Since 1848 The Parish Family of

The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Welcomes You

January 6, 2019

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 Email: assumption@assumptionparish.org

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. John E. Hart
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Lukasz Wnuk
In Residence: Rev. Jeider Barraza
Deacons: Brian Beyerl, John Brandi, Michael Hanly, Elliott Stein

Trustee: Kathleen Hyland 973-539-2860

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

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, Samuel Brito: Caretakers
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.

Parish 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	Kevin Kelly	973-727-7082
Cub Scouts	Cassandra Nielson	973-452-3857
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	Brian Doherty	973-714-7674
Finance Committee	Dorothy Flynn	973-538-2634
Food Pantry	Claudia Nardi	973-539-2141
Gardening	Eileen 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	215-518-4973
Moms and Tots	Henriette Kahn	973-539-1350
Nursing Homes	Mary Dibble	973- 998-0838
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
Safe Environment	Linda Macios	973-539-2141
Senior Citizens	Joan Kramer	973-539-4910
	Janet Dedrick	973-539-7811
Soup Kitchen	Annaliese Rush	973-455-0391
Spiritual Direction	Karen Florance	973-476-5542
Ushers	Anthony Romano	973-267-5433
Village Angels/Tanzania	Johanna Burani	973-610-4856
Welcome /Hospitality	Moira Clarkin	973-539-4390
Women's Cornerstone	Chrissy West	973-809-1646
Women's Faith Sharing	Gina Hurley	973 460 7241
Vocations	Deacon John Brandi	973-539-2141
Young Professionals	Fr. Lukasz Wnuk	973-539-2141
Youth Ministry	Lisa Sullivan	973-267-8519

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY	**January 5**
8:00 a.m.	Tommy Wendorff
5:30 p.m.	Rudy Kelly, George Momberger
	Margaret Kondroski
SUNDAY	**January 6**
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	John Dan Poling
	Charles Kennedy
10:00 a.m.	George E. Parker
	Frank Tozzi
12:15 p.m.	Joe and Thursa Hyland
	Benjamin Aspero
5:30 p.m.	Jane Rissland
	Anthony Fiore
MONDAY	**January 7**
7:00 a.m.	George Kaiser
12:05 p.m.	Paul and Jennie Carducci
TUESDAY	**January 8**
9:00 a.m.	Robert O'Connor Sr.
12:00 p.m.	Ann Buttacavoli
WEDNESDAY	**January 9**
7:00 a.m.	Luz Medina Vega
12:05 p.m.	Suzanna Mauro
THURSDAY	**January 10**
7:00 a.m.	Deceased Friends of the 7 AM Mass
12:05 p.m.	Elizabeth T. Cooke
FRIDAY	**January 11**
7:00 a.m.	Margaret and Robert Tulley
12:05 p.m.	Valerie O'Connor
SATURDAY	**January 12**
8:00 a.m.	Mary Reisch
5:30 p.m.	Peggy McGee
	The Kull and Valletta Families
SUNDAY	**January 13**
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	Carol Lasch Adamsky
	Mary Reisch
10:00 a.m.	John Dan Poling
	Doris Jackson
12:15 p.m.	Brian McNally
	Mary Cassidy
5:30 p.m.	Fr. Anthony Uricchio
	George E. H. Lavin II

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 5:30 p.m.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

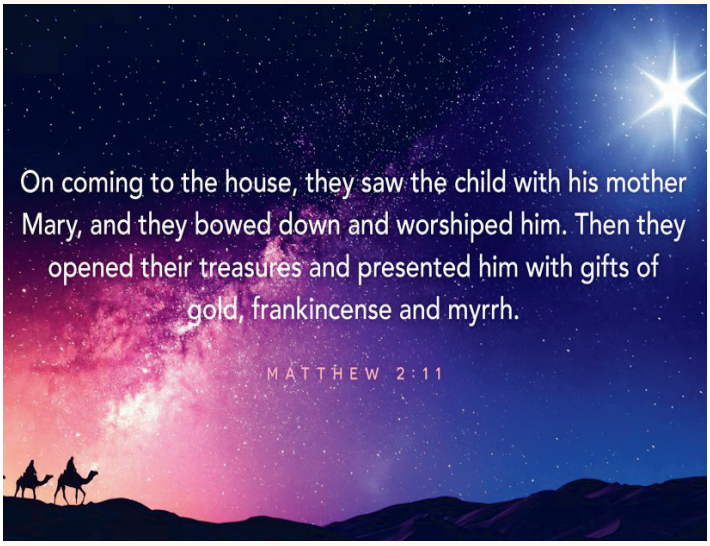
In this reading from the Hebrew Bible, Isaiah of the Restoration proclaims God's generosity to those returning form exile in Babylon. By bringing the exiles back home, all the nations of the world will witness God's glory. They will stream to Jerusalem to pay homage to the God of Israel and of the whole world.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

In this portion of his letter to the Ephesians, the writer explains that through Jesus, Gentiles have now become honorary members of God's people, along with the chosen people, the Jews. A saving relationship with God has now been extended to all the world, through Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Magi were the royal counselors of the emperors of Persia and studied what today might be called "the occult." By describing the visit of three of these officials to Bethlehem, Matthew reveals that even pagan Gentiles are affected by Jesus' birth. Furthermore, the magi's gifts, items used at the burial of a king, suggest that the child's importance involves his death.



We invite you to prayerfully reflect on the Readings for the week of December 28

Monday	1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday	1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday	1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22
Friday	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday	1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday	**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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, Nancy Arteglier, Jim Mongey, Sister Marie Graziano, Elaine Metzger, Jack Guerriero, Francesca Kobylarz-Bongiorno, Barbara Ryan, Saletha Corbin, Msgr. Leo Carey, Ray Donovan, Ellie Morrell, Ada Thigpen, John Golden, Brian Reilly, Caleb Quirk, Ann Vaughan, Carl Sullivan, Lewis White, Pete Benza, Nigel Leoppkey, Sister Clare Tully, Lisa Yarosz, Calvin Zamarelli, Stephanie Trincanello, Pope Benedict XVI, Lyle Leeson, Rob Loia, Gail Muhammed, Harding Corbin, Antoinetta Bernardo, Noel Robinson, Thomas Devlin, Hester Davis, Manuel Regaldo Sydney, Marcia Ann Bowers, Mildred Crump, Ronnie Pennimpede, Terri Abrams, Philip Barrett, Louis Cicitta, Bill Duggan, John Jennings, Richard Julianno, Madeline Longo, Baby Genevieve Chitwood, Janet Friedman, Patricia Felix, Elijah Sideeq Williams and Jennifer Williams, Paul Staudt Sr., Romilda Chiga, Rebecca Russo, Regent Boisvert, Mary Antosiewicz, Dave DeMott, Linda Christopoulos, Rowland Lucid, Shirley DeRossi, Bonita Stein, Janet Stiles, Ruth Puoti, Alan Nadler, Michael Grogan, John Hefferon, Doris Bonanno, Kathy DiFiore, Baby Alexander Gedicke, Terrence Wanniski, Louise Fichot, Bob Gebhardt, Della Corbin, David Alston, Ricardo Gonzales, Jenny Reed, Tim Hart, Marla Paillet , Dawn Tezino, Rossana Wright, Wanda Barnett, George Corbin, Harry Widmeier, Peter Bardes, Jean Morrow, Audrey Roast. Genny Reed, Jessica Rodriguez, Marion Roman, Carmen Galdieri, Rey Caudillo, Gabriella Lourdes Calello, James Wright, Rose Lagrotteria, Fran LaSala, Francis Montemurno Jr., Genevieve Hosier, Joan Duggan, Barbara Kiely, David Baime, Roger Manshel, George Corbin, Michelle DeGirolamp, Florida McKoy, Ethel Fassulo, Gloria Dabal, Laurie Quinn, Vivian Hart, Debra Phillip.

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.

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.*; *Capts. 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. Andrew Pineda* and *Capt. Laurence Pineda*, US Air Force, SM*Sgt. 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, 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, *PFC Peter Mitchell,* USMC, *Dale G. Potter*, Retired Lt. Commander US Navy, and Major US Marine Corps.

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Need help? Our Good Samaritan Ministry can assist registered parishioners with various errands and services. Contact our January coordinator, Jeanette Fredericks at 973-267-7152 .

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Mon. Jan 7

St. Alphonsus Ligouri said “Good friends find pleasure in one another’s company. Let us know pleasure in the company of our best Friend, a Friend who can do everything for us, a friend who loves us beyond measure. ...In the Blessed Sacrament we can talk to him straight from the heart.”

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Monday, January 7 at 5:30 p.m. Join us at this holy hour of prayer and as we offer the New Year to our Lord.

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE

If you have not yet responded to the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal, there is still time to do so. Your gift is a great blessing and valued so we can serve Christ by serving his people. For your convenience, you can make an online gift at www.20l8appeal.org.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Matthew 2: 1-12)

Today we celebrate The Epiphany; (the word means "manifestation"). As we recall the adoration of the Magi during this Christmas liturgy we are reminded that God wants to reveal His love to all people. Jesus Christ is born in time not only as the Savior of Israel; He is the Savior of the whole world and God wants everyone to know this.

Here is a reflection I hope you will enjoy

It may begin with a vision, a question, an unwillingness to accept or be satisfied with, or even an outright refusal. *What would happen if . . . ? How come this is what it is . . . ? Is there a healthier, more constructive, more loving way to deal with . . . ? What would happen if I said no — and what would I do differently?*

And so, a **dream** takes shape.

And that dream compels the dreamer to look for a source of light, of direction, of insight: a **star**, a star that illuminates the dreamer's eyes to see both the possibilities for realizing the dream and the obstacles to its fulfillment. The "star" may be a sage or prophet who can point the way, a pilgrim who has already traveled that road, a saint who dreams the same dream.

And the star sets the dreamer on the **journey**; the road to fulfilling the dream, of making the hope a reality, of creating a new and better place for justice and peace and reconciliation to thrive. There will be discoveries along the way, changes in direction and understanding — even re-imagining the dream itself. Watch for unexpected turns and detours; steel yourself for confrontations with more than a few Herods: those who seek to derail the dreamer and destroy the dream for their own ends.

But, if the dreamer keeps faith with the dream, if the dreamer follows the right star, if the dreamer perseveres on the journey, the dreamer will eventually reach his or her Bethlehem.

A dream, a star, a journey: the story of the magi's quest for the Christ Child mirrors our own constant search for meaning and purpose in our lives. Every human life is a journey through the time God has given us, a journey marked by signs of God's love in our midst. Mirroring our own journeys, the story of the magi challenges us to consider the "stars" we follow in the course of our lives: Do we navigate by the "stars" that lead us to wealth, to power, to prestige — stars that will eventually flame out of the sky altogether? Or do we fix our lives on the great "star" of God's Christ: peace, compassion, mercy, justice, forgiveness? On our journey through this New Year, may we recommit ourselves to following the "star" that leads us to a sense of meaning and hope as we seek to transform our own Bethlehems and Jerusalems in the dream of the kingdom of God. (Connections)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Father John

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

In Matthew's Gospel, the Magi arrive without any prior announcement. Led by the star, no one in Jerusalem was prepared for their appearance. The gifts they carried were unexpected, but the Holy Family graciously received them.

Adults: Does my pride and independence prevent me from accepting the gifts that God and others offer me?

Children: What are some good gifts that I receive in my life? Do I realize that such gifts are a sign of God's love for me?

A Family Perspective: The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

We wish to thank all of those parishioners who contributed their time and talents to make the Christmas Masses at Assumption beautiful Liturgical celebrations.

It takes many people and many hands to prepare and accomplish the "behind the scenes" work each Christmas. Please join us in thanking our Deacons, Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors, our Altar Linen Ministry, Collection Counters, and Ministers of Communion for their commitment.

Our thanks also to our Director of Music, Claudia Nardi; our Organist, Karen Chiappini; our Cantors and Soloists; Chris McAlister, Hugh Grennan, Sharon Lynch, Rachel Montagna, Nancy Tworishuck, and Mark Enea; our instrumentalists John Martin, Brass and Woodwinds, Joe DeVico, percussion and orchestration, Mike Connor percussion, and Domenico Randazzo guitar; Children's Choir Mother Diane Long; Vivian Penham and the Claremeont strings Quartet; and of course to the loyal and hardworking members of the Adult and Youth Choirs.

Our thanks are also extended to Sharon Bertram and all who helped her on the Children's Liturgy Committee, and to Moria Clarkin and all of the following people who worked with her to decorate our beautiful church and grounds: Gregory Reisch, Tom Sullivan, Jack Nienstedt, Conor Lenahan, Logan Lenahan, Dan Bertram, Luke Emodi, Christian Fox, Christina Cannilla, Doug Reisch, Janet Dedrick, Emerson Brito and Sam Brito. May God continue to bless you all in the new year.

FIND PEACE AND BE CALM AT TAIZE PRAYER

Taizé Prayer is a distinctive style of meditative prayer developed by a community of monks in rural France. This quiet, moving, reflective prayer combines elements of the Church's traditional Liturgy of the Hours with elements of contemplative meditation. A typical Taizé prayer service incorporates periods of silence with meditative readings from Scripture, prayers of praise and intercession, and the frequent repetition of simple, contemporary chants based on the Psalms or other parts of Scripture. Short songs or chants, repeated over and over, create a meditative environment and express basic realities of faith which can be easily grasped by the mind and the heart. The result is to gradually move prayer from the head to the heart.

Join the Assumption Young Professionals on Saturday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. for an hour of prayer and reflection in the church. All are welcome.

WINTER SOUL-STICE A BOOK BY FR. KEN LASCH

Catholic Book Company has published a small book of Father Lasch's poetry entitled: ***"Winter Soul-stice - Reflections on Light and Darkness in a Season of Grace."***

The book is available at Catholic Book Publishing Corp, 77 West End Rd, Totowa, NJ 07524, 973.890.2400 or at www.catholicbookpublishing.com .

WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE

SAVE THE DATE MARCH 15 - 16, 2019

"He Restores My Soul"

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 Villa Pauline Retreat and Spiritual Center in Mendham, and the cost is $150.00. Please contact Chrissy West at 973-809-1646 costa1112@yahoo.com for more information.

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

Assumption School is happy to welcome new students at any time when space is available. Pre-registration forms for the 2019-2020 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - MORRISTOWN

The Knights of Columbus, George Washington Council 359, at 13 South Street in Morristown, NJ welcomes all Catholic Men age 18 and older to come join our growing council. Our council serves our Church's; Religious orders and Community charities throughout the year! We are an active council and have a lot to offer men of 18 and older by way of social contacts and events that will foster your relationship with our Church and our community! Come join us! Contact: Grand Knight William C. Duggan, Jr. at 973-960-6417, wcdugganjr@hotmail.com.

THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH

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.

SINCERE THANKS FROM THE GIVING TREE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Giving Tree Committee, we would like to thank you for your overwhelming outreach to the poor and less-fortunate. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide over 1,025 gifts to seven different social service organizations throughout Morris County and the Paterson diocese.

A special thank you to all the "elves" who helped ensure the gifts were sorted, purchased, and delivered.

We also thank Claudia Nardi for all she does to help the local poor who come to our parish looking for help - both at Christmas and throughout the year. An enormous thanks to Doug Reisch and the rest of our Assumption staff for all they do to support this wonderful undertaking each year.

You can be certain that this Christmas season the recipients of your gifts will be filled with joy as they find God's loving "presence" in your "presents".

The Giving Tree Committee

BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER

Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey hospice volunteers provide terminally ill patients and their families with practical and emotional support. VNA offers a free comprehensive training program where volunteers learn the philosophy of hospice and become prepared for this rewarding work. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license and auto insurance, and pass a criminal background screening. Please contact Rachel Enderle, at 973-451-4128 or renderle@vnannj.org.

MASS ATTENDANCE

	Dec. 22/23	Dec. 24/25
4:00 p.m.		1,108
5:30 p.m.	302	752
7:30 p.m.		346
10:00 p.m.		526
7:00 a.m.	125	128
8:30 a.m.	189	157
10:00 a.m.	355	306
12:15 p.m.	314	468
5:30 p.m.	150	
Total:	1,435	3,791

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Assumption is a Tithing Parish

The collection total for the weekend of December 22/23 was $21,878. The collection total for this weekend last year was $22,182.

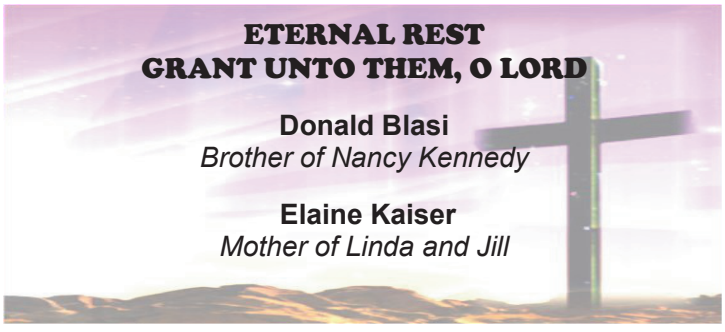
The collection total for the Christmas collection to date is $132,037. The total Christmas collection for this weekend last year was $166,716.

The attendance and the collection totals for the weekend of December 29/30 will be included in the bulletin for January 12/13.

I am so grateful to you for so many reasons. Your outstanding generosity and sacrificial giving to Assumption Parish at Christmas and throughout the year on Sundays are great blessings for our spiritual home and our parish family. Charity begins at home. Thank you so much! Fr. John

COME REFLECT AT LOYOLA

- **Ignatian Spirituality**
  Tuesday, January 22, 2019
  9:30am - 3:00pm
  Loyola Jesuit Center, Morristown, NJ
  Cost: $40 Includes Breakfast, Lunch, Reconciliation and Mass
  Led by: Rev. George Collins, S.J.
  Register at www.loyola.org
- **A Spiritual Journey Through The Lens Of The Wizard Of Oz**
  Wednesday, February 6, 2019 from 9:00am - 3:00pm
  Loyola Jesuit Center, Morristown, NJ
  Cost: $40 Includes Breakfast, Lunch, Reconciliation and Mass Led by: Anna Graziano, Spiritual Director
  Register at www.loyola.org



WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Zachary Ryan Anzelone
Son of Ryan and Caitlin

Maya Maria Libson
Daughter of James and Agnieszka

Ethan Connor Scholz
Son of David and Madeline

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).

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Feeling the desire for a deeper prayer life? Feeling a nudge to grow closer to God? Consider Spiritual Direction. In spiritual direction, you come to notice and reflect on God's presence in your life. Parishioner, Karen Florance a certified spiritual director offers free spiritual direction. Please contact Karen at kdflorance@optonline.net or 973-476-5542.

STOP MODERN DAY SLAVERY

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a collaborative, faith-based national network that offers education, supports access to survivor services, and engages in advocacy in an effort to eradicate modern-day slavery.

Not all persons experience loving families and receive multiple gifts. REMEMBER those who are bought and sold as commodities for greed and pleasure. Find out more at www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE DOORS

It is a long-standing tradition in the Church that on the Feast of the Epiphany, we bless all the doors of our homes which lead outdoors. There is specially blessed chalk on the table near the Sanctuary that you are encouraged to take home and use to mark the doors leading in and out of your homes that you bless with the following blessing:

Let us begin by blessing ourselves: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray:

When Jesus was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. We now ask that he will always be welcome to this home of ours, to bless it with his presence. We will now pray silently, for all the good we hope will bless our home this year (pause).

May Jesus always be here with us, to strengthen our love for each other. May Jesus share in our joys and comfort us in any of our sorrows.

Inspired by Jesus' teaching and example, may we always seek to make our home a dwelling place of his love, keeping away any evil and bringing the goodness of Jesus to all who come and go from our home.

Mark each door as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 19
*This stands for: Anno Domini (Year of the Lord) two thousand seventeen **C**hristus **M**ansionem **B**enedicat (May Christ Bless this House)*

THE PROPHETS

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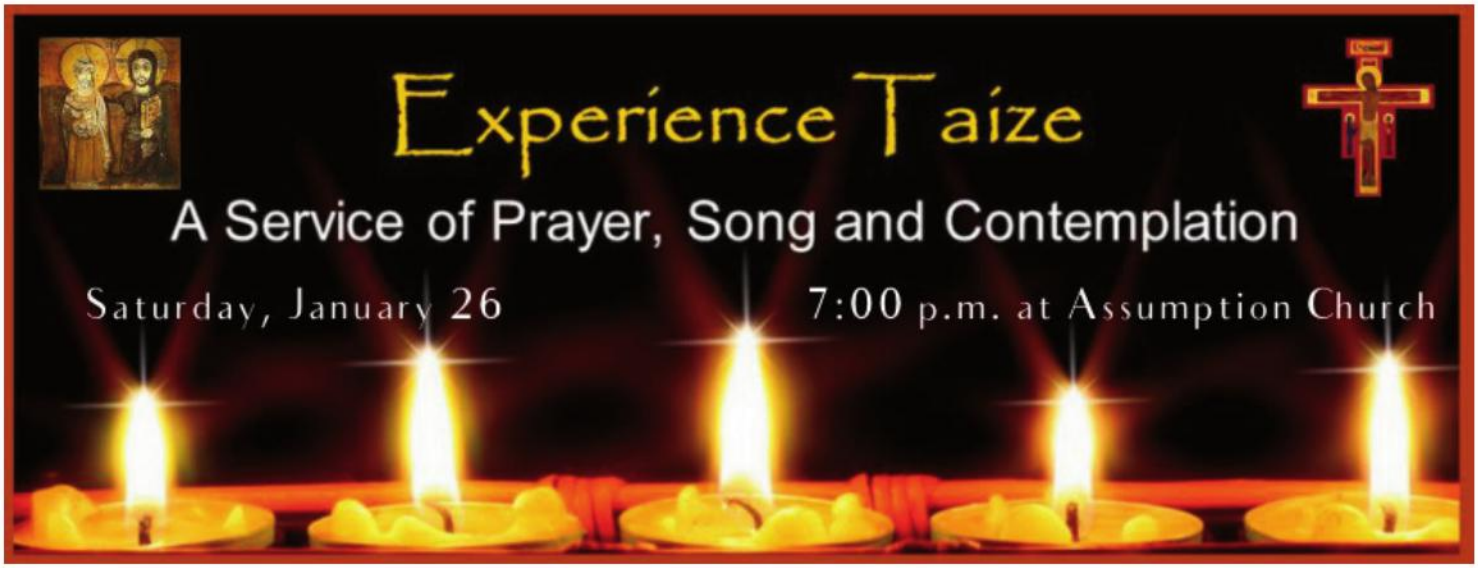
If we consider that God is the Divine Bridegroom and the Church is his Bride, then the prophets can be seen as "spiritual marriage counselors." They afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted, calling us to return to our covenant relationship with God. They urge us to repentance, warn us of the dangers of sin, and announce the blessings of faithfulness. Their prophetic words speak to us even today, as they draw us closer to our heavenly Bridegroom.

"I love this study! ... Now we know where they were when they said it, why they said it. Thomas was so clear. He illuminated it so well that it was easy to understand."

—Celesta Duscheno

Visit BibleStudyForCatholics.com to learn more!



FIND PEACE AND BE CALM AT TAIZE PRAYER

Taizé Prayer is a distinctive style of meditative prayer developed by a community of monks in rural France. This quiet, moving reflective prayer combines elements of the Church's traditional Liturgy of the Hours with elements of contemplative meditation. A typical Taizé prayer service incorporates periods of silence with meditative readings from Scripture, prayers of praise and intercession, and the frequent repetition of simple, contemporary chants based on the Psalms or other parts of Scripture. Short songs or chants, repeated over and over, create a meditative environment and express basic realities of faith which can be easily grasped by the mind and the heart. The result is to gradually move prayer from the head to the heart.

Join the Assumption Young Professionals on Saturday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. for an hour of prayer and reflection in the church. All are welcome.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A CORNERSTONE RETREAT

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. This year the retreat will take place on March 15-16 at Villa Pauline Retreat and Spiritual Center in Mendham, and the cost is $150.00. Please contact Chrissy West at 973-809-1646 costa1112@yahoo.com for more information.

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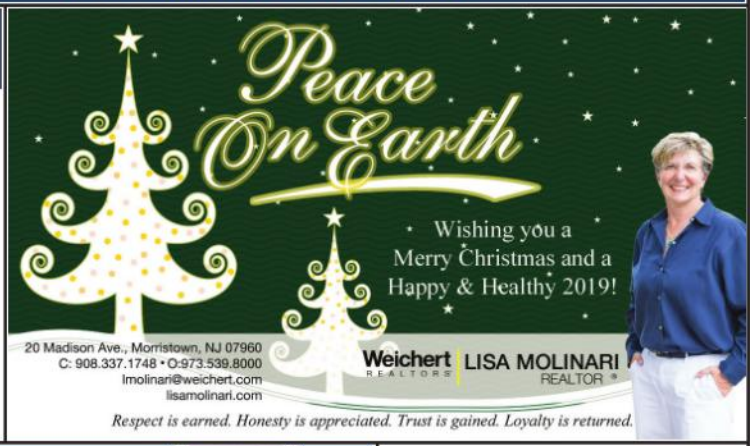
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