



GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

December 25, 2022



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
Ext. 1202; kellert@assumptionstl.org
Rev. Raymond Buehler
Ext. 1205; buehlerr@assumptionstl.org
Deacon David Schaefer
Ext. 1254; schaeferd@assumptionstl.org
Deacon Michael Thompson
Ext. 1256; thompsonm@assumptionstl.org

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
Livestream Mass: Assumptionlive.com
4725 Mattis Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63128

The Nativity of the Lord

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

Text assumptionstl to the number [84576](tel:84576) or visit us online at flocknote.com/assumptionstl

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text 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 flocknote.com/txt

Special Events

Good News Sunday Jan. 1

SEEK23 Jan. 2 –6

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan. 16

Senior Speaker Series: Jan. 16
Eldercare Reuter-Merkle
Law Firm

Good News Messenger

**Note, due to the upcoming holidays bulletin deadlines are as follows:

| Issue | Deadline |
|------------|-------------|
| January 1 | December 15 |
| January 8 | December 16 |
| January 15 | January 5 |

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!

Assumption Parish Mission



Holy Day Mass Times

Saturday, December 31st
New Year's Eve
New Year's Eve Mass:
5 p.m.

Sunday, January 1st
Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God/New Year's
New Year's Day Masses:
7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
Noon, 6 p.m.

Registering at Assumption

<https://assumptionstl.org/online-registration>

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.

Note

The Parish Office will be closed on December 26th and January 2nd.

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 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the church!

Mass Intentions †

| December 25 | SUNDAY |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | Linda DeClue † |
| 10:00 a.m. | Gayle A. Kenniston † |
| Noon | Danny Martin † |
| December 26 | MONDAY |
| 6:30 a.m. | Virginia Weindel † |
| 8:00 a.m. | Dale Koch † |
| December 27 | TUESDAY |
| 6:30 a.m. | Steven Smith † |
| 8:00 a.m. | Carmella Langhammer † |
| December 28 | WEDNESDAY |
| 6:30 a.m. | John Held, Jr. † |
| 8:00 a.m. | Bob Rothrock † |
| December 29 | THURSDAY |
| 6:30 a.m. | Josefina Antenor † |
| 8:00 a.m. | John & Francis Meagher † |
| December 30 | FRIDAY |
| 6:30 a.m. | Destura Family |
| 8:00 a.m. | Larry Vogler † |
| December 31 | SATURDAY |
| 8:00 a.m. | Donald Volansky † |
| 5:00 p.m. | Salvador & Louella Destura † |
| January 1 | SUNDAY |
| 7:30 a.m. | Linda DeClue † |
| 9:00 a.m. | Andrew & Helen Roeslein † |
| 10:30 a.m. | Gayle A. Kenniston † |
| Noon | Tara McLafferty † |
| 6:00 p.m. | Clara Rivituso † |
| | † denotes deceased |

In Our Prayers

| |
|--|
| Mary Ann Comegys |
| James Velten |
| Micheline Vendryes |
| Christina Vogler |
| Christina Weyers |
| Mary Ann Wheatley |
| Julie White |
| Olive Wilke |
| Pat Williamson |
| Edward Wohlstadter |
| Eric Wolf |
| Sheri Oldani Zambruski |
| Anna Zuellig |
| Joshua Allen |
| OUR MILITARY <i>*denotes parishioner</i> |
| Davey Ardrey, USAR |
| Ryan Boedeker |
| Kyle Bottorf |
| Robert Bryant III, USAF* |
| Dominic Catalano |
| Dakota Chappel |
| Lauren Chellis, USN |
| Michael Cole |
| Sean Danaher, USAF |
| David DiFranco, USA |
| Kevin Deitz |
| Matthew Eberhart, USA |
| Michael Faulkner, USMC* |

Weekly Readings

For the week of 12/25:

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



Visit AssumptionSTL.org

to register today for

† 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

If you ever have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land you will likely visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. When you arrive, there are dozens of eager vendors selling souvenirs. Many pilgrims get caught up in the bargains and get delayed by all the interesting stuff they sell. But if you are going to get anywhere, you have to push your way through the vendors; then when you get to the door of the church, you bow down in order to enter through a very short door. It is about half the height of a normal door. It is short to remind the pilgrims of the humility that is necessary to enter into the birthplace of Jesus Christ. You enter into a beautiful basilica that is filled with light. The Church of the Nativity is one of the oldest surviving churches in the world, originally built by the first Christian emperor, Constantine. It was enlarged to its current size by Emperor Justinian. It has strong marble pillars running the length of the basilica giving the impression of permanence and strength. This church has survived countless earthquakes and marauding armies.

But no one pays any attention to the ancient and venerable church. Immediately when pilgrims enter the church, they rush to stand in a line leading below the basilica. They descend steep and worn stone stairs and enter a cave. The cave walls are covered with beautifully embroidered tapestries, but no one pays any attention to them either. The deeper they get into the cave the more crowded it gets. If you are a timid person, you will never get to the deepest part of the cave.

Once you arrive, there is a shrine with a fourteen-point silver star on the floor. There, pilgrims on their knees, often with eyes closed to block out the tumult of the crowd around them, reach down and joyfully and peacefully place their hand on the spot where Jesus Christ, the Savior was born. For a moment it feels like you are the only one there except Mary and Joseph and the Christ Child, and your heart overflows with love.

Even if you have never been to Bethlehem or may never have the chance to go, each Christmas is like a pilgrimage to Bethlehem. There are many distractions, vendors, crowds, and lots of noise to contend with as our society commercializes the birth of Christ for a profit. But when we contemplate the birth of Jesus it is a deeply personal moment. We realize God has sent His Son to be with us, and He understands the human experiences of poverty, loneliness, suffering, loss, and humiliation. Jesus is with us when we hurt. Jesus is merciful when we sin. Jesus promises us more when we realize the shortness of this life. Jesus promises us eternal life. When contemplating the mercy God has for us our hearts once again overflow with love.

Assumption Parish is like a little Bethlehem where Christ is revealed to all. We are a place where you can move beyond the chaos of this world and find Jesus. Jesus is revealed in our charity for others, our fellowship and support of one another, and in our worship of the Father. If you are a guest or someone who is on the fringes of the Church, you are invited to push your way in, leave the distractions of this world behind and find Jesus Christ here in the silence of your heart. In the simple act of humbling ourselves in Confession and descending in prayer to the place where Christ is revealed in the Eucharist we can contemplate his overflowing love for us.

God bless,
Fr. Keller

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE AT LEAST 70-1/2 YEARS OLD

Support our parish.

You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year) from your IRA directly to Assumption Catholic Church without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of any value of \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit, and you can feel good knowing that you are supporting Assumption Catholic Church.

Your disbursement must come directly from the administrator of your IRA to Assumption Catholic Church—you cannot receive the funds first. Please use EIN number, 43-0653252.



Please contact the administrator of your IRA with any tax or account-specific questions. You may also reach out to the Assumption Parish Office at 314.487.7970

Assumption Catholic Church 4725 Mattis Road, St. Louis, MO 63128



Thank You From Sponsor-A-Family

Once again, Assumption's Sponsor-A-Family program has made Christmas a little brighter for our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Boy Scouts recently delivered 173 gift bags containing toys and blankets or plush items as well as 127 family packages of gift cards to the St Louis Catholic Academy, which serves families in Saint Elizabeth's Parish in North City. The program was also able to provide generously to eight local families in need.

We are overwhelmed by the consistent generosity of our parish community. Thank you to everyone who made donations, bought and wrapped gifts, and helped with the many other tasks associated with the Sponsor-A-Family program. We also thank the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Knights of Columbus, National Junior Honor Society, and Boy Scouts for helping to make this program successful.

Merry Christmas and God bless you all.

Marilyn Angeli & Kathy Boulicault

All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner

Back by popular demand is our "All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner". So, save the date for January 28th! Bring your friends and family to come enjoy a little taste of Italy.

Questions? Contact
Mark Kenniston
mark@kenniston.us
314-283-0063



Our Lady Help of Christians Adoration Chapel

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

Women's ACTS Retreat

Adoration
Community
Theology
Service

The next Women's ACTS retreat will be January 26th-29th. This parish-based retreat offers the opportunity to renew your spirituality and prayer life, to strengthen your faith and its application in your daily life, and to build lasting friendships among our members. A team of Assumption women presents the Thursday to Sunday retreat with spiritual direction provided by our priests. The retreat is held once or twice a year at the

Marianist Retreat Center in Eureka, Missouri, where accommodations include a private room/bath for retreatants.

For full details & more information about Women's ACTS Retreats, please download a registration form at <https://assumptionstl.org/womens-acts-retreat-sign-up>

Questions? Contact Marianne Russell at 314-488-9048 or mkrussell@prodigy.net, or Rose Vogan at 314-941-9872 or rdscsval77@gmail.com.

**Want to
learn more
about
the Catholic faith
or how to
become Catholic?**

**Contact our coordinator of RCIA,
Deacon David Schaefer, at
schaeferd@assumptionstl.org.**

Assumption Scout Troop 169 Update

At the end of October, the Scouts hand made approximately 850 pizzas and garlic breads that were sold for our largest fundraiser of the year. Thank you very much for your support.

In November, the Scouts handed out and picked up bags of canned goods during Scouting for Food in order to feed the area's hungry. A total of 1.7 million items were collected area wide.

Scouts recently delivered Christmas gifts for the Assumption Sponsor-A-Family drive to St. Elizabeth Mother of John Catholic Church.

Do you have boys or girls Kindergarten through age 21 looking to have fun outdoors? Contact either, Tim Thomas tthomas876@gmail.com or Margaret Doty dotymar81@gmail.com.



Middle School Youth Ministry EDGE

What: EDGE is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program.

Who: It is open to students 6th-8th grade.

When: We will meet once a week on Thursdays from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Why: For fun, faith and community. Our goal is to help foster a relationship with Jesus. We want to help the middle schoolers understand the Catholic teachings in a relatable way.

Sign-up for our Flocknote by texting Parents to 84576.

For more information contact
Anna Hussey 314-784-8767 or
hussey@assumptionstl.org.

SVdP Monthly Food and Clothing Drive



**Saturday,
December 31st
9:00 a.m. - Noon**



Ladies Scripture Study

All ladies of the parish are invited to join us
Tuesday mornings from
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
to reflect on the upcoming Sunday Gospel.

Come whenever you are able.

Since we are preparing for the upcoming
Sunday it is not necessary to attend every week.

For questions or more information
please contact Stacey Macko at
314-795-8783.



upcoming events

DEC 25:
NO LIFE NIGHT!

DEC 28:
NO UPPER ROOM!

JAN 1:
NO LIFE NIGHT!

All events are held in the
youth room of the Salesian
House. Contact Caitlyn Sextro
(chickeyc@assumptionstl.org)
for more info!

"The Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice."
—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 24

seek²³
focus



Join us for the
Making Missionary Disciples Track
Practical training to answer your call to missionary discipleship.



Rise up and
answer the call!
seek.focus.org/mdd

SEEK 2023 Is Coming To STL!

Every human heart is seeking the same thing—but you won't find it in a steady job, internet fame, a sweet ride or even a Nobel Prize. Only one thing in life will satisfy the longing inside you. To find it, you must seek Him.



SEEK23 is a five-day conference for everyone. This event is an opportunity to encounter the Gospel anew and to be revived, equipped and encouraged for the life of faith Christ is calling us to lead. Expect sessions and keynotes, lunch, Mass, Adoration, concerts, entertainment and fellowship.

** Use **ARCHSTL23** at registration for a discount.



Learn more and register now

seek.focus.org

January 2-6, 2023

St. Louis, MO



Senior Ministry Upcoming Events!

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| December 27 | 10:30 p.m. | Ladies Scripture Study |
| December 27 | 1:00 p.m. | Cards |
| January 3 | 10:30 a.m. | Ladies Scripture Study |
| January 3 | 1:00 p.m. | Dominoes |
| January 10 | 10:30 a.m. | Ladies Scripture Study |
| January 10 | 1:00 p.m. | Cards |
| January 16 | 11:30 a.m. | Sr. Speaker Series: Eldercare Law |

Questions? Contact Marilyn Hogenmiller 314-894-8194 (Dominoes) or Ron Reiter 314-347-5881 (Cards)
Senior Speaker Series RSVP at 314-487-7970 x 1228.



Covenant Network Catholic Radio fills the airways with inspirational and educational programming that will help prepare your heart and mind to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas.

Listen to Catholic radio on KHOJ 1460 AM or 96.7 FM. You can also listen anytime on our Covenant Network App or at OurCatholicRadio.org.



Our Lady Help of Christians Adoration Chapel

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

Merry Christmas to you and yours.


**Saint
Martha's**

Safe places for women,
for children, for good.

New look.
Expanded Services.
Greater Impact.



World Marriage Day – Save the Date!

On Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., Auxiliary Bishop Mark S. Rivituso will celebrate a Mass for World Marriage Day at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO. A reception will follow in Boland Hall. All married couples are invited to attend and celebrate the gift of marriage. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of society. It emphasizes the faithfulness, sacrifice and joy of daily married life. World Marriage Day started in Baton Rouge, LA in 1981 and was later adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter who now is sponsoring this event on February 12th.




CONFESSIONS
at Assumption

Wednesdays
6–6:45 p.m.

Saturdays
4–4:45 p.m.

Sundays
Before All Masses

Contact Us

| CLERGY | | 314-487-7970 |
|--|-----------|------------------------------|
| Reverend Thomas Keller Pastor | Ext. 1202 | kellert@assumptionstl.org |
| Reverend Raymond Buehler Senior Associate Pastor | Ext. 1205 | buehlerr@assumptionstl.org |
| Deacon David Schaefer | Ext. 1254 | schaeferd@assumptionstl.org |
| Deacon Michael Thompson | Ext. 1256 | thompsonm@assumptionstl.org |
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| Deacon Jim Sigillito Director of Operations & Finance | Ext. 1235 | sigillitoj@assumptionstl.org |
| Mrs. Caitlyn Sextro Youth Ministry Coordinator | Ext. 1233 | chickeyc@assumptionstl.org |
| Mrs. Anna Hussey Middle School Youth Minister | Ext. 1211 | husseya@assumptionstl.org |
| Mr. Matt Yates Maintenance Coordinator | Ext. 2235 | yatesm@assumptionstl.org |
| PARISH and SCHOOL EDUCATION STAFF | | 314-487-6520 |
| 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

| Issue | Deadline (4 p.m.) |
|------------|-------------------|
| January 1 | December 15 |
| January 8 | December 16 |
| January 15 | January 5 |

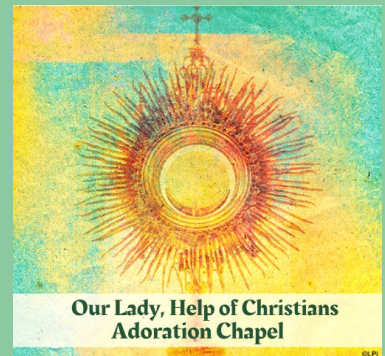
— Please go to www.assumptionstl.org/bulletin-submissions and submit an online form to request event promotion and/or book a room

— PDF files cannot be used

— .jpg files required for any photos/graphics

Questions or comments?

newsletter@assumptionstl.org



Open 24/7! Contact the Parish Office for the keycode.

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

CHRISTMAS AS "CHRIST'S MASS" THE MANGER AND THE EUCHARIST

Dr. Michael Barber

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