

Since 1848 The Parish Family of

*The Church of the Assumption  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*Welcomes You*



*As we pray for you, we ask for your prayers.*

*Mass  
Schedule*

**Saturday**

8:00 a.m.  
5:30 p.m.

**Sunday**

7:00, 8:30, 10:00 a.m.  
12:15 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
(Sept.-May)

**Weekdays**

7:00 a.m.  
12:05 p.m.

**Holy Days**

5:30 p.m. Vigil  
(Day Before)  
7:00 a.m. &  
12:05, 7:30 p.m.

**National Holidays**

9:00 a.m.



# Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

91 Maple Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey 07960

973-539-2141, Fax-973-984-0632

Visit our Website: [www.assumptionparish.org](http://www.assumptionparish.org)

Email: [assumption@assumptionparish.org](mailto:assumption@assumptionparish.org)

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. John E. Hart  
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Przemyslaw Nowak  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Martin F. Rauscher  
In Residence: Rev. Dennis J. Crowley  
In Residence: Rev. Samuel Monaco  
In Residence: Rev. Geno Sylva

Deacons: Brian Beyerl, John Brandi, Michael Hanly, Elliott Stein

Trustees: Dan Poling 973-451-1617, Kathleen Hyland 973-539-2860

Parish Coordinator—Linda Macios Secretary—Liz Rotunno Comptroller—Robyn Morris

Parish Office Hours Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Friday 8:30 to 3:00 p.m.

**Parish Registration:** Call 973-539-2141 or visit the parish website at [www.assumptionparish.org](http://www.assumptionparish.org).

**Assumption School:** 973-538-0590; [www.assumptionnj.org](http://www.assumptionnj.org)  
Sr. Merris Larkin, S.C. Principal

**Religious Education:** 973-267-5638, Fax 973-267-4223

Email: [RelEd@assumptionparish.org](mailto:RelEd@assumptionparish.org)

Linda Macios: Director  
Sharon Bertram: Coordinator Grades 6, 7, and 8  
Lisa Sullivan: Confirmation—973-267-8519  
Tara Speer: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Sue Paradise: Secretary

**The Religious Education** program meets on Sundays, October-March. Kindergarten through 5th grade classes meet 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; 6th through 8th classes meet immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Youth Mass. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes meet September–April on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Confirmation groups meet once or twice per month on Sunday evenings.

**Music Ministry**—973-539-2141, extension 19  
Claudia Nardi: Director, Karen Chiappini: Organist  
Adult Choir, Youth Ministry Choir, Children's Choir

**Holy Rood Cemetery**—973-539-7501

Website: [www.holyroodcemeterynj.com](http://www.holyroodcemeterynj.com)

Diana Loughman: Cemetery Director  
Emerson Brito: Caretaker  
Samuel Brito: Caretaker

**Church Sexton**—Doug Reisch

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday—4:15 to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Marriage:** Arrangements should be made with a priest or deacon by registered parishioners **at least one year in advance** of the marriage date. Marriage arrangements should be made PRIOR to reserving reception facility.

**Baptisms:** Contact Liz Rotunno in the Parish Office to arrange your child's Baptism. For first-time parents, attendance at a Baptismal Preparation class is required. Prep classes are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Church.

**Visitation of the Sick and Elderly:** Please keep us informed so that we may be attentive to those who are ill at home or in the hospital. Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Communion on Sundays.



## Ministries

Africa Surgery	Tom Johnson	973-292-3320
Altar Linens	Mike Cherello	973-267-6825
Altar Servers	Fr. John Hart	973-539-2141
Bereavement	Michele Cameron	973-769-9634
Bethany	Linda Macios	973-539-2141
Boy Scouts	Dave Lage	201-919-7259
Cub Scouts	John Lago	609-213-1790
Centering Prayer	Fr. Ken Lasch	973-538-2653
Children's Worship	Linda Cannilla	973-540-1683
CYO Basketball	Kevin Bopp	917-861-2876
Deaf Interpreter	Kathleen Skaf	862-432-6004
Deaf Ministry	Barbara Zurlo	973-337-7591 VP
Divorced Catholics	Deacon Elliott Stein	973-539-2141
Endowment for Poor	Claudia Nardi	973-539-2141
Eucharistic Min.	Hope Zenker	973-401-1010
Family Promise	Mary Dougherty	973-538-9003
Finance Committee	Dorothy Flynn	973-538-2634
Food Pantry	Claudia Nardi	973-539-2141
Gardening	Lynn Tecza	973-539-2141
Giving Tree	Brian Morgan	973-462-6972
Good Samaritan	Pat Moore	973-539-2141
Home School Assoc.	Debbie DeAngelis	973-889-8520
Holistic Health	Michele Cameron	973-769-9634
Homeless Solutions	Ralph Ferrara	973-769-6418
JustFaith	Kerry Mowry	973-683-1220
Knights of Columbus	William C. Duggan, Jr.	973-960-6417
Lectors	Andrea Bozzi	973-656-9864
Moms and Tots	Henriette Kahn	973-539-1350
Nursing Homes	Joan Kramer	973-539-4910
Pre-Cana	Ken and Rosa Rose	973-539-9845
RCIA	Fr. John Hart	973-539-2141
Respect Life	Anne Marie and Leonard Crann	973-539-4650
Senior Citizens	Joan Kramer	973-539-4910
	Janet Dedrick	973-539-7811
Soup Kitchen	Annaliese Rush	973-455-0391
Ushers	Anthony Romano	973-267-5433
Welcome /Hospitality	Moir Clarkin	973-539-4390
Women's Cornerstone	Denise Imperiale	908-477-9450
Women's Faith Sharing	Gina Hurley	973-460-7241
Vocations	Deacon John Brandi	973-539-2141
Young Professionals	Fr. Przemek	973-539-2141
Youth Ministry	Lisa Sullivan	973-267-8519

## Mass Intentions



<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>October 22</b>
8:00 a.m.	Nancy Keating
5:30 p.m.	Edmundo Santos Colleen Cavanaugh
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>October 23</b>
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	Greta McGrath Gennaro Forte
10:00 a.m.	Vincent T. Cavanaugh John Sterople
12:15 p.m.	Charles Burns Paul Abrams
5:30 p.m.	Lynn Guerriero Judge Reginald Stanton
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>October 24</b>
7:00 a.m.	Laura Ansaldo
12:05 p.m.	Margaret "Peg" Martin
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>October 25</b>
7:00 a.m.	Eugene Martin Griffin
12:05 p.m.	Lizbeth Hernandez
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>October 26</b>
7:00 a.m.	Joseph Baron
12:05 p.m.	Paul Gerber
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>October 27</b>
7:00 a.m.	Judith Petrone
12:05 p.m.	Mercedes Cassidy
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>October 28</b>
7:00 a.m.	The Deceased Friends Of the 7:00 a.m. Mass
12:05 p.m.	The Abrams and Accola Families
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>October 29</b>
8:00 a.m.	Idella Kelly
5:30 p.m.	Eileen Smith Kay Woodford
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>October 30</b>
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	Clement L. Marotte Harry Raymond Lillie
10:00 a.m.	Bruce Studley Heather Marie Bendel
12:15 p.m.	Ramon Carriedo
5:30 p.m.	Richard Fiolek Ralph Coti

### GATHER IN PRAYER

- Pray the Rosary weekdays 20 minutes before the 12:05 p.m. Mass.
- Pray the Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal every Monday immediately following the 12:05 p.m. Mass.
- Eucharistic Adoration the first Saturday of each month 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. and the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
- Eucharistic Adoration every Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, Cedar Knolls.

### **F**irst Reading: *Sirach 35:12-14,16-18*

Occasionally over the past several months, we have heard portions of the book of Sirach, a collection of proverbial sayings. This weekend, we are presented with an excerpt that discusses the evenhanded concern of God for all the people.

### **S**econd Reading: *2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18*

Our second reading is taken from the conclusion of the Second Letter to Timothy. The author, a disciple of the deceased Paul, recalls the Apostle's reliance on the justice and mercy of God.

### **G**ospel: *Luke 18:9-14*

In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable aimed at honest, decent people who try to live as God wants.

**The Lord will rescue me  
from every evil attack  
and will bring me safely  
to his heavenly kingdom.  
To him be glory for ever  
and ever.  
Amen.**

*2 Timothy 4:18*

### **We invite you to prayerfully reflect on the Readings for the week of October 23**

Monday 13:10-17	Eph 4:32—5:8; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, and 6; Lk
Tuesday	Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-32; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday	Eph 6:1-9; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14; Lk 13:22-30
Thursday	Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35
Friday	Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Lk 6:12-16
Saturday	Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2,3,5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sunday	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 11:22—12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14; 2 Thes 1:11—2:2; Lk 19:1—10



### PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE RECOVERY OF:



Paul Albanese, Charles Arnolt, Charles Arteglier, Greg, John, and Tom Baxter, Paula Rose Carducci, Jim and Kay Cavanaugh, Ralph Coti, Kenneth Eastman, Frank Geraghty, John Geraghty, John Hyland, Patricia Ioannou, Kenneth Krause, Susan Krauss, Francis Montemurno, Ruth Necco, Barbara O'Hagan, Mary Reisch, Eileen Scheibner, Rosalie Sottile, Nancy Arteglier, Marva Jean Corbin, Ronan Davis, Ralph Depp, Emma Wyman, Jack Frost, Joseph Gabriele, Jim Gallo, Willette Greer, Liam Hanly, Margie Herman, Jim Mongey, Payton O'Brien, Debra Peniston, Donna Polise, Caroline Bastek, Idella Kelly, Steven Mortenson, Jane Quinlan, Al Reed, Fr. Paul Krajewski, Lourdes Flores, Antonette Fraioli, Gerry Fraioli, David Kimmel, Kieran Kole, Gerry Hogan, Kathy Shay, Andrew McCray, Caryn Seifer, Clara Gotch, Dan Lessnau, Sister Marie Graziano, William Moeller, Andrea C. Wright, Elaine Metzger, Frank Kealy, Andrea Piccillo, Carol Bivens, Khianna Reynolds, Robin Stewart, Bette Dwyer, Vincent Farley, Rich Oelkers, Claire Harty, Baby Hadley Cherry, Fr. Bill Rakowicz, Terri Abrams, Patricia McBride, Elizabeth Langenohl, Theresa DiPaolo, Latoya Thomas, Vivian Sanks King, Sharyn Zaslofsky, Florence Bryan, Grace Eagan, Norma Stanton, Baby Benjamin LeFebvre, Marion O'Leary, Miriam Tamburello, Keith Griner, Stephanie Trincanella, Kathryn Vargas, Iris Perkins, Hue Wayne Strother, Sr., Janet Drasco, Gloria Dabal, Lisa Mezik, Angela Wills, Nilan Family, Melissa Lebron, Lois Kenney, Kathy Vander Heijden, Ray Reid, John Allen, Domenick Zamarelli, Jose Rafael Jimenez, Kason Foley, Henry Baker, Art Paradise, Ralph Lemon, Jr., Essie Cannon, Henry Baker, Mary Quinn, Judith Koziatek.

Please call the Parish Office at 973-539-2141 with the names of who you would like included in the prayers for the good health of the sick and homebound.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT NOW MORE THAN EVER

We invite all parishioners to take special advantage of our celebration of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Saturday of every month (November 5) at 8:30 a.m. and the first Monday of every month (November 7) at 7:00 p.m. especially during this time of such hostile inhumanity "prowling about the world seeking the ruin of souls."

Please, join together in the presence of our "Prince of Peace" and pray not only for an end of brutality in all its forms, but also for Jesus' inspiration to guide each of us to find a way to actively work for peace, understanding and harmony in our Town, our County, our State, our Nation and our common home the Earth.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY AND THEIR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE SERVED, OR ARE SERVING, IN THE ARMED FORCES

*CW3 Michael Benkosky* Green Beret, Special Forces, Airborne Joint Forces; *Commander William H. Shipp*, Commanding Officer HCS-8, San Diego; *Andrew Vasquez* US Army; *Andy Soucy* US Army; *Dan Lessnau* Former Marine and Veteran of the Viet Nam War; *Kevin Felix* US Military Colonel; *Lt. Tim Fleury*, US Navy; *Staff Sergeant William J. McSweeney* Retired Marine Served Around the World; *Matthew Gonabe*, Lt. US Navy Pilot Serving in the Persian Gulf; *David Ribardo*, 1st Lt. US Army Serving in Afghanistan; *Capt. Brendan Griswold* 82nd Air Borne in Afghanistan; *Capt. Patrick Flynn*, US Army 1st Infantry, Afghanistan; *Sergeant Richard Galluzzo* Serving in Afghanistan, *Lt. Thomas Keyes Jr.*; *Bryan Chojnacki*, US Army, grandson of Annabel Wannemacher; *Cpts. Scott and Meghan Harra*, US Army in Afghanistan; *Captain Timothy Newcomb*, US Army Special Forces; *Col. Jason M. Barrett*, USMC in Iraq and Afghanistan; *Capt. James Cassidy*, USMC in Afghanistan; *Ensign Devon Cassidy*, Navy Nurse in California; *2nd Lt. Andrew Pineda* and *Capt. Laurence Pineda*, US Air Force, SMSgt. *John Bartow*, Stratton ANGB NY, *Douglas Reisch*, 1/325 Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, *Daniel Baron*, US Navy, Hawaii, *1LT Schuyler Orecchio*, 10th Mountain Division, Afghanistan, *Captain James Cassidy*, USMC in Washinton, DC, *1st Lt. Devon Cassidy*, Navy Nurse in San Diego, CA, Special Operator 2nd Class *Patrick Gaven*, USN, Staff Sargent *Brent M. Betit*, ARNG.

### GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Need help? Our ministry can assist parishioners with shopping, banking, doctor and dentist appointments, and other errands. Contact our coordinator for October, Audrey Geraghty at (973) 538-3134





## THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

*Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. (Luke 18: 9-14)*

Here is a reflection I hope you will enjoy.

He is hardly noticed. Waves of students and faculty move in and out of the building every day. He makes sure the floors and bathrooms are clean, that broken furniture and equipment are repaired and replaced without missing a beat. Some of the professors who have been around a few years will say a quick hello when they walk by, a couple of them actually know his name. During his time, more than forty graduating classes have been educated in this hall that he takes such conscientious care of, hardly noticed, taken for granted . . . like the tax collector.

They spend most of the night driving around the city ready for the call. An accident, a shooting, a bar fight, a "jumper." They're the first ones there to stop the bleeding, talk the poor soul down, clean up the mess. They get the victims to the hospital, often with just seconds to spare - and then they're back out on the streets. They stay on the edges, in the distance, doing their jobs, unheralded, never recognized . . . like the tax collector.

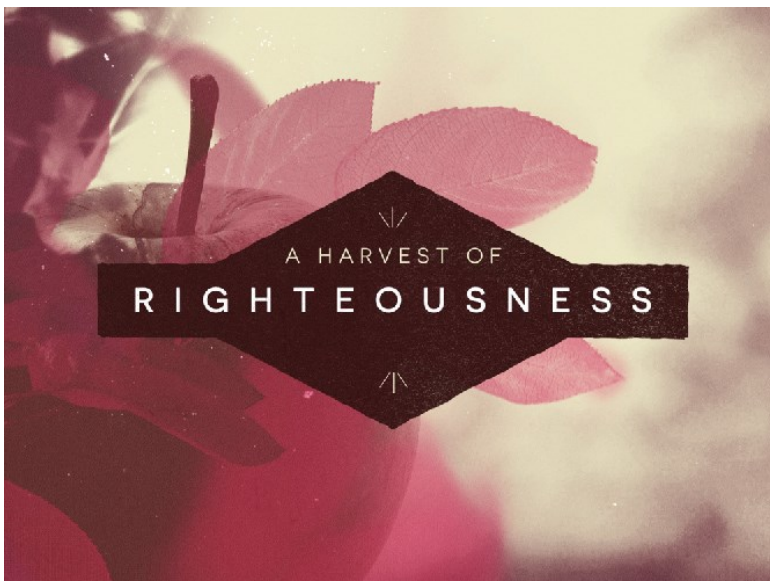
She is one of hundreds of nurses working in a large city hospital. Every shift, day or night, she works countless small miracles of compassion and mercy for the patients on her floor. To her, they are more than numbers and charts in the massive hospital system: they are the terrified child, the desperately-ill woman, the confused senior, the overwhelmed family. For her, mercy is something real, something that love makes possible . . . as the tax collector understands.

What would we do without these good and dedicated souls? But, often, we don't even see them or acknowledge them; we don't appreciate their presence in our lives; we seldom realize how much our community and society depends on them.

Maybe because there exists in each of us a bit of the Pharisee.

In our own time and place, the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is played out not so much as a lack of humility before God but as a lack of awareness of the gifts and contributions, as well

as the needs and hopes of those around us we have come to take for granted, whose work is considered of less importance or consequence than our own. The Gospel of Jesus challenges us to embrace the humble, God-centered faith of the tax collector, not the self-centered and self-absorbed claims of the Pharisee. We give thanks for God's love for us by returning that love to one another, by accepting one another as God has accepted us; we honor God as Father of us all by honoring one another as brothers and sisters. (Connections)



In Christ's Peace,  
Father John

**KNOWING MY LIFE**

The Word of God summons us to an extraordinary level of self-knowledge. It is the self-knowledge that can only come to us as we stand before God in complete, honest reflection and discard, as best as we can, all self-serving distortions.

*Adults:* Who or what best helps me to look clearly and honestly at myself?

*Children:* When I listen to God's holy Word, how do I find out who I am?

*A Family Perspective:* In the family, one sometimes observes a level of competition between children for parent attention, for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow, children seem to internalize that the attention given to one member of the family diminishes the attention given to another. In this way, children can often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. As a family, talk about what it means to compare oneself to another. Discuss whether it is helpful to compare oneself to another. In what ways might this be positive? In what circumstances might this be unhelpful? Discuss: What was wrong about the prayer of the Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax collector? Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the blessing that is each member of your family. Pray that your family will be free from unhealthy competition.

**RESPECT LIFE MASS  
(MASS FOR THE UNBORN)**

Bishop Serratelli will celebrate a Respect Life Mass on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Margaret of Scotland in Morristown. This Mass is sponsored by the Paterson Federation Knights of Columbus Councils. All clergy, staff, parishioners, friends and families are encouraged to attend. Following the Mass, there will be light refreshments. The Mass is a wonderful way for our faithful to come together in prayer and in mutual support for protecting all of our children - born and unborn. Please save this date on your calendar.

**BOY SCOUT GREENARY SALE**

Assumption Church's Boy Scout Troop 34 will be taking orders at all Masses on the weekend of November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Wreaths, Hanging Baskets and Grave Covers. Orders placed on the weekend of November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> can be picked up at church on the weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

**ETERNAL REST  
GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD**

Paula Stover  
Wife of Richard

Rosealice Fleming  
Sister of Thomas Emmer

**PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING AN USHER**

The ministry of ushers is the oldest lay ministry in the Catholic Church. The ushers of today have descended from a long line of people of God who have gone before them. During the time of Christ, the doorkeepers of the temple numbered in the hundreds and were the forerunners of today's ushers.

Today, the ushers' primary duties and responsibilities include greeting and welcoming parishioners as they enter the church, help them to find seats, taking up the collection and wishing everyone a good day at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Celebration.

If you would like to be an active member of our Parish community, please consider joining our team of ushers. Contact Anthony Romano at 973-267-5433.

**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

It is our custom here at Assumption to place a blank book on a podium next to the Baptistry for All Soul's Day, November 2.

This book, for centuries, was called the Book of the Dead as a somewhat stark reminder that according to our faith, we must experience what seems like death, as part of the process of entering into eternal union with our God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We lovingly inscribe the names of all who are dear to our hearts, who have gone before us into this joyful reunion with God.

**ALTAR SERVER TRAINING**

Assumption Church will be conducting Altar Server training sessions for boys and girls in the fourth grade and up on Wed. Oct. 26 at 4-5 p.m. If you are in the fourth grade or older, and would like to become an Altar Server at Assumption, please sign up by emailing [Linda.macios@assumptionparish.org](mailto:Linda.macios@assumptionparish.org), or by calling the parish office at 973-539-2141.

**CRAFTERS NEEDED**

The 7th Annual Christmas Market will take place in Rauscher Hall on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. This event provides parishioners with a great opportunity to buy tasteful gift items and constitutes an important fund raiser for Africa Surgery.

We are looking for crafters who are willing to sell their merchandise at the Christmas Market and are available to donate at least 50% of their profit to Africa Surgery. To learn more, email or call Sergio Burani [buranis@mac.com](mailto:buranis@mac.com) or 973-452-1908.

**SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS SHOPPERS**

Are you interested in helping serve God's poor, but don't have a lot of time? We are currently seeking volunteers who can shop for some of the items needed for the lunch meals and deliver the groceries to the soup kitchen. This is a very worthwhile ministry you can work into your schedule at your convenience. If interested, please call Annaliese Rush at 973-455-0391.



**ALL SOULS MASS**

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County is celebrating an All Souls' Mass at Assumption Church in memory of the deceased members and supporters of the organization, on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Music will be provided by Claudia Nardi, Assumption Musical Director and by "The Guard", pipe and drum corp. You are then invited to join together in Rauscher Hall (Community Room) for food, beverages, conversation, fellowship and humor.

The Friendly Sons will also present some songs to be performed by the attendees. We look forward to your presence and your communion of spirit.

**SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

Couples, were you married in 1966 or 1991? You are warmly invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Paterson. Bishop Serratelli will be the main celebrant at Mass at St. Peter the Apostle Church, Parsippany, on Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. Registrations will be accepted through **Monday, October 24, 2016**. Information will be sent from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. Congratulations on this joyous occasion.

**VILLA WALSH CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE**

Villa Walsh will host their annual Christmas Boutique Extravaganza on Nov 6, from 12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m., featuring unique gifts, crafts, plus a 50/50, Money Raffle, baked goods, and much, much more.

Come and enjoy their pizza frittatas made right on the premises as well as luncheon packages of homemade Italian sandwiches and desserts. You won't be able to resist their home baked cakes, pies, cookies, and Italian pizzelles along with their traditional pangiallo.

Please come and show your support for the retired teachers and the Senior Sisters housed in the infirmary.

**SAVE THE DATE!****ASSUMPTION WOMEN'S****CORNERSTONE RETREAT, MARCH 3-4, 2017****"TAKE HIS HAND, WALK WITH JOY"**

Cornerstone is a unique opportunity for you to break away from your busy routine and revitalize your relationship with God, others and yourself. Begin the Lenten season by strengthening your relationship with God and those around you. Overnight accommodations and delicious meals will be provided at St. Mary's Abbey Retreat Center in Morristown. Contact Denise Imperiale for more information at [908-477-9450](tel:908-477-9450) or email [deeimperiale@gmail.com](mailto:deeimperiale@gmail.com).

**MASS ATTENDANCE OCTOBER 15/16**

5:30 p.m.	238
7:00 a.m.	112
8:30 a.m.	201
10:00 a.m.	397
12:15 p.m.	217
<u>5:30 p.m.</u>	<u>412</u>
Total:	1,577

**FINANCIAL BLESSINGS****Assumption is a Tithing Parish**

The collection total for the weekend of October 15/16 was \$22,982. The collection for this weekend last year was \$19,482.

Pastor's Note: I am most grateful to you for your constant generosity and the ways that you support our parish with your time and your talent and and your sacrificial giving each week in our offertory. Assumption is the vibrant community of faith serving God's people in this portion of his vineyard because of you.

**THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP**

Both the first reading and today's Psalm say clearly that the Lord hears the cry of the poor. Have I been given the gifts – of time or money or abilities – to be the means by which God answers their need?

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND**

Celebrate World Mission Sunday by giving your prayers and financial assistance to support the Church's worldwide mission efforts. Funds collected for World Mission Sunday will be distributed throughout the world by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to assist the faithful in many ways, including assistance for war-ravaged countries, areas destroyed by natural disasters, and spreading the Word to places unknown. Please pray and give generously.

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**Leo Alexander Bernardo**  
*Son of Carlos and Gabrielle*

**Halina Marie Ecker**  
*Daughter of Konrad and Francesca*

**Luke Alexander Fennessey**  
*Son of Bryan and Nicole*

**Jake Anthony Luizza**  
*Son of John and Kristen*

**Declan Thomas Mahony**  
*Son of Alexander and Sarah*



**JOINED TOGETHER IN HOLY MATRIMONY**

**Mark Patterson  
and  
Audrey Marvez**

**AFRICA SURGERY CONCERT A BIG SUCCESS**

I want to thank all who participated in making the Concert here at Assumption Church on October 8 a big success. The music was excellent and well appreciated by the audience. The proceeds, which amounted to \$4,980, will go to Africa Surgery, Inc., and will be used to make medical care, surgical treatments, and educational opportunities available to impoverished people in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Tom Johnson

**SOCK IT TO ME**

The winter is upon us and our friends who are homeless or in need would benefit from the warmth of dry socks to keep their feet healthy and protected.

We will collect **NEW** socks during the month of October. Any size new socks will do. Please drop them in the food baskets in the church and they will be delivered to those in need. Please lend a hand and provide covering for their feet.

**CUB SCOUT DAY OF REFLECTION**

The Diocese of Paterson Catholic Committee on Scouting will host a Cub Scout Day of Reflection on November 5, 2016, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at St. Anthony Church, 5635 276 Diamond Bridge Ave, Hawthorne, NJ. To download a reservation form, visit <http://assumptionparish.org/forms-and-links>.

**LOVE TO SING?**

Whether you are 7 or 70+, if you love to sing, Assumption Parish has a choir for you. Email [claudiabn@aol.com](mailto:claudiabn@aol.com) or call 973-539-2141 to find out just where your voice fits best!

**MARKET STREET MISSION'S  
25TH ANNUAL COAT GIVEAWAY**

Would you like to donate coats, hats, scarves or gloves to men, women and children in need? Bring them to the garage at Assumption Church this weekend.

Do you need a coat? Come to the "Coat Giveaway" Saturday, November 5 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the Morristown Green.

**AN EVENING FOR CAREGIVERS**

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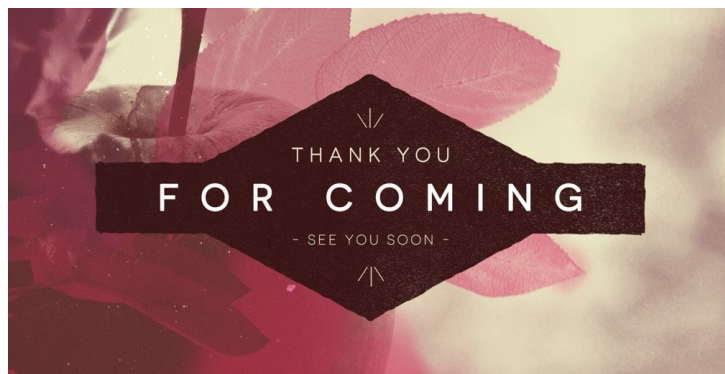
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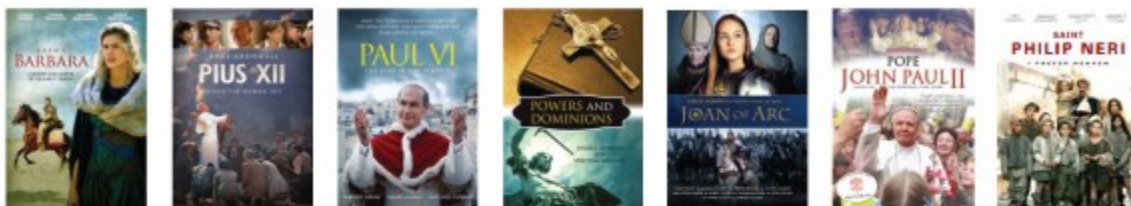
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## POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY

BY JAMES HEALY PHD

Every pope is called upon to take his own experience of the eternal truths of the Catholic faith and express them in words and actions that speak to the generation he serves. In doing so, he builds on the wisdom of those before him, while adding, as God demands, his own gifts.

In 1981, in response to a synod on the family, Pope John Paul II wrote *On the Family (Familiaris Consortio)*, a document that gave the Church, especially those of us in family ministry, our marching orders. Now, thirty-five years later, comes another family synod and Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)*, from which we hope to be similarly instructed.

Readers who go to the text itself will be rewarded because much of the writing is informal, almost conversational. An astonishing number of topics are dealt

with, and the pope himself suggests that people might start with the chapters that most pertain to them, taking the time to ponder the contents. The pope often returns to topics, approaching them from different lights and contexts. With this in mind, I believe there are three central ideas that can give a helpful perspective to the entire exhortation.

### Spousal Love

Marriage is on Pope Francis' mind and heart more than anything else. To address it, he begins with Scripture. There is much advice about marriage in the Bible, but the pontiff's message goes deeper. The relation of a man and a woman in marriage is used as the key image to describe the relation between God and his people in the Old Testament and Christ and his Church in the New Testament. This is the heart of our Catholic sacramental understanding of marriage.



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All of Pope Francis' pastoral advice about marriage, his suggestions for pastoral care of the family, and his concern for treating people outside the marital norm with sensitivity are driven by this key Catholic insight: *The purpose of marriage is not just to make two people happy; it is ultimately to tell the truth, through billions of individual stories, about God's love for us.* The stakes couldn't be higher, and, for this reason, marriage demands our attention and care.

Pope Francis briefly reviews Church teaching about marriage from the beginning to the most recent writings of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

In the lived, embodied experience of marriage, not only is love made visible, but so is God. Through the couple's commitment to each other, we get a glimpse of the kind of forever commitment God has for us. Through the friendship the couple develops, we see the kind of relationship God wants with us. Through the couple's passion for each other in all its searing intimacy, we see God's deepest desire and the reason for our being: *God created us to love us.* In Genesis, God says, "It is not good for...man to be alone" (2:18). It would seem it isn't good for God to be alone, either.

Such is the ideal laid out for marriage for all of us. There's only one problem: Marriage as it exists in the real world is far from ideal. It's often lived out poorly or not at all. Again, if marriage is to be all that it could be and should be, it needs our loving care. This brings us to Pope Francis' second area of focus.

## Care of the Family

One of the most beautiful concepts in the exhortation is that of *accompaniment*. This concept is very much in line with Pope Francis' overall philosophy and, especially, with his emphasis on mercy. Accompaniment in this context means to walk alongside someone, sharing the journey, and doing one's best to empathize with and to aid the one being accompanied.

All of us—the Church as a whole and each one of us individually—are called to accompany families on their journey

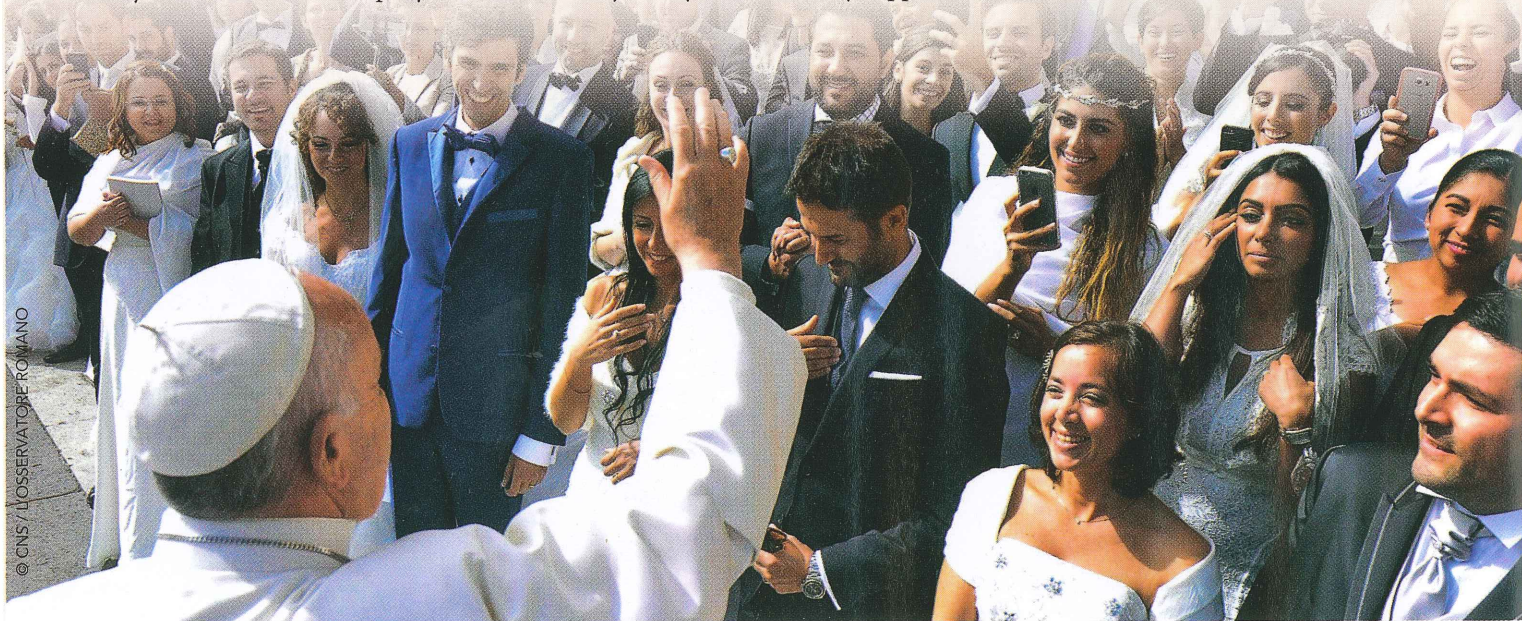
to the fullness of God's vision. Usually our steps along the road toward wholeness are halting and mistake-filled. At the beginning, accompaniment is similar to a parent who's helping a child take his or her first few steps: encouraging, smiling, willing to help when the child falters, and trying to keep the child from harming himself or herself. Later on, accompaniment has larger elements of teaching and modeling.

At its most sophisticated, accompaniment resembles the walk Jesus took with the two disciples on the lengthy road from Jerusalem to Emmaus (see Luke 24:13–35), which might be called the first example of the New Evangelization. The newly resurrected Jesus was in no hurry to disclose himself. He listened carefully to the story the two disciples told of Jesus' crucifixion and death and the disappearance of his body from the tomb. Then, using Scripture, Jesus helped them make sense of their experience. At that point, the two disciples were so captivated that they wouldn't let Jesus go until he broke bread with them.

Pope Francis says we're called to walk the path of Emmaus with families, especially those families who haven't yet reached the fullness of the teaching of the Catholic Church. The ways in which Pope Francis suggests we do this constitute the new marching orders for Catholic family ministry.

**Marriage Preparation.** Couples need to be caught—I would almost say intoxicated—by the Catholic Christian vision of marriage. The transfiguration, dying, and rising of Jesus must be lived out in every marriage as couples experience their own mountaintop experiences, their own little deaths, and their own experiences of new life. Through their relationship with Jesus and the sacraments of the Church, couples can unite their own experience of the paschal mystery with Jesus.

That vision can be explained with words, but the engaged couple needs to see it lived out in the married couples they come into contact with. In addition, couples need to learn the relationship skills that Pope Francis explains with such insight and affection. Finally, the entire Christian community must in some way support them and walk with them.





**Early years and children.** The challenge continues during the early years of marriage where the unitive and the procreative ends of marriage must both be supported. Pope Francis devotes much time talking about children. He emphasizes attention to, but not obsession with, their needs. We're to strive to be aware of "where our children are at" existentially and spiritually, and not just physically.

**Diverse experiences of family life.** The pope is both moving and effective as he talks about the challenges to love as a couple ages. The pope also singles out for pastoral care couples in interchurch and interfaith marriages, couples facing crises that threaten their marriages, the widowed, the divorced, and the single parent, as well as divorced and remarried Catholics, noting the recent changes in annulment procedures designed to make them more efficient.

Same-sex relationships are not to be equated to marriage, but should be given "respectful pastoral guidance" (AL 250).

Immigrant families and families with children with special needs, linked in the exhortation, are both forced to navigate unfamiliar territory.

The pope is striking in his language, suggesting that even people who are in situations that aren't in agreement with the Church's teaching can still grow in grace as they try to make the best possible decisions within their own range of options. Life gets "wonderfully complicated," says the pope, when we journey with people in their real-life situations (AL 308).

## Church Teaching and Discernment

Pope Francis devotes a good deal of attention to the relationship between Church teaching and conscience and the process of discernment that connects the two. The pope offers a clear definition of marriage (see chapter 8): "Christian marriage, as a reflection of the union between Christ and his Church, is fully realized in the union between a man and a woman who give themselves to each other in a free, faithful and exclusive love, who belong to each other until death and are open to the transmission of life, and are consecrated by the sacrament, which grants them the grace to become a domestic church and a leaven of new life for society" (292).

However, the pope points out that there are many people in situations where the ability to choose the ideal has eluded them for a variety of reasons. The pope is very aware of what might be called "moral imperialism": imagining that people are free to make moral decisions, unaffected by their particular life situations. The pope won't let us avert our glance from the realities of poverty, difficult social

environments, traumatizing family situations, and other unjust settings that people are born into, which all affect their ability to make the best choices. Indeed, he says that a person who has to make a compromised decision in "the heat of battle" might deserve greater praise than somebody who has the leisure to make good choices under easier circumstances.

Pope Francis says, "We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them" (AL 37). We are called to walk with people, including those in imperfect situations, and through our own word and example do our best to bring both us and them toward wholeness. To suggest, however, that we're only honor bound to follow conscience if it's been in every way conformed to the teaching of the Church is to indeed make conscience replaceable. The call is first to pray honestly and sincerely to do God's will. Second, we're to listen carefully to the voice of the Church and to other tested sources of wisdom. After forming our conscience as best as we can, we make our decision with humility and respect for the teaching authority of the Church while staying open to more wisdom in the future.

## Bending Toward Mercy

This document was written and released during the Year of Mercy. When a tree leans too far in one direction, the solution is to tie it down in the other direction for a while so when it's released, it stands straight up. The pope is encouraging us to bend toward mercy. During the Year of Mercy, we're asked to reach out in a special way to those who are trying to love in difficult situations, partly of their own choosing, and partly not. Dorothy Day, who spent her life in service to the poor, said her mission was to work for a world where "it was easier to be good." Our care for families must be embedded in a larger vision of caring for the world.

However, we have fundamentally misjudged what Pope Francis means by mercy if we think it implies letting somebody off easy or letting somebody "off the hook." The person the Lord shows mercy to, the Lord chooses, not for less, but for more. He lifts us toward the sky, he doesn't drop us below. He calls us not to defeat, but to what the Bible calls *hesed*—a life of righteous and wholehearted living.

Our call is to balance empathy and clarity. Yes, the Church circles the wagons, making very clear our structure of beliefs, but we must then bring our wounded into the center, not the periphery, of Church life. It's been said, "Love without truth is sentimentality. But truth without love is arrogance." Our call, as always, is to speak the truth, and live the truth, in love.

## DIG DEEPER

**Look:** How does your family interaction relay the message of God's love and commitment?

**Judge:** Do we embrace the reality of family "messiness" in our own family and those we encounter?

**Act:** How can you and your family be a source of encouragement and an example of mercy to others in your community?





## QUOTING POPE FRANCIS

### ON FAMILY

- It is my hope that... all will feel called to love and cherish family life, for "families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity" (AL 7).
- The family is also a sign of

Christ. It manifests the closeness of God who is a part of every human life, since he became one with us through his Incarnation, death and resurrection (AL 161).

### ON MARRIAGE

- We need to find the right language, arguments and forms of witness that can help us reach the hearts of young people, appealing to their capacity for generosity, commitment, love and even heroism, and in this way inviting them to take up the challenge of marriage with enthusiasm and courage (AL 40).
- After the love that unites us to God, conjugal love is the "greatest form of friendship." It is a union possessing all the traits of a good friendship: concern for the good of the other, reciprocity, intimacy, warmth, stability and the resemblance born of a shared life (AL 123).

### ON IMPERFECT SITUATIONS

- Seeing things with the eyes of Christ inspires the Church's pastoral care for the faithful....Following this divine pedagogy, "the Church turns with love to those who participate in her life in an imperfect manner: she seeks the grace of conversion for them; she encourages them to do good, to take loving care of each other and to serve the community in which they live and work....When a couple in an irregular union attains a noteworthy stability through a public bond—and is characterized by deep affection, responsibility toward the children and the ability to overcome trials—this can be seen as an opportunity, where possible, to lead them to celebrate the sacrament of Matrimony" (AL 78).
- Although she constantly holds up the call to perfection and asks for a fuller response to God, "the Church must accompany with attention and care the weakest of her children, who show signs of a wounded and troubled love, by restoring in them hope and confidence, like the

beacon of a lighthouse in a port or a torch carried among the people to enlighten those who have lost their way or who are in the midst of a storm" (AL 291).

### ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

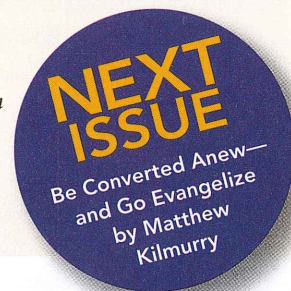
- It is important that the divorced who have entered a new union should be made to feel part of the Church. "They are not excommunicated" and they should not be treated as such, since they remain part of the ecclesial community.... The Christian community's care of such persons is not to be considered a weakening of its faith and testimony to the indissolubility of marriage; rather, such care is a particular expression of its charity" (AL 243).

### ON MERCY

- "The Church's way...has always been the way of Jesus, the way of mercy and reinstatement....The way of the Church is not to condemn anyone forever; it is to pour out the balm of God's mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart....For true charity is always unmerited, unconditional and gratuitous." Consequently, there is a need "to avoid judgments which do not take into account the complexity of various situations" and "to be attentive, by necessity, to how people experience distress because of their condition" (AL 296).
- I understand those who prefer a more rigorous pastoral care which leaves no room for confusion. But I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness.... The Church's pastors, in proposing to the faithful the full ideal of the Gospel and the Church's teaching, must also help them to treat the weak with compassion, avoiding aggravation or unduly harsh or hasty judgments (AL 308).

Pope Francis' complete apostolic exhortation *The Joy of Love* (Amoris Laetitia) is at [vatican.va](http://vatican.va). Quotations in this article are used with permission.

.....  
**James Healy, PhD**, is the director of the Center for Family Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet (Illinois). His marriage-preparation and enrichment materials are used throughout the United States and beyond. He and his wife, Madonna, have four children.



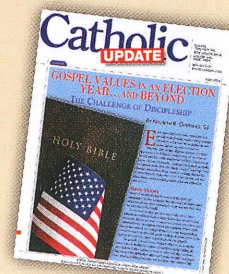
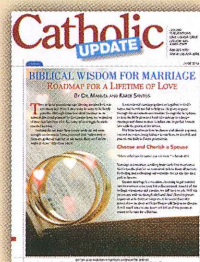
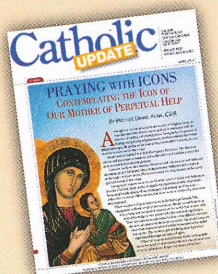
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