

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

DECEMBER 31, 2023

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



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD, ©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 at the Parish Office, 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

Hello,

At the end of the year we start to see lists of the “best” or “most of” for the year. After looking at a few of these and the most searched people or things on Google, I thought I would see if a list of what people searched for about religion. There wasn’t a specific list for this so far for 2023, but I did find a few recurring articles from past years that had similar rankings for 2020 and 2022, so I will refer to 2022’s. The Article was ‘100 Top Religious Theological Internet Searches 2022’ on Oct 25, 2022 by Kevin Bart under the title of Pursuing Intimacy with God. ([100 Top Religious Theological Internet Searches 2020 - Pursuing Intimacy With God](#))



The top 10 searches were:

1. What is love? (love) 7,480,000
2. Who is Jesus? (jesus) 2,740,000
3. What is the Big Bang? (big bang) 2,740,000
4. What is the church? (church) 2,240,000
5. What is the Salvation Army? (salvation army) 1,830,000
6. What is money? (money) 1,830,000
7. What is sin? (sinned/sin) 1,500,000
8. Who is God? (god) 1,500,000
9. What are the seven deadly sins (seven deadly sins)? 1,220,000
10. What is Psalm 91? (psalm 91) 1,220,000

I thought it was interesting that some of these searches were even considered under this topic, such as the number one search, ‘What is love?’ I think it is good that they consider ‘love’ to be a religious–theological topic, but I don’t know if the people typing the search would have always intended it that way, similarly with ‘the Big Bang’ and ‘money.’

One of the reasons I think it is good to know what or how people are searching is to be able to help them find answers. **All Things New** wasn’t just to rearrange parishes in the archdiocese over the last few years, but hopefully to see how we can better evangelize others and evangelize ourselves. I was surprised to see that ‘sin’ was so high on the list, it made me think about whether they were questioning if there even is such a thing as sin, or if they wanted to know examples of things considered sinful (searching for the seven deadly sins would definitely be more of the second of those.) #15 on the list was ‘What is hell?’, and #18 was ‘What is prayer?’ A little more direct was #14, ‘What is the Catholic Church?’

Some of these searches sound so basic you wonder where you might begin. And I think it is good to wonder about this so we will be prepared for the question when it might come up. Also, reflecting on some of these questions might help each of us ourselves to consider what questions we have, and are we seeking the answers or not?

Our parish subscribes to a website that can help with some of this called ‘**Formed.org**.’ They have a series of videos on it entitled ‘**the Search**’ which I will be promoting over the next few weeks and hopefully watching with you over the following several weeks. I hope we can all grow in our faith and be open to share it with others in the coming year.

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

Robert Seifert,
husband of Carol Seifert

Rich Bequette,
father of Bill Bequette

Judy Ruether,
mother of Marcy Arrowood

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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, January 1 | **Happy New Year**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Some of the talented kids from The Knights of Columbus Christmas Pageant will be putting on a short Epiphany skit before the 5pm Mass on Jan. 6 and the 10am Mass on Jan. 7 beginning 15 minutes prior to Mass. Please arrive early to watch and be inspired by these talented children from our parish!

After those Epiphany Masses, the Wise Men will be handing out small gifts to the children in the Narthex.



THE SEARCH

Check out 'the Search' video series and consider some of the big questions in life.

What Do You Seek? | Who Are You?
Why a God? | What's Our Story? | Who is Jesus?
Am I Saved? | Why a Church?

In a few weeks Assumption will be discussing these questions as a parish.

Log on to view, read, and listen to 'the Search' and other material to help grow in your faith. Signing up for FORMED is quick and easy.

Just follow these simple instructions:

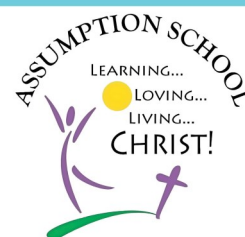
1. Go to formed.org/signup
2. Search for your parish by Zip Code (63366)
Click on your parish
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check your email account for a link to begin using FORMED





Grow With Us!

PRE-K - 8TH GRADE



Open House/Tours

Sunday, January 28

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SENDING YOUR CHILD TO ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS NOT OUT OF REACH!

Now more than ever, families with children in K-8th grades have the opportunity to afford a Catholic education through the following Archdiocesan scholarships:



Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation (TTEF) Scholarships

The application process opens at 8 a.m., January 22 on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED basis.

Many families will qualify!

Scan the QR Code

Click: Apply for Scholarship

We encourage ALL FAMILIES to apply.

Scan me



MOScholars Scholarships

The application process begins at 8 a.m., February 1. All interested families should apply!

Scan the QR Code

Take the prequalification survey

Scan me

Providing your child with a Catholic learning environment not only allows them to become closer to God, it provides them with a private education at an affordable price. Classroom sizes are limited, so don't miss out!

Grow your child's academic success! **Assumption open enrollment begins on Sunday, January 28 during Open House from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** Along with current families, potential students in Pre-K through Eighth Grade and their families are invited to meet our faculty, staff and administration and tour the school.

Can't wait? Consider taking a private tour or arrange for your child to shadow a student for the day. Contact Principal, Dr. Patricia Hensley at 636-240-4474, if interested.

For more information about tuition assistance, contact the school at 636-240-4474 or Mark Vogt, Assumption Business Manager at 636-240-3721 ext 225. For more information about Assumption School, **visit us online at assumptionbvm.org.**

Mass Times and Intentions

Reconciliation

SUNDAY 12.31.23

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

By Appointment

MONDAY 1.1.24

9:00am Priests Intention
(no 6:30am or 8am Mass)

7:30–7:50am Church
or by appointment

TUESDAY 1.2.24

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

7:30–7:50am Church
or by appointment

WEDNESDAY 1.3.24

6:30am Priests Intention
8:00am Jeanne M. Donovan

7:30–7:50am Church
or by appointment



Join Us January 7 HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

IN THE PARISH CENTER
FOLLOWING 8 AM, 10 AM & NOON MASS

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!

ASSUMPTION BLOOD DRIVE COMING JANUARY 14, 2024



Assumption Parish will be hosting another blood drive. You are encouraged to consider making a donation of the **Gift of Life**. ImpactLife will be in the Parish Hall on **Sunday, January 14, 9am–1:30pm**. We look forward to welcoming you there! If you have not donated blood since November 20, you are eligible to donate at this drive. **Donations must be by appointment only.**

To schedule your appointment, you can scan the QR Code, visit bloodcenter.org/group, using group code 9007, or call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 for assistance in scheduling. Our parish coordinator, Mary Anne Robinson, can also be reached at 636-541-2823 to assist with scheduling.



ASSUMPTION GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP | BEGINS FEBRUARY 1



It is hard to imagine that there could be any life at the other end of our grief.

Assumption Parish's Grief Support Team cordially invites those of you, 18 years of age and older, who are grieving the death of a loved one, to our upcoming Grief Support Series.

Our first session will begin at 7pm on **Thursday, February 1** in the Meyer Room. Together we will share a Journey of Hope after the loss of a loved one. Remember that Grief Shared is Grief Diminished.

To register or if you need any additional information, please contact: Lynn Crews at 636-294-0821, 314-578-0741 or lynncrews@abvmtech.org. Please register by Tuesday, January 30.

THURSDAY 1.4.24

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

7:30–7:50am Church
or by appointment

FRIDAY 1.5.24

6:30am Vocation to the Priesthood
and Religious Life
8:00am Frank Keeven

7:30–7:50am Church
or by appointment

SATURDAY 1.6.24

8:00am Joan Dickey
5:00pm People of the Parish

4:00–4:45pm Church
or by appointment

SUNDAY 1.7.24

8:00am Pauline Cox
10:00am Rosemary Naumann
(special intention)
12:00pm Pat Luetkenhaus
5:30pm Priests Intention

By Appointment

LADIES WHITE HOUSE RETREAT

FEBRUARY 22–FEBRUARY 25, 2024

RESERVE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 7

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, contact Mary Keen, 636-699-0407 or mlkeen155@icloud.com. **Space is limited.**

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.

January 12-13, 2024

Friday: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday: 9 am - 4 pm

St. Patrick Church

\$20 per person

\$25 per couple

Registration includes:

Comprehensive Workbook

Light Breakfast & Lunch on Saturday

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE

THEOLOGY
OF THE

Body



**Please register by
Thursday, January 4**

*Engaging Video Series
with Christopher West*

*Insightful Discussions
and Reflections*

*Practical Application
to Daily Life*

**DISCOVERING GOD'S
MASTER PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE**

UNLOCK THE WISDOM OF JOHN PAUL II'S TEACHINGS

Come discover the master plan for your life and your relationships, God's plan for humanity; the origin, history and destiny, the why's of Catholic teaching, the logic of Christianity as it corresponds with the desires of the human heart. This teaching is approachable, easy to understand and perfectly timed for the world of today.

This workshop is for adults, but age 16-17 are welcome with a parent.

Sign up online at bit.ly/TOBstp

For questions, please contact

Maureen Nettles at 314-494-5466 or Lisa Stricker at 314-420-1688

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Year of Prayer 2024

After the year devoted to reflecting on the documents and studying the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis has proposed that 2024 should be marked as a year dedicated to prayer.

Dear Lord,

As I enter this year of prayer, may I know who I am and what I am, every moment of every day.
 May I be a catalyst for light and love, and bring inspiration to those whose eyes I meet.
 May I have the strength to stand tall in the face of conflict, and the courage to speak my voice, even when I'm scared.
 May I have the humility to follow my heart, and the passion to live my soul's desires.
 May I seek to know the highest truth, and dismiss the gravitational pull of my lower self.
 May I embrace and love the totality of myself, my darkness as well as my light.
 May I be brave enough to hear my heart, to let it soften so that I may gracefully choose faith over fear.
 Today is my day to surrender anything that stands between the sacredness of my humanity and my divinity.
 May I be drenched in my Holiness and engulfed by Your love.
 May all else melt away. And so it is. —Debbie Ford

My Prayer will be for each of you this year!

Dr. Pat Hensley

2023-2024
Assumption
Theme



RCIA: THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA

On Christmas Day, we heard in the Gospel Reading how God the Father gave His Son Jesus to Mary and Joseph. Because they accepted the present of Jesus, we too are offered this gift each day. We pray especially during Christmas for the humility to accept the gift of Christ into our lives.

On today's feast of the Holy Family, the Gospel Reading describes the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple. We see how Mary and Joseph give their Son back to God, and to other people as well, and we pray today for the courage to give the gift of Christ to others. *Fr. Thomas Hoisington*

Today we focus on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and through that focusing, we reflect on the qualities which should mark all families. Today we think about family life and family values. It is a good time to reflect on them as we gather with our loved ones during this holy season of the year. We are given the example of faith-filled families (Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac; Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.) We are also reminded that families are called to be reflections of GOD who is a family of *Abba*-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Today's focus: How can the life of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, strengthen me in my relationships with members of my family?**

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@lpi.com.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

We hope this message resonates with the entire parish community and all those connected to us, spreading the same warmth and joy that embodies the spirit of our Christmas celebrations. On Tuesday, December 19, Assumption School shared a beautiful evening together at our Christmas musical!

As Assumption School's music teacher, I am overwhelmed with gratitude as I reflect on the wonderful evening we shared together. Your support, presence, and enthusiasm truly made this event a success. Our students poured their hearts into their performance, their dedication shined brightly, and your presence in the audience meant the world to them. The holiday season is a time for joy, togetherness, and celebrating the miracle of our Lord Jesus' birth. Our students used their talents through the beautiful music and movements to show the true meaning of Christmas.

As we move forward, I am excited to announce that this Christmas musical will become an annual tradition. Let us keep our focus on the true meaning of Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus, and bringing our community closer together through God's grace and His gift of music.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support. We look forward to creating more beautiful memories with you in the years to come.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year!

Musically yours,
Jaime Penn





MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 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 alejandrodeherrera@abvmtech.org

ST. VINCENT de PAUL | THANK YOU!



Through your generous offerings, you have blessed more than **140 families** of our neighbors in need with a wonderful Christmas they would otherwise not have had. With donations of food, toys, gifts, and financial support, you have shown what it means to **"Bring Christ to the World"** this holy season.

A very special thanks to the O'Fallon Fire Department as well as numerous local businesses for their assistance in this endeavor.



May God bless you with the love and peace of His Holy Child this season and throughout the year!

Your St. Vincent de Paul Team

COOKIE SALE | 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 and Happy New Year from all the members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

P.S. Kim Thornhill personally has a Christmas ornament for each person that baked to support the sale. It's going to take her a few weeks to deliver them all! Reach out to Kim at thornhillproductions@gmail.com. She will be at Queen of Hearts and attends 10am Mass.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

Weekly Offertory	Dec. 10, 2023	YTD 7/1/23 - 12/10/23	<u>Loan taken out in 2013 for expansion of our school</u>	
Actual Collections	\$54,233	\$968,241	Original Loan	\$3,306,127
Budget Target	<u>\$41,000</u>	<u>\$907,000</u>	Current balance owed	\$736,586
Surplus / (Shortfall)	\$13,233	\$61,241	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.