

# Assumption Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December • January • February  
Quarterly Newsletter

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## **"The Lord's Love and Salvation"**

Dear Friends,

"Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation." I hope you are doing well. This newsletter finds us in late November as we enter into the wonderful Season of Advent. Advent is a beautiful time of waiting, expectation and hopefulness as we wait in joyful expectation of the Messiah to bring his love and salvation into a broken and sinful world. "He is Emmanuel which means God with us."

We are blessed, as Catholics, to have signs and symbols which remind of a hidden realities of our Faith and draw us deeper into the mystery. For instance, the four Advent candles help us mark the four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas. This reminds us that Jesus is coming and he is near. "Therefore, stay awake!" We seek to be spiritually prepared for Christ's coming, not just at Christmas time, but also here and now in the Spirit, and then, at the end of our lives.

The light of the Advent candle helps remind us that Christ is the Light that never fades. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) The flame of the candle is the "narrow way" of Jesus which brings his love and warmth to soul of the believer. Christ has come to not to necessarily obliterate the darkness of the world, but rather to light up the path for us that leads to holiness and salvation. The flame is burning with God's love for his people, and he waits for our love in return.

The color of violet, or purple, helps us to distinctly mark that Advent is a season of penance and self-sacrifice. It is often called the "Little Lent," different from Lent but still with an idea of making the effort and time to be more selfless, so as to be more focused on God and others. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are three pillars of the spiritual life that can guide us to empty ourselves of the worldly ways and be more filled with the Spirit of God, which is a Spirit of truth and love.

I strongly encourage everyone to seek to spend more time in prayer this Advent, reflect on scripture or a good spiritual book, make time for charity and self-sacrifice and finally make a good Confession. The graces of a good Confession are tremendous and cannot be spoken of enough and will help put the "bow on top" so to speak, at Christmas time!

I pray that you and you loved ones have a very blessed Advent Season so as to receive an abundance of God's Spirit at Christmas. May God's love and salvation be with you always. In Christ,

Father Aaron

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



GLP

## December

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- 02:** Rosary/Potluck, 6:00 PM **WAT**
- 03-04:** Christian Mother's Bake Sale **EV**
- 04:** Uncle Fred Faith Talk, 2PM **WAT**
- 07:** Family Faith Formation, 6PM **EV**
- 08:** Immaculate Conception Mass, 5PM **EV**; 7PM **WAT**
- 11:** Uncle Fred Faith Talk, 2PM **EV**
- 14:** Family Faith Formation, 6PM **WAT**
- 18:** New Ulm Advent Prayer Service, 1:30 PM, **LITCH**
- 18:** Uncle Fred Faith Talk, 2PM **WAT**
- 20:** Advent Penance Service, 7PM **WAT**
- 24:** Christmas Eve Mass, 4PM **WAT**, Midnight **EV**
- 25:** Christmas Day Mass, 8AM **WAT**, 10AM **EV**
- 29:** Parish Christmas Open House, 4-7 PM **EV**



## January

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- 06:** Rosary/Potluck, 6:00 PM **WAT**
- 04:** Family Faith Formation, 6PM **EV**
- 11:** Family Faith Formation, 6PM **WAT**
- 14:** 1st Reconciliation, 9AM **WAT**
- 16:** 10th Grade Confirmation NET Retreat **EV**
- 17:** Feast Day of St. Anthony, 7PM Mass **WAT**
- 17-22:** National March for Life Trip



## February

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- 01:** Family Faith Formation, 6PM **EV**
- 03:** Rosary/Potluck, 6:00 PM **WAT**
- 08:** Family Faith Formation, 6PM **WAT**
- 11:** Cabin Fever Reliever Dueling Pianos **WAT**
- 21:** Mardi Gras Parish Potluck, 6:00 PM **WAT**
- 22:** Ash Wednesday Masses, 5PM **EV** 7PM **WAT**
- 26:** Family Tubing at Powder Ridge 12PM



## Regular Meetings:

- Men's Group Saturdays, 7:30 AM at Assumption
- Women's Group: 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 8AM at St. Anthony's
- EV Knights: 3rd Wednesdays at 8PM at Assumption
- WAT Knights: 1st Mondays at 7PM at St. Anthony's

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

As many of you may know, my husband and I are excitedly awaiting the birth of our first child due in March of 2023. This pregnancy has given me a new perspective on many aspects of the faith such as the strength of our mother Mary to carry the perfect child, Jesus Christ, and on the pro-life movement. That is why I would like to talk about a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity our 9th-12th graders will have in January 2023.



Every anniversary since the passing of Roe v Wade, the March for Life has taken place in Washington, D.C. where hundreds of thousands of peaceful, prayerful protestors have marched for the unborn. This year, because of the overturning of Roe v Wade, PRAISE GOD, it will likely be the last national march. This will be my 4th time attending the March in DC and I am convinced that this year will be the best yet!

Join us for an amazing adventure and powerful life-affirming experience Jan 17th - Jan 22nd as we load onto a coach bus and travel out to Washington D.C. for a dynamic youth conference, fun hotel stays, sightseeing in our nation's capital, education and instruction on how to defend and uphold the dignity of human life, growing in your relationship with God and friends and, of course, joining hundreds of thousands of people from across the country to march in defense of those who cannot march themselves.

The cost of this trip will be \$450. (Contact Sam for fundraising opportunities [evwyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:evwyouthministry@gmail.com)). The deadline to register to guarantee your spot is Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> and the nonrefundable deposit for this trip is \$200. However, if this date has passed and you are still interested, email me and, as long as we still have room, we would love to have you join us! Email me at [evwcatholic@gmail.com](mailto:evwcatholic@gmail.com) with questions or for registration paperwork. **Parishioners looking to financially support the students going on this trip can reach out to me as well.**

## **Puerto Rico Trip**

If you are still interested in the Puerto Rico mission trip from July 23rd-28th, it is not too late to sign up! There are still limited spots available. This is a great opportunity to serve others, enjoy the culture of Puerto Rico, and grow in fellowship with others. If you know you cannot make the trip, but would like to help out monetarily, we would gladly accept any donations. Contact Sam at [evwyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:evwyouthministry@gmail.com)



## **Young Adult Winter Weekend Retreat**

There is an opportunity with Into the Deep retreats for a young adult weekend Feb. 24th-26th. This is open for anyone aged 18-40. This is just a short drive to Duluth away and there are opportunities to ski, snowshoe, cross country ski, and snowboard. This trip is not limited to our parishes, so anyone is open to come. If you are interested, contact Sam at [evwyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:evwyouthministry@gmail.com) and he will reach out and guide you through registration when it opens.

### **Youth Nights (6pm-8pm)**

**Sr High @ St. Anthony's:** December 7<sup>th</sup>, January 4<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup>

**Jr High @ Assumption:** December 14<sup>th</sup>, January 10<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>

## **Faith Formation Update and Thank-You's**

This year we made a significant change within our Faith Formation Program by switching to Family Faith Formation for our K-6<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. We have been blown away in gratitude for the support received by our catechists, faith formation helpers, and especially from parents. It has been such a beautiful witness and testament to faith to see parents willing to put in the time and effort to embrace a new style of learning for their children. Personally, I cannot wait to see what the remainder of the year holds for our lively and dynamic Faith Formation Program.

Thank you to our K-11<sup>th</sup> grade Catechists and Classroom Assistants, Kitchen Staff, and Nursery Helpers. And a special thanks to our parents! We couldn't possibly run our programs without each and every one of you in your yes, witness, and willingness to serve—may God Bless you and your families abundantly!



## Christian Mother's Pro-Family Bake Sale

December 3rd:  
3-4PM; 5-6PM &

December 4th: 9-11AM

Proceeds to go to pro-life organizations and to support youth going to the Pro-Life March in Washington, DC in January.



# Church of St. Anthony Cabin Fever Reliever Saturday, February 11, 2023

201 Central Ave., South, Watkins

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Social Hour

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Black & Whyte Dueling Pianos Show



# REMEMBER *the real gift*

**September-October- November**

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# LOOK WHO'S NEW!

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Michael & Diane Rosenow

*\*Invite others to join the parishes! Do you have grown children that have not registered as adults?*

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# SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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Gabriella Jean Lardy, daughter of Scott & Megan  
Cecelia Rose Steichen, daughter of Ryan & Amanda

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# MARRIED IN CHRIST

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## **Newlyweds**

Jordan Unterberger & Carson Keefauver  
Corine Schlangen & Alex Tullis

## **Preparing for Marriage**

Teresa Kneip & Perry Philippi  
Joey Wraspar & Kayla Kipf  
Kayla Shlangen & Jacob Balster  
Vanessa Van Beck & Jake Arnold

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

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# ETERNAL REST

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† Arthur Lahr (82)  
† Dolores Phillipp (81)  
† Mary Sieben (93)

† Lloyd Ley (81)  
† Ralph Kramer (91)

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



# Assumption Fest



# St. Anthony Festival



# Family Faith Formation



# Luminaries for Loved Ones



# Weddings



# Baptisms



# Family Rosary & Potluck



## **Christmas Masses**

**Christmas Eve:  
4PM at St. Anthony's  
Midnight Mass at Assumption**

**Christmas Day:  
8AM at St. Anthony's  
10AM at Assumption**

**JOIN US EACH SUNDAY THIS ADVENT!**

**FAITH TALKS  
WITH "UNCLE FRED"**

### **"NO FINER TIME TO BE A FAITHFUL CATHOLIC"**

Sunday, November 27th at Assumption, 2:00-3:30pm

Topic: Prayer: The Key that Opens the Heart of God

Sunday, December 4th at St. Anthony's, 2:00-3:30pm

Topic: Eschatology: The Study of the End Times and the Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell

Sunday, December 11th at Assumption, 2:00-3:30pm

Topic: Habits of Holiness: Spiritual Armor for Spiritual Warfare

Sunday, December 18th at St. Anthony's, 2:00-3:30pm

Topic: Understanding the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Praying it with the Faith, Love and Fervor of the Saints.

# ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

## **New Ulm Advent Prayer Service with our New Bishop!**

All parishioners, especially those with children, are invited to attend an Advent Prayer Service with Bishop Chad Zielinski on Sunday, December 18. The service is at 1:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Philip, Litchfield. This service is designed to help us focus on Advent and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, centered on the birth of Jesus. Families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their home nativity set. The figure will be blessed by Bishop Zielinski individually as families come forward in procession. There will be a blessing on families and expectant mothers as they prepare for Jesus' birth in their hearts. A "swaddling clothes" collection (blankets, sleepers, layette items, etc.) and cash donations will be taken for babies in need.



This Advent, spend just 10 minutes per day in prayer diving deeper into salvation history through scripture. Hallow's #Pray25 challenge will provide you the opportunity to get to know the heart of God through His love for His chosen people from the beginning. Fans of 'The Chosen' will love that the meditations in Hallow's #pray25 challenge are led by the cast of the streaming series! Create your account today! [hallow.com/share/Z61G38](https://hallow.com/share/Z61G38) (for 3 months free for first time free trials)



## Rich & Mary Ann Hesse

We are Rich & Mary Ann Hesse. We both grew up in the Watkins area, and have been members of St. Anthony Parish our whole life. On September 30, 1972, we were married in St. Anthony Church, and we just celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Our children and their families are Steve & Allison & Joseph Ann ~ Fr. Tony ~ Randy & Stacy and Ethan, Mitchel, Isaac, Weston ~ Bill & Beth and Ruby and Cassius ~ Andy & Erin and Miles & Wyatt.

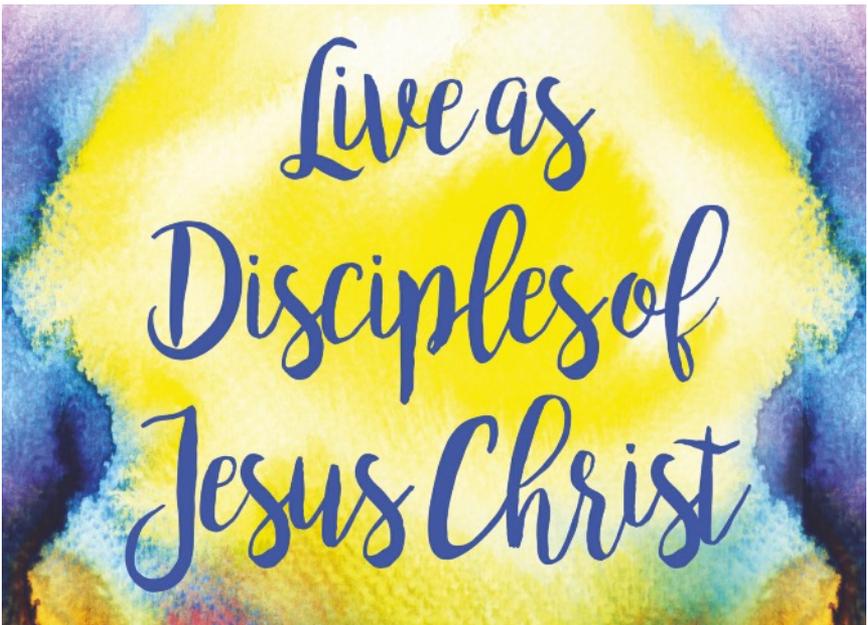
We enjoy spending time with our family, working around our yard, planning and doing projects in and around our house, going to the cabin, watching a beautiful sunrise and sunset and going out to eat. Over the years our parish has kept us involved in choir, parish council, finance council/trustee, school board member, liturgy committee, CCW, lector, and Eucharistic Ministers. We are also members of our local VFW, and Rich is a Legion member and a Knights of Columbus member.

Our faith is very important to us. God and prayer are a natural part of our everyday life. Going to daily Mass and weekly adoration strengthens our relationship with God and deepens our love for Him. We love St. Anthony's Church with its unique structure and the beautiful and inspiring stained glass windows. The windows and the stations of the cross are a wonderful way to meditate on scripture and the mysteries of the Rosary. When we walk into church, we feel the presence of Jesus. To us, this is home.



## What Does it Mean to be a Disciple?

Are you a disciple or is that just for those that came before us? The answer is that you are a disciple if you're baptized! You may think how I can be a disciple and this is exactly what I want to provoke within all of us. How can we share our faith with others? How can we proclaim the gospel with our lives. The answer is simpler than you might think, to share our faith we have to have a relationship with Christ. That means we spend time with Him, not just an hour on Sunday but throughout the week. If you for instance only spent an hour with your best friend or spouse per week would that seem like a healthy and lasting relationship? In order to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ we have to spend time with Him! Prayer is essential and if we can Adoration and a daily Mass. If we start our day giving it over to Jesus through Mary, then we start with our best foot forward. It is in this prayer time and our listening in the silence that we can begin to hear God speak to us. Spending 10 minutes a day to start reading His Word is a great way to hear God speak to each one of us. These things may all seem too simple, but these are the keys to a lasting relationship with Christ and His Church. These are simple things we can do to become even better disciples of Christ!



## Porter Kuechle

My name is Porter Kuechle and I am the son of Perry and Sarah Kuechle. I have three sisters, Shelby Borman and Sidney and Sawyer Kuechle. I also have a brother-in-law, Jake Borman and a new nephew, Maddox Borman. I like to spend my spare time hunting, fishing and farming on our family farm.

I'm looking forward to strengthening my relationship with God through the confirmation experience. My chosen saint name is St. Joseph, the patron saint of workers. I chose this saint as Joseph is both my dad and I's middle name and I enjoy working on our farm.

I attended both Extreme Faith Camp and Steubenville this summer. I highly recommend both to other high schoolers. I'm looking forward to also participating in the mission trip to Puerto Rico this summer. My home parish is Assumption but my family typically attends mass at St. Anthony due to the timing. It's nice to have two parish families praying for us as a confirmation class.



## Running the Race

Whether you enjoy running or only would run if a bear were chasing you; running is a great analogy for our path to our salvation. Life is a race and heaven is the goal. Many of you have heard the scripture reading from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews about a great cloud of witnesses that goes on to tell us to persevere in running the race. But have you ever considered the race itself?



The race can have its periods of uphill struggles and obstacles. These struggles include the hard times in life: the death of loved ones, illness, busyness or just the general feeling that God isn't present in your life. What can we do during these uphill struggles? Scripture tells us to persevere! And God helps us do this by giving us the perfect example of Jesus and the gifts of the Eucharist to fortify us for the journey and Reconciliation to help ease our burdens and lighten our load. If you are struggling in running the race you might want to consider dropping the extra weight of sin, bad habits and negative relationships. You wouldn't want to run a race with a heavy backpack on your back!

We also have tips given to us by our personal trainers, the Saints! The Saints have run the race and have given us examples of prayer, devotions, spiritual reading, service to others, etc. It can also help to remember that these times of perseverance and training make us stronger to be able to finish the race.

Countless people, our saints in heaven, have already run the race, but we must not forget about the very first to run the race and He ran it for all of us. Jesus ran the race, beaten, bruised and bloody with the weight of our sin in the form of the heavy cross on His shoulders. Where are you in the race? Do you need some help from our personal trainers? Can we drop some of the extra weight that we bear?

May God bless you abundantly this season and in the new year! Jessie

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God." -Hebrews 12:12-13*

## Assumption Church

464 State Street North, PO Box 9  
Eden Valley, MN 55329

churchofftheassumptionedenvalley.org

**Parish Office:** 453-2788

assumptionev@metel.net

**Father Aaron Nett:** 453-2785

**Religion Office:** 453-5765

ewwcatholic@gmail.com

**Youth Ministry:**

evwyouthministry@gmail.com

**Reconciliation**

Wed: 4:45 PM, Fri: 8:00 AM

Sat: 3:30 PM & Sun 7:30 AM

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Mondays 8:00 AM- Fridays 5:00 PM

**Office Hours**

Mon: 12:30-4:30, Wed: 8-4

Fri: 8-12:00 (hours may vary)

## Church of St. Anthony

201 Central Ave South, PO Box 409  
Watkins, MN 55389

www.stanthonywatkins.com

**Parish Office:** 764-2755

stanthony@metel.net

**Father Aaron Nett:** 764-2758

**Religion Office:** 453-5765

ewwcatholic@gmail.com

**Youth Ministry:**

evwyouthministry@gmail.com

**Reconciliation**

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

Sundays: 9:45 AM

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Thursdays 9:00 AM-Fridays 9:00 AM

**Office Hours**

Mon: 8-12, Tues: 8-4,

Thurs: 8-4 (hours may vary)

### Twinned Parish Contacts:

Pastor: Father Aaron Nett • Secretary: Jessica Teicher • DRE: Nancy Jans •  
RE Assistant: Bonnie Meyer • Youth Minister: Sam Mettler

**Mass Times:** Saturday: 4PM at Assumption • Sunday: 8AM at Assumption, 10AM at St. Anthony

Tuesday: 9:30 AM at St. Anthony • Wednesday: 5:15 PM at Assumption

Thursday: 8:30 AM at St. Anthony • Friday: 7:00 AM at Assumption



**Page:** Church of St. Anthony, Watkins/ Assumption Church, Eden Valley  
**Group:** Assumption St. Anthony Catholics