



GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

December 24, 2023



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God." - Lk 1:35

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

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://assumptionparishstl)
Twitter: [#AssumptionSTL](https://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 assumptionstl to the number 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

Office Closings

The Parish Office will be closed
December 25th - January 2nd
for the holidays. Thank you.



Wednesdays
6-6:45 p.m.

Saturdays
4-4:45 p.m.

Sundays
Before All Masses

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!



Stewardship December 4 – December 10

#AssumptionTogether	\$20.00
All Saints' Day	\$5.00
All Souls' Day	\$5.00
Cardinal Glennon Hospital	\$5.00
Christmas	\$293.00
Christmas Flowers	\$420.00
General Fund	\$23,745.50
Immaculate Conception	\$2,697.00
Maintenance	\$5.00
Partners in Education	\$560.00
Prison Ministry	\$295.00
Pro-Life March for Life	\$275.00
Pro-Life Stewardship	\$15.00
Retired Priests	\$25.00
Retired Religious Fund	\$45.00
Seminary	\$268.00
Sponsor-A-Family	\$644.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$1,367.50
Tithe for the Poor	\$25.00
Year End Contributions	\$7,366.00
Youth Ministry	\$50.00
	\$38,131.00

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: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____



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 †

Dec 24	Sunday
7:30 a.m.	John Stewart †
9:00 a.m.	Nick Winston †
10:30 a.m.	Timothy Mooney †
Noon	Charlie Trader †
4:00 p.m.	Honesto & Victoria Veneracion †
6:00 p.m.	Timothy Meagher †
11:00 p.m.	Salvador & Louella Destura †
Dec 25	Monday
8:00 a.m.	Robert McFarland †
10:00 a.m.	Danny Martin †
Dec 26	Tuesday
6:30 a.m.	LaVerne McMaster †
8:00 a.m.	Nick Braun †
Dec 27	Wednesday
6:30 a.m.	Rosemary Buerke †
8:00 a.m.	Carmella Langhammer †
Dec 28	Thursday
6:30 a.m.	John F. Held †
8:00 a.m.	David Trosky †
Dec 29	Friday
6:30 a.m.	Mark Maher †
8:00 a.m.	Larry Vogler †
Dec 30	Saturday
8:00 a.m.	Salvador Destura †
5:00 p.m.	John & Frances Meagher †
Dec 31	Sunday
7:30 a.m.	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m.	Linda DeClue †
10:30 a.m.	Motz Gapsch †
noon	Clint Dudley †
6:00 p.m.	Charlie Trader †
	† denotes deceased

In Our Prayers

Jean Huston
Harold Jackson
Lorraine Jackson
Judy Johnson
Julie Kauffmann
Bob Kemper
Kent Kenniston
Debra Kersting
Victor Klutho
Carol Koller
Jean Kovarik
Terry Krieger
Johanna Kubot
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
Kevin Deitz
Sydney Delhougne
David DiFranco, USA
Matthew Eberhart, USA

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

Weekly Readings

For the week of 12/24:

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/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/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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

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

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

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

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Rest In Peace

Kathleen Emerson

Early Bulletin Deadlines

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

Issue: December 31 Deadline: December 15



Pastor's Column

Fr. Thomas Keller

Christmas around the world.

This Christmas at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Pope will be surrounded by thousands of Catholics, and they will pray for world peace before an image of Baby Jesus. Meanwhile, in Bethlehem, at the site of the birth of Jesus, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, who was a Franciscan priest before being ordained a bishop and named a cardinal, will renew his willingness to be exchanged for any hostage still held captive by Hamas. Not far from there, the very small community of Catholics living in Gaza will celebrate Christmas with their families in refugee camps far from their homes and churches due to the constant bombardment. In Eastern Europe, Russian Christians will brutally fight Ukrainian Christians through the holidays. In places like Cameroon, Mozambique, Pakistan, India, and Nigeria, many Catholics will worship in fields because their parish churches have been burned down by militants. Many Chinese Catholics will celebrate Christmas in secret because they are persecuted by the government. Christian minorities will continue to suffer persecution this Christmas in North Korea, Myanmar, Iraq, Libya, Ethiopia, Egypt, and many other places.

Here in the United States, some elderly residents of inner city neighborhoods will remain alone for Christmas because they fear violence. Children in both urban and rural areas who are afflicted by poverty will receive basic gifts donated by strangers. In some affluent suburban homes, domestic violence will be suffered silently through the holidays. Throughout the United States, despite the Supreme Court overturn of Roe v. Wade, legislation will continue to be promoted to change state constitutions enshrining an attitude of violence against the unborn. Unemployment, addictions, loneliness, and hopelessness has no borders and will not go away for the holidays.

Tradition holds that the night Jesus was born, the whole world was at peace. Even though so many people suffer around the world today, Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, comes to us under the hopeful title of the "Prince of Peace." The Prophet Isaiah says: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:5)

Catholics are commissioned by Christ Himself to address injustices, comfort the oppressed, provide charity for the needy, and educate the ignorant. Why? Because God took on our humanity in Jesus and that changes how we look at each other. When we see someone suffering, we see Jesus in the cold and poverty of Bethlehem. When we see vulnerability, we simply see Jesus in the manger. When we see someone fleeing violence, we see Jesus along with His mother, Mary and His foster father, Joseph in their flight to Egypt to escape the violence of the jealous King Herod. As Catholics, when we intentionally encounter Jesus, we can experience peace despite the difficulties of the world.

I pray that each of you will experience the peace of Jesus this Christmas. Even if you are experiencing anxiety or living in turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that the world cannot give. This Christmas, please pray for peace not only in the world but in our hearts.

God bless,
Fr. Keller



Tickets \$75/ticket,
\$100/ticket after 12/31!



Get tickets now! Only those attending January 20th can bid on these Live Auction items! This is just a sample of the 20+ awesome Live Auction items up for bid!



*Week vacation at Club Wyndham,
Orlando, FL.!*

*Nolan Arenado
Jersey!*



STL Blues Quilt!



*Lifetime Concession
Duty Buyout!*



*Dinner for 10 prepared by
Fr. Buehler!*



Bourbon Tasting!

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 153 gift bags containing toys and blankets or plush items as well as 110 family packages of gift cards to the St Louis Catholic Academy, which serves

families in the surrounding parish in North City. The program was also able to provide generously to several local and North City 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, the Knights of Columbus, and the Boy Scouts for helping to make this program successful. Merry Christmas and God bless you all.

Marilyn Angeli & Kathy Boulicault



ASSUMPTION AUCTION GALA

JANUARY 20, 2024

ROYALE ORLEANS BANQUET CENTER

AUCTION NEWS & FAQ's

TICKET PRICES ARE GOING UP!

Have you purchased your tickets yet? Ticket prices increase from \$75 to \$100 after December 31! Hurry and get your tickets today!

There are over 20 amazing LIVE auction items, almost 300 incredible baskets and/or stand alone items, an great assortment of adult beverages in our Let's Get Frosted! game, and a Gift Card Grab Bag that won't disappoint.

Questions?

Contact auction@assumptionstl.org or go to assumptionstl.org/auction for more details.

Men's ACTS January 25-28



This parish-based retreat offers the opportunity to renew your spirituality and prayer life; strengthen your faith and its application to your daily life, and build lasting friendships among members of the parish community. Your fellow parishioners from Assumption and St. John (Imperial) present the retreat with spiritual direction from our parish priests and deacons. We invite all men to join us for a special weekend of spiritual growth & renewal!

**MORE
INFO**

assumptionstl.org/mens-acts



EDGE CALENDAR

6:30PM-8PM



12/28

NO EDGE

1/4

BREATHING FIRE: LIFE IN THE FIRE

1/11

BREATHING FIRE: OXYGEN

1/18

BREATHING FIRE: FLAMETHROWER

?’s contact meyerd@assumptionstl.org



Upcoming Events

12/31 - NO LIFE NIGHT

1/7 - Operation: Soccer Lombardi

1/14 - Operation: Brain Fog

1/21 - Operation: Heavy Heart

Open to any teen in high school.

All events are held in the youth room of the Salesian House.

Any questions? Contact Dani at meyerd@assumptionstl.org

4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Masses

The 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Sunday, December 24th, which is Christmas Eve.
How many Masses do I attend?



**Pick one
for 4th Sunday:**

Saturday, December 23

___ 5:00pm

Sunday, December 24

___ 7:30am

___ 9:00am

___ 10:30am

___ Noon



**Pick ONE
for Christmas:**



Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve

___ 4:00pm

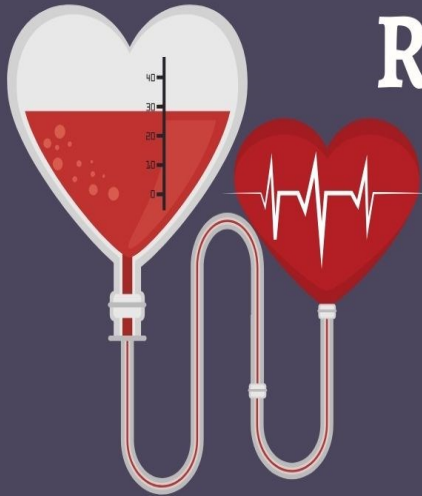
___ 6:00pm

___ 11:00pm

Monday, December 25, Christmas Morning

___ 8:00am

___ 10:00am



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, December 28
2-6 PM in the Church Lower Level
at Assumption-Mattese Parish

REGISTER at www.redcrossblood.org
or by calling 1-800-REDCROSS
Sponsor code: AssumptionCC

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



Senior Speaker Series



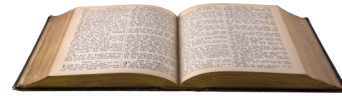
Mattis Road Counseling

Monday, January 15th Senior Ministry will have Peter Kopcha, LCSW from Mattis Road Counseling to discuss counseling services available. Please call 314-487-7970 x1228 to RSVP by January 11th. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with catered lunch at 12:00 p.m. The speaker will start after lunch.

Need a ride? Go to AssumptionSTL.org/shuttle or contact our Transportation Coordinator, Judy Talleur, by calling 314-487-7970 x1228, or email ShuttleBus@AssumptionSTL.org

Questions?
Contact Deacon David at 314-487-7970 x1254.

Ladies Scripture Study



Ladies of all ages are invited to join us on 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.

Monastery of St. Clare Priestly Holy Hour

There will be a Holy Hour for priestly and religious vocations on Friday, January 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Monastery (200 Marycrest Drive) is located off the 6000 block of Telegraph Road and is south of the Bethesda Nursing facility. The monastery entrance sign is next to the Goddard Daycare Center.



Senior Ministry Upcoming Events!

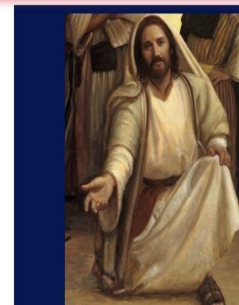
December 26	10:30 a.m.	No Ladies Scripture Study
December 26	1:00 p.m.	Cards
January 2	10:30 a.m.	Ladies Scripture Study
January 2	1:00 p.m.	Dominoes
January 8	10:30 a.m.	SoulCore
January 9	10:30 a.m.	Ladies Scripture Study
January 9	1:00 p.m.	Cards
January 15	12:00 p.m.	Senior Speaker Series
January 16	10:30 a.m.	Ladies Scripture Study

Questions? Please contact...
Dominoes: Marilyn Hogenmiller 314-894-8194
Cards: Ron Reiter 314-347-5881

NEED PRAYER?

Physically, emotionally, spiritually?
- WE ALL DO!!

Come forward after Mass-no requirements, just faith in Jesus



9:00 & 10:30 A.M.
MASSES Dec 31

Last Sunday of every month

ASSUMPTION ... JONAH PRAYER MINISTRY

James 5:16 ... pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful and effective.

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
PARISH STAFF		314-487-7970
Mrs. Michelle Foster Receptionist	Ext. 1215	fosterm@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Lauren Hankins Digital Communications Specialist	Ext. 1203	hankinsl@assumptionstl.org
Miss Shari Heitmann Office Manager	Ext. 1232	heitmanns@assumptionstl.org
Miss Dani Meyer Director of Youth Ministry	Ext. 1233	meyerd@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Nancy Pyle Music Director	Ext. 1229	pylen@assumptionstl.org
Deacon Jim Sigillito Director of Operations & Finance	Ext. 1235	sigillitoj@assumptionstl.org
Mr. Matt Yates Maintenance Coordinator	Ext. 2235	yatesm@assumptionstl.org
PARISH and SCHOOL EDUCATION STAFF		314-487-6520
Ms. Andrea Boeser Assumption Early Learning Center Director	Ext. 1227	boesera@assumptionstl.org
Miss Valerie Stringer Director of Elementary Religious Education	Ext. 2218	stringerv@assumptionstl.org
Mrs. Jennifer Sykora School Principal	Ext. 2121	sykoraj@assumptionstl.org

Good News Messenger

Issue	Deadline (4 p.m.)
December 31	December 15
January 7	December 28
January 14	January 4

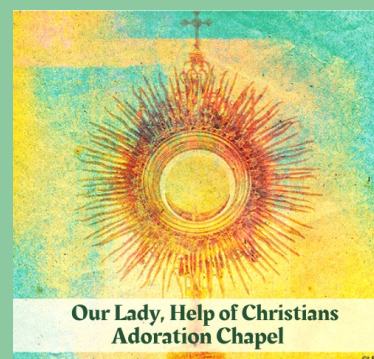
— Please go to www.assumptionstl.org/bulletin-submissions and submit an online form to request event promotion and/or book a room

— PDF files cannot be used

— .jpg files required for any photos/graphics

Questions or comments?

newsletter@assumptionstl.org



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

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

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

CHRISTMAS

The 12 Days of Christmas

Dr. Elizabeth Klein

FORMED**NOW**

FORMED®

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and ignatius press