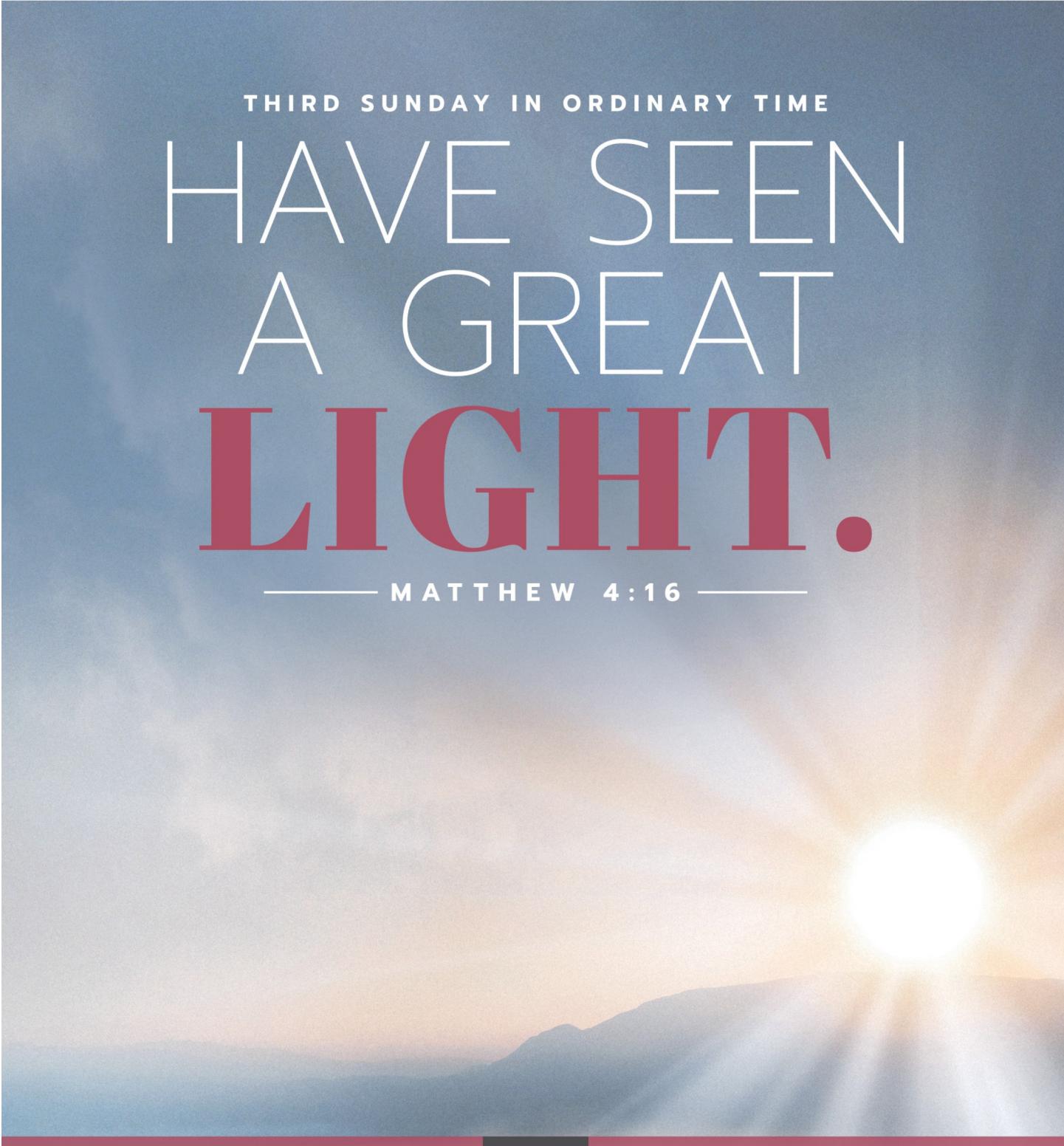


THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT.

— MATTHEW 4:16 —



ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

COAL CITY - KINSMAN | 195 S. KANKAKEE STREET - COAL CITY, IL | 815-634-4171

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Coal City

195 South Kankakee Street • Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-4171

www.stmaryassumptionparish.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart, Kinsman

219 Emmett Street • Kinsman, IL 60437

Pastor	Reverend Joshua Miller	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 2	frjosh@frjosh.org
Family Faith Formation Director & Business Manager	Deacon William Dunn	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 3	ddunn@abvcc.org
Parish Secretary & Bulletin/Digital Editor	Laura Uher	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 1	secretary@abvcc.org
Property Manager	Alex Kuhel	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 10	property@abvcc.org
Music Coordinator	Rita Wise	(815) 634-4110	rwise@abvcc.org

Mass and Confession Times**REGULAR WEEKEND MASS TIMES****Assumption** - Saturday - 4:00 p.m. (*First Saturday of the Month - Additional Mass at 8:30 a.m.), Sunday - 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**Sacred Heart, Kinsman** - Sunday - 9:00 a.m.**REGULAR WEEKDAY MASS TIMES****Assumption** - Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. (*First Tuesday of the Month Mass is followed by St. Peregrine Devotions & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.) Thursday & Friday - 8:30 a.m.**Sacred Heart, Kinsman** - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m.**ROSARY****Assumption** - Tuesday - 6:00 p.m., Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m.**CONFESSON TIMES (Different on Holy Days & Holidays)****Assumption** - Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m., Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m., Saturday - 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., First Sat. Only - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.**Sacred Heart, Kinsman** - Wednesday - After 8:30 a.m. Mass, Sunday - After 9:00 a.m. Mass.**Eucharistic Adoration Chapel****Assumption** - The Adoration Chapel is open daily from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**Sacraments****ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please call the parish office.

BAPTISMS

Parents are required to attend a baptismal preparation meeting prior to the baptism. Please contact the parish secretary to register.

Assumption - Baptisms are ordinarily scheduled for the second and fourth Sundays of the month after 11:30 a.m. Mass.**FUNERALS**

Funeral liturgies are ordinarily celebrated at 10:00 a.m. The funeral director will contact the parish office regarding arrangements.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Marriage preparation classes are required to be completed before the Sacrament of Marriage can be celebrated. Please contact the parish office before making wedding arrangements.



Bishop Hicks' Column
January 2026



One Last Column, Ever Grateful

For more than five years, I have been blessed to share my thoughts with you in this monthly column. When I first began writing, it took me a very long time to craft each reflection. I often wondered if anyone was reading them or if they would make any difference at all.

But at parish visits and events, many of you told me that you read these reflections and that they helped you understand my mind and my heart. Some of you offered positive comments and others offered constructive suggestions. All of that feedback helped me grow in gratitude. I stopped seeing these columns as a task and started seeing them as a privilege. They became one of the ways we shared our faith journey together.

Now I write my final column. It is a bittersweet moment. I am excited for my next steps to New York. At the same time, I am going to miss this ongoing exchange with you.

As we come to the conclusion of this written dialogue, I would like to reflect with you on a few thoughts [I shared at my farewell Mass on January 11, 2026.](#)

In my homily, I expressed my sincere gratitude for the faith and love you have shown me throughout my years as your bishop. Together we have shared significant moments. We have celebrated the sacraments. We have strengthened our mission to be a vibrant and evangelizing Church. Through Confirmations, ordinations, graduations, the Chrism Mass, baptisms, funerals, community service, and our care for the most vulnerable, I saw Jesus Christ revealed in you. And each time we gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, you strengthened my faith and drew me closer to God. And I pray that I have done the same for you.

I am deeply grateful to our priests who faithfully serve with pastoral hearts and leadership. To our deacons, wives, and families, thank you for your steadfast ministry of charity and your service. To our religious women and men and consecrated virgins, your prayerful presence and collaborative ministry have been a constant blessing. I am grateful for every sacrifice and every quiet act of love that often goes unseen but never goes unnoticed by God.

I also want to thank our diocesan staff and all employees who work as a vocation to ensure that the Church continues its mission. Our administrators, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers form disciples in classrooms and parish halls. Our musicians, liturgical ministers, and countless volunteers give life and beauty to our worship and mission. And to every parishioner across our seven counties, please know how grateful I am for your generosity and witness to faith in your homes, parishes, and workplaces.

Through baptism, we are all called to continue living the mission of Jesus Christ. I now move forward to serve in New York, trusting that the good work we have begun together will continue to bear fruit here in the Diocese of Joliet.

Many have asked who will become the next bishop. Soon, an administrator will be appointed who will continue to guide and govern the diocese while the apostolic nuncio and the Dicastery of Bishops offer recommendations to our Holy Father, Pope Leo. In due time, he will appoint the seventh Bishop of Joliet. Please join me in prayer for that discernment process.

Even though my ministry will continue in another place, I believe that prayer keeps us close. Every time we pray for one another, we remain closely united in Christ. So let us keep lifting each other up before God. I will carry you with me in my heart and in my daily prayer, and I humbly ask you to remember me in yours.

I also encourage you to be disciples who make disciples. Please continue to embrace my pastoral letter entitled **MAKE**. Pray with it. Reflect on it. Share it. Put it into practice every day. The Church grows when every one of us answers the call to live the Gospel with conviction and joy.

You remain in my heart and in my prayers with great love and deep gratitude. May God bless you and bless us always with His Spirit of peace and all good things. *Paz y bien.*

[Scan the QR code below to listen to the bishop's homily from his January 11th Mass of Thanksgiving.]



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY January 24

4:00 PM Mass (A)

+Tony Bianchi (Carol & Dave Ballantine)
 +Betty Watson (Bob & Suzanne)
 +Jay Ransom (Class of 1976)

SUNDAY January 25

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass (A)

People of the Parish
 +Norman Lardi (Michael Yerkes)
 +Enriqueta Cabral (Elena Cabral)
 +Carlos Cabral (Elena Cabral)

9:00 AM Mass (SH)

+Robert Briscoe (Ruth Briscoe & Family)

11:30 AM Mass (A)

+Gwendolyn Vacca (Mark & Roseanne Matteson)
 +Raymond Bono (Family)
 +Norman Hook (Family)
 +Mildred B. Lestina (Lestina Family)
 +Todd Sandeno (Riley Family)

TUESDAY January 27

6:30 PM Mass (A)

+Betty Onsen (Peter & Carm Collins)

WEDNESDAY January 28

8:30 AM Mass (SH)

+Jack Dunn (Dave & Pam Brockman)

THURSDAY January 29

8:30 AM Mass (A)

+Everett Tjelle (Diane Cramer)
 +Shirley Boero (Family)

FRIDAY January 30

8:30 AM Mass (A)

+Jack Naiden (Rick & Laura)

SATURDAY January 31

4:00 PM Mass (A)

People of the Parish
 +Joan Mahkovec (Carol & Dave Ballantine)
 +Betty Watson (Gloria Natshok)
 +Ron Gagliardo (Don & Pat Bianchetta)

SUNDAY February 1

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass (A)

Living Intention for Lucille De Gulie (Noma)
 +Michael Marizza (Rick & Laura)
 +Charles & Carolyn Collins (Peter & Carm Collins)

9:00 AM Mass (SH)

+Pat Bartman (Marc & Christine Masini)

11:30 AM Mass (A)

+Jeff Keck (Meg & Paul Studer)
 +Ann M. Watson (Family)
 +Shirley Boero (Patsy Cline)



Please pray for those serving our country:

Sebastian Gasienica, Rhys Lyman,
 Brady O'Donnell, Zander Posey, Logan Teodoro

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: When Jesus was praying alone in the desert, how many times did the devil tempt him?

Answer: Three.

Weekly Confession Times

TUESDAY (A) - 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

WEDNESDAY (SH) - Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass

THURSDAY & FRIDAY (A) - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.

SATURDAY (A) - 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

(First Saturday only - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.)

SUNDAY (SH) - Following the 9:00 a.m. Mass

(Different on Holy Days & Holidays)



This Week's Events

A: Assumption

SH: Sacred Heart

Sunday, January 25

6:30 pm - Evening Adult Bible Study - Madonna Room

Monday, January 26

Coal Food Pantry Open - 815-216-3288

Tuesday, January 27

No Events

Wednesday, January 28

6:00 pm - The Chosen Viewing - Berst Hall

Thursday, January 29

9:30 am - Bible Study - Madonna Room

Coal Food Pantry Open - 815-216-3288

Friday, January 30

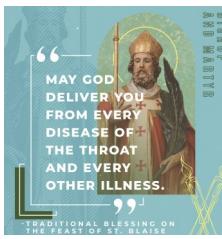
No Events

Saturday, January 31

No Events

Sunday, February 1

9:45 am - Family Faith Formation - Berst Hall

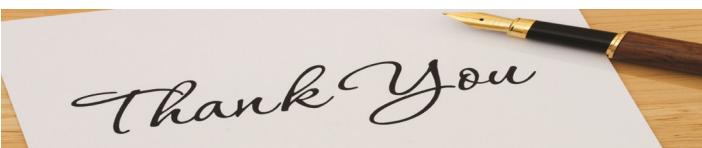


The annual blessing of the throats will occur at the 6:30 p.m. Mass at Assumption Church on the Feast of St. Blaise, which is on Tuesday, February 3. Please join us.

Please pray for the sick:

Nancy Armstrong & Family, Sharee Beeler, Paula Beshoar, Tammy Beshoar, Stacey Brown, Tom Buban, Ryan Collins, Pam Cruz, Charlotte Curtis, Jan Dunn, Mark & Kay Francisco, Doris Giordano, Jim Jacobek, Mary Jo Maland, Gloria Markl, Donna Meyer, Steven Miller, Jean Peters, Larry Ried, Cecelia Schimandle, Jeff & Danita Stepanek, Helen Talty, Cary Teska, Glenn VanDrie, Jake Veronda, Liz Veronda, John T. Walsh

Names will remain on the prayer list for six months. If you would like your name to remain on the list, please contact us.



I just wanted to thank everyone who participated in our Christmas Card project. We had hundreds of cards and got them all delivered to both Veteran's homes, all the nursing homes in Morris, Dwight, and Herscher, along with the VFW in Morris. Everyone got a card and was so thankful. Your help was really appreciated.

Donna Gabehart

MEN OF CHRIST
LIVE YOUR FAITH BOLDLY
JOLIET

BUILDING MEN OF VIRTUE

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2026
A POWERFUL CONFERENCE FOR ALL MEN
Ages 14 & Over

A DAY ROOTED IN CHRIST
Begin the day with friendship. End with spiritual renewal.

FATHERS & SONS
Come together. Share a powerful Father/Son blessing.

COURAGEOUS PRIESTS
Our spiritual leaders will hear many confessions and heal countless souls.

Friendly Visiting Program Volunteers Needed:

Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers to provide free friendly visits, virtual calls, and phone calls to older adults who are home-bound or socially isolated, experiencing loneliness, and seeking companionship.

As a volunteer you will:

- Build friendly and caring connections
- Make a positive impact on the lives of older adults
- Share common interests and have good conversations.

Be the reason someone smiles today! Interested in becoming a Friendly Visiting Volunteer? Call 815-221-6020, or email FVP@cc-doj.org.



JUSTIN FATICA

Speaker, author, and producer; founder of You're Amazing, dedicated to encouraging youth.



JOHNNY VRBA

On a mission to spark a Catholic renaissance through storytelling and impactful multimedia art.



BISHOP SPIES

Appointed auxiliary bishop of Joliet in 2024, focused on catechesis, evangelization, and living the faith.



JIM WAHLBERG

Filmmaker, author, and speaker inspiring faith through stories of redemption and service to youth and recovery communities.

ST. MARY IMMACULATE PARISH

15629 Illinois Rte 59
Plainfield, Illinois

Young men ages 14-17 are welcome to attend when accompanied by a father or adult guardian.



REGISTER @
menofchrist.net/joliet

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; (Is 9:1)

Psalm:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps 27)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. (1 Cor 1:10)

Gospel:

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled. (Mt 4:13-14)

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Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

Peter and Andrew, James and John — they were not expecting God that day. But there he was, right in front of them, beckoning. God stands before us today, and like the Apostles, we often don't see him coming. But still, he beckons. Will we follow?

Observances for the week of January 25, 2026

Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

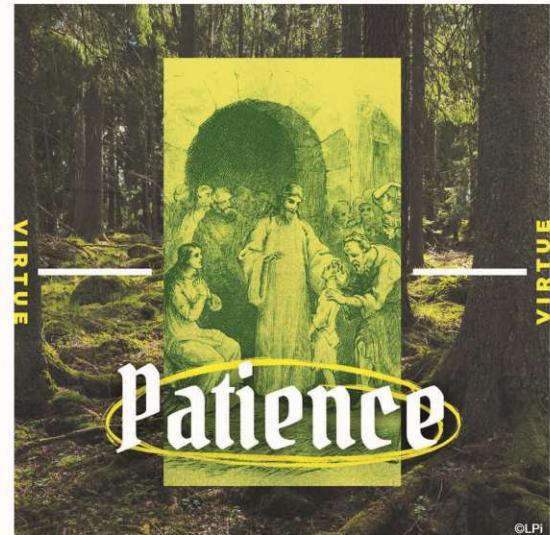
Monday: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Tuesday: St. Angela Merici, Virgin

Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. John Bosco, Priest

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

In practicing patience, we bear any kind of suffering for a greater good, safeguard our reason against sorrow, and “look at (other people) with God’s gaze knowing how to distinguish their faces from their faults.”

Blessing of Light

Where you have known darkness, may the light stretch and shine. Where you have dwelt in shadows, may the sun reach its gentle rays. Where you have hidden in shame, may you know light-filled redemption, healing, belonging, and rest in Jesus. Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of January 25, 2026

Sunday:

Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday:

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday:

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday:

2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday:

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday:

2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday:

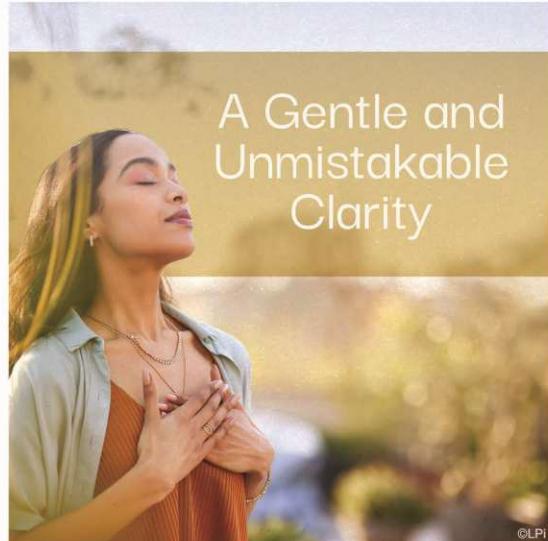
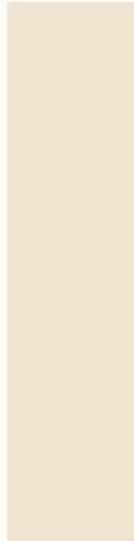
2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday:

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a



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Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "**Come after me**" (**Matthew 4:19**). And *immediately* they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "**In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us**" (**1 John 4:10**). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.

— Father John Muir

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

Sea of Galilee Moments

Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor, healthy or sick: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

So what's in the sea? I don't know about yours, but mine is filled with feelings of inadequacy. It's filled with fear and resentment and confusion. It's filled with misplaced pride. It's deep. It's dark. It's well-stocked.

I cast my net, over and over again. What else is there to do? If I draw back a harvest, it can sustain me for days, weeks, maybe even years. The nourishment of the sea can keep away the hunger pangs — for a time. You can survive on fear and resentment and pride if it's all you have. You'll never feel full, and you'll never be strong, but you'll survive on what the world can offer you — so long as you keep coming back to the shore.

This is where Jesus finds us.

If I close my eyes, I can picture the moments exactly, all of them: my Sea of Galilee moments. I could describe them to you — the day, the year, what was happening in my life, what I wanted and what I needed and what gnawing hunger had brought me, once again, limping, crawling back to the shore.

But you wouldn't understand my Sea of Galilee moments, just like I wouldn't understand yours. There is only one who understands, and his is the voice we heard, clear and strong: "Put down the net, and come with me."

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

If one's gift or talent is making money, and one uses that money for honorable purposes, is it considered a spiritual gift? What does our faith teach us about wealth and stewardship?

Answer:

Jesus said it best: to whom much is given, much is expected. All gifts come from God, and our abilities are given to us to be used for the benefit of ourselves and of others and at the service of the Gospel. In an article entitled "The Many Faces of Stewardship," Catherine Doherty wrote about stewardship in the "nitty-gritty everydayness of my life," and about the currency or "money" of spiritual stewardship: love, understanding, and unselfishness.

For a gift to have a spiritual benefit, our intention and involvement would be part of the consideration. If I give money to a charity, but do so in order to gain a tax advantage, it could hardly be a virtuous thing on my part. But if I give because I want to help and, in fact, am even willing to get involved, I have committed myself in a deeper, more meaningful way. Regardless of our money-making talents, in the end, true stewardship comes down to how well we practice the virtues of faith, hope, and love within our life and with those in our community and church. Ultimately, the most important element in stewardship is not intangible — it's you!



Ministry Schedule

Jan. 31 - Feb. 1



Saturday, January 31 - 4:00 p.m.

Extraordinary Minister - Tim O'Keefe, **alternate needed**

Lector - **Volunteer needed**

Servers - **Volunteers needed**

Ushers - Ron Henke, Bob Jacovec, Doug Letterly, Bob Schmitt, Fran Schmitt

Sunday, February 1 - 7:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - **Two volunteers needed**

Lector - Janice Unger

Servers - Pete Collins, Ron Marketti

Sunday, February 1 - 9:00 a.m. (Sacred Heart, Kinsman)

Extraordinary Minister - Pam Siedentop

Lector - Ed Condon

Servers - Emma McDonald & Jack Veselak

Sunday, February 1 - 11:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - Julie Keigher, **alternate needed**

Lector - Hannah Krull

Servers - **Volunteers needed**

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us!

2025 CMAA Report (as of Jan. 18, 2026)

Goal: \$32,500 Pledged: \$44,355 Paid: \$43,558 Donors: 170



Assumption Church
Fellowship Committee presents

THE CHOSEN

Episode 7

6:00-7:30pm

On Wednesday,
January 28th

Berst Hall

Episode 7 of Season 2!

Followed by a short discussion with Fr. Josh and Deacon Bill.

For more information, call our office secretary at 815.634.4171
extension 1.

Assumption Weekly Offering + E-Giving

Annual Offering Budget (7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026)	\$326,141
YTD Offering Budget	\$181,888
YTD Actual Offering	\$224,046
Last Week's Mass Offering	\$7,937
Last Week's E-Giving Offering	\$2,023
Last Week's Total Offering	\$9,960
Weekly Goal	\$6,272

Assumption Church Building Loan Balance through December, 2025

Loan Amount	\$620,123
Current Loan Balance	\$587,099

Sacred Heart, Kinsman Weekly Offering

1/11/26 Sunday Collection	\$2,261
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to donate to Assumption?

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Join us for a meaningful evening of fellowship and community as we celebrate love, friendship, and Christian unity. This semi-formal gathering provides an opportunity for adults to come together in a wholesome, welcoming environment to enjoy a family-style dinner, music, and dancing.

All adults (21+) are welcome—whether you attend with a spouse, a guest, or on your own—as we share in joyful fellowship and celebration.

February 14

Doors & Seating
5:30
Dinner Begins:
6:00

For questions or to reserve your seats, please call the Parish Center 815.634.4171

Berst Hall ~ 180 S. Rankakee St.
Coal City, IL 60416



Kids Corner

Prayer

Lord, I want to be a flashlight leading others to you.

Mission for the Week

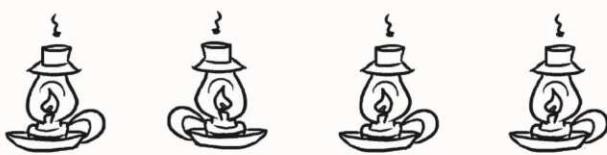
I will ask my parents how I can help them today.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus was the light in the darkness that was mentioned in the Scriptures. He told people to repent for the kingdom of heaven is near. Jesus was a good teacher. He explained things so that people understood about God's two greatest commandments. He told stories. Today his word is like a flashlight lighting your path to heaven. If the batteries in your flashlight need recharging, prayer will light up your flashlight again.

Now color the picture!

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way. Then color in all the pictures.



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