

# ASSUMPTION CHURCH

## *Third Sunday of Lent March 3, 2024*

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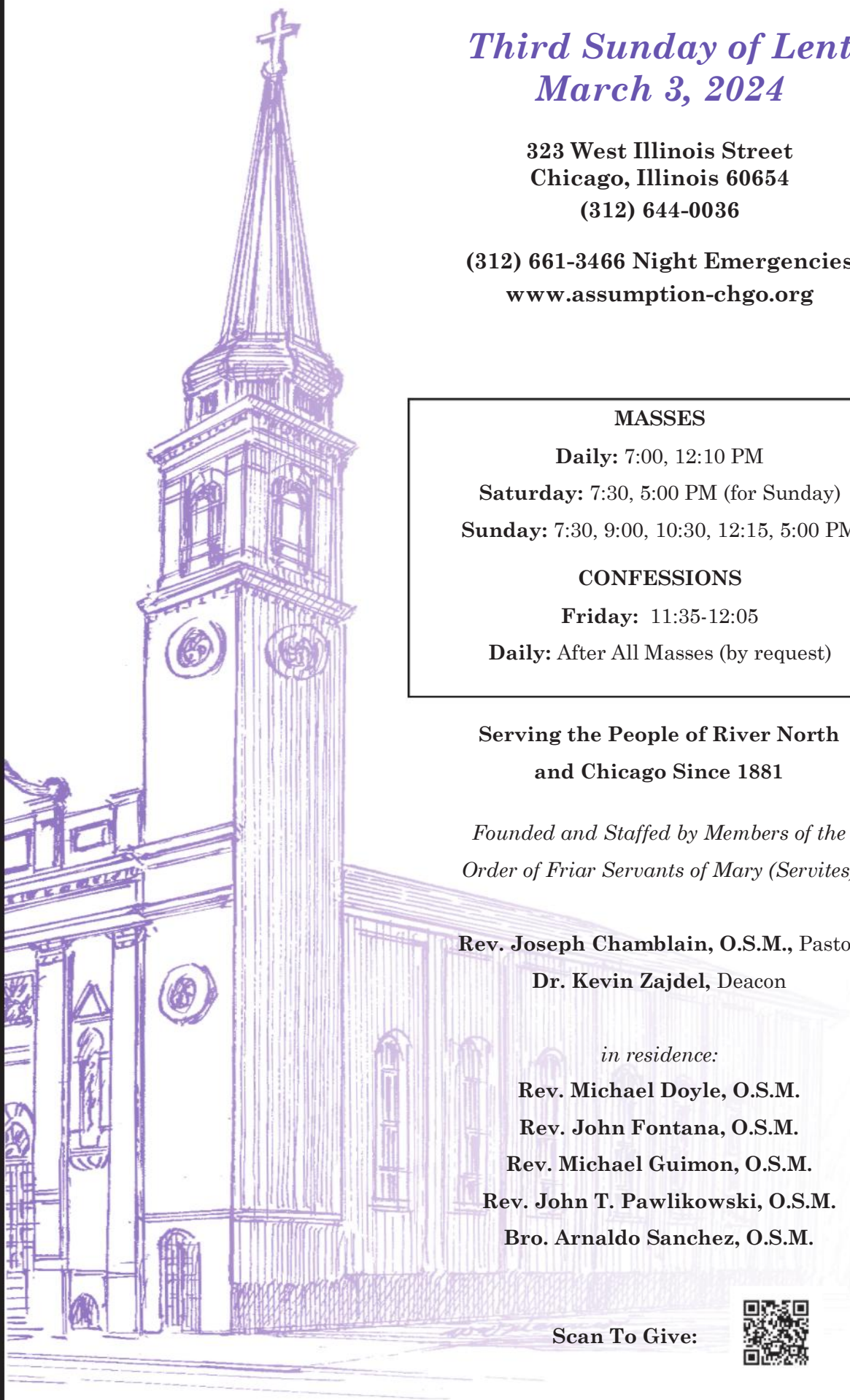
*Founded and Staffed by Members of the  
Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites)*

**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.**

**Scan To Give:**



## YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS

Some days it seems as if the easiest job in the world is to tally up the bad news. War continues to rage in Eastern Europe and the Middle East and crime and violence in Chicago never take a holiday. Congress is in gridlock. With a presidential election not many months away, 64% of Americans say they would like an alternative to Biden and Trump. All kinds of issues are swirling around about migration and the southern border; the homeless crisis is not solving itself; and the Chicago Bears and the Chicago White Sox keep reminding us that they are the really needy ones. In the Church an aging pontiff is trying to push us to become a more Spirit-led Church, while the supporting structures continue to crumble. In our Archdiocese between 2000 and 2019, Mass attendance declined by 35%, baptisms by 40% and weddings by 33% and fewer than 20% of Catholics attend Mass regularly. We could go on and on but we all have the picture.

This is one of the reasons I found participating in the annual Rite of Election and Continuing Conversion at Holy Name Cathedral so uplifting. On Sunday, February 18, the eight members of our adult catechumenate, their sponsors, a few family members, and the leaders of our RCIA were among the more than a thousand people that quite literally filled the church. This is one of four services in which those who are preparing for Easter Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion) are formally affirmed and declared “elect” by Cardinal Cupich or an auxiliary bishop. While the other three services may not have been as well filled, it was an awesome moment to see more than half of the congregation in the Sanctuary responding to the call to full membership in the Catholic Church. Having attended this event every year, this is the most crowded ceremony I have seen in a long time. And this is only one Archdiocese. This same ritual is happening in churches and cathedrals all over the world.

Of course, statistics tell us that more people are leaving the church than joining it and that not everyone who is received into the Catholic Church at Easter will remain active in it. My point is that even amid all the gloom and doom in our world and in our church, people are still being drawn to the community and finding value in it. It reminds us not to take what we have for granted or overlook the opportunities we have to model our faith to others. The same statistics also tell us that the people who make up what is now our nation’s largest religious denomination (“none”) are not all averse to organized religion. Many of them are actively searching. How we represent our Catholic faith at work or at the grocery store or at a condo meeting may make a difference. It also means that we should not assume that the visitors or new faces we see at Sunday Mass are Catholic. They may be people of another faith or of no faith who want to see what Catholic worship is like. People want to check out what the actual experience of the community is like before they check out what the group believes. Hence, the smile we show the visitor, the handshake we offer at the sign of peace, and the actual engagement we exhibit in the responses and in the singing at Mass are clues to outsiders of how much the worship means to us. After all, everyone else is just as weary of bad news as we are. The Good News that has touched our lives is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is meant to be good news for everybody.

This past weekend I was not very visible at Assumption. About six months ago I had been invited by the Adult Faith Coordinator at Immaculate Conception Parish in Elmhurst to preach a parish mission, something I had not done in about ten years. This meant preaching at all the weekend Masses and giving a presentation Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but it turned out to be a lot of work at the last minute! But it was also nice to experience another Catholic community seeking to address the same issues that we all face. As Pope Francis said on his visit to the United States in 2015, “One of the great challenges facing the Church in this generation is to foster in the faithful a sense of personal responsibility for the Church’s mission, and to enable them to fulfill that responsibility as missionary disciples, as a leaven of the Gospel in the world.” Leaven, you know, is not much to write home about all by itself. However, its impact can be felt throughout the loaf of bread. That is the ministry to which Pope Francis has called us. We may not see ourselves as very important, but that does not mean that our influence does not matter.

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).

### **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*)

### **MUSIC AND THE LITURGY**

The Church calls us to full, active participation in the liturgy, which includes sung prayer. On Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall, Wendy Barton Silhavy, Senior Coordinator for Music and Liturgy for the Office for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago, will speak about the role of sung prayer in the liturgy and how our understanding of the role of music in the liturgy has evolved over the centuries. Wendy has many years of experience as a musician, cantor, and choir director. She has a special interest in the teaching role of liturgy and how liturgy impacts our daily lives. This is the third presentation in our *Evenings of Faith* series.

Come for Mass at 6:00pm in Church and the Lenten Meal at 6:30pm prior to the presentation. Reservations are required only for the meal and may be made online, by calling the Parish Office, or by signing the list in the back of church.



### **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.

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday, March 11 from 7:00 to 8:15pm in the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for those who have never before attended a preparation session. Call the parish office to register. It is not necessary to wait for the baby to be born to attend a preparation session. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15pm and on the first weekend of the month during Mass.

### **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.

### **HOSPITALITY THIS WEEKEND**

The Assumption Young Adults (AYA) are sponsoring hospitality this weekend. Come to the Parish Hall following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses to share food and conversation.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Prayed following the 12:10 Mass on the Fridays of Lent

**HYMNS:** #424, #442

**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

### **MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF MARCH 2, 2024**

Sat.	2nd	5:00	Arthur Campbell (RIP)
Sun.	3rd	7:30	Steve Palkovitz
		9:00	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		10:30	Theresa Landgren (b'day)
		12:15	Claudia Liliana Angarita de Ripoll (RIP)
		5:00	Dorothy Brennan (RIP)
Mon.	4th	7:00	Souls in Purgatory
Tues.	5th	12:10	Gibson Lee Harnett (RIP)
Wed.	6th	7:00	Deceased of Hufnagel Family
Fri.	8th	12:10	Priests & People of Assumption
Sat.	9th	7:30	Arthur Campbell (RIP)



**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.

### NEXT NURSERY DATE—MARCH 24

The nursery will be open on March 24 during the 10:30 Mass. Children ages 18 months to 4 years are welcome.

#### 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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