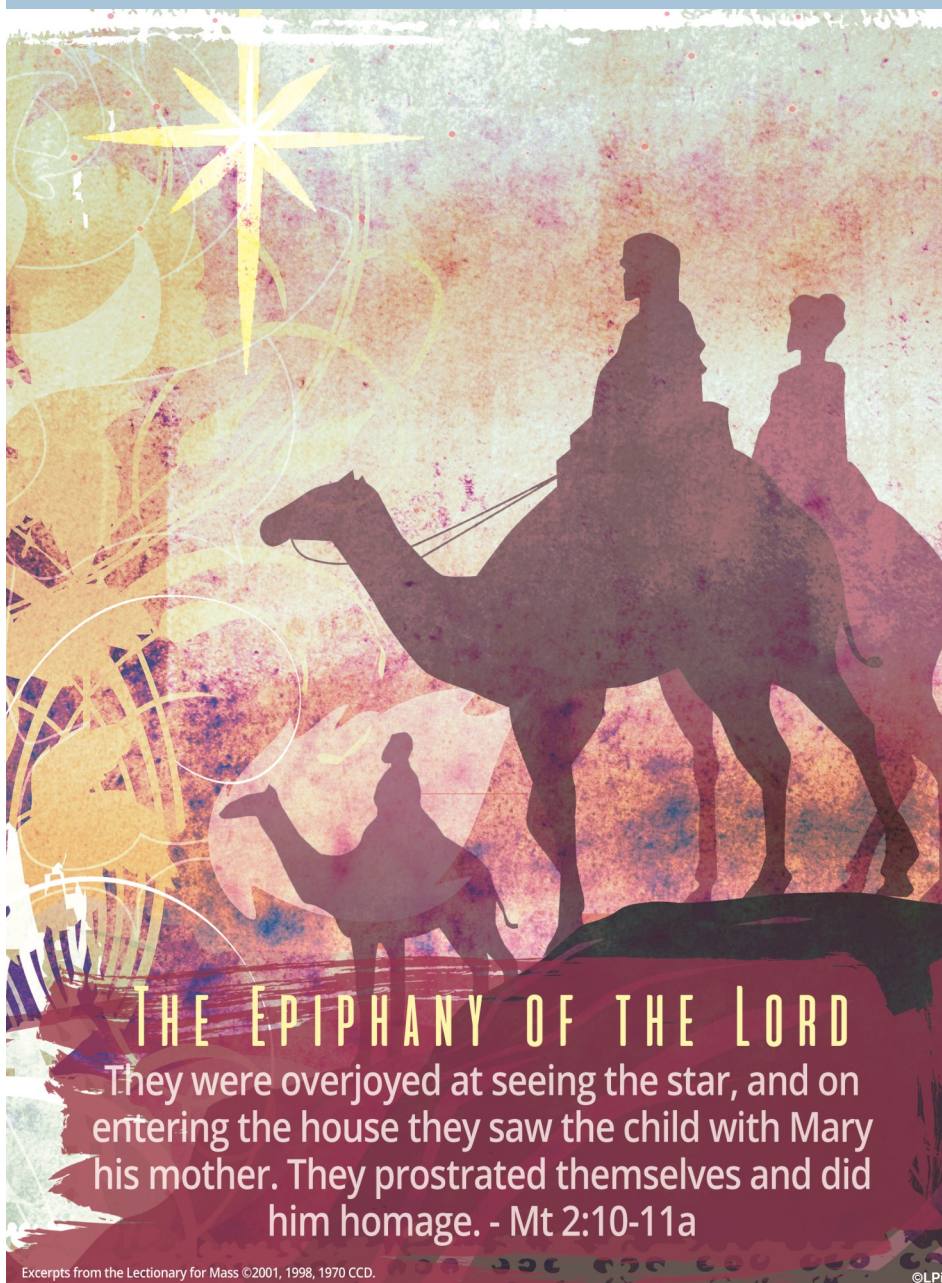




GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2020



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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
Ext. 1254; schaeferd@assumptionstl.org

CONNECT

Parish APP: myParish.com
Website: assumptionstl.org
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Fax: 314-892-5513
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4725 Mattis Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63128



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This Week

SUN 1/5	7 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life-AC 7 p.m. Men's Pickup Basketball-GYM
MON 1/6	8:30 a.m. Rosary-CH 1 p.m. Mother of Good Counsel-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 Mtg -LL
TUE 1/7	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 1/8	8:30 a.m. Rosary-CH 8:30 a.m. Senior Wednesdays-LL 10 a.m. Chair Exercises-LL 11:30 a.m. 50+ Game Day-LL 9 a.m. Quilters-LL 6 p.m. Parish Holy Hour-CH 7 p.m. Choir Practice-CH 7:30 p.m. Inside Catholicism-LL 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts-GYM
THU 1/9	8:30 a.m. Rosary-CH 8:30 a.m. Exercise-LL 3:30 p.m. Cub Scouts-LL 7 p.m. ACTS Men's Leadership Group-LL
FRI 1/10	8:30 a.m. Rosary-CH 10 a.m. Chair Exercises-LL 2:30 p.m. Brownies (Menendez)-LL
SAT 1/11	7:30 a.m. Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby-CAFÉ 8 a.m. SVdP Food Donations-SVdP GARAGE 8:30 a.m. Rosary-CH 4 p.m. Confessions-CH
SUN 1/12	7 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life-AC 7 p.m. Men's Pickup Basketball-GYM

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

Special Events

Jan. 33-26 Youth Ministry attends March for Life
Jan. 26 Catholic Schools Week Open House (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)
Jan. 30-Feb. 2 Men's ACTS Retreat



Coming Soon — Assumption Men's ACTS Retreat

The next Men's ACTS retreat will be January 30 - February 2, 2020! An ACTS retreat is centered on how we as Catholics can improve our relationship with God and build a better, stronger faith community. For more information or to register, go to www.assumptionstl.org/acts. Questions? Please email Ben at grijalvab1@gmail.com.

*"I'm closer to my wife, closer to God.
I believe I am happier than I've been in a long time."*

"Abide"— Catholic Young Adult Ministry Coming Soon 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 with any questions. Follow Abide on Facebook or Instagram at @abidestl.

Mass Intentions †

January 5	SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.	Michael Manning
9 a.m.	Hilda & James Armstrong †
10:30 a.m.	Ruppe Family
Noon	People of the Parish
6 p.m.	Janet Dostal †
January 6	MONDAY
6:30 a.m.	Langsdorf Family
8 a.m.	Craig Wnuk †
January 7	TUESDAY
6:30 a.m.	George Trembath †
8 a.m.	Jimmy Allen Jr. †
January 8	WEDNESDAY
6 a.m.	Carol Miserocchi †
8:30 a.m.	Elmer Loeffler †
January 9	THURSDAY
6:30 a.m.	Robert Hutsell †
8 a.m.	Marie Mudd †
January 10	FRIDAY
6:30 a.m.	Charles & Lorraine Donovan †
8 a.m.	Bernadette Noss †
January 11	SATURDAY
8 a.m.	Vincent Craven †
5 p.m.	Kathy Bachmann †
January 12	SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.	Vincent Domagalski †
9 a.m.	Jerry Willett †
10:30 a.m.	Cloyse Andrew Nappier Jr †
Noon	People of the Parish
6 p.m.	Gregory Koch †
	† denotes deceased

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

In Our Prayers

THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Roxanne Holdegraver
Bette Houska
Barbara Huber
Jean Huston
Lorraine Jackson
Harold Johnston
Julie Kauffmann
Betty Keller
Carol Keller
Elizabeth Kelly

Bob Kemper
Kent Kenniston
Debra Kersting

OUR MILITARY *denotes parishioner

Isaiah Angeli USMC*
Davey Ardrey USAR
Raymond Bast USN
Ryan Boedeker
Kyle Bottorf
Justin Brock USA*
Robert Bryant III USAF*
Dustin Burnett USAF
Dominic Catalano
Dakota Chappel
Lauren Chellis USN
Michael Cole
Sean Danaher USAF

Weekly Readings

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



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Visit **assumptionstl.org**
to register today
for Online Giving!





Roman Catholic Foundation

Sustaining Our Mission for the Future!

You can give a sustaining gift one of Assumption's Endowment Funds at any time, in any amount. To learn more, contact the Roman Catholic Foundation, our planned giving partner, at 314-918-2890 or at giftplanning@rcfstl.org.

Thank You!

To Our Assumption Family,

Thank you so much to the Priests, Deacon Dave, Nancy Pyle, the Funeral Luncheon Volunteers and all Parishioners for the prayers, love and support we have received over the passing of our dear Ina. She loved being a member of this Parish for over 40 years.

-Nick Braun and Family



Construction Update

The construction for our new maintenance garage, which will house our Senior Ministry Shuttle bus, is well-underway! We had a few delays in the beginning, but now it is expected to be finished by this spring!

Notice:

Financial Stewardship numbers were not available at the time of print, due to changes in deadlines for the holiday season and parish office closings. They will be published as soon as they are available. Thank you!



Our Lady Help of Christians Adoration Chapel

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



Shuttle Bus for Seniors

Are you a senior who needs a ride to Mass?

Our Assumption shuttle bus ministry is accepting riders!

To sign up, go to www.assumptionstl.org/shuttle-for-seniors or contact our Transportation Coordinator, Judy Talleur at 314-487-7970 x 1228 or shuttlebus@assumptionstl.org.

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

Bethlehem at Assumption

I hope you have had a chance to visit our Nativity Scene in church! It has grown organically over the last few years. It is much more than just the typical figures found in many places.

Bethlehem Mural

The mural behind the Crèche is *modern-day Bethlehem* underneath the *ancient sky* that let the Magi to the Christ-child. The modern landscape is dominated by the churches that testify to the faith of Christians over the centuries and the ancient sky reveals the star that led the Wise Men to Jesus. The mural was painted by parishioner, Susan Koenin.



Cave

The Gospel of Luke indicates that Jesus was born “in a manger.” People of European descent assume this means a wooden barn with a box for hay. But ancient tradition identifies “the manger” as a cave used to shelter and feed animals. The earliest testimony comes from St. Justin the Martyr, who was born around 100 A.D. in Neapolis (the Nablus of today), which is 30 miles from Bethlehem. Around 150 A.D. St Justin wrote: “*When the child was born in Bethlehem, since Joseph could not find a lodging in that village, he took up his quarters in a certain cave near the village; and while they were there Mary brought forth the Christ and placed him in a manger.*” Jo Ann Renaud,

Linda Formann and Cindy Harper built a cave for our Crèche to give it a sense of authenticity.

Holy Family Icon

This year, we also erected a little shrine to the Holy Family, encouraging families to entrust themselves to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph and ask for their protection. The Holy Family Icon was a gift from the Catholic families of Bethlehem to the 2019 Assumption pilgrims to the Holy Land in gratitude for our support. Catholic families in the Holy Land experience great difficulties and rely on pilgrims and the Universal Church for support.



Relic of the Manger

Over the years, I've received a number of valuable relics, including 1st class relics of various saints, a relic of the True Cross and a relic of the "Praespio" or "Manger" of Jesus. When they use the word "manger" it does not necessarily mean the free-standing wooden box that we imagine in the commercially produced Nativity Scenes we buy in stores, but "manger" refers to the whole location of Christ's birth. Viewed with a magnifying glass, the relic appears to be stone, so it must come from the cave structure itself. Although some may look at this relic with some skepticism, it should be remembered that local Christians identified the cave before St Justin wrote of it in the year 150 and the location has had continuous Christian occupation for nearly 2000 years. The current Church built above was built in 339AD and is the oldest church in the world. The relic is a wonderful way of appreciating the "closeness" of the real Bethlehem and the place itself that witnessed Christ's birth.

Thanks to all our Volunteers!

Thanks to all our volunteers who put up trees, wreaths and garlands, hung lights, arranged flowers and cleaned the church for the Christmas Season! The Christmas decorations look beautiful both inside and outside church.

God bless, Fr. Keller

Assumption
Parish School
Jenn Sykora
Principal



Our 3rd grade Cooking Club had a great time baking and decorating Christmas cookies at their last meeting before Christmas break! Cooking Club is just one of the many extracurricular activities we offer for our students. We can't wait to welcome our students back to their classrooms this coming week for a new year filled with new possibilities for learning, growth, and fun!

Senior Ministry

Laura Benson
Senior Apostolate Coordinator



Senior Ministry Activities

- 1/8 10 a.m. Chair exercises
11:30 a.m. **Potluck Lunch:** Meat & cheese sandwiches and water, decaf coffee, hot/iced tea provided. Last name starts with A-G: bring a salad or fruit/jello dish. Last name starts with H-N: bring hot or cold vegetable or potato dish. Last name starts with N-Z: bring dessert like cake, pie, cookies or brownies.
- 12 - 2:30 p.m. **Dominoes, card games, Scrabble, dice games. Bring \$2 in dimes for the left/right/center dice game!**

1/10 10 a.m. Chair exercises

Are you missing any Sacraments?
Let us help you catch up!

Have you missed out on ...
getting baptized,
being confirmed,
receiving Reconciliation
or Holy Communion,
or getting married in the Church?

If you would like
to receive these Sacraments,
please contact
Deacon David Schaefer at
schaeferd@assumptionstl.org
about catching up!



REAL TALK

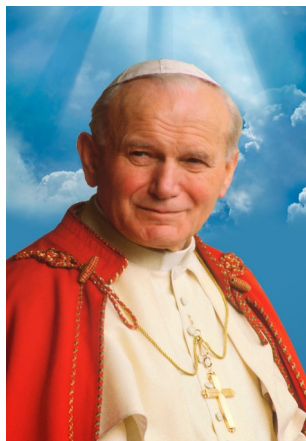
IDENTITY

JAN 5TH. 7PM.
YOUTH ROOM.

WHAT IS YOUR
IDENTITY ROOTED IN?



2020 Pilgrimage to POLAND



Celebrate
100th anniversary of the
birth of St. John Paul II
in the city of his birth!
June 1 – 12, 2020

10 Cities:
Kraków, Wieliczka, Wadowice,
Łagiewniki, Oświęcim,
Zakopane, Częstochowa,
Toruń, Gdańsk, Warszawa

\$2,600/ person double occupancy (single rooms extra)

Price includes: airfare, accommodations, meals,
transportation in Poland, tours and entrance fees
according to the program, English speaking tour guides,
local guides, folklore show in Zakopane, all taxes

For additional information, please contact

St. Agatha Church at **314.772.1603**

or visit the December bulletin on the parish website
at www.polishchurchstlouis.org

\$200 non-refundable deposit due by January 31, 2020

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 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.

Marriage on Tap STL : Finding Joy in Our Sacraments in Today’s World

We invites you to enjoy an evening of marriage enrichment with a talk by Fr. John Vogler.

Fr. John was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1965. He has served at various parishes in the inner-city and is now retired. Together with others, Father John was instrumental in starting a jail and prison ministry for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1979. Before retirement, he served on the staff for that ministry and is now visiting the St. Louis County jail in Clayton and the prison in Pacific as a volunteer. He has also been deeply involved in the Cursillo Movement, Marriage Encounter Movement and the Charismatic Renewal. He has served on various commissions of the Archdiocese over the years, including the Evangelization Commission and the Human Rights Commission. Father John is now working on a unique use of the Blessed Trinity as a philosophy for understanding everything. He is deeply convinced that verbal intimacy is the key to all healthy relationships.

Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

The Pasta House Company ~ Party Room

8213 Delmar Blvd, University City, MO 63130 (just east of I-170)

\$25.00 per person/\$50.00 per couple includes buffet dinner featuring Pasta House Salad,

Baby Loaves of Bread, Chicken Parmesan, Sicilian Grilled Pesce (Fish), Pasta Primavera and Broccoli.

Price also includes tax and tip. Cash bar available.

This evening is open to all married couples.

Visit us on Facebook: Marriage on Tap STL

RSVP required; please respond by 1-17-20 to marriageontapstl@gmail.com

* Sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The Epiphany of the Lord January 5, 2020



We may walk many roads when we search for God, and He leads us all the while. The men we honor today were not Jews. The Messiah wasn't coming for *them*, not in the minds of Jesus' contemporaries. These men were astrologers. They were adept at reading portents in the sky, a practice condemned in the Mosaic covenant. Still, to the best of their knowledge and awareness, they were seeking the truth. This truth led them to journey from their own homeland to honor a king they'd never met, one they couldn't be sure truly existed. "*We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.*" Who do you know seeks God so tenaciously?

"*Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,*" the Gospel tells us. Who are the seekers in your own life? Maybe it's your cautiously curious co-worker, the neighbor who unexpectedly found peace on a yoga retreat, or your desperately angry child who has chosen, for now, to go their own way. Perhaps they're not overtly headed for Jesus now, not yet. But they may well be seekers of truth in ways we didn't expect. Our invitation is to listen, inquire, and give directions when appropriate.

The magi and modern-day seekers can inspire us as well. When is the last time you sought God's truth so tenaciously? As believers, it can perhaps be easy to become desensitized to the Christmas season and to the miraculous reality we recently celebrated. Mass may have been lovely, but so was the succulent roast beef, the crisp smell of evergreen, and the warm glow of family. Consider asking yourself, "God, do I know you as well as I should? Would I journey as far as the magi to meet You, if I could? Do I journey to meet You daily in prayer? What do those answers say about me, and about our relationship?" Perhaps we, like the magi, can once again be "*overjoyed*" at seeing the Light of the World.

©LPi

Kick Off Catholic Schools' Week at Assumption Parish Schools!



Assumption Open House

Sunday,
January 26
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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	riedd@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.)
January 12	January 3
January 19	January 10

— 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

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.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

Symbolon: Knowing the Faith

Episode 3: The Bible



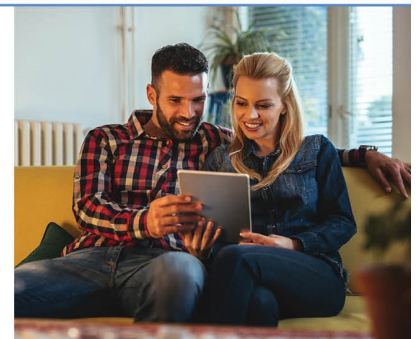
Be Set on Fire to Read God's Word

Is the Bible more than just a collection of ancient writings? If God reveals his truth to us through Sacred Scripture, what does that really mean for our faith?

"I watched this program and finally realized that the greatest and most important book to learn is the Bible."

—Loida T., Sugarland, TX

[WATCH ON FORMED.ORG](http://WATCH.ON.FORMED.ORG)



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