thank you for joining us in spreading the light of Advent Joy at our Advent by Candlelight Celebration! Nearly 260 women gathered in faith and fellowship, **inspired by Sister Carol Schumer, D.C**., whose heartfelt words reminded us to carry the spirit of joy this Advent Season wherever we go. We are so grateful for all who shared this special evening with us. Your generosity, contributing $2,399 to the Assumption St. Vincent de Paul Council, will bring hope and support to our Neighbors-In-Need. **Let us continue to shine brightly as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.** Save the date for next year's celebration on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2026, and let the joy of Advent guide us forward!



WELCOME ELIZABETH SMITH!

We are excited to welcome Elizabeth Smith as Assumption's new Director of Music Ministries! If Elizabeth looks familiar, it's because she has been active in our music ministry for the past seven years singing and playing piano for 10AM Mass, and serving countless funerals, and weddings.

As Director, Elizabeth looks forward to supporting the parish's liturgical life through prayerful music and worship; planning and lead music for our Sunday Masses, Holy Days, and sacramental events; and bringing the beauty of song to our parish community. Other responsibilities include inspiring and mentoring musicians, fostering a spirit of unity and devotion through music, and enriching the faith of our school children by playing at their weekly Masses. Additionally, when possible, Elizabeth will continue to provide music for weddings and funerals, making life's profound moments with grace.

"For many years, liturgical music has held a special place in my life. It is a true joy to guide our loving parish and school community in prayerful worship, encouraging active participation that unites us together and deepens our encounter with Christ in the celebration of the Mass," says Elizabeth Smith.

Elizabeth and her husband Chris, along with their four children, have been part of Assumption Parish for ten years—a community that has truly become home for their family. She comes to us with 30+ years of participation in liturgical music. She has decades of piano and vocal music instruction and experience, and a degree in Music Education, and has provided liturgical music for several parishes throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

When you see Elizabeth, please give her a nice, warm Assumption Welcome, or feel free to reach out to her directly at 636-240-3721 ext. 326 or email music@abvmtech.org.

QUILT-OF-THE-MONTH RAFFLE BENEFITS CHAPEL RESTORATION
YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO WIN A QUILT! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The Assumption Quilters are hosting a quilt raffle with 12 different drawings that began in August 2025 and runs through July 2026. **All proceeds for the Quilt-of-the-Month raffle benefit restoring areas of the Assumption Prayer Chapel**, so be sure to support our worthy cause. Take a chance and spread the news about the raffle! There are **8 more chances** to win. Drawings will be held during the last week of each month. The winner wins the quilt assigned to that month. These quilts are valued at $500-$800 each.

- Tickets are **$10 for one ticket or $25 for three tickets**. Non-winning tickets remain in the raffle through July 2026.
- Checks can be made out to Assumption Church

You can fill out the tickets, drop it in Sunday's collection basket with your payment, turn it in at the Parish Office or via mail: Assumption Church, 403 N. Main St., O'Fallon, MO 63366. Photos of all quilts can be viewed at **assumptionbvm.org**.

The Assumption Quilters thank you very much for supporting Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Quilt-of-the-Month
August 2025 through July 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Phone: _____

Donation: $10 each or 3 for $25

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

This week, our 2nd and 3rd grade students, along with their Special Person companions, took flight on a festive journey as they explored *Christmas Around the World*! With boarding passes and passports in hand, our young travelers "boarded their plane" and took off to four wonderful destinations: Mexico, Denmark, Australia, and France.

Throughout the day, students rotated through each country and experienced a variety of activities that highlight unique Christmas traditions from around the globe. They enjoyed crafts, snacks, songs, and stories that brought each culture to life, allowing them to experience just a little piece of how families celebrate the Christmas season in different parts of the world.

This special day was a joyful reminder of the beauty and diversity within our global Christian community and of the common thread that unites us all: the celebration of Christ's birth. We loved seeing the excitement on our young traveler's faces as they learned, created, and made memories with the special people who joined them on their journey. May the wonder our children experienced during this special day inspire all of us to celebrate the true light of Christmas, Christ's presence in our homes, our parish, and our hearts.

Christmas Blessings,
Jamie Burbridge

HELLO FROM ASSUMPTION YOUTH MINISTRY!

Happy Advent from Assumption Youth Ministry! It has been a beautiful semester of growth and faith at both Life Teen and EDGE. The recent Life Teen Fall Retreat, attended by over 45 teens, was a beautiful, powerful weekend of renewal and deepening of prayer through examining Mary's yes. Our middle schoolers at EDGE continue to explore that it means to live faith deeply, finishing out a semester of community, fun, and prayer. We have just a few more weeks left – keep praying for us, and know we are praying for you!

Sunday, December 14
Life Teen: Christmas Party
6:30-8:30pm in the Parish Center
All high school teens are invited to join us for a Christmas party that feels like Christmas morning, featuring breakfast for dinner, pj's, and presents! Teens, expect fun, food, fellowship, and powerful prayer. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Wednesday, December 17 | EDGE: Christmas Party
6-7:30pm in the Parish Center
Middle Schoolers are invited to come and dive into their Catholic faith in a new way! Join us as we celebrate the beauty of the Incarnation at Christmas.

2026 EVENTS:

April 10-12: Luke 18 Retreat
June 8-13: Life Teen Camp Cana
July 17-19: Steubenville Conference

Follow us on Social Media:

Instagram:
@assumption_life_teen and @assumption_edge

Facebook:
Assumption Life Teen and Assumption EDGE

QUESTIONS? Contact **Becky Whitaker**,
Director of Youth Ministry; Life Teen Youth Minister
636-240-3721 ext. 243
beckywhitaker@abvmtech.org

HONOR YOUR FAITH WITH A BEQUEST TO ASSUMPTION

God has been your guide as you've lived your life story. Consider a bequest to Assumption as your final chapter, a gift that will bring Christ to the people of O'Fallon for many years to come.

A bequest to Assumption is an excellent way to express how God's grace has made a difference in your life.

Making a bequest is not difficult. You can:

- Add Assumption as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, IRA or life insurance policy.
- Include Assumption as a TOD beneficiary of your bank account or financial assets.
- Add this sentence to your will: "I give to Assumption Catholic Church, O'Fallon, Missouri, 63366, Tax ID #43-0688865, [the sum of $_____ or _____ percent of the net value of my estate] for its general purposes."

For more information, contact Fr. Nick or Mark Vogt in the Parish Office, 636-240-3721. Thank you.

Have you already included Assumption Church in your estate plan?

If you have provided for a gift to our Church, please let us know. It will be helpful to us and your executor when the time comes.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

Weekly Offertory	**November 23, 2025**	**YTD 7/1/25–11/23/25**
Actual Collections	$28,976	$793,553
Budget Target	$45,000	$960,000
Surplus / (Shortfall)	$(16,024)	$(166,447)

Loan taken out in 2013 for expansion of our school

Original Loan	$3,306,127
Current balance owed	$128,051
Monthly payment	$20,923

Last expected payment will be in June 2026.

STEWARDSHIP *a way of life*

The Bible Teaches It (Mal 3:10-12)
We Believe It (Acts 4:32-36)
God Honors It (Gen 14:18-20)
TITHING

We are grateful to you for your presence, your participation, and your financial support of Assumption Parish.

If you would like to give online, please go to:
assumptionbvm.org/About-Us/Online-Giving
or scan the QR Code and create an account.

OFFICE INFORMATION

ADDRESS/PHONE/HOURS
403 N Main Street, O'Fallon MO 63366
636-240-3721 Parish Office
Hours: Monday–Thurs 8am-4pm
Friday 8am-2pm (summer hours)

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL
636-240-4474

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
636-272-4758 (Helpline)

BULLETIN NOTICES
Submit to Parish Office
Bulletin.assumption@gmail.com
by 9am on the Tuesday before Sunday's edition (five days prior)

SOCIAL MEDIA
Website: assumptionbvm.org
Instagram: @abvmofallon
Facebook.com: @assumptionparish
Youtube: @assumptionmedia1

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION
Religious instruction in the Catholic faith.
Call 636-240-1020 for information or to register.

MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION
For one-on-one grief support, or information regarding our grief support series, which is held twice per year, contact Lynn Crews at 314-578-0741.