

# Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

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



## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.  
- Mk 1:44-45b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### SACRAMENTS AND PARISH INFORMATION

#### **ANointing of the Sick**

Please call the Parish Office, 636-240-3721. You can leave a message after hours.

#### **BAPTISM**

Baptism is scheduled every Sunday at 1:15pm. Baptism preparation class is required. Call Angie, 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 at the Parish Office, ext 235.

#### **CONFESSION**

Weekdays 7:30–7:50am; Saturdays 4–4:45pm; or by appointment.

#### **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.

#### **FUNERALS**

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

#### **RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)**

Process through which adults are initiated into the Catholic Church by Baptism or Profession of Faith. For more information, call Missy Lowrey, 314-630-3983.

# Welcome

403 N. Main St.  
O'Fallon, MO 63366  
[assumptionbvm.org](mailto:assumptionbvm.org)

**Assumption Staff**  
636-240-3721 Ext:

**Pastor**  
242 Rev. Nick Kastenholz  
[nicholaskastenholz@archstl.org](mailto:nicholaskastenholz@archstl.org)

**Senior Associate Pastor**  
226 Msgr. Dennis Stehly  
[dennisstehly@archstl.org](mailto:dennisstehly@archstl.org)

**In Residence**  
Rev. Patrick Russell

**Deacons**  
Deacon Fred Volansky  
Deacon Richard Tadlock  
[deaconrichard@charter.net](mailto:deaconrichard@charter.net)  
Deacon Bob Hennekes

**Parish Manager**  
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[business@abvmtech.org](mailto:business@abvmtech.org)

**Parish Secretary**  
221 Debbie Orf  
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(by Tuesdays at 9am)

**Bookkeeper**  
234 Mary Knapp  
[accounting@abvmtech.org](mailto:accounting@abvmtech.org)

**Director of Religious Education and PSR Director**  
328 Holly Woytus; 636.240.1020  
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**Baptism/Wedding Coordinator; Records and Scheduling**  
235 Angie Gloriod  
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**Director of Youth Ministry**  
243 Becky Whitaker  
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**Middle School Youth Minister**  
333 Alejandro DeHerrera  
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**Director of Music Ministry**  
326 Parker Bishop  
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**Director of Communication**  
239 Nancy Gomer  
[ngomer@abvmtech.org](mailto:ngomer@abvmtech.org)

**Parish Day School/Preschool Principal: Dr. Patricia Hensley**  
636-240-4474

**Child Safety Coordinator**  
Lynn Crews 314-578-0741  
[lynncrews@abvmtech.org](mailto:lynncrews@abvmtech.org)

**Sunday Preschool**  
Denise Hoehne 314-954-3192

**Parish Council**  
[Abvparishcouncil3721@gmail.com](mailto:Abvparishcouncil3721@gmail.com)

**School Board**  
[abvmschoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:abvmschoolboard@gmail.com)

Hello,

This week we look at the second episode in 'the Search' series. The first episode focused on very basic questions we have about what motivates us in life, what fulfills or satisfies us, 'What do you Seek?' The second episode asks and starts a discussion of the question, 'Who Are You?' (log onto 'Formed.org', **Sign In** if you have been on this site before, **Sign Up** if this is your first time – then go to the Program 'the Search')



"To find clues as to the meaning of life, we first look at ourselves. Who am I? Is there more to me than matter? Is there more to us than meets the eye? We talk with neuroscientists, psychologists, composers, and artists to examine the mystery of you. If you're just a body, then satisfaction in life should come from tending to simple bodily needs. Fill your stomach, be comfortable. But there's more to you than that. You are material and immaterial. And that unseen part of you craves for so much more. As C.S. Lewis once said, "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."" (Formed's introduction to the episode)

Just looking at each human being in a merely physical way it is amazing how unbelievably complex our physical bodies are, and yet we are even more than that. From ancient time philosophers have talked about the soul, a part of each person that is not material, and not limited by our physical life. This episode addresses some of the evidence of the soul, the connection and distinction between our soul and body. If we didn't have a soul, would we just be an intelligent animal? And if that was the case what would that say about how we should treat people, and how we should treat animals, and why? What we believe about our bodies and souls dictates how we should treat one another and how we should act. But sometimes we might want to consider what it says when we look at how we do treat one another and how we act, and if that is consistent with what we believe?

Peace,

Fr. Nick

## 'ALL THINGS NEW' UPDATE APPEAL OF ASSUMPTION SUBSUMING ST. BARNABAS PARISH

On the decree issued on May 24, 2023, Archbishop Rozanski stated that Assumption Parish would *subsume* St. Barnabas Parish effective August 1, 2023.

This week, the Dicastery for the Clergy notified the Archdiocese of St. Louis that they had accepted for study petitions for recourse (an appeal) against decrees related to St. Barnabas in O'Fallon. In accepting this petition, the Vatican does not reverse the archbishop's decision, but it has agreed to review the decision at the request of the petitioner. While there had only been rumors, and no official knowledge, of such an appeal up until now, all financials and records from St. Barnabas have been kept segregated and no decisions have been or will be made regarding the parish that would be difficult to reverse until the Dicastery makes the final decision.

The decision to study the acts of decrees of St. Barnabas Parish being subsumed by Assumption Parish in O'Fallon does not call into question the lawful existence of the personal parish of St. Juan Diego, which was established by a separate decree.

I will continue to keep you updated on any developments as I become aware of them.

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 after the 8am Mass, and available through the Rosary at 6:15pm, followed by our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions.

During Eucharistic Exposition, when the Eucharist is in the monstrance and exposed, an adorer must be present. If you are interested in being an adorer, please sign up at [assumptionbvm.weadorehim.com](http://assumptionbvm.weadorehim.com). Many are coming, but not signing up. Thank you!

## 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.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**Nancy Hoff,**  
wife of Jim Hoff

**Vernon Valvero,**  
husband of Jean Valvero

## ST. VINCENT de PAUL FOOD PANTRY



The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is currently in need of the following items:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| ♦ Instant oatmeal                              | ♦ Spaghetti         |
| ♦ Brownies                                     | ♦ Ketchup           |
| ♦ Tuna cans with pull top lids or Tuna pouches | ♦ Mayo              |
| ♦ Tuna Helper                                  | ♦ Paper towels      |
| ♦ Beef ramen noodles                           | ♦ Liquid dish soap  |
|  | ♦ Laundry detergent |

**Please check the expiration dates before donating.**

We also are always in great need of gift cards to Aldi's or Walmart, to allow our neighbors in need to purchase fresh milk and eggs.

Thank you for your generosity,  
Your St. Vincent de Paul Team

## PARISHIONERS ENCOURAGED TO WATCH "SEARCH" VIDEO SERIES

Assumption is hosting a special video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart:



- ♦ Why are we here?
- ♦ What's life all about?
- ♦ What happens when we die?

It's not too late to participate! **Parishioners are encouraged to invite those with no faith to also participate in THE SEARCH, an Augustine Institute seven-part series through March 23.**

*"Ideally, watching the video with others allows us to talk about the questions raised and give answers or share more questions as a group," says Fr. Nick. "Our parishioners are encouraged to invite people who have no faith to watch, and after our discussions, send the link to someone else to watch."*

The video series will be held in the Meyer Room of the Parish Hall on the following days:

- ♦ Monday mornings, 9–10 a.m.
- ♦ Tuesday evenings, 7–8 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday evenings, 6:15–7:15 p.m.

To watch "The Search" on your own, visit [formed.org](http://formed.org) and go to "Sign Up" at the top menu to find our parish.

## ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN REGULATIONS

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)*

The Church has always helped us fulfill these words of Jesus by prescribing very definite penance for all Catholics, so that we too might have Eternal life. Accordingly, the Pope and the American Bishops have outlined obligatory fast and abstinence as follows:

**Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2024), all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday (March 29, 2024)** are days of **abstinence** (refraining from meat) for all Catholics **from age 14 onwards**. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, **fast**, as well as **abstinence**, is also obligatory for those **from the ages of 18-59**. Abstinence means refraining from meat. Fast means one full meal a day, with two smaller meals and nothing between meals (liquids are permitted). No Catholic will lightly excuse himself or herself from this obligation.

## THANK YOU

The family of Adam Skotniski would like to thank everyone involved in his funeral Mass. Msgr. Dennis Stehly, the music ministry who provided the amazing music, and Lynn Crews who guided us through this difficult time.

Thank you,  
Ed and Pat Whitehead



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #2269 EVENTS

### Fish Fry

The O'Fallon Knights of Columbus Fish Fry is back! Enjoy the Knight's famous fish dinner every Friday during Lent: **Feb. 16 & 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 from 5-7pm.** They have some of the best Cod and Catfish around!



Carryout or dine-in available! \$15 dinner includes 3 sides. \$14 dine-in Senior Rate. Kid's meal \$5. All proceeds benefit local charities.

### Mouse races | February 17 at 7pm

Join us for our third annual mouse races at the Knights of Columbus Hall (202 W. Third St.) Doors open at 6pm, races start at 7pm. Individual tickets are \$25, Table of eight is \$180. The admission includes unlimited draft Bud Light, soda, and water.



Visit [kofc-home-association.square.site](http://kofc-home-association.square.site) to purchase your tickets or purchase at the weekly Queen of Hearts on Tuesdays.

### Queen of Hearts | Every Tuesday

All are welcome to the weekly Queen of Hearts every Tuesday. Doors open at 5pm with drawing at 7pm. Food and beverages available for purchase.



Please join us for a two-day fundraising event,

## Caring for THE Crum RUMMAGE SALE

@ the Assumption Church Parish Center  
403 N. Main St., O'Fallon, MO 63366

**Donation Drop Off**  
Friday  
February 16th, 2024  
3:00pm - 7:00pm

**Rummage Sale**  
Saturday  
February 17th, 2024  
9:00am - 1:00pm

**Items Needed**

- Home Decor
- Kitchen Items
- Baby/Kids Toys
- Shoes
- Sports Equipment
- Small Furniture
- Electronics
- Memorabilia

**CONTACT US**  
Theresa Mary [themillers2@charter.net](mailto:themillers2@charter.net)  
[mwillbrand19@gmail.com](mailto:mwillbrand19@gmail.com)

Assumption PTO Sponsored Event

## ATTENTION MEN OF ASSUMPTION PARISH:

Our Church and our World needs you, man of God!

Men, We are taking next Saturday, February 17 off so that you can attend the **Catholic Men for Christ (CMFC) "Be Not Afraid" Conference.**



- ♦ Featuring: Dr. Edward Sri, Pete Burak, Fr. Anthony Wieck S.J. and more!
- ♦ Si Commons at SLUH, February 17, 8:45am-4pm. 4970 Oakland Ave. St. Louis 63110
- ♦ \$40—includes box lunch

You can register at [catholicmenforchrist.org](http://catholicmenforchrist.org). Parking is available free of charge at the St. Louis Science Center lot. (See map when you register.)

We will resume TMIY on Saturday, February 24!

For more information, contact Deacon Richard at [DeaconRichard@charter.net](mailto:DeaconRichard@charter.net) or 314-397-2433.

### Mass Times and Intentions

### Reconciliation

#### SUNDAY 2.11.24

8:00am People of the Parish  
10:00am Betty Bruegenhemke  
12:00pm Dave Tabaska  
5:30pm Betty Warmker

By Appointment

#### MONDAY 2.12.24

6:30am Gene Henthorn  
8:00am Charles Eisenbath

7:30-7:50am Church  
or by appointment

#### TUESDAY 2.13.24

6:30am Ana Carcamo  
8:00am Ana Carcamo

7:30-7:50am Church  
or by appointment

#### WEDNESDAY 2.14.24

6:30am Amon & Marylou Owens  
8:00am Rosemary Popp

7:30-7:50am Church  
or by appointment

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH BLESSED PALMS?

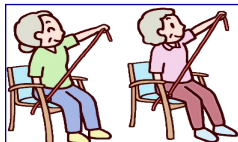
If you have dried-out palms from last year folded behind a crucifix or some other religious picture in your home, please **DO NOT THROW THEM AWAY**.

According to the [Code of Canon Law](#), **blessed items must be treated with respect and reverence and not thrown in the trash**. Instead, drop them in the baskets, located in the Narthex of the church, before Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14. Another option is to burn the ashes and then bury them. This type of disposal honors the blessed palms sacred purpose by returning them to the Earth in a dignified way.



## FIT AND FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE CLASS

Have you heard about our Fit and Functional Exercise classes at Assumption? The next session is beginning soon!



This exercise class, geared towards folks 50+, and taught by a Physical Therapist, is intended to accommodate various activity levels to improve strength, flexibility, balance and mobility. We use resistance bands and small hand weights. Resistance bands are provided in class, or feel free to bring your own. Join us for all or some of the classes! We work hard, but have fun, too!!

Join us on Thursday, February 22 and check it out for free! Then if you are interested, we will meet twice a week on Tuesday/Thursday, 8:45am–9:45am, Feb. 27–April 18.

**Where:** Hall A of the Parish Center

**Cost:** \$50 for 8 weeks/ 16 sessions

Questions? Contact Debbie Gentry, PT at 314-306-2697 or [AtHomePartnersLLC@gmail.com](mailto:AtHomePartnersLLC@gmail.com)

## DON'T MISS FATHER JOE'S LENTEN PRESENTATION: ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH YET? FEBRUARY 28 | 7PM | CHURCH

Do you try too hard or worry too much? Is it sometimes hard for you to let go of past mistakes or shortcomings? If you—or someone you know—is a perfectionist, this presentation is for you. Yes, it is important to care and to try to do things well. Yet, at what cost? When is it too much? And how can we become more free? This presentation can help!



While Father Joe needs no introduction to so many at Assumption, he will always hold a special place for our Parish in his heart. Serving as Assumption Pastor for 15 years, Father Joe is known for his dynamic personality and engaging storytelling, great love of God's people, and author of many books.

Reconnect after the presentation to preview and purchase signed copies of his new book, *Are you Good Enough Yet?* Gospel Value children's books also will be available.

## MEN'S CRHP RETREAT MARCH 2 AND MARCH 3, 2024



Want to experience one of the most spiritual journeys of your life? Attend an upcoming Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) Retreat. This two-day walk with Christ allows you and other fellow parishioners to energize your faith by strengthening your connection with Him.

The CRHP Weekend is a “must do Parish experience” with inspiring music, faith sharing, Mass, small group discussions, exciting activities guaranteed to renew your spiritual awareness and so much more. Discover what is missing in your life and register for our free CRHP Retreat today!

Contact Steven Horstmann, 636-578-2040, [theresa\\_and\\_steve@yahoo.com](mailto:theresa_and_steve@yahoo.com) for the Men's Retreat.

### THURSDAY 2.15.24

6:30am Edward Friedrich  
8:00am Chris Sholten

7:30–7:50am Church  
or by appointment

### FRIDAY 2.16.24

6:30am Carmela Bamert  
8:00am Priests Intention

7:30–7:50am Church  
or by appointment

### SATURDAY 2.17.24

8:00am Juanita Lister  
5:00pm Albert Snider

4:00–4:45pm Church  
or by appointment

### SUNDAY 2.18.24

8:00am Marlene Pieper  
10:00am People of the Parish  
12:00pm Karen Brady  
5:30pm Adam Skotniski

By Appointment



## PRO-LIFE NEWS

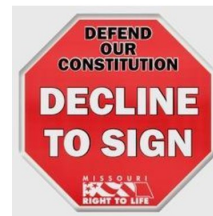
Do not be fooled—READ! READ! READ! Petitioners are trying to trick Pro-Lifers into signing a petition to get a constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot to legalize abortion.

Here are 10 reasons to decline to sign the deceptive initiative petitions that would place abortion with no regulations in our Missouri constitution.

A few things to note, if our Missouri Constitution is amended:

- ◆ Parental consent laws will be eliminated
- ◆ Partial-birth/Late-term abortions on demand
- ◆ Abortion—all 9 months
- ◆ Health and Safety standards eliminated
- ◆ Missouri's 52 Pro-Life Laws will be eliminated
- ◆ Women lose ability to sue for malpractice
- ◆ Pregnancy Resource Centers forced to refer for abortions
- ◆ Ultrasounds eliminated
- ◆ Sufficient funds will be lost to Missouri due to increased litigation costs
- ◆ Taxpayer-funded abortions

**SAVE THE DATE:** Missouri Right to Life “Keep Missouri Pro-Life!” Action Day, **Tuesday, March 12** at the Missouri State Capitol—1<sup>st</sup> Floor Rotunda in Jefferson City. Transportation will be available from many areas of the state. Contact Missouri Right to Life at 573-635-5110 or go to [missourilife.org](https://missourilife.org) for specific transportation options or for more information.



## SAVE THE DATE: ASSUMPTION 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GALA SATURDAY, APRIL 20

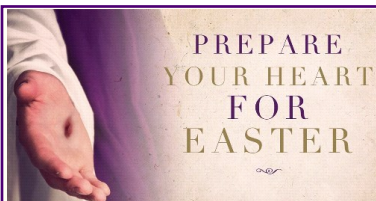
Mark the calendar! Our parish is celebrating the Assumption Black and Gold Gala, Saturday, April 20, in the Parish Hall. This extraordinary evening serves as a vital fundraiser for Assumption. It is a night to celebrate our parish and come together for dinner, live/silent auctions, raffles and dancing.

We know from experience that a successful gala is not possible without the remarkable support and backing from YOU! We are asking families to consider supporting the largest fundraiser of the year in at least one of following ways:

1. Volunteer to be part of the Gala Planning Committee.
2. Donate an item or service (Donation deadline is Friday, March 31).
3. Become a sponsor.
4. Provide financial support through a monetary donation.
5. Purchase an ad in our Gala program (Ad deadline is March 31).
6. Join us for this year's Gala on Saturday, April 20. (Tickets available in March)
7. Purchase a golf cart raffle ticket! (\$25 each or 5 tickets for \$100)

For more information about donations, advertising, sponsorship opportunities and the golf cart raffle, click the QR Code or contact Gala Chairs, Amy Rinearson at 314-412-5364, [auction@abvmtech.org](mailto:auction@abvmtech.org), or Mindy Saxbury, 314-591-8329. Thank you!





## **PREPARING FOR EASTER**

**FEBRUARY 14—MARCH 31**

**Join Assumption for 40 days of prayer,  
fasting and almsgiving this Lenten Season.**

**Ash Wednesday: Feb. 14**

**Mass in the Church at 6:30am and 8am, and 7pm**

**Prayer Service and ashes with Assumption students in the Church at 12:05pm**

**Friday Evening Stations of the Cross:**

**Feb. 16 & 23, March 1, 8, 15, & 22 at 7pm in the Chapel**

**Friday Fish Fry at the O'Fallon Knights of Columbus Hall:**

**Feb. 16 & 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 from 5–7pm**

Carryout or dine-in available! \$15 dinner with 3 sides. \$14 dine-in Senior Rate. Kid's meal \$5.

**Sunday Lenten Special Rosary Prayed:**

**Feb. 18 & 25 and March 3, 10, & 17 at 4:30pm in the Chapel**

**Tuesday Eucharistic Exposition:**

**Feb. 20 & 27 and March 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 9am–6pm in the Chapel**

**Tuesday Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions:**

**Feb. 20 & 27 and March 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 5:15pm in the Chapel**

**Tuesday Evening Mass: Feb. 20 & 27, March 5, 12, 19, & 26 at 6pm in the Chapel**

Come pray with us every Tuesday during Lent in the Chapel.

**Friday Afternoon Stations of the Cross:**

**Feb. 23, and March 8 & 15 at 2:40 p.m. in the Church**

All Stations occur in the Church except for the "Stations of the Shadows" on March 15 in the Chapel.

**Reconciliation Weekend:**

**Friday, March 15 from 6-9 p.m. in the Church, and**

**Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in the Chapel**

**Passion Play: March 22, Friday, at 11 a.m. in the Church**

Assumption seventh-grade students perform the Passion Play according to the Gospel of John in the Church.

**Easter Egg Hunt: March 24, Palm Sunday after all Masses**

Children ages 12 and under! The hunts are free and will start 10-15 minutes after each Mass. Donuts will be available at the 8 a.m. hunt, and grilled hot dogs, soda, and water will be for sale after the 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. hunts. Donations are welcome. All proceeds will help support and fund the annual Assumption Easter Egg Hunt.

**Mass of the Lord's Supper: March 28, Holy Thursday, at 7 p.m. in Church**

**Life Teen Walk the Way Stations of the Cross: March 29, Good Friday, at 3 p.m. in the Church**

**Good Friday Service: March 29 at 7 p.m. in Church**

**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil: March 30 at 8 p.m. in Church**

**Sunday Easter Mass:**

**March 31 at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon in the Church, and 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. in the Chapel**

## PRINCIPAL'S PEN

### Fire Department In-House Field Trip

Each year we welcome the O'Fallon Fire Department visits with our youngest students, Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade. Not only does the visit provide students the opportunity to experience first-hand how a fireman dresses for safety, but how to protect themselves if there were a fire. Students loved seeing the firemen in their gear and had the chance to feel how heavy it was. Using the Parish Halls, students came in and fire department members explained the gear and its purpose, placed it on so that students could see, and talked about safety at school and at home.

Students were also able to see the firetruck that was parked on our lot. The fireman talked about the hoses, where the firemen and women are placed on the truck, and showed them how the ladder works.



### Patriot's Pen Award Winners

Clifford Dale Combs, the VFW Post 5077 Auxiliary Appointed Chairperson, has announced that three Assumption students have been selected to receive the Patriot Pen Scholarship Award. The Patriot's Pen contest provides 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme. The VFW enacted the Patriot's Pen youth essay competition in 1995 as a way to encourage young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, while improving their writing skills. The 23-24 theme was: *"How Are You Inspired by America?"*

Congratulations to the award winners: E. Davis (6<sup>th</sup> grade), T. Gantner (8<sup>th</sup> grade), and S. Marek (6<sup>th</sup> grade). An award ceremony took place on Sunday, February 4 at the VFW.



Thanks for reading about Assumption.  
Dr. Pat Hensley





## HELLO FROM ASSUMPTION YOUTH MINISTRY

Luke 18 preparations are fully underway! Eighth graders can register on our website and the teens are hard at work, preparing to give testimonies, lead discussions, and pray. Please pray for us as we prepare for this incredible retreat! Here's what's going on this week.

**Sunday, February 11 | No Life Teen: Super Bowl Sunday**

**Wednesday, February 14 | No EDGE: Ash Wednesday**

**Coming Up: Sunday, February 18 | Luke 18 Lock-in  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. in the Parish Center**

Our high school teens will be hard at work at this year's Luke 18 Preparation Day, held all day in the Parish Center. We will work on testimonies and retreat prep projects, as well as have times of prayer and community building as we work towards this awesome retreat. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided and we will attend the 5:30 p.m. Life Teen Mass as part of our day together. Please pray for us!



### SAVE THE DATES:

**March 8–9: Luke 18 Retreat**

**May 5: Main Street Live—Life Teen Talent Show**

**July 12–15: Steubenville Youth Conference**

**July 29–August 3: Life Teen at Camp Covecrest and (New This Year) EDGE at Camp Hidden Lake!**

#### Connect with us on Social Media:

##### Instagram:

@assumption\_life\_teen // @assumption\_edge

##### Facebook:

Assumption Life Teen // Assumption EDGE

#### QUESTIONS? Contact **Becky Whitaker**, Director of Youth Minister

636-240-3721 ext. 243 or [beckywhitaker@abvmtech.org](mailto:beckywhitaker@abvmtech.org)

#### **Alejandro DeHerrera**, Middle School Youth Minister

636-240-3721 ext. 333 or [alejandroderrera@abvmtech.org](mailto:alejandroderrera@abvmtech.org)

## RCIA: THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



This weekend the RCIA team met with each individual to explore the direction in which their faith journey is leading them. God is definitely in charge of these individuals. We have witnessed their conversion and pray that you too will continue praying for us. Starting with Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten journey and The Purification and Enlightenment period. Next weekend, we celebrate the Rite of Sending at the 8am Mass and Rite of Election in the afternoon. So what does this mean? The Rite of Election formally concludes this part of their journey and begins a new period. In the afternoon, these men, women and sponsors celebrate the Rite of Election at the Cathedral with the Bishop. God is choosing those, who are able, to be disciples of Jesus. Those chosen are expected to be initiated into a life in Christ, The godparents' present their testimony to the Bishop that these men and women are ready to continue their journey to receive sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Their names are presented and accepted by the bishop.

We also have witnessed these men and women each Sunday and we also support their readiness to enter into a more spiritual journey to the Easter Vigil. In addition, you will see prayer cards in the bulletin. Each man, woman and child are invited to take multiple cards and journey with them through your prayers to the Easter Vigil. As a family, have your children draw pictures for them. Write prayers and welcome on the back of these cards. We need these returned by March 17. There will be a box in the Narthex marked RCIA Prayer Cards. The cards are returned to them on our spiritual retreat day on March 24.

Those not baptized will now be called The Elect. In the coming weeks we will spend more time on spiritual reflection. This is a time that we invite the whole community to walk our journey with us. We will focus on those things that we need to "fix" in our life. This is a time of spiritual renewal, conversion and inner reflections. During this period the Catechumens (The Elect) and the Candidates undertake a number of Rites, including the Scrutiny's and Presentations. They look to the Church to help them deepen their commitments and purify their hearts.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DURING FEBRUARY

As stewards of the monetary gifts that God has bestowed on us, we should give back to His Church and to other worthy causes. During the month of February, please support the general needs of the parish through the Sunday offertory, and consider the following specific causes and needs:

- ♦ **Ash Wednesday, February 14: Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.** This collection will help rebuild the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Activities supported by the collection include training seminarians and lay leaders, supporting social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, building and renovating churches, and evangelization through Catholic media.
- ♦ **February 18: Black and Indian Mission Collection.** The funds raised by this collection will support and strengthen the Church's evangelization efforts to the Black and Indian communities in the United States.
- ♦ **Debt Reduction:** Donations to this collection will pay down the balance of Assumption's loan from the Archdiocese, which we borrowed in 2013 to fund the expansion of the school building.
- ♦ **Education Fund:** Contributions to the Education Fund are used to provide tuition assistance to parents that want a Catholic education for their children but can't afford it.
- ♦ **St. Vincent de Paul:** Your contribution provides direct help to the poor in our local community. Since 1845, Vincentians have met face-to-face with individuals and families in poverty to provide support and help them through the most desperate times. Through your generosity, you help people struggling to survive, providing: clothing, shelter, food, medicine and more.

If you use online bill payment through your bank, please send a separate payment for the fund(s) of your choice and specify the name of the cause in the memo field of your payment instructions.

Thank you

## OUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

Weekly Offertory	Jan. 21, 2024	YTD 7/1/23 - 1/21/24	Loan taken out in 2013 for expansion of our school
Actual Collections	\$35,713	\$1,238,249	Original Loan \$3,306,127
Budget Target	<u>\$36,000</u>	<u>\$1,191,000</u>	Current balance owed \$719,886
Surplus / (Shortfall)	\$(287)	\$47,249	Monthly payment \$20,923
			<i>Last expected payment, August 2026</i>



**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/Our-Parish/Online-Giving](https://assumptionbvm.org/Our-Parish/Online-Giving)  
 or scan the QR Code



SCAN ME

## OFFICE INFORMATION

<b>ADDRESS/PHONE/HOURS</b> 403 N Main Street, O'Fallon MO 63366 636-240-3721 Parish Office Hours: Monday–Thurs 8am–4pm Friday 8am–3pm  <b>ASSUMPTION SCHOOL</b> 636-240-4474  <b>ST. VINCENT DE PAUL</b> 636-272-4758 (Helpline)	<b>BULLETIN NOTICES</b> Submit to Parish Office <a href="mailto:Bulletin.assumption@gmail.com">Bulletin.assumption@gmail.com</a> by Tuesday 9am  <b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b> Website: <a href="https://assumptionbvm.org">assumptionbvm.org</a> facebook.com: @assumptionparish @assumption media	<b>PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION</b> Religious instruction in the Catholic faith. Call 636-240-1020 for information or to register.  <b>MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION</b> 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.
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