

# ASSUMPTION CHURCH

## *Second Sunday of Lent February 25, 2024*

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Chicago, Illinois 60654  
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[www.assumption-chgo.org](http://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)

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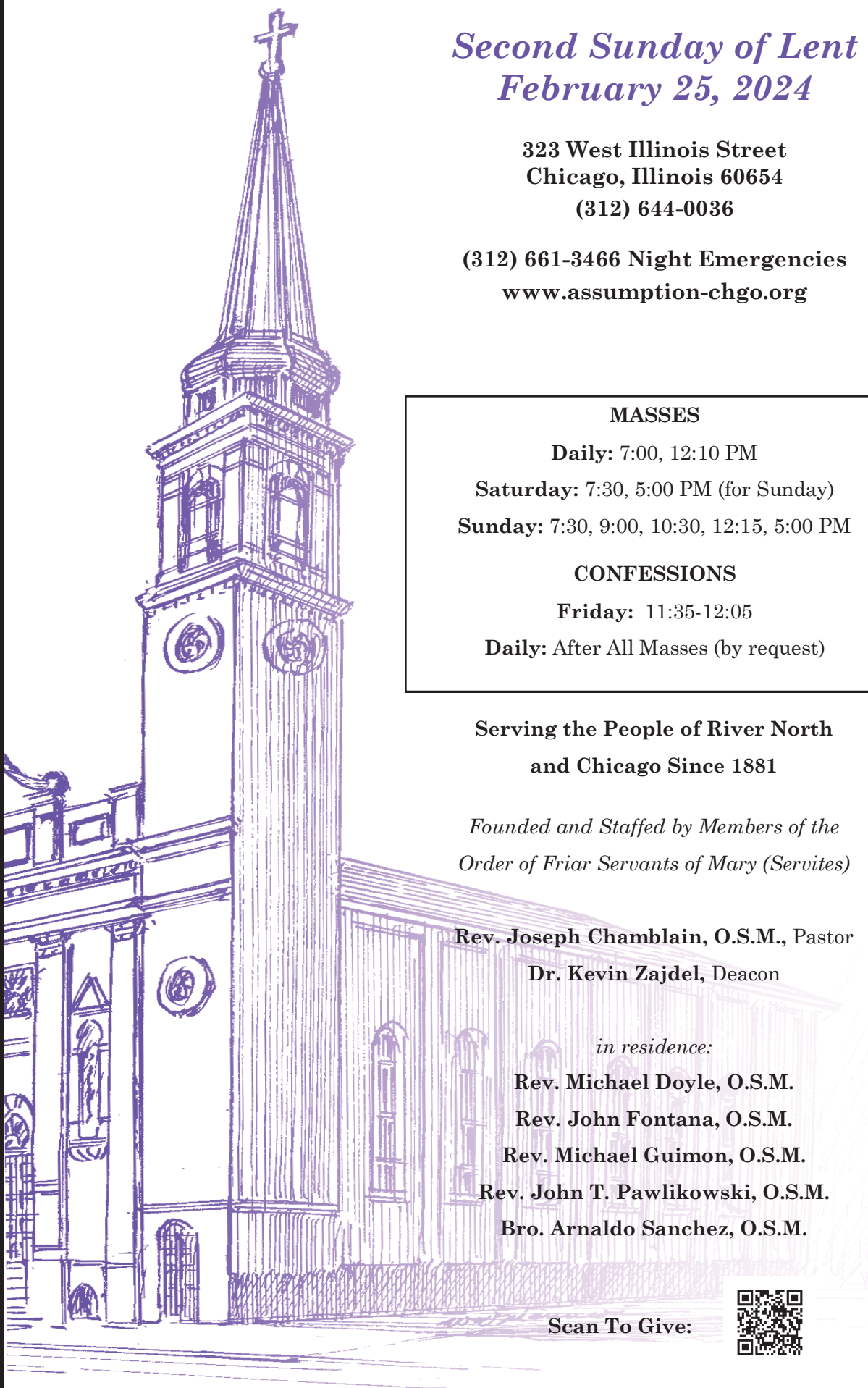
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Rev. Joseph Chamblain, O.S.M., Pastor  
Dr. Kevin Zajdel, Deacon

*in residence:*

Rev. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.  
Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.  
Rev. Michael Guimon, O.S.M.  
Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.  
Bro. Arnaldo Sanchez, O.S.M.

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## WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW

When I was in another parish in another diocese, we had a large Catholic School and a substantial Religious Education Program. I was part of the team preparing seventh graders for the Sacrament of Confirmation. One of the projects we had the Candidates do was to interview a Senior Catholic about what their Catholic faith has meant to them. For some 13-year-olds, their idea of a “senior Catholic” was somebody who was 25; but most of them caught the idea: interview somebody my grandparents’ age. Some of these interviews were shared in class. What struck me was how honest some of these older Catholics were about their faith journey. Some acknowledged that as teenagers they only went to Mass because they were forced to go. Then, life happened. The great plans they had for their life at 21 did not all pan out. People they loved battled sickness. People close to them died. It became more and more important to them to have a spiritual center, to be able to talk to God, to receive Communion, and to trust that their dreams would not all be fulfilled in the here and now but would be in the afterlife. They learned about faith not from a catechism but from life itself.

As I look back on that project thirty years later, it seems clear that this is the kind of thing we need more of right now. We need people who are comfortable talking about their faith in a personal way. We live in a world with a thousand distractions every minute and a massive mistrust of institutions. Many outsiders think of organized religion as a political faction, and one not popular with many younger people. Yet the questions about existence (Why am I here? What is life for? Is there anything behind everything that is?) are questions we all have to face. If we have questions about God, where can we go to ask them without being judged for having the “wrong” answer? If we care about passing on the faith, where do we go to get better at telling our story?

Over this past month we have been running announcements in the bulletin and online about Alpha. There are flyers in the back of church and a banner outside. The Evangelization Team did a trial run with Alpha in the fall, and now they are ready to open it up to everybody. Alpha began in an evangelical branch of the Church of England several decades ago, as a way to reach the vast numbers of unchurched people. Since then, it has spread around the world and crossed denominational lines. It is endorsed by the Archdiocese of Chicago and has taken root in many parishes in the Chicago area. I think it can be transformational for us too. It gives those who have always thought of their faith as very private the tools to talk about their faith with others and to develop a more personal connection with God. It gives the unchurched and those alienated from church the space to talk freely about their struggles with belief. In short, it can make us a more outgoing, mission-oriented parish. People who complete the Alpha course tend to be people who get actively involved in ministry, whether through the church or another agency. They also help revitalize existing ministries by giving them a stronger sense of community and more of a spiritual center.

Because Alpha falls “outside the box” of what we have traditionally thought of as “Catholic,” it is easy to ignore, to think of it as something that belongs at Willow Creek but not at Assumption. Yet we all know that simply thinking “inside the box,” doing the things we have always done to pass on the faith, is not working the way it used to work. It fits the definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. In spite of all the money invested in Catholic education and all the time spent in Catholic schools and religion classes and even dragging reluctant teenagers to Mass, only about one in five Catholics in the Chicago area regularly attends Mass and out of this 20% only a small number participate in church activities beyond Sunday Mass.

So, if Alpha has not been on your radar screen, please take some time this week to think about it and pray about it. Consider sacrificing one evening a week, to spend time in community with fellow parishioners and strangers and let the Alpha experience take hold in you. The first Session of Alpha is a great opportunity to invite your non-churchgoing friends and relatives to come to a church event where they will simply be welcomed. They will not be preached at or taught what to believe or told what is right and what is wrong or made to feel guilty about their past or roped into coming back if they do not find the experience helpful. To participate or to find out more, email [alpha@assumption-chgo.org](mailto:alpha@assumption-chgo.org).

Fr. Joe



### **THE MANY WAYS TO PRAY**

Assumption's Leadership Group has produced a series of ten-minute videos to enhance your Lenten Journey. You can find them on our website ([assumption-chgo.org](http://assumption-chgo.org)).

### **EVENINGS OF FAITH**

Every Wednesday in Lent we will have Mass at 6:00pm in church, followed by a Lenten Meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30 and the presentation from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Reservations are required only for the meal and may be made online, by phone, or by signing the list in the back of church.

- February 21 - Understanding the Migrant Crisis (*Erendira Rendon*)
- February 28 - Why Do We Pray? (*Deacon Richard Hudzik*)
- March 6 - Music and the Liturgy (*Wendy Silhavy*)
- March 13 - Reaching the Next Generation (*Shannon Schmidt*)
- March 20 - The Night Before Jesus Died (*Fr. Joe*)

### **WHY DO WE PRAY?**

Prayer, fasting, and charity are the three traditional Lenten practices. But what exactly is prayer? Why do we pray? Why is it important to find a form of prayer that fits your personality and life experience? Deacon Richard Hudzik, Director of Ongoing Formation for Deacons in the Archdiocese of Chicago and a frequent contributor to YouTube, will offer the second presentation in our *Lenten Evenings of Faith* series on Wednesday February 28 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to revitalize your prayer life. Come for Mass at 6:00pm in Church and the Lenten Meal at 6:30pm. Reservations are required only for the meal and may be made on-line, by calling the Parish Office or by signing the list in the back of church.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Prayed following the 12:10 Mass on the Fridays of Lent

### **WEDDING GREETER MINISTRY**

The wedding greeter ministry is hosting an information night for anyone interested in finding out more about this important ministry on Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30pm at the rectory. We are hoping to find at least three more people to help weddings at Assumption run smoothly. Please contact Elizabeth Kabacinski at [elizabeth.a.kabacinski@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.a.kabacinski@gmail.com) for more information and to RSVP.

**PRAY FOR THEM:** Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Rosemary Reeves, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Wanda Escher, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Rich DiVito, Julie Villarreal, Carolina Gomez, Jason Blick, John Graff, Frank Ragase, Steve Meyers, Michael Hantsch, Katie Graff, Elizabeth McKiernan, Willie & Mary Priego

### **IS ALPHA FOR ME?**



Here is a testimony from a past participant in the Alpha course at Assumption: *I was coming into this as a cradle Catholic whose idea of being devout was going to Mass on Sundays and saying some Our Fathers and Hail Marys before going to bed at night. I figured that Alpha would essentially be like religion class where we get told why Catholics believe what we believe. To my surprise there was a much greater emphasis both on community and forming a personal relationship with Jesus, both of which I had not previously prioritized. Alpha presupposes no knowledge of or relationship with Jesus, but helps you come closer to Him through shared meals, media content, and open and honest discussion. I often felt myself called to open up to both Him and others in ways that I hadn't previously. I think Alpha can be really helpful to everyone—regardless of whether you're a skeptic or if you go to Mass every day, there is something there for you.*

**Alpha begins Thursday March 7.** Alpha helps cradle Catholics live and share their faith in a more intentional way and helps those who have become alienated from church or organized religion to raise questions and speak their truth in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Consider coming yourself and invite a friend or family member who is not an active church member to come with you. To sign up, email [alpha@assumption-chgo.org](mailto:alpha@assumption-chgo.org).

### **THE NURSERY RETURNS—This Sunday, Feb 25!**

Children ages 18 months to 4 years are welcome to come to the nursery (adjacent to the Parish Hall on the lower level) for “church light” during the 10:30 Mass on February 25, March 24, and April 21. The ministry is staffed by a team of regular, trained volunteers. Mom and dad, give yourself a break once a month! No food is served and children must be in the nursery prior to the beginning of Mass. Find out more on our website.

### **MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

Sat.	24th	5:00 Daniel Schuman (RIP)
Sun.	25th	7:30 Mari Egan (RIP)
		9:00 Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		10:30 Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)
		12:15 Nicholas & Mallory Shealy (Anniv.), Scott Shealy, Thomas & JoAnn Drake, Theresa Drake, Philip Pearson (RIP)
		5:00 Assumption Parishioners
Mon.	26th	12:10 Bobby Knight (RIP)
Tues.	27th	7:00 Joey Meyer (RIP)
		12:10 Cameron Estrich (RIP)
Wed.	28th	7:00 Richard Denman (RIP)
		12:10 Maureen Murphy (RIP)
Thurs.	29th	7:00 Lillian Lacrosse (RIP, b'day)
		12:10 Jack Squirek (RIP)
Fri.	1st	12:10 Dave Schlueter (RIP)
Sat.	2nd	7:30 Isabella Strahan (illness)





**LOOKING AHEAD TO EASTER:** On Easter we adjust our Sunday Mass Schedule to better accommodate the many who attend Mass that day. In addition to the Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30pm Saturday evening, Masses on Easter Sunday will be at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, and 1:00pm.

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL:** The Annual Catholic Appeal supports many ministries in the Archdiocese that would be unable to continue without outside help. The ACA supports parishes and schools in economically challenged neighborhoods, provides training for teachers, catechists, and evangelizers, and sustains other programs for people with genuine human needs. Use one of the pledge envelopes in the back of church or go online to [annualcatholicappeal.com](http://annualcatholicappeal.com) to make your pledge.

**HELPING THOSE IN NEED:** A special thank you to all those who responded to our coat, glove, and hat drive to help the unhoused and the refugees. Right now we are not accepting donations of clothing. Funds that remain in this account will be used to assist refugees.

**LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE:** We are all encouraged to sacrifice more, pray more, and be more generous during Lent, but here are the minimum requirements of the Catholic Church. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed by those 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those bound by the fast may take only one full meal a day. Two smaller meals are permitted, but eating solid food between meals is not permitted.

#### HELP SAVE GOD'S CREATION

Please see the **Laudato Si'** and **Me** section of Assumption's website ([assumption-chgo.org](http://assumption-chgo.org)) for practical ideas and helpful links.



Help care for aging Friars who served at Assumption. Remember **The Order of Friar Servants of Mary, USA Province** in your will.



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If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.  
- Mother Teresa



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