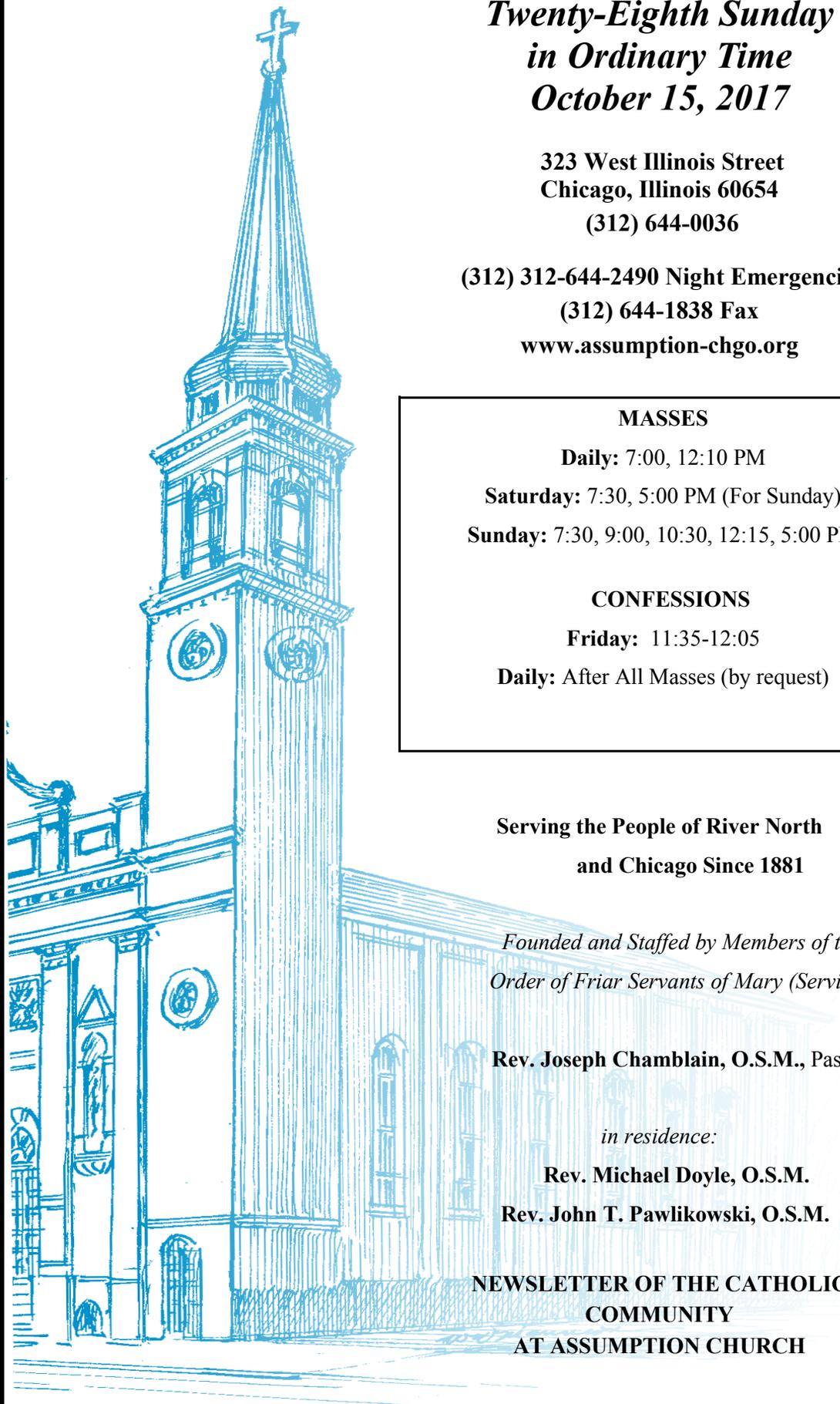


ASSUMPTION CHURCH



***Twenty-Eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
October 15, 2017***

323 West Illinois Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654
(312) 644-0036

(312) 312-644-2490 Night Emergencies
(312) 644-1838 Fax
www.assumption-chgo.org

MASSES

Daily: 7:00, 12:10 PM

Saturday: 7:30, 5:00 PM (For Sunday)

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15, 5:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

Friday: 11:35-12:05

Daily: After All Masses (by request)

**Serving the People of River North
and Chicago Since 1881**

*Founded and Staffed by Members of the
Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites)*

Rev. Joseph Chamblain, O.S.M., Pastor

in residence:

Rev. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.

Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
AT ASSUMPTION CHURCH**

GOING NOWHERE SLOWLY

During the 1990's, Assumption's former pastor Fr. Gus Kulbis and I took a number of train trips in Canada, spending nights along the way in towns like Le Pas, Churchill, Prince Rupert, and Cranberry Portage. One journey that we never go to make, though, was a 14 hour ride on a mixed train (a freight train that also carried passenger cars) in a remote section of northeast Quebec. Fr. Gus once described this trip to another friar: "You have to go to the end of nowhere to catch the train. You ride it all day. And then when you get there, you still aren't anywhere."

In that same spirit, during a ten day vacation in southern Colorado, I managed to schedule three train trips that allowed me to go from nowhere important to no place in particular. One went from Canon City to Parkland through the Royal Gorge, another from Leadville to Climax, and a third from Antonito to Chama. These short segments I was able to ride are remnants of the vast rail network that once served every nook and cranny of Colorado. They serve no useful purpose today except to entertain tourists, and they did just that. Each of them carried me through areas of startling beauty, squeezing through mountains and canyons still inaccessible to cars. In late September the aspens were a blanket of gold against the evergreens and the mountains were capped by the season's first snowfall. The Antonito to Chama train was pulled by a hundred year old steam engine, and it was simply delightful standing out on the open platform, smelling the cinders, listening to the steam whistle, and taking in the mountains.

This tame and docile scene today is a far cry from the rough and tumble beginnings of these three lines. With 1870's technology it was impossible for railroads to bore through the front range of the Rocky Mountains due west of Denver; but a hundred miles south of Denver, there was a narrow pass through the Rockies carved by the Arkansas River. At its steepest and narrowest point just west of Canon City, the canyon is over 1,200 feet deep and only thirty feet wide. To construct a rail line through this gorge, it was necessary to build it on brackets out over the river, bracing the structure against the opposite side of the gorge. Both the Santa Fe and the Rio Grande Railroads set their eyes on this passageway. War broke out in the Colorado Territory over the Royal Gorge. In the words of colorful historian Lucius Beebe, "It made national headlines, saw the recruitment of entire armies of partisan pluguglies by the contestants, witnessed pitched battles between gunfighters and peace officers, and raged through the courts of Colorado in a blizzard of legal writs, processes, opinions, judgments, injunctions, court orders, subpoenas, briefs, and decisions." In the end the Rio Grande won the rights to the Royal Gorge, and built a line west to Salt Lake City. In the 1920's advancing technology finally made it possible to tunnel through the mountains west from Denver, and most of the freight and passenger traffic shifted to this more direct route. Today the Royal Gorge route is largely abandoned save for this small section through the Gorge itself. President Roosevelt rode the train through the Royal Gorge in 1905 and

described it as "the trip that bankrupts the English language."

Further to the south, along the Colorado-New Mexico border, the Rio Grande built a line to serve the many mining communities springing up in the San Juan Mountains. Here and elsewhere in Colorado where building a rail line involved carving shelves on the side of a mountain, the lines were narrow gauge. A narrower track was not only easier to build but also allowed for sharper curves. The surviving 64 mile section of the line the Rio Grande built west from Alamosa all the way west to Durango twists and turns through the mountains, crossing the state line a dozen times.

Leadville, at over 10,000 feet above sea level, still looks like a mining town. Streets fan out in random directions with most homes simply plopped down next to the sidewalk. In a city where winter lasts for nine months, who cares about a front yard? Leadville only has about 2,000 residents today; but in its heyday it rivaled Denver as the most important city in Colorado and was a serious contender to become the state capital. Molly Brown, who would later become a heroine on the Titanic, was married in a Catholic Church in Leadville that is still open for business. Three narrow gauge rail lines managed to reach Leadville. A section of just one of them, the Denver, South Park, and Pacific, survives. One can only imagine the grueling conditions under which laborers worked to build this line up from Denver, through Breckenridge, crossing the continental divide twice, and rising another mile above the Mile High City to reach Leadville. Yet once upon a time Silver Kings could board a mahogany paneled Pullman in Leadville in the evening, crawl into bed, and awaken refreshed the next morning in Denver. The curves were so sharp and grades so steep, that it took the train over ten hours to make the 150 mile journey to Denver.

Nineteenth century rail builders took great risks in building these lines, realizing that there were enormous profits to be made from these mining communities. But we can also point to many saints in our tradition who took even greater risks for the reign of God. St. Francis Cabrini, for example, who founded our parish school, managed to overcome obstacles even greater than mountains in establishing more than 60 hospitals, orphanages, and schools. Cardinal Cupich has challenged the Church of Chicago to think big as we try to reclaim our relevance in a secular society. In its own way, that might be an even greater challenge than the physical obstacles faced by the nineteenth century founders of our parish and school. All Aboard!

Fr. Joe

SPONSORS NEEDED: Each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Assumption provides Chicago Shares vouchers to the homeless and needy. These vouchers can be redeemed for food at Jewel and at a number of sandwich shops in the Loop. This costs the parish about \$200 a week. Would you be willing to sponsor this charitable work one of these weeks? Contact Wanda West in our parish office for more information.

Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

<i>Lectors</i>		<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>
October 21-22, 2017		
G. Herrera	5:00	M. Foster
G. Brown		P. Foster
		D. Pikarski
L. Pelka	7:30	R. Tevonian
R. Tevonian		D. Tevonian
		L. Pelka
M. Fedele	9:00	P. Brown
P. Brown		Eva. Bernacki
		B. Manna
J. Shields	10:30	K. Zajdel
J. Dues		L. Dues
		D. Iaccino
P. Anderson	12:15	K. Angres
S. Stantis		P. Anderson
		D. Iaccino
B. Kabacinski	5:00	B. Funo
A. Carvajal		J. Burke
		P. Burke

BAPTISMS
EMMA ROSE FEENEY
MILA ROSE FEENEY
ELYNN JOY PRUITT

WELCOME! We welcome as our special guests at the 10:30 Mass today couples who were married at Assumption.

YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING

Assumption Young Adults are launching its fall season with a chili dinner after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, October 22. Bring your own liquid refreshments. Just kindly email assumptionaya@gmail.com to let the chili chef know that you are coming. Assumption Young Adults is for those in their twenties and thirties, married or single. AYA sponsors social, spiritual, and service activities throughout the year.

WELCOME! Through a cooperative arrangement with Claret House, a Catholic center for counseling and spiritual direction, we welcome Nancy Kennedy, who is a trained counselor and who will be available to meet with anyone right here at Assumption who needs help facing issues in their life. She is available for appointments on Monday evenings and some Saturdays. You may leave a message for her at Claret Center (773-643-6259, ext 31) or email her at nkennedy4@luc.edu.

PARKING DURING CONSTRUCTION: Parking is free for Sunday Mass and other church activities if you park in the Mart Parc immediately behind the church. Bring your parking ticket to church and have it validated before or after Mass. The validation is good for two hours free parking. You can then exit the parking garage without visiting the pay machine.

A TASTE OF ASSUMPTION: Our fall fundraiser and fun-raiser will take place Tuesday, October 24 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at The Ballroom at 12 East Erie. Tickets are \$100.00 and may be purchased through our parish office or on-line (Go to our website, www.assumption-chgo.org and click on electronic giving). There will be a variety of “small plate” goodies, an open bar all evening, and the nicest people in the world with which to mingle. In addition to buying a ticket and coming to the event, you can also contribute to the success of the evening by becoming a sponsor. We need five sponsors of \$500 to cover the cost of equipment and labor, and two sponsors of \$200 to cover wine and spirits. A big hit at last year’s event was our wine game, which ended way too quickly when we ran out of wine bottles. This year we’re hoping more of you will donate a couple of bottles of your favorite wine (or, for fun, your least favorite wine). Leave your bottles at the parish office or in the gold box at the front of church. We are so grateful that our good friends at Phil Stefani’s Signature Restaurants and Anichini Brothers Wholesale Meats are once again donating our “eats”.

HYMNS FOR MASS: #197, #455 #586 (except 5:00 p.m. Sunday)

WEDDINGS
AUSTIN BOYLE & KATHRYN NESTLE
ZACHARY MEYER & KERRI FECZKO
BRIAN BOCCI & ELIZBETH MACIVER
ETHAN ABERNATHEY & SHELLY PAVONE
PAUL DUBUQUE & LAUREN KEENAN
PATRICK FULLER & KELLY ROCHELEAU
KEVIN MARTINEZ & ANNAIS SANTIAGO
SEAN SLOAN & ELIZBETH ELLIOTT

PRAY FOR THEM

Sick: Marianne Vitton, Joseph C. Hantsch, Brent Murphy, Marion Schotz, Joyce Walsh, Carmen Arellano, Mary Ann Kevin, Cara Postilion, Galen Espinosa, Terry Shaugnessy, Debora Pletzke, Javier Garcia, Julian Dogariu, Terry Deneen, Denise Robinson, Juanita Taylor, Ronald Kennard, LaDoris Martin, Eleese & Willie Grant, Sheila McAndrews, Annie Nace, Annette Reilly and Samantha Ahto

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 15, 2017

Sun.	15th	7:30	Virginia Lawton (RIP)
		9:00	Michael & Rose-Marie Sopko(RIP) Helen Morris(RIP) Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Fam.
		10:30	William Nugent
		12:15	Assumption Parishioners
Mon.	16th	7:00	Carmen Pacella
Tues.	17th	7:00	Theresa Timan (RIP)
Wed.	18th	12:10	Charles & Beth Mulaney (RIP)
Fri.	20th	7:00	Charles & Marion Joachim
		12:10	Charles & Beth Mulaney (RIP)