Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:39-40



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

Sacraments and Parish Information



BAPTISM

Scheduled every Sunday at 1:15pm. Baptism preparation class is required. Call 636-240-3721 ext 235 to register.



RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS

(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.



CONFIRMATION

Preparation begins in September for all students who are entering 8th grade. Please contact Ann Marie Quan at 636-240-1020 for more information.



CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Those preparing for marriage should 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, xt 235.



RITE of CONFESSION

Weekdays 7:30 - 7:50am Church Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45pm Church Or by appointment



FIRST COMMUNION

Preparation begins in September for all students who are entering 2nd grade. Please contact Ann Marie Quan at 636-240-1020.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the Parish Office 636-240-3721



FUNERALS Please call the Parish Office 636-240-3721

Welcome

403 N. Main St. O'Fallon, MO 63366

www.assumptionbvm.org

Assumption Staff 636.240.3721 Ext:

Pastor

242 Rev. Nick Kastenholz nicholaskastenholz@archstl.org

Senior Associate Pastor

226 Msgr. William Mc Cumber wmccumber@archstl.org

In Residence

Rev. Patrick Russell

Deacons

Dcn. Fred Volansky
Dcn. Bill Walbridge (Retired)
Dcn. Richard Tadlock
deaconrichard@charter.net

Parish Manager 225 Mark Vogt

mvogt.abvm@gmail.com

Director of Stewardship & Lituray

247 Jeannette Hamann abvmjeannette@yahoo.com

Parish Secretary

221 Peggy Brewer

Bulletin Announcements:

peggy.assumption@yahoo.com (by Tuesdays at 9:00am)

Bookkeeper

234 Mary Knapp

Director of Religious Education and PSR Director

328 Anne Marie Quan 636.240.1020

Baptism/Wedding Coordinator 235 Angie Gloriod

Director of Youth Ministry

243 Becky Whitaker becky.assumptionIt@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry

326 Parker Bishop parker.assumptionmusic@gmail.com

Parish Day School/Preschool Principal: Dr. Patricia Hensley 636.240.4474

Child Safety Coordinator Lynn Crews 314-578-0741

Lynn Crews 314-578-0741 lynn.assumption@gmail.com

Sunday Pre School

Denise Hoehne 314.954.3192

Parish Council

Abvparishcouncil3721 @gmail.com

School Board

abvmschoolboard@gmail.com

Hello,

We are at the fourth and last week of advent and the fourth candle stands for LOVE. Last week I said that the 'joy' (rejoice) of the third week was a natural extension of the 'hope' and 'preparation' of the first and second week, but only with the added firmness of our expectation and trust in God. Love, as defined by many, is integrally related to joy and yet has an added characteristic. Joy is an expression and emotion that is mostly focused on or describing oneself, whereas love, while still existing in oneself, inherently has an object and is focused on something or someone else. In this respect we probably shouldn't consider that we progress from hope, to preparation, to joy, to love; but rather that after being caught up in the joy of near anticipation we are now more focused on the love, and our concern and focus is more outward centered. Ideally this means that this week we are now ready to experience and receive the focus of our love, the gift of Christmas, Christ.

So why did we have to go through all of the preparation of Advent, why do we have to prepare to receive Christ if He is a gift that will be given whether we have prepared or not? Because the preparation has made us more open to receive the gift and all that He truly is. Why do we prepare our homes for Christmas and to receive Christmas guests? So we will be more open and ready, to celebrate with them and enjoy their company, and to be open to the blessing of their presence. The tables and chairs are set up for the numbers that are to come. The decorations are ones that remind us of Christmas's in the past, and set traditions and make memories for those to come. Our preparations and celebrations with one another hopefully does not distract us from preparing for Christ but rather compliments our preparation and celebration with Christ. If it feels like we have gone through this Advent season so far and we really just got caught up in our pre-Christmas planning and business I would ask you to at least take some quiet time in these last few days, to pause and reflect on the incredible gift Christ is for us and how you are ready to receive him.

As we look forward to celebrate the birthday of Christ, we realize what an incredible expression of God's love for us this was. We can also likely recall many other expressions of love that we remember from God, and from others, over the many Christmas's in our past. May this stir us to experience what God truly wishes for each of us, that we experience what it is to love God and all others this Christmas.

Peace,

Fr. Nick





"...living the truth in love. we should grow in every way into Him...from whom the whole body, held and joined together by every supporting ligament brings about the body's growth and builds itself in love."

- Ephesians 4:15-16



Former parishioner Gabe Rackers and his friend Landon Wink are inviting you to a special holiday concert in our Chapel on Sunday, December 19th at 3:00pm. This bass and tenor duo from Macomb, Illinois, have put together an hourlong program that will tell the story of Christmas completely in song. The concert will have no stops and is sure to take your breath away. Tickets are not required, but Gabe and Landon will welcome your goodwill donations to Toys for Tots.



- K of C Queen of Hearts! KC Hall, every Tuesday. Doors open at 5:00pm, drawing is at 7:00pm. Pizzas and beverages available for purchase.
- Remember...KC Hall is available for rental!

Assumption Adoration Chapel

Adoration is available 24/7 in the old church by using the code at the north transit entrance.

EXPOSITION on Tuesday begins after the 8:00am Mass and through Rosary at 6:15 pm, followed by Perpetual Help Devotions and Benediction to close. Please sign up at assumptionbym.weadorehim.com.

Young Adults 21-40:





Are you looking for ways to become more involved with parish ministry and school activities?

Please scan this QR code to take a quick survey in order for us to better understand your needs as a parish member.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Service and Hospitality Pastoral Planning Commission Chair, Brandon Gervais at 214–727-6752 or b gervais@hotmail.com.

We are so blessed to have these wonderful people forming our newest members of our faith!

May God continue to bless them each step of the way!

THANK YOU!!!

Top row from left to right: Jim Crites; Roger Allen; Carolyn Dubuque; Jim Tochtrop; Sharon Tochtrop and Tony Kinkelaar Bottom row: Sr. Theresa; Elaine Schmersahl and Missy Lowrey



ALL USHERS/GREETERS!!

It's that time of year! We need all available Usher/
Greeters to help us with our seven Christmas Masses!
Our Christmas Masses are beautiful and holy and take
a lot of coordination <u>and</u> we appreciate all that you do
to help make that happen!! Please sign up for a Christmas Mass or two!! There is a sign-up sheet in the
Usher's closet OR sign up on MSP on line. THANK
YOU!!!

If you would like to recruit family and friends for these Masses... PLEASE, WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THEM!! Email Gerry Prinster at: gerry-prinster@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Thank you for all that you do!

Sunday Preschool



"For thus says the Lord: When you call Me, and come and pray to Me, I will listen to you. When you look for Me, you will find Me. Yes, when you seek Me with all your heart, I will let you find Me..." Jeremiah

29:10-13

150

ASSUMPTION

Blessed Virgin Mary

Assumption Preschool, Sundays during 10 am Mass in the Early Childhood Center. Drop off begins at 9:45 am, pick up is at the conclusion of Mass. Children ages 3-6 welcome! Children can enter throughout the academic year, now through May 1st. Tuition is \$40 for the first child and free for additional siblings. 'First class Trial' is welcome. For information please call Denise Hoehne at 314-954-3192

Sunday Preschool Registration Form - 2021/2022

DOB:				
NDERGARTEN? Yes or No				
ELL #:				
EMERGENCY CONTACT (OTHER THAN PARENT):				
SHIP TO CHILD:				
Please list any HEALTH CONCERNS, ALLERGIES, SPECIAL NEEDS, ETC:				

Our Annual Stewardship Renewal is still in process!

If you haven't had a chance to fill out your Commitment Card, you can do so online! Visit assumptionbym.org and once on our HOME page, click on the Stewardship Annual Renewal box and follow the directions! How can I fill my Stewardship Commitment Card? Please pray through these areas and consider making commitments:

1. In the category of **Time**, you can make commitments to spend more time with God in prayer. Prayer is the most important part of being a good steward, because when our relationship with God is strong, we are much better able to use our gifts and resources to help our parish and The Church.

2. In the category of Talent, you can either re-commit yourself to your current ministry/s, or sign up for new ones. Our

goal is for each of us to use our gifts and skills in service for others.

3. In the category of Treasure, we are asking everyone to commit to giving a specific percentage of their income to the offertory each week or month for the next year. We are asking everyone to commit to giving half of their tithe - 5% of income—to the parish. If this is something new to you, pray with your family about what you can do.

Week at a Glance

	MONDAY 12.20.21	TUESDAY 12.21.21	WEDNESDAY 12.22.21
Mass Times/Intentions	6:30am Lou Bognar 8:00am John Rothemich	6:30am Juanito Cleto 8:00am Jake & Hannah Schaeffer	6:30am Philomena Orf 8:00am Marilyn Meyers
Readings	1st Reading: Is 7:10-14 Gospel: Lk 1:26-38 7:30 - 7:50am Church Or by appointment	1st Reading: Sg 2:8-14 Gospel: Lk 1:39-45	1st Reading: Sm 1:24-28 Gospel: Lk 1:46-56
Reconciliation		7:30 - 7:50am Church Or by appointment	7:30 -7:50am Church Or by appointment

Pray the Rosary Before Weekend Masses:

Please join us in Church 30 minutes before each weekend Mass for the Rosary. We gather and pray before the Holy Family Statue.

*** * ******** * * * * *



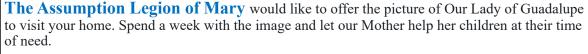
Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Hal McCarter, Father of Larry McCarter Terry Crawford, Father of Chris Crawford



PRAYER:

A heart to heart with God "Our strength comes from the Eucharist"



For more information contact Diane Donnelly (978) 223-8597 or at *dianedon63@gmail.com* or Kathy at (314) 308-7332 *mikebsr8518@gmail.com*.

An Advent Prayer - Week Four - Peace

Father in heaven, help us to remember that all our gifts come from you. When we think we are in charge, remind us that we are your people and that you are our God. And let us have no gods — not wealth, not power, not fame, not material things — before you.



God above, as you found favor in the Virgin Mary, help us live so that you find favor in our lives. Help us to be holy.

Help us, Lord, to follow Mary's example of faith and trust. Along with Mary, help us, too, to say: "Yes, God, I am yours. Do with me as you want. Make me your hands on earth."

Holy Spirit, inspire us to live every day as if Christmas were just a week away.

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

This year is the 40th Anniversary of Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, appearing in Medjugorje. Our Blessed Mother is still giving the visionaries messages every month. In every message she says, "Pray, Pray," We can do this. Every Tuesday evening, beginning at 6:15pm, Rosary, Perpetual Help Devotions, and Benediction with Fr. Nick or Deacon Richard are held in the Chapel along with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Think about our world situation and then please come to "Pray, Pray,"



THURSDAY 12.23.21

6:30am Needs of Immigrants & Refugees 8:00am Henry Prinster

1st Reading: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Gospel: Lk 1:57-66

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

FRIDAY 12.24.21

6:30am Carolyn Wolf 8:00am Betty Meyer 4:00pm AJ Renaud 4:30pm Bill & Ronnie Cross Family 6:00pm Anthony Buffa 10:00pm Laverne Schneider

1st Reading: Is 62:1-5 2nd Reading: Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Gospel: Mt 1:1-25

SATURDAY 12.25.21

8:00am Henry Prinster 10:00am Bob Crangle 12:00pm Wigberto Yazon

1st Reading: Is 52:7-10 2nd Reading: Heb 1:1-6 Gospel: Jn 1:1-18

By appointment

SUNDAY 12.26.21

8:00am People of the Parish 10:00am Margaret Peters 12:00pm Ruth Ell 5:30pm Natividad Feril

1st Reading: Sir 3:2-6,12-14 2nd Reading: Col 3:12-21 Gospel: Lk 2:41-52 By appointment



FORMATION Continuous conversion of mind and heart "Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime"



From the Principal's Pen



Assumption Campers

Each year, Assumption sends campers to the YMCA Camp Lakewood to experience education in the out-of-doors. With the pandemic going strong last spring, our then 6th graders were unable to attend, so to make up for lost time, that same group – now 7th graders- have arrived at camp. The classroom is a great avenue for learning, but stepping into the natural classroom with Outdoor Education supplements traditional education in a real and unique way. Students are introduced to learning aquatic ecology, geology, team building and creating that perfect atmosphere for prayer, friendship, and camaraderie.





When the group arrives, they begin with orientation and organizing their cabins. Several parents and two faculty members chaperone the group, but the Camp Leaders run the program and their associated activities such as Wall-Rock Climbing (wall below), zip-lining, and horseback riding. Our students come back enthused about the experience and oftentimes find this to be the most memorable life experience they had in grade school.

Thank you for reading about our school.

Pat Hensley





It has been an incredible semester of fun, faith and community with Life Teen and our new EDGE Middle School Youth Ministry. Our Life Teen retreat was an incredible time of authentic prayer and community, learning LIFE TEEN about how the Holy Spirit moves in our lives, and connecting our faith to beyond Sunday Mass. Thank you for your prayers! The young Church is alive and well and we can't wait to see how the Lord puts the teens at His service.

Here's what's going on this week.

December 19 - Life Teen: Birthday Boy, 6:30 - 8:30pm in Hall C

All teens are invited to join us for our final Life Night of 2021! We'll be celebrating the birth of the Lord in style – with plenty of ugly sweaters,

games, prizes, and prayer. We can't wait to see you there!

Alpha will return in January.

EDGE will return in January.

Coming Soon:

January 19 – 23: Generation Life Pro-Life Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C.

April 8 – 10: Luke 18 Confirmation Retreat







Jesus is the

work of a lifetime"



Connect with us on Social Media:

Instagram: @assumption life teen // @assumption edge Facebook: Assumption Life Teen // Assumption EDGE

Have a question? Contact Becky Whitaker. Director of Youth Ministry

636-240-3721 ext. 243 or becky.assumptionlt@gmail.com

150th Anniversary Gray Sweatshirts and T-shirts

Sweatshirts \$15 T-Shirts \$10

> Available in the Parish Office! **Adult Sizes only**



150



Christian Kindness "We are ALL hospitality ministers"

Hospitality



The Story of Mary, Mother of God

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the *fruit of your womb*. Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

The precise title "Mother of God" goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form *Theotokos*—God-bearer—it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin *Theotokos*. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: "Praised be the *Theotokos*!" The tradition reaches to our own day. In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

Reflection: Other themes come together at today's celebration. It is the Octave of Christmas: Our remembrance of Mary's divine motherhood injects a further note of Christmas joy. It is a day of prayer for world peace: Mary is the mother of the Prince of Peace. It is the first day of a new year: Mary continues to bring new life to her children—who are also God's children.

~Excerpts taken from Franciscan Media

Since this Solemnity falls on a Saturday, it is <u>not a holy day of obligation</u>. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am on Saturday, January 1st (Not at 8:00am)



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who so graciously donated on Giving Tuesday to help our Youth programs!! Between all of you who went online to make your donation and all of you who donated at our Advent By Candlelight, we were able to raise \$2,827!!! AMAZING!!!! Thank YOU all for your generosity!!



Cland of the Campain of the Shared Chipse Very 1-72. how

Great Christmas Gift Ideas!

Here are some perfect Christmas gifts for the current and former parishioners on your list: The Assumption Heritage Book! This beautiful book chronicles the history of our parish and school, including rare photos and fascinating facts and stories from the past 150 years! We have a limited supply of these hardback books available in the Parish Office for

\$35 each, cash or check.

Keep warm by the fireplace with an Assumption 150th anniversary sweatshirts, including hoodie or zipper jackets, available in youth and adult sizes. Prices start at \$15. Call the Parish Office to see if your size is available.

When the weather warms up, be prepared with an Assumption T-shirt in gray (adult sizes only) or blue (youth and adult sizes). Prices start at \$10. Call the Parish Office to see if your size is available.

Athletic Association! WEEDER

Basketball practices are starting up! Everyone is looking forward to this season!

Coordinators: We are looking for volunteers for Golf and Baseball/Softball. The more volunteers to help with a sport helps make it more manageable and is a great chance to get involved in the community. Jeff Labarge is looking to train someone to take over. Meetings and registration will be upon us soon, and now would be a good time to start a transition over the next few seasons. Please contact <code>jslabarge@yahoo.com</code>. Duties include: Communicate with Athletic Association





Attend Pre-Season Meetings Communicate with District Coordinators Communicate With Participants Recruit Parent Volunteers

We are also looking for volunteers to help coordinate Baseball/Softball this year or help with field management for the PreK/K games. Please contact Heather Wilkinson (haw322@yahoo.com) if interested. Duties include: Attend Pre-Season Meetings

Communicate with Athletic Association

Communicate with Participants / District Coordinators

Team Formation

Equipment management

The 2022 Baseball/Softball registration will be opening up sooner this year than normal – expected to be Wednesday, December 15. Closing date is still TBD. Signups will be for PreK 4 thru 4th grade. For older students who have a full team or are looking for a team, please reach out directly to Heather Wilkinson (haw322@yahoo.com).



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

> - 1 Peter 4:10

> > ervice



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Friday December 24th

4:00pm (Church, Livestream and Parish Center) 4:30pm (Chapel), 6:00pm (Church) 10:00pm (Church and Livestream)



Christmas Day – Saturday December 25th

8:00am (Church), 10:00am (Church and Livestream), Noon (Church)

CONFESSIONS

Monday thru Friday – 7:30-7:50am before 8:00am Mass



Our Gifts to God and Parish

 Weekly Offertory
 December 5, 2021
 7/1/2021 - 12/5/2021

 Actual Collections
 \$ 54,502
 \$ 803,900

 Budget Target
 \$ 43,500
 \$ 873,500

 Surplus / (Shortfall)
 \$ 11,002
 \$ (69,600)

STEWARDSHIP

The Bible Teaches It (Mal 3:10-12)
We Believe It (Acts 4:32-36)
God Honors It (Gen 14:18-20)

TITHING

Loan taken out in 2013 for expansion of our schoolOriginal Loan\$ 3,306,127Current balance owed\$ 1,290,760Monthly payment\$ 20,923Last expected payment, August 2026

We are grateful to you for your presence, your participation, and your financial support of Assumption Parish.



December 19, 2021 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

MI 5:1-4A; PS 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19; HEB 10: 5-10; LK 1: 39-45

Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so, as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life.

Today's Gospel passage from Luke describes Mary's actions immediately after her "yes" to the angel Gabriel's message. "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth." Mary

immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship – Hospitality and Service.

What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service brings to Elizabeth.

Our Blessed Mother's example of a stewardship way of life is one that we, her children, can follow in our own lives today. With all the gifts God gives us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today.

We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.

~ Excerpts from: Catholic Diocese of Wichita

Assumption Director of Communications and Marketing - Now Hiring

Assumption is seeking a full time Director of Communications and Marketing. This position is responsible for developing and implementing the long-term communications and marketing vision for the parish and school, working with our staff and parish commissions to increase our school enrollment and active participation of our parishioners.

Responsibilities will include:

- Promoting the parish's and school's mission by planning, developing, and implementing all marketing and communications strategies.
- Developing and managing school and parish communications, including website content, social media, printed materials, video messages, and e-communication platforms.
- Coordinating communication and fundraising plans with parish and school groups.
- Planning and conducting appeals to attract and retain school students.
- Planning and conducting appeals for contributions to the parish and school.
- Writing and submitting press releases regularly, keeping Assumption Parish and School in the news.
- Coordinating the proper and consistent application of the parish and school's identity, such as logo, tagline, fonts, etc., for use on letterhead, brochures, invitations, etc.
- Organizing admission tours and new parishioner gatherings for prospective school and parish families.
- Attending Archdiocesan meetings to network and gain professional knowledge.
- Creating programs and events of donor care for the school and parish to encourage community and partnership.

Interested candidates should send cover letter and resume to Assumption Business Manager at: mvogt.abvm@gmail.com

OFFICE INFORMATION

403 N Main Street, O'Fallon MO 63366 636.240.3721 Parish Office Hours - Mon-Thu 8:00am-4:00pm Fri 8:00am-3:00pm ST VINCENT DE PAUL 636.272.4758 (Helpline)

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL: 636.240.4474

BULLETIN NOTICES

Submit to Parish Office (peggy.assumption@yahoo.com) by Tuesday 9:00am

WEBSITE: www.assumptionbvm.org facebook.com/@assumptionmedia assumptionparish

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, contact Kris Bohn at 636.795.2611, and for information regarding our grief support series, which is held twice per year, contact Lynn Crews at 314-578.0741.



"...living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into Him...from whom the whole body, held and ioined together by every supporting ligament brings about the body's growth and builds itself in love."

- Ephesians 4:15-16 Formatio

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS Assumption Church #083750 403 N. Main Street O'Fallon, MO 63366

TELEPHONE 636 240-3721 EXT 221

CONTACT PERSON Peggy Brewer

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{SOFTWARE} \\ \text{Windows XP} \end{array} \text{Adobe X}$

PRINTER Toshiba e-Studio 4555

TRANSMISSION TIME Wednesday 4:00

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION December 19, 2021

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT 1 THROUGH 13

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please send 1200 copies of the bulletin!