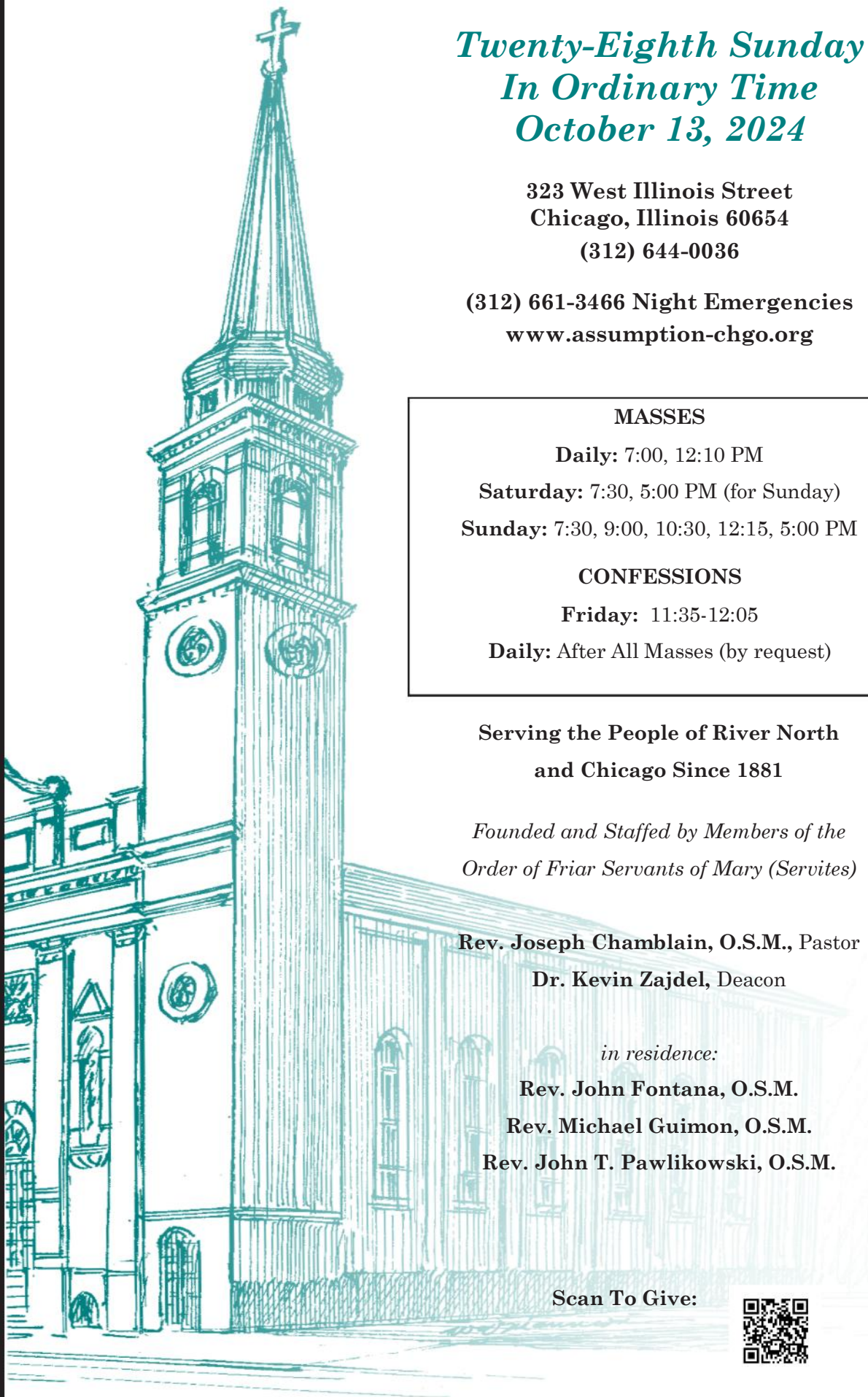


# ASSUMPTION CHURCH



## *Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time October 13, 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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October 13, 2024

## RUNNING THE MARATHON OF LIFE

Marathon Weekend in our neighborhood has its own distinctive flavor. Rather than the typical crowds of tourists strolling around on a Saturday morning, runners are outside their hotels stretching and then taking off on a run, dodging pedestrians and cars. We are privileged to welcome dozens of those runners and their families each year to the 5:00 Mass Saturday evening for the Blessing of the Runners. What we see in River North, of course, is only a small slice of what goes on throughout our city in preparation for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. Over 12,000 volunteers staff the 20 aid stations along the route that takes runners 26.2 miles through the many distinctive neighborhoods of Chicago. The Marathon is typically limited to about 45,000 participants, and that quota is reached many, many months before October. Over its long history, the Bank of America Chicago Marathon has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for charity.

Another city that I visited a few years ago holds its marathon in July. Typically fewer than 2000 runners apply to participate; so there is no need to register a year in advance. The record time for completing this marathon is a leisurely three hours and forty minutes, about an hour and a half longer than last year's first place finisher in the Chicago Marathon. Why don't more runners opt for this marathon? Well, as real estate developers constantly point out, "It's about location, location, location." This marathon begins and ends in the old mining town of Leadville in the Colorado Rockies. In contrast to the paved streets and almost level terrain of Chicago, the Leadville course offers a steady diet of steep climbs and uneven surfaces. Leadville, at 10,152 feet above sea level, is the highest incorporated city in our nation. Runners begin their run in this thin air two miles up and then are expected to climb even higher, crossing over the Mosquito Pass at 13,188 feet. The course takes runners along narrow mountain ledges and cuts through snow banks seven feet high. Runners are warned of the possibility of avalanches, falling off the trail, grizzly bear attacks, and snake bites (mishaps never known to occur at the Chicago Marathon). Those who complete the course get a free coffee mug. Why subject oneself to this torture? Finishers have said, "The gorgeous views take your mind off the pain" and "the feeling of accomplishment is incredible."

Truly there is something about running that gets into the soul of runners, that those of us who only run when someone is chasing us will never completely understand. But that does not mean that runners cannot offer us non-runners some important lessons. The peacefulness that runners discover when they get into the rhythm of running is not too far removed from the peacefulness we need to enter into deep meditative prayer. The discipline involved in training for a marathon is the same discipline that people of faith need if they are to advance in prayer, get rid of character flaws and sins, and contribute in a significant way to a service project or a charity. We will never get in shape for a marathon if we only run when the weather is just right, when we are feeling energetic, and when we have nothing else pressing to do. The same is true of spiritual growth.

Fr. David Stavarz, a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland and a marathoner, notes that while running can be a very isolated activity, a marathon is not. The thousands who stand on the sidelines and cheer help elevate the runner to keep on going. In the spiritual life, that should be one of the functions of church. We cheer one another on and help us all elevate our game. He also points out that to complete a marathon, runners must maintain a proper form. When one starts to tire and succumb to fatigue, the tendency is to let one's form get sloppy, thereby making the task ahead even more difficult. That is why during times of fatigue and loss of energy, maintaining good form is even more essential. There is also a parallel with the spiritual life. "During times of desolation when we feel that God is distant, it is even more important to stay with our regular spiritual program," be it Scripture, daily Mass, the rosary, or our volunteer work. Just as we will not always feel good running a marathon, we will not always feel close to God on the marathon of life. But that is no excuse to quit.

I am convinced that St. Paul was an athlete early in life, because he makes so many references to running. In one of his talks recorded in Acts, he says, I want "to finish my race with joy, and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus" (Acts 20:24); "Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win" (1 Cor 9:24) "I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize, for which God, through Jesus Christ is calling us." (Phil 3:15). St. Paul knew that by staying the course and finishing the race, we get a lot more from God than a coffee mug or a medal!

Fr. Joe

**ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS**

AYA is having a wine and cheese party in the Parish Hall following the 5:00pm Mass on Sunday, October 20. Join the AYA team to socialize and spread fellowship. All those in their twenties or thirties—married, single, or coupled—are invited. Contact [assumptionaya@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionaya@gmail.com) with questions, dietary restrictions, or to find out more about Assumption Young Adults.

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

Pope Francis has selected the theme “Go and invite everyone to the banquet” for our celebration of World Mission Sunday. On World Mission Sunday we pray and reflect on the mission of the Church and our own personal call to mission. We are also invited to support the Pontifical Mission Societies, which foster missionary cooperation on both the spiritual and material levels for the areas of our world most in need of the Good News of God’s love. Your donations to the Second Collection next weekend, October 19-20, will be much appreciated by your brothers and sisters all around the world.

**DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY ON LUKE**

Luke’s Gospel is the story of how God’s promises were fulfilled in Jesus. This Bible Study is an opportunity to deepen our faith and increase our understanding of the story of our salvation, and hear Jesus’ familiar words in a new light. The group meets for eight weeks, on Tuesdays at 10:00am. There is still time to join! For more information or to register, email [bible@assumption-chgo.org](mailto:bible@assumption-chgo.org).

**CHICAGO HELP INITIATIVE FUNDRAISER**

The Chicago Help Initiative (CHI) will have its annual Fundraiser on October 24 from 6-9 pm at The Forum, 110 North Wacker Drive. This fundraiser helps CHI raise monies to help the homeless and underserved by providing meals, social services and community. To purchase a ticket, please visit [chicagohelpinitiative.org](http://chicagohelpinitiative.org).

**KNIGHTS NEWS**

The Mother Cabrini River North Council of the Knights of Columbus will have its annual Tootsie Roll Drive to benefit individuals living with intellectual disabilities after all Masses on October 19-20.

**WEDDINGS:**

**THOMAS JOYCE & CAROLINE HERTZEL  
DAVID REYNOLDS & HANNAH SCHRAM  
ADAM PETERS & ALYSA DONESKE  
JACOB GORDON & ALEXANDRA DOTY  
JOHN WARD & NATALIA SOLER**

**SEPTEMBER DONATIONS**

Sunday Collection -	\$43,849
Sharing Parish -	1,859
Archdiocesan Seminaries -	1,667
<i>(includes electronic giving)</i>	

**THE ITALIAN DINNER**

Our 91<sup>st</sup> annual Italian Dinner will take place Thursday November 7 from 6:00 to 8:30pm at Coco Pazzo, 300 West Hubbard. This year we have a new venue and a new way for you to show your support for Assumption at the dinner. The delicious menu includes antipasti, insalata, entrees, dolce, and caffe. You will not leave hungry. Wine, beer, and soft drinks are included; cash bar for other drinks. Tickets are \$125 and reservations are required. Parking will be available at 311 and Mart Parc. Call the parish office or go on GiveCentral to make your reservations. Those on our email list who have already responded to the evite, please remember to complete your payment. We are already half-way to a sell-out.



**BLESSING OF RUNNERS**



It’s an Assumption tradition. During the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, October 12, the day before the Bank of American Chicago Marathon, we will offer a special blessing to all participants. Runners, along with their family, friends, and fan club are cordially invited.

**HYMNS: #634, #475, #565**

**PRAY FOR THEM:** Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Rosemary Reeves, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Rich DiVito, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Michael Graul

**MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF OCTOBER 12, 2024**

Sun.	13th	9:00 Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)
		10:30 John McEneaney (RIP)
		12:15 Assumption Parishioners
		5:00 Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
Mon.	14th	12:10 Christopher Handy (RIP)
Tues.	15th	7:00 Brad Davis (RIP)
Wed.	16th	7:00 Special Intention
Thurs.	17th	12:10 Cornelia & Francisco Pestanas (RIP)
Fri.	18th	7:00 Special Intention
		12:10 Patrick & Allison Reisch
Sat.	19th	7:30 Butch O’Hare

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Friday, November 1, is the Feast of All Saints and a holyday of obligation. It is the day that we honor all those who have completed their journey to the Kingdom of Heaven—the people from every time and place. Masses at Assumption will be at 7:00am, 12:10pm, and 6:00pm.

Saturday November 2 is All Souls Day or the Day of the Dead. It is a special day of prayer for those who are, perhaps, still on their journey back to God. At our 7:30 Mass on Saturday morning, we will offer a special remembrance of the members of our congregation who have died the past three years.

**TRANSPORTING TURKEYS:** Would you be interested in helping a family have a happier Thanksgiving? The Men’s Group is hoping to organize a “turkey drop” by which parishioners could bring a frozen turkey or ham to Assumption on Sunday, November 24, where we will have cars ready to deliver the turkeys to Our Lady of the Angels Mission, 3808 West Iowa, approximately six miles from Assumption. We have volunteers to receive the turkeys, but we need drivers in order to initiate the project. Contact [mripani@handler.law](mailto:mripani@handler.law) if you can volunteer to deliver the turkeys after one of the Masses.

**THE SERVITE ROSARY:** The Servite Secular Order & Knights of Columbus lead the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 11:40am. All are welcome. Rosaries are provided.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction Monday October 21 from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

**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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- Mother Teresa



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