

ASSUMPTION PARISH MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Assumption Parish is comprised of a multitude of ministry, service, and outreach programs. Each program or ministry makes an incalculable contribution to the flowing of the Holy Spirit – giving life and substance to the Word, to our Liturgies, to the Sacraments, and to the service of neighbor.

Liturgical

- Altar Servers
- Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
- Lectors
- Ushers
- Music Ministry
- Deaf Ministry
- Children's Worship
- Liturgy, Decorations and Altar Linen Committees

Social and Support Ministries

- Hospitality and Welcoming
- Centering Prayer
- Holistic Healing
- Bereavement
- Bethany Ministry
- Moms and Tots
- Youth Ministry
- Young Professionals Ministry
- Senior Citizens
- Nursing Home Ministry
- Respect Life

Outreach Ministries

- Food pantry
- Frozen Dinners
- Giving Tree
- Family Promise
- Community Soup Kitchen
- Knights of Columbus
- CYO Basketball
- Scouting

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Great care is taken to ensure that all of our liturgies are beautiful, moving, and cohesive expressions of the love between God and his people. Through careful planning, the celebrant and the Director of Music ensure that the flow of each liturgy remains reverent and prayerful at all times. In choice of music, prayer, and decoration of the worship space, we strive to tie all elements of liturgy together (in keeping with the liturgical season and/or feast day) in order to enhance the worship experience of our parish community.

We know that the youth of the parish are the future of God's church, and so we committed to ensuring that the children and youth of our parish feel that they can contribute to, and be enriched by, our various liturgies. To that end, we instituted a Sunday evening Youth Mass in the fall of 2005. Through our Children's Worship Ministry, our younger children participate in many activities, liturgies and processions throughout the year.

- **Youth and Family Mass** – Each Sunday evening throughout the school year, (with the exception of Holy Days and major Holidays) a Youth and Family Mass is held at 5:30 p.m. Throughout this liturgy, members of our Youth Ministry serve as ushers, lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. Members of our Youth Choir provide all liturgical music and Mass parts, as well as instrumental accompaniment. Music for this Mass is selected by the teens under the direction of the Director of Music. Training of all ministerial roles is done by the corresponding coordinator, but scheduling and assignments are prepared by teen members of each ministry. Homily themes are geared towards the youth of the parish, so that they can apply the Good News of the Gospel to their own lives.

ALTAR SERVERS

The Altar Server Ministry is open to all boys and girls from the fourth grade and above. This ministry assists the priest at the celebration of Mass. The Altar Server or in the proper name, Acolyte, has an important part in the celebration of the Mass. It is the Altar Server who leads the procession into the church for the beginning of the Mass, makes sure the book of prayers is available for the priest and leads the faithful from the back of the church to the altar for the Offertory Procession. The Altar Server is also responsible for getting the Chalice to the altar, presenting the priest or Deacon with the water and the wine, taking part in the priest's washing of hands and leading the recessional after Mass.

Training sessions are held in the fall and spring each year. Trainees attend a minimum of four training classes before being installed. Schedule is prepared quarterly and servers are scheduled at approximately one liturgy per month.

For more information please call the parish office at 973-539-2141.

Eucharistic Ministers

One of the liturgical ministries that arose as a result of the Liturgical renewal of Vatican Council II, is the sacred ministry of becoming a *Eucharist Minister*. It is an extreme honor to be able to become the hands and feet enabling Christ to offer His body and blood to all His dear people.

There are approximately 75 members of Assumption parish who serve as Eucharistic Ministers. They are most visible at our weekday and Sunday Liturgies where they help with the distribution of Holy Communion. Without their help, we would not be able to offer the precious blood on a regular basis. Many of these ministers also take the Eucharist to the homebound and elderly who are unable to come to church. Another group of ministers distribute Holy Communion in nursing homes such as Pine Acres, Morris Hills, Spring Hills, and Lyons Veterans Hospital. There are also members of our parish who help at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

The schedule is prepared quarterly by a volunteer coordinator. Ministers are selected/invited by the pastor, who also participates in their training. Training takes place annually and new ministers are commissioned with the blessing of Bishop Serratelli on the Feast of Corpus Christi.

For more information please call Hope Zenker at 973-401-1010.

Lectors

Another liturgical ministry that has grown as a result of the reforms of the Vatican Council II, is the *Ministry of Lector*. Lay men and women are blessed to be enabled to use their voice to proclaim the Word of God to the glory and praise of His kingdom of life. Assumption is blessed to have 45 parishioners who volunteer to lector at the regularly scheduled weekend Masses and at selected services on Holy Days. With the exception of the Sunday 7:00 a.m. Mass, which has one lector, two lectors are scheduled for each Mass. To the extent possible, lectors rotate through each of the regularly scheduled Masses and alternate between the first and second readings.

Lectors are selected/invited by the Pastor or Associate. Lectors are trained on an “as needed” basis and scheduled quarterly by a volunteer coordinator.

This ministry provides an opportunity to actively participate in the Liturgy of the Word. Lectoring offers an opportunity to increase one’s knowledge of the Scriptures

For more information please call Andrea Bozzi at 973-656-9864.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Assumption Church's *Music Ministry* is comprised of a group of dedicated professionals and volunteers who seek to honor God through musical expression. We endeavor to provide music of all styles to enhance and uplift our worship experience and encourage the musical participation of the Assumption congregants. We invite people of all ages to come and "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord". To that end our Children's, Junior and Adult Choirs rehearse weekly. Our Cantors or Psalmists, Leaders of Song, Organists, Choir Members, Instrumentalists, and the Director of Music Ministries join the worshipping assembly at special and weekend liturgies throughout the liturgical year.

For more information call Claudia Nardi at 973-539-2141 ext. 19.

Ushers

A fundamental element of being a worshipping community is the warmth of our hospitality. To old and newcomers alike, our ushers are there to welcome and assist in seating all who come together to worship and praise our God. Some of their other duties are to find people to bring up the gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory, take up the collection, wish the people a fine day or evening when they are leaving and hand out bulletins.

For information please call Tony Romano at 973-267-5433.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Children's Worship at Assumption Church allows all children to become active participants in Sunday Liturgies. The Children's Worship Team is responsible for planning Masses, processions, and prayer services for our children. Members of the Children's Worship Team help to plan and rehearse for these special liturgical events:

- **Children's Service of The Word** – Members of the Children's Worship Team lead children each Sunday during the school year in readings, discussions, prayer and song. Children and their leaders gather in the Community Room during 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday and the 10:00 a.m. Mass so that children hear the readings of the day in language and format that is geared specifically toward them.
- **May Crowning** – Each year all children of the parish are invited to participate in our May Crowning. First Communicants lead the procession with flags, banners and streamers at the conclusion of Mass to crown Mary. All other children are encouraged to join the procession and leave a flower for Mary

For more information please contact Teddi Connor at 973-538-1846.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Perhaps the most vital part of our life as a worshipping community is our Liturgies. From the absolute pinnacle of the Easter Triduum – Holy Thursday – Last Supper, Good Friday – Passion and death, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday – to the regal celebration of Christ’s birth in Christmas, we have interspersed thirty-three Sundays and weeks of “Ordinary Time.” Ordinary, not because they are common uneventful and routine, but rather ordinary because they are an orderly progression of every beautiful facet of our complex and mysterious Salvation history. The *Liturgy Committee* is composed of representatives from various other Ministries which exist in service to our Liturgical celebration – Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Music, and church decoration to name a few.

Contact the parish office at 973-539-2141.

DEAF MINISTRY

Each Sunday, at the 10:00 Mass, pews are reserved for our deaf parishioners and an interpreter is hired to translate the Mass in sign language.

Contact the parish office at 973-539-2141.

PARISH AND SOCIAL AND SUPPORT MINISTRIES

WELCOMING AND HOSPITALITY

Assumption prides itself in being a warm and welcoming parish. As new parishioners join the parish, they are mailed a letter of welcome and a booklet listing the many parish ministries they are invited to join and take part in.

Approximately once a month, "Coffee and . . ." is held in the Community Room following Sunday Masses, giving our parishioners the opportunity to greet and socialize in a informal manner. Each Sunday's "Coffee and . . ." is sponsored by a different parish ministry.

CENTERING PRAYER

The practice of Centering Prayer is a method of silent communion with God, Assumption's Centering Prayer Group has a dedicated room in the Assumption Ministry Center and offers two weekly Centering Prayer sessions. This room is also available at all times to all people of the parish who wish to pray, meditate, or spend some some in the quiet presence of the Lord.

The Centering Prayer groups offers periodic workshops to introduce interested parishioners to the practice of centering prayer.

For more information, contact Fr. Ken Lasch at 973-538-2653.

HOLISTIC HEALING

The Holistic Health Ministry was started in 2000 by two volunteer nurses, who were community health nurses. The Ministry started with monthly blood pressure checks after each Mass. The ministry has a dedicated extension on the main office line for any possible medical needs within the parish.

In 2007, we continue to offer blood pressure checks after all five Masses on the last weekend of the month. We generally have ten to 20 people, after most Masses. The Ministry has 12 active nurses in the parish.

Education programs are held on a regular basis. The nurses are available for home visits to assist in any medical issues confronting families of the parish.

Contact Michele Cameron at 973-769-9634.

We find and serve Christ in the sick, the aged and the disabled. Priests from Assumption celebrate a weekly Mass at two local Nursing facilities. Assumption's Eucharistic Ministers also visit these nursing homes on an additional day to visit and distribute the Eucharist to residents' rooms. An additional team visits another nursing home twice a month for a Communion service,

Bereavement Ministry

The loss of someone we love through death is one of the hardest experiences for a human being to go through. Gratefully, we are not merely human beings, because we are also touched by the divine gift of immortality. Bereavement is a vital part of the process of recognizing and accepting the deep consolation of our being created for everlasting union with our God who is love.

Our *Bereavement Support Group Ministry* assists all those who are grieving the loss of someone they loved. Spiritual insights are combined with topics such as 'common grief emotions', and 'getting through the holidays'.

You are invited to call Marion Lapchak 973-285-1976.

BETHANY MINISTRY

Members of Assumption's Bethany Ministry represent the parish community in providing comfort and support to the families whose loved ones have recently died and have scheduled a funeral liturgy at Assumption Church. Bethany Ministers act as liaisons in assisting the family, Celebrant, and Music Minister in planning the funeral by helping to select readings and identify family members who will participate in the funeral liturgy. Bethany Ministers also provide a welcoming presence to family and friends who have gathered for the funeral and serve in various ministerial roles during the funeral liturgy when needed.

For more information on our Bethany Ministry, contact the parish office at 973-539-2141.

MOMS AND TOTS

Moms and Tots is a support group for families with young children. Our members get-together on a weekly basis on Tuesday mornings in the Parish Center. Moms and Tots provides an opportunity for moms (and dads too) with infants and toddlers to socialize, meet new friends, and discuss topics of interest (including child-rearing, leaving the work force, school concerns, etc). While the adults socialize, the children are provided with toys and snacks, and learn to interact with one another. Although we are a very casual group, we support our members in times of need with meals and babysitting.

For further information, please contact Henriette Kahn at 973-539-1350.

Youth Ministry

All high school students are encouraged to take part in our Youth Group Activities. Upon confirmation, students are invited to become a “peer” minister. Under the guidance of our Youth Minister, peer ministers meet in the Youth room each week to plan several social and service projects. Peer ministers also attend confirmation classes to join in small group discussions. Listed below are some of the activities the youth of our parish are involved in:

- Breakfast with Santa
- Golden Honor Roll
- Annual Golf Outing
- Annual Mission trip to Appalachia or the Gulf Coast region
- Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening.

Lisa Sullivan is our Youth Minister and can be reached at 973-267-8519.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Assumption's fledgling Young Professionals Ministry strives to provide opportunities for participants to gather and socialize in a Christian environment. It is intended for Catholic Young Adults and their friends, in their 20's and 30's, married or single, to meet together at local bars, restaurants, and parish halls to listen to a speaker, share conversation, and gain new insights into God's place in their daily life.

Contact Fr. Przemek at 973-539-2141 to learn more.



SENIOR CITIZENS

Our *Senior Citizens* gather on the second Thursday of each month after the 12:05 Mass; usually in our Community Room. We enjoy each other's company, share lunch and listen to a speaker or video on topics of interest.

We sponsor days of Recollection at St. Mary's Abbey/Delbarton and Loyola Retreat House. We welcome new members and new ideas for activities. We have no minimum (or maximum) age standard.

Please call Jeanne Hanly at 973-539-4766 for more information.



GOLDEN HONOR ROLL

As a way to thank our senior members who, throughout the years have contributed so much of to the ministerial life of the parish, each year the pastor identifies several senior citizens for enrollment in the ***Assumption Parish Golden Honor Roll***.

Members of Assumption's Youth Ministry then interview the honorees about their involvement with the parish and write a brief summary that is published in the parish bulletin. In conjunction with a Sunday liturgy, the same youth ministry members then make a presentation of a plaque and flowers to the recipient. Their names are also inscribed on a board in the Community Room.

This program fosters inter-generational relationships and help the youth of the parish learn about service and commitment from those who are older. Seniors, in turn, are rightfully recognized and thanked for their many contributions to Assumption.

Contact the parish office at 973-539-2141.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Assumption Parish is dedicated to helping the poor and needy – whether they are close to home or far away. This commitment is evident in our many ministries and programs designed to help the poor. Besides the specific ministries listed on the following pages, following is a partial listing of our ongoing outreach commitments:

- Each year we take a special collection for **Holy Trinity Parish** in Passaic (our adoptive “sister” parish) to help offset their operating expenses. Several clothing drives have also been run to help Holy Trinity parishioners.
- Each year we host several fundraisers for **Africa Surgery Inc**, a non-profit charity started by lifelong parishioner, Tom Johnson, who works to provide much-needed medical care and surgery for citizens in Sierra Leone. We have also recently begun to support the work of Judy Collins and **From Houses to Homes**, which provides housing to Guatemalans in need.
- Each year we send over 50 teens and their leaders on a mission trip to repair and rebuild homes in Appalachia or the Gulf Coast region.
- In the weeks leading to Thanksgiving, designated “**Turkey**” envelopes are placed in the pews. Parishioners are encouraged to donate \$15 for those in need. The funds collected in these envelopes are used to fund non-perishable food items for approximately 15 food baskets given to local families each Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. This collection also funds our year-round food voucher program, in which we are able to give Shop Rite food vouchers to countless local residents who come to us in need of fresh food.
- In recent years, Assumption parishioners have joined with neighboring parishes to provide food and household items in the **Food Drive for Haiti**.
- Assumption also has an **Endowment for the Poor** set aside to help those in need, and overseen by a Board of Directors who decides how and when to distribute the interest from the fund.



FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry at Assumption has a long history in the Morristown community.

Assumption has answered the call to feed the hungry for many years. Those who come to us in need are helped by your generosity. The numbers became so great throughout Morristown, that a meeting of the churches was held in 1994. The result was the creation of the Interfaith Food Pantry. Since its inception, the Interfaith Food Pantry has received Assumption's wholehearted support with food and funds. Concerts, fund-raisers, volunteers and food have helped meet the ever-growing needs of our community. The Interfaith Food Pantry has now moved to a donated facility on West Hanover Avenue.

At Thanksgiving our on-premises Food Pantry supplies families in Morristown and Paterson with dinners and food coupons. Funds donated at Thanksgiving are used for coupons, which help us to continue this work throughout the year. At Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, volunteers assemble food baskets which are picked up or delivered to families in Morristown. Every weekend Assumption parishioners volunteer to shelve the food that is so generously donated.

Assumption's school and Religious Education program remember our Food Pantry and have drives during the school year to support this work. Just recently donations were received from the Scouts and the Knights of Columbus. As a community, we strongly support our on-premises food pantry and the Interfaith Food Pantry. Through the Food Pantry, some of the dinners that are collected by Bob Rohr, and Assumption Scouts, are distributed to our Morristown families who are grateful for them.

To learn more call Claudia Nardi at 973-539-2141 extension 19.



FROZEN DINNER PROGRAM

Several times throughout the year, parishioners are invited to bring an empty food pan home and return them the following weekend – filled with a nutrition frozen meal for working poor families. The food pans are delivered to the **Father English Center** in Paterson. Most of the recipients are not on welfare because they work 2-3 minimum wage jobs, but high rents and lack of health insurance limit their ability to provide good nutritious meals for their family.

For more information please call the parish office at 973-539-2141.



THE GIVING TREE

Assumption Parish adopts 11 organizations and provides gifts to approximately 1200 needy children and adults at Christmastime. In August, organizations are contacted and asked to supply the names and needs of people within their organization. Tags are distributed at church in mid-November and parishioners buy gifts for their designated person. Gifts are then collected after masses during advent, and organizations receive their presents in mid-December. Volunteers are used after all masses during advent, to collect and check-in gifts, bag gifts for organizations, and buy any gifts which are still needed.

For more information, contact Brian Morgan at 973-455-0546.



Homeless Shelters

For more than ten years, volunteers from Assumption Church and other local congregations have been participating with *Family Promise* in operating a network of emergency shelters for homeless families.

Each year, on four occasions, Assumption parish volunteers assist in hosting a week-long emergency shelter at the Church of the Redeemer in Morristown, along with volunteers from the Unitarian Fellowship and the Church of the Redeemer. As a result of this program over the past ten years, 254 homeless families have received shelter, and 40,000 shelter beds have been provided to 729 homeless family members, more than half of which were children.

Learn more by calling Mary Dougherty at 973-538-9003.



THE COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN

The *Community Soup Kitchen* of Morristown, Inc., is a concerted effort on the part of 34 congregations throughout Morris County to follow one of the mandates of the Lord, and that is to "Feed the Hungry". Volunteers from Assumption contribute toward that end by providing and serving complete meals for 80 to 160 hungry men, women and children who appear at the Church of the Redeemer daily at noontime for a hearty meal. By Our volunteers staff the Soup Kitchen on the 3rd and 4th Mondays of each month.

Please call Annaliese Rush at 973 455-0391 for more information.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternity of Catholic men, founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and become involved with individuals who are dedicated to the same Catholic ideals as you are. Our activities are centered on support of the Church, Family, Youth, Community and our Council. We are especially attentive to the struggles of the poor, providing food and clothing. We support these endeavors through a number of events we sponsor and through financial contributions. We also maintain a life insurance program. If you would like to grow in your faith, meet like-minded Catholic men and their families and give something back to society, give us a call. All we ask of each member is that he contribute at least five hours a year.

For more information, please call Tom DePoortere at 973-514-2028.



CYO BASKETBALL

C.Y.O. (Catholic Youth Organization) Basketball addresses the essential aspect of exercising not only our Spiritual side, but also our physical bodies. CYO Basketball consists of boys and girls in grades 4 through 8. There are approximately 110 children in the program, forming nine teams, four Junior Varsity and five Varsity. This organization is open to all children of Assumption parish, and also to the neighboring parishes that don't have C.Y.O. Basketball. Our ministry has 36 volunteers which include coaches, score keepers, time keepers, and team mothers. Registration is at the end of September. The season opener is Thanksgiving weekend and comes to an end in the middle of March. All games are played on Sunday afternoon, with practice twice a week.

For further information, contact Kevin Bopp at 917-861-2876.



SCOUTING

Assumption Parish is proud to host Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack #34, who meet in our parish center and provide opportunities for service to the young boys and men of our community. The scouts host several fundraisers (i.e. Christmas wreaths and Mother's Day plant sales) each year and are always available and willing to contribute to any need that arises within the parish and lend a helping hand to many of our service projects.

For more information contact Mike Loughman (boy scouts) at 973-714-8342
or John Gallo (cub scouts) at 973-699-1996

Assumption parish also holds an Annual Boy Scout Sunday and a Girl Scout Sunday in which scouts of the parish are awarded special badges and recognition for learning more about their

faith.

Assumption Parish

Led by the Holy Spirit



*We believe that Jesus Christ
breathes His Spirit on us
so that we can strive to become
a more perfect expression
of the Good News
in all aspects of everyday life.*