



## GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

# FOURTH 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](mailto:kellert@assumptionstl.org)  
Rev. Ryan Weber  
Ext. 1205; [weberr@assumptionstl.org](mailto:weberr@assumptionstl.org)  
Deacon Chuck Ryder  
[ryderc@assumptionstl.org](mailto:ryderc@assumptionstl.org)  
Deacon David Schaefer  
Ext. 1254; [schaeferd@assumptionstl.org](mailto:schaeferd@assumptionstl.org)

### CONNECT

Parish APP: [myParish.com](http://myParish.com)  
Website: [assumptionstl.org](http://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](http://assumptionlive.com)

4725 Mattis Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63128



Keep in touch with us via email and text message with Flocknote!

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## This Week

<b>SUN</b> 12/22	7 p.m. 7 p.m.	Men's Pickup Basketball-GYM Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life-AC
<b>MON</b> 12/23	8:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	Rosary-CH Fishers of Men-LL (library)
<b>TUE</b> 12/24	8:45 a.m.	<b>*Christmas Eve*</b> Rosary-CH
<b>WED</b> 12/25	8:30 a.m.	<b>*Christmas Day*</b> Rosary-CH
<b>THU</b> 12/26	8:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	Rosary-CH Exercise-LL ACTS Men's Group-LL
<b>FRI</b> 12/27	8:30 a.m. 10 a.m.	Rosary-CH Chair Exercises-LL
<b>SAT</b> 12/28	8:30 a.m. 4 p.m.	Rosary-CH Confessions-CH
<b>SUN</b> 12/29	7 p.m. 7 p.m.	Men's Pickup Basketball-GYM Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life-AC

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

## Special Events

Dec. 23–Jan. 3 Christmas Break for School/ELC  
Dec. 24/25 Christmas Eve/Day **\*Holy Day of Obligation\***  
*See Mass schedule below.*  
Dec. 28 Holy Family Sunday—Consecration after all Masses  
Dec. 31/Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
**\*Holy Day of Obligation\***  
Dec. 31 Masses: 4 & 5:30 p.m.  
Jan. 1 Masses: 8, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Jan. 4 Epiphany of Our Lord—Blessing of Chalk for the inscription on homes after all Masses



The Parish Office will be closed on December 24–26 & on January 1. It will be open from 8:30 a.m.—12 p.m. on December 23, 27, & 31, as well as January 2-3. Thank you!

## PARISH HOLY HOUR

There will be no parish holy hour this Wednesday, as it falls on December 25th. All are welcome to join us for Christmas Mass, to celebrate the birth of Christ!

# Christmas Mass Times:

**Christmas Eve:**  
4, 6, & 11 p.m.

**Christmas Day:**  
8 & 10 a.m.



## Mass Intentions †

December 22	SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.	Michael Manning
9 a.m.	People of the Parish
10:30 a.m.	Doris Mattli †
Noon	Donald Smith †
6 p.m.	Adam & Lucy Schamber †
December 23	MONDAY
6:30 a.m.	Helen Bell †
8 a.m.	Vi & Al Camenzind †
December 24	TUESDAY
6:30 a.m.	Dolores & Eloise Bauer †
8 a.m.	Marilyn Zinselmeier †
4 p.m.	Tom Renaud †
6 p.m.	Dan Mueller †
11 p.m.	Failla & Goodman Family
December 25	WEDNESDAY
8 a.m.	Michael Manning
10 a.m.	People of the Parish
December 26	THURSDAY
6:30 a.m.	Marie Mudd †
8 a.m.	John Held Jr. †
December 27	FRIDAY
6:30 a.m.	Helen Schodroski †
8 a.m.	Hubert Heimos †
December 28	SATURDAY
8 a.m.	Linda DeClue †
5 p.m.	John Held Jr. †
December 29	SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.	Tim & Helen Cracchiolo †
9 a.m.	Carol Schacht †
10:30 a.m.	Raymond Sherman †
Noon	People of the Parish
6 p.m.	Marilyn Zinselmeier †
	† denotes deceased

## In Our Prayers

### THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Timothy S. Hufker
Mary Lou Distler
Wilma Dorsey
Mary Dreas
Fred Dulle
Tim Dunn
Timothy Dunn
Charles Eddy
Helen Enright
LeRoy Ettling
Caroline Fechner
Jim Fesler
Lorretta Fieser
OUR MILITARY *denotes parishioner
Christopher Konrad USMC
Andrew Kremmel USMC
Justin Lock USA
Stephen Miloscia USN
Ryan Nardin
Todd Nicely USMC*
Ryan O'Neil USA
Jordan Osmack
Daniel Parker USA
Michael Rapp USN
Derek Ryan
Timothy Scott USMC
Austin Shields

## Weekly Readings

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-6, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24  
**Monday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23, 24, Ps 25:4, 5, 8-10, 14, Lk 1:57-66  
**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Ps 89: 2-5, 27, 29, Lk 1:67-79  
*Christmas Eve Vigil:* Is 62: 1-5, Ps 89:4, 5, 16, 17, 27, 29, Acts 13:16, 17, 22-25, Mt 1:1-25  
**Wednesday:** (*Christmas Day*) Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1-6, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18  
**Thursday:** Acts 6: 8-10; 7:54-59, Ps 31:3, 4, 6, 8, 16, 17, Mt 10:17-22  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4, Ps 97:1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, Jn 20:1-8  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2, Ps 124:2-5, 7, 8, Mt 2:13-18  
**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14, Ps 128:1-5, Col 3:12-21, Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

### Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Betrothal of Mary & Joseph

Was Mary really an “unwed mother”? As Matthew makes clear in today’s Gospel, the answer is clearly no—Mary and Joseph were really “betrothed,” she was his wife, and Joseph was really contemplating divorce. Marriage customs were such that the last stage of the marriage was that the betrothed came together to live as husband and wife. The Annunciation—and the Incarnation of Jesus—take place *after* betrothal but *before* they lived together. What would you have done if you were Joseph? (CCC 437, 488, 1846)  
[archstl.org/dynamic](http://archstl.org/dynamic)

Visit [assumptionstl.org](http://assumptionstl.org)  
to register today  
for Online Giving!

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



Congratulations to parishioner Mary Kate Westrich (née Buncher) & her new husband, Chris, on their recent wedding, which took place at Assumption! As you can see by this picture, their ceremony was quite the blessed celebration and was concelebrated by 9 priests!



**Roman Catholic  
Foundation**

**Sustaining Our Mission  
for the Future!  
Year-End Planning**

You may soon begin thinking of the charitable gifts you want to make before year's end. Consider these questions as you plan: What assists would you like to dispose of? Can any be used to fund a life-income arrangement, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder unitrust? Is Assumption's Endowment Fund on your giving list? To learn how to make the most of your year-end giving and support Assumption-Mattese Catholic Church, please contact the Roman Catholic Foundation, our planned giving partner, at 314-918-2890 or at [giftplanning@rcfstl.org](mailto:giftplanning@rcfstl.org).

## December 8 Stewardship

Cardinal Glennon Hospital	\$5.00
Christmas	\$188.00
Christmas Flowers	\$320.00
General Fund 2019	\$22,977.67
Giving Tuesday	\$8,691.00
Immaculate Conception	\$1,748.00
Maintenance Fund	\$20.00
Parish Gift	\$103.00
Partners in Education	\$195.00
Pro-Life Stewardship	\$10.00
Retired Religious	\$53.00
Seminary	\$91.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$904.00
Tithing for the Poor	\$10.00
Year End	\$290.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,605.67</b>

### 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 Rectory) or drop in the offertory basket, and we will be in touch soon to help you register here! You may also visit the office Monday-Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to register.



### 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

#### Christmastime is Near

In just a few days, our pews will be filled with visitors. Some of these visitors consider Assumption their home even though they rarely attend Holy Mass. Some of these visitors have been away from the Church for a long time. Some of these visitors are coming with their family and may not be Catholic.

We may not be the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis with a spectacular church but as clergy and laity, we try our best to provide beautiful and inspiring music, prepared liturgical ministers, and thoughtful homilies. One thing we can *all* do is provide a welcoming attitude to our visitors! A smile and warm greeting of “Merry Christmas!” goes a long way to help someone feel welcome. Please be kind by moving down the pew to make room for others. Please don’t make people climb over you. A lot of people judge the whole parish based on the experience of entering a pew!

Our hope is that everyone who attends Holy Mass over Christmas feels welcome and is inspired to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Holy Family, everyone is welcome to join us in consecrating themselves to the Holy Family. This consecration is a way of entrusting you and your family to the powerful protection of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

January 1<sup>st</sup> is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It is a holy day of obligation. In addition to our regular Masses on December 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 and 6 p.m. and January 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 and 10 a.m., we have added a 6 p.m. Mass for New Years Revelers and travelers who needed a humane Mass time.

On Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, the Church observes the Feast of Epiphany. At the end of Mass, the priests will bless chalk for you to take home and mark your house with an Epiphany Blessing.

There are many ways of giving at Assumption and one way is End of Year Giving. If you wish to make a donation to a not-for-profit organization before the end of the year, there are envelopes in the pews or the option of online giving (at [www.assumptionstl.org](http://www.assumptionstl.org)). Your donation helps us to continue the work of Jesus Christ here at Assumption. God bless you for all you do throughout the year!

Also, thanks to everyone who has remembered the priests with cards and Christmas gifts. Fr. Weber and I are very grateful.

God bless,  
Fr. Keller



# RECLAIMING MY CATHOLIC FAITH

## Reclaiming My Catholic Faith Christmas Edition

The Christmas Season has it's own vocabulary.

**Incarnation** – This word means “to be made flesh.” Theologians in the Early Church used this word to describe the mystery of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, taking on humanity in every way except sin. Therefore, the Son of God set aside the glory of heaven to take on a human body along with the sufferings, sickness, temptations, and emotions associated with human nature. The eternal Son of God accepted the eventuality of human death. This bond between the divine and human was not temporary, but from the moment of the Incarnation, the Son of God was forever to adopt our humanity and its effects.

The Early Church marveled at this idea. They pondered it and celebrated it. They also thought through the ramifications of the God-made-man and how it is necessary for the total redemption of all humanity.

**Nativity** – This word means “to be arisen by birth.” The Nativity of Our Lord is the infancy narrative found in Gospels of Luke and Matthew where we learn of Christ’s birth in Bethlehem.

Luke’s story of the Nativity includes the birth of Jesus and the Angelic proclamation to the Shepherds. Matthew’s Gospel gives the Genealogy of Jesus and tells the story of the visit by the Magi.

**Epiphany** – This word means “manifestation.” The Manifestation of Jesus Christ is actually a series of events where we come to recognize the divinity of Jesus.

The “Epiphany” originally included the birth of Jesus, the angelic proclamation to the shepherds, the adoration by the Magi, Christ’s Presentation in the Temple, Finding in the Temple and even His Baptism in the Jordan and His First Miracle in Cana of Galilee. Each of these events revealed or manifested some divine attribute of Jesus.

But over the years, the Church split these events in Jesus’ life giving each of them a special commemoration in the liturgical calendar and the adoration by the Magi has become known as “the Epiphany”.

**Magi** – This word comes from the plural of Magus, meaning “Great Ones.” The Magi have several identities; they are known as the Wise Men, or Astrologers from the East, or Three Kings. The Old Testament gives various prophecies of people from beyond Israel worshipping the God of Israel. The Magi is a fulfillment of this at Christ’s birth. Their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh symbolize Christ’s kingship, divinity and saving death.

Assumption Senior Ministry Presents:  
*The Monthly  
 Lunch & Speaker series*



**Senior Ministry**  
 Laura Benson  
 Senior Apostolate Coordinator

At last month's Senior Ministry Lunch & Speaker series, we had a fun time reminiscing with Cameron Collins about buildings and special places that are no longer in St. Louis! His stories took us down memory lane with pictures from his book, "Lost Treasures of St. Louis".

**Senior Ministry activities**

- 12/25 Holy Christmas to you and your families!
- 12/27 10 a.m. Chair Exercises



**Elementary  
 Religious Education**  
 Valerie Stringer  
 Director



On December 12, sixth grade students presented a skit about the apparitions of Mary in Mexico as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Members of the student choir also learned a traditional Spanish song about Our Lady of Guadalupe that they sang at the all-school Mass. Our Lady of Guadalupe, empress of the Americas, pray for us!

# aym Upcoming Events

-Life Night (Dec 22)- NO LIFE NIGHT- Merry Christmas!

-Life Night (Dec 29)- NO LIFE NIGHT- Happy New Year!

- Life Night (Jan 5)-REAL TALK: IDENTITY

Kicking off a semester long series on hot topics in today's culture. We will spend the first night diving into identity: What do you put your identity in? Also, something will be different when you return to the youth room. You don't want to miss this!







## abide

A new, Catholic  
Young Adult Ministry  
coming to  
South County

The parishes of Assumption, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, and Queen of All Saints are excited to introduce a new young adult ministry -

**Abide**. Abide was created to provide a space in South County for young adults to come together, share their Catholic faith, and find community. Beginning January 9, 2020, Abide will meet every Thursday evening from 7 - 8 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary Alacoque's parish center. Any and all young adults are invited and encouraged to join whenever they are available! More information to come soon or please contact Cecilia at [detwilerc@assumptionstl.org](mailto:detwilerc@assumptionstl.org) with any questions.

## Important Announcement Regarding "Protecting God's Children"

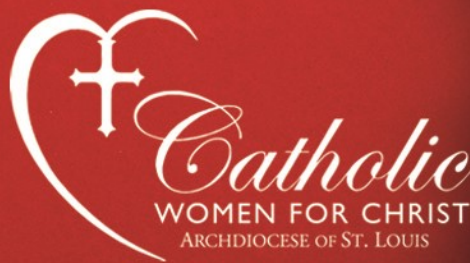
The Archdiocese of St. Louis has developed a new system for safe environment compliance called Prevent and Protect STL. **Everyone ministering to minors and vulnerable adults in the Archdiocese are required to register in the new system. This includes all clergy, employees and volunteers who are currently in compliance and those new to service.** All new registrants will need to attend a Protecting God's Children workshop. For those who have already attended a Protecting God's Children workshop, your previous training date will transfer to this new system. In addition, everyone will register for an updated background screening, view two online training modules on abuse reporting and the Code of Ethical Conduct, and agree to the updated Code of Ethical Conduct.

Please go to [www.preventandprotectstl.org](http://www.preventandprotectstl.org) to register. All information and links can also be found on the parish website under the Education & Activities for Children tab. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Higgins at 314-487-6520 ext. 1236 or email [higginsd@assumptionstl.org](mailto:higginsd@assumptionstl.org).

Give the gift of  
*RENEWED FAITH*  
this Christmas



February 1, 2020



March 7, 2020



[catholicmenforchrist.org](http://catholicmenforchrist.org)

[catholicwomenforchrist.org](http://catholicwomenforchrist.org)





CARDINAL RIGALI CENTER  
20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DRIVE  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63119  
P) 314.792.7841  
F) 314.792.7842  
ARCHSTL.ORG

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ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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Christmas 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice! The weeks of Advent waiting are over, and Christ is born!

We rejoice in our Savior's birth—remembering the great gift of faith He has given us through the mystery of His incarnation and the saving power of His death and resurrection.

Each year, the people of the archdiocese are asked to make a special gift on Christmas Day to support our seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. These men are responding to Christ's call to follow Him as they discern a vocation to the holy priesthood. This year, more than 140 men have dedicated themselves to living, growing, and serving in His love as they prepare for a life of parish ministry. God-willing, these men will bring the faith given to us by Christ 2000 years ago to future generations.

This Christmas, I ask you, once again, to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas collection at your parish, which helps ensure that our seminarians receive the education and formation they need to grow closer to Christ each day. Your support is a source of inspiration for the seminarians and helps to build up the Church in St. Louis. Together, we can encourage our future priests to walk the path of holiness as they seek to configure their hearts to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas. May the Lord of life come into your hearts and homes in a special way during this holy time of year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson  
Archbishop of St. Louis

## Contact Us

### CLERGY

**314-487-7970**

Reverend Thomas Keller Pastor	Ext. 1202	kellert@assumptionstl.org
Reverend Ryan Weber Associate Pastor	Ext. 1205	weberr@assumptionstl.org
Deacon Chuck Ryder		ryderc@assumptionstl.org
Deacon David Schaefer	Ext. 1254	schaeferd@assumptionstl.org

### PARISH STAFF

**314-487-7970**

Mrs. Laura Benson Senior Apostolate Coordinator	Ext. 1221	bensonl@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Tracy Bolinger Office Administrative Assistant	Ext. 1232	bolingert@assumptionstl.org
Miss Cecilia Detwiler Coordinator of Evangelization	Ext. 1203	detwilerc@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Margot Huber Office Administrative Assistant	Ext. 1215	huberm@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Nancy Pyle Music Director		pylen@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Denise Riek Office Manager	Ext. 1235	riekd@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Caitlyn Sextro Youth Minister	Ext. 1233	chickeyc@assumptionstl.org
Mr. Matt Yates Maintenance Coordinator	Ext. 2235	yatesm@assumptionstl.org

### PARISH and SCHOOL EDUCATION STAFF

**314-487-6520**

Mrs. Julie Connors PSR Principal	Ext. 2219	connorsj@assumptionstl.org
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 29	December 18
January 5	December 18

Please go to [www.assumptionstl.org/bulletin-submissions](http://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](mailto:newsletter@assumptionstl.org)

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### **Our Lady Help of Christians Adoration Chapel**

Open 24/7.  
(Contact the Parish Office for the keycode.)

## FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



### The Story of the Nativity

#### ***Understanding the Full Story of Jesus' Birth***

The birth of Jesus is often misunderstood, but this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clarifies widespread misunderstandings of Jesus' origin. Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus.

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