

Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Roman Catholic Parish

195 South Kankakee Street
Coal City, IL 60416

www.stmaryassumptionparish.org



Immaculate
Conception
Parish

110 South School Street
Braidwood, IL 60408

www.icparishbraidwood.org



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

- Mk 9:7-8

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishwww.stmaryassumptionparish.org

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

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pastor	Reverend Joshua Miller	(815) 634-4171 Ext 2	frjosh@frjosh.org
Deacon	Deacon William Dunn	(815) 634-4171 Ext 3	ddunn@abvcc.org
Business Manager	Richard Yarshen	(815) 634-4171 Ext 4	manager@abvcc.org
Property Manager	Alex Kuhel	(815) 634-4171 Ext 10	property@abvcc.org
Parish Secretary	Laura Uher	(815) 634-4171 Ext 1	secretary@abvcc.org
Youth Ministry	Dave & Sara Wollgast	(815) 287-2036	icparishbraidwood@gmail.com
Music Coordinator	Rita Wise	(815) 634-4110	rwise@abvcc.org
Director of Catechesis	Deacon William Dunn	(815) 634-4171 Ext 3	ddunn@abvcc.org

Immaculate Conception Parishwww.icparishbraidwood.org

110 South School Street • Braidwood, IL 60416 (815) 458-2125

Office hours vary; please call parish office to schedule an appointment.

Pastor	Reverend Joshua Miller	(815) 634-4171 Ext 2	frjosh@frjosh.org
Deacon	Deacon Greg Cummins	(815) 735-3016	gdmc54@att.net
Parish Secretary & Business Manager	Teri Brummerstedt	(815) 458-2125 Ext 6	icparishbraidwood@gmail.com
Youth Ministry	Dave & Sara Wollgast	(815) 287-2036	icparishbraidwood@gmail.com
Director of Catechesis	Deacon William Dunn	(815) 634-4171 Ext 3	ddunn@abvcc.org

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel**Assumption** - The Adoration Chapel is open daily from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**Immaculate Conception** - The Adoration Chapel in Fr. White Hall is open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please call Anita Harding at (815) 739-9767 for the entry code before or after hours or to make an Adoration commitment.**Sacraments****ANOIDTING 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** - Second and fourth Sundays of the month after 11:30 a.m. Mass**Immaculate Conception** - First and third Sundays of the month**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.**RECONCILIATION (Different on Holy Days & Holidays)****Assumption** - Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m., Wednesday & Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m., Saturday - 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.**Immaculate Conception** - Thursday following the 8:30 a.m. Mass & Sunday following the 9:30 a.m. Mass**ST. PEREGRINE DEVOTIONS** In honor of St. Peregrine, the patron saint of those who suffer with cancer or any illness, a special devotion is held on the first Tuesday of each month following the 6:30 p.m. Mass at Assumption Church, with Adoration and Benediction.

Bishop Hicks' Column

February 2024

PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND



Bishop Hicks with Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO?

Throughout the journey of our lives, we all experience moments of uncertainty, ambiguity, or indecision. We can feel small, inadequate, and almost paralyzed as we face looming problems ranging

from our own personal issues to worldwide crises.

Grounded in faith, Saint Francis of Assisi wisely taught that when we do not know what to do, we should "pray, obey, and love." Our Catholic tradition reflects his wise counsel.

PRAY In the good times and bad, we turn to God in prayer. Through prayer, we realize that we are not the center of the universe, as we raise our hearts and minds to God. As Jesus taught, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

OBEY While prayer is the proper first step, it should not end there. We also need to be obedient to God, always discerning: What is the best response according to God's command, law, and divine will?

LOVE However we respond to problems, our actions should always reflect Christ's love, specifically following the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22: 37-39).

Since October 2023, the conflicts in the Holy Land have escalated into a horrible war. Most of us follow the news with broken hearts and feel helpless.

Recently, I attended a dinner in Chicagoland (*photo above*) at which His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, spoke about the realities in the Holy Land.

Born in Italy in 1965, Cardinal Pizzaballa entered the Franciscan Order. He serves as the Latin Patriarch and Archbishop of Jerusalem. On January 27, 2024, we gathered at a dinner hosted by the Arab American Catholic Community (AACC), which exists to unite and support Catholic Arabs within the United States. In attendance were also many Knights and Dames from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Its mission includes supporting and promoting the Holy Land and protecting the Christian presence there. I am humbled to

belong to this ancient and noble order and am proud to witness the local members' dedication and commitment to this mission.

Known for his constant efforts to promote solidarity, cultural and historical preservation, interreligious dialogue, and embrace and advocate for peace, justice, and reconciliation, Cardinal Pizzaballa's 45-minute presentation literally quieted the entire banquet room, as even the waitstaff stopped to listen to his every word. He called for a ceasefire and spoke of the Catholic Church's boundless efforts to provide food, shelter, housing, healthcare, and spiritual care for those affected by the war.

He also prophetically commented that instead of striving for peace in the current war, both sides unfortunately are fighting only for victory — a victory that clearly delineates a winner and a loser. "Peace is not victory," said Cardinal Pizzaballa. "It is the willingness on both sides to give something up for the greater good."

He spent a lot of time laying the foundation for the need for true peace, a peace which is reflected only in Jesus. He reminded us that peace is not the absence of conflict. Instead, it includes the presence of justice, reconciliation, discernment of God's will, and the desire for the common good.

This Lent, as we prepare ourselves to enter this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, you might consider donating to a reputable organization or charity that aids and services to those in need in the Holy Land; some suggestions are included at the bottom of this article. Also, on Good Friday, throughout the Diocese of Joliet, a collection will be taken up to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land.

The Holy Land holds a powerful place in our hearts and in salvation history. It is where Jesus was born, grew up, taught, prayed, performed miracles, suffered, died, and was resurrected. In solidarity, let us join Cardinal Pizzaballa's call for an end to the violence and for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land as we turn to God with prayer, obedience, and love.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, pray for us.

Holy Land Humanitarian Agencies

- Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher Humanitarian Fund
- Catholic Relief Services (U.S. arm of Caritas International)
- Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land Humanitarian Programs
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association
- Emergency Holy Land Fund



Scan the QR code for links or visit diojoliet.org

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY February 24	
4:00 PM Mass (AP)	Living Members of the Ruffatti & Bianchetta Families (Don & Pat)
SUNDAY February 25 Second Sunday of Lent	
7:30 AM Mass (AP)	†Marilyn Teresa Campbell (Children)
9:30 AM Mass (IC)	†Barb King (Sue & Angie Kelleher) †Ron Dye (Kay Heberer)
11:30 AM Mass (AP)	†Mildred L. Lestina (Lestina Family)
TUESDAY February 27	
6:30 PM Mass (AP)	†Patricia & Richard Zelinko (Mike & Joanne Morrall)
WEDNESDAY February 28	
8:30 AM Mass (AP)	†Marilyn Teresa Campbell (Children)
THURSDAY February 29	
8:30 AM Mass (IC)	†Deceased Members of John Cinotto Family (Jerry Cinotto)
FRIDAY March 1	
8:30 AM Mass (AP)	†Marilyn Teresa Campbell (Children)
SATURDAY March 2 First Saturday	
8:30 AM Mass (AP)	†Deceased Members of Faletti Family (Roberta & Mary)
4:00 PM Mass (AP)	†Deceased Members of the Ruffatti & Bianchetta Families (Don & Pat)
SUNDAY March 3 Third Sunday of Lent	
7:30 AM Mass (AP)	†Bernard Giordarno (Doris)
9:30 AM Mass (IC)	†Leonard Halliday (Pam Tessler & Family)
11:30 AM Mass (AP)	†Marilyn Teresa Campbell (Children)

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.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for the Sick of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Immaculate Conception Parishes:

Sharee Beeler, Tom Buban, Ryan Collins, Mary Lou Cobb, Charlotte Curtis, Bradley Davis, Charita Dillon, Michael Dillon, Richard Fenoglio, Anita Harding, Stanley Jerz, Karin Kendzora, Jim Micetich, Marilyn Offerman, Frank Peters, Jean Peters, Ellen Rogers, Ed Scasny, Cecelia Schimandle, Marie Swanson, Jake Veronda, Gary Wallerich

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

Sacrament of Penance Confession Schedule

TUESDAY (AP) - 5:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. (Expanded during Lent)
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY (AP) - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.
THURSDAY (IC) - Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass
SATURDAY (AP) - 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
SUNDAY (IC) - Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass
(Different on Holy Days & Holidays)



EXPANDED CONFESSION TIME

**~All Tuesdays During Lent~
 Through March 26
 5:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.
 Assumption Church**

This Week's Events

AP: Assumption Parish **IC:** Immaculate Conception

Sunday February 25

Bethlehem Nativity Products Available After All Masses - AP

Monday February 26

8:30 am - Communion Service - IC
 4:45 pm - St. Vincent Meals - Immaculate Conception Braidwood
 Coal City Food Pantry Open - 815-216-3288

Tuesday February 27

8:30 am - Communion Service - IC
 10:00 am - 11:00 am - CCW Meeting - IC
 Braidwood Community Care Food Pantry Open - 815-325-0779

Wednesday February 28

Assumption Food Pantry Open - 815-518-2000

Thursday February 29

9:30 am - 11:00 am - Bible Study - Madonna Room @ Berst Hall
 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross Chaplet - IC
 Coal City Food Pantry Open - 815-216-3288

Friday March 1

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - First Friday Men's Devotional - IC
 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross - AP

Saturday March 2

No Events

Sunday March 3

12:30 pm - Baptism - AP
 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Youth Ministry - Berst Hall

Assumption's Marthas Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, March 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Madonna Room at Berst Hall. This meeting is for all current members and anyone new who wishes to join this ministry.

We hope to see you there!



Little Black Books For Lent

Spend some quiet time with our Lord each day during the Lenten season reading the short daily entries within this book.

A free will offering of only \$1 is suggested for each book; they are available in the narthex of Assumption Church while supplies last.



On behalf of St. Catherine Catholic Parish of Bethlehem and the Christian families in Bethlehem, Bethlehem Nativity Products will be visiting Assumption parish this weekend.



For centuries, the Christians and Catholics in Bethlehem have earned a living by carving olive wood religious art to sell to visiting pilgrims. Nowadays, there are no tourists or pilgrimage groups visiting the Holy Land because of the war, making it difficult for Catholic artisans to support their families by the dignified work of Christ's birth.

Hand-carved Nativity scenes, ornaments, statues, crosses, and more beautiful olive wood hand-carved religious items will be available for purchase. Please consider purchasing a piece of art from the Holy Land to support fellow Catholics who choose to stay and protect the Holy sites where Jesus himself lived. Your purchase will make a difference in the lives of many Catholic families.

Cash, personal checks, credit cards, and monthly installment payments will be accepted. Thank you for your generosity. Visit: www.bethlehemnativity.com.

Bible Study Canceled in March

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The Way of the Cross (Stations)

**Every Thursday
at 6 PM**

**February 15 to
March 21, 2024**

**Immaculate
Conception Parish**



Lite meal served after in Fr. White Hall

Dear Brothers and sisters, a happy and holy Lenten Season!

The message which Christians bring to the world is this! Jesus, Love incarnate, died on the cross for our sins. But God the Father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred. Mercy over sinfulness. Goodness over evil. Truth over falsehood. Life over death.

*-From the Urbi et Orbi Message of Pope Francis
Easter 2014*

**This is why we come to do the Stations of the Cross.
To walk the path Jesus walked to his death
and resurrection on the cross.**

Please come join us on Jesus' path this Lenten Season!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Please join us on all Fridays in Lent | 6:30 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 16 | FEBRUARY 23
MARCH 1 | MARCH 8
MARCH 15 | MARCH 22**

815-634-4171 | stmaryassumptionparish.org



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Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I know now how devoted you are to God,
since you did not withhold from me your own
beloved son." (Gn 22:12)

Psalm:

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (Ps 116)

Second Reading:

He who did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along
with him? (Rom 8:32)

Gospel:

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mk 9:7)

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Saint of the week

Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in 1991 and is the first millennial to be beatified. Despite dying of leukemia at age 15, he developed a website that showcases Eucharistic Miracles around the world, demonstrating that holiness knows no age.

Prayer of Trust

Dear Lord,
Your ways confuse me sometimes. Often, I don't fully understand what You are doing. But I believe that You are working in a way that will one day make sense. Until then, keep me close to You, trusting blindly in the ways You lead me. Amen.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Transfiguration left the disciples with more questions than answers. What had they just seen? What had they just heard? They were confused, but they trusted Jesus. Let's follow in their example, trusting in God's care as we journey deeper into Lent.

Observances for the week of February 25, 2023

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Tuesday: St. Gregory of Narek,
Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 25, 2024

Sunday:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday:

Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday:

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday:

Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday:

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday:

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday:

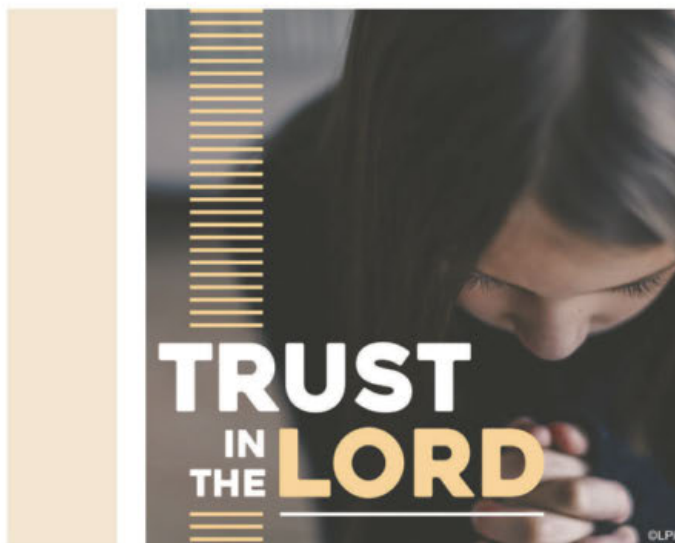
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday:

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

As a college student, my prized possession was an after-market car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio, eye-catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, "Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent." I did. In my heart, the answer came: "Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days." I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can't do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.

God's command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: "**Abraham!**" "**Here I am,**" he replied. **Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."** Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chafes us that *God sets the terms* of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?

Lenten challenge: This week, I dare you to ask God: "What do you want me to give up?" He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn't make it easy.

— Father John Muir

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

On the Mountain

Why climb a mountain? "Because it's there," George Mallory famously said, before perishing in an attempt to scale Mount Everest.

God is an event planner; every detail matters, and the location is most crucial of all. On the mountain, God demanded the sacrifice of Isaac. On the mountain, he restored Isaac to his father. On the mountain, Jesus was transfigured, revealed in all his mystifying glory as the beloved Son of God, the sacrifice which would finally balance the scale.

These things happened on a mountain because they could only happen on a mountain. The mountain is where the reckoning happens. It is where God takes, where He gives back, where He hands down.

In Lent, we encounter the mountain. We are removed from the distractions of ordinary life and placed outside the confines of our everyday habits. We find silence and mystery, pain and truth. We struggle and we become tired, and there is always a moment when we wonder if, perhaps, it would have been easier not to climb. There is always a moment when others look at us and think: "Why climb a mountain?"

I confess, I am not much of an outdoorswoman. Hiking, in my family, is any walking you do on a trail that is not paved, so I am far from qualified to comment on whether or not the view from the summit was worth George Mallory's life. But I do know a thing or two about struggling through a difficult experience. I know the strange peace that exists in the moment after it's all over and you catch your breath and realize you are a better, stronger, wiser person for the pain.

The mountain is there. Let's climb it.

"God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am!' he replied." — Genesis 22:1

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we hold hands during the Our Father?

Answer:

The practice of members of the assembly holding hands while praying the Lord's Prayer during the Mass is a custom that developed organically in the 1970s and 1980s. While some commentators acknowledge that the practice varies from place to place, it is a fairly universal reality in parishes across the United States. For some, this action symbolizes the communion of Christians praying together as one family of believers honoring the Father of All. Critics of the practice sometimes express concern that holding hands can be a distraction from the more significant unity that is experienced when we process to the altar to receive sacramental communion.

And so, we're left to ask, what is the answer?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the document that offers specific instructions for the celebration of the Mass) is silent on the practice, saying only that "all the faithful say the prayer" with the priest. The website of the US Bishops simply observes that "No position is prescribed in the Roman Missal for an assembly gesture during the Lord's Prayer." And so, we're left to discern within ourselves and within our parish and religious communities what is an authentic gesture of praise during this important point of the Mass. For some, this means continuing to hold hands, while for others, this may mean adopting another posture of prayer.

Liturgical Life

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. - Mk 9:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Abraham passed God's test to offer his beloved son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. Have you ever felt tested by God?

Second Reading

Paul speaks of God's generous love and affection for us, ever willing to defend and protect us. As we continue the Lenten journey, to whom might you offer some comfort and care this week?

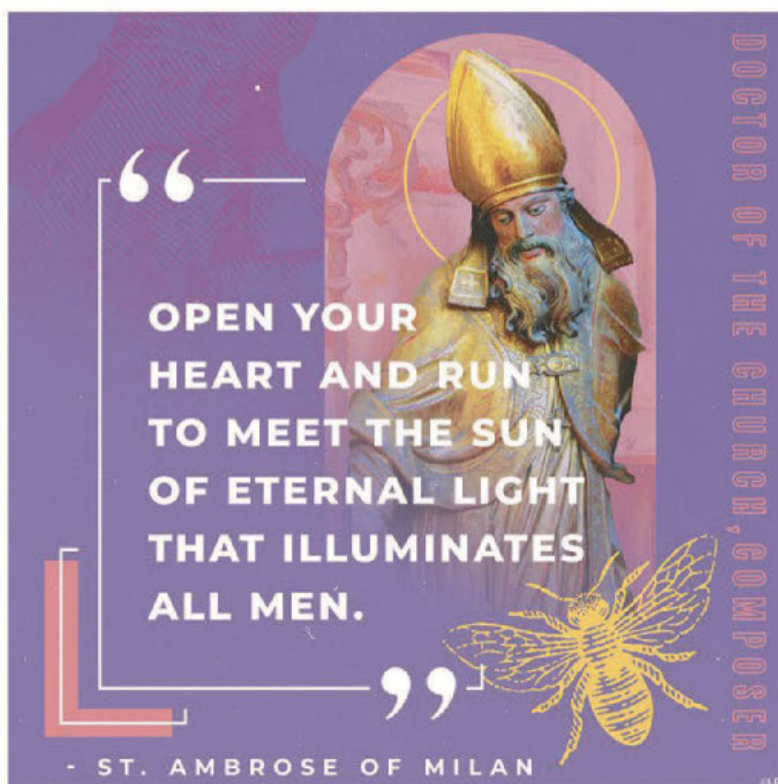
Gospel Reading

After witnessing Jesus' transfiguration, hearing God's voice, and commanded to silence, Peter, James, and John must have been spiritually and emotionally drained. What helps energize you spiritually?



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Ministry Schedule



Assumption Church - Mar. 1 - 3

If you are interested in assisting us at our weekend Masses, please sign up through the volunteer link on our website, which contains the most up-to-date schedule, or call or email Laura at the parish office. Confirmed volunteers for our upcoming services are below:

Friday, March 1 - 6:30 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

Server - John Boylan

Saturday, March 2 - 4:00 p.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - Tim O'Keefe, **volunteer needed**

Lector - **Volunteer needed**

Servers - **Volunteers needed**

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

Sunday, March 3 - 7:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - **Volunteers needed**

Lector - **Volunteer needed**

Servers - Ron Marketti, Pete Collins, Rick Marizza

Sunday, March 3 - 11:30 a.m.

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

Lector - **Volunteer needed**

Servers - **Volunteers needed**

Immaculate Conception Church - March 3

Sunday, March 3 - 9:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - Cheryl Boyd, Fred Hejna, Lee Roberts

Greeters - Reese Evans, Angie Kelleher, Mike Molloy, Dan Wilson

Lector - Jonathan Grossi

Servers - Eamon & Harper Roberts, Damien Sennett

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us!

Assumption Weekly Offering + E-Giving

Annual Offering Budget (7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024)	\$341,590
YTD Offering Budget	\$223,346
YTD Actual Offering	\$224,298
Last Week's Mass Offering	\$5,959
Last Week's E-Giving Offering	\$2,708
Last Week's Total Offering	\$8,667
Weekly Goal	\$6,569

Assumption Church Building Loan Balance Through November, 2023

Original Note Amount	\$796,607
Current Loan Balance	\$467,506

Immaculate Conception Weekly Offering

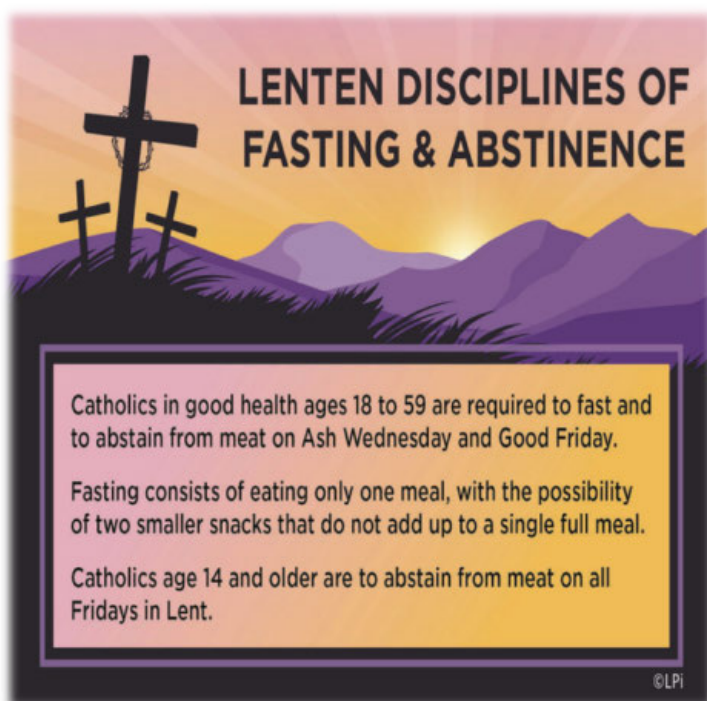
Annual Offering Budget (7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024)	\$115,440
YTD Offering Budget	\$75,480
YTD Actual Offering	\$87,417
2/11/24 Offering	\$2,755
Last Week's Total Offering	\$2,740
Weekly Goal	\$2,220



If you have already pledged your support to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we sincerely thank you! If we all join together, we can meet our parish's goal of \$31,100 for Assumption and \$11,200 for Immaculate Conception. Each and every gift, regardless of size, truly matters and makes a difference.

If you still plan on making your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how best you can support the CMAA this year to help those in need throughout our diocese, For the Glory of God. Pledge envelopes are still available in the church, or you can use the envelope you received in the mail from the diocese. We also welcome online gifts at jolietdioceseappeal.org.

Remember, if we raise more than our goal, the diocese will return 70 percent of the amount over goal to us to reinvest in our own parish. This is an incredible opportunity and blessing!



LENTEN DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Synod Sessions

The Diocese of Joliet will host two Synod Sessions to gather feedback from diocesan parishioners in preparation for the Second Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2024. The guiding questions for the sessions are:

1. Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?
2. How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

All diocesan parishioners are invited to attend one of two Synod Sessions offered:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6 TO 8:30 PM

ST. RAPHAEL

1215 Modaff Road
Naperville, IL 60540

Room: Sts. Joachim and Anne

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

6 TO 8:30 PM

ST. JOHN PAUL II

907 South 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

Room: Parish Hall

Those who are unable to attend can email responses to the above questions to dsalvato@dioceseofjoliet.org.



Synod Session Outline

- 6 p.m.** Sign-in/refreshments
- 6:30 p.m.** Opening prayer/reflection
- 7 p.m.** Small group discussion of two questions (see left)
- 7:45 p.m.** Break
- 8 p.m.** Share themes from small group discussions
- 8:30 p.m.** End



Pre-registration for either date is required. Please scan the QR code or visit qrco.de/Synod

HELP

WANTED

St Scholastica Catholic Church in Woodridge is seeking to hire a part-time Director of Religious Education.

This position is a non-benefitted 29-hour a week position (requires some evening and weekend work). Full-time, benefited position is a consideration if willing to take on our RCIA and Adult Faith Formation programs. Job responsibilities include, but not limited to, the management of religious education programming for grades 1-7, sacrament preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (including St. Scholastica School and children beyond normal sacrament age), overseeing Children's Liturgy of the Word, collaboration on other parish activities, and participating regularly at parish staff meetings. Since this is a formal ministerial position, candidates must be a fully initiated and practicing Roman Catholic in good standing, and must know, profess, and act consistently in accordance with the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Catholic Church. A degree in education, theology, or a related field is not required but helpful. Experience in parish religious education and a collaborative approach with good communication and computer skills are necessary. To view a complete job description, visit: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet in Illinois. If interested in this amazing opportunity, please send a cover letter and resume to Jean Palasz at jpalsasz@stscholasticaparish.org.

This Week on EWTN

PATRICK'S PEAK: AN IRISH PILGRIMAGE

Follow in the footsteps of St. Patrick, as Bob Dolan takes viewers on two historic pilgrimages along Ireland's west coast, from Ballintubber Abbey and then to the summit of Croagh Patrick.

*Sunday Feb. 25 @ 9:00 p.m. *dvd.*

CATHOLIC MOM'S CAFÉ

Here's a gift for all Catholic moms.

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle provides a maternal point of view on important issues affecting today's families, helping them become more vigilant, aware, and prayerful.

*Monday - Friday, Feb. 26 - Mar. 1 @ 12:30 p.m. *dvd*

SLAVES AND KINGS: ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET

Explore the inspiring life of Spanish missionary St. Anthony Claret. In his role as Archbishop of Santiago, he preached against slavery, risking death at the hands of the corrupt Cuban authorities.

*Saturday, March 2 @ 7:00 p.m. *dvd*

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



Upcoming Dates

- 3/3 - YM Night
6:00 - 7:30 pm Coal City
- 3/10 - Living Stations
Practice
6:00 - 7:30 pm Braidwood
- 3/17 - Living Stations
Practice
6:00 - 7:30 pm Braidwood



Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Souper Bowl of Caring collection! We raised over \$900 for our local food pantries!



thank you

so much



For questions: Sara Wollgast (815) 341-5946

Kids Corner

Prayer

God, I can hardly wait to see Jesus glowing in heaven.

Mission for the Week

Make some lemonade with your family. Then add food coloring to completely change the way it looks. As you mix the ingredients together, talk about how Jesus was completely changed.

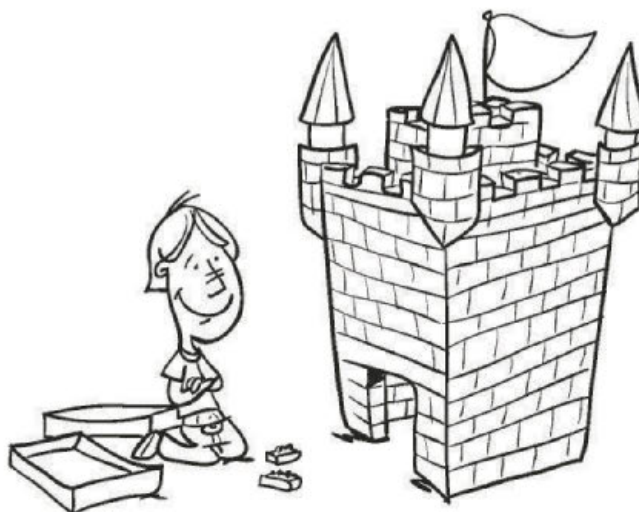
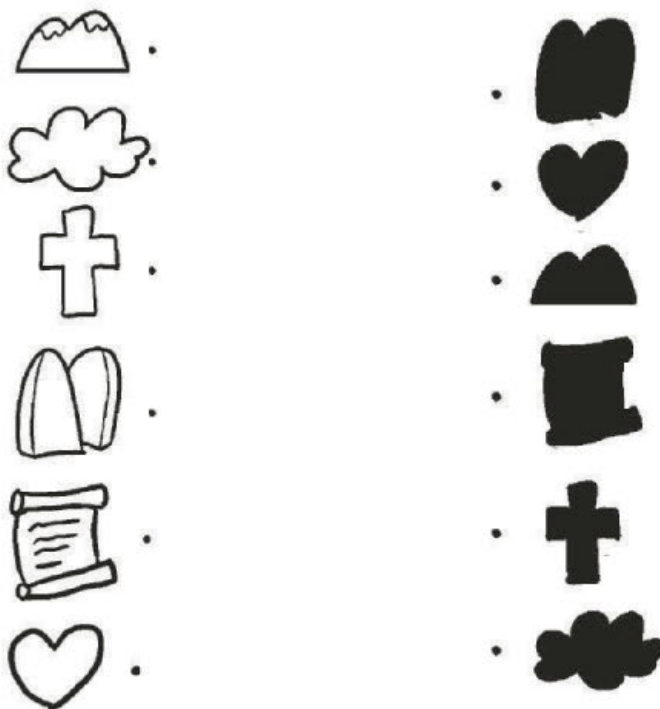
Sharing the Gospel

Start with a pile of blocks. Add your imagination and you can build a castle or a city. You can change that pile of blocks to look completely different and wonderful. In today's Gospel, Jesus was completely changed. He started out looking like an ordinary man. Then, right in front of Peter, James and John, something happened. Jesus glowed brightly like the sun. Even his clothes became bright white. Talk about changing into something different and wonderful! God let Peter, James and John see Jesus as he looks now in heaven.

**Now color
the picture!**



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2024 Lent 1-Day Retreat

The Language of God's Love

What do you know about God's love? How do you experience God's love? We will look at covenant, relationship, zeal, gift and surrender as together we reflect on God's love in our lives. This Lent we are offering a 1-day hybrid retreat experience at One Heart, One Soul Spirituality Center in Kankakee, IL and virtually via Zoom. This retreat is open to women and men who desire to enrich their spiritual growth this Lenten season. Please give yourself the gift of time and join us for this Lent retreat.

**WHEN: Saturday, March 9, 2024
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

(coffee and rolls will be served in the morning and lunch is provided)

LOCATION:

**One Heart, One Soul Spirituality Center
2041 W. State Route 113
Kankakee, IL 60901**

Sponsored by:

Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

Retreat Leaders:

**Sr. Linda Hatton, sscm
Frank Modica**

To register, please follow this link:

REGISTRATION

Cost for the 1-Day Retreat is \$35.

You can pay by credit card:

CREDIT CARD

Or by check** mailed to:

**Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary
Attn: Susan Amann
2041 W. State Route 113
Kankakee, IL 60901**

**Please make checks payable to *Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary*

Registrations cannot be confirmed until payment is received in full.

**Registration deadline is
Friday, March 1, 2024**

For more information about our programming, please contact Susan Amann:
samann@sscm-usa.org or (708) 790-8141

Praying the Spiritual Exercises with the Psalms



**February 29-
March 3, 2024**

**4-Day Ignatian, Silent
Retreat for Adults**



Retreat Leader: Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ
President and founder of Ignatius Productions
EWTN television and radio host



Scan the QR Code to register!



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The Conversions of St. Ignatius Loyola



March 8-10, 2024

**Ignatian, Silent
Weekend Retreat
for Men**

We will explore the life of St. Ignatius Loyola, focusing on a series of "conversions" where life as he expected it took different turns in the same way the twists and turns in our own lives force us to reflect on and adapt to where God is calling us.



Retreat Leader: Fr. Michael Graham, SJ
Former Xavier University President
(2001-2021)



To register for this retreat, scan the QR Code with your camera



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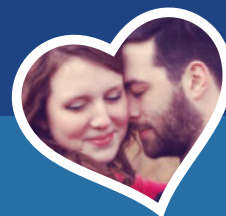
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