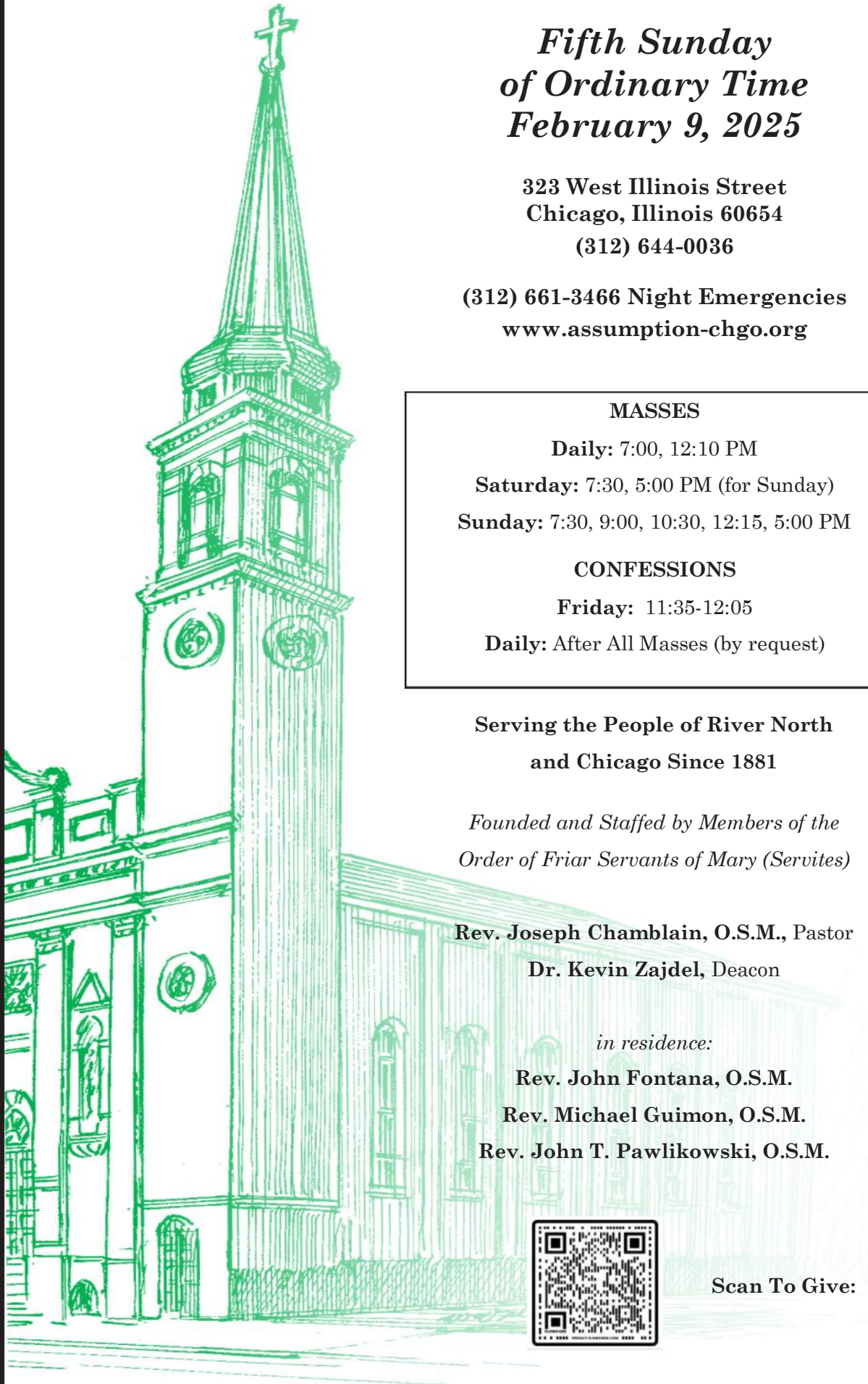


ASSUMPTION CHURCH



Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time February 9, 2025

323 West Illinois Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654
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(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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in residence:

Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.

Rev. Michael Guimon, O.S.M.

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



Scan To Give:

MEANDERING THROUGH FEBRUARY

During the last week of January, I made a very brief three-day trip to Southern California “on business.” As one of my duties as Assistant Provincial, I’m expected to join our Servite Provincial, Fr. Eugene Smith, when he visits the other Servite communities. We have two parishes and a high school south of the city of Los Angeles. When I left Chicago a week ago Monday, the news was still filled with reports about the fires. I expected to see, if not burned out communities, at least a heavy pall of smoke. But this was not the case. Except for a slight haze in the air the first day, everything seemed normal. The fire damage was north of Los Angeles. There was nothing to suggest that daily life had been altered in the least for people south of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles area and most of Southern California was still an endless suburban sprawl, almost entirely dependent on the private automobile. I could close my eyes and see the same congested freeways cutting through this megalopolis that I saw on my first visit forty years ago. The number of Servites in the area are fewer than forty years ago, and, on average, older; but otherwise life seems about the same for most people after the fires. What was of more immediate concern was the talk about deportation, especially at one of our parishes that is heavily Latino. In Southern California, deportations could happen quickly, since Mexico is just a bus ride away. One parish couple had already been arrested while shopping at a grocery store.

Still, at some point, there is likely to be a natural disaster so great, that we will be stopped in our tracks and we will be forced to alter our lifestyle. I am not a great fan of Stephen King’s writings, but one book that I did thoroughly enjoy is *11/22/63*. If that date does not ring a bell, it is the date of President Kennedy’s assassination. The novel is about a young man who is shown a portal to the past and is charged with going back in history and stopping the assassination. The theory was that Kennedy would not have allowed us to become so deeply involved in the Vietnam Conflict, and that would have changed history for the better. Part of the humor of the book is that while Stephen King (and I) have clear memories of what life was like in 1963, the hero was born decades later. He has to figure out everything from the vertical hold knob on the television set to rotary phones. Although he ultimately succeeds in his mission, he sets off a series of natural disasters and worse errors of judgment by the government, so that present day life in these United States (and elsewhere) is reduced to a very primitive level. If the fires and the floods and the hurricanes continue to increase in magnitude, that could be our reality one day—and without anybody traveling to the past and twisting the cords of history. We can be grateful that the tragedy was not as great as it could have been, but I think we have been warned.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, Lent is taking a long time arriving this year. Typically I hear people remark that Lent “snuck up on me.” Well, we won’t be able to use that excuse this year. Lent does not begin until March 5. We have this big long stretch of “Ordinary Time” between the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent. In the old liturgical calendar (back when Kennedy was President), there was a Pre-Lenten season. Lent had not officially begun yet, but the priest wore purple vestments on the three Sundays prior to Ash Wednesday. These Sundays had really great names: Septuagesima Sunday, Sexagesima Sunday, and Quinquagesima Sunday (literally the 70th, 60th, and 50th). The countdown to Easter had begun. Pre-Lent as a concept may not make much sense, but it certainly makes more sense than what the airlines call “pre-boarding.” (How exactly does one pre-board?). Some church historians think that what came to be known as Pre-Lent may have started as part of a longer Lenten Season observed in some places and evolved into an opportunity to prepare for the season ahead.

The Lenten Season itself originated as a time of final purification for those who were to be baptized at Easter. It was the final stage of their “conversion” to Christ. Catechumens were challenged to answer the questions: What is still in my life that does not belong in my life if I am going to be a follower of Christ? What steps do I need to take to bring my life into conformity with Christ? The Lenten Season was later extended to the whole church, because all of us are in constant need of conversion to Christ. So, a meaningful project for us during these weeks leading up to March 5 is to reflect on those two questions. That will help us identify what would be the most productive use of the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity that we undertake each Lent. Of course, we only reach perfection when we arrive at the heavenly gates; but we can at least make sure that the Lenten practices that we undertake are actually moving us in the right direction, and not just something we undertake out of habit or something that we think might look good on our heavenly resume.

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 pop. Pizza will be served promptly after the 5:00 Mass. Buy tickets online or through the Parish Office. Look for sign-up sheets to bring salad or dessert. To volunteer that evening, email events@assumption-chgo.org.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Lent is a little more than a month away. We invite you to participate in one of two weekly guided studies and discussions of the Scriptures assigned for the Sundays of Lent, using materials provided by Renew International. We have two separate groups meeting this Lent; one in the daytime and one in the evening. The daytime group will meet on Fridays at 10:00am beginning March 7. The evening group will meet on Mondays at 6:00pm, beginning March 3. To sign up, please email bible@assumption-chgo.org.

WELCOME TO ASSUMPTION

Welcome The following folks have officially registered as members of Assumption since July 1, 2024: Susan Burns, Anna Beckett, Karlyn Wilkins, Nick Fabianski, Conor and Bridget Kinasz, Theresa Eckert, Sergio Perkovic and Dillon Duchesne, Isaac Plumlee, Johnny Romano, Kevin McMahan, Anand Patel and Rachel Joseph, Meg Levis, Marisa Ascencio, Daniel Boyle, Mariah Calderon, Taylor and Bridget Dean, Mike Udonkang, Danielle Schwartz, Colton Riemenschneider, Haley Martin, Jackson Cook and Emily O’Leary, Daniel Labosky and Tori Vennetti, Kevin Frost and Lisa Trapani, Sylvia Kulagowski, John Sexton and Sophie Sieving, Gabrielle Gentile, Robert Garber, Garrett Gloudemans and Adrienne Hagen, Connor Whitting and Tara Krkljes, Maria Nguyen, Nicholas Zimmerman, Richard Jordan and Tam Nguyen, Luke Furjanic, Bradley Mayer and Catherine Stephany, Gohan and Cheryl Taliaferro, Hannah Pellouchoud, Sara Simons, Sandra Nagowska, Elizabeth Holthouse, Matt Jakubowski, Andrew Wagner, Michael Ippolito, Emily Hayes, Josephine Perez. Welcome to our faith community! Not yet a member? Go to our homepage or fill out a form in the back of church.

HYMNS: #542, #393, #206 (except 5pm Sunday)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Tuesday, February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is the World Day of the Sick. We will offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the 7:00am and 12:10pm Masses on February 11. The Sacrament of the Sick is for those who are in danger of death because of age or illness.

A VISIT FROM BLEST ART

Representatives from Blest Art will be at Assumption the weekend of March 1-2. You will have the opportunity to purchase hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art. Blest Art raises funds to support Christian families in the Holy Land. Visit their display in the Parish Hall after all weekend Masses. They accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards.

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 United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Sessions are every other week and are ongoing. Contact AssumptionDeacon@gmail.com.

BAPTISMS:
VERONICA RUTH FENNESSY

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 8, 2025

Sun	9th	7:30 Leo & Helen Dillon (RIP)
		9:00 Assumption Parishioners
		10:30 John McEneaney (RIP)
		12:15 Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)
		5:00 Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
Tues	11th	7:00 Lou Carnesecca (RIP)
		12:10 Randy Moss
Wed.	12th	12:10 Marge Munster (b’day)
Thurs.	13th	12:10 Bill Melton (RIP)
Fri.	14th	7:00 The Dubuque Family
		12:10 Andrew Dubuque & Claire Tinsley (b’days)
Sat	15th	7:30 Helen Dillon (RIP)

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.

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.

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.


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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