

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

DECEMBER 24, 2023

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



FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

©LPI

SACRAMENTS AND PARISH INFORMATION

ANOIDNTING 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
alejandroderrera@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

Merry Christmas,

I don't know if you knew it, but this year is the **800th Anniversary** of when St. Francis had the idea to orchestrate a large and live nativity scene, or Creche, for the Christmas Eve service in the town of Greccio, Italy in 1223. They were planning on an outdoor service, because the church wasn't big enough to hold all who would attend. Francis wanted to have a live Ox and an Ass and set up a manger scene to remind people of the true poverty that the baby Jesus was born into in this humble town of Bethlehem. It was a little radical (having the live animals especially), so Francis even asked the pope's permission before moving forward. Francis wanted to make it memorable, and something that would remind people of why we really celebrate Christmas because he thought many were getting overcome with the commercialization and materialism that had taken over Christmas for some. (I can't imagine what Francis would think today.) The hope was that this nativity scene would remind people of the incredible joy they could witness of the birth of Christ even in the setting of such poverty.

There had been nativity scenes before this, from almost the beginning of the Church actually, but word of what Francis had done in Greccio spread and made the practice of having a nativity scene at churches and homes a common practice. Hopefully, most of us still have a tradition of a nativity scene in our homes, and it does help to keep us conscious of why we celebrate Christmas and to help us find the calm and peace of the gift of Christ.

May you and your families have a Merry Christmas.

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

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.

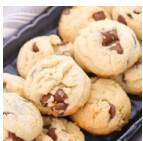
IN LOVING MEMORY

Victor Mennemeier,
of our Parish family

Betty Townsend,
of our Parish family

THANK YOU

Thanks to all the parishioners that shopped at our first cookie sale! We really appreciate your support. We sold out! More than 3,000 cookies and candies were sold! We hope you enjoy all those amazing sweet treats. We baked them with love especially for all of you!



Merry Christmas from all the members of the Ladies Auxiliary.



COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS: SUNDAY AND THE HOLY DAY

If you are confused about the Christmas 2023 obligation this year, you are not alone. Since Christmas Eve is also the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, it means the faithful must attend two Masses to meet their Sunday and Christmas Day obligations.

Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 23
5pm

Sunday, December 24, Day Masses
8am, 10am, and 12pm (no 5:30pm Mass)

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



The Church Office will be closed:

Monday, December 25

Tuesday, December 26

Monday, January 1

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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.
Pope Saint John XXIII



Epiphany Concert and Choral Showcase

Monday, January 8, 7pm

Join us in the Church as we welcome

Assumption Choir and Groups
including the 10am Adult Choir, 12pm Choir,
and The Life Teen Band,

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 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.



	SUNDAY 12.24.23	MONDAY 12.25.23	TUESDAY 12.26.23	WEDNESDAY 12.27.23
Mass Times and Intentions	8:00am Henry and Jane Sachs 10:00am Jack Gerten 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	8:00am Henry Prinster 10:00am Bob Crangle 12:00pm Jerry and Joan Barton	6:30am Kristi Nickles & family 8:00am Venancio Salas	6:30am Fr. Ron Rubbelke 8:00am Carmela Bamert
Reconciliation		7:30–7:50am Church or by appointment	7:30–7:50am Church or by appointment	7:30–7:50am Church or by appointment

seek²⁴
St. Louis, MO | Jan 1-5 

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

seek²⁴
St. Louis, MO | Jan 1-5 

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:
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, rgerard@hush.com, or Diane Gerard, 224-224-4487, dgerard77@comcast.net.

**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.

THURSDAY 12.28.23

6:30am James Pochop
8:00am Pat Luetkenhaus

7:30–7:50am Church
or by appointment

FRIDAY 12.29.23

6:30am Arnold S. Becker
8:00am Rob Pruitt

7:30–7:50am Church
or by appointment

SATURDAY 12.30.23

8:00am Mary J. Wilmes
5:00pm Karen Brady

4:00–4:45pm Church
or by appointment

SUNDAY 12.31.23

8:00am Carmela Bamert
10:00am Clarence Thessen
12:00pm Priests Intention
5:30pm People of the Parish

By Appointment

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who came to see the show! The kids did a fantastic job singing and performing! We hope you enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you! Merry Christmas!





WELCOME TO THE ASSUMPTION MUSIC MINISTRY, MARY AND KEN POORMAN!

These professional musicians, who are also a beautiful husband and wife duo, will be serving as alternate pastoral musicians during Mass. The Poorman's have years of experience in musical worship, directing vocal choirs, bell choirs, and contemporary Christian rock bands. Ken plays jazz bass and is a member of "Phoenix," a dance band that hires for weddings and other events. Mary completed the Archdiocesan Music Directors program, and has served parishes as a music director, guitarist, and liturgist.



The Poorman's moved to O'Fallon four year's ago, but attended Mass at St. Martin De Porres because they were the parish staff musicians. Unfortunately, St. Martin closed in November due to parish mergers. Now, Mary and Ken are happy to continue their ministry at Assumption! Please stop by to welcome them if you see them playing at Mass. They are excited about joining our flourishing parish and getting to know everyone!

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Christmas Day Table Prayer

Lord God of Life,
together with the beautiful traditions
of decorating the Christmas tree,
of singing carols and giving gifts,
this Christmas dinner is an important part
of our celebration of the birth
of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

2023-2024
Assumption
Theme



Come, Lord our God,
and surround our feast day table
as we delight in this joyous season of Christmas.
Gift us in this meal with the taste of happiness
as we savor this coming together
of family and friends.
As sparkling stars and singing angels rejoiced
at the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem,
so may we take great joy
in this our Christmas dinner-celebration.

May You, our God, bless it and us
in Your holy name.

—Edward Hays

Christ's Blessings at Christmas!

Dr. Pat Hensley



MERRY CHRISTMAS 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 will be taking a break from Youth
Ministry programming until January 10. Enjoy this
season of celebration and joy! We can't wait to see what
God has for us during this Christmas season and into
the New Year.

2024 Save the Date:

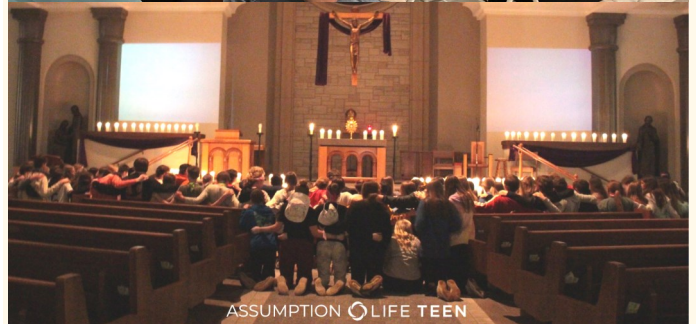
January 10: EDGE Kick off

January 14: Life Teen Kick off—Bunco Bonanza

March 8–9: Luke 18 Retreat

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

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

RCIA: THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA

Our last faith formation of this year was last weekend. On January 7, 2024 we begin our faith formation again and pick up on remaining sacraments, Marriage, Reconciliation. Anointing of the Sick, and Eucharist. We leave you today with a few reflections.

Sacraments are signs, tangible realities that point to the intangible mystery of God's grace. Christmas celebrates Jesus as the "sacrament of God"—the Word become flesh. In Jesus, the divine becomes tangible. In the Eucharist, we continue to encounter the Word made flesh in a very real way. We Catholics are a sacramental people who encounter the transcendent God through the immanence of sacraments and sacramental. As St. Ignatius of Loyola taught, we find God in all things, *our Advent wreaths are shining brightly with all four candles lit—a sign that the light of Christ dispels the darkness of our lives. We Catholics are a people of hope. We belt out the song "Joy to the World" during the Christmas season. However, all year long, we "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ!" This joy is fueled by the realization that God loves us so much that he gave us his only Son, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. This worldview calls us to be evangelizers, eagerly proclaiming the good news of Jesus to others in word and deed. The joy of Christmas is a joy that we are called to carry with us year-round!* Joe Paprocki's Catechist's Journey

Allow this time of prayer to speak to you and reveal to you, more deeply, the great and glorious mystery of the birth of God Incarnate, the Savior of the world. *"On this holy night, while we contemplate the Infant Jesus just born and placed in the manger, we are invited to reflect. How do we welcome the tenderness of God? Do I allow myself to be taken up by God, to be embraced by him, or do I prevent him from drawing close?"* - Pope Francis (Christmas Homily, 2014)

Have a very Blessed Christmas and New Year.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH BULLETIN

Build your business **and** help the Parish of Assumption grow a vibrant faith community by advertising in our bulletin!

We are seeking new support via advertisers. By becoming an advertiser or sponsor, Assumption has the opportunity to receive a bulletin at **no cost to the church**.



Other benefits include:

- ♦ **Local, targeted community advertising** for **one full year**, at one low price
- ♦ A **FREE** listing on parishesonline.com
- ♦ **FREE, professional ad design**, and 4 free ad changes per year (if desired)
- ♦ Support our parish!

Bob Swagman works with our bulletin publishing partner, Liturgical Publications, and is now securing new ads for the bulletin and can provide parishioner price concessions.

For more information, contact Bob at 636-346-2058 or RSwagman@4lpi.com.

RESIDENT SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED

Our Lady's Inn is looking for a part-time/full-time Resident Support Staff (RSS) at our Defiance location to support our clients in the maternity home. RSS will provide client transportation, may assist with serving meals, and helping out with answering phone or door. Must be available evenings and weekends.



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.



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for making a child's educational dreams come true

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




OUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

Weekly Offertory	Dec. 3, 2023	YTD 7/1/23 - 12/3/23	Loan taken out in 2013 for expansion of our school
Actual Collections	\$41,837	\$914,008	Original Loan \$3,306,127
Budget Target	<u>\$48,500</u>	<u>\$866,000</u>	Current balance owed \$736,586
Surplus / (Shortfall)	\$(6,663)	\$48,008	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
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.