

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

113 CHIEGO PLACE
ROSELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07204

To all who are tired and need rest; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are friendless and need friendship;
to all who are discouraged and need hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; and to whomsoever will,
THIS CHURCH OPENS WIDE ITS DOOR IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS!



**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17, 2021**

SERVED BY:

Very Rev. Father James F. Spera, V.F., Pastor
Dean, Union County North

Rev. Father Carmine Rizzi, Priest-in-Residence

Rev. Deacon David J. Farrell, Deacon and
Director of Religious Education

John Ballantyne, Trustee

Elizabeth Santora, Trustee

Donna Schmatz, Organist and Music Coordinator

Virginia Jediny, Parish Secretary

Karen Colucci, Religious Education Coordinator

New members of the Parish are welcome and invited to **REGISTER** by calling the Rectory Office. Please notify the Office when moving away from the Parish. Sponsor certificates for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation will be signed and sealed for Registered parishioners only. You must be registered for 6 months prior to your request.

EUCCHARIST:

Saturday Evenings: 5:30 pm

Sundays: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 Noon

Weekdays: Monday - Saturday, 8:00 am

Holy Days of Obligation:

8:00 am and 7:30 pm

Novenas:

St. Jude after the Saturday 8:00 am Mass

St. Anthony, prayers with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Tuesday, 7:30 pm, September thru June

Confession:

Saturday afternoon from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Weekdays (Monday-Saturday) at 7:30 am before the 8:00 am Mass, or anytime by appointment

PARISH OFFICE

(908) 245-1107

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assumptionrp@yahoo.com

WEB PAGE

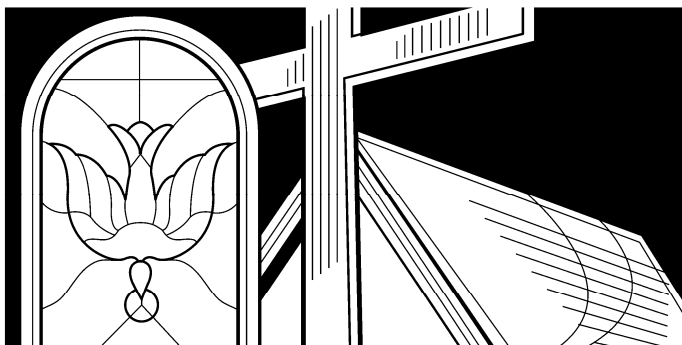
www.assumptionrp.com

Assumption School of Religion Office

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EMAIL

assumptionschool113@gmail.com



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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 17, 2021

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you. — 1 Corinthians 6:19a

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

LECTORS

ALTAR SERVERS

THE MINISTRIES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Prayer List: (In alphabetical order) To have someone placed on or removed from the sick list please call the Rectory. We invite you to clip out this section each Sunday. Perhaps you could put it near a prayer book, in your Bible, or in your pocket or purse. It is a good thing when we pray with and for one another. Thank you and God bless you!

Altagracia Alvarez, Kathy Barz, John Black, Fred Boyne, Florence Carosella, Christine Conrad, James Desiderio, Naomi Desiderio, Ronald Fellner, Nicholas Fusco, Bonnie Greer, Joseph Gregory, Cynthia and Thomas Ingman, A.M.J., Elizabeth Knych, Zchantell McDonald, Eleanor Morehouse, Tanina Naccarato, Carol Fellner Nasta, Jeanette Noto, Louis Noto, Monica Quigley O'Brien, Lily Rita Procopio, Roseann Santanna, Frank Sillito, Nancy Sillito, Ann Sisalli, Anthony Spadora, Antonio Spano, Gabrielle Spano, Lynn Tumblety, Joanne Vallone, D.L.W., Tony Wargacki

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY, January 16: Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM **Lilli Miceli Lawlor**
(From: Ella Bombaci)
5:30 PM **Pilar DeVarona**
(From: Mary Journe)

SUNDAY, January 17: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM **William Royland**
(From: Richard, Renah & Hera Marranca)
10:30 AM **Caetona Logiudice**
(From: Carmela Mannino)
12:00 Noon **Ann Marie Bonassisa**
(From: Jennifer & "Here We Grow" Staff)

MONDAY, January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

8:00 AM **Manny Calvanico**
(From: Jimmy & Barbara Goss)

TUESDAY, January 19

8:00 AM **Walter Wiggins**
(From: Dave & Linda Farrell)
7:30 PM **St. Anthony and St. Kolbe Novena**

WEDNESDAY, January 20: St. Fabian; St. Sebastian

8:00 AM **Frederick Wacker, Jr.**
(From: Dolores Antonucci & Family)

THURSDAY, January 21: St. Agnes

8:00 AM **Michael Bonassisa, Sr.**
(From: Vincent & Family)

FRIDAY, January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

8:00 AM **John Antonucci**
(Love, Mom)

SATURDAY, January 23: St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope

8:00 AM **Santos Ruiz**
(From: K of C #3240)
5:30 PM **For the Parishioners**

SUNDAY, January 24: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM **Thadeus Kachnowski**
(From: Bonassisa Family)
10:30 AM **Armand Cistaro III**
(From: Mom & Family)
12:00 Noon **Ann Marie Bonassisa**
(From: Joe & Francisca Downey)



As the Christmas decorations begin to fade and the cold of winter blankets the earth, we continue to stand in the glow of the Light of Christ which the darkness can not overcome (John 1:5). We feel the warmth of His light in this Community of believers called the Church of the Assumption. We are committed to care for one another and those who come to us in need. Our generosity is an expression of our faith.

Thank you for the many ways which you have expressed this generosity. The final count of the Christmas collection has been tallied and is reported as an amazing **\$39,565.00**. Considering the restrictions on Mass attendance, limited participation, and the state of the economy due to the "pandemic", this is indeed a generous offering to God!

I am grateful to all who assisted the needy through our Annual "Giving Tree". Our St. Vincent De Paul Society was able to prepare food baskets and open our Food Pantry for the needy because of your constant donations of food items especially during these difficult days of the pandemic. To our St. Vincent De Paul Society members and to all of you who made it possible for us to feed the hungry this Christmas thank you! I thank our Knights of Columbus, The Ladies Auxiliary and members of the Rosary Society for decorating and taking care of the many details which made our Church a fitting Sanctuary for the worship of God and the commemoration of the birth of Our Savior.

Lastly, I thank you from my heart for your cards, gifts, cookies and constant supportive words during the Christmas celebration. Please know of my gratitude and prayers for a Blessed New Year of the Lord 2021!

Fr. Jim

MOUNT SAINT MARY ACADEMY, a Catholic, all-girls college prep high school in Watchung, is accepting applications for the Class of 2025. Prospective students are encouraged to visit: www.mountsaintmary.org to request a Zoom meeting with the Director of Admissions to answer your questions or arrange a tour of the campus. Mandatory entrance test administered by appointment.

Contact admissions@mountsaintmary.org. The academy is a sponsored work of the Sisters of Mercy, established in 1908.

St. Michael School in Cranford is celebrating over 90 years of academic excellence.

Established in 1929, St. Michael School is a thriving, faith-based school where children become independent thinkers and grow into responsible young adults grounded in Catholic values

St. Michael School is a member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and accredited by the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary Schools. Primary, elementary and middle school curriculums are based on guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Newark to prepare students for high school and beyond.

Controlled class sizes and average 16:1 student-teacher ratio fosters individualized attention and offers students the ability to engage in classroom inquiry, discovery, and learning.

The early childhood education program offers pre-kindergarten 3 & 4 (full and half day) and full-day academically-based kindergarten. On site before and after care is also available.

Extracurricular activities include instructional and competitive sports programs, instructional music, drama and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

St. Michael School has been proud to offer 4.5 days in-person instruction for 2020-2021 academic year; with a virtual component for families preferring that option.

Due to current social distancing guidelines, St. Michael School will be unable to host our traditional Open House as part of Catholic Schools Week. If you're interested in learning more about St. Michael School & all that our school has to offer, please contact the school directly to schedule a private tour at 908-276-9425 or saint.michael@verizon.net. For a copy of the St. Michael's School brochure, virtual tours and for more information about the school, visit:

www.smscranford.com
#SMSstrong



*From Death
to New Life*

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the recently deceased:

+Reverend William L. Gyure

Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord!

SPECIAL DONATIONS

To make a Special Donation for Hosts, Wine, Candles, Sanctuary Candles or Tabernacle Flowers, please use the Special Donation Envelopes found at the doors of the Church.

In Loving Memory of Joseph Lefano Sr.

Requested by Wife & Family
Donation of Wine and Hosts

In Loving Memory of Leonard Molinari (Happy Birthday)

Requested by Sister-Helen and Niece-Maria
Donation of Candles

**SPEAK, LORD, WE ARE LISTENING**

In today's first reading God keeps calling out in the night to a sleeping boy. Neither the boy, Samuel, nor his teacher, Eli, understands who is calling. But God's persistence convinces them. Samuel is then ready—not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

In the Gospel Jesus is out teaching. Various people notice him and begin to gather around. They soon become disciples and, like the young Samuel, are ready—not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak," they say, "we are listening."

God's voice is always with us, awake or asleep. It swirls around us like fog on a waterfront, enveloping us, gently urging us to wake up, to listen. Awareness of the voice comes first; then willingness to listen; then, in time, the decision to act, to live according to God's word. Let's ask today for the ability to keep our ears open so we don't miss God's voice.

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WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Collection for January 9/10	\$8,097
Communicating God's Word	\$ 629

Thank you for your generosity!

MARY'S GROTTO

Just to let you know, we will be closed in January and February.

If you need anything from the store, please call the rectory and we will make an appointment to see you.

Ladies of the Rosary Society
Church of the Assumption

St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death. Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse." According to legend, the young men she turned away became angry. In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!" In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy.

At last, she was condemned to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to death. Yet, Agnes was as happy as a bride on her wedding day. She did not pay attention to those who begged her to save herself. "I would offend my Spouse," she said, "if I were to try to please you. He chose me first and He shall have me!" Then she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword.

She is often represented with a lamb, the symbol of her virgin innocence, and a palm branch, like other martyrs. She is shown as a young girl in robes holding a palm branch with the lamb either at her feet or in her arms.

Her feast day is celebrated on January 21. On her feast day, it is customary for two lambs to be brought in to be blessed by the pope. On Holy Thursday the lambs' wool is removed and woven into the pallium the pope gives to a newly consecrated archbishop as a sign of his power and union with the pope.

She died a virgin-martyr at the age of 12 or 13 on 21 January 304.

Believe and Pray

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Contact Information: 908-245-6572
assumptionschool113@gmail.com
karen.assumption@hotmail.com



Roselle Catholic High School welcomes you to schedule a visit with us! Please visit: <https://www.rosellecatholic.org/openhouse>

For any questions about our program or admission process, please contact Mishell Arizaga, marizaga@rosellecatholic.org or 908-445-7900.

Have a blessed day!

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening (1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19).

Psalm — Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — Your bodies are members of Christ; glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20).

Gospel — The first disciples saw where Jesus was staying and they stayed with him (John 1:35-42).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

DINE TO DONATE - 2 WAYS

Mario's Tutto Bene - NOW through 3/31/21

Featuring daily specials & catering packages, including:
 TAKE-OUT * CURBSIDE PICK-UP * DELIVERY

495 Chestnut St., Union, NJ 07083
 908-687-3250, www.mariostuttobene.com

Please present flyer to ensure 10% of your bill will be donated back to Church of the Assumption.

Johnny Napkins - NOW through 3/31/21

Featuring pizzas, entrees, catering and more. Including
 TAKE-OUT * DELIVERY

1424 Morris Ave., Union, NJ 07083
 908-688-7500, www.johnnynapkins.com

Please present flyer to ensure 10% of your bill will be donated back to Church of the Assumption.

**Knight's Corner (Council #3240)**

The Knights of Columbus (Council #3240) of the Church of the Assumption would like to invite any interested Parish men, that wish to learn more about the Knights of Columbus to fill out one of the cards located in the front of the Church and place it in the collection basket. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus is currently conducting a membership drive. Please be sure to "like" our Facebook page: Knights of Columbus - Msgr. Loreti Council #3240

**The Greeting**

At several points during the liturgy, the presider greets us with the words, "The Lord be with you." These simple words are not like the greetings that we exchange all day long—our "good mornings," our "hellos" and "how are yous." This liturgical greeting has roots deep in the Old Testament. In the book of Ruth, the words "the Lord be with you" are spoken by Boaz to the harvesters who are laboring in his fields (2:4); in the book of Judges, an angel speaks similar words to Gideon (6:12), where they are words of promise: for soon Gideon will lead his oppressed people to victory and freedom. For us, the words become a greeting of peace, a prayer that the Lord will indeed be with us, and a reminder of his promise to be with us always, to the end of the world (Matthew 28:20). Our response—"And also with you," soon to be "And with your spirit"—returns to the presider this prayer for the Lord's presence. As we know from the scriptures, a prayer for the Lord's presence is no small thing, for when God comes in our midst, God brings healing, grace, and challenge. **God's presence transforms us.**

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

JOY

The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.
 —St. Julian

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c;
 Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19, *or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer*

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9;
 Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31;
 Mk 1:14-20



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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January 2021

Answers to Key Ethical Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines

The development of vaccines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic has received much public attention and raised several ethical questions related to their development and use. This document is intended to provide concise answers to some of those ethical questions as well as links to more in-depth resources.

Is it true that there is a connection between some vaccines and abortion?

Yes. Several decades ago, tissue harvested from the bodies of aborted babies was used to create certain cell lines for research purposes. The cells in these lines are, in effect, the descendants of those cells that were originally harvested. They have been made to replicate themselves and some cell lines can be reproduced indefinitely. These abortion-derived cell lines are used as a “factory” to manufacture certain vaccines (e.g. rubella, chickenpox, some of the COVID-19 vaccines, etc.).ⁱ The cells themselves, however, are not present in the vaccines that patients receive.

What does the Church say about abortion-derived cell lines and their connection to vaccines?

The Holy See, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy for Life, has provided guidance on this topic on four occasions.ⁱⁱ This guidance has made it clear that it is wrong to create abortion-derived cell lines and for pharmaceutical companies to utilize them, that the use of vaccines produced with such cell lines should be avoided if comparable alternatives with no connection to abortion are available, that grave reasons (e.g., serious health risks) may justify the use of vaccines produced with these cell lines when there are no such alternatives, and that everyone concerned for the sanctity of life should protest the use of these cell lines and advocate for the development of vaccines with no connection to abortion.

Do COVID-19 vaccines use abortion-derived cell lines?

As of the date of this writing, hundreds of vaccines for COVID-19 are in development worldwide, and more than a dozen are in the final stages of testing. Some don't use abortion-derived cell lines at all, some have used such cell lines to test the vaccine's efficacy, and some are using such cell lines in the development and/or the production phases. There are currently two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) being distributed for use in the United States, and there are others that are likely to be made available in the coming months (e.g., AstraZeneca, Janssen, etc.).ⁱⁱⁱ Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used an abortion-derived cell line in the development or production of the vaccine. However, such a cell line was used to test the efficacy of both vaccines. Thus, while neither vaccine is completely free from any use of abortion-derived cell lines, in these two cases the use is very remote from the initial evil of the abortion. The AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines raise additional moral concerns because an abortion-derived cell line is used not only for testing, but also in development and production.

Is it morally acceptable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines?

Given that the COVID-19 virus can involve serious health risks, it can be morally acceptable to receive a vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines if there are no other available vaccines comparable in safety and efficacy with no connection to abortion. If it is possible to choose among a number of equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen.^{iv} If a vaccine with no connection to abortion-derived cell lines is not readily available, vaccines that used such cell lines only for testing would be preferable to those that use such cell lines for ongoing production. Such choices may not be possible, however, especially in the early stages of vaccine distribution. In that case, one may receive any of the clinically recommended vaccines in good conscience with the assurance that reception of such vaccines does not involve immoral cooperation in abortion.^v

Is there a moral obligation to receive a COVID-19 vaccination?

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has noted recently that “vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary. In any case, from the ethical point of view, the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one’s own health but also on the duty to pursue the common good.”^{vi} And it said that “in the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic” vaccination may promote the common good, “especially to protect the weakest and most exposed.” For a vaccine to be effective in protecting society, most people need to be vaccinated in order to break the chain of disease transmission from person to person throughout the community. The Congregation also said that those who refuse to get vaccinated must do their utmost, by taking all the necessary precautions, to avoid “becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent. In particular, they must avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and who are the most vulnerable.”

What can those who uphold the sanctity of life do to protest against the use of abortion-derived cell lines and advocate for ethical vaccines?

First, inform yourself and others about how some vaccines are connected to abortion through the use of abortion-derived cell lines, and about which vaccines use such cell lines. Second, inform your doctor about this connection and ask him or her to provide ethical vaccines, when possible. Third, urge pharmaceutical companies and medical researchers to discontinue using abortion-derived cell lines, and thank them when they do.^{vii}

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective?

The bishops are not and do not claim to be authorities on the safety and efficacy of vaccines. People should rely on information from authoritative sources in the field of medicine and public health, such as the Food and Drug Administration and qualified health care professionals. The FDA affirms that the vaccines authorized for emergency use in the U.S. have met all the safety and efficacy standards required for such authorization.

Where can I find more information on this topic?

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org/prolife/biomedical-research)

National Catholic Bioethics Center (www.ncbcenter.org)

Charlotte Lozier Institute (www.lozierinstitute.org/category/genetics)

i See Charlotte Lozier Institute at www.lozierinstitute.org/category/genetics.

ii Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions (Dignitas Personae)* (2008), nos. 35-36 and “Note on the morality of using some anti-COVID-19 vaccines” (21 December 2020). Pontifical Academy for Life, “Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Foetuses”, (9 June 2005); and Note on Italian Vaccine Issue (31 July 2017).

iii <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/explaining-operation-warp-speed/index.html>; <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Operation-Warp-Speed/>.

iv As of the date of this document, there are no available COVID vaccine options that are completely free from a connection to abortion-derived cell lines. But there are some COVID vaccines in development that may end up free of such connection.

v Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith “Note on the morality of using some anti-COVID-19 vaccines” (21 December 2020), no. 3.

vi CDF Note no. 5.

vii The USCCB Pro Life Office helps with such advocacy through the USCCB Action Center. To receive action alerts, sign up at www.usccb.org/prolife/biomedical-research.