



CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

51 WEST 7TH STREET • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • 651-224-7536

December 13, 2020

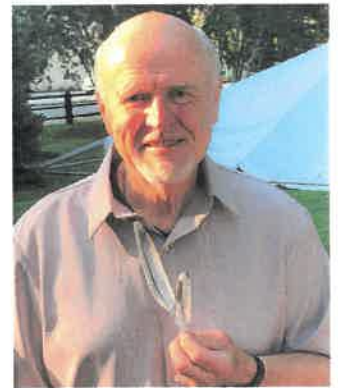
• *Today's Mass*

Third Sunday of Advent

- *Sunday Masses*
8, 9:30, 11 am, 12:30pm
- *Saturday Masses*
7:00am, 5:00pm
- *Weekday Masses*
Monday through Friday
7:00am, 12 noon
- *Holy Day & Holiday Masses*
Please see weekly Mass schedule
- *Confessions*
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 11:30-11:50am and Saturday, 4-4:30pm, lower church
- *Baptisms*
Each Sunday following the 12:30pm Mass
- *Matrimony*
Membership in parish for at least one year prior to marriage plans
- *Devotions*
Mother of Perpetual Help Tuesdays & Sacred Heart on Fridays at 11:45am

Happy 50th Ordination Anniversary!

Fifty years ago this weekend, Fr. Greg Skrypek was ordained a priest. What a gift he has been to our local Church, to all those he served as a chaplain at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Stillwater, and certainly for Assumption. In 2009, after decades of prison ministry, Fr. Skrypek retired on Memorial Day. Fr. O'Gara invited him here to Assumption. He took some time off before starting here, a few days that is. He was at Assumption the very next weekend.



Fr. Greg Skrypek

Greg brought many unique gifts to Assumption. He brought decades of compassion, understanding, and learning from a rich ministry to those whose choice or series of choices resulted in a prison sentence. He met each person where they were at and he found joy in being a chaplain to individuals from all walks of life, creed and circumstance. He would listen and be a positive presence to them, whether it was leaning on the bars of their cell or just walking the prison with a warm smile and words of encouragement.

He helped others explore and be open to the idea of redemption. In a 2008 article from the prison's publication, *The Prison Mirror*, Greg wrote: "One must often reach the point of rock-bottom before such an awakening can take place. Once there is no longer a risk of falling, or reaching any lower point, fear is gone and a newness springs forth." To me, Greg said, "I stepped into the grace of their lives and saw how gratitude would become a foundation of recovery for so many." He has helped others (and us) be grateful.

When Greg arrived at Assumption, he was excited to share his experiences and has been affirmed by so many. In his homilies, Greg has often started out by saying, "when I was in prison..." Fathers O'Gara and Malone and others would have to remind him to be more specific "when I was a chaplain in prison..." From the beginning, Greg enjoyed the grief our two Irish Pastors Emeriti would constantly give to each other. He also enjoys working with a great staff with whom he developed a very quick friendship and for whom he has great respect.

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- *Drive-Up Communion*, Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm, in the parking lot facing the hospital.
- *Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass Reservations* open on Thursday December 17th, 9:00am. Visit www.assumptionsp.org to make a reservation to attend. If you don't have access to a computer call the parish office and we will happily help you.
- *Baptism Preparation Class*, Sunday, January 3rd, following the 9:30am Mass in the choir room. Please call the parish office to register or to schedule a baptism, 651-224-7536.

Happy 50th Ordination Anniversary, continued from page 1

I remember Fr. Skrypek from my years at Hill-Murray where he would celebrate Masses and be present at many sporting events coached by his brother, Terry. When I started here, right away, I knew I was working with a very holy man – in the best sense of the word. It's a gift for all of us to come in and see Greg in the dining room, watching folks come into Mass or seeing what is happening on our sidewalks. He is often at the dining room table, writing a poem or a card for someone or the weekend's Prayers of the Faithful – a gift he has given this parish since his arrival.

Greg is a man of good routine. The days start with some quiet time alone as he is often the first one in the office. Then he works on the daily Jumble Puzzle in the paper to keep his mind sharp. Then he peruses the sports page and other news before some morning conversation as staff arrives. Then he is off for a walk through the city, outside or through the skyways, or with his brothers or with classmates. Then he goes to visit someone who needs an anointing or tells me about the emergency call he received in the middle of the night. For decades he has also helped at the Basilica and St. Thomas the Apostle in Minneapolis. I think it was only recently that Greg started taking a day off.

Greg has been an incredible gift to this parish and to the local Church. He has shared with us his kindness and compassion, his humor and stories, his prayerfulness and humility. He sees grace in every act of ministry and is so grateful to be a part of the Assumption family. We, too, could not be more grateful that he has shared so much with us. Greg, you truly are a good, joyful, and faithful friend! May God continue to bless you!

- Fr. Paul Treacy

P. S. Our plans for a big, wonderful parish 50th ordination anniversary celebration had to be put on hold with the pandemic. We look forward to the day we can gather to honor Fr. Skrypek and all his good work.

Annual Religious Retirement Collection This Weekend

Please help those who gave a lifetime of service. Your gift to this collection helps our retired religious communities bridge the gap, offering support for necessities such as medications, nursing care and more. Envelopes can be found at church entrances. Checks should be made payable to Assumption and can be dropped in collection boxes. Gifts can also be made electronically by visiting the parish website, www.assumptionsp.org.



Please Sign Up to Help

There are still a few spots available on the Christmas Ministry Schedule. Eucharistic and hospitality ministers are encouraged to sign up online or to contact Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Weyandt, if you can help at 651-224-7536 or via email: mweyandt@assumptionsp.org.

Parish Staff

- *Pastor*
Fr. Paul Treacy
 - *Pastor Emeritus*
Fr. John Malone
Fr. Stephen O'Gara
 - *Parochial Vicar*
Fr. Greg Skrypek
 - *Director Religious Education*
Jill Bueno
 - *Facilities Manager*
Mark Dornfeld
 - *Maintenance*
Laura Jimenez
 - *Administrator*
Julie Malecha
 - *Director Pastoral Care & Outreach*
Colin Miller
 - *Church Environment*
Kathy Mrozinski
 - *Deacon*
Jim Saumweber
 - *Pastoral Associate*
Cindy Smetana
 - *Maintenance*
Bill Tierney
 - *Wedding & Volunteer Coordinator*
Mary Weyandt
- Special thanks to:**
- *Snow Plowing*
Joseph Vogel
 - *Parish Historian*
Dave Brown
 - *Landscaping*
Brian Christopherson
 - *Porter*
James Prifrel, Jr.



2020 Christmas Season Schedule

This year we are adapting to celebrate a loving God who comes to us in Jesus. We know that most parishioners and friends will be having a safe Christmas at home and hopefully celebrating with us through lovely, virtual Masses. Livestreamed and video Masses will be available on the parish website at www.assumptionsp.org. With the current church capacity restrictions, reservations are required to attend Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Seats may be reserved via the parish website beginning at 9:00am on Thursday, December 17.

Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24

Masses at 2:00pm (Livestreamed), 4:00pm, 6:00pm & 8:00pm

Christmas Day – Friday, December 25

Masses at 8:00am, 9:30am (Livestreamed), 11:00am and 12:30pm

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 13	8:00am	†Bob McCarron
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	9:30am	†Harold & †May Belair
	11:00am	Parishioners
	12:30pm	Hannah Long
Monday, December 14	7:00 am	†F. Gallagher
<i>Saint John of the Cross</i>	12:00 pm	†Steve McGroaty
Tuesday, December 15	7:00 am	†Dominic Brown
	12:00 pm	†Elizabeth Inserra
Wednesday, December 16	7:00am	†Paulino & †Josefa Perez
	12:00 pm	†Armando & †Christine Rulli
Thursday, December 17	7:00 am	†Jim Netzmann
	12:00 pm	†Julie Fahrenkrug Lawrence
Friday, December 18	7:00 am	Victor Pius Beaudette
	12:00 pm	Intentions of Little Sisters of the Poor
Saturday, December 19	7:00 am	†Leo & †Margaret Showalter
	5:00 pm	†David Haselman
Sunday, December 20	8:00am	†Said & †Ann George
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	9:30am	†Bud & †Virginia Conoryea
	11:00am	Parishioners
	12:30pm	†Jeanne & †Bill Pilla

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