



GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY *of Advent*



MASS

Sunday: 7:30 a.m./9 a.m.
10:30 a.m./Noon/ 6 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m./5 p.m.
Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m./8 a.m.

CONFESSION

Sundays Before Masses
Saturdays 4-4:45 p.m.
Wednesdays 6-6:45 p.m.
By Appt: Call Fr. Keller or Fr. Weber

CLERGY

Rev. Thomas Keller
Ext. 1202; kellert@assumptionstl.org
Rev. Ryan Weber
Ext. 1205; weberr@assumptionstl.org
Deacon Chuck Ryder
ryderc@assumptionstl.org
Deacon David Schaefer
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CONNECT

Parish APP: myParish.com
Website: assumptionstl.org
Facebook: [/assumptionparishstl](https://www.facebook.com/assumptionparishstl)
Twitter: [#AssumptionSTL](https://twitter.com/AssumptionSTL)
Instagram: [@assumptionstl](https://www.instagram.com/assumptionstl)
Phone: 314-487-7970
Fax: 314-892-5513
Live Mass: assumptionlive.com

4725 Mattis Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63128



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This Week

SUN 12/1	5:30 p.m. Women's Advent by Candlelight- ^H 5:30 p.m. Men's Advent by Campfire- ^{FIRE PIT} 7 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life- ^{AC}
MON 12/2	8:30 a.m. Rosary- ^{CH} 4 p.m. Wolf Den (2 nd Grade)- ^{LL} 5:30 p.m. PSR Choir- ^{CH} 6 p.m. PSR Classes- ^{CH} 6:30 p.m. Society of St. Vincent de Paul- ^{REC} 7 p.m. Fishers of Men- ^{LL} (library) 7 p.m. Separated & Divorced- ^{LL}
TUE 12/3	8:30 a.m. Exercise- ^{LL} 8:45 a.m. Rosary- ^{CH} 4 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts (Masson)- ^{LL} 6 p.m. Lion Cub Scouts- ^{CAFÉ} 6:30 p.m. Fatima Rosary- ^{CH} 6:30 p.m. WINE Group- ^{LL} 7 p.m. ACTS Men- ^{LL}
WED 12/4	8:30 a.m. Rosary- ^{CH} 8:30 a.m. Senior Wednesdays- ^{LL} 9 a.m. Quilters- ^{LL} 6 p.m. Parish Holy Hour- ^{CH} 7 p.m. Choir Practice- ^{CH} 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts- ^{GYM}
THU 12/5	8:30 a.m. Rosary- ^{CH} 2:45 p.m. Girl Scouts (Thomas)- ^{LL} 3:30 p.m. Cub Scouts- ^{LL} 6 p.m. Tiger Cub Scouts- ^{CAFÉ} 7 p.m. ACTS Men's Leadership- ^{LL}
FRI 12/6	8:30 a.m. Rosary- ^{CH} 8:30 a.m. Senior Potluck Breakfast- ^{LL} 10 a.m. Chair Exercises- ^{LL} 2:30 p.m. Brownies-Menendez- ^{LL} 6 p.m. Cookies & Cocoa with Santa- ^{SC}
SAT 12/7	8:30 a.m. Rosary- ^{CH} 12 p.m. First Saturday Public Rosary- ^{LAWN} 4 p.m. Confessions- ^{CH}
SUN 12/8	11 a.m. Giving Tree Sorting- ^{LL} 7 p.m. Men's Pickup Basketball- ^{GYM} 7 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life- ^{AC}

CH—Church SC—School CAFÉ—Cafeteria
H—Parish Center REC—Rectory Lower Level
LL—Church Lower Level AC—Chapel

Special Events

- Dec. 4 Advent Penance Service
Dec. 6 Cookies & Cocoa with Santa
Dec. 8 Youth Choir Singing at Our Lady of the Snows (5 p.m.)
Senior Ministry Trip to Our Lady of the Snows
Dec. 15 Deanery Advent Reflection at Assumption
Dec. 15 Bambinelli Blessing Sunday



ADVENT NOVENA

November 30 - December 8

Novena in preparation of the Immaculate Conception after 8 a.m. daily Masses

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve — 4, 6, & 11 p.m.

Christmas Day — 8 & 10 a.m.

8th Grade Poinsettia Fundraiser Pickup

Poinsettia Pickup will be Saturday, Dec. 7th after 5 p.m. Mass and Sunday, Dec. 8th after all Masses until 1:30 p.m.

Inside Catholicism

Couldn't make it to the first few sessions? There will now be two more additional nights of "Inside Catholicism" this December! Join us on December 4 or 11th (or both) to learn more about the Catholic faith, as we gather in the church lower level from 7-8:30 p.m. There will be time for questions! All are welcome!

The Giving Tree

Little girls waiting for dolls, mothers hoping for clothing and diapers for their children, the elderly looking forward to a new sweatshirt or blanket- **YOU DID IT ALL!** Thank you for taking more than 1,100 ornaments. Please remember to bring your gifts to church **no later than the Noon Mass next Sunday, Dec. 8th with your ornaments securely attached to your gift.** On behalf of all those whose lives you have brightened-THANK YOU. Also, if you attend noon Mass next Sunday, we can use many helping hands to move the gifts to the church basement (only takes 15 minutes) and if you have a little more time to spare, to help sort all of the gifts for delivery.

Mass Intentions †

December 1	SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.	Vince Domalgalski †
9 a.m.	Thomas & Helen Bajewski †
10:30 a.m.	Marlene Kauffmann †
Noon	People of the Parish
6 p.m.	Gregor & Katerina Schamer †
December 2	MONDAY
6:30 a.m.	Donald Smith †
8 a.m.	Thomas McCarthy †
December 3	TUESDAY
6:30 a.m.	Louis Corso †
8 a.m.	Tom Aleto †
December 4	WEDNESDAY
6:30 a.m.	William Charles Sheahan †
8 a.m.	Floyd Dunlap †
December 5	THURSDAY
6:30 a.m.	Albert Linnebach Jr. †
8 a.m.	Janet Thiemann †
December 6	FRIDAY
6:30 a.m.	Brett D. Grant †
8 a.m.	Dan Connors †
December 7	SATURDAY
8 a.m.	Louis DeRienzo †
5 p.m.	Helen Bell †
December 8	SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.	Craig Wnuk †
9 a.m.	John & Helen Bennett †
10:30 a.m.	Steven Sherman †
Noon	Odelia Stroup †
6 p.m.	People of the Parish
	† denotes deceased

In Our Prayers

THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Sloane Toppmeyer
Arlene Torrillo
Sister Marie Louis Twoney
Colleen Valley
Micheline Vendryes
Mary Ann Wheatley
Olive Wilke
Eric Wolf
Sheri Oldani Zambruski
Anna Zuellig
Joshua Allen
Karen Altnether
Josefina Antenor

OUR MILITARY *denotes parishioner

Aaron Saryak
Robert Stockwood, USMC
Andrew Titus USN*
Matthew Titus USN*
Eddie Torres, USAF
Marti Torres, USAF
Jenna Welchlen, USA
Steven Wodraska, USN
Nicole Wright, USA
Joshua Zarr
Tim Andrews USCG
Isaiah Angeli USMC*
Davey Ardrey USAR

Weekly Readings

Sunday: Is 2:1-5, Ps 122:1-9, Rom 13:11-14, Mt 24: 37-44

Monday: Is 4:2-6, Ps 122: 1-9, Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17, Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10, Ps 23:1-6, Mt 15:29-37


Thursday: Is 26:1-6, Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27, Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24, Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14, Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30: 19-21, 23-26,

Ps 147:1-6, Mt 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17, Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12

Visit assumptionstl.org
to register today
for Online Giving !


First Saturday Public Square Rosary

WHAT: Praying the Rosary
WHERE: Along Mattis Rd,
near the Assumption sign
(Bring a lawn chair if you'd like.)
WHEN: First Saturday,
Dec. 7 at NOON.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! - The End of the World

Be prepared for the coming of Jesus! Think about it—Jesus Himself was not sent to reveal “the day” or “the hour” known by the Father. Despite the human tendency to pretend to know or even predict the “end of the world,” nothing could be more certain than that we don’t really know and we’re not supposed to really know. We are called to live as though “the hour” is already here, and we’re ready. So, be prepared! (CCC 1036, 1040, 472-474) archstl.org/dynamic

† Usual contributions for Mass offerings are now \$10. Please stop by the Parish Office during office hours to arrange to have a Mass said.

COME, Lord Jesus!



Advent Penance Service December 4th 6-7 p.m. in the church

Join us for adoration, music & opportunities for confession!

Sponsor-A-Family 2019



It's time to call and sign up to sponsor a family for 2019! There are families in great need of your help! If shopping and wrapping is not your thing, or if you simply cannot fit it into the budget this year, please consider making a cash donation of any size to this worthy program. Checks can be made payable to Assumption, with sponsor a family noted in the memo, and dropped at the parish office at any time. Please consider getting your donations in early so that the elves have time to shop and wrap! All gifts and donations are due by Friday, December 6. Thank you for being a Christmas angel to those in need! Contact Amy Craig at 314-416-7388 or amycraig1133@yahoo.com

November 17 Stewardship

Archdiocese for Military	\$55.00
General Fund 2019	\$16,542.74
Gift	\$220.00
Maintenance Fund	\$35.00
Partners in Education	\$53.00
Preserving Our Heritage	\$10.00
Pro-Life Stewardship	\$248.00
Retired Religious	\$100.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$460.00
Total	\$17,723.74

PARISH HOLY HOUR

The Parish Holy Hour is open to everyone. It is intended as an opportunity for parishioners to spend time in prayer & adoration, as well as receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Join us each Wednesday from 6 - 7 p.m. in the church.

Registering at Assumption

Everyone needs a family.
Belonging to a parish family unites us
with people of all ages and backgrounds
in the journey to Jesus Christ.

Assumption Parish (Mattese)
warmly welcomes you to our
family of Faith!

I/We would like to register at Assumption:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return this slip to the Parish Office (located in the Rector's office) or drop in the offertory basket, and we will be in touch soon to help you register here! You may also visit the



Assumption Parish Mission

Our Mission:

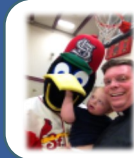
- Worship God
- Share the Good News of Jesus
- Serve Christ in others

Our Vision:

- Continue the work of Jesus Christ

Our Goal:

Every parishioner
- a saint!



Pastor's Column

Fr. Thomas Keller

Traditional Catholic Customs for Advent and their Origins

There are many secular holiday customs this time of year. However, many of them actually have Catholic roots. If we look at them through the lenses of our Catholic Faith, it might draw us closer to Christ.

Often this time of year is known as “the season of giving.” This cultural trait begins with the “Lent of St. Martin.” The Feast of St. Martin of Tours was November 11. He was a Roman Soldier who converted to Christianity and is remembered for his generosity to the poor. During the 40 days before Christmas (hence the Lent of St. Martin), Christians participated in special acts of charity and offered special attention to the poor.

The Feast of St. Nicholas is on December 6th. St. Nicholas fought against the Arian Heresy that denied the Divinity of Christ. He also is said to have ransomed three children from slavery. It is customary to give children a small gift on this day. St. Nicholas was a bishop and his crozier (pastoral staff) was represented as the shape of shepherd staffs in the candy canes children received as gifts. Of course, St. Nick becomes known as Santa (Saint) Claus (Nicholas).

Special to Hispanic culture in December is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. The Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego at Tepyac Hill near Mexico City. She asked him to go to the Bishop to have a chapel built there. The native culture was obsessed with human sacrifice but when the image of Our Lady appeared on his cloak (tilma), the natives converted from paganism to Christianity by the thousands. This is a special invitation to re-commit ourselves to Christ and His Church.

On December 13, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Lucy. She died a martyr in Sicily during the Roman persecution of the Church. The name Lucy means “Light” and candles came to represent Christ, her light.. In Scandinavia, girls would wear wreaths with lighted candles on their heads! Children would, again, on this feast, receive a treat like candy if they survived the inevitable home fires!

The very odd custom of cutting down an evergreen tree and moving it indoors to decorate it is part of a larger custom of decorating with evergreen branches that developed in the Medieval time. Usually, cut flowers decorate the Catholic altars during the liturgical feasts. But flowers were scarce during the European winters, so they used evergreen branches and added apples or other fruits to decorate for Mass on Christmas. Apples were particularly appropriate since it reminded them of the Original Sin of Adam and Eve. Later the fruit would be replaced with glass ornaments. Candles were very important before the invention of electricity and Christmas lights, and during the long nights of winter, they represent Christ, the light of the world. So the ornaments and lights represent Salvation History, beginning with Adam and Eve and culminating with Christ.

The Advent Wreath developed in Germany and was an evergreen wreath with candles. Each day, another candle was lighted. Later, the wreath tended to only have four candles and a new one was lighted each Sunday of Advent. The increasing light reminds us of the coming of Jesus.

I hope everyone has time to reflect on the great gift of Christ during December and let the holiday decorations that surround us turn our attention to Jesus!

God bless, Fr. Keller

RECLAIMING MY CATHOLIC FAITH

Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath in the Home

First Week

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good so that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Second Week

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Third Week

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fourth Week

Father, all-powerful God, Your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of Your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of Your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to Your Word that we may bring Your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Donuts Downstairs

for Young Families &
Young Adults

Sunday, December 15

following the 10:30 a.m. Mass! Join us
for coffee, donuts & fellowship! We'll
also have a craft table for the kids!

**Assumption
Parish School**

Jenn Sykora
Principal



The third and fourth grade had a great time at the Museum Children's Museum. The students were able to visit all the exhibits, including an exhibit called Rigamajig. In this area students were given a STEM challenge: build something that would carry an injured eagle across the room. The students worked together in teams to build their designs and test them out. Many groups had to make adjustments to be successful. It was great to see the skills they learn in our STEM classroom brought to life at the Field Trip!

SECOND ANNUAL Turkey Olympics

Sunday 12/1 @ 7 PM

GRAB A TEAM OF 4 PEOPLE

GET ONE FROZEN TURKEY (6-10 LB)

JOIN US FOR MULTIPLE GAMES

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE PRIZES
WILL BE AWARDED



Senior Ministry

Laura Benson
Senior Apostolate Coordinator



Senior Ministry activities

- 12/4** 8:30 a.m. Coffee, hot tea & chocolate, juice & sweet treats, St. Marie Hall
10 a.m. Chair exercises
11 a.m. "The Juggler of Notre Dame" movie; 50 minutes. This "miracle play" of the medieval period is a contemporary Advent/Christmas version in which God rewards devout commoners like a widowed street juggler through acts of wonder.
- 12/6** 8 a.m. First Friday Mass
8:30 a.m. **Pot-luck breakfast**, St. Marie Hall
As a reminder, please bring one of the following to share: Last names starting with A - L, bring an egg casserole or other hot breakfast dish like french toast, waffles, bacon, sausage, etc. Last names starting with M - Z, bring a fruit salad or cut-up fruit OR some type of bread: cinnamon rolls, biscuits, muffins, or bagels. Coffee, tea, juice and condiments provided. A cart will be next to the elevator to hold your dishes during Mass.
10 a.m. Chair exercises
- 12/8** Buffet chicken dinner and Assumption's children's choir performance at **Our Lady of the Snows shrine**. Includes ride through Way of Lights display. See separate ad.
- 12/11** **Charles Glenn holiday concert** at the Sheldon Concert Hall \$14 tickets plus cost of lunch at Fitz' SoCo restaurant afterwards. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. For tickets call the SM office 314.487.7970 ext. 1221 by Wednesday, 11/27.



Senior Ministry Trip to Our Lady of the Snows on December 8th!

3:30 p.m. Leave Assumption
Parking Lot via Shuttle &/or
Car Pool

4 p.m. Buffet Dinner at Our Lady of the Snows Restaurant (Dinner \$10—\$15)

5 p.m. Assumption Youth Choir Performance

6:15 p.m. Drive through the "Way of Lights"

8 p.m. Return to Assumption

RSVP to Assumption Senior Ministry Office
at 314.487.7970 ext. 1228 by Wednesday, December 4.



The Word Was Made Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

Join others in the **South County Deanery**
for an Advent reflection on **Sunday, December 15**, from
2:30-4:30 p.m. at **Assumption-Mattese Parish**.

The afternoon will include a reflection by **Michelle Chronister**. In addition to the reflection, enjoy fellowship and a light offering of sandwiches and snacks. There will also be an opportunity to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society by buying available gift cards to donate. Questions? Email holiness@archstl.org or call 314-792-7370. To register, visit www.catholicfaithstl.com/catholic-faith-stl-adults.



The Monastery of St. Clare will be hosting a Holy Hour for priestly and religious vocations on Friday, December 6th, 2019 from 7-8 p.m. The Monastery (200 Marycrest Drive) is located off the 6000 block of Telegraph Road and is south of the Bethesda Nursing facility. The monastery entrance sign is next to the Goddard Daycare Center.

Ladies of the Little Flower December meeting

The Ladies of the Little Flower will have our Harvest Feast and Christmas gift exchange on Monday, December 9 from 6-8:30 p.m. in the church lower level. Please bring the following:

Ladies with last names A-G—hot vegetable;
H-O—dessert; P-Z—salad. Also, bring a wrapped
\$7 - \$10 dollar gift to exchange. Questions?
Contact Robbie H at 314-229-1202.

CHRISTmas IN PRISON

Jesus said "when I was in prison, you visited me". Our parish contributes donations towards a "Christmas feast" on Saturday, December 14 for the Catholic prisoners at the Potosi, MO prison. They only receive this large meal once a year if each man attends monthly prayer services and pays a required fee. Many of these men are facing capital punishment by lethal injection. You can help by providing any of the items on this flyer. Please return the form as soon as possible to the Parish or School Office in an envelope marked "PRISON MINISTRY". Questions? Call Sue Engel at home: 314 487-9898 or cell: 314 662-2992 .

Name _____
Phone _____

To celebrate Christmas, my family will provide:

- _____ \$ for the meat
- _____ bags of salad mix
- _____ salad dressing
- _____ vegetable tray
- _____ cookies
- _____ brownies
- _____ pies (pecan, pumpkin, apple, chocolate)
- _____ cakes

Please return in an envelope marked PRISON MINISTRY to Parish office by Friday, December 13th.

Sue Engel will be in the Church parking lot accepting donations of food on

Friday, December 13 from 2-3 p.m. and Saturday morning, December 14 from 8-9 a.m. Thank you!

**Give a Christmas Gift they
will love – Tickets to
Assumption Day with
the AMBUSH!**



**Sunday, January 19, 3:05 p.m.
Kick back with St. Louis Ambush Soccer
at the Family Arena!**



**Cheer on the
Assumption Youth Choir
as they sing "God Bless America!"**

**Location: St. Charles Family Arena,
2002 Arena Parkway, Saint Charles, MO 63303**

Tickets only \$15! (Regularly \$24)

For more information, contact Mary Meyer: 314-607-9596, or meyomey@yahoo.com

Please return form to the Assumption School or Parish Office by Dec. 6!

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of tickets: _____ at \$15 each.

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Assumption Parish

**RETURN FORM TO ASSUMPTION SCHOOL
OR PARISH OFFICE BY DEC. 6**



Contact Us

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Mr. Matt Yates Maintenance Coordinator	Ext. 2235	yatesm@assumptionstl.org
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Miss Valerie Stringer Director of Elementary Religious Education	Ext. 2218	stringerv@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Shelley Michael Assumption Early Learning Center Director	Ext. 1227	michaels@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Jennifer Sykora School Principal	Ext. 2121	sykoraj@assumptionstl.org

Good News Messenger

***Please note:**

Some deadlines are earlier than normal due to the upcoming holidays.

Issue	Deadline (4 p.m.)
December 8	November 19
December 15	November 26

—Please go to www.assumptionstl.org/bulletin-submissions and submit an online form to request event promotion and/or to book a room

— PDF files cannot be used

— .jpg files required for any photos/graphics

Questions or comments?

newsletter@assumptionstl.org

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Hotline
314-289-6101, ext. 2227



**Roman Catholic
Foundation**

Sustaining Our Mission for the Future!

Making a gift of life insurance or retirement assets to one of Assumption's endowment funds is as simple as changing beneficiaries! To learn more, contact the Roman Catholic Foundation, our planned giving partner, at 314-918-2890 or at giftplanning@rcfstl.org.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



Lectio: Mary Episode 1 - The New Eve

The New Fulfills the Old

The Book of Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve, whose sin of disobedience breaks their relationship with God. God does not abandon his people, but gradually prepares them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15 is the "New Adam," and his mother, the promised "woman," is the "New Eve."

**WATCH ON
FORMED.ORG**

Register for your **FREE Formed** account at assumptionstl.formed.org !

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