December 23, 2018
Forth Sunday of Advent



CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

ON SAUGATUCK

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF WESTPORT

• Celebrating 142 Years 1876-2018 •

Phone: 203-227-5161 98 Riverside Avenue • Westport, Connecticut 06880 Fax: 203-227-1206

www.assumptionwestport.com

CLERGY (203) 227-5161

Fr. Thomas P. Thorne, VF, Dean, Pastor
Fr. Augustine Nguyen, Parochial Vicar
Msgr. Richard Shea (weekend help)
EMERGENCY 203-505-5224

PARISH STAFF

Michelle P. Hankey, Parish Business Manager
(mhankeyassumption@gmail.com)
Nancy Wright, Parish Assistant Business Manager
Ashley Avitabile, Parish Secretary, Bulletin Editor
(aavitabileassumption@gmail.com)
Dennis Stypinski, Custodian
Matthew Hainsworth, Asstistant Custodian

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm (closed 12:00pm - 1:00pm)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION **Office: (203) 226-5448**

Catherine J. Romano, Director
(cathy.romano@parishmail.com)
Nhur Klasky, Rel. Ed. Assistant (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
Ann Perce, Rel. Ed. Assistant (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)
Joseph Malaterra, Rel. Ed. Board Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 9:00am - 4:00pm (closed 12:00pm - 1:00pm)

YOUTH MINISTRY (203) 222-8486

Michele Harding, Youth Minister
(assumptionyouth98@gmail.com)

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

Fr. Augustine Nguyen

R C I A *(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)* **(203) 286-6939**

Marilyn Moran, Parish Director

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:00pm – 4:45pm or by appointment

LAY MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

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Community Life - September & Bryon Stevens, Co-Chairs
Evangelization - Josh St. Onge, Evangelist

SACRED MUSIC MINISTRY

Frank Matto, Director & Organist
Donna Gambino, Flutist
Aidan Andrews, Cantor

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. – Sat.	*7:30 am*
Saturday	*5:00 pm Vigil*
Sunday	*7:30 am, 9:00 am* ***(Family Mass),*** *10:30 am* ***(Choir Mass),*** *12:00 noon, 5:00 pm*

WEDDING COORDINATOR **(203) 227-5161**

Michelle P. Hankey

FUNERAL COORDINATOR **(203) 226-5448**

Catherine J. Romano

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Mondays & Wednesdays 8:00am - 5:00pm (in silence)

We welcome all new parishioners and those who wish to return to the Church or to learn more of what we Catholic Christians believe.

In Loving Memory

The Flowers at Mary's Statue are in loving memory of **Marie Vávrová**
The candles at Mary's Statue burn in loving memory of **Andrew Accardi**
The Sanctuary candle burns in loving memory of **Shirley D'Aiuto**
The candles at the Tabernacle burn in loving memory of **John Lener**
The candles at the Altar burn in loving memory of **William Bell**

Pray for our men and women currently serving our country

Pray For Peace!

Sgt. Randy Ackerman, US Army
L.Cpl. Durry Becker, USMC
Matthew Bradstock, US Army
James Branson, USN
Tony Cuseo, USMC
Ryan J. David, USN
2nd Lt. Alex Deep, US Army
Sgt. Christopher Dietl, US Army
Pvt. Auriane de Sousa, US Army
Sgt. Kimberly Gendreau, US Army
Sgt. Stephanie Gilbertie, US Army
Sgt. Trevor Gilbertie, US Army
P.F.C. William Gilbertie, USMC
Sgt. Matthew Harwedel, USMC
Sgt. Joseph Kelly, USMC
2nd Lt. Karl Kuechenmeister
Cpl. Michael Linnen, USMC
Sgt. Andre Mercado-Divoff
P.F.C. Brad Myers, US Army
Spec. Jonathan Morris, US Army
LT Jonathan R. Nelson, USN
LTJG Ryan T. Nelson, USN
Sgt. Colin Santacroce, US Army
Lt. Col. Devin A. Smiley, USMC
M/Sgt. Zachary B. Taylor, USAF
Patrick Tazella, US Army
Capt. James Tesauro, US Army
Cpl. Calvin Robert Wauchope, USMC
L.Cpl. Patrick Zingaro, USMC

Please pray for all those who have been wounded or have sacrificed their lives for the cause of peace.

Pray For Our Recently Deceased

Shirley D'Aiuto, Richard Romano, Sharonlyn Arenz, Julie Halka, Susan Creevy, Brian Anderson, Michele Dunne, Evan Dean, Mary Louise Krone, Phyllis Featherston, Dorothy Tiernan, Augustus Cardello

May they rest in peace

Pray for the Sick

Catherine Alter, Mary Ann Andronaco, Noelle Anastasia, Joan Bailey, Bob Barker, Henry Baker, Ryan Brewster, Mary Bulakites, Cornelia Buono, Betty Cabral, Victoria Callas, Sr. Lucy Caporaso, Bill Chadwell, Aida Ciferri, Tonino Covatta, Andrea Charboneau, James Cordia, Alder Crocker, Connie & Howard Danner, Nicholas DeMatteo, Matt Dudzik, Colette Dunham, Gail Eichinger, Angela Farricielli, Charlie French, Marge Gabriele, Diane and Anthony Gilberti, Guy Giordano, Elisabeth Grein, Katarina Hale, Jane Hawley, Malcolm Heckman, Bob Helfenstein, Logan Howard, Susan Izzo, Marie James, Bernadette Juoan, Robert Kaps, Jack Kelly, Nancy Kelly, Bernadette Kenney, Laura Kesling, Dan Kiely, Sr., Frank Kropf, Mary-Ellen Kuhn, Abigail Lamb, Michelle Lombardi, Cara MacDonald, Frank Machi, Helen Maggio, Dorothy Matto, Gabriella McCrae, Rhoda Miller, Eric Mockler, Clarissa Moore, Estelle Murray, Danielle Murrugarra, Denise Murtha, Lisa O'Connor, Donna Olsen, Ginny O'Neill, Kevin Palaez, Frank Palmieri, Stephanie Philo, Kim Preston, Alexa Prosnitz, CJ. Rice, Deanne Ryan, Sandra Ryan, Teresa Sacouto, Adrian Sandiford, Kerry Schroeder, Greg Strauss, Peggy Thorne, Carmela Tornatore, Cheri Travis, Nicholas Valas, Carl Viesti, Pat Viesti, Phyllis & Bob Wentworth, Janusz Zwolinski, James Dominick Zwolinski.

Please help us update our prayers for the sick list. If there is anyone you would like to add/remove, please call the Parish office, 203-227-5161. Thank you.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 22	
7:30am	Thomas Howes
5:00pm Vigil	Frank DeMace
Sunday, December 23	
7:30am	Carmen Joseph Tornatore
9:00am	Fr. Stephen Barrett
10:30am	Mark Regan
12:00pm	John & Mary Ellen White
5:00pm	John Robert Waupotitsch
Monday, December 24	**Christmas Eve**
4:00pm (Church)	John & Rose Palmer
4:00pm (Gym)	Andrew Avitabile
7:00pm	Phil Palmer
10:00pm	Stephen Chacho
Tuesday, December 25	**Christmas Day**
8:00am	Mary Messemer
10:00am	Jennifer Dean Burke
12:00pm	Albert J. Copersino
Wednesday, December 26	
7:30am	The Tornatore Family
Thursday, December 27	
7:30am	Angela Doddo
Friday, December 28	
7:30am	The Meduri Family
Saturday, December 29	
7:30am	The Chila Family
5:00pm Vigil	The Rietano Family
Sunday, December 30	
7:30am	The Chu Family
9:00am	Dr. & Mrs. Louis Monteiro
10:30am	Thomas Ferrone
12:00pm	Ann Corbett
5:00pm	The Family of Assumption

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Sunday Offertory for December 16th will be posted in next week's bulletin.

God bless you for your charity. Thank you! Fr. Tom

Capital Campaign

The campaign is over!

If you have any questions regarding payments or remittance statements, please contact Janice Baldino of the diocese at (203) 648 – 9050 or jbaldino@diobpt.org.

Thank You !

Add Assumption to Your Christmas List



Our Online Giving system provides you the opportunity to give to our special collections in addition to regular offerings. You can choose to do a one time gift, a special remembrance or your end of the year contribution. The system allows you to schedule contributions to be withdrawn on the date you specify. Even if you typically use your offering envelopes, you may wish to contribute online to a particular collection. It is easy and convenient!

Go to our parish website at
www.assumptionwestport.com
and select Online Giving.

Estate Planning & Obituary Remembrance

A framed memorial is displayed in the vestibule of the church that lists the names of the Faithful Departed who either remembered Assumption in their Estate Planning and/or requested that in place of flowers a donation be made to the Parish in their memory. We are very grateful for their charity and the charity of all who love and memorialize them. May they rest in peace enjoying eternal life.

- Fr. Tom-

If you wish to support the Parish by having your bank mail a check directly, you are welcome to do so. Please have the checks made payable to Assumption Church. Remember Assumption Church in your estate planning. If you wish to make a donation of appreciated stock please call the Parish Office at (203) 227– 5161.

Priest Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 29

5:00 pm Vigil Fr. Tom

Sunday, December 30

7:30am	Fr. Tom
9:00am	Fr. Augustine
10:30am	Msgr. Shea
12:00pm	Fr. Augustine
5:00pm	Fr. Tom

- Subject to change -

Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule

Monday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
(No 7:30am Mass)
4:00pm Mass in Church (Christmas Pageant)
4:00pm Mass in School Gym
7:00pm Mass in Church
9:30pm Concert with the Assumption Choir
10:00pm Mass in Church

Tuesday, December 25th
Christmas Day
8:00am, 10:00am & 12:00pm Masses in the Church
(No 5:00pm Mass)

Monday, December 31st
New Year's Eve
7:30am and 5:00pm

Tuesday, January 1st
New Year's Day
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
7:30am and 12:00pm

Farewell Mass and Reception

This Sunday, December 23rd, Fr. Tom will be saying his farewell mass at 12:00pm.

All are invited!

Immediately following will be a reception in McGrath Hall. Please stop by to send Fr. Tom off with a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and the best of luck in retirement!

Assumption Christmas Concert



December 24th at 9:30pm

Once again, Assumption Choir will be presenting a concert of seasonal favorites on Christmas Eve beginning at 9:30pm.

Mass will follow at 10:00pm.

Please come and enjoy!

The Parish Office will be close Monday, December, 24th and Tuesday, December 25th for Christmas.

Reflecting on God's Word

My father used to refer to the town of my –and his– birth as a "nickel-and-dime" town. As a child, I was never exactly sure what he meant, but it didn't sound like a compliment. I think it was similar to Micah's word about Bethlehem as "too small to be among the clans of Judah" (5:1). Another description would be "backwater." Hardly a place deserving of great expectations. Yet backwater Bethlehem, city of David the shepherd boy, was to be the birthplace of the Messiah–not Jerusalem, center of government and religion, city of David the warrior king.

God's strange choices extend beyond geographical sites to the people on whom God sets eyes. A young betrothed girl up in the north, a barren woman down in the south–these were chosen to play pivotal roles in the story of salvation. The once-barren Elizabeth, soon to bring forth the greatest of all prophets, now proclaims God's most marvelous work and the little one through whom God is working: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42).

Elizabeth cues us to join in the response of the baby in her womb: to allow our hearts and spirits to leap for joy. Again and again God works through those who are open to the Sprit. Blessed are they who place their trust in the Lord, who continues to come to give us new life.

-James A. Wallace, C.SS.R.-

Knights of Columbus Council 3688 Meeting Information

The Knights of Columbus meet the first Tuesday of the month at Assumption Church at 7:30pm in Roncalli House (44 Lincoln Street).

Next meeting will be January 8th.

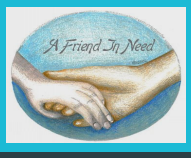
For more information, please contact Walter Avitabile by calling (203)981-3083 or by emailing wavit@optonline.net.

New members are always welcome!

Assumption Bereavement Group

We meet every Wednesday from 3:30pm to 5:00pm in the Beard Room at Roncalli House (the parish center at the Lincoln Street end of the parking lot). **All are welcome.**

It is especially wonderful to witness the comfort, acceptance, support and strength shared by those who gather.



Helen Thiemann
(203) 227-6318
helectman@gmail.com

Mary's Mantel

Stitches from the Heart

A Prayer Shawl Ministry dedicated to the Blessed Mother, Mary

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursdays at 1:00pm
Come join us

every Thursday afternoon at 1:00pm in the Beard Room at the Roncalli House.
No experience necessary! We will teach you how to knit or crochet!
This ministry is intended to be a reminder of God's ever present love which is as near to you as your own body is to your spirit. The shawls are for every time and every occasion - joyful or sorrowful.
For more information or if you know someone who would like a shawl,
please call (203) 226-5448.
or email *cathy.romano@parishmail.com*

Westport Men's Group

Each Saturday morning men gather for about one hour to listen to the word of God and discuss how it speaks to our daily lives. You'll receive perspective and insight for becoming better members of the faith community.

Come join us and see what we're about.

For more information contact Jim Meehan at (203) 293-0348.

Fr. Tom's Christmas Farewell

Dear Parish Family of Assumption,

As we celebrate the Birth of our Savior, caught up in Christmas joy, I find myself for the first time in 20 years with mixed feelings this Christmas. It is a bitter sweet time for me. I am very happy about the birth of the Lord, about your many expressions of congratulations on my retirement, your many kind words of affirmation and gratitude, and deeply grateful that my priestly ministry intersected with you, the Family of Assumption.

The difficulty, of course, is saying goodbye and letting go of leadership which I hope was servant leadership…leadership which was endorsed by your gifts of leading, serving, gifting, sharing and following the Lord. I have been here long enough now to have baptized and married the "children." I taught the parents of some of our altar servers. It makes me feel like a proud grandparent living long enough to see that the "children's children value the same faith!"

The growth and development of our faith these past 20 years are all a gift from God through you, the faithful, taking seriously your baptismal commitment. Your service to the Lord and Parish, your warmth, the way you welcome one another, help one another, work together as a team and the kindness you reveal in your speech and conversation is inspirational!

I have always found you as a people ready to support, help and care for one another. Never have I witnessed bullying, unkind words or unwillingness to help when needed. Even during this summer's Capital Campaign, everyone whom I asked responded with both generosity and kindness. We surpassed our goal, reflecting the charity which resides in your hearts.

It all happens thanks to the Ushers, Choir, Sacristans, Adult Altar Servers, Youth Altar Servers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Linen Ladies, Religious Education Catechists and Aides, St. Matthews Counters, Social Concerns Ministry, Knights of Columbus, Parish Council, Finance Council, Parish Staff, Trustees, Fr. Augustine and Msgr. Shea. Some of you take on multiple roles, making and keeping your commitments to serve the Lord and Parish. You never let me down and I am deeply grateful.

Our new Pastor, Fr. Cyrus Bartolome, is awaiting the happiest years of his priesthood because he will be encountered, embraced and welcomed by you. I am so grateful that he is coming as Pastor. I am confident that he will carry on our mission and vision and bring renewed youthfulness, and a new energy. By this you will see why I recommended him to the bishop to take over as Pastor.

The Bishop did not need my recommendation as he already holds Fr. Cyrus in high esteem. I am grateful to both Fr. Cyrus and Bishop Frank. Our Bishop is a worker. His plate is full and he has made difficult yet wise decisions. Of course, I especially honor his decision to send my brother priest Cyrus to pick up where I have left off.

Permit me to share some wishes and prayers. The Diocese is undertaking some post Diocesan Synod plans and procedures which will effect parish life. Now we, being human, can resist change. I sure can. Please, I pray, continue as you have in the past. Be open to change. Try your best not to second guess the wisdom of our Bishop and those who serve us at the Catholic Center. Deacon Patrick Toole, Patrick Donovan and Patrick Turner are key leaders with Bishop Frank who are open, bright and willing to help. They are enthusiastic to implement changes encouraged by the People of God from the Diocese at our recent Synod.

When I entered seminary at age 17, I was fortunate to spend my first 5 of 10 years of formation in Canada. The Canadian Church was ahead of the U.S. Church in terms of implementing the Documents of Vatican II. Let me confess, learning for the first time that the "Local Church" was the Diocese and not the Parish was a shock. Up until then I was certain it was the parish. It was important for me to see the bigger picture… we are one family of faith and our Bishop is our Chief Priest.

Where am I going with these thoughts? Fr. Cyrus comes to us, a gift from God, thanks to his parents and our Bishop, just when the Diocesan Synod is implementing change! Please trust the changes comes from the Holy Spirit, through the Bishop and the holy Laity who served on the Synod along with several of us priests and brother deacons. I pray, you bless God, the Bishop and Synod for inspiring the changes.

All shall be well. The Lord is at the helm of the ship, assisted by our Bishop and new pastor. We are in good hands. It is important for the pastors, priests, deacons, parish staff and parish servant leaders to enthusiastically embrace the changes. Give your heart to what is asked and the Holy Spirit will guide our us. It is a learning process and an exciting journey of faith.

So, my parting prayer and wish is that remain open to change. When I came to Assumption in 1999 I found a parish that was vibrant, healthy, generous, gifted and open…and because of your many virtues I found you an easy flock to lead. Therefore, trust the wisdom of the Synod and the future will bring you continued inner peace and the necessary energy to see the face of God in the poor and respond in imitation of Christ by giving your all, not just your leftover's.

*Assumption for me always revealed the generosity and compassion of God. For this, I say **thank you**. Go gently and devote yourselves to Mary of the Assumption and her beloved Son, God with us.*

Christmas Blessings and New Year's Peace,

Father Tom

WINTER WARM UP



During these COLD months, many of our sisters and brothers must sleep outside or crowded in shelters.

Please help by donating

NEW OR GENTLY USED CLEAN

Sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves.

Beginning the weekend of January 1st until January 31st there will be boxes located in the front vestibule and rear doors of the Church for your donations. The items will be distributed as they are received.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

-The Social Concerns Ministry-



Please join us on
Sunday
December 23rd
at 7:00 PM

St. Philip Church
One Fr. Conlon Place
Norwalk, CT

for

Lessons and Carols

an evening of scripture, music & caroling
celebrating the birth of our Lord

presented by the combined choirs
and instrumentalists of St. Philip Church
and Assumption Church in Westport

call Maria O' Kelly for information 203-847-4549
admission is free and a reception will follow in the mansion

a good will offering will be taken to support the work of the Music Ministry

Social Concerns is an active ministry formed to respond to the problems of social justice, the physical and spiritual needs of the Assumption parish family, and to those in need in the neighboring communities. Some of the projects we are involved with are: Christmas Angels Collection, Thanksgiving Gifts of Plenty, Towels Collection, Lenten Alms, Blankets/Winter Warm-up Collection, and Easter Food Baskets, Summer Food Collection, Blood Pressure Screening, Sock Collection and Merton House Breakfast. The Prayer Network and A.C.T.S. are additional services to our parishioners. The Ministry meets on the third Monday of the month (September through June) at 7:00pm in Roncalli House. If you wish to contact us, please call Connie at 203-852-9937. New members are always welcome.

The Prayer Ministry is a network of over 70 members. If you or someone is in need of prayer or a special intention, please email Liz, lizlazarou@optonline.net or call Betty, 203-226-6702 and leave the request, intention and first name of the person to be prayed for. Intentions are forwarded to the network. Members respond by praying in their homes. The network is always open to new members.

The purpose of **A.C.T.S.** is to build a more caring and comforting community within the parish. It is designed to hear and answer simple requests for – a ride to church, to a doctor's or other appointments; to do grocery shopping or other errands. A.C.T.S. can also offer a simple meal to aid in recuperation or for a family with a new baby. A phone call or a visit to a shut-in can also be arranged.

To request or offer help, please contact ACTS98@optimum.net

Sick and Homebound Visitation

We are a parish family. The priests and laity who bring Holy Communion are delighted to share with you the Body of Christ. If one of the priests visits, he can also share Sacramental Absolution and the Sacrament of the Anointing of Sick (Holy Oils).

We need your help. When you or a family member are sick at home, whether for a short period, home with a chronic illness, or simply homebound, we are happy to visit. You can help us by calling the rectory, so we can set a time to visit at your convenience.

The Anointing of the Sick is not just for life threatening illness but for any illness—cancer, pre-surgery, depression… The sacrament is for the sick and prays for healing. It is not Last Rites or Extreme Unction. (These terms were deleted 50 years ago as a result of Vatican II.) We look forward to visiting you.

Hospital Visitations

With today's HIPPA regulations…that is, **the right of privacy for hospital patients**, clergy have difficulty knowing if/when parishioners are hospitalized. Even, if when registering you identify yourself as a Catholic, it does not guarantee you will be visited by a priest or Eucharistic Minister from Assumption because we are not informed by the hospital.

Please call the rectory if you wish a priest or Eucharistic Minister to visit you. All parishes provide for the salary of priests on duty in our Fairfield County hospitals—hospital chaplains. While in the hospital you or a family member are able to ask for the **Hospital Catholic Chaplain** to visit and provide the sacraments.

Thank You

We want to thank the advertisers whose businesses are listed on the back page of the bulletin.

Please patronize their local establishments.

If you would like to place an ad in our weekly bulletin, please contact J.S.Paluch, Co., Inc. 1-800-524-0263

Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena: Wednesdays following the 7:30am Mass.

Daily Rosary of Peace - at 7:00am before daily Mass.

Silent Adoration: Monday and Wednesdays 8:00am – 5:00pm. Please call Andrea Remlin 203-227-5477 if you would like to take ½ - 1 hour of Adoration.

Baptismal Prep Class

Mothers and Fathers who are parents for the first time are required to attend a Pre-Baptism class. **The next Pre-Baptismal Class will be held on Thursday, January 3rd at 7pm in the Oscar Romero Room at Roncalli House** *(the Parish Center at the end of the parking lot.)*

Please call the Parish Office at 203-227–5161 to register for the class. **Please note, Godparents must be practicing, Confirmed Catholics and age 16 and over.**

Sacramental Information

Marriage: Arrangements are to be made a minimum of six months prior to the wedding date. Please call the Parish Office.

Baptism: Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements for your child's Baptism. Baptisms are on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:00 pm, one to four families.

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00pm – 4:45pm

Communion: We welcome the opportunity to visit our homebound parishioners. Please call the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Rectory prior to surgery or at the onset of an illness.

RCIA: The process by which an adult joins our Catholic Faith Community. Contact Marilyn Moran at 203-286-6939.

Parish Council

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Marilyn Moran
RCIA & WHCC Ministry
Rose Odell
Parish Food Closet
Helen Thiemann
Bereavement Ministry, Book Club Chair & Homebound Visitation
Parish Council Chair Emeritus
Gracemary Avitabile
Parish Adoration/Devotions, Serra Club
Ashley Avitabile
Webmaster
Tom Leyden
Trustees Emeritus
Nancy Axthelm
Trustee
George Bory
Trustee
Fr. Augustine Nguyen
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Tom Thorne
Pastor

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Bulletin Number 911170

For questions or information,
please contact Ashley Avitabile
203-227-5161 aavitabileassumption@gmail.com