

November 10, 2024

TREADING ON THIN ICE

Some years ago the pastor of another parish sat down at the computer to compose his weekly column, which he had to complete to meet a Wednesday press deadline. The parish carnival was scheduled for that Saturday, and the carnival was the biggest social and fundraising event of the year. Committees had been working for months. The rides for the children were being set up; the booths were in place; workers had been recruited; the cooking crew was ready to go; a band had been booked for the beer garden; and the weather forecast for Saturday was for partly cloudy skies and warm--the perfect weather for an outdoor carnival. Because he knew how hard parishioners had been working to get ready for this day, he thought it was important to include some glowing words about the success of the carnival in that weekend's bulletin. So he wrote about how great the weather was; how hard parishioners worked; how much fun everyone had; and how much money the carnival had generated for the parish and the school. The problem was that on Friday, a cold front shifted; Saturday was windy and cold; and it rained hard almost all day. A few people did come to dine inside; but nothing happened on Saturday the way it was described in the Sunday bulletin.

For many decades, our bulletins were printed by the J. S. Paluch Company, a local firm which went out of business suddenly last year. Along with hundreds of other Chicago area parishes, we were referred to another bulletin company that has provided excellent service. However, because we are one of their new clients, we have the earliest press deadline—12:00 noon on Monday. This, of course, adds to the risk of writing about things that did not happen or seeming to ignore something important that did happen. We will go to press long before a vote is counted in this year's election and three days before our Italian Dinner. Like this other pastor, I am tempted to write about what a great time everyone had Thursday night; how good the food was; and how well people responded to our "reverse auction" and our one silent auction item—a vacation in Cabo San Lucas. Since this is an indoor event, the likelihood of it being rained out is extremely slim. Still, I know I am treading on thin ice if I try to say anything about what actually took place Thursday evening. Nevertheless, I can hand out a big thank you to the members of our events committee, which worked on this project for months: Cathy Cahill, Danielle Gabriel, Rose Grieco, Beth Schuman, Mary Ann La Belle, and Karlyn Williams. I can say thank you to the folks at Coco Pazzo, who were very open to our proposal and very accommodating to our needs. And I can say thank you to all of you who scooped up the reservations. This is the first time in years that we have had a waiting list for one of our dinners. Assuming that there was no national emergency and the event went off as planned, I trust that a good time was had by all.

And speaking of national emergencies, the polls indicate that a lot of us are worried about what is going to happen with this week's election and the journey to Inauguration Day. 70% of Americans are "anxious" about the presidential election (Only 30% described themselves as "excited"). In another poll, 41% of registered voters said they were "extremely concerned" or "very concerned" about violent attempts to overcome election results. This fear is something new for the United States—at least in the lifetime of most of us. Election Day was always a time for Americans to show their pride at how well our democracy worked. The rest of the world should imitate us! Winners were jubilant and losers were gracious Of course our democracy has never been perfect. When we started out, only white male property owners were allowed to vote. Stories of ballot boxes being stuffed and elections being fixed are also part of our legacy. According to the family story, when my mother's uncle, Frank Monteverde, ran for mayor of Memphis in 1918, he had a representative at each polling place with a loaded pistol (He won the election but was later buried by the political machine).

However, I think the present distrust and anxiety about the election results is a reflection of a deeper anxiety that our lives are no longer our own, that reality is being manipulated by unseen forces. Most of us know very little about artificial intelligence, and what we do not understand we generally fear. When we are presented with alternate sets of facts, we find it hard to trust anyone. Anxious times are also an invitation to turn back to God. The only security system that works 100% of the time is love of God and love of neighbor. This is not only true in the long run, but could be a great gift to our country in the short run. The neighbor with different political opinions and different solutions to our country's problems is probably just as anxious and fearful as we are—and could probably use a little acceptance and understanding from us.

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.

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.

RITE OF WELCOME



Last weekend, we celebrated 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 expressed 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.

BAPTISMS:

DANIEL JAMES KUKLEWSKI CALEB JAMES MCLAUGHLIN

WEDDINGS:

LUKASZ MORDARSKI & GERDA LESCINSKAITE WALTER WIENER & BROOKE KENNEDY DE'WHON GAVIN & TAYLOR EAHEART MICHAEL BAKER & ANNE POLITO

DONATE A TURKEY OR A HAM



Would you be interested in helping a family have a happier Thanksgiving? Our Lady of the Angels Mission on the West Side is in need of frozen turkeys and hams for needy families

The Men's Group is coordinating a Turkey Drop to help meet this need. *Bring a frozen turkey or ham to Mass on Sunday morning November 24*. Drivers will be parked in front of church to receive the turkeys and rush to them to Our Lady of the Angels. Bring your birds to the 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 or 12:15 Mass. A few more drivers are needed. Contact mripani@handler.law for information.

UPDATE ON OUR ADOPTED FAMILY

Thanks to our generous parishioners, Virginia and her six children will have coats and boots to face our Chicago winter. Members of our Refugee Assistance Team accompanied Virginia to shop for winter gear. The four oldest children are enjoying school. Her daughter Renata received high honors for advancement in her studies. Emiliano, who had a bone marrow transplant at Lurie Children's Hospital, is receiving good reports from his doctors and may be cleared soon to attend school. The family is truly grateful for all the assistance with rent, food, transportation, and friendship that is being offered by our parishioners. Plans are underway to shop, cook, and help provide the family with a Thanksgiving feast. Would you like to join our Refugee Assistance Team?

Email refugee@assumption-chgo.org.

HYMNS: #640, #346, #601

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 9, 2024

Sat.	9th	5:00 Deceased Members of Hufnagel Family
Sun.	10th	7:30 Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen
		Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris,
		Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		9:00 Eva Bernacki (b'day)
		10:30 Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)
		12:15 Marguerite Mariani (RIP)
		5:00 Assumption Parishioners
Mon.	11th	12:10 Katie Kennicott (RIP)
Tues.	12th	7:00 Elise Naughton (b'day)
		12:10 Tom Eisenbart (RIP)
Wed.	13th	12:10 Mario, Betty, & Mario Jr Persichetti
Thurs.	14th	7:00 Julia Dubuque (b'day)
		12:10 Patrick & Allison Reisch
Fri.	15th	7:00 Special Intention

HONORING OUR PEW DONORS: A great big thank you once more to those who made donations toward our new pews. We now have a plaque near the Reconciliation Room honoring our many donors.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction Monday evening, November 18 from 5:00 to 7:00pm.



THE MANY WAYS TO PRAY: Enhance your Advent prayer life! Assumption's Leadership Group has produced a series of ten-minute videos on prayer. You can find them on our homepage (assumptionchgo.org and YouTube (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.



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

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 Tereso



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