

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

113 COOLIDGE 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!



**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 22, 2023**

SERVED BY:

Rev. Paul Prevosto, Pastor Fr.Prevosto@proton.me

Rev. James F. Spera, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Solomon Ngwumezie, Weekend Associate

Rev. James Platania, Weekend Associate

Rev. Deacon David J. Farrell, Deacon and
Religious Education Coordinator

John Ballantyne, Trustee

Elizabeth Santora, Trustee

Donna Schmatz, Organist and Music Coordinator

Virginia Jediny, Parish Secretary

Debbie Kachnowski, Parish Catechetical Leader

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.

HOLY MASS:

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

PARISH OFFICE

(908) 245-1107

FAX

(908) 245-2789

EMAIL

assumptionrp@yahoo.com

WEB PAGE

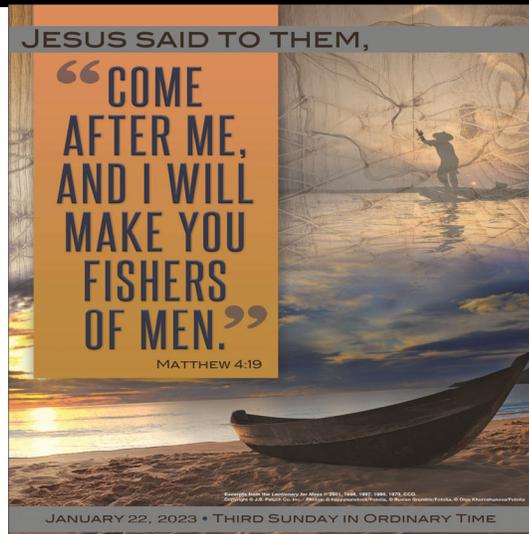
www.assumptionrp.com

Assumption School of Religion Office

(908) 245-6572

EMAIL

assumptionschool113@gmail.com



Communion Ministers — Two Ministers for each Mass.

JANUARY 2023

- 5:30 PM** - Rita Kushner, Richard Powers, Loretta Raczynski, Alex Wisniewski
8:00 AM - Marge Denci, Maryann Mansueto
10:30 AM - James Kompany, Steve Petruzelli
12 Noon - Debbie Kachnowski, Annette Venturo

LECTORS

January 21/22, 2023

- 5:30 PM** Gerard Taveras
8:00 AM John Ballantyne
10:30 AM Sebastian Saavedra
12 Noon Debbie Kachnowski

January 28/29, 2023

- Cindy Campbell
 Anthony Cordero
 Sebastian Saavedra
 Nicholas Milici

ALTAR SERVERS

January 21/22, 2023

- 5:30 PM** Angelo Geronimo
 Anthony Geronimo
8:00 AM Ethan Pama
10:30 AM
12 Noon Emily & William Cosaine

January 28/29, 2023

Joe Schmatz

Ethan Pama

Emily & William Cosaine



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!

Patrick Ahern Jr., Altigracia Alvarez, Kathy Barz, Fred Boyne, Brendan, Joe Caponegro, Ken Castenon, Rev. Msgr. Peter Cheplic, Christine Conrad, Kay Downey, Ronald Fellner, Charles Frank, Nicholas Fusco, John Garofalo, Lynn Gehrmann, Fran Getchies, Harold Gibson, Bonnie Greer, Joseph Gregory, Cynthia and Thomas Ingman, A.M.J., Elizabeth Knych, Cyndee Kurri, Nancy Lanfrank, Stella LoPiccolo, Christine Marino, Janet Marino, Christine Mattingly, Zchantell McDonald, Eleanor Morehouse, Tanina Naccarato, Carol Fellner Nasta, Monica Quigley O'Brien, Margie Ortizio, Lily Rita Procopio, Rudy Salazar, Roseann Santanna, Ann Sisalli, Antonio Spano, Gabrielle Spano, Debra Szajko, Lynn Tumblety, Tony & Laura Wargacki

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY, January 21: St. Agnes

- 8:00 AM** **Theresa Stecki**
 (From: The Family)
5:30 PM **Gertrude Zimmerman**
 (From: Susan & Kevin Smith)

SUNDAY, January 22: Third Sunday in Ordinary

Time: Word of God, Ecumenical Sunday

- 8:00 AM** **For the Parishioners**
10:30 AM **Richard Czerwinski**
 (From: Cathy Czerwinski)
12:00 Noon **Michael Bonnassisa, Sr.**
 (From: Vincent & Family)

MONDAY, January 23: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children; St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope

- 8:00 AM** **Alicia DeJesus**
 (From: The Paras Family)

TUESDAY, January 24: St. Francis de Sales

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

WEDNESDAY, January 25: The Conversion of St. Paul

- 8:00 AM** **Joseph Gregory**
 (From: Michael Curio)

THURSDAY, January 26: Saints Timothy & Titus

- 8:00 AM** **Michael Amoroso (Living)**
 (From: Lily Amoroso)

FRIDAY, January 27: St. Angela Merici

- 8:00 AM** **Evelyn Schuritt**
 (From: Lily Amoroso)

SATURDAY, January 28: St. Thomas Aquinas

- 8:00 AM** **Micheline Chartrain**
 (From: Virginia Prevosto & Mark Whitman)
5:30 PM **Marge & Harold Giegerich**
 (Love, Daughter Arlene)

SUNDAY, January 29: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary

Time:

- 8:00 AM** **Matthew Conroy**
 (From: Mom & Dad)
10:30 AM **For the Parishioners**
12:00 Noon **Jimmy Goss**
 (Love, Barbara & Family)



"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you" (Jeremiah 1:4).

Jesus came to us saying, "Before Abraham was, I AM." That is before all time, before any of us existed, Jesus was. He is co-eternal with the Father. And everything was created through him. As the prophet Jeremiah said, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." We the baptized are consecrated to the Lord to be his prophets, his spokesmen in a world that is shrouded in darkness. The relativism that imbues our society, our thinking, and our way of operating is like plantar warts. The roots go deep and are difficult to extract, even painful. If we grow up hearing and believing that there is no absolute truth and all is relative, then we become relativity. Our personhood is compromised. No longer do we see ourselves as persons, but as things subject to the will of the majority, the opinion poll and the whims of the powerful who use our diminished image of the person to manipulate and confuse. There even comes the point when our Church is scorned and ridiculed because she teaches morals and faith as universal, true, and eternal. How can this be if other religions, philosophies, and schools of thought teach otherwise? Can there be two opposing truths standing side by side? Of course not, so one is either wrong or we're both right and that is a contradiction to objectivism and to logic. Even the relativist is in contradiction because he claims universally and absolutely that there is no absolute truth.

But you and I have been baptized in Christ. We are his lips and his hands in a world gone awry. We cannot be crushed by the whims of confusion and the dictatorship of relativism. The Church is a fortified city. Our teachings are solid, based on Divine Revelation in the Scriptures and Tradition - the teachings of the Apostles and the 2 millennia of understanding, experience, and action. These forces of relativism, confusion and outright hatred for what is true and good cannot prevail against the Church. They will fight against us, but Jesus is with us. If we trust in him, he will deliver us from all evil. So be not afraid to be the lips and the hands of Christ. He is our head and we the Church are his

limbs and senses. Speak the Truth without equivocation. Do right to others without succumbing to strange reinterpretations of morality and ethics. Be ready to do his bidding under his protection and with his strength for by the sign of the cross we will conquer evil, relativism, falsehoods and anything that threatens the dignity of man - IHS (*in hoc signo vinces*).

Pax Christi, Fr. Paul

The 2023 Annual Appeal has begun! Each year we are invited to participate in the Annual Appeal, which is an opportunity to support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese. Your sacrificial support makes it possible for us to carry out the important work that we are called to do as missionary disciples of Jesus.

Please consider participating in this year's Appeal to help make a significant difference in many lives within our Archdiocese.

Please make a gift online today by visiting rcan.org/sharing or join us for In-Pew Weekend on February 4th-5th.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30, *or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer*
- Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35
- Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
- Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 4:21-35
- Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
- Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41
- Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Collection for Jan. 14/15	\$4,730
Energy Collection	\$2,099

Thank you for your generosity!

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**Respect for Life Prayer**

O God, our eyes behold the beauty of your creation, and our ears catch the sounds of your power. We hold our lives sacred because they are your gift. Bring us to greater awareness of the sanctity of human life and to sorrow for the times we have ignored or offended it.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**St. Michael School Cranford Open House**

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.

The faculty and families of St. Michael School will invite you to attend one of our upcoming Open House sessions on:

Thursday, January 26th from 7:00PM-8:30PM

Sunday, January 29th from 12:00PM-3:00PM

If you're interested in learning more about St. Michael School & all that our school has to offer, please contact the school directly 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

MARY'S GROTTTO

Mary's Grotto will be open, weather permitting, on Sundays after all of the Masses.
Looking forward to seeing many of you in the store!

Thank you,
The Ladies of the Rosary Society,
Church of the Assumption

Food Pantry Thank You

A big thank you to our Parish Family for the overwhelming generosity to the Food Pantry. Thanks to your generosity we were able to distribute over 50 bags of food for Thanksgiving and again for Christmas. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Thanks Again,
Annette Venturo

Ordinary Time

Between the end of the Christmas season and the start of Lent, the liturgical year begins a period known as Ordinary Time. That season is interrupted by the seasons of Lent and Easter, and then resumes again after Pentecost. The English translation of the Latin name for this season has received much criticism because of our association of the word "ordinary" with something of lesser value, the opposite of something special. Critics point out that Sunday is the original feast day of the Church, that there is nothing at all "ordinary" about our weekly celebration of the Lord's dying and rising. Translators explain that in this context the English word "ordinary" retains the root meaning of "ordinal," something counted "in order," and that the Sundays throughout the year are in fact named by their numerical order.

It is helpful to understand how all five of the "special" seasons of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter) fit together to unfold the single mystery of Christ. As we continue the year now with Ordinary Time, we are mindful that what we celebrate is indeed as "extraordinary" an experience of God's grace as one could ever imagine.

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Jesus I Trust in You

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

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

Liturgical Ministers Wanted

Last weekend we made an appeal for your service at our Masses. One of the many casualties of the pandemic was that many have chosen to stay home on Sundays rather than gather with others in worship and prayer. Inevitably this has meant we not only dropped in attendance, a serious obligation for all Catholics, but many of our ministers have also not returned. Please consider giving some time and talent to your parish and become a reader at Mass or an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. Please complete those cards and return them any time soon so we can prepare you fully to serve with confidence and humility. God will give you the grace, you only need to want to serve.

Wanted: Communion Ministers, Readers, Altar Servers, and Choir members.

BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

We are, once again, doing the Baby Bottle Boomerang for Rafael's Life House for homeless mothers and babies. We handed out "empty" baby bottles.

Please return the bottles, with whatever change you can afford, on the weekends of Jan. 21-Jan. 22 and Jan. 28-Jan. 29.

Thank you, Knights of Columbus #3240

PSE&G Assistance Available

If you are struggling to pay your energy bills, help is available. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Universal Service Fund (USF) have expanded to include more people at higher income levels. For example, a family of four with a monthly income of \$9,250 may be eligible and should apply for USF. (Only the last month of income counts.) If you are not eligible for LIHEAP or USF, there are moderate-income programs, such as the PAGE Grant and/or NJ SHARES, which may provide the help you need. For more information, or to find out how to apply, call 1-800-510-3102 or "211" (7 days a week). Visit pseg.com/help or pseg.com/ayuda for online application links.



Please focus your smartphone camera on the QR code and you will have the readings for the days.

Believe and Pray

**Knights 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

**GOD'S LOVING CARE**

Two readings today refer to the northeast region of ancient Israel: "the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali." Upon hearing these names, some of us might consult maps and determine exactly where these regions lie. Others might let the unfamiliar names drift by unnoticed. If no maps are handy—but we don't want to ignore the references completely—consider this: we might not know the latitude and longitude of Zebulun and Naphtali, but God does. We praise God for watching over every inch of land and sea, caring perfectly for each creature on the planet. While Isaiah celebrates the depth of God's care with "abundant joy and great rejoicing," Saint Paul begs us to remember how the Lord shows this loving care: through the cross. In today's Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow him. We follow too, confident that God accompanies us, wherever we are.

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Prayer to Begin the Day

Lord God, may everything we do
begin with your inspiration
and continue with your help,
so that all of our work today will bring us closer you.
Guide us in our work today,
that we may do it not for ourselves alone,
but for the common good of all.
We ask this in your name. Amen.

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January 25 - 8:00 p.m. - K of C - Loreti Hall

Save the Children from "adult" websites. Protect your chastity, now! Go to Freefiltering.org and learn how to block those unwanted sites from your eyes. Protect your virtue, guard your children's innocence. It really works, by blocking sites in your Wi-Fi server. Act now before your children see one more pornographic site or one more "social media" site promoting LGBTQ+ propaganda.



Saint Thomas Aquinas

By universal consent, Thomas Aquinas is the preeminent spokesman of the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation. He is one of the great teachers of the medieval Catholic Church, honored with the titles Doctor of the Church and Angelic Doctor.

At five he was given to the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in his parents' hopes that he would choose that way of life and eventually became abbot. In 1239, he was sent to Naples to complete his studies. It was here that he was first attracted to Aristotle's philosophy.

By 1243, Thomas abandoned his family's plans for him and joined the Dominicans, much to his mother's dismay. On her order, Thomas was captured by his brother and kept at home for over a year.

Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great. He held two professorships at Paris, lived at the court of Pope Urban IV, directed the Dominican schools at Rome and Viterbo, combated adversaries of the mendicants, as well as the Averroists, and argued with some Franciscans about Aristotelianism.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, pervades his writings. One might expect Thomas, as a man of the gospel, to be an ardent defender of revealed truth. But he was broad enough, deep enough, to see the whole natural order as coming from God the Creator, and to see reason as a divine gift to be highly cherished.

The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology. He stopped work on it after celebrating Mass on December 6, 1273. When asked why he stopped writing, he replied, "I cannot go on.... All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." He died March 7, 1274.

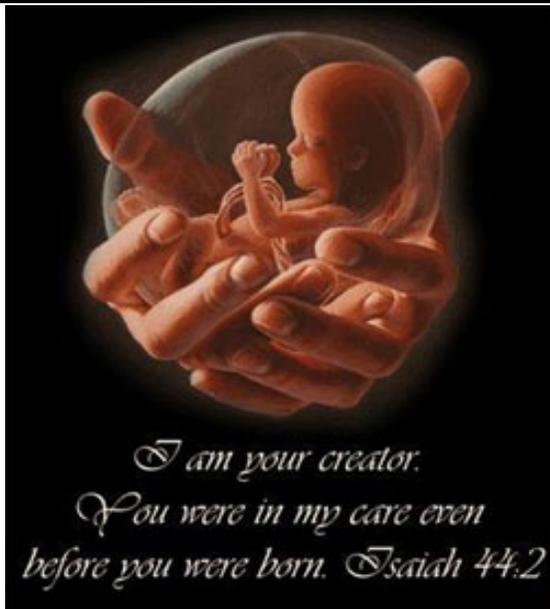
His original feast day was March 7, the day of his death, but because the date often falls within Lent, in 1969, a revision of the Roman Calendar changed his feast day to January 28, the date his relics were moved to Toulouse. Pope Pius V declared Saint Thomas a doctor of the church, saying Thomas was "the most brilliant light of the Church."

Reflection

We can look to Thomas Aquinas as a towering example of Catholicism in the sense of broadness, universality, and inclusiveness. We should be determined anew to exercise the divine gift of reason in us, our power to know, learn, and understand. At the same time we should thank God for the gift of his revelation, especially in Jesus Christ.

Saint Thomas Aquinas is a Patron Saint of:

Catholic Colleges and Universities
 Educators/Teachers
 Philosophers/Theologians
 Students



**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children—USA Memorial
Moved to January 23 when January 22
is a Sunday**

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life.

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

We remember today the tragic United States Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, issued on January 22, 1973, that essentially legalized abortion in all fifty states for almost fifty years. By God's grace, that decision was finally overturned on June 24, 2022, by the Supreme Court case *Dobbs v. Jackson*. Though that latter decision gives us much to be grateful for, the battle for the sanctity of life must continue, since the *Dobbs v. Jackson* ruling simply deferred the decision on abortion to state legislatures. Thus, abortion remains legal in the majority of states in the United States and continues to be legal in many other countries around the world.

Throughout the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are approximately 40–50 million abortions every year. That translates into about 125,000 abortions every day. Up until the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, the WHO further estimated that twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in the United States ended by abortion, over one million abortions every year. These numbers are conservative estimates, given that the WHO promotes abortion.

Too often, abortion advocates premise their arguments on a woman's right to do what she wants with her own body. Yet a baby in the womb is a new life, distinct from the mother's, with as much dignity, beauty, and value as any other life, including the mother's. The psalmist puts it this way, "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!" (Psalm 139:13–14).

Much rhetoric has unsuccessfully attempted to justify abortion. Yet while debate over abortion never ceases, eternal truths never change. "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person—among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2270).

Most precious Lord, You dwelt within the womb of your dear mother, sanctifying the womb, and elevating the dignity of all human life. I pray today for the full legal protection of every unborn child. I also pray that every heart that supports abortion will be changed so as to experience the freedom that comes from living in the Truth. I offer to You, this day, all my sufferings and sacrifices to help atone for every violation against human dignity committed through acts of abortion. Please bring healing, hope, and freedom to all. Mother Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.