Assumption Church

464 State St N, PO Box 9 Eden Valley, MN 55329

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



February • March • April Quarterly Newsletter

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A LETTER FROM FATHER AARON

Dear Friends,

"I hope in the Lord, I trust in His word." In the beautiful psalm 130, we proclaim hope in our Beloved Lord who lifts us up in our time of need and gives us reason to trust in Him for good things to come.

I continue to grow in my amazement at how good and generous God has been to us. Through all the trials of the past two years, and the current trials we endure,



we still have much to give thanks for. I continue to be impressed with people stepping up to volunteer in various capacities including, faith formation, youth ministry, Eucharistic Adoration, ministries at Mass, funeral lunches and in many other ways. There are so many areas of service that parish life provides. God is certainly at work in generous and joyful hearts that serve so selflessly. Thank you all so much for your witness!

I am looking forward in hope for what God will do in the upcoming parish events. Firstly, we are set to have a great Lenten Mission with Deacon Ralph Poyo. Deacon Ralph is a dynamic preacher who will come to preach the Masses on March 26th & 27th, and will also preach a retreat through March 30th. His aim is to light hearts on fire with the Holy Spirit to make strong disciples of Christ. Please keep this retreat in your prayers. The Lenten Season is a particularly graced time in which God helps open our hearts to new possibilities and new life in Christ.

As the days grow longer so too does our excitement grow for spring. As spring training begins and the athletes burst on to the field with great excitement, so too our youth wait for their turn to "get on the field" for the wonderful opportunities provided for them through the parishes. Our staff is working hard to help promote our Steubenville trip and the new Extreme Faith Camp, for grades 6th to 8th. There is something for all ages this summer as Totus Tuus and Vacation Bible School are on the schedule as well. And there is even an opportunity for the "older kids" as a Boundary Waters Retreat for adults is being planned for the summer. I have great hope for this summer to be a time of growth in faith, community and joy!

My brothers and sisters my heart is filled with gratitude to God for you, and for all He has given to us. Please keep me in your prayers, as you will remain in mine. I say it again, I hope in the Lord, I trust in His word!

In Christ,

Father Aaron

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February

02: Relationship Speaker, 6:30 WAT

04: Rosary/Potluck, 6:00 PM WAT

12: Women's Group, 7AM WAT

12: Cabin Fever Reliever, 5-10PM WAT

13: Sub Fundraiser EV & WAT

26: Women's Group, 7AM WAT

27: Youth Breakfast, 8:30-12:30 WAT

March

02: Ash Wednesday Mass, 5PM WAT, 7PM EV

04: Rosary/Potluck, 6:00 PM WAT

04: Stations of the Cross, 6PM, EV

11: Assumption Fish Fry, 4-7PM EV

11: Stations of the Cross, 6PM, EV

12: Women's Group, 7AM WAT

18: Stations of the Cross, 6PM, EV

20: COF Soup & Bouja Sale WAT

25: Stations of the Cross, 6PM, WAT

26: Women's Group, 7AM WAT

26-30: Lenten Mission (Dcn. Ralph Poyo)

April

01: St. Anthony Fish Fry, 4-7PM WAT

01: Stations of the Cross, 6PM, WAT

08: Stations of the Cross, 6PM, WAT

09: Women's Group, 7AM WAT

10: Lenten Penance Service, 7-9 WAT

14: Holy Thursday Mass, 7PM WAT

15: Good Friday Service, 3PM WAT, 6PM EV

16: Easter Vigil, 8:30 PM, EV

23: Women's Group, 7AM WAT

Weekly Meetings:

Men's Group meets each Saturday morning, 7:30 rosary, 8:00 meeting at Assumption EV

EV = Assumption, Eden Valley **WAT** = St. Anthony, Watkins







FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

In light of the speaker event hosted by the faith formation program on February 2^{nd'} *Life, Relationships, and the Pursuit of Authentic Love;* I want to discuss the importance of chastity within each stage of the Christian life. Chastity is a virtue, it wills the highest good of another, it is authentic love--



God's design for human sexuality. *According to* Pope John Paul II, "Chastity by no means signifies rejection of human sexuality or lack of esteem for it: rather it signifies spiritual energy capable of defending love from the perils of selfishness and aggressiveness and is able to advance it towards its full realization." Although chastity is unchanging, it looks different in every stage of life.

Sex is a renewal of the marital vows, but you cannot renew something that does not exist. Anyone who seeks to do so, is lying with their body. Thus, sex outside of marriage is inconsistent with God's plan. Chastity also extends to those actions that arouse the body, preparing it for sex. If we arouse another outside of marital intercourse, we lie with our bodies. Thus, sexually arousing actions belong only within marital intercourse. Chastity remains present beyond the moment of "I do." By its free, faithful, total, and fruitful nature, marital sex holds no part of oneself back and remains open to conception. Natural Family Planning provides an opportunity for married couples to practice love in accord with God's design.

Because we are a broken people, chastity is easier said than done. However, if parents expect their children to remain chaste before marriage, they should set an example of chastity within their own marriage. "Chastity is a difficult, long-term matter; one must wait patiently for it to bear fruit, for the happiness of loving kindness which it must bring. But at the same time, chastity is the sure way to happiness." -JP2

Youth Ministry Update

Hello parishioners of St. Anthony and Assumption! I'm very thankful for how this new year has started. For our first youth night, we had over forty $9^{th}-11^{th}$ graders! That is the most this year and I can already start seeing positive changes in some of our students. Youth nights are a great opportunity for the students to have both their spiritual and physical bellies filled! Please keep praying and encouraging students to attend.

Students also have opportunities to attend a few retreats and they have opportunities to fundraise Steubenville and Extreme Faith Camp as well. Please save these dates in your calendars.

Steubenville: 8th-12th Graders, **July 14th-17th**

Extreme Faith Camp: 5th-8th Graders. June 13th - 17th

Totus Tuus: K-12th Graders. **June 25th-July 1st** Vacation Bible School: Pre K – 3rd **August 1st – 5th**

We are currently asking for donations for both Steubenville and Extreme Faith Camp to help more students attend. If you know a student attending and would like to make a donation to them specifically, please let me know at evwyouthministry@gmail.com or we will happily take general donations as well. If any parishioners want to donate their time to any of these events, please let me know this also.

Please keep me and the youth program in your prayers, Sam Mettler.

Encounter Christ this Summer

- Steubenville July 14th-17th
 - Current 8th-12th Grade
- Extreme Faith Camp June 13th-17th
 - Current 5th-8th Grade







Sponsored by St. Anthony & Assumption

March 27-30, 2022 (times and locations TBD)

Night #1 - God's Saving Plan

Night #2 - Spiritual Warfare

Night #3 - Living in the Holy Spirit

Night #4 - Grounded in Discipleship

Dcn. Poyo will also be at all the weekend Masses prior to the mission.

November-December-January

LOOK WHO'S NEW!

Nick & Stacy Lee Wendell & Penny Smith

*Invite others to join the parishes! Do you have grown children that haven't registered as adults?

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the office if you are seeking baptism for your child. This process can start before the birth of your child. If you are seeking baptism, a one-time class and meeting with Father is required. Call the office with any questions!

MARRIED IN CHRIST

Preparing for Marriage

Rachel Stommes and Nick Koltes Jordan Unterberger & Carson Keefauver

Newlyweds

Austin & Maria Yutrzenka Jake & Shelby Borman

Please remember in your prayers our newlyweds and those preparing for marriage

ETERNAL REST

† Charles Schoen (75) † Harold Meierhofer (83)

† Mary Spartz (90)

† Mary Gronsberg (86)

† Jeff Ruhland (62)

† Paulette Mills (62)

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.











Youth Group Christmas Party











PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

Dean & Perry Lemke Family

Our family officially became members of Church of the Assumption in 2006, following the birth of our son Thomas. Our children's participation in the faith formation program led us here and continue to inspire us in so many ways. We are both fortunate to have parents who are still actively engaged in their faith lives.

Dean was born and raised in Richmond, MN and attended St. Peter and Paul School and Church. I was raised in Columbia Heights, MN and belonged to The Church of the Immaculate Conception. I attended the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and moved directly to "where the cows are", eventually meeting Dean as a co-worker at a dairy farm.

Once we found each other, we began to slowly open our hearts, minds, and ears to live a life of service to our family and one another. There have been so many moments that God has clearly worked in our lives to show how much he loves us. Attending Mass regularly, listening to Relevant Radio and participating in groups and activities in Church all led to our hopes of having our marriage blessed. We received the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage on June 4, 2017. The grace we received has motivated us to be more active participants in our faith and living our lives in ways we would have never imagined before. Sharing our gifts with others really means something special now.

My daughters Sophie and Gretchen are near to us in our hearts and remain open to learning more about our shared Catholic faith. Our son Thomas is looking forward to being a leader this summer at Extreme Faith Camp and working hard towards his Confirmation. God is good!







PARISH SPOLIGHT

Discernment House Update

To Our Beloved Church Family,

Peace to you from God our Father and those of us at the Women's House of the Holy Spirit!

We are excited to give you a sneak peek into how things are going, and share our gratitude for this opportunity of living in Saint Anthony's rectory. It has been over two months now since I, Madi Field (of Eden Valley), and shortly after Carleen Willenbring (of Richmond) moved in to make the space our home. We have recently been joined by Emily Donnay (of Kimball).

The idea began when I found myself in need of a prayerful space to transition out of the monastery. When I thought of how helpful my college experience in a woman's house was, I presented the idea of using the rectory to Father Aaron. Thanks to his prayerful consideration and the generosity of the parish trustees, the idea was approved and became a reality!

Our hope is to cultivate a welcoming and prayerful place where we can respond to God's loving invitation to know, love, and to be more open to what He's calling us to. It provides the opportunity to set aside time and energy to better hear how He's calling us to become Saints, whether by a vocation of religious life or a holy marriage, and to always seek Him in our daily life.

So far, we have spent many hours reading, praying, laughing, and in holy conversation.

This house has been such a blessing for us already, and we hope it can extend into our parish communities. We have hosted various groups and couples so far, and want anyone who's interested to feel welcomed. Please feel free to stop by or reach out to plan a time for fellowship and prayer with us!

We would like to end by thanking you for all of your prayers and support! Know we love you and keep you in prayer!

GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF

As a pastor of the people it would seem that most of the people know your life and faith story, as I have shared my vocation story in the past and bits and pieces of my personal life through the years. However, I have been called to task...mainly by the parish secretary...but others too have mentioned that I should share my own faith journey. Perhaps it is because we been blessed with a good number of new parishioners joining us in the past few years. So, here goes... "Ask and you shall receive."

I was raised on a dairy farm about 9 miles south of Albany, near to the towns of Farming and St. Martin. I am the third (and favorite of course) of five children of my parents, Edwin and Beverly. My mother is a retired registered nurse and she lives in Avon. My father passed away in 1999, and so while the family farm is no longer an active dairy, we are blessed that it remains in the family with my second oldest brother, Ted, and his family, who live there and operate a hobby farm. It has been in the Nett family since 1861.

You may see my mother at Mass or other parish events as she has enjoyed getting to know the people and partaking in the different spiritual opportunities. Know that when you are a priest and your Mom is at Mass you have to be on your A-game with your homily...the pressure is on I tell you!

My siblings are all married and there are twelve Nett grandchildren, my nieces and nephews. I thoroughly enjoy spending time with them and my family. I enjoy teaching them about the faith and helping to connect them to opportunities for growth in the spiritual life. Of course I enjoy my role as "all time" quarterback and whiffle ball pitcher too.

After graduating from Albany High School I enrolled at North Dakota State in Fargo, ND. Drawn by a scholarship to play on the baseball team, eventually I decided to study education. After graduating with a degree in elementary education I worked as a teacher and coach for seven years in different age groups, including time as a pitching coach at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. I very much enjoyed my time teaching and coaching and was blessed to have had the opportunity.

During my final years of college I had a strong reversion to my faith, and in the time after I felt a desire to keeping searching out a deeper relationship with God. In my years in Sioux Falls the Lord brought me to a friend who helped me to grow in my knowledge and love for the treasure that is the Catholic Faith. Involvement in parish life lead me to a gift I had never experienced before, the great gift of Eucharistic Adoration. The combination of Adoration, Confession and Mass began to ignite a fire of faith in me that continued to grow. I began to discover

the love of Christ in my life and in turn ask myself bigger questions. One of those questions was, "Could it be that my grandmother was right?" See, my grandmother Catherine, used point to me, one of four boys in my family, and say, "We have hope for this one to be a priest." My grandmother's gardening skills extended beyond planting seed in the soil, to planting a seed of vocation in my heart.

I pondered a lingering call to a priestly vocation for a few years while teaching and coaching and attaining my license in special education. Eventually I decided to meet with the vocation director, Father Gregory Mastey. After the meeting was over he told me that he thought I should apply to the seminary. In the spring of 2008 I resigned from teaching special education and coaching football and baseball at the Alexandria Middle School, and in the fall I entered the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul. I found seminary life to be in a certain sense "home" for me. I experienced brotherly fraternity and community prayer like never before. I was more at peace in my life than I had ever been, even with the reality of returning to several years of school.

I was blessed with the privilege of studying major theology for four years in Rome, Italy, where I experienced many graced opportunities and a realization of the greatness of the universal Catholic Church. On June 21st, 2014 I was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud. I served for two years as a parochial vicar (assistant) at the Cathedral, Newman Center and St. Augustine's Churches. In July of 2016, I was assigned to be the pastor of Assumption and St. Anthony's.

I have found the priesthood to be the greatest gift I have ever received. It is a gift that I continue to realize and grow in gratitude for. Through the challenges and struggles there are tremendous moments of grace and a special window into God's amazing work in the hearts of His people. Although it is far from ideal to be the spiritual Father of two families, I am ever grateful to be your pastor at Assumption and St. Anthony's. It has been a great blessing to be a part of your lives. I am proud of you and of the work that the good God has done, and continues doing here. And I look forward with great hope and expectation to the years to come.

My journey with the Lord, which started with my dear parent's love and faithfulness to God, has been a priceless gift. Although none of us can know the plans of God for our future, I am confident that He does. And I hope to live each day to the fullest striving to love and serve God and neighbor with all my heart, mind, soul and strength. That one day I may be found worthy to be called a good and faithful servant by my Father and enter into the eternal dwelling of His house forever.

May God bless you, Father Aaron



Hello Fellow Assumption Parishioners,

Many Parish members have been confused about what the Guild is, who belongs to the Assumption Guild and what are the responsibilities of the guild. To clarify, as parish members we all belong to the Assumption Guild. The definition of the word guild is "an association of people for the pursuit of a common goal". All parishioners are a valuable part of the Assumption guild. The guild members are assigned to a guild group (Groups 1-12). Each guild group rotates responsibilities for the activities that occur in the parish. Activities primarily include: church cleaning, coffee & rolls, the Spring Fundraiser and the Fall Fundraiser.

We all have an important part to keep our church community going.

2022 Guild Activities and Responsibilities:

Groups 5,11,12-Spring Fundraiser

Groups 2,3,6,8,10-Fall Fundraiser

Groups 1,4,7,9 are inactive this year

May God Bless you all,

Stacy Kuechle, Assumption Guild President (320) 293-8633

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Hello everyone, this is Alder Ertl, one of the many Confirmation students for this year. I will be talking about my favorite hobbies, what I like to do in my free time, just anything about myself:). To start off by saying I am very happy that I get to enjoy this special moment and I am thankful for my parents and most importantly God for helping me to get to this point. I am glad to say that I am gonna get Confirmed this year. I think this time is a very important time in life. Now to get into my life. My favorite hobbies are, fishing (ice or summer), hunting, enjoying the outdoors, running and I really like playing with my dogs. Favorite things to do in my free time are sleeping, shopping, hanging out with my friends, and being around my wonderful family that I gratefully have in my life. I just wanna give a big appreciation to my parents. They have helped me through everything and you should respect your parents no matter what. I love being a member of the church. I like helping out and I like volunteering. Just a little encouragement for the younger kids in life that are on the path to getting Confirmed, there will always be tough times and that is ok just keep pushing yourself and always set goals for yourself. It will take time to meet them but eventually you will get there :).

Alder is a junior at the EV-W high school and is the the youngest child of Tom & Amy Ertl of the St. Anthony Parish.







DID YOU KNOW??

The ONLY Christian church in existence for the first 1000 years of Christian history was the Roman Catholic Church. All other Christian churches which exist today can trace their lineage back to the Roman Catholic Church. Most non-Catholic churches which exist today are less than a century or two old by comparison.

Hello Everyone!

Throughout each year the parishes offer many opportunities in religious education to help you to grow in love and knowledge of our Catholic Faith. Programs like Uncle Fred talks, FORMED, Alpha, Women's and Men's groups, book studies and Discipleship Quad are just to name a few. Unfortunately, relatively few take advantage of these opportunities.



Religious education is not just for students or for preparation before receiving a sacrament. Ongoing formation and education in the faith is a lifelong process, it never ends. If the only religious education we ever received was as a youth, that is not enough to help us manage the different life situations we face as adults. We wouldn't accept just an elementary education for professional careers; shouldn't we seek more for our very souls? We should never stop studying and learning the faith. If we don't keep the plant watered, it will not grow, and eventually it will dry up, shrivel and die.

Any relationship will suffer if we approach it with a minimalistic attitude. The same is true of our relationship with God. Minimalism weakens our faith life. For example, if we pray only when we want something from God, or if we go to Mass to "check a box", or if we are satisfied with an elementary level of faith education, we are doing the minimum. God has much more waiting for us if we will just open ourselves to receive it.

Many people think they are too busy to attend events at church, to spend extra time in learning more about the faith, or even to pray each day. "The Lord does not want to be a part of our lives. He wants to be at the heart of our lives. That is where he belongs. He already is the God, but he wants to be our God, and it is only right that we get rid of anything that gets in the way of that." (From the Discipleship Quad Guidebook) Our calendars and schedules are a reflection of our priorities. Take a look at your calendar, where do your priorities lie? Where do you spend most of your time?

I encourage you to give one of these programs a try! If you have any questions about the programs we offer, please reach out. If you have ideas of programs that you would like us to offer, we want to hear about it!

Your sister in Christ, Jessie

Assumption Church

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assumptionev@meltel.net Parish Office: 453-2788

Father Aaron Nett: 453-2785 Religion Office: 453-5765

evwyouthministry@gmail.com evwcatholic@gmail.com Youth Ministry:

Reconciliation

Wed: 5:15 PM, Fri: 8:00 AM Sat: 3:30 PM & Sun 7:30 AM **Eucharistic Adoration**

Mondays 8:00 AM- Fridays 5:00 PM

Fri: 8-12:00 (hours may vary) Mon: 12:30-4:30, Wed: 8-4 Office Hours

Twinned Parish Contacts

Pastor: Father Aaron Nett • Secretary: Jessica Teicher • DRE: Nancy Bury •

Mass Times Saturday: 4PM at Assumption • Sunday: 8AM at Assumption, 10AM at St. Anthony Tuesday: 9:30 AM at St. Anthony • Wednesday: 5:45 PM at Assumption Thursday: 8:30 AM at St. Anthony • Friday: 7:00AM at Assumption

201 Central Ave South, PO Box 409 Church of St. Anthony

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Father Aaron Nett: 764-2758 Religion Office: 453-5765 evwcatholic@gmail.com

evwyouthministry@gmail.com Youth Ministry:

St. Anthony Catholics

Group: Assumption

Eden Valley

Assumption Church,

Anthony, Watkins/

Page: Church of St.

Tuesdays: 9:00 AM, Thursdays: 8:00 AM, Reconciliation

Sundays: 9:45 AM

Thursdays 9:00 AM-Fridays 7:00 AM **Eucharistic Adoration**

Thurs: 8-4 (hours may vary) Mon: 8-12, Tues: 8-4, Office Hours

RE Assistant: Bonnie Meyer • Sacramental Assistant: Becky Haag • Youth Minister: Sam Mettler