



## GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,  
WHEN I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE  
I MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH."

—JEREMIAH 33:14

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.  
**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. Buehler

#### CLERGY

**Rev. Thomas Keller**  
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**Rev. Raymond Buehler**  
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**Deacon Michael Thompson**  
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#### 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  
**Livestream Mass:** [Assumptionlive.com](http://Assumptionlive.com)  
4725 Mattis Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63128

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## December Holy Day Mass Times

### Wed., December 8 - Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Masses: 6:30, 8, 10 a.m., Noon, 7 p.m.

Holy Hour: 6-7 p.m.

### Fri., December 24 & Sat., December 25 - Christmas (IS a Holy Day of Obligation)

Christmas Eve Masses: 4, 6, 11 p.m..

Christmas Morning Masses: 8, 10 a.m. and Noon

(no 5 p.m. anticipated Sunday Mass)

### Fri., December 31 & Sat., January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God / New Year's (NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

New Year's Eve—6 p.m. Mass & New Year's Day—8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Mass

## Special Events

Dec. 1 Advent Penance Service

Dec. 5 Youth Choir Concert at  
Our Lady of the Snows  
in Belleville

Dec. 8 Feast of the  
Immaculate Conception

Dec. 11 Assumption Women  
Renew

## Youth Choir Christmas Concert



*Sounds  
of The  
Season*

The Assumption 5th to 8th grade Youth Choir will hold a concert at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows on Sun., December 5 at 6 p.m. The concert is sure to put you in the spirit of the Advent and Christmas Seasons! Enjoy the beautiful songs of the season, sing-a-long with some familiar carols, and support our Youth Choir!

After the concert you can also enjoy the Way of Lights at the Shrine in Belleville.

## November 14 Stewardship

#Assumption Together	\$150.00
All Saints	\$10.00
All Soul's Day	\$10.00
Archdiocese for Military	\$25.00
Diaconate Formation Fund	\$10.00
General Fund 2021	\$20,929.55
Maintenance Fund	\$5.00
Mission Society – October	\$10.00
Partner in Education	\$150.00
ProLife	\$65.00
ProLife Stewardship	\$5.00
ProLife Foundation	\$525.00
Retired Religious	\$3,180.00
Sponsor A Family	\$1,905.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$1,389.00
Tithing for the Poor	\$150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,788.55</b>

## 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!

## Registering at Assumption

Assumption Parish (Mattese) warmly welcomes you to our family of Faith!  
I/We would like to register at Assumption:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*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 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to register.*

## Mass Intentions †

November 28	SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.	Karen Krouse †
9 a.m.	John & Helen Bennett †
10:30 a.m.	Joan Lutho †
Noon	William Schlueter †
6 p.m.	People of the Parish
November 29	MONDAY
6:30 a.m.	Bernie Zander †
8 a.m.	John & Frances Meagher †
November 30	TUESDAY
6:30 a.m.	Don Grant †
8 a.m.	Clarence & Delilah Dooley †
December 1	WEDNESDAY
6:30 a.m.	Tom & Helen Bujewski †
8 a.m.	Motz Gapsch †
December 2	THURSDAY
6:30 a.m.	Linda DeClue †
8 a.m.	Rev. Richard F. Everding †
December 3	FRIDAY
6:30 a.m.	Marilyn Folkl †
8 a.m.	Tom Aleto †
December 4	SATURDAY
8 a.m.	James Aubrey †
5 p.m.	Janet Thiemann †
December 5	SUNDAY
7:30 a.m.	Karen Krouse †
9 a.m.	Marlene Kauffmann †
10:30 a.m.	Gregor & Katarine Schamber †
Noon	Frank Lahm †
6 p.m.	People of the Parish
	† denotes deceased

## In Our Prayers

### THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Ann Macke
Daniel Macke
Diane Maixner
Michael Manning
Michael Manzelli
Ann Marie Marelli
Maureen Mattingly
Brenden McDaniels
Dionne McPike
Kevin McPike
Carolyn Messmer
Ken Messmer
Judith Metzger

### OUR MILITARY

*\*denotes parishioner*

William Florich, USAR*
Tracy Freeman, USAR
Michael Fresenberg, USA
Thomas Graham, USAF
Josh Gregory, USAR*
Devon Harris, USN
Jason Hawkins, USMC
Chris Hemmelgarn, USA*
Victor Huber, USA*
Kaeli Kluesner, USAF
Christopher Konradt, USMC
Andrew Kremmel, USMC
Matthew Kren, USA

## Weekly Readings

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36  
Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6



## Shuttle Bus for Seniors

**Are you a senior who needs a ride to Mass?**

Our Assumption Shuttle Bus is back to picking up riders for the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass every other week. To sign up, go to [AssumptionSTL.org/shuttle](http://AssumptionSTL.org/shuttle) or contact our Transportation Coordinator, Judy Talleur, by calling 314-487-7970 x 1228 or by emailing Shuttle-Bus@AssumptionSTL.org.

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



## Pastor's Column

Fr. Thomas Keller

### The Advent Season

The secular and commercial season called the Christmas Season is designed by marketing departments to convince you that buying gifts is necessary.

While I am a big fan of receiving gifts, and you probably are too, we know that there's another way to prepare for Christmas – by observing the Season of Advent.

Let's review what Advent is and why it is important!

Advent is a four-week liturgical season prior to the Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity (Christmas.) During the Advent Season, the Church's liturgies are filled with scripture readings that predict the coming of God to His people. The Old Testaments readings often come from the Prophet Isaiah because much of his prophecies speak of a hope-filled time when God will come and establish a new age of peace. The Season also focuses on the theme of a coming messiah who will save us. Finally, the Season looks to a time when God will come to judge the living and the dead.

The Advent Season is like Lent as a times of spiritual preparation for a big feast. Catholics often take the opportunity to go to Confession in preparation for the feast day of Christmas. In past times, Catholics used to fast just like in Lent. The sacred ministers at Mass still wear violet just like in Lent.

The Advent Wreath is a newer tradition, only a couple of centuries old, and it comes from Germany. Each Sunday a new candle is lighted. The increasing light battles the darkness of winter and symbolizes Christ's power to dispel sin and death.

Advent is important because it gives Catholics the opportunity to contemplate the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel in Christ. It encourages us to "ready ourselves" for the coming of Christ into our lives both sacramentally now, and as our judge in the future.

Central to Advent is considering Mary's pregnancy and how she must have reflected on the words of the Angel Gabriel. The Church joins Mary as she loves the infant Jesus in her womb and looks forward to the joy of seeing Christ for the first time.

I hope everyone has a blessed Season of Advent!

God bless, Fr. Keller





**“The Four Last Things”  
Part 4 of 4—Heaven  
Fr. Raymond Buehler  
Associate Pastor**

This is, admittedly, the hardest of the articles to write. The others are analogously closer to our experiences in this life, and thus easier to talk about. But when it comes to heaven... even the greatest saints are rendered silent: not because there's nothing to say, but because even the most superlative language falls tragically short of the real

grandeur, joy, life, majesty, abundance of heaven!

Music, poetry, art — all these strain toward heaven as well, yet are ultimately frustrated in their deficiency. But with humility, and by the grace of God, let us at least try, so to provide some grist for a fruitful and encouraging contemplation.



*(il Gesu, Rome, detail of the ceiling)*

### What is Heaven?

So often, when we try to understand heaven, we think of the things we enjoy in this life, but *more* so. How many eulogies have we heard about someone who loved golf now playing the greatest golf course in eternity? Or, we flock to the latest book on a near death experience where someone has ‘come back’, which inevitably a few months later turns out to be a hoax. We long for it, we yearn for it to be real, we want assurance that our loved ones are there, we desire something more than the struggle of this life. We grasp at images that give us consolation. But are they true? They are good in that they represent the heart's yearning for something more! But what has God revealed to us?

I could cite dozens of Bible verses (which I encourage you to look up on your own time!) but many of them offer only tiny glimpses or bizarre imagery. But if we drill down to the heart of it, they reveal that heaven is nothing

less than total union with God. It is why God made us in the first place! God is love, infinite and eternal. And out of love, he created beings capable of receiving, returning, and entering into that love! (This is why hell is often described as the suffering of absolute loneliness.) In heaven, we are completely known and loved. And that is just the start! In heaven, all of our powers of knowing, desiring, feeling, experiencing, choosing are tuned to the highest pitch... and then God super(naturally)charges them to be like His! We will be utterly fulfilled in every conceivable way. The greatest joys of this life give glimpses, but ultimately are *nothing* compared to the infinite joy of seeing and being in union with God.

### Thimble or a Tub?

Will everyone be equally happy in heaven? Well, no. Everyone is completely fulfilled, but not to the same extent. Maybe you've heard the analogy of different sized containers. “My holy grandma is a full bucket, Mother Teresa is a full bathtub, and I'm hoping for a thimble.” A different analogy is that of the exquisitely played symphony: a world-class composer and an ordinary man can both attend, and both can exclaim, “It's beautiful!” But the composer's joy is greater, as he is better able to follow the sublime perfection of every measure, movement and note.

What will be the measure of our joy in heaven? ***How much have we strived to cooperate with grace in this life?*** This life is a time of preparation. It's not about simply ‘wanting God’. It's about making a decision and striving in every area of our life, in every action we take, to live for God! This, if done truly, is the furthest thing from boring.

### Conclusion?

There's so much more to be said, and I've received a lot of great questions from people in the course of these articles. Thank you for asking! In trying to keep these articles to one page, I had to omit some things, and shorten my descriptions of others. My hope was to whet the appetite, so that you might look into it more for yourself!

Ultimately, these things should be brought to our prayerful conversation with God, for this cannot stay in the head, but has to make it to the heart.

God bless you, and let's encourage one another as we strive together for heaven!

# Renew

ASSUMPTION WOMEN

Saturday,  
December 11th  
@ 10 a.m.

*In the church & livestreamed!*

Time to **refresh** your soul, **reconnect** with  
your Assumption community, &  
get **recharged** with the Holy Spirit!



**Talk** by author & Director of Mission Formation at SLU, Virginia Herbers, on the "**Hidden Figures in Advent**". This reflection about the *shepherds* at the scene of the Nativity is inspired by her new book, "Gifts from Friends We've Yet to Meet: a Memoir of Biblical Encounters"!

All women are welcome & there is no RSVP to attend!

## Advent Penance Service

Wednesday,  
December 1  
6 - 7 p.m.



*Join us in church for  
Adoration, worship music &  
opportunities for Confession!*





## Help Buy an Ultrasound for a Pro-Life Pregnancy Resource Center!

The Knights of Columbus at SHF and Assumption are working on replacing the ultrasound at the Pregnancy Resource Center in south St. Louis. The ultrasound machine at the facility is nearing the end of its serviceable lifecycle and needs to be replaced to continue the mission of providing opportunities for women in crisis to see the baby they are carrying as a life. To find out more about our mission and ways you can donate go to <https://stl.igivecatholic.org/organizations/knights-of-columbus-3586> or search for Knights of Columbus on <https://www.archstl.org/igivecatholic>.

## "CHRISTmas in Prison" Meal

The Christmas in Prison meal at Potosi Correctional Center for the Catholic Community is resuming this year after taking a year off due to the pandemic. We are looking for your assistance to help support this event. If you would like to donate money to help pay for meat and other sides please drop your donation off to the parish office attention Christmas in Prison. If you would like to provide cookies, pies, brownies, pies or other desserts, please bring them to the Church Front Parking Lot on Friday, December 10, from 2-3 p.m. or Saturday, December 11, from 8-9 a.m. For additional information or questions, please contact Sue Engel at 314-662-2992 or 314-487-9898.



## Senior Ministry Upcoming Events!

Tuesday, November 30, 11 a.m.—Senior Advent Prayer Challenge\*  
1 p.m. — Dominoes

Friday, December 4, 8 a.m. —First Friday Mass at Assumption, followed by Breakfast at Cracker Barrel

Tuesday, December 7, 11 a.m.—Senior Advent Prayer Challenge\*

Tuesday, December 14, 11 a.m.—Senior Advent Prayer Challenge\*

Tuesday, December 21, 11 a.m.—Senior Advent Prayer Challenge\*

**\*Save the Dates for the Senior Advent Prayer Challenge on Tuesdays this Advent season!**

We will be doing a spiritual reflection over the 4 weeks of Advent in the Church at 11 a.m., followed by refreshments & community in the Church Lower Level! We will be masked & spread out in the Church.



### Sponsor-A-Family for Christmas!

Sponsor-A-Family needs your help! Once again, your generous donations are making Christmas a reality for those in need.

Assumption is once again sponsoring elementary school kids from Saint Elizabeth, in addition to several local families. Please consider making a cash donation, or gift cards in \$25 increments to places like grocery stores, Target or Walmart. Even the smallest gift can make a difference! Please call Amy Craig with questions at 314-221-4268.

# THE GIVING TREE Nov. 20 - Dec. 12

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 12th.**

*Thank you!*

Please remember to securely attach the ornament to your gifts!



## Baptisms



Congratulations to Iris, who was received into the Church on November 7, 2021, at her Baptism! Pictured with Iris are her parents, Stephen & Janet, big sister Rosalie, and godparents, Cody & Elise.



Congratulations to Briar on his Baptism on November 6, 2021! Pictured with Briar are his parents, Nolan & Janessa, and his godparents, Gregory & Camila.

### Urgent Need for Ushers

Assumption is looking for people to serve as ushers for the Saturday and Sunday Masses! We have a critical need for 5 p.m., and Sunday noon and 6 p.m. Masses. If you would like to help out, please contact Greg Kornfeld at 314-578-0452 or by email at [gdck@aol.com](mailto:gdck@aol.com).



## St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Volunteers Needed for Holiday Season!

The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store located on the corner of Lemay Ferry Road and Lindbergh is looking for volunteers to work in the store as we approach the holiday season. If you wish to volunteer, please note that you do not have to be a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and you can pick your own hours.

If you are interested, please follow the following steps:

- Go to [www.SvdpSTL.org](http://www.SvdpSTL.org).
- Click on the tab "Ways to Help".
- Drop down to "Volunteer in Store".
- Click on "Please Complete an Application" & follow the prompts.

If you work at the store, be sure to tell them you are from Assumption Parish! We will then receive credits for vouchers to give to our Neighbors in Need. These vouchers help us provide clothing, furniture and household goods at no cost to those in most need. Thank you!



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

## **Assumption Parish & Schools are HIRING!**

- Full-time Pre-K Teacher
- K-8 Teacher's Aids
- Maintenance Staff

Go to [AssumptionSTL.org/apply!](http://AssumptionSTL.org/apply!)



# **SAVE THE DATE** **Advent Lessons & Carols**

**Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France  
(Old Cathedral)**

**Sunday, December 12, 2021, 3:00 pm**  
**Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Presiding**

**Music provided by the combined choirs of  
the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France (Old Cathedral)  
and the Shrine of St. Joseph**

**Free and open to the Public**

## Contact Us

CLERGY		314-487-7970
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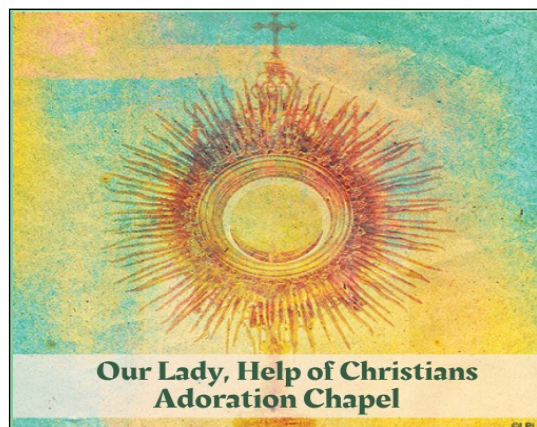
## Good News Messenger

Issue	Deadline (4 p.m.)
Dec. 5	Nov. 25
Dec. 12	Nov. 30

- 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

November 28, 2021

**WATCH**

## THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent.



To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.