

*Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 29, 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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Rev. Joseph Chamblain, O.S.M., Pastor
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:



OPENING UP IN THE NEW YEAR

Why does the year begin on January 1? We can thank the Romans for that. January 1 was the day that the new Roman Consuls took office. Since a new government would mean all kinds of new things, January 1 seemed like a good day to start the year. And because the government expected everyone in the Mediterranean world to rejoice and celebrate how wonderful the new government was going to be, New Year's Day was observed as a holiday. In fact, everything that the Roman government said was presumed to be cause for rejoicing. St. Paul took the word "gospel" (or "good news") from the phrase that normally began a decree from the emperor (Here is the good news from Rome).

Our new government takes office on January 20, and, like the Romans of old, we are not sure if that is all good news. Clearly the people of the United States were frustrated with government business as usual and rising prices; but some of the announced plans of the incoming administration (like massive deportations and the abandonment of efforts to curb global warming) conflict directly with Catholic teaching. I am personally troubled by the effort to throw shade on vaccines. I am one of the kids who predate the measles vaccine, and I almost died at seven, when complications from the measles infected my brain (and as many people have pointed out, I have not been the same since).

At Assumption the year 2024 began with the arrival of the new pews and it ended with the arrival of the matching ambo (pulpit). Of course, a beautiful church without people or ministry is just a museum. The challenge of building community and being good servants to the world in which we live remains a central task as we move into 2025. To put it in its simplest terms: How do we remain relevant in a rapidly changing world? The central message of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is eternally relevant, but that message is not always packaged in a way that is perceived as relevant. The other day I came across some notes I took at a Chicago priests' meeting in 2019, the year before the pandemic. At that time, Mass attendance in the Archdiocese had declined 27% since 2000. It would decline another 20% as a result of the three month COVID shut down and the many months of limitations and restrictions that followed. During that time a lot of people figured out that they did not miss the church community or receiving communion all that much. They have continued to stay home or perhaps just watch Mass on television.

At that meeting in 2019, a speaker detailed the results of a survey among young adults about why they no longer find Christian churches relevant. The top five reasons were: (1) They are isolated from the world. Priests and ministers condemn things they do not understand; (2) Shallowness. There is no real opportunity to meet Christ or God at Services; (3) Sex. Churches are simplistic and judgmental; (4) Exclusivity. In a pluralistic and multi-cultural age, people should not have to choose between their church and their friends; and (5) Doubt. Church is not a safe place to express doubt or ask questions about traditional beliefs.

As I look at that list five years later, the underlying message seems to be: "We find churches clubby and impersonal. You don't care what we think; you only care about what you think; since we don't fit in here, we will go on our own private spiritual journey." How do we change that? Well, not with a new banner out front or a new mission statement on our bulletin, or sermon about being friendly. The only thing that will actually bridge that gap is people—people who refuse to live up to the Christian stereotype found in this survey, people actually willing to engage in a conversation with a potential newcomer, people who are not afraid to acknowledge their struggles with faith during hard times, people who delight in learning about the life-experience of someone from a world far different from their own. Yes, of course, church teachings matter and they have to be openly presented; but church teachings will surely sound different if one has already met a real person who has made peace with them and even embraced them. So, as we move into the new year, if the opportunity presents itself to engage with someone who is "church shopping," whether after Mass or at Hospitality or at work or in the checkout line at Jewel, take the risk of letting them get to know you. Hospitality is not the job of the Hospitality Committee or the Hospitality Ministers or the Evangelization Team or the Alpha Team. Everyone is really called to be a Minister of Hospitality. We only learn what other people really need or are passionate about or believe the church should be doing by listening to them.

Fr. Joe

THAT REVERSE AUCTION

We delayed reporting on our “take” from the Reverse Auction at our Italian Dinner, because contributions have continued to arrive. Based on the donations that were made and the positive comments we received, we can deem it a success. Many people said that contributing to something that the church could use made more sense than bidding on an item that they really did not need. So here are the results:

New Refrigerator for the Parish Hall

-(goal was \$1,600; received \$2,560)

Ambo to match the pews

-(goal was \$6,400; received \$5,120)

Garden Maintenance

-(goal was \$5,000; received \$5,863)

New Vestment

-(goal was \$1,500; received \$4,100)

Organ and Piano Maintenance

-(goal was \$1,200; received \$1,510)

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.

THE MINISTRY OF GREETER

Would you like to see our parish community grow? Do you enjoy meeting new people and making them feel welcome? If so, consider becoming part of our Greeter Ministry. This would involve, among other things, arriving at Church fifteen minutes early to welcome people to Mass. To find out more about the ministry of greeter, email greeters@assumption-chgo.org.

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: #93, #110, #97, #85 (except 5pm Sunday)



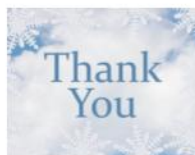
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
ST. MARY'S HOME

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

On the weekend of January 11-12, the

Little Sisters of the Poor will be visiting our parish. The Sisters operate over 170 homes for the elderly poor in 31 countries, including St. Mary’s Home, only a few miles north of Assumption. Your generosity to the second collection that weekend will enable the Sisters to continue their mission of caring for the elderly poor in a spirit of joy and dignity.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



A big thank you to those who decorated the church, to the singers and musicians, and to those who ministered at our Christmas Masses,

and to all who are working to make Assumption a warm and welcoming place.

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.

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 28, 2024

Sat.	28th	5:00	Priests and People of Assumption
Sun.	29th	7:30	Leo & Helen Dillon (RIP)
		9:00	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		10:30	Rosemary Reeves (RIP)
		12:15	Souls in Purgatory
		5:00	Assumption Parishioners
Mon.	30th	7:00	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Landgren
		12:10	Eileen Hoffmann (RIP)
Tues.	31st	7:00	Dr. Eileen Harmon Council
		12:10	Bernadette McDonnell
		5:00	Eva Bernacki
Wed.	1st	7:30	Matthew & Jacob Replogle
		10:30	Cornelia & Francisco Pestanas (RIP)
Thurs.	2nd	7:00	The Dubuque Family
		12:10	Ross Brezovsky (RIP)
Fri.	3rd	7:00	Margaret Mary Bracey
		12:10	Leo Pusateri (RIP)
Sat.	4th	7:30	The Masterson Family

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.

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) 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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