



Church of the Assumption Church of St. Anthony



December 17, 2017 • 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)



Assumption Church
464 State Street North
PO Box 9
Eden Valley, MN 55329
www.churchoftheassumptionedenvalley.org



Parish Office.....453-2788
assumptionev@meltel.net
Religion Office.....453-5765
assumptionre@meltel.net

Contacts

Pastor Father Aaron Nett
Secretary Michelle Brutger
DRE Becky Haag
RE Assistant Bonnie Meyer

Mass Times

Wednesdays.....5:45 PM
Fridays.....7:00 AM
Saturday.....5:30 PM
Sunday.....8:00 AM

Reconciliation

Wed: 5:15 PM, Fri: 8:00 AM
Sat: 4:30 PM & Sun 7:30 AM

Church of St. Anthony

201 Central Ave South
PO Box 409
Watkins, MN 55389
www.stanthonywatkins.com



Parish Office.....764-2755
stanthony@meltel.net

Contacts

Pastor Father Aaron Nett
Secretary/DRE Jessica Teicher

Mass Times

Tuesdays (at Nursing Home).....9:30 AM
Thursdays.....8:30 AM
Sunday.....10:00 AM

Reconciliation

Thursdays: 8:00 AM
Sundays: 9:45 AM

Newly Baptized!!



Everly Caprice Faber



Oliver John Moyer



Emrie Alayna Ertl



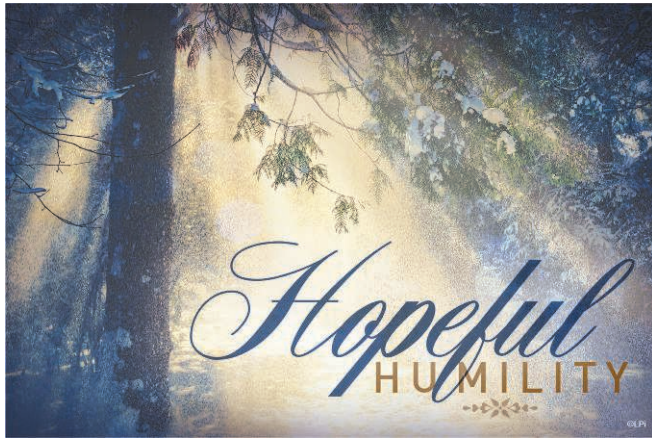
Cora Gen Berg



Reid Matthew Magedanz

All Visitors and Guests Welcome to the Assumption and St. Anthony parishes. Thank you for joining us for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. *If you would like to become a member of either parish please call or email the parish offices. *"May the Lord guard your coming and going both now and forever."* -Psalm 121

- GOSPEL MEDITATION -



December 17, 2017 3rd Sunday of Advent

"There is one ... coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." Untying sandal straps was no prestigious job. In the days of John the Baptist, those straps would have been especially unpleasant to deal with. Besides the usual odors that accompany sockless leather footwear, there would have been the grime and dirt from the sandy roads and paths that swirled around the people who went everywhere on foot. Taking off someone's shoes upon their arrival was the task of the lowly servants. So when John says he's unworthy of doing this task for the "one who is coming after me," he is putting himself in a very humble position. And rightly so.

John realizes that the Christ-the Anointed One, the Messiah-is so far above him, so far above any of us, that we are truly unworthy of him. Indeed, the Son of God is not just the greatest of men; he is God-made-man and in his presence we most appropriately should bow in humble homage. Yet this God chose to stoop down to our human level and walk among us. He chose to get his sandals dirty. And still today he chooses to allow us to encounter him as a friend and companion.

But as John reminds us by his example, this encounter with the Lord is not the result of our own merits or accomplishments. We are sinners who stand in need of Christ's help. But thanks be to God, he is always willing to extend this help to us. As St. Paul says in today's epistle, "May the God of peace make you perfectly holy." Indeed it is God who does the perfecting, not us by our own power. So let us approach the Lord this Advent season with a spirit of hopeful humility, trusting that God alone can make us worthy of welcoming his Son.

Twinned Parish News

Nursing Home Sacraments

This Tuesday, December 19th, the sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation will be offered after the Nursing Home Mass.

Open House Party at the Rectory!!

Save the date for an open house Christmas party for the parishioners of St Anthony's and Assumption at the Assumption rectory on December 19th from 4-7pm. No need to bring anything. Just come and enjoy food and fellowship as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Joint-Parish Social Concerns

We are looking for members of both parishes that would be willing to take part in a social concerns committee arranged with the help of Catholic Charities. This committee will help address needs within the parishes including financial assistance, job finding, multicultural needs and more. If you are interested in helping our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, please contact either parish office.

Advent Penance Services

If you missed the Reconciliation services for St. Anthony's and Assumption last weekend, it's not too late! St. Nicholas will have theirs at 4:00 PM and St. Anne's will be at 7:00 PM on December 17th. In confession you can get rid of the obstacles that come in between you and the Lord and make straight his path to you. Take advantage of this advent penance service to ready your heart!

Joy to the World

In these weeks leading up to Christmas, Father Aaron is giving away copies of Scott Hahn's "Joy to the World". This book shows us how Christ's coming changed everything and still does. You can pick up your copy in church. Thank you Father Aaron!

Allergy Sensitive Incense

Just a note to the parishioners that we are using incense that is listed as "ideal for those with allergies and sensitive to smoke." We will also try keeping the fans on for better air circulation.

Adult Faith Formation

"Uncle Fred's" last Faith Talk for the Advent season will be this Thursday, December 21, at Assumption at 6:30. The topic for this final session is "Why God became man, Reflections on the Incarnation." Come join us, there's always more to learn! All are welcome!

Mass Intentions

Wednesday, December 20:

5:45 pm Mass: † Lucille Lahr

Friday, December 22:

7:00 am Mass: † Iverna Schweiters

Saturday, December 23:

5:30 pm Mass: Alphonse & Marie Thielen

Sunday, December 24:

8:00 am Mass: People of the Parish

Mondays, Tuesdays &

Thursdays @ 3:00

Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

Ministry Schedule

-December 23, 5:30 PM

Lectors: Dave Moran & Al Mueller

Ushers: Pat Schettler, Arnie Gruenes,
Lyle Laudenbach & Jerome Ludwig

Ministers of Communion:

Jim Schutz, Joyce Gertken
& Bill Tschumperlin

Servers: Sidney Kuechle, Sawyer Kuechle,
Porter Kuechle & Kallie Jo Becker

Music: Lisa Thielen

Rosary Leader: Helen Theis

-December 24, 8:00 AM

Lectors: Linda Thielen & Denise Nohner

Ushers: Francis Theis, Don Trout,
Perry Kuechle & Bill Ruhland

Ministers of Communion:

Sarah Kuechle, Shelby Kuechle
& Sheila Laudenbach

Homebound: Mary & Tom Mathies

Servers: Noah Stommes, Adam Stommes,
Ava Schumacher & Anthony Schettler

Music: Becky Haag

Rosary Leader: Perry Lemke

***Weekday Rosary:** Mary Jo & George Ruhland

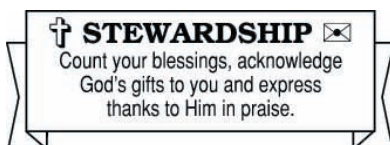
Financial Blessings

Parish Income	12/10/17
Loose Plate	187.47
Adult Env.	2833.00
Youth Env.	13.25
Imm. Con.	560.00
Votive	86.80
Bazaar	725.00
Total	\$4405.52

Bazaar YTD: \$16,563

Monthly Auto Drafts: \$1755

Thank you for your donations!



Rest in Peace

Rest in peace, Marie Ruhland, 92, of Eden Valley who passed away on December 8th. The funeral services were held on Tuesday, December 12th at the Assumption Church. Please keep Marie and her family in your prayers.

Children's Choir

Sing to the Lord! The 2nd-8th graders are invited to join the children's choir to sing on Saturday, December 30th! Practice will be during Christmas break- on Wednesday, Dec 27 at 10:00 AM. Please sign up with Becky, Bonnie, or Janet (444-1619).

Guild Officers for 2018

Newly voted in Assumption Guild Vice President for 2018 then President in 2019 is Jodi Bauer. Newly voted in Assumption Guild Secretary for 2018 & 2019 is Beth Hesse. Phyllis Holdvogt moves up as the Assumption Guild President for 2018. Amy Thielen remains as Assumption Guild Treasurer for her second and remaining year in 2018. We are very pleased to have Jodi and Beth accept their positions. And Thank You to Phyllis, Amy and outgoing Secretary, Doris Thielen and President, Lori Teicher for their hard work and dedicated service with the Assumption Guild.

Adoration Announcements

-The Adoration Chapel will be closed on Christmas and New Years day, and open on Tuesday at 8 a.m.

-There is still an open hour on Tuesday mornings at 1-2 a.m. Please call Rita Haan at 453-7865 or Rose Becker at 453-7496 if interested.

Christmas Decorating

Decorating of the inside of church for Christmas will take place immediately following the 8:00 AM Mass on December 24th. All help is welcome!

Christmas Flowers

Anyone who wants to contribute to Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one can submit their donation with their name, the name of their loved one and the parish it's for in the Sunday collection, drop it off at the offices or mail in it. Please have all donations in by December 21st to be included in the bulletin insert for Christmas.

Christmas Gift Ideas!

There are still Assumption Church mugs and playing cards available in the back of church for sale.

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas pageant will be at 5:00 on Saturday, December 23rd. The students will be practicing the songs during their faith formation classes. Hopefully parents will hear them practicing at home too!



December 17: Graces & Gifts Fellowship, 9:00
RCIA Class, 12:00 pm

December 19: Open House Christmas Party, 4-7 pm, rectory

December 20: Christmas Pageant Practice, 3:00-5:00

December 21: Uncle Fred "Faith Talk" at Assumption, 6:30

December 22: Faith & Fun (grades 3-6)

December 23: Christmas Pageant, 5:00

December 27: Children's Choir Practice (grades 2-8), 10-11

December 28: Youth Gathering (grades 7-college age), 5-8 pm

December 29: Children's RCIA Class, 11:00-12:00

January 7: Junior High Youth Rally, 9:00-4:00

January 11: 5th-8th Grade Bible Study, 3:00-5:00

January 14: Rite of Acceptance, 8:00

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 19:

9:30 am Mass: † Jerome & Marie Roeser

Thursday, December 21:

8:30 am Mass: † Mike & Arletta Turner

Friday, December 22:

9:30 am (Communion Service at Hilltop)

Sunday, December 24:

10:00 am Mass: † Melvin Mathies

Ministry Schedule

December 24, 10:00 AM

Lectors: Michelle Kramer
& Heidi Schoenecker

Ushers: Ron Molitor, Margi Schreifels/
Blake Donnay, Joe Rathmann & Leander Salzi

Ministers of Communion:

Precious Body: Jack Kinzer

Precious Blood: Rachel Kinzer & Volunteer

Homebound: Linda Faber, 310-1568

Servers: Emma Donnay, Ellie Donnay,
Alexis Vossen & Marissa Twardy

Rosary Leader: Ethel Donnay

Children's Liturgy: Molly & Morgan
Schlangen

Financial Blessings

Parish Income	12/10/17
Adult Env.	725.00
Loose	226.01
Youth	6.00
Imm. Con.	1043.25
Weekly Auto	310.00
Votive	18.00
Building Auto	35.00
Building Fund	<u>3605.51</u>
Total	\$5968.77

New Parish Center 12/11/17

Total Project Goal	1,896,954.00
Expenses Paid (\$1,740,802.27)	
Remaining Bills (est.)	50,000.00
Loan	\$113,000.00
Unpaid Pledges	\$80,334.23

Weekly Schedule

Mondays: Mary's Cenacle, 2:00
Mission Quilting, 11:30-3:00

Thursday: Thrift Shop, 9-12

Saturday: Thrift Shop, 9-12

Church Cleaners



December 17-30:
Terry Serbus, Leroy
Simmons, Allen
Simmons, Rich Stenger
and Doug Stenger &
families.

*Please call Theresia at 764-7251 to unlock. Thank you to all our cleaners!

New CCW Circle Officers

All the information you need for this year is in the green folder on the table in the handicapped access in church with your name on it. It includes updated circle lists. Thank you for doing this important job for us. CCW Officers

Giving Tree

During the Christmas season we try to find ways to help those most in need among us. One way we can help is to take a food shelf envelope from our giving tree in the back of church. All donations will be given to our local food shelf to help the needy in our local area.

Christmas Flowers



Anyone who wants to contribute to Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one can submit their donation with their name, the name of their loved one and the parish it's for in the Sunday collection, drop it off at the offices or mail in it. Please have all donations in by December 21st to be included in the bulletin insert for Christmas.

Lights in the Confessionals

A big thank you to Mike Erpelding for installing lights in the side confessionals in church!

Lectors Needed

The new lector schedule will be soon made out and we are looking for new lectors to join this ministry! If you would like to become a lector please call Heidi at 250-1091.

St. Anthony Christmas Pageant

Please join us next Saturday, December 23rd, for this years' Christmas Pageant. Practice is at 5:30 PM, the pageant is at 7:00 followed by a reception with Christmas cookies and a hot chocolate bar with all the fixings!

Blood Drive in Watkins

During this holiday season, give the gift of life by donating blood. The American Red Cross Blood Drive is on Wednesday, December 27 from 1:00 to 7:00 pm at the St. Anthony Church Social Hall in Watkins. Appointments can be made by calling 1-800-Red Cross, www.redcrossblood.org, by downloading the Blood Donor App, or by calling Theresia at 764-7251 or Betty at 764-9163. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Year-End Giving

The end of the year is not far away, and it is time to start thinking of strategies to maximize the tax benefits of year-end giving. Remember that only gifts made by December 31st can help reduce the amount of taxes you owe next April. These gifts can come in many different ways: gifts of cash, grain, securities and appreciated assets, from retirement plans, a charitable remainder trust or life insurance. Please consult your professional tax advisor for tax strategies for your personal situation.

December 19: Open House Christmas Party, 4-7 pm, Assumption

December 20: Faith Formation Classes, 6:30-7:30

Parish/Student Adoration, 6:30-7:30

December 21: Uncle Fred "Faith Talk" at Assumption, 6:30

December 22: Faith & Fun (grades 3-6) at Assumption

December 23: Christmas Pageant, 7:00 PM, practice at 5:30

Looking
Ahead

Youth Activities!

Joint Parish Youth Days

There are two days of activities for the kids planned for this Christmas break:

-The younger kids (grades 3-6) have an afternoon of fun planned for them at the very start of Christmas break on December 22 after the early out from school at the Assumption church. Get excited about Christmas with Faith and Fun!

-The older group will meet on December 28, 5-8 PM, for an evening of worship music and adoration with a movie to follow. Open to 7th graders to college aged.

**Contact Heidi Geislinger for more info and to RSVP: 237-8957 or hgeislinger@gmail.com.

Jr. High Youth Rally

The JH Youth Rally for 6th-8th graders is on Sunday, January 7th at St. John's University. The day includes a keynote presentation, recreational activities, lunch, and Mass. Registration forms are available from their faith formation teachers or from the website.

Advent Schedule

December 16: Anointing of the Sick after 5:30
Mass at Assumption

December 17: Anointing of the Sick after 10:00
Mass at St. Anthony

December 19: Open House Party at Assumption Rectory

December 23: Christmas Pageants
5:00 PM at Assumption, 7:00 PM at St. Anthony

December 24:
4th Sunday of Advent Masses:
8:00 AM at Assumption. 10 AM at St. Anthony
Christmas Eve Masses:
4:00 PM at St. Anthony, 7:00 PM at Assumption

December 25: Christmas Day Masses:
8:00 AM at Assumption
10:00 AM at St. Anthony

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

John the Baptist came to testify to the light, who is Jesus Christ. Like John, we are called to testify to that same Light. We do so by living lives of faith and bringing the joy of the Gospel to everyone we meet. We are people of joy who rejoice at his birth and eagerly await his coming again. We share that joy by tending to the needs of the poor, helping those who are broken, and witnessing to the freedom that a life in God brings. May we take our task of being joyful witnesses to the good news seriously as the celebration of Christ's birth fast approaches.

Daily Readings

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Sacraments

Marriage- Couples should contact the parish at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Baptism- Parents/expecting parents should contact the parish office to sign up for a baptismal prep class and to schedule a meeting with Father. Call either parish office to schedule.

Anointing of the Sick - contact the parish office when anointing is needed.

Early Bulletin Deadlines

December 23-24 bulletins were due December 15
December 30/31 bulletins are due December 21
Announcements are due by noon each of these days.

Traveling Chalice and Madonna

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS.... Heavenly Father, You have a great and loving plan for our world and for me. I want to do my part in your plan. Help me to see the signs that you give me. Open my heart to respond to You. Grant me the strength to serve You and your people with generosity and love. Amen. Thank you to David and Anna Moran of Assumption Parish for their willingness to host the Traveling Chalice and Madonna this week. May the season of Advent plant excitement and gratefulness of our expected Savior in the hearts of all.

Please Pray For

Bishop John Kinney, Lori Crozon, Jane Anderson, Tim Eder, Jackie Boulton Family, Theresa Welle, Jeff Pauls, the Ertl Family, Alexis Vossen, Jerry Weinmann Jr., and Laura Miller.

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.

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