

# Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

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Website: <https://www.olaffld.org>

*“Ad Jesum per Mariam”  
To Jesus through Mary.*

*Clergy/Lay Leadership*

*Rev. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor*

*Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar*

*Rev. Marcel Saint Jean, In Residence*

*Deacon Raymond John Chervenak*

*Deacon Robert McLaughlin*

*Michael Cooney, Director of Music*

*Masses (Schedules subject to change)*

*Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 PM*

*Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM, 9 AM 10:30 AM  
and 12:00 PM (Subject to change)*

*Morning Daily Mass: (Mon.-Sat.) 7:30 AM*

*Evening Daily Mass: (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 PM*

*Holy Days: See Bulletin for schedule*

*Sacrament of Reconciliation*

*Saturday: 3:00-3:45 PM or by appointment.*

*Every Thursday: 7-8:00 PM*

*Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet*

*7 AM Monday-Saturday, Rosary*

*8 AM First Saturday of each month, Rosary*

*3 PM Monday-Friday, Divine Mercy*

*Chaplet and Rosary*

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

*First Friday of each month from 8 AM*

*Friday to 7:15 AM Saturday. To volunteer*

*contact Grand Knight, Michael Lauzon at  
(203) 817-7528.*

*Novenas*

*Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday*

*Saint Joseph-8 AM. Wednesday*

*Divine Mercy-8 AM. Friday*

*Parish Membership*

Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the parish is requested to register at the Rectory or go to our website for a registration form. If you move to another parish, or change your address, notify the Rectory.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:*

*“PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,*

*MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.*

*EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED*

*AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW.”*

—LUKE 3:4-5

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

OLP

### *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)*

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of this process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of initiation. For further information contact the Faith Formation office.

### *Sacrament of Baptism*

This Sacrament is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. It is required that parents participate in a Pre-Baptismal class. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month. Registration is required by calling the parish office.

### *Sacrament of Marriage*

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible so as to ensure a proper time and adequate preparation for this Sacrament. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounters are required.

### *Anointing of the Sick Ministry to the Sick and Elderly*

This Sacrament of healing expresses the love of God and our Church for our sick, our shut-ins and the elderly, unable to come to Church. For the dying, please contact the Rectory immediately. For the confined, the elderly and our shut-ins, whether at home, or in the hospital, please inform the Rectory.

## From The Pastor's Desk

### - Being God's Great Work-



**As Christians, we do not keep the time of our earthly lives by the weeks of passing calendar years.**

Rather, we measure time according to the day of Christ Jesus. It is now, keeping Holy the Sabbath Day.

We live between Masses, caught between the tension of earthly time and eternal time, between life and death. We keep life not by the air we breathe but the grace we receive.

This is the good work in us which Saint Paul refers to today...the seeds of grace planted in us by almighty God must produce the fruit of holiness which gives life to the rest of this spiritually starved world. And when exactly did this good work begin?

It began before there ever was a creation of this universe. Wednesday we will celebrate Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, that day we are also reminded of our own Immaculate Conception.

Having been conceived not in the womb of our mother, as though that were the exact moment God became aware of our existence; rather, conceived as a concept, an idea and image formed in the eternal mind that the Holy Trinity has contemplated and loved always. For God who is perfect can only form perfect ideas and images.

And as any architect first imagines an idea that he puts to a blueprint before the first nail is hammered, God has formed His perfect idea of you and me and put it to the perfect blueprint of His Son, our Savior, in whose image and likeness we take flesh and blood in this earthly life.

The Prophet Baruch makes this idea of our awesome dignity more clear, having said this morning: "Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever wrapped in the cloak of justice."

The robe of mourning and misery is the reality of this world of sin and suffering that we are plunged into at the moment of our birth. But the cloak of justice that we wrap around ourselves is the beauty and power of our Lord's Incarnation. The Incarnation is that splendid seed of glory which is placed in our souls at the moment of our baptism.

This is the seed of perfection that we must tend to and nurture insuring that this seed grow.

We already have placed within ourselves our eternity. Holy Communion binds us to God as to a spouse, but with no till death do us part. Our Heaven grows inside us. And in this season of bright illumination and splendid decoration, it may not be difficult for us to imagine what this means.

At conception we are given physical bodies and simultaneously our souls and the rest of our lives will be spent decorating. However, these are decorations of grace that for the moment we are not able to fully see, like the seed which grows silent and invisible beneath snow covered fields.

These decorations are our response to graces which are constantly offered to us, nowhere more fully than when receiving the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confession.

Again as the Solemnity of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception reminds us, she was preserved from all stain of sin because God had given her the fullness of His grace. But is this not our experience when receiving Christ in Confession and Holy Communion? Who do we receive if not that same fullness of Grace who is almighty God Himself? And what is this fullness exactly?

It is not a fullness in the sense of having a glass and pouring liquid to its bottom and having it rise and stop at the rim. For if God's fullness was such that it had a limit, then how could we say that God is infinite? How can one place a limit on God's love and power and still have Him as God?

Though weighed down by the burden of a mortal and corrupting body, we have had placed inside us the seed of immortality which is the power of our Lord's Resurrected Glory. We have the infinity of God inside us which as it grows will never have a termination point, for if it did then Heaven would be as temporary as this earth, and all its joys and peace as well.

This is the great gift of Advent, which is a message of life in the face of sin, suffering and death. Even though we are exposed to the darkness of our continual dying in our mortal frames, and the continual oppression of temptations resisted and indulged, we have the seed of eternity within us growing... as once the Infant Christ grew in the womb of Mary.

Saint Paul reminds us of this crucial truth: "this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality."

We have to tend to this immortality against the corrupting influences of fear and sin. Every single thought and action of goodness adorns our immortality. During Christmas, we are awed by so many lavish and beautiful displays of the season. We decorate our Heaven here on earth by our fidelity. Every single prayer we utter is a seed.

Every Mass we attend is not just one seed, but so many past counting. Every Confession, again seeds planted passed counting. Every Novena, every Rosary, every temptation resisted, more seeds growing into a form and beauty beyond imagination. Every word from Scripture or spiritual book read or listened to attentively nourishes those seeds of grace.

And when we have at last breathed our last in this world, which grows constantly dark around us, we are brought into a field of glory which is exploding with beauties which will take us an eternity to contemplate.

**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 5, 2021**

***Parish Office Hours:***  
Monday-Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM  
Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

***Assumption Catholic School***

Mrs. Stacy Clements, Principal - (203) 334-6271  
Grades: Pre-K 3 through 8 Hours: 8:40 AM - 3 PM  
Before and After School Programs Available  
(Before School program begins at 7:00 AM and After School program ends 5:30 PM)

***Faith Formation***

Mr. Frank Macari, Director - (203) 367-1108  
Email address: Our.lady.assumption@snet.net  
Tuesday Classes For Grades 1-5 from 4-5 PM  
For Grades 6-8 from 7-8 PM  
Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM  
and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM (during school year)

***Parish Finance Council***

Our parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons established to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the church. The chairman is Ron Fiske, (203) 330-0375.

***Parish Activities***

***American Heritage Girls Troop #4862:*** Monthly (except summer), 3rd Saturdays, 2:30 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com.

***Altar Society of St. Joseph the Worker:*** Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month following 7:30 AM Mass. Cleans and beautifies the Sanctuary and chapels in the church.

***Alcoholics Anonymous*** Friday, 8:00 PM, parish hall.

***Narcotics Anonymous*** Wednesday 7:30 PM, parish hall.

***Bible Study:*** Thursdays, 9:15 AM and 7 PM, parish center. Study sessions will be posted in our bulletin. Currently suspended.

***Choir: Adults:*** Wednesday, 7 PM in the church.

***Resurrection Choir:*** Sings at funeral Masses.

Contact Michael Cooney, Director of Music, at (203) 572-2213 or email music@olaffld.org for details. Currently suspended

***Knights of Columbus:*** Monthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 PM parish hall. Grand Knight Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528 or email mplauzon@aol.com.

***Parish Nurses:*** Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, Sept. to June, at 7 PM St. Vincent Medical Center

***Blood pressure screening:*** Currently suspended

***Sisters in Faith:*** Monthly, 2nd Monday, 7 - 9 PM, parish hall, except July & August. Ministry for women of Assumption Church. Mary Garbe at marygarbe@gmail.com.

***Mass Intentions***



**Saturday, December 4th**

4:00 p.m. Martin Shea

**Sunday, December 5th**

7:30 a.m. Linda Pucci (2nd yr. Anniversary)

9:00 a.m. Charles Paroskie

10:30 a.m. Barbara Karpinski

12:00 p.m. Tomislav Kolarich

**Weekday Masses**

Mon. 12/6 7:30 a.m. Brenda Foley

5:30 p.m. Timoteo DeBenedittis

Tues. 12/7 7:30 a.m. Jeanette McConachie

5:30 p.m. Patricia & Richard Kelley

Wed. 12/8 7:30 a.m. Luisa Marie Vaz & Family

12:10 p.m. Thomas Griffen

5:30 p.m. Sr. Nancy Burke

Thurs. 12/9 7:30 a.m. Esteban Valenzuela, Sr.

5:30 p.m. Rose Pucci

Fri. 12/10 7:30 a.m. Heather Beach

5:30 p.m. Maria Almeida

Sat. 12/11 7:30 a.m. Patricia Ann Hefferon

**Saturday, December 11th**

4:00 p.m. Dorothy Samsel

**Sunday, December 12th**

7:30 a.m. Patricia & Richard Kelley

9:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Herman Winkler

10:30 a.m. Carl A. Kleinknecht, Sr.

12:00 p.m. Victims of Sandy Hook & their families



*Our Sanctuary Light  
Will burn this week in  
Loving Memory of  
Amy Boda*

*Our Devotional Light  
Will burn this week for those  
who passed away during  
the month of December*



***PRAY FOR OUR SICK***

Mary Alberico

Paul Alvarez

Josephine Amiot

Christopher Amiot

Lorraine Artale

Ellie Art

Rita Bellavance

Carol Bertanza

Michael Black

Gene Bullard

Eleanor Bruckmann

Letitia Ciccio

Brian Coleman

Lucille Costello

Nicholas DeMaio

Michael Devaney

Larry DiPalma

Tricia Duffy

Dolores Kuczo

Dcn Joe Gagne

Diane & Anthony

Gilbertie

Charles Gordon

Holly Graham

Leanne Gransden

Amy Hanson

John Howley

Clare Kelleher

Harold Liskov

Jamie Mack

Noah Martinez

Kaitlin McLaughlin

Norma McNerney

Rita Meyers

Frank Minardi

Meghan Moore

Leroy Moyer

Al Panico

Craig Renzulli

Gerry Ressigue

John Salgado

Donna Schmidt

David Van Vlack

Patty Vitola

K.J. Webb

**November 20/21**

Weekend Offertory:	\$5,482.00
Online Giving:	\$2,312.00
2nd Collection	\$1,889.00
(Health and Welfare Fund for the Retired Priests of the Diocese of Bridgeport)	

**November 27/28**

Weekend Offertory:	\$5,279.00
Online Giving:	\$2,234.00

*Our second collection next weekend is for the Retired Religious Fund.*

**DONATE Online**

We realize many of our parishioners are still not be able to attend Mass regularly, please consider making your offertory through Online Giving. Please visit our website and click on the Tab "Donate" and create an account.

**Annual Collection Letters**

Annual collection letters have been mailed to our parishioners. Kindly read our "year in review" and prayerfully consider an Annual Gift to our church. No gift is too small and all are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**Christmas Flowers in Memoriam**

Remember your loved ones during this Christmas season in a very special way by making a Christmas Flower donation in their name. A memorial list will be displayed in our parish bulletin during the Christmas season. Please use the envelope provided in your envelope packet. Flower envelopes may be placed in any offertory basket or you can mail it to the rectory. **Due to the early submission of our bulletin during Christmas, please return your donation and completed envelope by Monday, December 13th.**

**Blessing and Lighting of the Crèche**

Please come share in the spectacular blessing and lighting of the crèche led by our Knights of Columbus and Fr. Cipriani on **Tuesday, December 7th at 7:45 PM**. All are welcome!

**Parish Finance Council**

The Council has completed the **OLA 1st quarter review (7-1-21 to 9-30-21)** covering statements of financial position and activities. As always, these reports have been filed with the Diocese and are now available to all parishioners. Reports can be found on the table in the parish hall entry way. Please take home a copy. Our parish continues to be fiscally sound and the Parish Finance Council members join Father Cipriani in thanking you for your continuing support.

Ron Fiske, Chairman, Parish Finance Council



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of MARY

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Wednesday, December 8th** is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated on:

**5:30 PM Vigil (12/7)**  
**7:30 AM**  
**12:10 PM**  
**5:30 PM**

**Sandy Hook 9th Anniversary**

You, your family and friends are invited to attend this **special Mass on Sunday, December 12 at 12:00 PM** to pray, honor and pay tribute to the 20 heavenly angels, their 6 loving protectors who lost their lives on December 14, 2012, and their faithful and devoted families. Father Peter Cipriani is honored to be your celebrant for this most reflective and compassionate Mass.

**2021 Christmas Mass Schedule**

The clean up and repairs in the church continues each day; however, it is clear at this point, the church will not be ready to use for our Charismas Masses. Masses will continue in our parish hall and due to the limited seating allowed, we are asking **parishioners to reserve your seats for any Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass**. When registering, please indicate the number of people attending and include their names in the comment section. As in the past, an email via Flocknotes will be sent to **registered parishioners** and will contain the sign up information. Please look for the email on **Monday, December 6**. Thank you for your patients and understanding. The revised Mass schedule for Christmas Eve & Charismas Day in the hall is as follows:

**Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM  
 5:30 PM  
 7:00 PM (added Mass)  
 11:00 PM (Adult Choir)

**Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day**

7:30 AM  
 9:00 AM  
 10:30 AM (Adult Choir)  
 12:00 PM



Due to the restriction and limitations in the parish hall, this year's Lessons & Carols has been **CANCELED**.

### Best Advent Ever

There are things that draw you toward the light. And there are things that draw you into the darkness. So much of the world wants to draw you into the darkness of worry, fear, procrastination, negative self-talk, toxic relationships...the list goes on.

This Advent, discover and choose the things that draw you to the light! Get inspiring daily video reflections sent straight to your inbox—for free. Taken from Matthew Kelly's life-changing new book, *Life Is Messy*, each reflection will help you infuse your life with prayer, reading, authentic love of self, genuine friendship, beautiful kindness and so much more!

And when Christmas arrives, you'll be ready to share the light you've gathered along the way!

Please visit: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html> to sign up for emails.

### Assumption Church Giving Tree

**This weekend** Assumption Parish will continue our Christmas tradition of the Giving Tree. These gifts will be donated to various local charities in our area serving children, teens, adults and seniors.

Due to the limitation of space in the parish hall, a small tree and a bin with tags can be found in the entry of the hall. Take a tag or two as you enter or leave the hall. We will also, once again this year have a our VIRTUAL Giving Tree at: [tinyurl.com/OLAGivingTree2021](http://tinyurl.com/OLAGivingTree2021). Please help us with the collection of gifts by following the guidelines below:



- **Purchase the gift**
- **Place in gift bag, please do not wrap**
- **Attach original gift tag**
- **Return gift(s) by the tree/table in the hall by Sunday, December 19th by noon or use our drive-thru drop-off offered on Sunday, the 19th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00p.m.**

Thank you for your participation. Your gift will make someone very happy this Christmas.

My Dear Friends in Christ:

I am writing to share important information about a new initiative regarding financial reporting at the parish, school and diocesan levels.

According to the diocesan Parish Finance Manual that was issued last year, every parish and diocesan school is required to report annually the results of their financial activities for the fiscal year ending June 30. In order for uniformity and consistency in reporting, the diocesan Finance Office has now created a standardized template that will be used going forward by all parishes and diocesan schools throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport. The Diocese, and its related entities will also use the same template to issue their annual financial reports on the same day that the parishes and schools make their reports.

I have determined that the first Sunday of December every year will be known as "Accountability Sunday." On that day, this reporting will occur, and every parish and school, as well as the Diocese and its related entities will publish their annual financial reports simultaneously. This year, "Accountability Sunday" will fall on Sunday, December 5, 2021.

In short, the purpose of "Accountability Sunday" is to ensure financial transparency, to communicate to all parishioners and donors that good stewardship is being practiced and to provide a standard report that is consistent and straightforward. Individual reports will be made accessible via either parish bulletin or parish websites, school websites and the diocesan website. This new method of reporting comes after many months of preparation and is intended to ensure that the financial transparency already in place will be manifest in a new and more uniform presentation.

As we take this historic step, I wish to thank you for your continued support and generosity. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families, especially as we begin this holy season of Advent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Frank J. Caggiano*

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport



### R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

#### *Who is it for?*

#### It is for you:

- If you have not been Baptized or received First Communion/Confirmation
- If you as an adult want to know more about your faith
- If you feel your faith is just a habit and you want to know more

#### It could be for:

- Someone interested in knowing about the Catholic faith
- Someone who might consider becoming a member of the Catholic Church
- Someone who has no church to call their own
- Someone who is a member of another faith community and has expressed an interest in the Catholic faith

Please contact the Faith Formation office at **203-367-1108** or by email at [our.lady.assumption@snet.net](mailto:our.lady.assumption@snet.net) for more information.

### St. Jude Christmas Fundraiser



Sponsored by Our Lady of the Assumption Knights of Columbus #11077, these adorable stuffed Christmas Bear and Puppy, designed by St. Jude patients, **will be on sale at the parish hall after all Masses this weekend and next weekend, December 11/12.** They are \$20 each and make great gifts for anyone on your list, including the Giving Tree. The profits go to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Thank you for your support for this great charity.

### Sisters In Faith

THANKS so much for supporting our **Pies for Thanksgiving!** We were able to donate 15 pies to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

**Gingerbread House Kits:** Please come to the Hall before any of the Masses on the weekend of **December 11/12** to pick up your Gingerbread House Kits! THANKS so much for your support of the Boys & Girls Village Kakes for Kids Program! Helping Hands and Praying Hands at work!

### Parishioner's Corner

Looking for some further outstanding reflections on the Sunday Mass Reading? Please visit Assumption's own Dr. Frank DeStefano's wonderful "*Sunday Sunday*" blogs at <https://doctorfrank.blogspot.com/>.



#### *Newly Baptized:*

*Last weekend we welcomed*

**Monroe Kate Parmon**

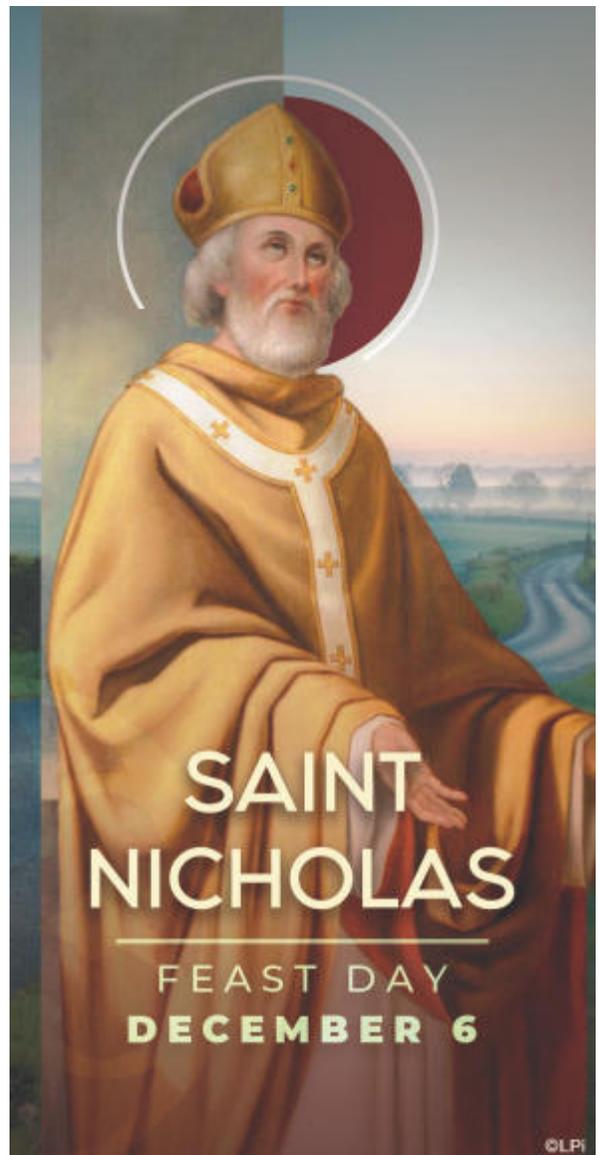
*into the Roman Catholic Faith, through the saving waters of Baptism.*

### Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Baruch 5:1-9/Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/ Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11/Luke 3:1-6
Monday:	Isaiah 35:1-10/Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Isaiah 40:1-11/Psalm 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Genesis 3:9-15, 20/Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12/Luke 1:26-38
Thursday:	Isaiah 41:13-20/Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Matthew 11:11-15
Friday:	Isaiah 48:17-19/Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. John 8:12]/Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11/Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Zephaniah 3:14-18a/Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/ Philippians 4:4-7/Luke 3:10-18

### Communion Antiphon

**"Tell no one what you have seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." - Psalm 97:1**



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## Welcome Back to Mass



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