# **Assumption Women's Club Circle Descriptions**

Below is a brief overview of the current women's circles at Assumption parish. Our women's circles provide a supportive environment for women to connect, grow spiritually, and contribute to their communities.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact the chairperson listed. If you are interested in starting your own circle, please contact current AWC President Susan Heekin 904-612-9508; Skheekin@icloud.com

### St. Jude Circle

Established in the mid-1970's, we are an active group of 28 members. Today some of our daughters are current members of the circle. Our current age group is approximately 45-75+ years young. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the afternoon, rotating at member homes.

We are dedicated to the Rosary and the service of our Assumption Parish. Our projects include Monthly Senior Luncheon, Life Line Resources, and sewing fun items for sale to support the Franciscan Nuns.

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## St. Francis Circle

Established around 1994 by a group of young women and moms who attended at Assumption school as students. We named our circle after our beloved math teacher at Assumption, Sister Francis Assisium. One of our biggest contributions was hosting the Easter vigil reception for many years. We also donate money at Thanksgiving & Christmas to families in need at the school. This year we collected gifts for the women at St. Catherine Laboure nursing home. We have about 9 active members and enjoy talking about our grandchildren.

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### St. Monica Circle

The newest circle at Assumption, which formed in 2022. We currently have 13 young women and mothers whose focus is serving the parish while creating a lasting bond of sisterhood and friendship. Our average age range is 25-35 and those of us who have children age from newborn to preschool ages. Meeting times are once a month on Thursday evenings at 7pm in the San Marco area.

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#### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Circle "SEAS"

Established in the early 1980's by a group of young mothers, two who attended SEAS nursing school at St Vincent's Hospital. Over the years the circle has provided 7 past AWC board presidents and numerous other office holders. There are countless bazaars, festivals, fashion shows, receptions, and luncheons that would appear under a list of activities/projects. You may have heard of our nickname, the "Bag Ladies". Food collections for the community are done officially about 6 times a year in the parish, but our very generous parishioners bring groceries almost every week – in 2023

almost 7500 pounds of food was collected! We also organized and implemented the Gifts for Baby Jesus gathered on Christmas Eve and provide them to Emergency Pregnancy services, and we provided the first intercessory prayerbook. We serve a meal for our Life Teen group at least once a year, with our members doing several on their own. We currently have 26 members and we meet in a member's home on Thursday at 1pm at the beginning of the month.

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#### St. Patrick Circle

Founded in 1959. Special projects include assembling Christmas Boxes of Joy for Cross Catholic Outreach, providing donations, clothing, shoes and toys for families in the Burmese community for the last 14 years and providing Christmas cards for local nursing homes. Our mission is serving the Assumption parish and the local community. Our 7 members are mostly retired and we consider ourselves "small but mighty". We usually meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at one of the members' houses at 6:30 pm or occasionally on Sunday afternoon.

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# **Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle**

Established in 2016. Our mission is to support the parish youth and to promote & increase their faith through the love of Our Lady. We provide meals for youth gatherings, one Steubenville scholarship for a student in need, & sponsor the confirmation retreat dinner. The average age of our members 40 years old and those who have children range in ages from preschool to middle school. We currently have 19 members and meet once a month at 7pm.

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## St. Gianna Circle

Established in 2011. This circle's patron saint is St Gianna Beretta Molla, an Italian pediatrician and mother who when pregnant with her fourth child developed a fibroma on her uterus and was advised she needed to terminate her pregnancy or have a hysterectomy. She did not do either, and opted to have surgery to remove the fibroma. A week after delivery, on Easter Saturday, she passed away. She was canonized in 2004. Our circle is compromised of 27 women celebrating the middle age season of life with ages spanning from 40's to 60's. The majority of members who have children ages middle school through young adulthood. We support the parish in many ways, with a heavy focus on our youth and the children/teens of the parish. We support the annual youth ministry fundraiser, and collect baby items for several women's groups outside of the parish.

Our meetings are comprised of social time, prayer, reflection and discussion of parish support and are held one weeknight during the third week of the month. We open our homes to host the meetings but also have a Christmas social, a May social and a summer pilgrimage. We also try to find a special way to celebrate our patron saint, St Gianna, on or near her feast day, April 28th.

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