

Christmas Greetings!

"I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." (Lk 2:10-11)

Was it on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? When did your family gather to celebrate and exchange gifts when you were a child? And now with your children, and grandchildren, are you with one family group on Christmas Eve, then at home together on Christmas morning, and then again with another part of the family on Christmas Day? It may be a lot of coming and going. But what better way to celebrate Christmas than with family?

That's the Good News of Christmas to begin with. God not only created our human family, God chose to participate in human history - Personally! It wasn't enough to love us into being. God comes as Divine Mercy to lead us into everlasting life. The birth of Jesus Christ changed everything, forever, thanks be to God. That's Christmas!

Like your family, the Church gathers many times in anticipation and in celebration of Christmas. For four weeks we lit the candles of our Advent wreath, burning bright against winter's dark, acclimating our hearts to Jesus, Who is the Light of the World. On the weekend of December 3-4, we began our Advent Parish Mission, a holy time of grace for us all. On December 17th, the Church began our Christmas Novena, counting down with expectancy toward Christmas. And now, as if in slow motion, we celebrate not one Christmas liturgy but four - like they are one continuous event - so we can savor the mystery of Emmanuel, God with us, at the Christmas Vigil, Christmas Midnight, Christmas Dawn, and Christmas Day. Like your family, our Church family just can't get enough of Christmas. That's because we just can't get enough of Jesus!

With Father Donald, Father Ramatowski, Deacon Bob Farley, Deacon Fred Mueller, Deacon Joe Pins, our seminarian intern Mr. Matt Barnard and all the members of our Assumption Parish staff, I extend to you and to your family our warmest and prayerful best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a grace filled New Year.

Sincerely yours in Jesus,
Fr. John Seper



"For a child is born to us, a son is given us." (Isaiah 9:5)
Gazing upon the nativity scene we see one of our most compelling reasons to live as good stewards. God not only gave us everything we have; He gave us everything He had - He gave us His Only Son, who in turn gave us His life. How do we say "thank you" for a gift like that? Realizing the tremendous depth of God's generosity to us is a pivotal insight that should change the entire way we live our life. It calls us to make stewardship a way of life.

Sunday Collection - December 18, 2005

	Current Week	Year To Date
Actual Contributions:		
Envelopes	19,231	519,971
Loose	907	35,210
Total Contributions	20,138	555,181
Contributions needed to balance the budget	22,231	555,775
Surplus (Deficit)	-2,093	-594

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (New Years)


Mass on Saturday, December 31 at 5 p.m.
Masses on Sunday, January 1 at 7:30, 9, 10:30 and Noon

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Ralph Anadel, Ron Anthony, Vicki Baker, Ginny Barbeau, Yvonne Bathon, Kay Bauer, Rachel Baumgartner, Don Bender, Geraldine Berra, Virginia Bielicki, Agnes Block, Charlene Blumm, Tara Buchheit, Jerry & Leanna Burgherr, Kathryn Burjeck, Chris Campise, Sandy Christie, David Conner, William Cook, Elaine Corbett, Jim Cox, Shirley Duebelbeis, Linda Duroso, Steve Ferretti, Marilyn Garavaglia, Betty Gliedt, Maria Grillo, Sabina Guidry, Rosy Harrington, Clara Hauser, Hubert Heimos, Jacqueline Helberg, Kim Higgins, Edward Homemann, Al Kadlec, Carol Kammerer, Russell Kappesser, Bob Kemper, Pat Kem, Alli Ketcherside, Kathleen Klaslick, Mary Ellen Kruse, Mary Lou Lammert, Tiffany Lentz, Dorothy Luechtefeld, Vemell Manning, Donna Matuszak, Marie Mergelkamp, Genevieve Meyer, Marie Middleton, Gary Mitchell, Jane Kohnen Mueller, Patrice Musial, Jane Noftsinger, Margaret O'Malley, Roy Ottenlips, Florence Pawlowicz, Bernie Potter, Gary Reese, Tommy Rozycki, Bill Schacht, Monica Schenk, Edward Schmidt, Mary Skelton, Joe Smith, Sr. Mary Leonida Speth, Mildred Steidmann, Glennon Steik, Virginia E. Stocker, Harriet Stubbings, Julie Suntinger, Rich Valenta, Ann Visnaw, Lisa Walton, Marcella Washington, Karl Winkelmann, Violette Wobbe, Robert Woestendick, Dorothy Zotta.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY

 Sgt. Rob Bauer USMC, Pvt. Robert J. Bauer UMC, Capt. Dan Bradley USMC, Capt. Robert Bryant III USAF, Jake Bums USANG Reserves, Petty Officer Tony Combrevis USN, Capt. Matthew Eberhart, Robert Emerson USAF, Marty Fauke, Sgt. Michael Fiscella Jr USMC, PFC Michael J. Fresenburg USA, M/Sgt Mark Georgeff USAF, Capt. John Giannini, Lt. James R. Graham USAF, Lt. Thomas J. Graham USAF, Edward Herwig SPC, Lt. Col. Robert Hock, Private Chad Hoffman, LCDR Gary Hopewell Jr USN, SPFC Anthony Jost, Spc Jacob Judge USAR, 1st Lt. Seth Kirchhoff, Lt. Col. Terry Klefisch, LCP Timothy S. Kopyy USMC, Sgt. Rob Lay USMC, Pvt Bryan Liddel, Jeff McKay, Major Charles M. Moon M.D. MC FS, 1st Lt. David Morlock USAF, Matthew Phillips, Lt. James Rund, Petty Officer John R. Siebert, T. Sgt. Robert Steffen, Kyle Strobl, Chad Thebeau USA, Lance Cpl. Daniel G. Thompson, Eddie Torries, SSG James Vanderbeck, Jason Wiegand, Chief M.Sgt. Michael Williams USAF, PFC William Winter USA, A1C James A. Wolnik Jr.

INTRODUCING THE ASSUMPTION SPEAKER SERIES FOR 2005-2006

This will be the inaugural year of a speaker series designed to give members of the parish and community at large an opportunity for further study. The sessions will be held on the last Wednesday of the month in the Assumption church basement from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The dates along with topics and speakers follows, so please mark your calendars. If you have any questions or have any suggestions for future topics or speakers, feel free to contact Fr. Edward Ramatowski at 314-487-7970 ext 1202.

January 25, 2006—**Aftermath of Abortion** by Representatives of the Pro-Life Office
 February 22, 2006—**Interfaith Dialogue: Understanding the Islamic Faith** by Fr. Vince Heier and a Guest Iman
 March 22, 2006—**Stem Cells** by Fr. Edward Richard
 April 26, 2006—**Marian Apparitions of the 20th Century** by Fr. Mike Witt
 May 24, 2006—**End of Life Issues: Food and Hydration** by Fr. Donald Henke

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are currently developing the schedule for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for early-to-mid 2006. If you are currently a Eucharistic Minister and need to have changes made, please contact Kathy Boulicault at 845-9592.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Please consider donating your time and talent as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. We are in DIRE NEED of Eucharistic Ministers for the noon mass each week. Eucharistic ministers work on a rotational schedule, with the number of rotations varying between every three weeks (noon mass) and every six weeks (9:00 mass). An hour or so of training is all that's required of your time, as this ministry is built right into the Mass! Please call Kathy Boulicault at 845-9592 if interested.



Christmas Giving Tree

The Assumption Parish Family provided more than 1,300 gifts of all kinds for the needy. This

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will find so many children, teenage boys, families and homeless men opening your gifts and feeling that spirit of love and good cheer you have sent their way. Thank you for making Assumption Parish such a wonderful place to be at Christmas.

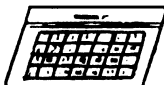
Merry Christmas and may God bless us every one.

CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY

What an overwhelming outpouring of generosity, love and concern! This Christmas, 62 families were adopted. There were hundreds of bags and boxes filled with every imaginable toy, with food and towels, gloves and sheets, clothing and blankets and even two shiny red bikes. There are so very many people to thank. For the past 15 years, Ed and Brian Wetteroff have provided the really big 27 foot moving van which transports all your family gifts to St. Elizabeth's. In Ed's memory, Brian and his wife, Erin continued this wonderful Christmas tradition this year - Thank You! Thanks to all the Boy Scouts and St. Vincent DePaul members who helped move all the gifts on Saturday. A very special Thank You to those families who have adopted a "Christmas family" for more than 15 years - Thank You! To our new parishioners who want to make this their family Christmas tradition - Thank You! To all the organizations at Assumption; the PSR Evening School, Early Childhood Learning, ASAP after school program, small church groups, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts - Thank You! To the legal department of a large corporation, YMCA exercise classes and a city book club - Thank You! For all the time you spent picking out just the right gift for a little boy, a beautiful doll, a single mother's new sweater or presents for a teenager - Thank You! - Thank You! - Thank You!

**PRAYING FOR PEACE
PRAYING FOR OUR MILITARY**

Come join us for the Project Peace Service December 26th 7 pm in the Church. Among our prayers during the service are petitions for peace and a Rosary for our Blessed Mother's intercession for peace in our world. We recognize that without Justice there can be no Peace, come join us, all ages are welcome from grade school students, to high school students to College students and beyond!!!



Calendar of Events

Monday, St. Stephen, December 26		
8:30 a.m.	Rosary	Church
9 am.-10 p.m.	BB	Parish Center
6:30 p.m.	Maintenance Com	Rectory Lower Level
7 p.m.	Project Peace	Church
7:30 p.m.	Bible Study	DD Church Lower Level
Tuesday, St. John, December 27		
8:30 a.m.	Devotions & Rosary	Church
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Exercise	Church Lower Level
9 am.-10 p.m.	BB	Parish Center
7 p.m.	Blue Army	Church
Wednesday, Holy Innocents, December 28		
8-11:30 a.m.	Quilters	Rectory Lower Level
8:30 a.m.	Rosary	Church
9 am.-10 p.m.	BB	Parish Center
7 p.m.	Choir	Church
7 p.m.	Finance Com	PC Church Lower Level
Thursday, Fifth Day in Octave of Christmas, Dec. 29		
8:30 a.m.	Rosary	Church
8:30 a.m.	Exercise	Church Lower Level
4-5 p.m.	OLGFL Rosary	Church
4-10 p.m.	BB	Parish Center
Fri., The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Dec. 30		
8:30 a.m.	Rosary	Church
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Exercise	Church Lower Level
8:45 a.m.	Cleaning	Church
4-5:30 p.m.	BB	Parish Center
6-9 p.m.	CS	Parish Center
Saturday, Seventh Day in Octave of Christmas, Dec. 31		
8:30 a.m.	Rosary	Church
4:30 p.m.	Rosary	Church
5:00 p.m.	Mass	Church
Sunday, Holy Family: Mary, the Mother of God, Jan. 1		
7:30, 9, 10:30 and Noon	Masses	Church
8-2 p.m.	Hospitality	Church Lower Level
8-1 p.m.	Blood Pressure Check	Church Lower Level
8-1 p.m.	OLGFL Info Table	Church Lower Level
8-1 p.m.	Gift Certificate Sales	Church Lower Level
12-7 p.m.	BB	Parish Center
1:15 p.m.	Baptism	Church
7 p.m.	AVB/ABB	Parish Center

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2006-2007

Kindergarten registration for registered parishioners only for the 2006-2007 school year will be held in the school cafeteria on Sunday, January 29th, following each of the Masses. A registration fee, a baptismal certificate*, a social security number and a State Birth Certificate are required of all students at the time of registration. Please make sure your child's physical is scheduled. *If your child was baptized at a parish other than Assumption, please request a Baptismal Certificate from the parish of baptism. Please ask that the parish seal be imprinted on the certificate. This will be retained in the student's file along with a copy of their state birth certificate. If your child has a court-ordered parenting plan, a copy is also necessary at this time. Registration on January 29th is for **Kindergarten only**. Contact the school office at 487-6520 about registrations for grades 1-8.

**PSR
ADOPT-A FAMILY**

- 5—Families
- 17—People
- 166—Gifts

Spirit of Christmas Giving....Priceless.

THANK YOU

As we celebrate Christ's birth, I would like to thank everyone in the parish for their love, support and prayers these past months, since the passing of my dear husband Leonard Nation.
Valerie Nation and Family

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR

Your society of St. Vincent de Paul wants to remind you that the Catholic newspaper, OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, is available after every Sunday mass. Cost is only \$1 and all proceeds go to assist the poor and needy in this area. Thanks for your help

MASS FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

Signing offered at the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass. Sit in the front pews on the choir side to take advantage of this service.



**JOIN A SMALL CHURCH GROUP OR
START YOUR OWN:**

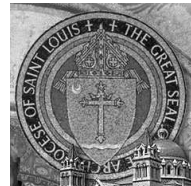
Our purpose is to connect our faith to our daily life experiences, to see how God works in each of our lives. Groups meet about twice a month with breaks as the group decides. If you are interested in participating, call Donna 487-7543 or La Verne 849-8370 for info.

TITHE FOR THE POOR NEWS

Because of the generosity of the people of Assumption, the Tithe for the Poor committee is able to help the following groups in the first quarter of 2006 with a \$1,500 donation. Lydia's House, St. Ambrose Parish Food Pantry, St. Cecilia's Samaritan Society, St Agatha Center and St Margaret of Scotland Parish School. Thank you for contributing in the yellow envelope on the first Sunday of each month.

Together We're Better

We will sell after Sunday Masses again beginning on January 8th. If you need groceries, think of us first, pickup your certificates for Dierberg's, Schnuck's and Shop n Save. You may also stop by the Parish Office Monday through Friday. Please call during this holiday season to be sure we are in the office. 487-7970 ext 1215 or ext 1217.



**On the Celebration of the
Birth of Our Savior**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the first Christmas night, the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Lk 2: 14). The proclamation of the angels to the shepherds declared a new and enduring peace, the peace of God, which was granted by His gift, the gift of His only-begotten Son in human flesh, to those whom he favored.

This peace is "a peace which the world cannot give" (cf. Jn 14: 27). It is the direct gift of God, granted only by His mercy to a people living in darkness. This peace brings forth fruits worthy of God: lives which proclaim truth, goodness and faithful love. It is a peace which endures through suffering of any kind, accepted in obedience to God's will, which is the hallmark of the Incarnation of His only-begotten Son.

I wish you and your families the blessings of joy and peace of this Christmas Season. May the Incarnate Son of God shed His light into your hearts and homes, and, throughout the coming year, lead you into a deeper knowledge and love of Him.

Invoking God's blessing upon you and your homes, I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Raymond L. Burke
Archbishop of St. Louis

SOAPS, LOTIONS, SHAMPOO ETC. NEEDED



Summer Vacations are warm memories in cold months of winter. Please donate your unused complimentary hotel personal hygiene items for the Archdiocesan Prison Ministry Program. A marked box will be in the lower level of the Church on the first Sunday of the month.

**FREE THROW WINNERS
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Congratulations to Sofia Carretero, Shannon Foshe, Emily Meitz, Lauren Mueller, Megan Baumgartner, Matt Mueller, John Allen, Michael Scherer, Brian Julius, and Kyle Foshe for winning the preliminary local level of the Knights of Columbus 2006 Free Throw Championship. Father Griffin Council sponsored the contest that was held on December 11, 2005 at Assumption Parish Center. Kyle Foshe, Brian Julius, Emily Meitz and Lauren Mueller were repeat winners from the Knights of Columbus 2005 Free Throw Championship. The local level finals will be on Sunday, January 8, 2006 at 7 p.m. at Assumption Parish Center. The above winners will compete against the winners from Our Lady of Providence and Seven Holy Founders parishes to determine the representative for Father Griffin Council to the district shoot-off.



Missouri Catholic bishops have asked to intervene in a case challenging the ballot title of the proposed Missouri constitutional amendment on all stem cell research. The bishops in their intervention argue that the official ballot title "misleads and deceives the voters of the state of Missouri." The original plaintiffs in the case, Missourians Against Human Cloning, argue that the redefinition of human cloning in the proposed amendment misleads voters because it does not conform with the scientific definition of cloning. Six Catholic bishops are endorsing this initiative to call attention to all Missouri voters the magnitude of the issue and to point out "the not-so-clever deception."

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Sunday, December 25

7:30 AM Albert & Ruth Schoettlin
9:00 AM Gene Smetana
10:30 AM Charles Cammarata
12:00 PM Mary Ann Hill

Monday, December 26

6:30 AM Junior Barney
8:00 AM Frank LoPiccolo

Tuesday, December 27

6:30 AM Purgatorial Society
8:00 AM Anthony & Josephine Amorelli

Wednesday, December 28

6:30 AM Shirley Wedle
8:00 AM Mary Barney

Thursday, December 29

6:30 AM John & Frances Meagher
8:00 AM Joseph Cendekowitsch

Friday, December 30

6:30 AM Donna Krassinger
8:00 AM Domenico Grillo

Saturday, December 31

8:00 AM Russell & Lois Stein
5:00 PM Special Intention

Sunday, January 1

7:30 AM Randy Weber
9:00 AM People of Assumption
10:30 AM Bob Kaemmerlen
12:00 PM Loretta Mueller

JOIN THE PRAYER CHAIN VOLUNTEERS

This is such a gratifying ministry and you can do it anytime of the day or night. We need parishioners to join us in praying for those who are sick or have special intentions. You can join us now just by calling the parish phone number and accessing the messages left on the extension. Call any day or time and as often as you like to access messages and just follow these instructions.

Dial 314-487-7970

Press *8888# (you have to press the asterisk and pound sign)

Press 1 to listen to the message (when the message is over if there is another message just press 6 to go to the next message)

No dues – No sign ups – Just pray for each intention for a month and reap the immeasurable reward of knowing you have helped.

If you would like to leave a prayer request

Dial 314-487-7970

Press #7729## (you have to press the pound signs)

ST. LOUIS MARIAN CONFERENCE

We invite and welcome you to the Seventh Annual St. Louis Marian Conference. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke will open the Conference on Friday 4:00 p.m. January 13, 2006 with a special Mass. His Imperial Royal Highness Prince Bertrand of Orleans-Braganza will be officially received and welcomed to the City of St. Louis and to the St. Louis Marian Conference. See church bulletin board or call 314-423-1075 for more information.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Any articles you want placed in the bulletin need to be in the Parish Office by Monday at Noon for the following Sunday's bulletin. E-mail articles to assumption1@sbcglobal.net or fax articles to 314-892-5513 or drop off at the Parish Office.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

December 31-January 1

5:00pm Mike & Lynn DiRaimondo, Phyllis Seidler, Larry Kostal, Rita Oldani, Don Hire
7:30am Mark McDermott, Jerry Sandweg, Camille Smetana, Joan Hemple, Carl & Carolyn Gioia
9:00 a.m. Patty Schaefer, Jeannie & David Bateman, Ken Koller, Delores & Harold Fleischmann
10:30am Betsy Snyder, J. Laschober, Adeline Yahl, Bob & Susan Rothweil, Agnes Jean Vogler
12:00 p.m. Barbara Corn, Richard Guenther, Joanne Guenther, Laura Thill-Murray, Kathy Boulicault, Mary Sullivan

LECTOR'S SCHEDULE

December 31-January 1

5:00 p.m. Jerry Coleman, Carolyn Roettger
7:30 a.m. Steve Riek, Donna Ringwald
9 a.m. Bob Bachmann, Vince Craven
10:30 a.m. John Lyons, Julie Connors
Noon Bill Stumbaugh, Joyce Kinworthy

SERVER'S SCHEDULE

December 31-January 6

5:00 p.m. M. Bartola, M. Nieters, M. Cantonwine
7:30 a.m. T. Eason, N. Schaper, E. Moser
9:00 a.m. T Formann, B. Formann, S. Tschudin
10:30 a.m. N. Hoernig, B. Gordon, L. Ressel
12 Noon E. Huber, L. Ritchie, K. Pfaff

January 2 & 3: 8:00 a.m. N Ronshausen, D Sartori

January 4 & 5: 8:00 a.m. N. Schaper, A Spinner

January 6: 8:00 a.m. C Stoltze, L Borgschulte, A Brown



OLGFL ROSARY

Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life Prayer Group invites you to join in their Holy Hour in front of the Tabernacle in Church for one hour each week on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. They pray the 54-day Rosary Novena, Litanies, and other prayers for the restoration of dignity for all human life -- children, teens, elderly, and for all the intentions of those who send written petitions. Contact Anna Maria, 487-2066.



LIBRARY NEWS

After Sunday Masses you are welcome to come to the Church Library located in the Church Lower Level and check out our books and videos.



MEN'S RETREAT: MARK YOUR 2006 CALENDAR

The Assumption Men's White House retreat will begin Thursday evening, February 23 and conclude on Sunday afternoon, February 26, 2006. We are looking for new/first time retreatants to boost our number to 75 men. For more info, contact any of the following:

Jim Stecher (Captain)	487-7210	Jerry Lesmeister	487-7668
Bud Berger	845-7811	Dan Ranson	842-5749
Ron Johnson	487-8351	Dan Reuter	894-5211
John Laschober	487-8281		

Visit the White House website at www.whretreat.org