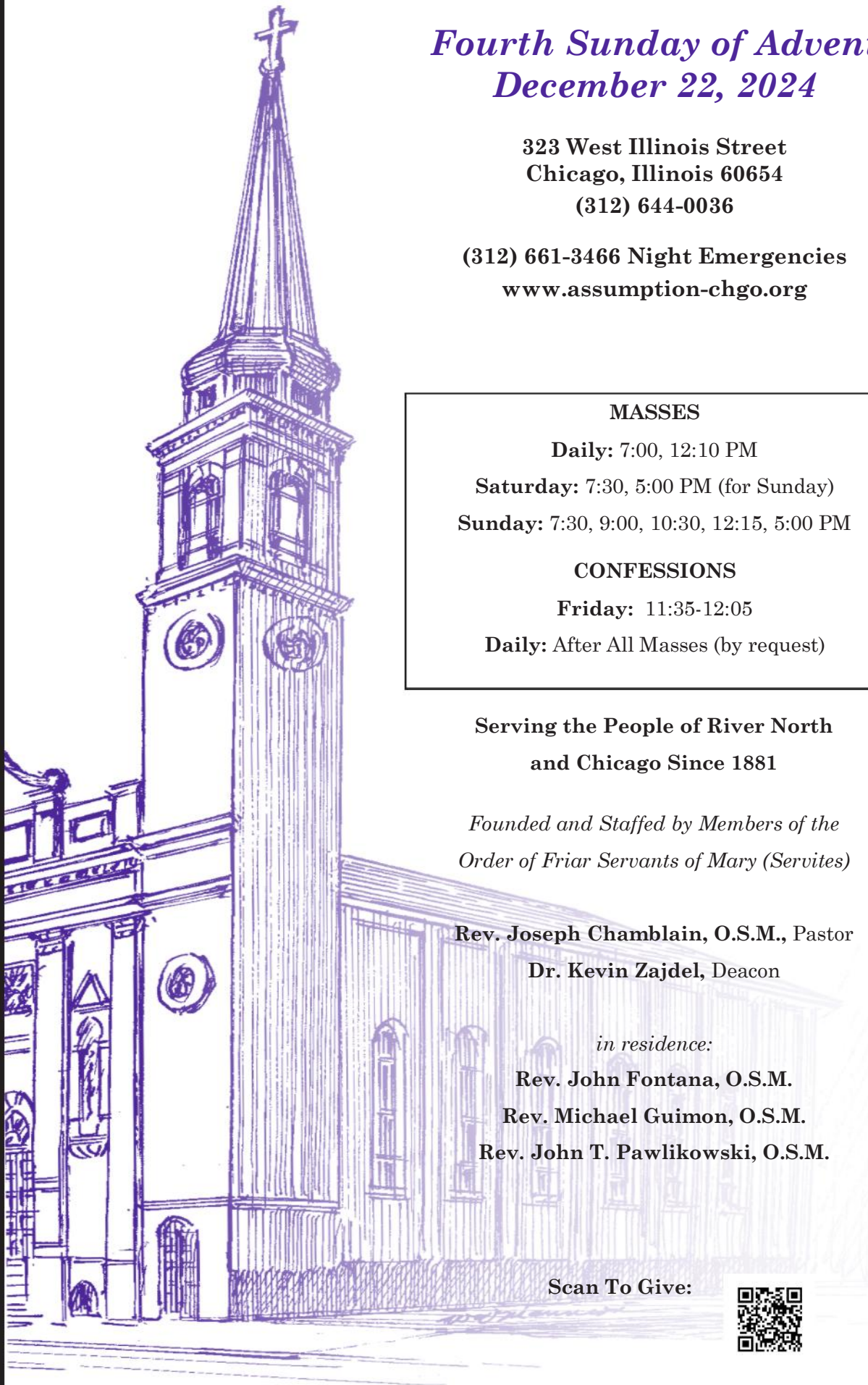


# ASSUMPTION CHURCH



## *Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024*

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

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## AN ADVANTAGE TO BEING SMALL

Back in 1957, when I was four years old, somebody gave me a little book called *Henry the Helicopter*. I remember it well because I kept asking my mother to read it to me. It was about a helicopter which sat in a lonely corner of a large airport, where big planes with lots of people on board would take off and land all day. Henry was too small to matter; so he sat day after day in the same corner of the airport. Then, one day a man was stranded on a small island off the coast of the city where the airport was located. The authorities asked the big planes to rescue the man, but they all said, "We need a runway to land." Then, people thought of Henry. He could land in a very small space and only needed to carry two or three people. When Henry returned with the man who was stranded, everyone cheered. Henry could do what the big planes could not do.

If that plot does not sound very gripping, remember it was written for four year olds. But a lot of four year olds must relate to this story, because a revised edition of this book is still in print almost seventy years later. Four year olds are small, and the message is that small people do matter and that small people can do things that big people cannot do. That is also, I believe, the message of Christmas. In order to save people, God had to become small.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, God showed his power and might in many ways. He created the whole world, caused the Red Sea to part in two, handed down commandments for us to live by, and made the walls of Jericho collapse. God has offered ample evidence of how powerful God can be, but at Christmas God wanted to show us who God really was. The essence of God is not power, glory, knowledge, or wisdom. The essence of God is love. A broken and violent world did not need more demonstrations of power, glory, and wisdom. The world needed love. In order to show the world what God was really like, God had to become small. God had to leave power and glory behind and become a tiny baby. God had to become vulnerable. And that is true of any relationship, isn't it? When we dare to say "I love you" we become vulnerable before the other person. So, God became small and vulnerable, so God could get close to us in our brokenness, our messiness, and our neediness. God became one of us, vulnerable not only to rejection, but also to the sin and hazards of the world. Eventually he was broken on a cross. God knew that the only solution to what ails us is love, and God hoped that we would respond with love and become vulnerable to God.

At the time Jesus was born, Caesar Augustus ruled the whole Mediterranean world. Roman Legions were around to enforce his will upon the people. He had the power to move people around like pawns, and compel a young couple like Mary and Joseph to travel 90 miles at the most awkward time to register for the census. Jesus was born into this cruel and totalitarian world, as a victim of its bureaucracy. He was born in a stable far from the centers of power. From a worldly perspective, it was a foolish gesture on God's part, because this gesture was so easy to ignore. Yet, through the centuries the baby born in Bethlehem has been a sign of God's love and an invitation to respond in love. God does not want to intimidate us, but to draw close to us. God wants to share everything about us except for sin. Like Henry the Helicopter, God does not need much room; but also like Henry the Helicopter, God can easily be pushed aside, left in an isolated corner of our lives, as we admire all that is big and bold and brash, and speedy.

Sometimes we get frustrated when God does not solve all our problems or punish all our enemies or bring us everything we ask for; but God had a different agenda when he became human. God came to share our pain, our suffering, and our disappointments: to go through everything we go through and then redeem us from all that has harmed us in the Resurrection on Easter morning. We can get frustrated too when we cannot solve another person's problems or by the problems in our city, our nation, and our world that defy solutions. But that does not mean that we cannot bring some reflection of the wonder of God's love to the people around us and to a world still hungry for peace on earth and good will to all. Remember Jesus cannot do it all by himself. He is small. He is counting on the big people to do our part.

Fr. Joe



**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

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

**THE THREE DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS**

The feasts that the Church celebrates on December 26, 27, and 28 remind us that at Christmas we welcome not just baby Jesus but also the adult Christ. We love the beauty and warmth of the Christmas manger, but we must also remember that the child was destined to become a sign of contradiction. In his public ministry, Jesus made some bold statements that made some people in authority uncomfortable. He was put to death, as were many of his first followers. That is why the church made December 26 the Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr. December 27 is the Feast of St. John, who kept the message of love alive during his long life. December 28 is the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the infant children killed in Herod's failed attempt to put to death a potential rival.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION**

The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible) godparents of infants to be baptized will be Monday January 6 from 7:00 to 8:15pm at the Rectory. Please call the Parish Office to register. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15pm and during Mass on the first weekend of the month.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

On January 1 we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Mother of God is one of Mary's oldest titles and it affirms that Jesus was truly God and truly human when he took flesh. It is a holyday of obligation. Masses will be at 5:00pm on December 31 and at 7:30 and 10:30 on January 1.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

Assumption is in the process of replacing several unconnected ways of keeping membership and financial records with a single coordinated system called Breeze. This will make our office operations more efficient and offer new ways for parishioners to manage their own personal data. A lot of that data has not been updated since members first joined. The first impact will be for on-line giving. People who have been using GiveCentral will be asked to establish a Breeze account. Instructions will be provided in individual email messages. More to come!

**HYMNS:** #73, #67, #44 (except 5pm Sunday)

**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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

There will be a 7:00am Mass but no 12:10pm Mass on December 24. Masses for Christmas begin at 3:00pm.

**THE ADVENT CALENDAR**

This year's Advent Calendar focuses on care for creation. There are daily reflections and actions to take to prepare us to celebrate the Feast of a God who loved us enough to take human flesh. The Calendar can be found on our homepage, Facebook, and Instagram.

**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

**REST IN PEACE:** Rosemary Reeves

**MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2024**

Sat.	21st	5:00	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
Sun.	22nd	7:30	Wanda Escher (RIP)
		9:00	Joseph Roti
		10:30	John McEneaney (RIP)
		12:15	Damien Wren (RIP)
		5:00	Assumption Parishioners
Mon.	23rd	7:00	The Dubuque Family
		12:10	Cole Clarke & Family
Tues.	24th	7:00	John M. Biegel (RIP)
		3:00	Leo & Helen Dillon (RIP)
		5:00	Mario Persichetti, Jr. (RIP)
		10:00	Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)
Wed.	25th	8:30	The Garvey Family
		10:30	Terry Hufnagel (RIP)
		12:15	Cornelia & Francisco Pestanas (RIP)
Thurs.	26th	7:00	The Dubuque Family
		12:10	Louis J. Pauly (RIP)
Fri.	27th	7:00	Jamal Ransom (b'day)
		12:10	Robert Sullivan (RIP)
Sat.	28th	7:30	Mary Bauer Palkovitz



### ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS

AYA is for those in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They participate in a number of spiritual, social, and service activities during the year. Find out more by emailing [assumptionaya@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionaya@gmail.com).

### GETTING MARRIED AT ASSUMPTION

It is not necessary to be a registered member of Assumption to have your wedding at Assumption. You do have to fulfill the requirements the Catholic Church has for marriage and participate in a marriage preparation process. Contact Beth Schuman in the Parish Office for more information.

### 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



## Steve Schapiro

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