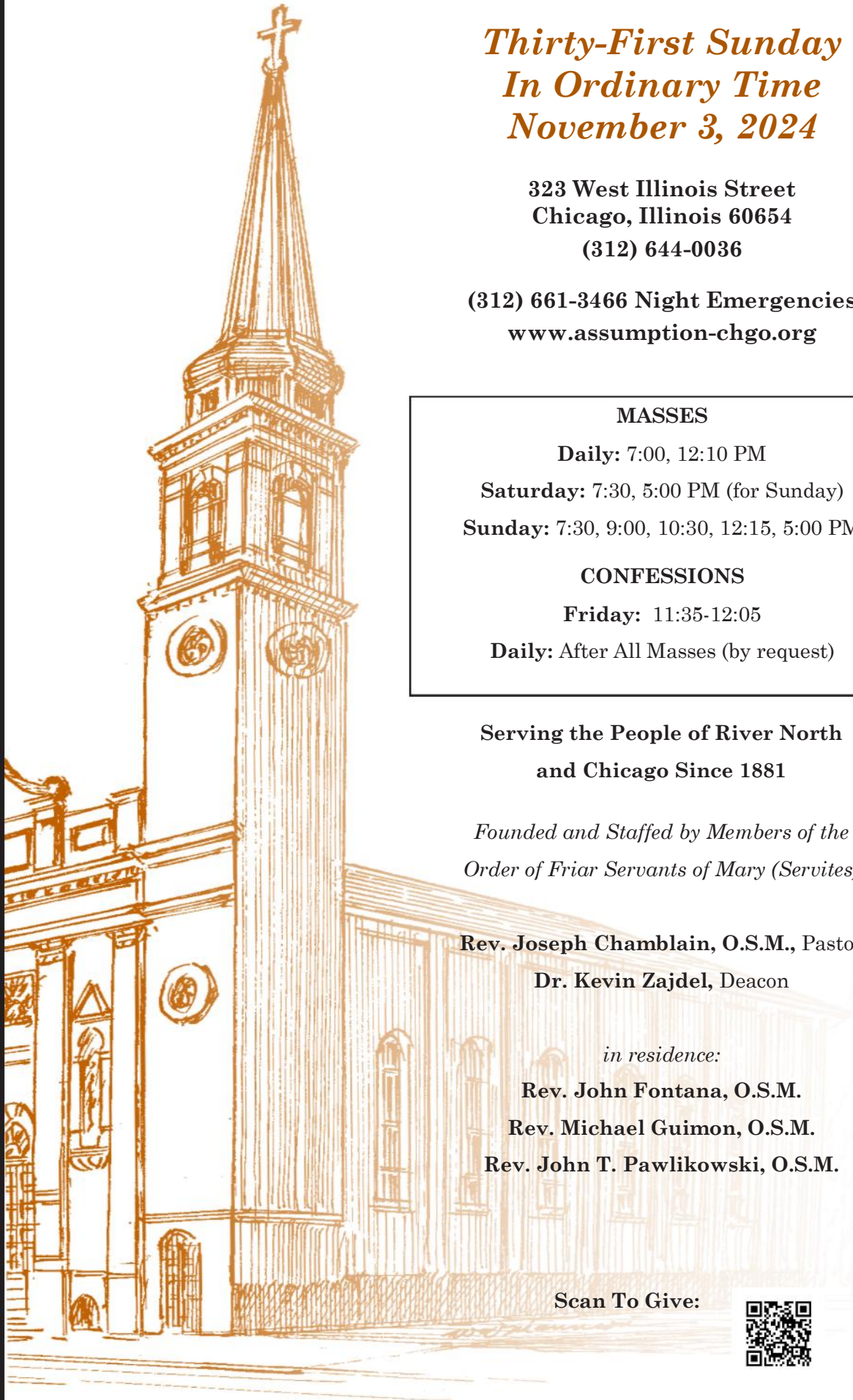


ASSUMPTION CHURCH



Thirty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time November 3, 2024

323 West Illinois Street
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(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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November 3, 2024

HOW ABOUT SOME GOOD NEWS?

Every once in a while, it is good just to stop and celebrate the good things that are happening around us. It helps us to be grateful. We devote one day of the year to thanksgiving. If we are not careful, every other day can turn into “complaint day.” Even if our life is stressful and difficult right now, we still know that God has blessed us in many ways.

So, what is the good news? Well, let’s start by celebrating the fact that the political campaigning will be over on Tuesday. We know we won’t get much of a break from campaigning; therefore let’s enjoy the break we do get. People from other countries have much to envy about our country, but surely they do not envy our seemingly endless election cycle. It is not only exhaustive and repetitive, but it sucks our attention away from some truly important issues (like war, hunger, and climate change) which cannot be solved by a barrage of words at a rally. Whatever our favorite candidate for President, we can all hope for a peaceful transition of power come January.

There is also good news at Assumption. Every October the Archdiocese asks us to count the people at weekend Mass. Our October attendance is 8% higher than last year. We are now at about 85% of our pre-COVID attendance, which is slightly above average for the Archdiocese. October is not our best month for attendance, since it includes Marathon Weekend. While the Saturday evening Mass more than doubles in attendance with runners and their families, on Sunday morning we turn into a ghost town.

For over a year our Sunday morning Hospitality Ministry languished without leadership. Now a new group is heading it up, with a whole new approach to creating community after Mass in the Parish Hall. Thanks to our Pastoral Council, one Sunday a year focuses on reaching out to newly registered members, personally inviting them to Hospitality Sunday and offering them tours of the church. Our OCIA, for adults seeking baptism or full communion with the Catholic Church, has twelve members formally enrolled in the journey to Easter sacraments, one of our largest groups ever. For the first time we have an OCIA for youth, which has three of our youth in formation. We had a very positive response to the faith formation program on the Eucharist, and, after a long absence, we have a daytime Bible Study going again. Deacon Kevin’s Adult Catechism Class has added new members, and we have another group experiencing Alpha on Thursday nights. And we cannot forget about our Italian Dinner this week that builds community between the young and the old, helps support our mission, and, for the first time in many years, looks to be a sell-out.

We have a core group of members who are very dedicated to feeding the hungry, welcoming refugees, and connecting needy people with social, legal, and medical services. Chicago Help Initiative, which offers many of these services, held a big fundraiser last Thursday. It was good to see so many people invested in caring for their brothers and sisters. Some are also advocates at the government level for resources to become more easily accessible to people.

Although it has not drawn a lot of attention locally, Pope Francis’ Synod on Synodality has completed its 2025 session. No startling developments are expected from this meeting, but the Synod does point the Catholic Church in a new direction for the future. Each of us (not just the Pope, not just the bishops, not just the priests) received the gift of the Holy Spirit at baptism. That gift was renewed at Confirmation. The idea behind synodality is that we must learn to listen together for the voice of the Holy Spirit, who can choose to speak through any one of us at any given time. The real significance of this is not what a small group of Catholics are doing in Rome, but how this process trickles down to the local level. At Assumption, we have a head start on synodality, because we discern rather than elect the members of our Pastoral Council, and we try to make our decisions by consensus. Synodality will mean change not only for those of us who hold office in the Catholic Church, but also for everyone else. For each one of us, we will need to start taking our own faith, our own inner life, our own life experience seriously. Back in the 1960’s, when the bishops met in Rome for the famous Vatican Council, they called upon all Catholics “to read the signs of the times.” It was a call to reflect deeply on the events unfolding before our eyes and to respond to them with a mature faith. Sixty years later, we are being challenged to do so once again.

Fr. Joe

THE ITALIAN DINNER

Our 91st annual Italian Dinner is this Thursday, November 7 from 6:00 to 8:30pm at Coco Pazzo, 300 West Hubbard. Tickets are \$125 and reservations are required.



Parking will be available at 311 and Mart Parc. Call the parish office to make your reservations. **We may not be able to accommodate walk-ins. We are close to capacity!**

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5

Pope Francis is not enthused about either of our major candidates for President; but we're all encouraged to vote, even if we are not that enthused either! Once again, our Parish Hall will be used for voting. There are brochures in the pamphlet rack in the back of church, "A Guide to Catholic Voting," which helps clarify the moral responsibility we have as Catholics. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a webpage (Catholic Voter Guide—The Issues) which identifies 47 issues that Catholics should consider in voting for President and how each of our major candidates aligns with each issue.

RITE OF WELCOME

This weekend at the 9:00am Mass, we celebrate the Rite of Welcome with the twelve adults who are part of this year's OCIA process. They have been meeting on Sunday mornings for the past two months, and in this ceremony they formally express their desire to be baptized and/or be received into full membership in the Catholic Church. They ask for your prayers and support on their faith journey. Our catechumens and candidates are: Megha Aggarwal, Michael Baker, Keelan Chapman, Matthew Conti, Dawn Cook, Dillon Duchesne, Madeline Kenny, Camille McCutcheon, Dana McLain, Kaycee Martin, Cooper Meyer, and Jessica Miranda.



VETERAN'S DAY CARDS

Please stop in the Parish Hall after Mass this weekend and sign "thank you" cards to be delivered to our veterans in the Jesse Brown VA Hospital, along with some other gifts on Veteran's Day, November 11.



HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

This weekend, November 2-3, following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses, there will be eats and drinks in the parish hall, provided by the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to explore the Sunday Scriptures of the Advent Season on Monday evenings at 6:00pm, beginning November 25. For more information, contact beth.schuman@gmail.com

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday November 11 from 7:00 to 8:15pm at the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for parents who have never before attended a prep 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 at 1:15pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and during Mass on the first weekend of the month.

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 NOVEMBER 2, 2024

Sat.	2nd	5:00	Mario, Betty, & Mario, Jr Persichetti
Sun.	3rd	7:30	Wanda Escher (RIP)
		9:00	Assumption Parishioners
		10:30	John McEneaney (RIP)
		12:15	Donna Brennan (RIP)
		5:00	Carolyn Patricia Ford (RIP)
Mon.	4th	7:00	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		12:10	Christopher Handy (RIP)
Tues.	5th	7:00	Priests & People of Assumption
		12:10	Marie Wren (RIP)
Wed.	6th	7:00	Robert Landgren (b' day)
		12:10	Sophia Dubuque Naughton (b' day)
Fri.	8th	12:10	Robert Nakazawa (RIP)

HYMNS: #321, #197, #201

BAPTISMS:
ARCHIE SCOTT SHEALY

WEDDINGS:
JONATHAN SANTUCCI & ASHLEY GRANT
LUKASZ MORDARSKI & GERDA LESCINSKAITE
WALTER WIENER & BROOKE KENNEDY
DE'WHON GAVIN & TAYLOR EAHEART
MICHAEL BAKER & ANNE POLITO



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 if you can volunteer to deliver the turkeys after one of the Masses.

THE MANY WAYS TO PRAY: Assumption's Leadership Group has produced a series of ten-minute videos to enhance your prayer life. You can find them on our YouTube page (Assumption Catholic Church Chicago).

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.

THANKSGIVING DAY: The word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving." It is the principal reason why we come to Mass. How appropriate is it that we attend Mass on Thanksgiving, our nation's day for giving thanks. Coming to Eucharist is a wonderful way to begin your family celebration of Thanksgiving. Mass will be offered at 7:30 and 10:30am on Thanksgiving, Thursday November 28. At these Masses there will be a collection for Assumption Shares, the food coupons we offer the unhoused and the needy once a month.

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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- Mother Teresa



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