

# ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

WE SAW HIS  
STAR AT ITS  
**RISING.**

MATTHEW 2:2

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Coal City**

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

[www.stmaryassumptionparish.org](http://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

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

# MASS+ INTENTIONS

<b>SATURDAY January 3</b>	<b>First Saturday</b>
<b>8:30 AM Mass (A)</b> †Mike Myers (Boero Family)	
<b>4:00 PM Mass (A)</b> †Theresa O'Connor (John & Teri Jo Boylan) †Betty Onsen (Don & Pat Bianchetta) †Jim Mauro (Family)	
<b>SUNDAY January 4</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<b>7:30 AM Mass (A)</b> People of the Parish †Andrew Frain, Jr. (Don & Nadine Lawson)	
<b>9:00 AM Mass (SH)</b> †Pat Bartman (LeAnne & Mike Tjelle)	
<b>11:30 AM Mass (A)</b> †Larry Ferrari (Wife, Joyce) †Jeff Keck (Mallory & Nick Butler)	
<b>TUESDAY January 6</b>	<b>St. Peregrine Devotions</b>
<b>6:30 PM Mass (A)</b> †Albert Paoletti (Madonna & Lucille)	
<b>WEDNESDAY January 7</b>	
<b>8:30 AM Mass (SH)</b> †The McCormack Family (Donna Gabehart)	
<b>THURSDAY January 8</b>	
<b>8:30 AM Mass (A)</b> †Gary Buttons (Boero Family)	
<b>FRIDAY January 9</b>	
<b>8:30 AM Mass (A)</b> †Shirley Boero (Peter & Carm Collins)	
<b>SATURDAY January 10</b>	
<b>4:00 PM Mass (A)</b> People of the Parish Special Intention for Ted & Denise Chally (Friends) †Richard Marizza, Sr. (Rick & Laura)	
<b>SUNDAY January 11</b>	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>
<b>7:30 AM Mass (A)</b> †Betty Onsen †Jack Naiden (Peter & Carm Collins)	
<b>9:00 AM Mass (SH)</b> †Pat Bartman (Jodi & John Walsh)	
<b>11:30 AM Mass (A)</b> †Larry Ferrari (Bill & Carol Pohl)	



Although Mass intentions are commonly requested for the souls of the departed, we also accept Mass intentions for the living. If you are requesting a Mass intention for the living, and it is related to a birthday or anniversary, please let us know so this can be noted alongside the intention. The stipend for each intention is \$10.

Our Thursday morning Bible studies will resume on Thursday, January 15 at the usual time of 9:30 a.m. in the Madonna Room. We are looking for a new volunteer to begin leading this group in the late spring or early summer. Please contact Pat Hudetz at 630-935-2103 for further details.



## 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 4

10:00 am - Fellowship Committee Meeting - Madonna Room

12:30 pm - Baptism - Assumption Church

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

### Monday, January 5

Coal Food Pantry Open - 815-216-3288

### Tuesday, January 6

No Events

### Wednesday, January 7

6:00 pm - The Chosen Viewing - Berst Hall

### Thursday, January 8

Coal Food Pantry Open - 815-216-3288

### Friday, January 9

No Events

### Saturday, January 10

Time TBD - Milliken University Choir Performance - Assumption Church

### Sunday, January 11

9:45 am - Family Faith Formation - Berst Hall

12:00 pm - Baptism - Sacred Heart Church



**Please pray for those serving our country:**

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

**Please pray for the sick:**

Nancy Armstrong & Family, Sharee Beeler, Paula Beshoar, Tammy Beshoar, Stacey Brown, Tom Buban, Denise Chally, Ryan Collins, Pam Cruz, Charlotte Curtis, Jan Dunn, Mark & Kay Francisco, Doris Giordano, Jim Jacobek, Mary Jo Maland, Gloria Markl, Donna Meyer, Steven Miller, Dan Olson, Jean Peters, Larry Ried, Cecelia Schimandle, Fred & Wanda Singer, Jeff & Danita Stepanek, Helen Talty, Cary Teska, Glenn VanDrie, Steve Varsolona, 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.

## Penances and Prayers

*God's glory, now, is kindled gentler than candlelight  
under the rafters of a barn:  
Eternal Peace is sleeping in the hay,  
And Wisdom's born in secret in a straw-roofed stable.\**

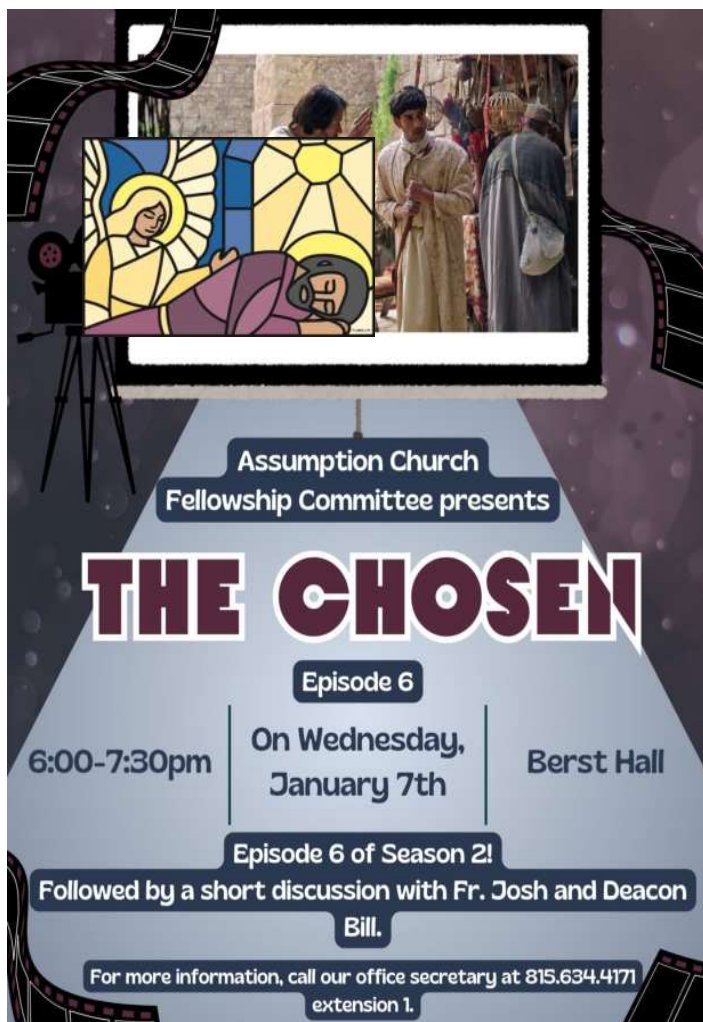
When I was younger, I wrote music to and recorded Thomas Merton's poem, "Epiphany Carol." If you have never read it, search it out on the internet. Merton's words are profound and paint a picture of the awesomeness of Jesus, the newborn King of Kings, lying in a simple straw bed. The shepherds and Wise Men are drawn to pay homage to the One who has been born above all others and brings with him hope for a broken world.

As Merton correctly points out, the gifts we are called to bring to this baby and lay at his feet are our prayers and penances, next to those gifts of worldly wealth. What is it that you have to bring to the stable on this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord? Unless those prayers and penances lead to a new way of living, our gifts will be void of meaning. What we lay before him speaks to the change in us that he has given to us by his birth. Our daily stewardship is resembled in those gifts. If we are to truly echo the kingdom of God in our lives and actions, what we ultimately offer to him is no less than our entire selves. This baby will give his entire self for us, and his work must continue through our hands and feet.

*While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries  
Come after with our penances and prayers,  
And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay  
Beside the wise men's golden jars.\**

\*Excerpts from "Epiphany Carol" by Thomas Merton

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Assumption Church  
Fellowship Committee presents

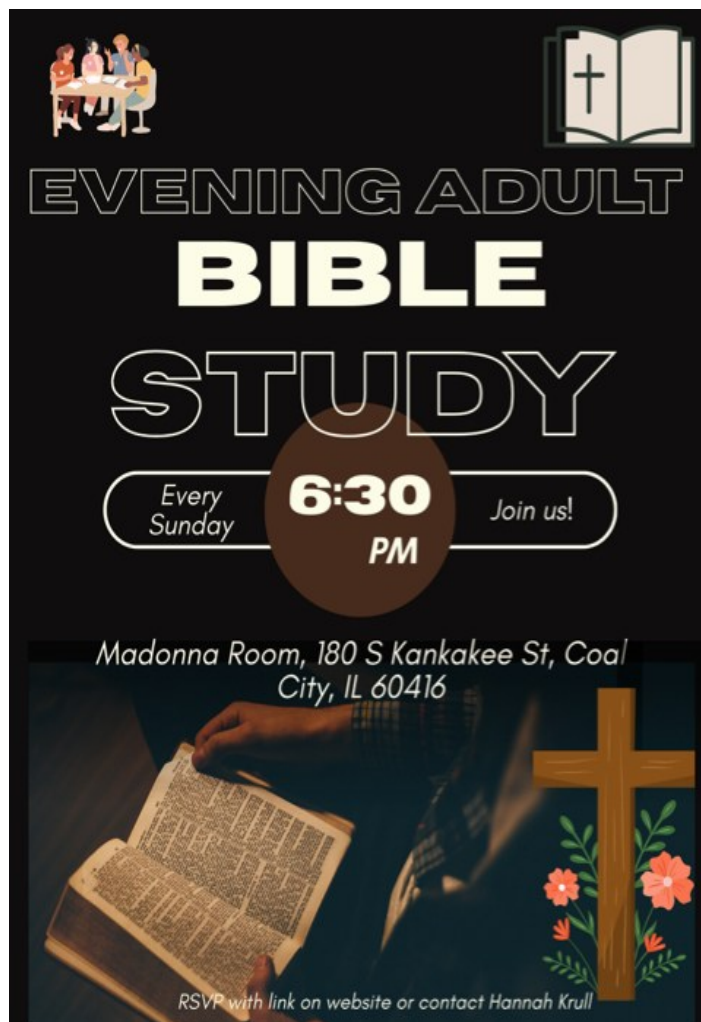
# THE CHOSEN

Episode 6

6:00-7:30pm | On Wednesday, January 7th | Berst Hall

Episode 6 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.



## EVENING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Every Sunday **6:30 PM** Join us!

Madonna Room, 180 S Kankakee St, Coal City, IL 60416

RSVP with link on website or contact Hannah Krull

**COME AS YOU ARE, LEAVE WITH PURPOSE**

ST. RAPHAEL'S PARISH  
1215 MODAFF RD, NAPERVILLE, IL 60540  
JANUARY 10, 2025 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
(VIGIL MASS INCLUDED)

GRADES 9-12

# RECHARGE

**FEATURED SPEAKERS**  
KATIE CHOUDHARY FR. ALEX LORANG

THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET INVITES ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS (GRADES 9-12) TO A 1-DAY RETREAT TO HELP YOU FIND AND GAIN FOCUS ON THE VOICE OF THE LORD SO THAT YOU CAN LEARN WHERE HE IS CALLING YOU

**FR. JEREMY LEGANSKI**

COST: \$25 (INCLUDES LUNCH)  
ADULT LEADERS CAN REGISTER A GROUP USING THE QR CODE OR THE LINK BELOW



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If you know of a young man 17+ that you'd like to  
nominate, please refer him to the link on the QR code:

**February 12-14, 2026**



For questions:

[vocations@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:vocations@dioceseofjoliet.org)

Phone - 815-221-6170

Saint John Vianney College Seminary (St. Paul, MN) is the largest collaborative college seminary in the United States, representing 18 dioceses throughout the nation with more than 100 undergraduate men in formation this year. The event is free of charge.


November 4 - 13, 2026

# HOLY LAND

*Catholic Pilgrimage*  
plus optional Jordan Extension

with Father Steven Borello

For more information about the tour contact:  
Penny Borello - InteleTravel  
630-309-1851 | [pborello@gmail.com](mailto:pborello@gmail.com)



**WYD  
SEOUL  
2027**

July 30 - August 9, 2027

# WORLD YOUTH DAY

WITH OPTIONAL SOUTH KOREA PRE-TOUR  
AND VIETNAM POST-TOUR

AGE REQUIREMENTS: 18 - 39 (must be 18 by July 1, 2027)

For more information or to be added to the list of future participants, contact:  
Penny Borello - InteleTravel • 630-309-1851 • [pborello@gmail.com](mailto:pborello@gmail.com)

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

### Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations  
as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:  
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body.  
(Eph 3:5-6)

### Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?  
We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

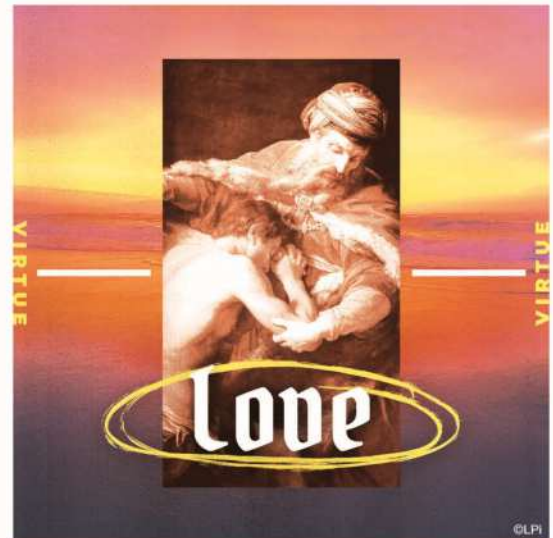
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us — Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star.

## Observances for the week of January 4, 2026

**Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord  
**Monday:** St. John Neumann, Bishop  
**Tuesday:** St. André Bessette, Religious  
**Wednesday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest  
**Next Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord



## Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of love seeks the good of the other, a reflection of the love of God who created us for this very purpose. In practicing this virtue, we express the fullness of our identities as sons and daughters of God. In true Christian love, we find freedom.

## Epiphany Blessing

Dear God,  
It was You who inspired the Magi  
to follow the star to find You.  
Inspire us to seek You, as well.  
Bless our homes and families this  
season, make them places where  
we can encounter You through  
prayer and community.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

### Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

### Monday:

1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/  
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

### Tuesday:

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/  
Mk 6:34-44

### Wednesday:

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/  
Mk 6:45-52

### Thursday:

1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/  
Lk 4:14-22a

### Friday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/  
Lk 5:12-16

### Saturday:

1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and  
9b/Jn 3:22-30

### Next Sunday:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/  
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— *Father John Muir*

# Liturgical Life

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase? Point to it. And go forth.

### The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak — to say, “I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough.” Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking — really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? *What* he was? I don't see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don't know how many of them there were. We don't know their religion. We don't know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men... who were they?

#### Answer:

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men *magoi*. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean “magician,” but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says “the east.” History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts “from afar” at the prompting of their astronomical calculations.



## Ministry Schedule January 10 - 11



### Saturday, January 10 - 4:00 p.m.

Extraordinary Minister - **Two volunteers needed**

Lector - **Volunteer needed**

Servers - **Volunteers needed**

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

### Sunday, January 11 - 7:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - George Kaluzny, **alternate needed**

Lector - Judith Kaluzny

Servers - Pete Collins, Ron Marketti

### Sunday, January 11- 9:00 a.m. (Sacred Heart, Kinsman)

Extraordinary Minister - Scott Wilkinson

Lector - Kathy Vint

Servers - Max & Sam Veselak

### Sunday, January 11 - 11:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - **Two volunteers needed**

Lector - **Volunteer needed**

Servers - **Volunteers needed**

**Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us!**

## Assumption Weekly Offering + E-Giving

Annual Offering Budget (7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026)	\$326,141
YTD Offering Budget	\$156,800
YTD Actual Offering	<b>\$189,112</b>
12/21/25 Mass Offering	\$6,496
12/21/25 E-Giving Offering	\$1,798
12/21/25 Total Offering	\$8,294
<b>Weekly Goal</b>	<b>\$6,272</b>

## Assumption Church Building Loan Balance through November, 2025

Loan Amount	\$620,123
Current Loan Balance	\$589,039

## Sacred Heart, Kinsman Weekly Offering

12/14/25 Sunday Collection	\$1,162
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**Want an easy way  
to donate to Assumption?**

Scan the QR code on the left.



## 2025 CMAA Report (as of Dec. 21, 2025)

Goal: \$32,500 Pledged: \$44,191 Paid: \$43,263 Donors: 170

The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun! The Diocese of Joliet invites all parishioners to support the 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Together, we can make a profound difference.

This year's theme is Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates! Through the CMAA, we ensure Christ's mission and ministries reach everyone. We provide shelter for the homeless, feed the hungry, support vocations, and educate the next generation of Catholics. Our parish cannot accomplish this alone. As a diocese, we can do so much more.

Our parish goal is \$34,200. We receive 70% of any amount raised over goal to use within our parish. Please review your mailing from the Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully consider your gift.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office. Thank you!



## Curious about the Mass?



Come to our teaching Mass, where Father Josh will break down and explain the Mass as it happens. Please join us on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Assumption Church.



**Tina Vignocchi**

*We're so happy you're here!*

## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who are the four Gospel authors?

Answer: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

©LPi

## Kids Corner

### Prayer

Lord, I offer you my words, my actions, and my thoughts.

### Mission for the Week

I will remember that each day of my life is a gift.

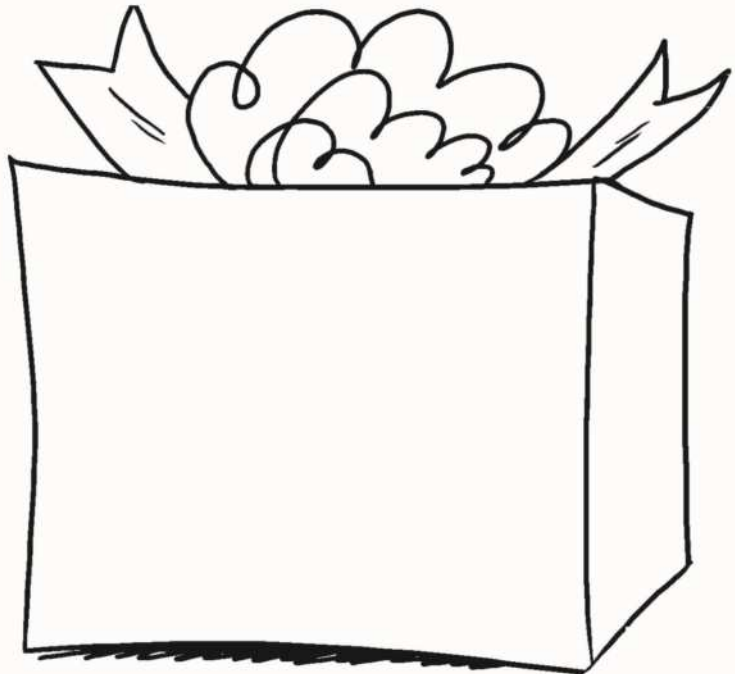
### Sharing the Gospel

It may be hard to find the star in the east, but God will always show you how to find him. Bow before the altar of God and give the baby Jesus three presents of your own. For gold, share your goodness with others. For frankincense, send your prayers up to God for yourself, your family, and your friends. For myrrh, follow God's words like a sweet perfume.

Now color  
the picture!



Inside the box, draw a gift that you would like to get some day!



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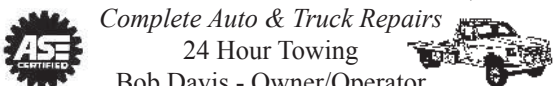
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