



# ASSUMPTION

*of the*  
*Blessed Virgin Mary*  
PARISH

## THE RILEY FAMILY REFLECTS ON STEWARDSHIP

*“Giving Back Is What We Are All Called to Do”*

SEPT/OCT 2017

*Inside*

Looking around the sanctuary at Assumption during any given Mass, one of the most beautiful sights to behold is the number of families with young children filling the pews! Seeing so many parents dedicated to staying active in the parish and passing the Catholic faith on to the next generation is always inspiring.

Two of these parents are Josh and Lindsay Riley, who have made regular Church attendance and parish involvement a central part of life for themselves and their four children – Hayden, 10; Olivia, 8; Harper, 5; and Dylan, 3. Parishioners of Assumption for eight years now, the Rileys feel blessed to have found such a vibrant and welcoming faith community for their family.

While they are certainly busy parents to four young children, Lindsay and Josh both believe it is important to give of their time, talent, and treasure in thanksgiving to God by staying involved in church life. Lindsay serves as a Eucharistic Minister, helps out in the new parish Montessori school, and is the current Spiritual Director for the women’s CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) team. In addition to being a part of the men’s CRHP team, Josh – who is the Executive Director of the Gateway PGA Section – lends his expertise to the parish by helping out with our annual golf fundraiser.

For both of the Rileys, the experience of attending a CRHP retreat was so life-changing, they decided to give back by serving on the teams for the following retreats.



*Lindsay and Josh Riley*

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## THE RILEY FAMILY REFLECTS ON STEWARDSHIP

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“The CRHP retreat was definitely a memorable experience, one that I will always look back on as reigniting my faith and love for the Lord,” Lindsay says. “It was an experience that opened up my eyes to the truth of what God has to offer us and how to accept that. I would definitely encourage others to come to the next upcoming retreat.”

In addition to a strengthened faith life, Lindsay has been blessed with some incredible friendships through CRHP. Forming relationships that are centered around the Catholic faith and Christ, praying as a group, and being with people in their struggles and their healing are all blessings that Lindsay has experienced through this incredible ministry. Like Lindsay, Josh is also grateful for CRHP, and enjoys the opportunity to serve on the men’s team and see others go through the same spiritual transformation that he experienced on his first retreat.

In all they do, the Rileys strive to show their children what an active and vibrant faith life looks like. Certainly, staying focused during Mass with four children under the age of 10 is sometimes a challenge! But Josh and Lindsay have found that the rewards of coming to Mass as a family each week make it all worthwhile, and they are committed to modeling a life of stewardship.

The Rileys view using one’s gifts from God in service to others as a natural extension of faith life.

“I believe giving back is what we are all called to do,” Josh says. “The neat part is that what giving back looks like is different for us all. We are all unique and God made us that way so that, collectively, we are better.”

Although the Rileys have been at Assumption for less than a decade, our parish has felt like home for their family from their very first days here.



*The Riley children – (from left) Hayden, Dylan, Harper, and Olivia*

“I have always, from the first day we stepped foot into Assumption Parish, felt welcomed and wanted here,” Lindsay affirms. “We feel very blessed to have such a great group of priests and feel very connected to the community.”

For Josh, becoming a member of a parish named for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary has a special significance. Following the unexpected passing of his father when Josh was 18 years old, he made a trip to Medjugorje that greatly impacted his spiritual life and made him feel a close connection to Mary.

“I don’t believe it is irony that has me as a devoted parishioner of Assumption Parish some 20 years after that trip,” says Josh. “There are so many great people here who have come into our lives.

“I feel this is the true definition of the Church,” he continues. “I don’t know how a parish could have a better community than Assumption!”

*“I believe giving back is what we are all called to do. The neat part is that what giving back looks like is different for us all. We are all unique and God made us that way so that, collectively, we are better.” – Josh Riley*

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

# *Following in the Footsteps of Mary*

Dear Parishioners,

“**D**uring those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth” (Lk 1:39-40). We, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish family, follow Mary in her mission of bringing Christ to the world. As soon as Mary said “yes” to God’s call, announced by the Archangel Gabriel, she went to visit her cousin, who was also expecting to bring new life into the world. Mary literally carries the Good News of salvation into the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

The Pastoral Team and our catechists in all our Religious Education programs are following Mary’s example. This fall, we are visiting 1,000 homes. We want to hear the stories of faith, which are being lived out every day in the first place of evangelization, the domestic churches, the homes of our families within the family of Assumption Parish. We want to pray with you, offer simple tools to help you pray together as families, and to share the good news of the mission of our wonderful community of Assumption BVM.

As part of this outreach to families, Fr. Zac Povis, Msgr. Bill McCumber and I

will be visiting at least one family each every week. We hope you are willing to open your homes to us and share a meal with us. The fellowship around the table is a beautiful opportunity for us to get to know one another. Your willingness to share your stories with us will help us in our efforts to share the Word with you.

Our mission as a parish is to bring Christ to the world; this begins by first bringing Christ to one another. It is Christ living in each one of us who strengthens us for the great work of building the Kingdom. Please pray for us as we embark on this grand adventure. We are excited to grow as a parish family through connecting with you in your homes. We will be flexible in scheduling the visits and will only need 30-60 minutes of your time. Let us hasten to one another and in our mission to “find Christ in our every gathering...to bring Christ to the world.”

Per Matrem Ad Filium,  
(Through the Mother to the Son)



Fr. Mitch Doyen,  
Pastor



## ASSUMPTION'S M

### *"The Power of Mu*



*Assumption's Adult Choir ministering at the Feast of the Assumption*



*Tenth Avenue North performing at a recent beONE Concert*

St. Augustine tells us, "Singing is for one who loves." According to Bryan Beams, music helps facilitate prayer in a way that touches spirits deeply. Music welcomes us together to encounter Christ in our hearts.

"Whether someone has no experience with the Catholic faith, has been away from the church, or is fully engaged in parish life, music that is spiritually stirring will change hearts," says Bryan, Coordinator of Music Ministry.

Assumption's Music Ministry consists of five ensembles with their own directors, cantors, vocalists, accompanists, and instrumentalists. These faith community members all feel called to facilitate sung prayer during the liturgy.

"Our ministers range in experience from professional musicians to persons without any formal background who just love to sing," Bryan says. "Seeing groups like that come together to facilitate such stirring liturgies is really incredible, perhaps even giving one a glimpse of the divine."

Assumption's Adult Choir is a group of more than 25 vocalists who sing traditional and updated arrangements of familiar Catholic hymns under the direction of Peg Wehmeier and accompanied by Bryan. They minister on Sundays from Labor Day to Memorial Day and for most major feast days.

"The Adult Choir was recently honored with an invitation to participate in a choral festival in Rome," Bryan says. "Their trip in 2019 will include singing for a Papal Mass at St. Peter's Basilica."

The parish also has two contemporary or folk ensembles that consist of roughly 10 members each and utilize a blend of unison singing and tight harmonies. Mark Sacco directs and accompanies one ensemble and Sue Nanney the other, and the groups minister on most Sundays.

Assumption's Children's Choir contains more than 30 students from our grade school who utilize a blend of unison singing and two-part harmony. Under the direction of Dr. Maureen Carlson and accompanied by Bryan, they minister on Wednesday and Friday mornings for Masses during the school year and occasionally for weekend liturgies.

# MUSIC MINISTRY

## *Music to Evangelize”*

“Their repertoire consists of a blend of traditional and more contemporary hymns that are particularly geared toward singability for middle school students,” Bryan says.

Finally, the parish’s Youth Ministry, led by Philip Lewandowski, is working on implementing the Life Teen model, which will include a Sunday evening Mass. As a part of that, a praise and worship band will form.

“Their repertoire will consist of very contemporary music, and they will likely utilize percussive accompaniment such as piano, guitar, bass, and drums,” Bryan says. “We are excited about forming this and hope it inspires our teens to participate wholeheartedly in the liturgy!”

All are welcome to join the Music Ministry and share their gifts to help others worship God. The ability to read music helps, but it is not required.

Most importantly, members must embrace the mission of Assumption’s Music Ministry – “A deep love of God and a commitment to exceptional liturgy impels us to express prayer through music and inspire others to join as one voice in sung worship.”

Bryan, a former Assumption student, began accompanying for Masses – with guidance from Mark Sacco and Sue Nanney – when he was a teenager. In college, he studied both classical piano and biology, and today he is grateful to be a full-time member of our parish’s pastoral team.

“The ability to pray through an art like music, and in the process, help others pray, gives me a profound sense of purpose in what I do,” Bryan says.

One unique way our parish and Music Ministry embrace music as a tool for evangelization is with the beONE Concert Series, named for the

archdiocesan beONE Initiative.

Since 2016, the series has hosted concerts featuring Audrey Assad, Matt Maher, the VIGIL Project and Tenth Avenue North. The next concert will take place on Friday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. and will feature Catholic artist PJ Anderson and his band.

“These concerts are another way we as a ministry can embrace the power of music to evangelize and form people in faith,” Bryan says. “The mission of the series is to bring together people of all walks of life to worship and experience a Christian concert in a profound and intimate way.”

Bryan welcomes anyone who feels called to the Music Ministry to reach out to him. He also encourages the faith community to participate in sung prayer as we worship at Mass.

“Your participation at Mass matters,” Bryan says. “A congregation fully engaged and joyfully participating in the liturgy will be so much more welcoming for visitors and people who are new to the parish.”



*Assumption’s Children’s Choir, directed by Dr. Maureen Carlson, leading music for the first all-school Mass of the 2017-18 academic year*

*If you would like more information about Assumption’s Music Ministry, please reach out to Bryan Beams at 636-240-3721, ext. 240 or [bryanbeams@yahoo.com](mailto:bryanbeams@yahoo.com).*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### *About Our Annual Stewardship Renewal*

Periodically, we need to re-examine the ways in which we answer the call to stewardship, which is the reason for our upcoming Stewardship Renewal. This is an opportunity to ask ourselves how we can better use our time, talent, and treasure.

- Do I make time for prayer? By myself and with my family?
- Is my talent at work in our parish actively building the Church?
- Do I give a proportionate amount of my treasure to the weekly offertory?

*Commitment Weekend is Sept. 30/  
Oct. 1. Don't forget to bring your  
Commitment Card to Mass!*

#### **How do I use my Commitment Card?**

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if more than one person is using the card.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to Assumption.

#### **Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?**

Honestly ask yourself, "How much time do I spend in prayer each week?" The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there's just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you're

discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

#### **Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?**

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at Assumption. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there's something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at Assumption, "Why do you enjoy serving in this way?" They'll probably say, "I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve." This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your talents to God, considering signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry, where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

#### **Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?**

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to "help yourself," but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the savviest businessperson worries about his or her personal finances from time to time. Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it's not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

## OUR USHERS/GREETERS MINISTRY

*Strives to Make Assumption Feel Like “Home”*

As a stewardship parish, we constantly strive to live out the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. In particular, hospitality is something on which we must always focus. Parishioners of a stewardship parish seek to see the face of Christ in one another, and we must seek out and welcome new members to the parish family. One of the key groups who fulfill the idea of hospitality is our Ushers/Greeters Ministry.

Gerry Prinster has coordinated the Ushers/Greeters Ministry for the past 10 years. He comes to being an usher quite naturally.

“My dad was an usher, and I always respected his approach to it,” Gerry says. “I think I have served as an usher for at least 50 years. It is and has been a way for me to be involved in the parish. Believe me, being an usher is involvement.”

Importantly, as Gerry notes, the members of this ministry are serious about their role in our parish.

“Anyone can take up the collection – as ushers and Ministers of Hospitality, our biggest role is how people feel when they come into our church,” he says. “It has to do with how they are greeted and welcomed. Our role is to make them feel warm and at home here.”

In addition to Gerry’s role in coordinating the ministry, there is also a coordinator for each weekend Mass.

“Our goal is to have six ushers at each of those Masses,” Gerry says. “Since one of the biggest parts of our task is greeting people, we ask ushers to be there early and to stay a little later when Mass ends.

“When I first began, the ushers were all men, but that has changed completely

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*“Our biggest role is how people feel when they come into our church,” says Gerry Prinster. “It has to do with how they are greeted and welcomed. Our role is to make them feel warm and at home here.”*

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## *Our Ushers/Greeters Ministry Strives to Make Assumption Feel Like “Home”* continued from page 7

in recent years as more women have become part of the ministry,” he continues. “Also, our Parish School of Religion has promoted the ministry as a way for young people to get service hours, so we now have a good core of young people who know what they are doing and are very responsible”

Gerry emphasizes the significance of hospitality in our parish community.

“We have more ministries here at

Assumption than ever before, and this ministry is an important one,” he says. “I would encourage a variety of people to consider becoming an usher. You feel so much more a part of the parish and a part of the Mass, also. Being friendly is important – doing what needs to be done is essential and we all need to know the building, the location of bathrooms, and other details which might be important to people.”

*If you are interested in becoming involved in this important ministry of hospitality, please contact the parish office at 636-240-3721 or Gerry Prinster at 636-577-5548.*

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 9:00 a.m. (MH), Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

**Daily Mass:** Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m., MH at 6:30 a.m.

**Perpetual Adoration:** 24 hours a day, seven days a week

**Reconciliation:** Thursday 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Chapel, Saturday 4:00-4:45 p.m. in the Church