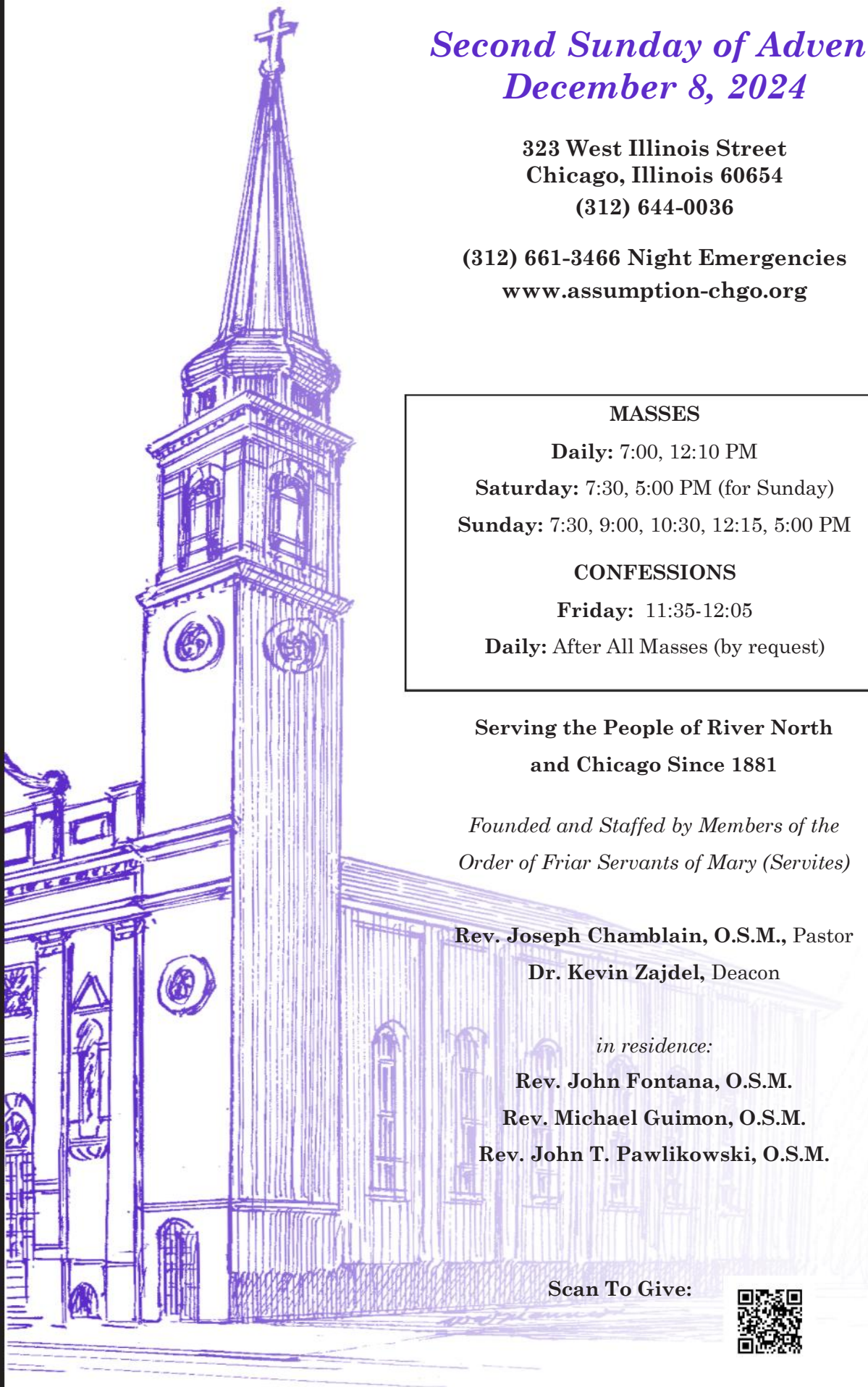


# ASSUMPTION CHURCH



## *Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024*

323 West Illinois Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
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(312) 661-3466 Night Emergencies  
[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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*in residence:*

Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.

Rev. Michael Guimon, O.S.M.

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

Scan To Give:



December 8, 2024

## A DEEP DIVE INTO CHURCH LEGISLATION

This past week all the pastors in the Archdiocese received an unusual document via email. It began in all capital letters and bold-face type, **A DECREE IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.** Wow, that is about as official as a church document can get. If you go to a higher authority than God, all you get is empty space. The decree was two pages long and signed by Cardinal Cupich. It concerned the obligation to attend Mass on Monday December 9, the day on which the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is observed this year. So, why should that matter require backup from the loftiest celestial heights?

Well, let me share with you way too much information. Long ago, the bishops of the United States established six Holydays of Obligation (January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; Ascension Thursday, forty days after Easter; August 15, The Assumption of Mary; November 1, All Saints Day; December 8, the Immaculate Conception; and December 25, Christmas). Holydays are days that Catholics are supposed to attend Mass, just like Sundays. Our modern notion of a holiday is derived from the tradition of holydays. Holydays were also days off from work in Catholic Europe.

Since in the United States we have never had an official religion, the holydays established by our bishops' conference are generally not holidays. In fact, in strongly Protestant New England, some governing bodies forbade employers from giving employees December 25 off, because December 25 was considered a Catholic observance and a day that only Catholics attended church. Until fairly recently, most Protestant denominations did not have services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The Incarnation was celebrated the previous Sunday.

About 35 years ago, the United States bishops formed a committee to study the future of holydays in our country. Bishops with large urban centers generally wanted to preserve holydays, since they helped fill cathedrals on week days, while bishops in mostly rural dioceses struggled to provide Masses that working people could attend. So, like most committees, they reached an awkward compromise that served mainly to confuse people. The Feast of the Ascension would move to a Sunday to give it greater significance in the Lent-Easter cycle. If January 1, August 15, or November 1 were to fall on a Saturday or Monday, there would be no obligation to attend Mass. If November 1 falls on Tuesday, we are obliged to attend Mass; but if it falls on Monday we are not. This on-again, off-again duty to attend Mass further diminished the significance of holydays and holyday attendance. Christmas, of course, remains a holyday, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

That brings us to the Decree on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This feast which honors Mary for being free from sin from her conception, is observed exactly nine months before the feast of the Birth of Mary on September 8. In 1848 the Bishops of the United States petitioned the Vatican to have St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception declared our national patroness. Why was that? Well, in your fifth grade history, you learned that Columbus' three ships were the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. What you may not have learned was that the full title of the third ship was "St Mary of the Immaculate Conception" Thus, because it is our national feast day, the duty to attend Mass on December 8 remains, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday.

Now we need to introduce some additional evidence. If the Feast of the Assumption (August 15) or All Saints Day (November 1) falls on a Sunday, the Feast is celebrated on a Sunday and takes precedence over a Sunday in Ordinary Time. However, during the seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas, the Sunday liturgy takes precedence over the Feast. So, this weekend we celebrate the Mass of the Second Sunday of Advent and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday December 9. Many Catholic calendars (including some very official ones) erroneously indicated that the obligation to attend Mass did not transfer to Monday. But that was not accurate. However, given all the contrary information out there, Cardinal Cupich elected to issue this decree dispensing Catholics in the Archdiocese from the obligation to attend Mass on December 9. However, please be careful. If you wander outside of Cook and Lake Counties on December 9, your dispensation will evaporate.

Fr. Joe



**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

December 24: 3:00, 5:00, 10:00pm  
 December 25: 8:30, 10:30, 12:15pm

**CHRISTMAS AT ASSUMPTION**

There will be music at all Christmas Masses (3:00, 5:00, and 10:00pm on Christmas Eve; 8:30, 10:30 and 12:15 on Christmas Day). A musical quartet will lead the singing at the 3:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve, and will offer a musical program beginning at 2:30pm. The music program for the 10:00pm Mass begins at 9:30pm. Our parish choir and organ will be joined by additional voices and by musicians from the nationally acclaimed Haymarket Opera Company. This is a very special liturgy. There is nothing quite like celebrating Christ's birth as the shepherds did, in the still watches of the night. A parking attendant will be present in the 311 Building for all Christmas Masses.

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND**

Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and healthcare needs of aging members. Many Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Order Priests worked for years for small stipends in education, healthcare, and other Catholic institutions. Today, retired religious outnumber wage earners in their communities nearly three to one. Your generous support of the Retirement Fund for Religious in next weekend's second collection can make a real difference. The Servite Friars, who have staffed Assumption since 1881, are among the beneficiaries of this collection.

**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, Facebook, and Instagram.

**NOVEMBER DONATIONS**

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Sunday Collection -                 | \$41,948 |
| Sharing Parish -                    | 2,327    |
| Campaign for Human Development -    | 2,343    |
| <i>(includes electronic giving)</i> |          |

**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.

**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>

**HYMNS:** #41, #68, #209

**BAPTISMS:**

JANE ELIZABETH ECKERT  
 CHARLES EDWARD ROBINSON  
 ANDERSON CHRISTOPHER KESLING  
 OLIVIA LEONA WALTERS

**WEDDINGS:**

CONNOR PUET & DELANEY DARDEN  
 BENJAMIN OLDHAM & MARGARET DELVECCHIO

**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 DECEMBER 7, 2024**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Sat. 7th    | 5:00 Assumption Parishioners  |
| Sun. 8th    | 7:30 Dee Tevonian (b'day)   |
|             | 9:00 Theodore J. Dubuque, Jr. (b'day RIP)   |
|             | 10:30 Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)  |
|             | 12:15 Edward & Dorothy Brennan (RIP)  |
|             | 5:00 Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families |
| Mon. 9th    | 7:00 Dubuque Family   |
|             | 12:10 Charlotte Bausinger (b'day)   |
| Thurs. 12th | 7:00 Matthew, Jacob & Guadalupe Replogle  |
|             | 12:10 Sarah Ann Powell (RIP)  |



### 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.



### 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](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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If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.  
- Mother Teresa 

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