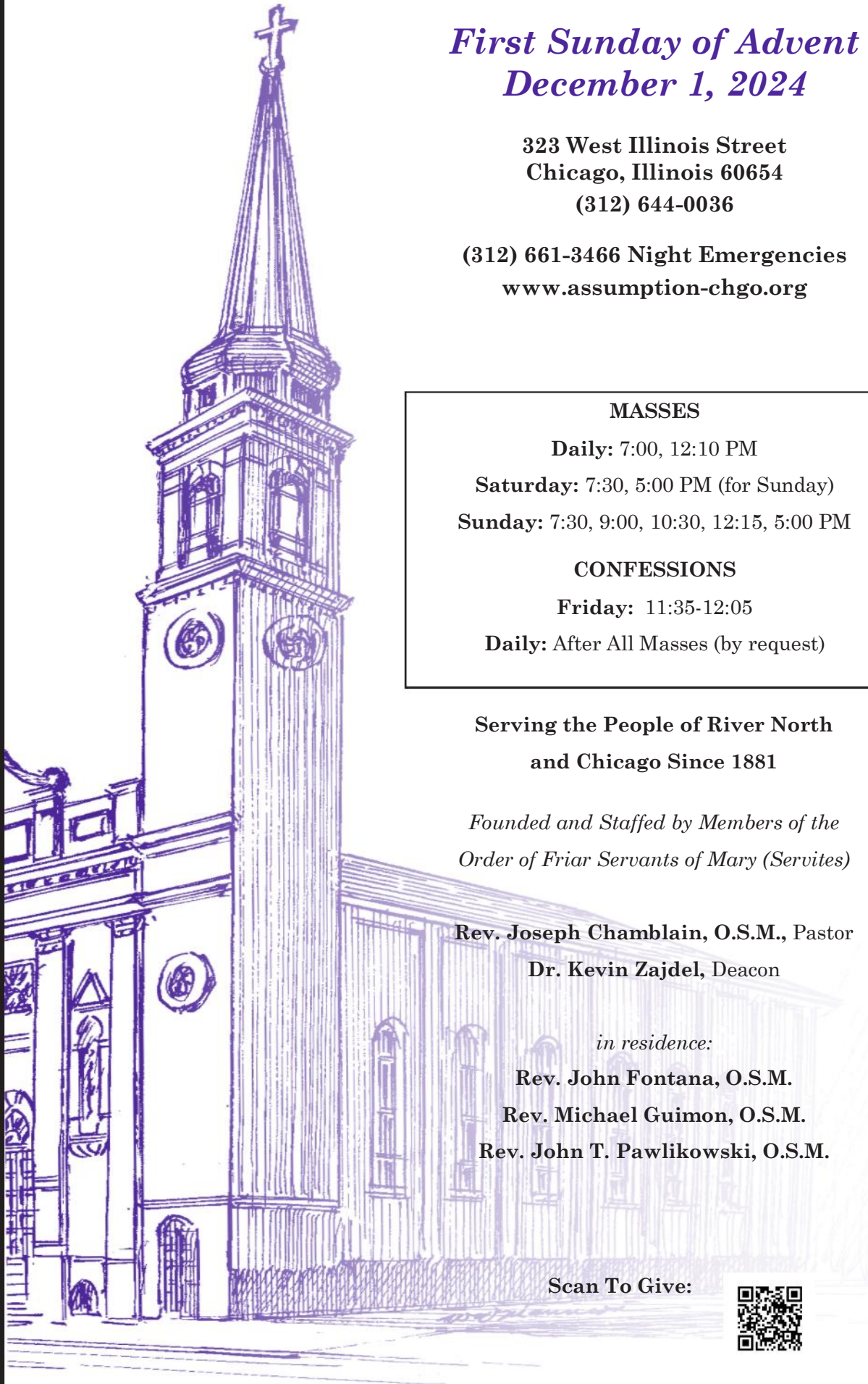


ASSUMPTION CHURCH



First Sunday of Advent December 1, 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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Dr. Kevin Zajdel, Deacon

in residence:

Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.

Rev. Michael Guimon, O.S.M.

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

Scan To Give:



HOPE IN THE DARKNESS OF DECEMBER

As a small child I was way too shy to approach Santa and tell him what I wanted for Christmas. Besides, I always understood that the Santas that appeared in December were Santa's Helpers and not the real Santa. The real Santa had better be on the job at the North Pole supervising the elves and not sitting on a throne at Goldsmith's Department Store in downtown Memphis. December was when Santa needed to be checking his list carefully and getting everything lined up for delivery. Besides, I had already discovered that I could talk to Santa privately just like I talked to God. I picked out stuff in the big Sears Catalog with my dad, told Santa what I wanted privately, and then at least some of the things I wanted always showed up on Christmas morning. Santa's elves could duplicate anything that Sears could sell.

Hope is an easy commodity to sell to children during the weeks before Christmas, but what does hope mean for adults? Where does our hope come from—if it does not come from the North Pole? Well, it is important to remember that hope is not the same as optimism. Hope does not mean focusing on the bright side of things or thinking positive thoughts or imagining positive outcomes. When we hope in the religious sense, we are free to take a good hard look at reality. We can even be pessimistic about outcomes, as long as we add, "With God, all things are possible." So, the only essential for practicing the virtue of hope is the presence of God. All things are possible with God.

During Advent, I often think about Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary. Perhaps that sounds odd, since there is no scriptural record of anything they said or did. Their names do not appear in our four Gospels, but in *The Gospel of James*, a document written in the middle of the second century and not considered authentic scripture. That is not to say that nothing in *The Gospel of James* is authentic. This Gospel tells many stories about the childhood of Mary and Jesus. On November 21, we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Mary, which is based on a story in *The Gospel of James*. The story says that Mary was presented at the temple by her parents at the age of three and lived at the Temple for a while, guided in the faith by the priests. Historians tell us that such a thing would never have happened, but the kernel of the story is what is important. Joachim and Anne were people of faith and hope. They were part of a long line of anonymous believers who kept hope alive—through wars and slavery, through times of famine and prosperity, through times of corruption and oppression. A true Son of David would come. He would come not because the evidence supported it or because we were worthy of it, but because God had made a promise to his people.

Although Mary was graced in a special way by God, the fact that her life was turned so completely toward God and doing the will of God surely reflected the influence of faithful and hope-filled believers like Joachim and Anne. Mary did not fully understand what was being asked of her; yet, Mary was ready and willing to say, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." A handmaid was a servant found only in wealthy households. Her duty was to pay attention to the hand signals of her mistress and respond right away. This was the intensity of Mary's focus on doing the will of God. Joachim and Anne were Jesus' grandparents, and in today's world, it is often grandparents who play a major role in inspiring the next generation to be persons of faith and hope.

On this First weekend of Advent, we light the first candle on our Advent wreath. A lit candle often becomes a sign of hope. During the days of apartheid in South Africa, Christians used to light candles and place them in their windows as a sign of hope that some day injustice would end. The government recognized this as a political statement and made it illegal to place a lit candle in a window. In the end, it was the lit candles, rather than violence and revolution, that brought apartheid to an end.

So, as we begin this Season of Advent and light our first candle, it is easy enough to tick off our worries and concerns. We all have personal and family concerns. We have an ever-widening war in the Middle East and in Ukraine. Crime, violence, and inflation are very much with us. Climate change is impacting us all. We wonder about the future of the Church and about the future of faith itself. Yet, this season of Advent is still a season of hope. Hope guided Mary as she waited for her son to be born and as she watched him die on a cross. With God all things are possible.

EXPERIENCE THE POSADA

Assumption and Holy Name Cathedral are cosponsoring a Mexican tradition, Las Posadas. This reenactment of Mary and Joseph finding a place to stay in Bethlehem occurs Saturday, December 21 at 2:30pm. We begin in the cathedral courtyard and process to Assumption, stopping along the way. The final celebration will be here at Assumption. Please register so that we can properly welcome you. <https://holyname.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/646/responses/new>

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

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

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of Mary’s Immaculate Conception is our national feast day and is normally observed as a holyday of obligation on December 8. This year December 8 falls on the Second Sunday of Advent, which takes precedence. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be observed on Monday December 9, but there is no obligation to attend Mass that day.

THE ADVENT CALENDAR



This year’s Advent Calendar focuses on care for creation. For each day of Advent, there are reflections to ponder and actions to take to prepare us to celebrate the Feast of a God who loved us enough to take human flesh. The Advent Calendar can be found on our homepage (assumption-chgo.org), our Facebook page, and Instagram.

HELPING ASSUMPTION WITH YOUR IRA

If you have an individual retirement account and have reached the age of 70 ½, you can direct your IRA custodian to transfer up to \$105,000 per year to qualified charities, including Assumption. This transfer will count toward your minimum required IRA distribution, and you do not have to pay an income tax on the amount transferred directly from the IRA to charity.

A WARMER WINTER

Chicago Help Initiative has asked us to collect hats, gloves, and scarves for the unhoused and needy for Christmas. Please place your donations in the gold box by the Vatican flag in the front of church by December 15.


Christmas
CHRISTMAS MASSES
December 24: 3:00, 5:00, 10:00pm
December 25: 8:30, 10:30, 12:15pm.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

There will be a Reconciliation Service with opportunity for private confession on Wednesday December 18 at 7:00pm. A reconciliation service consists of Scripture, homily, a communal examination of conscience and a visit to one of several confessors.

THANKS FOR THE TURKEYS

Last Sunday we collected 52 frozen turkeys and enough cash to purchase 20 more for Our Lady of the Angels Mission. Thanks to our parishioners and River North neighbors who were generous.



HOSPITALITY THIS WEEKEND

Come to the Parish Hall after the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses for food and drink, conversation and community.



HYMNS: #44, #56, #42

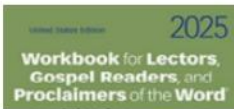
WEDDINGS:
RYAN WARD & MAUREEN GARDNER
CONNOR PUET & DELANEY DARDEN
BENJAMIN OLDHAM & MARGARET DELVECCHIO

BAPTISMS:
MIA OSORIO

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 30, 2024

Sat.	30th	5:00 Caitlin Tracey (RIP)
Sun.	1st	7:30 Leo & Helen Dillon (RIP)
		9:00 Assumption Parishioners
		10:30 John McEneaney (RIP)
		12:15 Fr. Michael Doyle, O.S.M. (RIP)
		5:00 Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
Mon.	2nd	7:00 Bryan Dennis (RIP)
Wed.	4th	7:00 Special Intention
Thurs.	5th	7:00 Annie Largosa (surgery)



ATTENTION, LECTORS! The 2025 Workbook is now available in the Sacristy. Please pick up your book after Mass.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The four weeks of Advent are about much more than waiting for Christmas. Christ comes to us in moments of prayer, in the faces of the poor, and in the events of daily life. Christ will also come again at the end of time. In the midst of the gift buying and the sometimes frantic party scene in December, Advent reminds us not to become so full of the world's good that we are no longer holding open a place in our lives for Christ.



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.

THE MANY WAYS TO PRAY: Looking for a way to enhance your Advent and make it more intentional? Check out our short, 10-minute videos on prayer. You can find them on our homepage.


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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