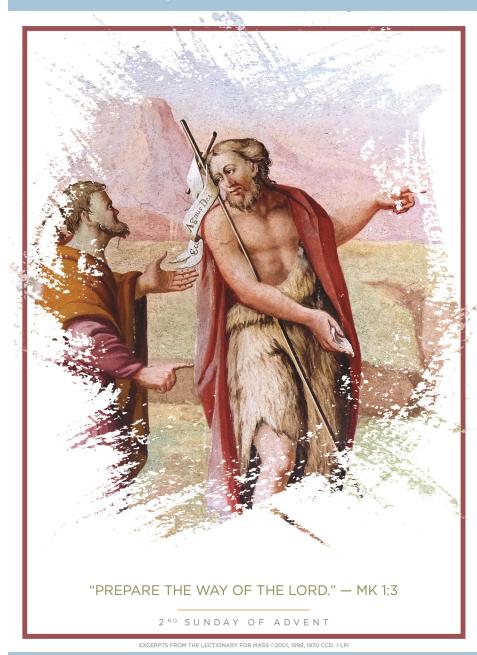


GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020



MASS

Sunday: 7:30 a.m./9 a.m.

10:30 a.m./Noon/ 6 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m./5 p.m. **Mon.-Fri.:** 6:30 a.m./8 a.m.

CONFESSION

Saturdays 4-4:45 p.m.
Wednesdays 6-6:45 p.m.
Sundays Before All Masses

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

Deacon Michael Thompson

thompsonm@assumptionstl.org

CONNECT

Parish APP: myParish.com
Website: assumptionstl.org
Facebook: /assumptionparishstl

Twitter: #AssumptionSTL Instagram: @assumptionstl

Phone: 314-487-7970 **Fax:** 314-892-5513

Livestream Mass: assumptionlive.com

4725 Mattis Rd. St. Louis, MO 63128

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

Text <u>assumptionstl</u> to the number <u>84576</u> or visit us online at <u>flocknote.com/assumptionstl</u>

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at <u>flocknote.com/txt</u>



December 8th Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception**

6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., Noon & 7 p.m.

December 24th Christmas Eve 3 p.m.*, 4:30 p.m.*, 6 p.m., 9:30 p.m.* & 11 p.m. Sign-Up for Mass required at AssumptionSTL.org.

December 25th Christmas Day 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & Noon* Sign-Up for Mass required at AssumptionSTL.org.

December 31st New Year's Eve 5 p.m.

January 1st New Year's Day 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

* We are adding Masses and adjusting some Mass times to give parishioners more options and to avoid overcrowding due to St. Louis County pandemic occupancy limits.

Special Events

Dec. 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Blood Drive Pro-Life Night of Prayer



Assumption **Parish**

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

Our Vision: -Continue the work of Iesus Christ

Our Goal: Every parishioner – a saint!

Pro-Life Opportunities at Assumption!

National Night of Prayer for Life on Tuesday, December 8

Assumption will once again host a prayer service in conjunction with the annual National Night of Prayer for Life. We will be joining Catholics throughout the nation during the 'hour of unity' on Tuesday evening, December 8th from 11 p.m. to midnight. Our hour of prayer will include Eucharistic Adoration starting at 11 and rosary prayer in commemoration of human life. The hour will conclude with Benediction just before midnight. Please consider making this prayer service part of your observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th and also part of a prayerful Advent season. We will be observing all recommended COVID precautions in church. All are welcome. Bring your masks and your rosaries!

Pro-Life Christmas Cards

Christmas cards with a special message concerning God's gift of human life will be sold in the church lower level following Masses on Sunday, December 6th. Each box contains 18 cards and sells for \$15. In addition to spreading the Good News to family and friends, financial proceeds benefit Missouri Right to Life.



Visit AssumptionSTL.org to register today for Online Giving!

All Saints \$85.00 All Soul's Dav— \$185.00 November Archdiocese For Military \$100.00 Diaconate Formation \$40.00 Fund General Fund 2020 \$16,014.00 Maintenance Fund \$5.00 Parish Gift \$100.00 Partners in Education \$738.01 Pro-Life March for Life \$100.00

November 22 Stewardship

Mass Intentions †

December 6	SUNDAY	
7:30 a.m.	William C. Sheahan †	
9 a.m.	People of the Parish	
10:30 a.m.	Marlene Kauffmann †	
Noon	Domian Mueller †	
6 p.m.	Robert & Rosemary Wolff †	
December 7	MONDAY	
6:30 a.m.	Mary Dressel †	
8 a.m.	Larry Birkenmeier †	
December 8	TUESDAY	
6:30 a.m.	Vince Domagalski †	
8 a.m.	Dan Rogaczewski †	
12 p.m.	People of the Parish	
7 p.m.	Tom Connelly †	
December 9	WEDNESDAY	
6:30 a.m.	Kenneth Boetje †	
8 a.m.	August "Gus" Kump †	
December 10	THURSDAY	
6:30 a.m.	Matthew Allen †	
8 a.m.	Robert Brush †	
December 11	FRIDAY	
6:30 a.m.	Dan Neff †	
8 a.m.	Tom Connelly †	
December 12	SATURDAY	
8 a.m.	Joe Marty †	
5 p.m.	Jim Stecher †	
December 13	SUNDAY	
7:30 a.m.	Tom Bridgman †	
9 a.m.	Tom Connelly †	
10:30 a.m.	People of the Parish	
Noon	Shirley Unger †	
6 p.m.	Laurette Kuhl †	
	† denotes deceased	

In Our Prayers

THOSE WHO ARE ILL Sister Marie Louis Twoney Colleen Valley Joanne Vasquez Micheline Vendryes Christina Vogler Mary Ann Wheatley Olive Wilke Eric Wolf Sheri Oldani Zambruski Anna Zuellig Joshua Allen

OUR MILITARY *denotes parishioner

Rick Allgeyer

Karen Altnether

Dustin Burnett, USAF
Dominic Catalano
Dakota Chappel
Lauren Chellis, USN
Michael Cole
Sean Danaher, USAF
David DiFranco, USA
Kevin Deitz
Matthew Eberhart, USA
Michael Faulkner, USMC*

Rest in Peace:

Wyatt Flieg, USN
William Florich, USAR*
Tracy Freeman, USAR

Henrietta Frederick Motz Gapsch Helen Miano Robert Rehagen

Weekly Readings

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26 Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19 Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Registering 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.



Pastor's Column Fr. Thomas Keller

Christmas Mass Sign-Up

At this point, it looks like we need to reopen the Online Sign-Up protocol for Christmas Masses. Currently, St. Louis County restrictions limit Assumption Church to about 125 people per Mass. In order to accommodate as many socially distanced parishioners as possible at Christmas, Fr. Weber and I have added several Masses. Hopefully, you will find these convenient times.

<u>Christmas Eve</u>: 3 p.m.*, 4:30 p.m.*, 6 p.m., 9 p.m.* & 11p.m.

<u>Christmas Day:</u> 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and Noon* (* Added or changed Mass times)

Please sign up for your preferred Christmas Mass as soon as possible at **AssumptionSTL.org**. If the Mass you prefer is full, please find one with room. Remember, during the pandemic, no Sundays or Holy Days are obligatory, including Christmas. Pray for the end of this pestilence!

Giving for those over 70 1/2 Years Old

An alert parishioner brought my attention to an opportunity to support Assumption:

Please consider a tax advantage donation if you are over 70 ½ years old. By making Qualified Charitable Donations (QCD) directly to Assumption from an IRA account the donation amount will not be taxed. This will save a minimum of 16% of the gifted amount for givers paying Federal and State tax; up to 34% or more for those in higher tax brackets.

This tax advantage giving is easy. Your broker or banker should be happy to help you. The amount will NOT be available for an itemized charitable donation. Assumption will provide you the appropriate donation acknowledgement when your gift is received for you tax documentation.

#AssumptionTogether

In October, our accountant and parish Finance Council recommended I take seriously the possibility that Assumption would face a cash-flow-crisis brought on by the coronavirus restrictions that reduced our income, as well as the increased expenses to maintain the Grade School and Early Learning Center. They said at some point before July 2021, we would run out of money in our parish checking account, we could deplete our savings, and that this could possibly require us to withdraw from our reserved funds, which have been growing since Fr. Seper's time as pastor.

This information confirmed what I suspected since the beginning of the pandemic. I felt the weight of saving the jobs of our 70+ full-time employees, preserving our schools, and maintaining the many great ministries that serve people of all ages at Assumption. But at the same time, I was not afraid because I knew parishioners would immediately respond if I asked them.

Our Stewardship and Development Committee encouraged me to supplement our cash-on-hand with a campaign. As usual, Assumption Parishioners responded enthusiastically! We asked for some major donations to present as "Challenge Gifts." We collected over \$175,000 in Challenges! Then since mid-November, parishioners and school/ELC families have been matching these donations with their own gifts. On Giving Tuesday, we continued to match challenges and as of now, we have raised about \$350,000 for our #AssumptionTogether Campaign!

Will this be enough to make it through the year? It is impossible to know until the pandemic is over, so we are going to continue this campaign until we are certain we have enough money on reserve to make it through a few more months of the pandemic. Even when it is over, Assumption may have to look hard at the trends in the next 6 months and try to decide if we will ever go back to "normal."

Thank you to all who have made generous sacrificial gifts to keep #AssumptionTogether during this difficult time. I am always amazed at the generosity of Assumption Parish. Pray that God brings blessings out of these difficult times. (continued on page 5)

Fish Fry Report

One last thing to report: We took a chance and tried a Fall Fish Fry. Not only were we hoping people would support the Fish Fry outside of Lent, but we wanted to try a drive-thru and pre-order program in case we can't have indoor dining in Lent yet. As you know, we decided to try three Fridays in November in order to give ourselves time to make adjustments if it didn't work perfectly. The first Friday, we were flooded with pre-orders! The second Friday, everyone shifted to the drive-thru! The final Fish Fry went pretty smoothly.

Our Fall Fish Frys served about 65-70% of our normal Lent traffic, but that is still a staggering 700-800 meals a night. We consider the Fall Fish Fry a great success, as it raised money for the Grade School and Early Learning Center and it gave us an opportunity to try out the drive-thru and pre-order system. Thanks to all who volunteered to cook, pack meals and run meals to cars. Thanks to the set up and clean up crews and thanks to all who supported us!

God bless, Fr. Keller





Senior Ministry
Lynn Ewy & Stacey Macko
Senior Ministry Coordinators

Senior Ministry Updates & Calendar of Events

December 7 & 14 - Womens' Advent Faith Journey *, 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon

December 15 - Tech Talk Tuesdays *, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. December 16 - Deadline: Writer Volunteers for Pen Pal Project ~ Phase 2 *

*Registration required. Contact us by email at <u>SeniorMinistry@AssumptionStL.org</u> or call our General Mailbox 487-7970, ext 1228.

New Name, Ministry the Same!

Assumption Senior Ministry, in collaboration with the Senior Ministry Core Team, is pleased to announce its new name, Assumption Prime Time Ministry! As we enter a new Liturgical season, celebrate the Christmas holidays and welcome the New Year, it seems the perfect time to draw attention to the broad spectrum of ages of those served by this ministry. Lynn and Stacey will continue to operate as Assumption Prime Time Ministry Coordinators. Their ministry will remain a sort of "umbrella ministry," one that assists or helps to coordinate the various programs, ministries, and groups whose goal is to address the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of individuals 50+ years of age (aka, "Prime Timers") living in Assumption's parish boundaries, regardless of their religious affiliation. So, beginning January 2, Assumption Senior Ministry will be known by its new name, Assumption Prime Time Ministry. New name, ministry the same!

Tech Talk Tuesday

Senior Ministry will offer **Tech Talk Tuesdays EVERY TUESDAY in December** from 2 to **3:30 p.m.** There is one exception; **December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception,** when offices on campus are closed. **A call-in format** is currently

being offered because we cannot meet in person. Please plan ahead to register for any **Tech Talk Tuesday** session and be sure to have your technical device (smartphone, laptop, tablet, computer) available at the time of your call.

Pen Pal Project ~ Phase 2

The **Pen Pal Project** was such a big hit between the first group of our Seniors and 4th Grade Assumption School children, that we're now expanding the project to include the 5th Grade students as well. Here is your chance to join the fun! For the next few weeks, we are taking names of 27 additional seniors who wish to be partnered with an Assumption School 5th Grader in a pen pal relationship We are collecting names now! The first letters from the 5th Graders are anticipated to go out in January. Please pray about joining this worthwhile project. Names of senior writers are being gathered now through Wednesday, December 16. Contact us to volunteer as a pen pal or to ask any questions about the Pen Pal Project ~ Phase 2. Also, be sure to give us your complete contact information, including full name, street address and email, if available.

God bless! Lynn (ewyl@assumptionstl.org) ext. 1221 & Stacey (mackos@assumptionstl.org) ext. 1255

5 December 6, 2020

...All Souls Day list Continued:

In addition to the names previously printed, we also remembered the following souls of our beloved deceased this past All Souls Day and throughout the month of November:

John & Marie Amoroso Mallissa Beckmann William & Bernice Beckmann Ausino & Paolo Bernasconi Flavio Bernasconi William & Irmgard Beseda Gaetano & Angelina Coco Joseph Coco Mariano & Wilma Franzi Fulvio Franzi The Lahm Family Jen Gau Marr Joe Marle Donald Prose **Iim Stecher** Anne Marie Stecher Skoff Laura & Ben Schaili Joe & Agnes Stecher Joe Stecher

THE GIVING Nov. 21 TREE - Dec. 13

This week, the Giving Tree is adorned with hundreds of ornaments, each representing a gift for those in need.

There is a large tree with general items for adults and a smaller tree with gifts for children.

You may take as many ornaments as you wish from either tree!

ALL GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED TO CHURCH NO LATER THAN THE NOON MASS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th. Thank you!



Please remember to securely attach the ornament to your gifts!



Wednesdays 6-6:45 p.m.

Saturdays 4-4:45 p.m.

Sundays
Before All Masses

Weekend Mass Capacity Due to COVID

In accordance with changes made by St. Louis County, all Archdiocesan churches in the county will move back to the 25% capacity mandate for public Mass. For Assumption, this means we may have 125 people in the church at this time. All in-person gatherings are suspended until further notice. Sign-Ups are required for Christmas Masses only at this time. For more information, go to AssumptionSTL.org/Covid.

COVID-19 Information

63128 Zip Code =
316 new positive Coronavirus
cases in the last 14 days

Please be extra mindful of your fellow parishioners at this time. For more information about Assumption's social distancing policies: <u>AssumptionSTL.org</u>
For more information about St. Louis County coronavirus cases: go to STLCorona.com.

Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life's Living Rosary for Life



Sunday, December 13 2:30 p.m. in Church

We will be observing all safety precautions, sitting six feet apart throughout the church & wearing masks. We will NOT be using the rope rosary and NO refreshments will be served.









ShopwithScrip.com Program

You can support the Assumption Grade School and Early Learning Center through our new gift card program! You can order popular gift cards at ShopwithScrip.com. Enter the code 52L62FAB986L to support Assumption!

There's TWO ways to pay:

<u>Checking account</u>—the cost is 15 cents for the entire transaction whether a \$10 card or a \$2,000 card is purchased. Less expensive than the cost of a check! Best deal is to purchase multiple cards at once. No extra charge. Fifteen cents for entire order.

<u>Credit card</u>—the cost to the buyer is 2.6%. Keep in mind the rewards of the credit card will still be earned while Assumption School will earn the rebate.

ADVANTAGES of this program:

Mobile App—Planning to do some remodeling, appliance purchasing, or lawnmower purchase? Try doing your price comparisons online or by visiting the stores, and then purchase a gift card for the store you want online as you are ready to check out. The gift cards are sent immediately to you. Use the mobile app "RaiseRight Fundraising by ShopWithScrip". Using the app, a gift card can be purchased while standing in line to pay for the meal or item.

<u>Secure</u>—Gift cards can be stored in a phone or in your email. While a physical gift card can be lost or stolen, an online gift card has the advantage of remaining securely stored in your account on your phone or in your email.

Questions? Contact Julie Connors, Coordinator at julconnors@yahoo.com.

Dierbergs and Schnucks gift cards are available for sale <u>only in</u> the Parish Office during office hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).









7 December 6, 2020

Important Announcement Regarding "Protecting God's Children"

If you are or wish to be a volunteer at Assumption and are not yet registered in the new system for Protecting God's Children, please do so as soon as possible!

This applies to everyone ministering to minors and vulnerable adults.

It is mandatory.
It is free to you.
Assumption Parish will pay for your background check, but after 12/31/2020, the fee will increase drastically.

The new system is called *Prevent and Protect STL.* To register, please go to
 AssumptionSTL.org/safeenvironment to access the registration information. Please complete ALL of the modules to be APPROVED.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Higgins at (314) 487-6520 ext. 1236 or email higginsd@assumptionstl.org.

Weekend Mass Livestream Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m., Noon, & 6 p.m.



Watch at www.assumptionlive.com



Our Lady Help of Christians Adoration Chapel

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

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL DIRECTION?

Spiritual Direction is an accompaniment with another on one's faith journey towards a deeper intimacy with Christ. It refers to a relationship which is more like spiritual companionship where the Director listens with the intent of helping the Directee recognize how the Holy Spirit is leading and working in one's life. The emphasis is on helping the Directee develop a good prayer life and a closer relationship with God. Growth in spiritual life, making good decisions about personal circumstances, and recognizing that God has a special and distinct plan for each person's life are discussed and prayed about in spiritual direction.

This program has the support of Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski and Archbishop Emeritus Robert Carlson and guidance and leadership of Jane Guenther, M.Div., Director of Catholic Renewal Center. The first group of Spiritual Directors in this new program have completed their training and have been commissioned as Spiritual Directors for our Archdiocese. One of the new Spiritual Directors is an Assumption parishioner, Rita Baughman. If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry at our parish, please contact Margot Huber, Assumption's Office Admin. Assistant, at 314-487-7970.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, December 8th 3-7 p.m. in the Church Lower Level REGISTER at www.redcrossblood.org Sponsor code: AssumptionCC



Restore, Rekindle, Renew Enrichment (3RE) 7-Session Virtual Enrichment Experience

Mon/ Thur Evenings: January 18-February 8, 2021
Starting at 7:00 p.m.
This experience will be offered virtually
in the couple's own home!
Apply online: www.stl-wwme.org
Or for more Info Call: 314-649-7317



Poinsettia Pick-Up

If you ordered poinsettias from our 8th grade class, please make sure to pick them up after Mass next weekend, December 12-13, in the church lower level!

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! - Baptism

We should be grateful that we have been baptized and claimed for Christ. The Holy Spirit has come into our hearts and Christ has washed away the stain of original sin. As a result, we are able to enter into heaven and attain union with God in eternal beatitude (CCC 1213-1216). The work is not done, though. We still suffer from concupiscence, our natural inclination to sin, and must face trials and temptations in our spiritual journey of life. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit guides us to repent and to turn away from our sins. He enables us to accept our adoption as sons and daughters of God who walk in the light of Christ. What is holding you back from fully embracing your status as a child of God? How can you more fully repent and experience the grace of God working in your life?

archstl.org/dynamic

Sign up & receive
Assumption's
Weekly Bulletin
via E-Mail every week!



Sign up today at AssumptionSTL.org/Bulletin-Email!

9 December 6, 2020

Contact Us				
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Deacon David Schaefer	Ext. 1254	schaeferd@assumptionstl.org		
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Mrs. Caitlyn Sextro Youth Minister	Ext. 1233	chickeyc@assumptionstl.org		
Mr. Matt Yates Maintenance Coordinator	Ext. 2235	yatesm@assumptionstl.org		
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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

Issue Deadline (4 p.m.)
December 13 December 3

December 20 December 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

Please Support Our Advertisers!

If you or someone you know within our Parish Boundaries is in need of assistance, please call:

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

Parish Photo Directories

Our parish photo directories arrived and were available for pickup over a month ago, but we have several copies left! If you had your photo taken for the parish directory and forgot to pick one up when they first arrived, you can pick your complementary directory up in the Parish Office during office hours.

FORMED°

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 6, 2020

LISTEN

MARIAN DOGMAS WITH MATT FRADD AND BRANT PITRE

Listen in as Matt Fradd and Dr. Brant Pitre explore the Church's understanding of Mary's role in the Church.



To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.