Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

DECEMBER 17, 2023

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



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 alejandrodeherrera@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,

I don't know if you have ever noticed, but the words that appear at each of the Sunday's during Advent (**Hope, Peace, Joy, Love**) in the sanctuary of church, can be different depending on who you talk to. And I agree with some of the different arrangements, except for one week, the third week has to be Joy.



The reason for this is not only what I have known it to be my whole life, but it is the one that is unique—the rose candle—the priest has the option of wearing rose vestments that Sunday. The words for the three purple candles you might move around (faith, hope, peace, love), but the Church has defined for us that of the four Sundays of Advent, this Sunday we can wear rose, (and many expect us to, because they can see the candle) and rose is for joy.

This Sunday is specifically referred to as *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for Rejoice, and in the opening antiphon for Mass (the biblical passage we would recite if we did not have an opening hymn) it says:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." (Phil 4:4-5)

In the opening prayer for Mass we will also hear the word 'joy' and the First and Second Readings also have the word 'rejoice' in them.

The antiphon still does have the admission that this is anticipation, the Lord is near, not here yet, but you could say this is even stronger than 'hope' that we had on our first week in the conviction that He is coming. As we continue on this Advent journey may we be joyful in our preparations, so we not only will be ready for Christ, but radiating that joy we also attract others to come on the journey with us.

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 <u>assumptionbym.weadorehim.com</u>

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.



Ida Kopf,

wife of the late Richard Kopf

Joyce Probus

mother of Jill Brinkmann

UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS



Tuesday, December 19: Assumption School Christmas Program

6:30pm in the Church 6:30-7pm: Pre-K—Kindergarten 7:30-8:30pm: First-Fourth Grades

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Vigil 4pm, 4:30pm (Chapel), 6pm, and 10pm Monday, December 25: Christmas Day 8am, 10am, and Noon

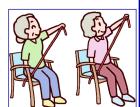
Monday, January 1: Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God 9am (no 6:30am or 8am services)

Monday, January 8: Epiphany Concert 7-9pm in the Church



FIT AND FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE CLASS

The next session of our **Fit and FUNctional Exercise** class has begun. 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

PRAYER BEFORE THE NATIVITY SCENE

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women
this peace for which they
sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.
Awaken in their hearts
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.





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 now 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.

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

Mass Times and Intentions

Reconciliation

SUNDAY 12.17.23

8:00am People of the Parish 10:00am Kevin Hale

12:00pm Herbert O. Simon5:30pm Stephanie Carpenter

By Appointment

MONDAY 12.18.23

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

7:30–7:50am Church or by appointment

TUESDAY 12.19.23

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

7:30–7:50am Church or by appointment

WEDNESDAY 12.20.23

6:30am Clyde Klump 8:00am Priests Intention

7:30–7:50am Church or by appointment

RCIA: THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Imagine a picture of a milk bottle on a blackboard "filled" with white chalk. The bottle is our soul, and the white is grace that God poured into us through sacraments. The original word for "sacraments—the one the apostles used—is "mysteries." Sacraments are mysteries, like the mystery of being in love. Try to explain the mystery of being in love to a child, and you see how limited our explanation can be. We can only tell them our story. The secret to how sacraments work is different for everyone. We have to listen to the church and to the stories of others and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and then, finally, figure it out for ourselves. Every sacrament has a mystery to it that we have to discover for ourselves. The last few weeks we started looking at Sacraments.

A Sacrament is an action of Christ and the Church that brings about what it signifies. For example, the water poured at Baptism is both an external sign and a spiritual reality. In this sacrament, the external and visible sign of washing with water actually accomplishes the interior and spiritual reality of cleansing the soul from all sin, making the person a new creation. When this is understood and believed, the Sacraments are able to take full effect in our lives. We must comprehend what is taking place and allow the spiritual reality to touch and change our lives.

Intimate communion with Jesus is the goal of all catechesis. What better way to intimately know Jesus than our Sacraments. First, an introduction to Sacraments. Thereafter, each week we look into each one of our Sacraments. Last week we talked about the Sacrament of Baptism, Jesus's Baptism. This week we discuss the Sacrament of Confirmation: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and saints.

Most of us experienced our baptism as infants. We have no memory of it ourselves and can only ask our parents to recount the experience for us. Nevertheless, imagine if you were there at your own baptism.

What would you have seen and heard?

Who do you think would have been there?

What kinds of expressions would they have on their faces?

What do you think they were feeling or thinking at that moment?

Now consider the Baptism of Jesus in relation to your own baptism. In baptism, we become like Christ, God's sons and daughters. Picture the priest pouring water over your infant head or dunking you in the baptismal font. Then at that moment, look up and imagine these words being proclaimed in silence, "This is my beloved [son/daughter] with whom I am well pleased." Now, imagine these words being said to you, today, right now. God speaks directly and privately to you: "You are my beloved child with whom I am well pleased." Silently, respond to him. What would you say if you heard these words from God right now?

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.



THURSDAY 12.21.23

6:30am Philomene Orf 8:00am Priests Intention

7:30–7:50am Church or by appointment

FRIDAY 12.22.23

6:30am Betty Bruegenhemke 8:00am Norbert and John Rothermich

7:30–7:50am Church or by appointment

SATURDAY 12.23.23

8:00am Cecil Bass 5:00pm James Barry

4:00–4:45pm Church or by appointment

SUNDAY 12.24.23

8:00am Henry and Jane Sachs 10:00am Jack Gierten 12:00pm People of the Parish 4:00pm Shirley Mackey 4:30pm Betty Bruegenhemke (Chapel)

6:00pm People of the Parish 10:00pm Lester Wood





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!



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 our 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: 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 to Medjugorje 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, <u>rgerard@hush.com</u>, or Diane Gerard, 224-224-4487, <u>dgerard77@comcast.net</u>.

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.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING CHRISTMAS SO SPECIAL FOR SO MANY THIS YEAR

Christmas is going to be a whole lot brighter for our "Neighbors-in-Need" this year because of your generous donations, and assistance from the Assumption St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) ministry.

Over the weekend, Assumption SVdP ministry volunteers provided 138 families the opportunity to shop for new toys, books, food and snacks, and everyday necessities in the Parish Center during the annual SVdP Christmas Drive. The number of families that received assistance through the much needed program increased from last year as so many of these families have been struggling to make ends meet.

A special thanks to our generous parishioners for the Giving Tree Gifts and new basic item donations, our Parish School of Religion (PSR) students for providing pre-packaged goods and gifts for teens, and the O'Fallon Fire Department for their generous donation of toys and food. Your generosity and kindness knows no bounds. Wishing you and yours many blessings this Christmas season.



















PRINCIPAL'S PEN 👤



Mission Game Day

Most people have already forgotten the Maui wildfires. However, as part of the eighth graders leadership and service program, their Mission Game Day this year provided funding to those in Maui, Hawaii. All donations support the financial resources for long-term recovery needs for the families and places still affected by the devastating wildfires. Today, thousands of people are still displaced, being shuffled from one temporary location to another.

2023-2024 Assumption Theme





The eighth graders developed Mission Game Day games and activities, which focused on helping our students understand the idea of helping others as part of our faith. Remembering our theme for the year, "**Do small things with great love**" helps each of our students see the value of each penny and nickel being contributed to help someone in need.

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, eighth graders were in each classroom working

with students of all ages. The morning started with Mass at 8am. Then students transitioned to homerooms for Bingo. At 9:45am, students then went to one of three locations: the gym, music room, or art room to participate in another game activity. About 11am, students filtered through the Bake Sale in the Parish Hall where the eighth graders had prepared treats to purchase and eat. Eighth graders also sponsored a raffle at \$0.50 a ticket. The winners received \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, and there were two winners for a dress down week.



The 2023 Mission Game Day raid \$1712.50 for rebuilding in Hawaii. A shout out to all of the eighth graders for NOT forgetting the people that others have forgotten by developing a plan to collect and donate funds to a worthy cause! I am proud of you.

Beauty and the Beast

Sports tends to be a highlight each season, but at Assumption, twice a year, we highlight our talent in theater, dance, and music. This year's musical: **Disney's Beauty and the Beast**, was held November 3-5 in our school gym. Having seen the production, I can say it was, "WOW!" especially the entire cast's choreography of "Be Our Guest," which was masterful, with spoons, forks, napkins, plates, cups, and saucers dancing and singing across the stage.

Director Ms. Patti Stoltman and the many adult support team members made the production amazing. Our students were

outstanding as members of stage crew, props, costuming, and make-up. Of course, students were actors, actresses, dancers, and singers. What a wonderful way to experience something completely different, make new friends, and become part of a community that creates memories of a lifetime.

If you missed this wonderful experience of Assumption students being mini-Broadway performers, come May 3, 4 and 5 to see Aladdin, Jr. in our school gymnasium.

Thanks for reading about Assumption School,

Dr. Pat Hensley







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 17 | Life Teen: Christmas Party 6:30–8:45 p.m. in the Parish Center

All teens are invited to join us for our annual Christmas party! Expect fun, food, and faith. We can't wait to see you there!

Wednesday, December 20 | No EDGE—Christmas Break

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 alejandrodeherrera@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 Quilts,

Baby Quilts, and 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 assumptionbym.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



Queen-Size Quilt



Queen-Size Quilt



Baby-Quilt 39" x 37.5"



Baby-Quilt 38" x 48"

CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO ASSUMPTION FROM YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by making a gift to Assumption Parish or Assumption School. The benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings and other financial benefits can provide an incentive to make a gift at this time of year. A gift also can help support Assumption for years to come.

If you are over 70.5 years of age and have an IRA, you can arrange for all or part of your RMD (required minimum distribution) to be sent to the parish instead of being included in your taxable income. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution and is a great way to save on your taxes, even if you don't itemize your deductions. Your IRA administrator can help you with that.

For more information on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year—end gift to Assumption, please contact Fr. Nick or Mark Vogt in the Parish Office at 636-240-3721.



OUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

Weekly Offertory	Nov. 26, 2023	YTD 7/1/23 - 11/26/23	Loan taken out in 2013 for expansion of our school	
Actual Collections	\$34,475	\$872,171 \$ <u>817,500</u> \$54,671	Original Loan	\$3,306,127
Budget Target	\$33,000		Current balance owed	\$736,586
0 0			Monthly payment	\$20,923
Surplus / (Shortfall)	\$1,475		Last expected payment, August 2026	

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 OR Code



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: assumptionbym.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.