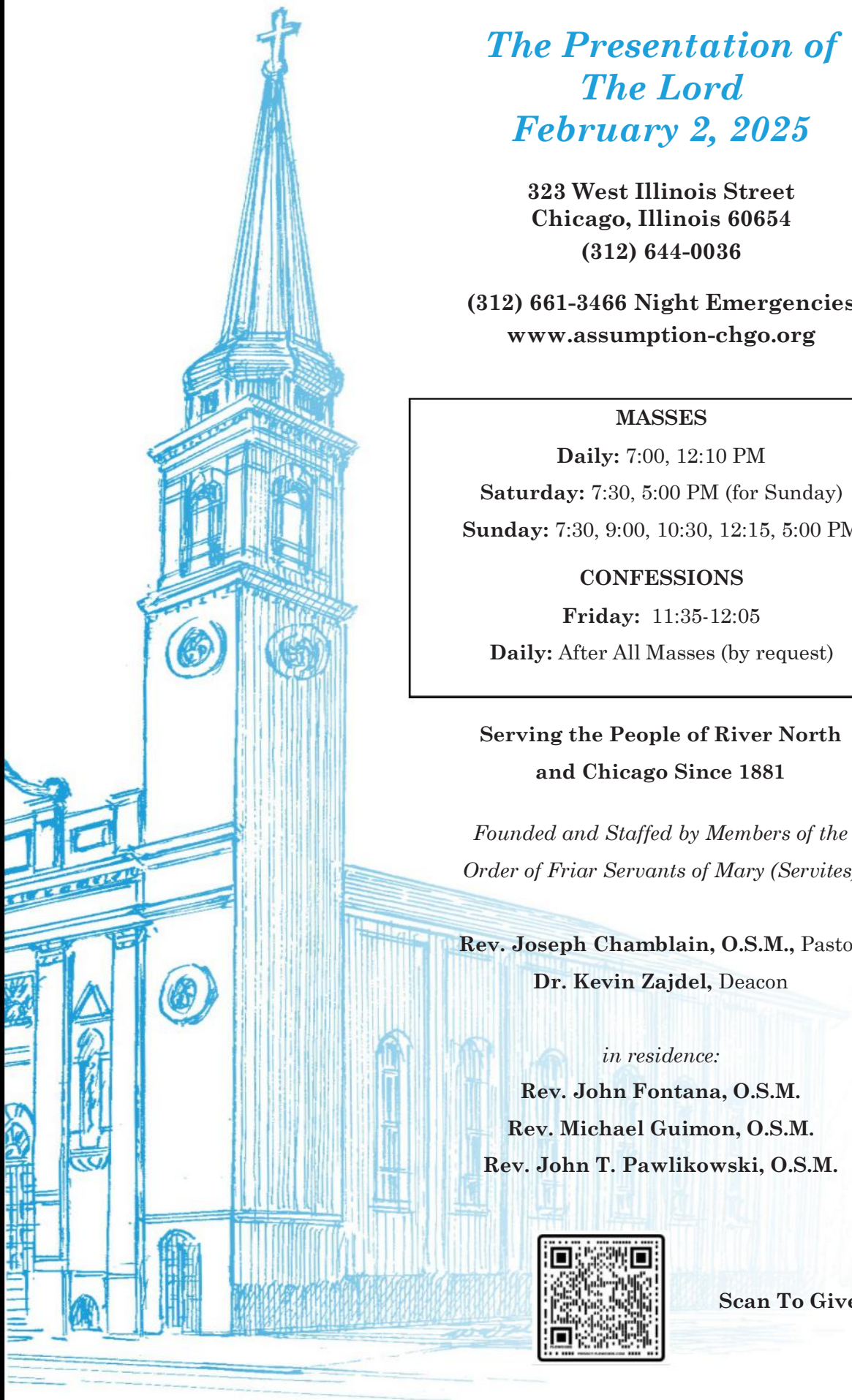


# ASSUMPTION CHURCH



## *The Presentation of The Lord February 2, 2025*

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### 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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## BEING THE ADULT IN THE ROOM

There is a story told about the overnight train that once ran between Chicago and New Orleans on the Illinois Central Railroad called the *Panama Limited* (named in honor of the opening of the Panama Canal). The train was made up entirely of Pullman sleeping cars, a diner, and a lounge observation car. It made only a few stops along the way and was known for its speed and tight schedule. According to the story, a passenger for Chicago boarding the train in Jackson, Mississippi leaned over to kiss his wife who was standing on the platform. The train started moving at just that instant and it accelerated so rapidly that the man ended up kissing a mule a quarter mile down the track.

Although this story is certainly not true, it is not as far-fetched as it sounds. Timekeeping was a matter of pride on the *Panama Limited*. The bosses at the Illinois Central held everyone accountable for it. But what was very appropriate for a crack train in the golden age of trains may not translate so well into our moral life. In a recent syndicated column, Ron Rolheiser, OMI, noted that so often when we think about leading a moral life, we stop at the question, “Is it a sin?” If we avoid doing anything wrong, then we are leading a good moral life (If we are doing our job exactly right, the train will arrive on time). But this is not all that Jesus is asking of us.

Rolheiser points to the passage in the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus calls us to a “righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and the Pharisees” (Matt 5:20). “It assumes that we are already living the elementary essentials of morality, the Ten Commandments, and instead Jesus invites us to something beyond those essentials, namely, to be the adult in the room.” Rolheiser says that it is easy to miss the point here, because so often in the Gospels the Pharisees are depicted as pompous hypocrites. Thus, for our righteousness to exceed theirs, we only need be sincere in our efforts to keep the commandments and avoid making a public show of our virtue. In fact, Rolheiser says, “Most of the scribes and Pharisees were good, honest, sincere people . . . . For them, living a good moral and religious life meant keeping the Ten Commandments (all of them!) and being a man or woman who was scrupulously fair to everyone. It meant being a just person.”

What is lacking? According to Rolheiser “The demands of justice still permit us to hate our enemies, to curse those who curse us, and to execute murderers. Jesus invites us to something beyond that, namely, to love those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, and forgive those who kill us. . . . It is a sense of morality not focused on what is a sin or what is not a sin. Rather it’s a positive invitation beckoning us to reach higher, to transcend our natural impulses, to be more than someone who just keeps the commandments and avoids sin. . . . to be someone who helps the world carry its tension.”

This last phrase struck me as particularly apt for our time. In these tense and confusing times, if we help the world “carry its tension,” then no one has to be 100% right or 100% wrong. Yes, we can want secure borders, but we don’t have to want families being separated in the process. Yes, we can support taking a chopping block to the sluggish government bureaucracy, but we can resist sacrificing essential services. Yes, we can be compassionate to those struggling with their sexual identity without buying into everything designed to make that trendy. Yes, we can express our support for church teaching, without isolating one teaching and making it grounds for barring someone from receiving communion. Yes, we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ, without belittling the faith or life experience of someone else. Yes, we can be outraged at murderers and still not believe they should be put to death.

Being able to live with the complexities of life and the complexities of life choices means that we cannot just stand on the sidelines pointing fingers. In fact, we may find ourselves being led where we never expected to go. Quoting Rolheiser, “The question with which we need to challenge ourselves is not, is this a sin . . . The question with which we need to challenge ourselves is rather, what am I being invited into? Where do I need to stretch myself toward something higher? Am I loving beyond my natural impulses? And more specifically, am I loving those who hate me? Am I blessing those who curse me?”

Fr. Joe



**PARISH PIZZA PARTY**

There is nothing like warm pizza on a cold night (or cold pizza on a warm night). Come join the crowd Saturday evening February 22 for the annual Parish Pizza

Party. The Pizza will be provided by our neighborhood pizza restaurants. Tickets are \$20 per person (\$10 for children under 12) and include pizza buffet, salad, dessert, wine, beer, and soft drink. Pizza will be served promptly after the 5:00 Mass. Buy tickets online or through the Parish Office. If you can volunteer that evening, please email [events@assumption-chgo.org](mailto:events@assumption-chgo.org).

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION**

February 2, forty days after Christmas, is the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. It recalls the elderly prophet Simeon declaring the infant Jesus to be a “light” to the Gentiles and the “glory” of Israel. Candles for home use will be blessed at each Mass next weekend.

**FEAST OF ST BLASE**

Monday, February 3 is the Feast of St. Blase. St. Blase is the patron saint of diseases of the throat, because he is credited with dislodging a bone from the throat of a child who was choking. We will bless throats after the homily at the 7:00 and 12:10 Masses on February 3.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

In light of the more aggressive action anticipated by Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents in Chicago, it is important to know that, regardless of one’s immigration status, all people are entitled to certain rights by the Constitution. If approached by an ICE agent, you have the right to remain silent and you do not have to sign any papers. If you are not being arrested or detained, you may walk away. ICE agents cannot search you or your house without your consent or a search warrant signed by a judge. You have the right to speak to an attorney and to have your lawyer with you at any hearing before an immigration judge. In a statement released this past Sunday, Cardinal Cupich said, “For members of faith communities, the threatened mass deportations targeting the Chicago area leave us with the searing question: ‘What is God asking of us at this moment?’ People of faith are called to speak for the rights of others and to remind society of its obligation to care for those in need. If the indiscriminate mass deportation were to be carried out, this would be an affront to the dignity of all people and communities, and deny the legacy of what it means to be an American.”

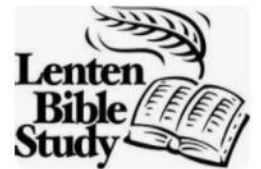
**HYMNS:** #518, #681, #85 (except 5pm Sunday)

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

Many families in our parish have already received the Annual Catholic Appeal mailing from Cardinal Cupich. On behalf of those served by the ministries, parishes, and schools that receive funding from the appeal, we thank you for your gifts. Please return your response as soon as possible. The Annual Catholic Appeal offers us an opportunity to join with other Catholics around the Archdiocese and affirm that “together we bring hope.” Because most of the funds received in excess of our goal (\$42,557 or 7% of last year’s collection) are returned to us at Assumption, the ACA is important to us too. Those who did not receive a mailing, will have the opportunity to make a pledge in church in the coming weeks.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

Lent is a little more than a month away. We invite you to participate in a weekly guided study and discussion of the Scriptures



assigned for the Sundays of Lent, using materials provided by Renew International. The group will meet in the Rectory on Monday evenings at 6:00pm beginning on March 3. For more information, contact [bible@assumption-chgo.org](mailto:bible@assumption-chgo.org).

**SUPER BOWL SPECIAL**

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, we will celebrate the 5:00pm Mass a little more expeditiously, ending about 5:35, which is when the Big Game begins.

**WEDDINGS:**

**RICHARD HANBA & KATHRYN CONNELLY**



**PRAY FOR THEM:**

Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Rich DiVito, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Michael Graul

**MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1 2025**

Sun.	2nd	7:30 Leo & Helen Dillon (RIP)
		9:00 Matthew & Jacob Replogle
		10:30 Fr. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.
		12:15 Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		5:00 Assumption Parishioners
Thurs.	6th	7:00 Dubuque Family
		12:10 Michael Keenan
Sat	8th	7:30 Margaret Summers

### UPDATING OUR RECORDS

Thanks to all who have signed up on our new parishioner information & electronic giving system, *Breeze*. (Please note that *Give Central* will go away soon.) One of the anticipated benefits of *Breeze* is better communication with parishioners. If you did not receive an email from Assumption over the past month or so (and did not opt out of the mailing), then we do not have your email in the new system. Here is how you can help. Go to our website at <https://www.assumption-chgo.org> and click REGISTER. We'll use your entries to fix our records, and we promise not to bother you with a lot of "junk" mail.

### 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.


### CATECHISM 101

Is your knowledge of the Catholic faith a little fuzzy? Are you an OCIA graduate who would like to learn more about the beliefs and practices of the religion you have chosen? Has your own spiritual journey led you to a deeper hunger for knowledge and understanding of our Catholic heritage? For these and many other reasons you may want to join Deacon Kevin for a course on Catholic beliefs, using the *The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Sessions are every other week and are ongoing. Contact [AssumptionDeacon@gmail.com](mailto:AssumptionDeacon@gmail.com).

**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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- Mother Teresa

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