

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord March 31, 2024

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

(312) 661-3466 Night Emergencies
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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Rev. Joseph Chamblain, O.S.M., Pastor
Dr. Kevin Zajdel, Deacon

in residence:

Rev. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.

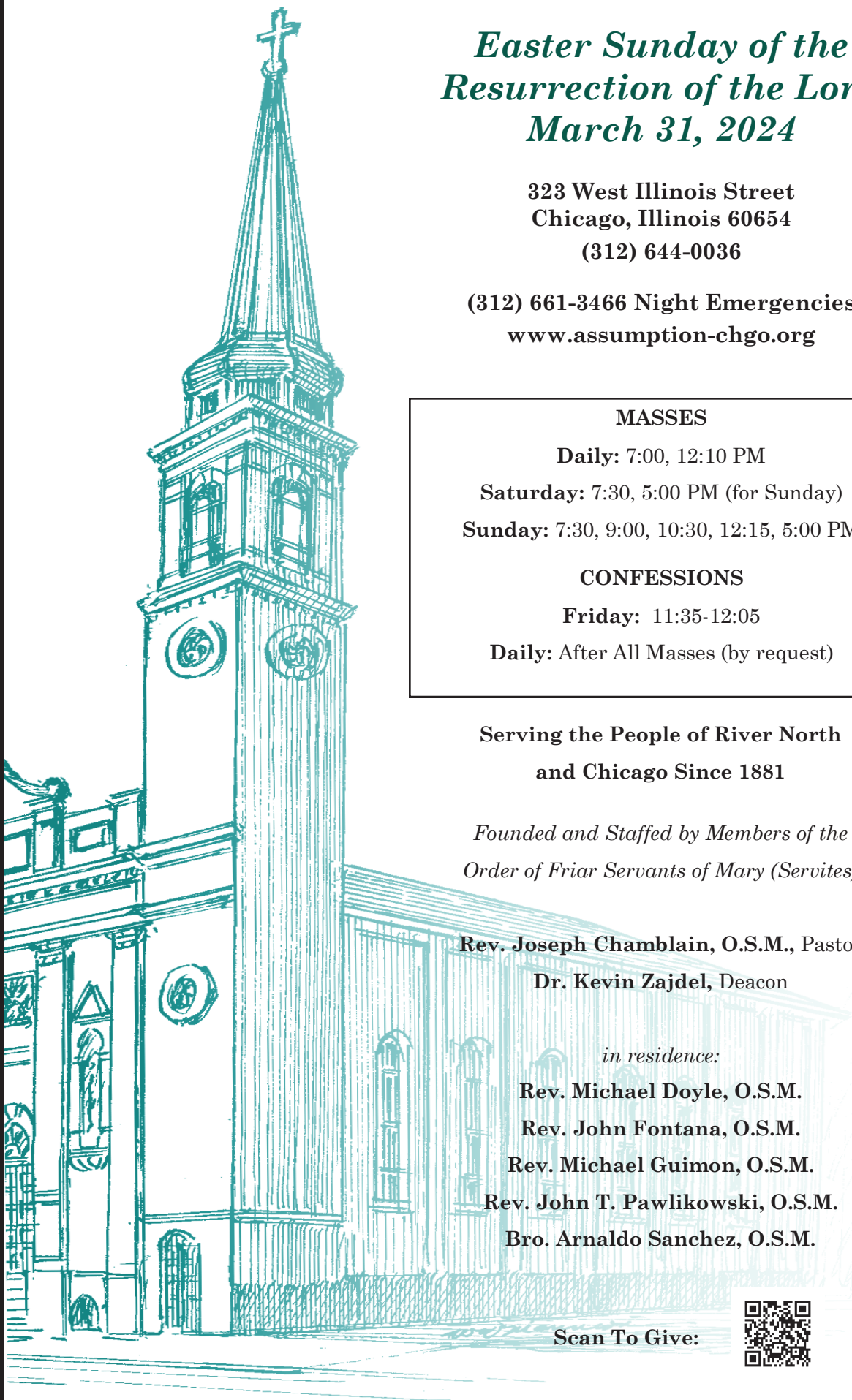
Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.

Rev. Michael Guimon, O.S.M.

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

Bro. Arnaldo Sanchez, O.S.M.

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HOW TO AVOID CELEBRATING EASTER

We all know the basic plot of Easter: Jesus rose from the dead. Yet when his followers came to his tomb on Easter morning and saw the stone rolled back and the tomb empty, none of them understood what had happened. The empty tomb was not an immediate sign to them that Jesus had risen from the dead just like he said he would. It was so outside the range of human possibilities that they could not grasp it. The early believers had to work their way to faith. It was only after they had encountered his risen presence in the garden, and on the road, and at table that they could begin to grasp what had happened. Today we are blessed to be part of a faith tradition going back 2,000 years. We are blessed with the knowledge that at least ten of the eleven remaining apostles were willing to die a martyr's death rather than deny that Jesus had appeared to them in bodily form: that he still bore the wounds of his crucifixion yet was able to do very human things like eat bread and fish. Still, each of us has to come to terms with this deep mystery of faith that we celebrate today. Like the first followers of Jesus, we have to work our way to faith. Our culture tries to distract us by turning Easter into a celebration of the three B's (bunnies, butterflies, and brunch). Some have tried to reframe Easter as a Spring Festival or a celebration of new life in a very generic way. But the Gospels are very specific. This is not some new age, feel good festival. Easter claims that Jesus was killed and then rose from the dead. What might keep us from believing that? Well, let's look at the experience of three of Jesus' closest followers on Easter morning: Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple (often understood to be John).

On Easter morning Mary Magdalene came to the tomb with one purpose and one purpose alone: to reverence and anoint a dead body. Jesus had changed her life and turned her into one of his most devoted followers. She wanted to show respect to the body of Jesus just as he had shown her respect. In time she would be entrusted with bringing the Good News of the Resurrection to Jesus' followers, but that was not her first reaction. When she encountered the empty tomb, she went on a quest to find the dead body. Who robbed the grave? Mary is so convinced that Jesus is dead that she does not even recognize him when he is standing in front of her. Mary Magdalene's problem was that she could not think outside the box. There are dead people and living people and never the two shall mix. She forgot that God created the box along with everything in it. God does not have to play by our rules. For some of us that can be an obstacle to faith. We think that God has to play by our rules. But a God who can only do for us what we could do for ourselves is not much of a God. Yes, it is hard to believe. But that is why one of the gifts of the Spirit is awe and wonder.

Then there are the two apostles, Peter and the Disciple Whom Jesus Loved. Even though Peter entered the empty tomb first, it is The Beloved Disciple who "saw and believed." Both of them looked at the same evidence (burial clothes folded up, like someone who didn't need them anymore) but it was the Beloved Disciple who first came to believe that Jesus must be alive. What was the difference? I suspect it was because the Beloved Disciple knew that he was loved. Peter probably was not sure if he was still loved. The Beloved Disciple reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper and stood with Mary, his mother, at the Foot of the Cross when Jesus was dying. Peter could not stay awake when asked to pray, ran away when Jesus was arrested, and denied even knowing Jesus three times. Peter, I suspect, was blocked by guilt and shame and a sense of failure. Sometimes that is true of us too. We try to push God aside because we feel so unworthy of his love. When we do not believe that we are loved, we often struggle with faith and hope. We live in fear and regret and not in faith and openness to the future. We have a hard time believing that we could be a recipient of a special gift from God.

We live in a world with a lot of fear and with people who exploit that fear. We live in a world that has lost a sense of wonder at God's creation. Yet we can help change that world, as long as we are not part of the problem ourselves. Easter is a good time to remember that whatever we have done in the past, God still loves us. God does not box us in to our past and neither should we. The Good News of Easter is that the darkness has been overcome by the light of Christ. Now is a good time to let go of our guilt and shame and start living as a real disciple of Christ. It is also a good time to let go of the restrictions we sometimes place on God. Let your hope and imagination run free. Jesus can lead you to a place of life and joy, just as Jesus wants to lead the world from a place of war and violence and selfishness and fear into a place of compassion, understanding, and love. That was a cause worth dying for.

Fr. Joe

EASTER SCHEDULE: Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30pm. Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, & 1:00pm

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the Second Sunday of Easter “Divine Mercy Sunday.” The Feast is primarily about God’s mercy made present in the peace and forgiveness Jesus offered his disciples after rising from the dead, and which is still available to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Feast also highlights special prayers and devotions associated with St. Maria Faustina, whose private revelations were a primary inspiration for this Feast. Assumption will have a Holy Hour next Sunday April 7 from 3:00 to 4:00pm with Divine Mercy prayers. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available between 2:45 and 3:15pm.

WERE YOU MARRIED AT ASSUMPTION?

Come for a special Mass, blessing, and renewal of vows at 12:00 Noon Saturday, April 13, followed by brunch in the Parish Hall. Just let us know you are coming by emailing assumptionchurchchi@gmail.com or calling the parish office at 312-644-0036.

GETTING MARRIED AT ASSUMPTION

You do not have to be a registered member of Assumption to have your wedding at Assumption. Find out more by calling our parish office or by exploring the “weddings” tab on our homepage (assumption-chgo.org).

OUR NEW ADOPTED FAMILY

Our Refugee Assistance Group is happy to announce that Assumption will be paying the next year’s rent for a family who recently arrived from Mexico as humanitarian parolees. It is a single mother with six children. One son, who is 4, is undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia. One of his brothers is donating bone marrow. A generous parishioner has offered to pay 50% of the year’s rent, and we welcome additional donations. The family lives near 116th and Ada, but must vacate this home by May 31. They would like to stay in the West Pullman neighborhood, so the children will not have to change schools. Help finding them a new home is also appreciated. To donate go to GiveCentral and select Project Refugee.

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

REST IN PEACE: Brian Masterson, Barbara Jones

PARISH PASTA PARTY

Italian food returns to the Parish Hall! Join us on Saturday, April 20 following the 5:00pm Mass (or from 6:00 to 8:00pm) for a simple meal of lasagna, salad, fresh baked bread, and dessert, wine, beer, or soda. Tickets are \$50 each, \$25 for children under 12. Reservations are required; so, get yours soon. Purchase tickets on GiveCentral or call the Parish Office. If you have a large group, let us know so that we can seat you together. This will sell out!

WELCOME!

At the Easter Vigil Mass we celebrated the baptism of Gloria Corujo and Amanda Rodriguez, and received into full membership with the Catholic Church Elizabeth Hedrick, Conora Shaw, Jorge Vivas, Cindy Plascencia, Axel Leyva-Villegas, and James Garner.

All of our Elect and Candidates made their First Holy Communion and Confirmation at this Mass. The Catholic Community of Assumption welcomes you.



PLAN ON HANGING AROUND

Coffee, juice, pastries, and conversation will be served in the Parish Hall following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses next Sunday April 7. This month’s Hospitality Sunday is hosted by the Lectors.

ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS

AYA is for those in their twenties or thirties, single, married, or coupled. AYA schedules a number of service, social, and spiritual activities during the year. Join their email list at assumptionaya@gmail.com.

HYMNS: #173, #182, #185

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF MARCH 30, 2024

Sat.	30th	7:30	Our RCIA Elect & Candidates
Sun.	31st	7:00	Assumption Parishioners
		8:30	Dorothy Brennan (RIP)
		10:00	Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)
		11:30	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		1:00	Cornelia & Francisco Pestanas (RIP)
Mon.	1st	7:00	Adele Ann Springsteen (RIP)
		12:10	Special Intention
Tues.	2nd	7:00	Susan Walsh Miller (RIP)
		12:10	Brian Masterson (RIP)
Wed.	3rd	7:00	Kailyn Bare & Jon Villarreal (engagement)
Thurs.	4th	7:00	Special Intention
		12:10	Souls in Purgatory
Fri.	5th	7:00	Toby Keith (RIP)

Please turn the page for more bulletin news



SECOND COLLECTION: Next week's second collection is for our sharing parish, Our Lady of Sorrows.

USING UP THE PLASTIC: As social activity in the parish has increased, we find ourselves with a growing stock of disposable plates, cups, and utensils of various sizes and shapes. For the sake of the environment, we are trying to phase out the use of plastics. Please allow the Parish Office to purchase these things in the future. We can save money by buying in quantity, and help save the earth at the same time.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible) godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday May 13 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. It is not necessary to wait until the baby is born to attend. Call the parish office to register. 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming events at Assumption that you won't want to miss!

- ◆ April 20—Parish Pasta Party
- ◆ May 19—Ice Cream Social
- ◆ August 18—Assumption Feast Day Event in the Garden
- ◆ November 7—Italian Dinner


HELP SAVE GOD'S CREATION
Please see the **Laudato Si'** and **Me** section of Assumption's website (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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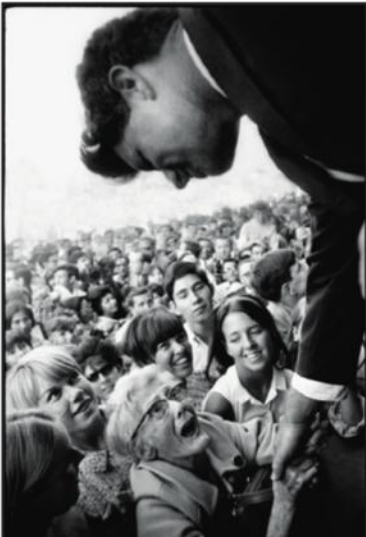
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