

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

DECEMBER 10, 2023

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



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

©LPI

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

Assumption Staff
636-240-3721 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
Deacon Bob Hennekes

Parish Manager
225 Mark Vogt
business@abvmtech.org

Parish Secretary
221 Debbie Orf
debbieorf@abvmtech.org

Bulletin Announcements:
bulletin.assumption@gmail.com
(by Tuesdays 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

Middle School Youth Minister
333 Alejandro DeHerrera
alejandrodesherrera@abvmtech.org

Director of Music Ministry
326 Parker Bishop
music@abvmtech.org

Director of Communication
239 Nancy Gomer
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

Sunday Preschool
Denise Hoehne 314-954-3192

Parish Council
Abvparishcouncil3721@gmail.com

School Board
abvmschoolboard@gmail.com

Hello,

A week ago our second graders celebrated their First Reconciliation. As we see them taking this important step in their lives, hopefully it makes us consider being open to the grace of this sacrament ourselves. At one time the sacrament was a weekly practice for many before received the Eucharist each week, but today many Catholics would be hard-pressed to tell you how many years it has been since they celebrated the sacrament of Confession.



There are various reasons why it may have been a long time since someone has gone to Confession and I will try to address some of them:

I don't have any mortal sins: Great. But we don't need to have a mortal sin to need forgiving and to benefit from the grace God offers in this sacrament. If we are not open to that grace now it can only make it easier to fall into mortal sin and be harder to be open to the sacrament then.

I know I'm just going to do the same sins again: We might, and for some of the sins we probably will. But if we do not take the time to recognize and admit that they are sins, to realize we need forgiveness for them, and to ask for God's help, those vices that led us to these sins will only grow. The sacrament not only forgives us for our sins, but the grace can also help to develop virtues and overcome the temptations in the future.

It's been so long I forgot what I'm supposed to say: It is easiest just to start out saying "Bless me Father for I have sinned. It has been _____months/years since my last confession." You confess your sins and the priest will talk to you and give you a penance. Then you pray an act of contrition. You can use your own words or use a standard prayer such as "My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy." (This or a similar act of contrition is also available on cards in most confessionals.) The priest will then give you the blessing of absolution.

God doesn't need me to confess to a priest for my sins to be forgiven: Correct, God can do anything. But God gave us the Church and the sacraments as means to be open and cooperate with his grace. If we believe in God and the Church, then we should try to cooperate with Him.

As a priest, it is an incredible blessing to be able to minister the sacrament of Confession. Hearing people's struggles in their lives who are truly sorry for their sins and striving to grow in their faith. Their closeness to God is encouraging for me to see in those around me, and to know that with God's help, I can also overcome temptations in my life. Next weekend, we will be having a Reconciliation Weekend, where a priest will be available in the Chapel from 6-9pm on Friday evening and 9am-3:30pm on Saturday. Our regular Confession schedule here at Assumption is Monday-Friday from 7:30-7:50am and on Saturday 4:00-4:50pm. As we prepare for Christ's coming, what better way than to celebrate this sacrament.

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gerald Luetkenhaus,
father of Shannon and Kenny Greiner
and Derek and Danielle Menne

Judith Buss,
wife of Tom Buss

Sharon Rinearson,
wife of Ronald Rinearson
mother of Brad Rinearson

Paul Conley,
Brother of Tom Conley

THANK YOU

The family of Anne Krussel would like to thank everyone involved in her funeral Mass. Fr. Nick Kastenholz and my cousin Fr. Tom Wyrsh concelebrating the Mass, along with Deacon Fred Volansky assisting them. The music ministry, Missy Lowrey, and Parker Bishop, were awesome.

Thank you for providing the after funeral luncheon; to those who brought dishes from home and to those in charge of facilitating the operation of the food. The smiles on the faces of those who served and cared for us were amazing.

Thank You,
Marcia and Elmer Krussel

UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS



Sunday, December 10: Christmas Choral Concert

3pm in the Chapel.

Tuesday, December 12 and Wednesday, December 13: Knights of Columbus Christmas Pageant

6:30pm-7:15pm in the Church

Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16

Reconciliation Weekend

Confessions heard in the Chapel

Friday, 6-9pm

Saturday, 9am-3:30pm

Tuesday, December 19: Assumption School Christmas Program

6:30pm in the Church

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Vigil

4pm, 4:30pm (Chapel), 6pm, and 10pm

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day

8am, 10am, and Noon

Monday, January 1: Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

9am (no 6:30am or 8am services)

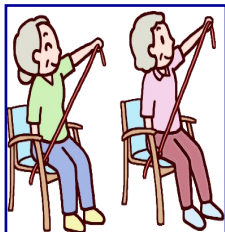
Monday, January 8: Epiphany Concert

7-9pm in the Church



FIT AND FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE CLASS STARTS DECEMBER 5

The next session of our **Fit and FUNCTIONal Exercise** class will begin next week on Tuesday, December 5. 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! Every effort will be made to make up any snow days.



Usually, sessions run for 8 weeks (at 2x/week), but due to the holidays, and the instructor, Debbie, expecting her first grandchild late January, this session will run for 6 weeks, with the rate reflecting the shortened timeframe. There will likely be a 2-week hiatus after this session while Debbie spends time with the baby!

When: Tuesday/Thursday, 8:45-9:45am,
December 5, 2023-January 18, 2024

Where: Hall A of the Parish Center

Cost: \$37.50 for 6 weeks/12 sessions

Questions? Contact Debbie Gentry, PT at
314-306-2697 or AtHomePartnersLLC@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 | 3PM

The Choral Arts Singers invite you to join us for our 52nd year of musical performance on Sunday, December 10 at 3pm as we present our annual Christmas Concert here at Assumption Parish in the CHAPEL.



"A Season of Joy" features songs by Bach and Marcello, Chestnuts Roasting and several other fun Christmas favorites. We hope that you can join us for a fun and festive afternoon of music with our new director Dr. Jeffrey Heyl.

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).



LADIES AUXILIARY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #2269 | COOKIE SALE DECEMBER 9 AND 10 | HALL A

Having company for the holidays? Want to buy a teacher's gift that's one of a kind? Going to Christmas parties and need a hostess gift? **Don't fuss and leave the baking to us!** The Ladies Auxiliary of Knights of Columbus Council #2269 is hosting their first ever cookie sale this weekend in the Parish Center.

The ladies will help you select a custom box, then you can pick and choose which holiday cookies you want to purchase for \$8 a pound. The cookie sale will be after the 5pm Mass on December 9 and after 8am, 10am, and 12pm Mass on December 10.



Mass Times and Intentions

Reconciliation

SUNDAY 12.10.23

8:00am Cecil Bess
10:00am People of the Parish
12:00pm Shirley Mackey
5:30pm Ron Hanebrink

By Appointment

MONDAY 12.11.23

6:30am Clyde Klump
8:00am Fr. Ron Rubbelke

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

TUESDAY 12.12.23

6:30am Richard and Robert
Scholten
8:00am Mabel Nielsen

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

WEDNESDAY 12.13.23

6:30am People of St. Barnabas
8:00am Anne Krussel

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

**50+ FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTMAS DINNER**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 | 6:30 PM



Our Christmas dinner will be Monday December 11, 2023 at 6:30pm. Everyone who has paid and on the list should bring a side dish or dessert. We will be entertained with lots of holiday music featuring pianist Lamar Pilsing. Dinner is being catered by Dean Henningford. You may bring a bottle of wine to share.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob and Liz Allmeyer, 636-240-8638, or Linda Lambing, 314-599-8429.

**ATTENTION MEN
OF ASSUMPTION PARISH:**

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

Join us **December 16** in the lower hall of the Knights of Columbus building for another amazing session of TMIY. Our start time is **7:15am** with breakfast, a short video, table discussion, and then we'll have you on your way by **8:30am**. We will continue to learn how to be better men of God, better husbands, better sons, better fathers and be Men after God's own heart!



This week's session: "The Kingdom is Like Weeds Among the Wheat" Speaker Fr. Leo Patalinghug

- ◆ Learn to Feed Your Family Both Spiritually and Physically
- ◆ Succulent Fried Chicken Breast Over a Wedge Salad with Greens
- ◆ Learning How to Use The Weeds in The World and In Your Life
- ◆ Embrace Your Humanity - Be Humble and Authentic
- ◆ Identifying and Rooting Out the Weeds in Your Life
- ◆ Allow God to Redeem All of Your Imperfections
- ◆ Even Sin can be Transformed into Moments of Grace

For more information, contact Deacon Richard at DeaconRichard@charter.net or 314-397-2433.

**ASSUMPTION CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
FEATURES HEARTWARMING STORY
OF JESUS' BIRTH**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 AND
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 6:30 PM**

Let the children of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish warm your hearts this holiday season with the sixth Annual Christmas Pageant. Performances are free and begin at 6:15 p.m. in the Church.

Presented by the Knights of Columbus Council #2269, this 45-minute production features children in pre-K through eighth grades dressed in period costume portraying the story of the birth of Jesus Christ through traditional Christmas songs and gospel messages. The show is written and directed by Ken Thornhill, Assumption parishioner by day and aircraft mechanic by night, with the assistance of previous pageant performers Molly Rost, Molly Vohsen, Charlotte Thomas, and Maria Thessen. The performance will feature four narrators, townspeople, shepherds, three wise men, a Chorus of Angels, and six main characters, including Mary, Joseph, Isaiah, Zachariah, Elizabeth and Archangel Gabriel. Reverend Nick Kastenzholz, Assumption Pastor, and Monsignor Dennis Stehly, Senior Associate Pastor, also will make cameo appearances during the two-day event.

Don't miss it! This heartwarming performance is sure to get you into the Christmas spirit. Registration is not necessary and all ages are welcome!

For more information about the performances, please contact Ken Thornhill at gocurtis28@yahoo.com or call Assumption Parish at 636-240-3721



THURSDAY 12.14.23

6:30am Priests Intention
8:00am Pat Luetkenhaus

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

FRIDAY 12.15.23

6:30am Priests Intention
8:00am James McHugh

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

SATURDAY 12.16.23

8:00am Nita Kaltenbach
5:00pm Jack Begley

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

SUNDAY 12.17.23

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am Kevin Hale
12:00pm Herbert O. Simon
5:30pm Stephanie Carpenter

By Appointment



**Epiphany
Concert and Choral
Showcase**

Monday, January 8, 7pm

Join us in the Church as we welcome
Assumption Choir and Guitar Groups,
St. Paul Choir (St. Paul),
Immaculate Heart of Mary (New Melle),
St. Gianna (Wentzville),
Immaculate Conception
(Dardenne Prairie), and
St. Joseph (Cottleville)
as we sing Christmas hymns
and other favorites!

SAVE THE DATE:
LADIES WHITE HOUSE RETREAT
FEBRUARY 22–FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Spend some time with the Lord this Lent 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, 7400 Christopher Dr. in St. Louis. **The retreat begins Thursday, February 22 with check-in from 4:30–6:30pm and ends after lunch on Sunday February 25.**

The cost is around \$400 per participant and includes retreat participation, lodging and meals. We don't want anybody to miss out on this amazing retreat! If you are unable to pay the \$400, a free-will offering will be taken after the retreat and participants are asked to give what they are able.



To reserve your spot, please contact Mary Keen, mlkeen155@icloud.com or 636-699-0407. Space is limited. No reservations taken after January 7.

SAVE THE DATE:
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 Mike Vohsen, 314-951-4733, mike.vohsen@gmail.com for the Men's Retreat.

SAVE THE DATE:
MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE
MARCH 11–MARCH 22, 2024

Have you heard about Medjugorje? Medjugorje is a town in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It's been an unofficial place of Catholic pilgrimage since the Virgin Mary allegedly appeared on Apparition Hill in 1981.

Have you thought about going but have not done so yet? Well, parishioners from Assumption will be going again, March 11-22, 2024. Registration and payment is required by January 1, 2024. Come join us, and be one of those, afterwards, telling stories about your experiences to others.



To learn more, contact Ray Gerard, 847-638-5242, rgerard@hush.com, or Diane Gerard, 224-224-4487, dgerard77@comcast.net.



Join us for the
**MAKING MISSIONARY
DISCIPLES TRACK**

There is a lot of talk in the Church today about evangelization and missionary discipleship, but what does that look like?

Thousands of priests, bishops, parish and diocesan leaders, lay catechists and Catholics from around the world will gather at the **Making Missionary Disciples Track** at SEEK24 to learn from experts and leaders in evangelization. Through talks, training and small groups, participants have the opportunity to develop the tools and skills of discipleship to *be the light* of Christ and transform their families, parishes and communities. **Join us!**

seek²⁴
St. Louis, MO | Jan 1-5 | focus

Join us for the
Making Missionary Disciples Track

Learn more and register: 

Practical training to answer your call to missionary discipleship

FOR ALL AGES
archstl.org/seek

THE GO & MAKE PODCAST BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Each Tuesday, we release a new episode of GO & MAKE, a podcast meant to equip our parishioners for real life evangelization.

Each week we provide updated graphics in various sizes, copy suggestions, a printable flyer, and other deliverables for you to promote this resource in your parishes.

In order to make GO & MAKE accessible to as many people as possible, we've made it available (for free) on all popular podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts and more. Just go to archstl.org and search for "GO & MAKE." Subscribe now or listen on Captivate.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD PROGRAM



All children ages 3 years to second grade who have not had their first communion are invited to participate in an interactive program where the Children's Liturgy of the Word is presented at their age level.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held every Sunday at the 10am Mass from October through May. It is free and no registration is required.

Children will be dismissed after the opening prayer and asked to follow the Catechist downstairs to Rooms D/E. The children will return to Mass at the start of the offertory.

We are looking for volunteers to serve as Catechists, timekeepers, and classroom support to help keep the children focused on the Word. This is a perfect opportunity for young adults to help and earn service hours towards their confirmation goals.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, contact Maria Tadlock, Shmilyrt@charter.net, 636-734-2817.

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Here Come Our Saints

In celebration of All Saints Day, on November 3, our little First Grader Saints came into church representing varying saints. Our song of praise filled the church as they entered.

2023-2024
Assumption
Theme

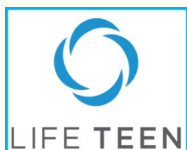


SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

This is a reminder that during school hours, we have recess from 10:30am-1:15pm and dismissal from 3pm-3:25pm that require a safe environment for the students and drivers. When an area is blocked off, please do not drive around the road blocks. If you need to park to go to the Church, Chapel or Parish Office, please park in the lot across the street from the Chapel or in the lower parking lot closer to Main Street.

Thank you!





HAPPY ADVENT FROM ASSUMPTION YOUTH MINISTRY

We have had an incredible fall semester with both Life Teen and EDGE, learning about our faith and growing in community. We hope this season of waiting and prayer that leads into Christmas is a time of renewal and hope for you and yours. Here's what's going on this week:

Sunday, December 10 | Life Teen: Girls and Guys Split—Fiat

6:30–8:45 p.m. in the Parish Center

All teens are invited to join us for a great night of fun, community and prayer! We will be splitting into guys and girls breakouts and continuing to pray into Advent, this time through the lens of our Blessed Mother. We can't wait to see you there!

Wednesday, December 13 | EDGE—PSR Christmas Program

6–7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center

EDGE will be attending our PSR Christmas Program as the final EDGE Night of our Fall Semester.



2024 Save the Date:

March 8–9: Luke 18 Retreat

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

Alejandro DeHerrera, Middle School Youth Minister, ext. 333
alejandrodereherra@abvmtech.org

HAND-STITCHED QUILTS FOR SALE

If you're looking for the perfect gift this Christmas, look no further! The Assumption Quilters are selling beautiful handmade quilts! These one-of-a-kind coverlets are perfect for anyone on your Christmas list. Each quilt is hand-stitched with care by our very own Assumption Quilters. There are several styles and sizes to choose from, which include:

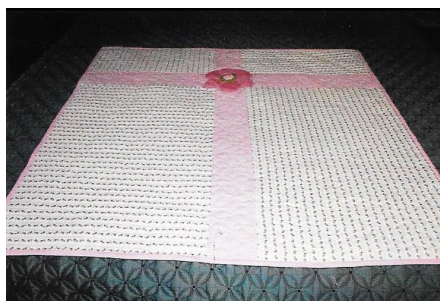
- ♦ Queen-size Quilts
- ♦ Full Size Quilt
- ♦ Baby Quilts
- ♦ Bed Runners

These are just a few photos of the quilts for sale. To view all the quilts and see the details about each, please visit our website at assumptionbvm.org.

If you are interested in purchasing a quilt, call Mary Pieper at 636-272-8292 and leave a message. Quilts can be purchased for cash or check only.



Queen-Size Quilt



Baby-Quilt 39" x 37.5"



Baby-Quilt 38" x 48"

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ASSUMPTION #iGiveCatholic!

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Assumption #iGiveCatholic Campaign on GivingTuesday. You offered a wonderful and meaningful gift allowing us to continue our good work here at Assumption.

Through your generosity, we raised \$6,716 or 90% of our goal of \$7,500, and ranked 19th on the leaderboard out of 65 catholic ministries participating within the St. Louis Archdiocese.



In addition to the many individual gifts, donations collected at this year's Advent By Candlelight celebration also benefited the Assumption #iGiveCatholic Campaign.

Blessings to all this Advent season.



100%

Missouri State Tax Credits

for making a child's educational dreams come true

For more information, please visit
TTEF-STL.org/TTEFMOScholars



TODAY & TOMORROW
CHANGING THE FUTURE — ONE CHILD AT A TIME



OUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

Weekly Offertory	Nov. 19, 2023	YTD 7/1/23 - 11/19/23	<u>Loan taken out in 2013 for expansion of our school</u>
Actual Collections	\$120,509 *	\$837,696	Original Loan \$3,306,127
Budget Target	\$35,000	\$784,500	Current balance owed \$736,586
Surplus / (Shortfall)	\$85,509	\$53,196	Monthly payment \$20,923
			<i>Last expected payment, August 2026</i>

Our collections for the week of 11/19/2023 include \$86,729 from the estate of Fr. Ron Rubbelke. This was a remarkable and generous gift from our former Associate Pastor, who already was a perfect example of generosity of time and spirit.



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
or scan the QR Code



SCAN ME

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–3pm

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

636-240-4474

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

636-272-4758 (Helpline)

BULLETIN NOTICES

Submit to Parish Office
Bulletin.assumption@gmail.com
by Tuesday 9am

SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: assumptionbvm.org
facebook.com: @assumptionparish
@assumption media

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.