

January 6, 2019
The Epiphany of the Lord



CHURCH OF THE **ASSUMPTION** ON SAUGATUCK THE MOTHER CHURCH OF WESTPORT

• *Celebrating 143 Years 1876-2019* •

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

CLERGY

Fr. Cyrus Bartolome, Parochial Administrator
Fr. Augustine Nguyen, Parochial Vicar
Msgr. Richard Shea (weekend help)
EMERGENCY 203-505-5224

(203) 227-5161

LAY MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

Nancy Axthelm, Trustee
George Bory, Trustee
Thomas P. Leyden, Trustee Emeritus
Edward J. Capasse, Esq., Trustee Emeritus

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, Assistant Custodian

FINANCE COUNCIL

Joseph Cardello, Chair Michael O'Loughlin, Vice-Chair
Carol McClatchie Mark Addressi
Dan Kiely

PARISH COUNCIL

Maureen Belford, Chair
Joseph Malaterra, Vice-Chair
Ronnie Estony, Secretary
Helen C. Thiemann, Chair Emeritus

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Office: (203) 226-5448

Catherine J. Romano, Director
cat.j.rom6@gmail.com
Nhur Klasky, Rel. Ed. Assistant (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
Ann Perce, Rel. Ed. Assistant (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)
Joseph Malaterra, Rel. Ed. Board Chair

POST SYNOD MINISTRIES

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

SACRED MUSIC MINISTRY

Frank Matto, Director & Organist
Aidan Andrews, Cantor

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS

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

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Michele Harding, Youth Minister
assumptionyouth98@gmail.com

(203) 222-8486

WEDDING COORDINATOR

Michelle P. Hankey

(203) 227-5161

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

Fr. Augustine Nguyen

FUNERAL COORDINATOR

Catherine J. Romano

(203) 226-5448

R C I A (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Marilyn Moran, Parish Director

(203) 286-6939

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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 **Jennifer Steitzer**
The candles at Mary's Statue burn in loving memory
of **John Cahill**
The Sanctuary candle burns in loving memory
of **Nancy Mickune**
The candles at the Tabernacle burn in loving memory
Of **Christopher Bertoldo**
The candles at the Altar burn in loving memory
of **Jane Izzo**

Pray for our men and women currently serving our country

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 Tesauero, 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

Peggy Thorne, Ann Troy, Jean Reale, Dick
Healey, Shirley D'Aiuto, Richard Romano,
Sharonlyn Arenz, Julie Halka, Susan Creevy,
Brian Anderson, Michele Dunne, Evan Dean,
Mary Louise Krone, Phyllis Featherston
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, C.J. Rice,
Deanne Ryan, Sandra Ryan, Teresa Sacouto, Adrian Sandiford,
Kerry Schroeder, Greg Strauss, 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, January 5

7:30am	Ruth Fedrizzi
5:00pm Vigil	Sr. Carol Kozel, S.N.D. & Sr. Matilde Campbell, C.N.D.

Sunday, January 6

7:30am	James Washicko
9:00am	Jennifer Steitzer
10:30am	John W. Mulcahy
12:00pm	Pedro Cano
5:00pm	Louis Pia

Monday, January 7

7:30am	Ann Kershish
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Tuesday, January 8

7:30am	The Kirby Family
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Wednesday, January 9

7:30am	Susan Creevy
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Thursday, January 10

7:30am	Kelly Wright
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Friday, January 11

7:30am	Fr. Tom Thorne (Living)
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Saturday, January 12

7:30am	Fr. Cyrus Bartolome (Living)
5:00pm Vigil	James R. Alvord

Sunday, January 13

7:30am	David F. Ellison
9:00am	Christopher Brunner
10:30am	Harry Engel
12:00pm	Vincent Byrne
5:00pm	Maureen O'Reilly

STEWARDSHIP REPORT ^{Page 3}

December 23, 2018 Sunday Offertory: \$8,930

Christmas First Collection Offertory: \$29,495

Christmas Second Collection Offertory: \$9,407

Offertory for December 30th will be posted in next week's bulletin.

God bless you for your charity. Thank you!

Online Giving

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.

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.

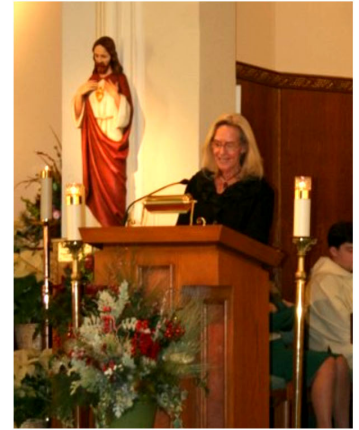
Capital Campaign

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!

Farewell to Fr. Tom



During the 12:00pm Mass on Sunday, December 23rd, Fr. Tom celebrated his Farewell mass for the Parishioners of Assumption. At the end of Mass several guests speakers offered words of thanks and good wishes to send him off into retirement including Jim Marpe—First Selectmen of Westport, Maureen Belford—Parish Council Chair, Joe Cardello—Finance Council Chair and Nancy Axthelm—Parish Trustee. The mass was concelebrated with Fr. Augustine, Msgr. Shea and our new Pastor, Fr. Cyrus. Thank you to all who attended this special mass and reception to give Fr. Tom a great retirement send-off.



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.



Up 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-





Our Beautiful Church at Christmas



Thank You to This Years Liturgical Decorating Team and Custodial Staff!

Once again, Carol Gabriel and her team have beautifully decorated the Church for Christmas! Carol along with Nancy Engel, Frank Matto, Jennifer Talbot, Liz Lazarou, Gracemary Avitabile, Marilyn Moran and Carol McClatchie arranged the flowers, decorated the trees, and set up the nativities in both the Church and Gym.

We'd also like to thank our custodial team, Dennis Stypinski, Matt Hainsworth and Joe Remlin for assisting Carol and her team with the decorations as well as helping to set up for the Christmas Pageant and the Choir Christmas Concert on Christmas Eve.

The Westport Men's Ministry is a gathering of men from Assumption and Saint Luke striving to grow in our spiritual journey.
Our vision is to experience our faith lives as more than a set of beliefs and to deepen our personal relationships with God through our faith community.

JOIN US TO GROW IN FAITH

We meet Saturdays from 8:30-9:30am at Saint Luke Church
 Call Jim Meehan for more information 860.209.4793



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

Reflecting on God's Word

Matthew's tale is less a story of adventurous seekers than of a luring God, drawing others into the mystery of divinity through the birth of Jesus. A star that guides and wise words that explain are what help lead the magi to their destination. Natural signs and words of revelation are what God works through in our own day to bring us into the presence of Jesus, the Son of God.

The story of the wise men is a journey that surrounds the birth of Jesus. It speaks to all seeking God in today's world. God does not use force to attract others. Angels speak a message of joy for all but give no orders that insist that the shepherds journey through the dark of night to worship. A star appears in the sky but no one forces these astrologers to pack up some gifts and make their way across foreign terrain to kneel and prostrate themselves and do Jesus homage.

At the heart of this story is the message announced in the letter to the Ephesians: God's plan was that everyone be included in the mystery of salvation, that, along with the children of Abraham, "the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:6). God wants everyone to share in divine life—*everyone!* Give it your thoughtful consideration.

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

Blood Pressure Screening This Weekend **After the 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday 7:30am Masses**

It is estimated that 30% of all adults in the U.S. have high blood pressure. High blood pressure or hypertension, is known as the "silent killer" because it often has no signs or symptoms. If undetected and untreated, it can damage the heart, blood vessels, kidneys and other organs or cause a stroke. But when hypertension is discovered early, simple lifestyle modifications such as weight loss, reducing salt intake and starting an exercise program can often be effective treatment.

B/P screening is a simple procedure that takes only a few minutes. However, it is one of the most important screenings available because without any outward signs to indicate a problem, hypertension can be overlooked. It is actually recommended that everyone 18 years of age and older be screened at least once a year outside of the physician office.

The Social Concerns Ministry here at Assumption is pleased to offer blood pressure screenings the first weekend of each month. We can provide you with wallet cards to record your blood pressure as well as pocket medication cards. Please take a few minutes for a quick blood pressure check by a Parish Nurse at the back of the Church after the Saturday 5:00pm Mass and the Sunday 7:30am. **It's good for your health!**

-Nancy Engel, RN CRNI-

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 cat.j.rom6@gmail.com

Update your contact Information!



Have you recently moved? Changed your email address? Gotten a new phone number?

Please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket, or bring or mail to the parish office so we can update our database and keep in touch with you.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Sick and Homebound *Page 9*

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



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**

Devotions

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

Daily Rosary of Peace: 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 1/2 - 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, February 7th 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

Maureen Belford

Parish Council Chair

Joe Malaterra

Parish Council Vice Chair

Religious Education Board Chair

Ronnie Estony

Parish Council Secretary, Adult Formation

Joe Cardello

Finance Council Chair

Cathy Romano

Director of Religious Education

Funeral Coordinator

Frank Matto

Director of Music & Organist

Michelle Hankey

Wedding Coordinator

Jim Meehan

Eucharistic Minister & Lector Coordinator

Knights of Columbus Rep., Merton House

Dolores Bacharach

Interfaith Council

Anthony Buono

Head Usher

Juany Fumai

Altar Server Training/Scheduling

Carol Gabriel

Altar Guild Chair, Liturgical Decorating Chair &

Book Nook Ministry

Connie Luppino

Social Concerns Ministry Chair

Michele Harding

Youth Minister (Grade 6 - 12)

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. Cyrus Bartolome

Parochial Administrator

January News Around the Diocese & Beyond

- January 10th, 2019: Diaconate Discovery Evening—7:00pm-8:30pm
St. Philip Church (Norwalk, CT)**
 Diaconate Discovery Evenings will be the space to wonder, explore, share and come to an understanding about any questions you may have regarding serving the Church as a Permanent Deacon.
- January 18th, 2019: March for Life in Washington D.C.—\$75 per person**
 Bus Pilgrimage to Washington D.C. for the 46th annual March for life.
 5:00am—Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport
 5:30am—St. Thomas the Apostle, Norwalk
 6:00am—Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford
 11:30am—Arrive at March for Life
 4:00pm—Depart for CT
Register by January 11, 2019 at www.bridgeportdiocese.org/faith-formation
- January 19th, 2019: Secular Franciscan Order and Social—9:30am
St. Anthony of Padua Church (Fairfield, CT)**
COME AND SEE if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. The Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield at **9:30 am** to celebrate Mass in the church. Celebrant is Fr. Norm Guilbert, Jr. Afterwards, there will be a social and meeting held in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For further info. call Pat Heile, OFS at: (203)-255-8801 or pheile5713@aol.com.
- January 20th, 2019: Reflections on Religious Identity within the Contemporary World—11:45am– 12:45pm, St. Catherine of Siena Parish (Riverside, CT)**
NEW PROGRAM SERIES by Deacon Robert Henrey at St. Catherine of Siena in Riverside. One-hour presentations will begin after Mass by **11:45 am** in the parish hall. Deacon Robert Henrey will share his interest in different religious traditions by presenting a series of his photographs taken while visiting countries where those traditions took root.
- January 27th, 2019: Open House at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Pre-K 3's through 8th Grade, 10:00am—12:00pm**
 Take a guided tour of Pk3-4, Kindergarten, Elementary and Middle schools; visit with classroom teachers and administrators; meet current families. Learn more about our academic goals, school culture, enrichment programs, sports and after-school offerings. All families of Pk3-8th grade students for the 2019-2020 school year in Fairfield, Westport and the surrounding area are invited to attend. Please note: we now offer a two-year Pre-k program, eligible children must turn 3 on or by August 31st.
- January 27th and 28th, 2019: Open House at All Saints Catholic School Pre-K through 8th Grade**
 January 27th : 12:00pm—2:00pm
 January 28th: 9:00am—10am
 For more information call the Admission Office at (203) 847-3881.

Assumption Church
98 Riverside Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
203-227-5161

Bulletin Number 911170

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