

A man named John was sent
from God. He came for testimony,
to testify to the light, so that
all might believe through him.

John 1:6-7

A 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

Email: assumption@assumptionparish.org

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. John E. Hart
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Marcin Kania
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Martin F. Rauscher
In Residence: Rev. Dennis J. Crowley
In Residence: Rev. Jeider Barraza
In Residence: Rev. Msgr. Geno Sylva
Transitional Deacon: Jader Avila

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 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Parish Registration: Call 973-539-2141 or visit the parish website at www.assumptionparish.org.

Assumption School: 973-538-0590; www.assumptionnj.org
Sr. Merris Larkin, S.C. Principal

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

Email: 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

Diana Loughman: Cemetery Director

Emerson Brito: Caretaker

Samuel Brito: Caretaker

Church Sexton—Doug Reisch

Deaf Interpreter - Kathleen Skaf

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 Ministry	Linda Macios	973-539-2141
Boy Scouts	Dave Lage	201-919-7259
Cub Scouts	John Lago	973-396-7852
Centering Prayer	Fr. Ken Lasch	973-538-2653
Children's Worship	Linda Cannilla	973-540-1683
CYO Basketball	Kevin Bopp	917-861-2876
Divorced Catholics	Deacon Elliott Stein	973-539-2141
Endowment for Poor	Claudia Nardi	973-539-2141
Eucharistic Min.	Marybeth Wooters	973-538-6784
Family Promise	Mary Dougherty	973-538-9003
Finance Committee	Dorothy Flynn	973-538-2634
Food Pantry	Claudia Nardi	973-539-2141
Gardening	Lynnie Tecza	973-539-2141
Giving Tree	Brian Morgan	973-462-6972
Good Samaritan	Jeanette Fredericks	973-216-2231
Home School Assoc.	Jean Jabbour	973-809-8630
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
Mental Health Liaison	Paul Boehler	973-722-4994
Men's Group	Peter Zaremba	212-518-4973
Moms and Tots	Henriette Kahn	973-539-1350
Nursing Homes	Ed Hein	(973) 267-1359
Pre-Cana	Ken and Rosa Rose	973-539-9845
RCIA	Fr. John Hart	973-539-2141
Respect Life	Sue and Dave O'Dougherty	973-993-3068
Senior Citizens	Joan Kramer	973-539-4910
Soup Kitchen	Janet Dedrick	973-539-7811
Spiritual Direction	Annaliese Rush	973-455-0391
Ushers	Karen Florance	973-476-5542
Village Angels/Tanzania	Anthony Romano	973-267-5433
Welcome /Hospitality	Johanna Burani	973-610-4856
Women's Cornerstone	Maira Clarkin	973-539-4390
Women's Faith Sharing	Louise Johnson	973-975-6651
Vocations	Gina Hurley	973 460 7241
Young Professionals	Deacon John Brandi	973-539-2141
Youth Ministry	Craig Urbanowicz	864-663-3729
	Lisa Sullivan	973-267-8519

MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY December 16**

8:00 a.m. Bruno DiPaolo
 5:30 p.m. Joan "Sharon" Pelosi
 Billy Sambora

SUNDAY December 17

7:00 a.m. People of the Parish
 8:30 a.m. Kevin Hanlon
 Michael Faul Sr.
 10:00 a.m. Jeanne Seybold
 Joseph Gatto
 12:15 p.m. Paul Albanese
 Joan "Sharon" Pelosi
 5:30 p.m. Geraldine Hogan
 Jack Cella

MONDAY December 18

7:00 a.m. Beverly Perdue
 12:05 p.m. Natalie DuBois (Living)

TUESDAY December 19

7:00 a.m. Benny Lato
 12:05 p.m. Richard J. Doran Sr.

WEDNESDAY December 20

7:00 a.m. Theresa Dacey
 12:05 p.m. Dora Soriano

THURSDAY December 21

7:00 a.m. Deborah Ann Smith
 12:05 p.m. Jessica Newcombe and Family (Living)

FRIDAY December 22

7:00 a.m. Carlo Brigida
 12:05 p.m. Theresa DiPaolo

SATURDAY December 23

8:00 a.m. Barbara Albanese
 5:30 p.m. Sandy Cupples (Living)
 William Peason

SUNDAY December 24 4th Sunday of Advent

7:00 a.m. People of the Parish
 8:30 a.m. William Hulsy
 The Cleary Family (Living)
 10:00 a.m. Ruth O'Keefe
 12:15 p.m. Richard DeVogel
 Marie H. Loeffler
Christmas Vigil Masses
 4:00 p.m. Thomas Collins
 Joseph Loughlin
 5:30 p.m. Eleanor Parker
 Florence and Michael Coppola
 and Kevin Caracciola
 7:30 p.m. Joseph Baron
 Rick Baiter and Albert Callahan
 10:00 p.m. The Brigida, Marshall and Deely Families
 Charles Seergy

MONDAY December 25 Christmas Day Masses

7:00 a.m. People of the Parish
 8:30 a.m. The Sexton and Tedeschi Families
 Francis and Alice McAllister
 10:00 a.m. Lisbeth Hernandez
 Joseph Gatto
 12:15 p.m. Edmundo Santos
 Stephen Smith III

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

In the first of this Sunday's biblical readings, we again hear the words of Isaiah of the Restoration. The prophet rejoices that God has chosen him to announce marvelous news to those who had suffered Exile in Babylon. He praises God for acting to establish justice in the world.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

In the conclusion of his letter to the Church in Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul prays that the community will abide in holiness and faithfulness as they wait for the coming of Jesus in glory. He adds that Jesus will indeed come to establish justice because God, the Trustworthy One, has said so.

Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

The Gospel of John is noted for its use of legal language. In this passage from that Gospel, John the Baptizer gives "testimony" about his mission to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Do our lives give similar witness to our faith in the Coming One?

He came ... to testify to the light,
 He was not the light,
 but came to testify to the light.

John 1: 6



**We invite you to prayerfully reflect
 on the Readings for the week of December 17**

Monday Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
 Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,
 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;
 Lk 1:46-56
Saturday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10
 and 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,
 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Christmas Vigil Masses
 Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Monday **The Nativity of the Lord**
 Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6;
 Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

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



Charles Arnolt, Charles Arteglier, Greg, John, and Tom Baxter, Paula Rose Carducci, Jim Cavanaugh, John Hyland, Kenneth Krause, Mary Reisch, Marva Jean Corbin, Nancy Arteglier, Jim Mongey, Sister Marie Graziano, William Moeller, Elaine Metzger, Jack Guerriero, Barbara Ryan, Hedda Sivertsson, Francesca Kobylarz-Bongiorno, Rev. Msgr. Martin F. Rauscher, Saletha Corbin, Msgr. Leo Carey, Ray Donovan, Grace Bornheim, Karen Chiapinni, Bishop Rodimer, Gus Mitchell, Patricia LeFebvre, Steve Keown, Ellie Morrell, Ada Thigpen, John Golden, Russell Burnside, Iris Perkins, Brian Reilly, Caleb Quirk, Kimberly Norwood, Dorothy Santoro, Peg Croain, Norma Jean Jones, Ann Vaughan, Carl Sullivan, Eunice Taylor, Jose Moises Lainez, Arlene Yuliano, Susan Rothauser, Zuri Govan, Dr. Melvin Johnson, Patty Isidro, Leon Bailey, Andrew Manns, Weldon Bazemore, Joan Michaelson, Rosa Zegarre, Lewis White, Tom Emmer, Charlotte Resz, David Ware, Miah Tully, Timothy Green, Barbara Dempsey, Patricia Cummings, Kathleen Vargas, Caroline Comerford, Pete Benza, Helen Hoyt, David Ravill, Kathy Anderson, Tim Byrne, John Gibbons, James Meeks and Family, Rosa Zegarra, Doris Schieppe and Family, Shea Lukasko and Family, Olivia Crenshaw, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Trexler, Mary Ann Woods, Marybeth Bonkoski, James Martin, Msgr. John Demkovich, Nigel Leoppkey, Sister Clare Tully, James Marny.

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
JANUARY 8, 2018 AT 5:30 P.M.**

For the month of January, Monday night Adoration will be held on January 8, not on January 1. All Monday adoration will now be held on the first Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. As always, we invite all parishioners to take special advantage of our celebration of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m.

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Need help? Our ministry can assist registered Assumption parishioners with various errands. Contact our Dec. coordinator, Dot Baron, at (973) 538-6451.



**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*, Military Professor, Naval War College, Newport, RI; *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; *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*, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, Arlington, VA, *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, First Sgt. *Jeramiah Dempsey*, USAF, *Dr. Casey McCann*, Lt. Commander Navy; *1st Lt. J.D. Poling*, US Army, Gitmo, Cuba, *RTC Peter Mitchell*, USMC.

WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE

SAVE THE DATE FEBRUARY 16-17, 2018

"Christ be our Light"

What is the Women's Cornerstone Retreat? It is a program for spiritual renewal and personal growth. It is an experience for women by women. We come together to grow in the knowledge and love of God. During the 24-hour retreat, you will listen to the faith journeys of other women, and focus on your own spiritual development. It's a time for you to engage in quiet reflection, and to get to know other Catholic women. The retreat will take place at Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown. Please contact Chrissy West at 973-809-1646 costa1112@yahoo.com for more information.

ASSUMPTION SENIORS GROUP

There will be no Assumption Senior meeting for the month of December. Our next meeting will be held on January 16 in Rauscher Hall after the 12:05 Mass. Again, bring your sandwich, beverage and desert will be served.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDETE SUNDAY – REJOICE!

*John was sent from God . . . to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
John 1: 6-8, 19-28*

Today is Gaudete Sunday! Gaudete means rejoice! The color for the Advent Candle we light today on the Third Sunday of Advent is Rose. The priest and deacon may opt to wear Rose-colored vestments as a reminder of this. We are encouraged to rejoice today because our celebration of Christmas draws near. The mystery of the Incarnation of God, the fullest expression of the Father's love and mercy should fill us with joy. Here is a reflection I hope you will enjoy.

Franz Jacob is a barber in a small town outside of Quebec. One of his regulars is six-year-old Wyatt Lafreniere. Wyatt is autistic - he has trouble sitting still and he's hypersensitive to being touched.

So Franz will follow Wyatt around his shop as needed. He'll crawl on the floor with Wyatt and clip the boy's hair a snip and a shear at a time. Wyatt will sometimes just lie down on the floor, so Franz will lie down on the floor, too, taking as much time as Wyatt needs.

Many barbers and hairdressers don't know how to deal with clients with disabilities like autism, but Franz Jacob has several regular customers with autism, Wyatt being the youngest. He's learned how to adapt to their needs. He schedules them for the end of the day so he can take the time he needs, as long as an hour to 90 minutes. "I lock the front door. It has to stay quiet," explains Franz. "I'm just being really patient because they are [the ones] driving those moments."

Franz Jacob also works with people who are terminally ill, who want to enjoy a last trim. "When you shave someone who is probably going to die within 48 hours ... it's indescribable . . . I'm really proud to be doing all this," he says.

To Wyatt's mom, Franz Jacob is a hero.

"He welcomes him like his best friend. To see that he accepts these differences is just fantastic," she says.

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Lafreniere published a photo she took of the burly, grizzly-bearded, tattooed barber lying on the floor of his shop giving her son a haircut. The photo was posted online and in newspapers throughout Canada, and made the barber a hero - but Franz says, "I don't see myself like that, but I'm just doing my best all the time for my community." [CTVnews.ca; CBC]

In what our Christian tradition has come to call the "Incarnation," the God of love becomes one of us so that we might become one with God. But Incarnation is not only an event but a practice: that we "embody" the love of God for the sake of others. A barber in Canada becomes the "incarnation" of God's love when he puts aside his adult world to bend down and crawl on the floor to enter the world of his young autistic client. May this Christmas be the beginning of our own "practice" of incarnation: to leave our own self-centered world to travel humbly in the world of those in need and, through our patience, understanding and generosity, to make the compassion and peace of God a reality in their lives.



In Christ's Peace,
Father John

ADVENT HOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY

In ancient times, when someone important was to travel, the bumps along the way were filled in and flowers lined the road. John's role, to make straight the way of the Lord, went even further. He helped others prepare their hearts for the Lord's coming.

Adults: How can I smooth out my spiritual path this Advent season?

Children: What small change can I make to prepare my heart for Jesus?

OPLATKI

A POLISH/SLOVAK CHRISTMAS TRADITION

A part of the Polish/Slovak family Christmas Tradition is the breaking of the Christmas Wafer (*Oplatek* in Polish pronounced *oh-pwah-tek*) during the Christmas Eve Vigil Feast of Wigilia. Wigilia is the holiest of all the nights of the year in the Polish home.

The Sacred white wafer, much like those used for Holy Communion (unleavened wafers baked from pure wheat flour and water), are shared with each person present. The wafers are embossed with elegant Christmas related religious images. Family members and friends break off a piece of *Oplatki* and give it to one another to eat. During the exchange best wishes and blessings are expressed as well as forgiveness. The breaking and exchanging part of *Oplatki* is intended to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God, and family. This is the most emotional time of the holiday for the Polish family – the sharing expression of love and forgiveness in celebration and tradition.

Today, on this Third Sunday of Advent we will provide *Oplatki* to each family in our parish and encourage you to share this ritual with your friends and family.

BRING YOUR INFANT JESUS

The Creche, or Nativity, was first made by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223, so as to provide people with a re-presenting of this great event in our world's history. Likewise, St. Francis also invented the Stations of the Cross as a Lenten devotion for the same purpose. Over the years many traditions have developed in Italy regarding the Creche. One such tradition emerged that the children would present their infant Jesus to the parish priest for a blessing. Then they would go home, entrusted with the infant for their family Creche, and keep it safe until it would be put into the Creche on Christmas. This became a nationwide event in Italy when Pope Paul VI, in 1968, began this custom and every Pope has since maintained it. Each year tens of thousands of school children fill St. Peter's Square to get their infant Jesus blessed by the Pope. That being said, we invite you to bring your infant Jesus to Mass next weekend for a blessing!

Dear Parishioners,

All during the year, but especially at Christmastime, we remember those friends and family who are with us in our hearts, but can't be with us in person, because they are infirmed, and in hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living centers.

Our own Pastor Emeritus, Msgr. Martin Rauscher is living at Sunrise Assisted Living in Madison, NJ. Please consider sending Fr. Martin a Christmas card this year, wishing him a Merry Christmas, and assuring him of your continued prayers for him. Please include a picture of you and your family if possible.

This small gesture of holiday cheer will lift his spirits and remind him that he is greatly loved and greatly missed by his Assumption Parish family.

I thank you for your thoughtfulness, and will continue to pray for all our parishioners and especially for those who are unable to be with their families during this Christmas season.

Father John

Please send your cards to

Rev. Msgr. Martin F. Rauscher
c/o Sunrise of Madison
215 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA TODAY!

We are looking forward to getting in the Christmas spirit with our annual Breakfast with Santa! It will be held in Rauscher Hall on Sunday December 17th! We will be serving bagels and juice/coffee, taking pictures, and helping the young children write letters to Santa and make some Christmas crafts. This is for families as they leave the 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. masses! We are hoping for many donations to support next summer's annual service trip to West Virginia. Come help us celebrate the Christmas season at this years Breakfast with Santa!

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON TO BE HONORED IN CONVENT STATION

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth cordially invite you to join them for the Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Seton Associate Commitment Ceremony. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 6, 2018, at Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ, at 11:00 a.m. The Mass will be followed by a light lunch in the study hall of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth. The Heritage Room at the Motherhouse will be open for a display of Mother Seton memorabilia. In case of inclement weather call (973) 290-5478. Snow date is January 13, 2018.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD

Deidre Hubbard
Sister of Tara Hubbard Grand

Christopher Fattal
Brother of Anne Fattal

Theresa Svek
Sister of Dorothy Bradley

THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

We Built a Family Together: The History of the Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary by parishioners Robert and Jeanette Fredericks, with photographs by Sergio Burani, is a great Christmas gift! Stop by the office during office hours to pick one up for a \$25 donation to Assumption Church.

SIMBANG GABI SA CORPUS CHRISTI ADVENT NOVENA MASSES

Corpus Christi Parish in Chatham Township, NJ will be hosting the Filipino tradition of nine-day novena Masses from Dec. 15-23, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited to the Eucharistic celebration which will be in English. Please come and invite your friends and family to join as a spiritual offering in preparation for celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus! Please contact Fr. Lem Camacho at (973) 6350070 ext. 6 or email: lcamacho@corpuschristi.org with any questions.

MEN'S CORNERSTONE XVIII TAKE MY HAND AND WALK

Consider spending 26 hours with men like you, who are searching for greater meaning in their lives and seeking a deeper, closer relationship with the Lord. Our Men's Cornerstone is a wonderful gift, a much needed spiritual lift from the daily routines of our lives. Journey both spiritually and socially with others who want to grow and become more life-giving, compassionate "best version of yourself." Friday evening, January 26 & Saturday, January 27, 2018 For more information, please visit www.ndcarmel.com, or contact Bruce Rapp x005412@gmail.com / 973-224-0115, or David Tejada: dmtejeda@optonline.net /347-385-7210.

CHRISTMAS TREES AT ST. PAUL'S ABBEY

St. Paul's Abbey at 297 Route 206 in Newton, NJ has thousands of Christmas trees ready to chose and cut. 7 days a week from November 25 through December 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more! Call 973-383-2470 .for more information.

MASS ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 9/10

5:30 p.m.	152
7:00 a.m.	75
8:30 a.m.	175
10:00 a.m.	475
12:15 p.m.	261
5:30 p.m.	278
Total:	1,416

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Assumption is a Tithing Parish

The collection total for the weekend of December 9/10 was \$20,937. The collection total for that weekend last year was \$25,360. The collection for Immaculate Conception totaled \$3,188.

Pastor's Note: Thank you for your most generous gifts in our offertory every week. Your sacrificial giving enables us to accomplish the Lord's work here. Thank you for the warm and friendly ways that you welcome new parishioners and visitors here every week. There exists here at Assumption a palpable atmosphere of Christian joy, friendship and welcome. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE

As you plan to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season by giving gifts to your friends and loved ones, there is one gift that you can give to tens of thousands of people. It does not require ten thousand names tags or ten thousand bows. All that's needed is a completed pledge card to the Bishop's Annual Appeal or an on-line gift at www.2017appeal.org. Say "Merry Christmas" to so many of your brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Paterson who need some hope and joy in their lives by participating in the Bishop's Annual Appeal today. May God bless you for your generosity!

RECOVERY MASS

The Shrine of Saint Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ, hosts a monthly Recovery Mass on the second Saturday of each month from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Following Mass, there is an Intercessory Prayer Session in the chapel where you can pray in community for loved ones still enslaved by addictions, and give thanks for those who have found recovery. For more information, call 973-370-DRUG (3784).

HOLY LAND - WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED

Join with Fr. Przemyslaw J. Nowak on a Pilgrimage to The Holy Land & Rome Dec 26, 2018 through Jan 4, 2019. All proceeds from this pilgrimage will be going to the Archdiocese of the Military Services in honor of all the men and women in our country who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces. We are grateful for their service and pray for them and their families. Visit <http://www.pilgrimages.com/frnowak/> for details.

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Biagio Carmelo Bari
Son of Fabio and Marina



Isabella Ava Marrello
Daughter of Michael and Daniela

Chiara Emilia Scotto
Daughter of Michele and Stephanuie

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

Assumption School is happy to welcome new students at any time when space is available. Pre-registration forms for the 2017-2018 school year are available at Assumptionnj.org under "forms". Please call the school to set up an appointment at 973-538-0590, or stop by the school office for further information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Birth Haven, a local non-profit shelter for pregnant teens, is currently seeking volunteers to join their Spring Tea Committee. The committee is looking for energetic and vibrant women who are willing to share their passion, skill set and talents to help plan and execute an annual fundraiser. Please consider joining the committee and helping to assist homeless and pregnant, young mothers and babies at Birth Haven. For information contact Tina Magarino, Executive Director at tina@birthhaven.org or visit www.birthhaven.org

TRAVEL TO ROME WITH FR. PRISK

Join Fr. Stephen Prisk for a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Orvieto, and Nettuno from May 21-29, 2018. Select tours will be given by Dr. Liz Lev, a renowned art historian. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 12:30 pm at St. Joseph Church, Mendham. Prices start at \$2999 per person. Please call the parish house for more information. [973-543-5950](tel:973-543-5950).

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Join us at Loyola Jesuit Center, 161 James St., Morristown for a Day of Prayer on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The topic will be "Dark Night: Through darkness and doubt often comes the greatest strengthening of our faith."

In the silence of this "night of faith" we return to simplicity and sincerity of heart. We learn *deeper* listening for God's will, in direct and simple attention to *reality*. . .

It is a place which leads to a deeply tranquil and joyful spirituality since it brings us in direct contact with The Source of all joy and all life....Jesus Christ. To register call Renee at (973) 539-0740.

COUNT YOUR BLESSING AT CHRISTMAS

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In all circumstances give thanks,

for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Consider an attitude of gratitude each day all year long, not just during the Christmas season.

The experience of gratitude is associated with higher levels of contentment and satisfaction with life, and optimism about the future. Grateful people take better care of themselves and engage in more protective health behaviors like regular exercise, healthy diet, and regular physical examinations.

Here are some ways to cultivate gratitude on a regular basis:

- Count your blessings. Pick a time every week to sit down and write about your blessings — reflecting on what went right or what you are grateful for.
- Pray. Use prayer to cultivate gratitude.
- Keep a gratitude journal. Make it a habit to write down or share with a loved one thoughts about the gifts you've received each day.
- Write a thank-you note. You can make yourself happier and nurture your relationship with another person by writing a thank-you letter expressing your enjoyment and appreciation of that person's impact on your life. Send it, or better yet, deliver and read it in person if possible. Make a habit of sending at least one gratitude letter a month.

MORRIS COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE

The Morris County Right to Life Meetings are now held on the third Monday of the month. We meet at Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church Hall, 75 Ridgedale Avenue, Cedar Knolls, At 7:30 p.m., room 112. All are welcome.

BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 20

Saint Francis Residential Community, 122 Diamond Spring Road, Denville, NJ; is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; sponsored by the Sunrise Rotary Club of Denville, the Denville Rotary Club, and New Jersey Blood Services.



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WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT FEBRUARY 16-17, 2018

What is the Women's Cornerstone Retreat? It is a program for spiritual renewal and personal growth. It is an experience for women by women. We come together to grow in the knowledge and love of God. During the 24-hour retreat, you will listen to the faith journeys of other women, and focus on your own spiritual development. It's a time for you to engage in quiet reflection, and to get to know other Catholic women. The retreat will take place at Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown. Please contact Chrissy West at 973-809-1646 costa1112@yahoo.com for more information.

Advent and Christmas 2017

Individual Confessions

Saturday, December 23 – 4:15 to 5:00 p.m.

Masses for The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 24, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 a.m.,
12:15 p.m.

Christmas Eve — Saturday, December 24

3:30 p.m.	Children's Nativity Story
4:00 p.m.	Children's Mass of Christmas
5:30 p.m.	Mass of Christmas
7:30 p.m.	Mass of Christmas
9:30 p.m.	Choir Carol Program
10:00 p.m.	Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day — Monday December 25

7:00, 8:30, 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 9:00 a.m.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 6, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 7, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 a.m.,
12:15 p.m.

Please note there will not be a 5:30 p.m. Mass Sunday, December 31. It will resume on Sunday, January 7.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



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