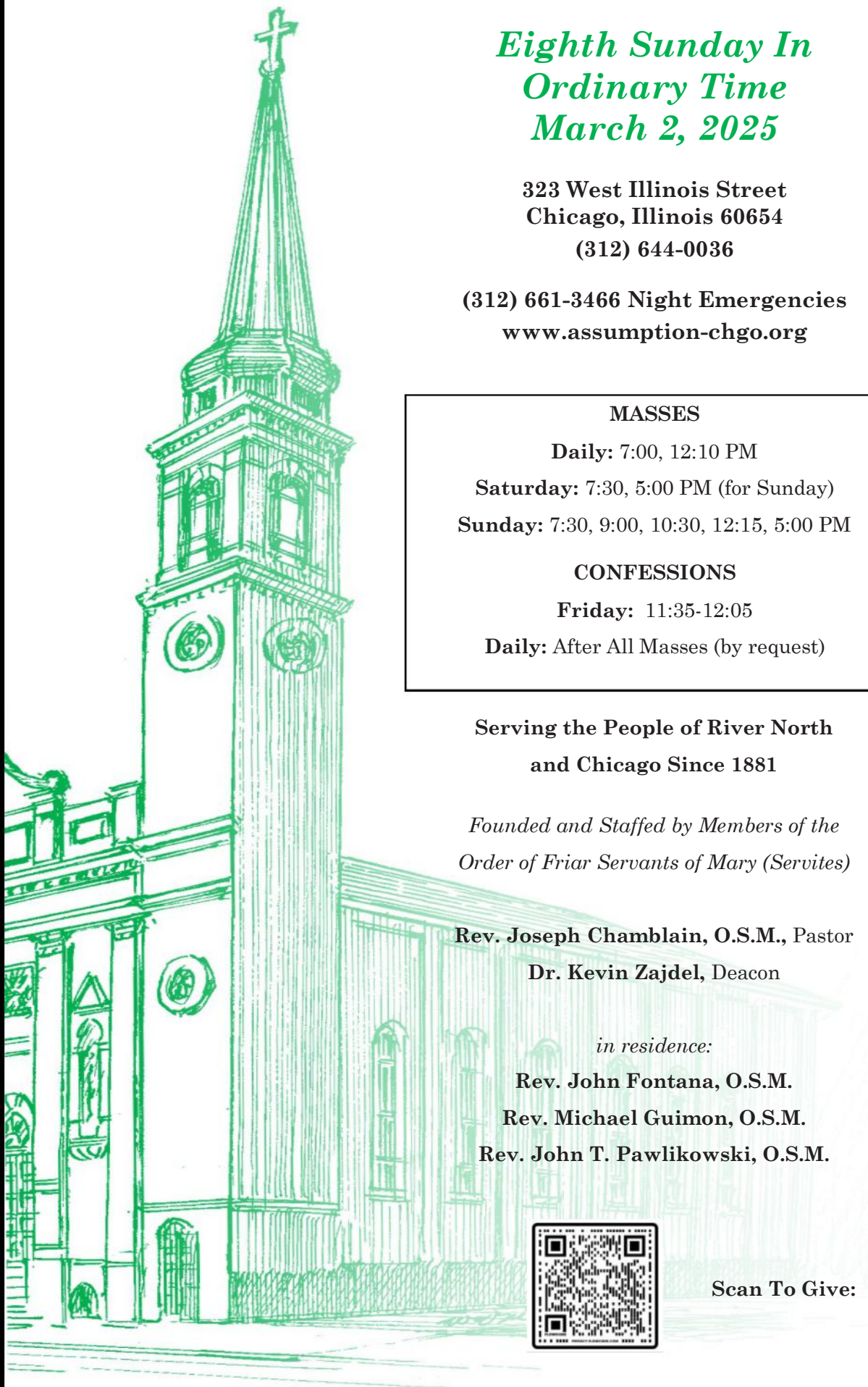


# ASSUMPTION CHURCH



## *Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time March 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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## A SPRINGTIME OF FAITH

This Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, we begin the Season of Lent. Our word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “Lenten”, which means “spring.” The Latin term for this penitential season is Quadragesima (40 days) and the Greek term it is Tessarakoste (fortieth). So, for convenience sake, we can be grateful that the Old English word stuck. With Lent and Easter quite late this year, we really are starting Lent just as a few brave green sprouts are pushing their way through the winter tundra.

Like many of our liturgical seasons, the season of Lent has earthly roots as well as spiritual roots. Lent began as the final season of preparation for those who would be baptized at Easter, and was later extended to the whole church, since we are constantly in need of conversion. But there was also something very practical about Lent. In the centuries before refrigeration and supermarkets, food in the northern hemisphere was often in short supply in the spring. People had used up what they had stored for the winter and the new crop was not yet ready for harvest. Christians were urged to limit their meals during springtime, so that there would be enough for everyone in the village. Today, of course, we are not subject to such seasonal shortages. Going to a Farmer’s Market is a lifestyle choice, not a necessity. As a result, our penitential acts can take on an artificial character. While the idea behind Lenten penance is sound—we need to sacrifice some of our comforts, so that we may be more focused on Christ and on the Christ as he appears in our sisters and brothers in need--the execution may leave something to be desired.

Lent always begins with a flurry of religious activity. Our three Masses are well attended, and there is a steady stream of people coming for ashes during the five hours they are offered in the Parish Hall. It is not hard to understand why receiving ashes is more popular than receiving communion. There are no real or imagined requirements for receiving ashes. We do not have to be in the state of grace or in good standing with the church or a good person or a worthy person. We do not have to be Catholic or Christian or very sure if we believe in God. When we come for ashes, we are admitting that we could have led a better life, and that is a universal experience. We know we need to get our act together.

The problem comes in the follow-through. Some of us never get around to deciding on a Lenten practice. Even if we start with enthusiasm, we may gradually let things slide. We may treat our penance as an endurance test, something to do for 40 days without any long-term consequences. Our Lenten practices may not touch the core of our lives in the same way that our ancestors in faith had to face the sacrifices of springtime. So, from time to time, I have suggested to people (and have imposed it on myself) that we undertake a different penitential act for each day of the week. It is a way to address our shortcomings and our excesses from many angles.

For many people **Monday** is the least favorite day of the week. Whether you are heading back to work or working from home, Monday is the perfect day to do an act of charity or kindness. This could range from being understanding and patient with others, visiting the sick, or just doing something unexpected for someone you love. It might make someone’s Monday less of a grind. Set aside fifteen minutes on **Tuesday** to reflect on your behavior this past week. Whom or what have I been neglecting? What have I been overdoing? Think about your habits of sin. Over the course of six weeks, patterns will likely emerge and you will have a personal improvement project for the Easter Season. On **Wednesday** set aside time to learn something about an issue that impacts your faith. We live in a world of social media influencers and rapid fire opinions. Stop scrolling and dig deeper. Attending one or all of our *Evenings of Faith* would certainly fulfill that requirement. Let **Thursday** be the day you sacrifice. Since this is the only day you will actually give up something, make sure it is something that cuts into your comfort zone. As you do so, think about the millions who make this same sacrifice every day because they lack the basic necessities of life. **Friday** is a day of abstinence from meat. It could also be a day to abstain from gossip, negative speech, and bad language. Abstain from passing judgment on other people’s motives, actions, and intelligence. On **Saturday** most people have more free time. Set aside fifteen minutes to read Scripture, say the Rosary, or pray in whatever form works for you. **Sundays** do not count in the forty days of Lent, but participating in Sunday Mass should be the center of our week anyway.

These are just suggestions. If you decide to follow such a Lenten program, post your list of Lenten practices on the refrigerator and make sure you look at it every morning.

Fr. Joe

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 5**

**Mass with Ashes:**

7:00am, 12:10pm, 6:00pm

**Ashes Only in Parish Hall:**

7:30-9:00am, 11:30-1:30pm, 4:30-6:00pm

*(The 311 garage will be open for the 12:10 and 6:00 Masses)*

**LENTEN FISH FRY**

Back by popular demand, the Men's Group Lenten Fish Fry is slated for Friday, March 14 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. It's \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Meal includes fish, three sides, salad, dessert, and beer, wine, or soft drink. Reservations are necessary and may be made on-line. If you can volunteer that evening, email [mripiani@handler.law](mailto:mripiani@handler.law).

**A VISIT FROM BLEST ART**

Come to the Parish Hall after Mass for the opportunity to purchase hand-carved religious items. Blest Art raises funds to support Christian families in the Holy Land.



**HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**

Refreshments and conversation are served today, in the Parish Hall, following the 9:00 and 10:30am Masses.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

Join one of our two guided studies of the Scriptures assigned for the Sundays of Lent. The evening group begins this Monday March 3 at 6:00pm in the Rectory. The daytime group begins this Friday morning March 7 at 10:00am in the Rectory. To sign up, please email [bible@assumption-chgo.org](mailto:bible@assumption-chgo.org).

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

The Way of the Cross will take place following the 12:10 Mass on the Fridays of Lent.

**ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS**

AYA is planning a pre St. Patrick's Day event on Saturday March 8 following the 5:00 Mass. They will be journeying to Headquarters Beercade. AYA is for anyone in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. For more information about AYA, email [assumptionaya@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionaya@gmail.com).

**LENTEN REGULATIONS**

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by the fast may take only one full meal, and eating solid food between meals is not permitted.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Our next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday evening March 10 from 7:00 to 8:15. This session is for new parents and for those who have never before attended a baptism session. Call the parish office to register. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 1:15pm and on the first weekend during Mass.

**EVENINGS OF FAITH:** Every Wednesday during Lent we will have Mass in Church at 6:00pm, a Lenten meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30, and a speaker or Lenten ritual from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Here is our schedule for this year:

- March 12 - Homelessness In America (*Doug Fraser*)
- March 19 - The Christmas Story for Adults (*Fr. Joe*)
- March 26 - The Roots of Our Faith (*Fr. Lou Cameli*)
- April 2 - The Way of the Cross for Today
- April 9 - The Seasons of Life (*Mary Worden*)
- April 16 - Lenten Reconciliation Service



**PROMOTING LIFE**

During Lent the Knights of Columbus will conduct a fund drive in support of The Well of Mercy, a charitable organization that provides transitional housing, spiritual nourishment, and other support services to women with unplanned pregnancies who choose to carry their baby to term. This weekend, the Knights will hand out empty baby bottles. Bring the bottles back full of cash and change by April 6.

**HYMNS:** #714, #337, #534 (*except 5pm Sunday*)

**PRAY FOR THEM:** Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Rich DiVito, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Michael Graul, Mike Foster, Peter Lammer.

**MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF MARCH 1, 2025**

Sat	1st	5:00 Lucy Torres (RIP)
Sun	2nd	7:30 Leo & Helen Dillon (RIP)
		9:00 Assumption Parishioners
		10:30 Fr. Michael Doyle, O.S.M. (RIP)
		12:15 Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		5:00 Dorothy C. Brennan (RIP)
Mon	3rd	7:00 Steve Palkovitz (RIP)
		12:10 Jack Hoffman (RIP)
Tues	4th	7:00 Theresa Landgren
		12:10 Bob Uecker (RIP)
Wed.	5th	7:00 The Dubuque Family
		12:10 Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)
Thurs	6th	7:00 Joan Weitzel (RIP)
Fri	7th	12:10 Tom Walsh (RIP)
Sat	8th	7:30 Jeff Torberg (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.



**THE MINISTRY OF GREETER:** Would you like to see our parish community grow? Do you enjoy meeting new people and helping them feel welcome? If so, consider becoming part of our Greeter Ministry at weekend Masses. Email [greeters@assumption-chgo.org](mailto:greeters@assumption-chgo.org) to find out more.


**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL:** If you received a Pledge Envelope through the mail, please return it as soon as possible. Did not receive a Pledge Envelope? Pick one up in the back of church. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports many essential ministries in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

**ROSARY OF THE SEVEN SORROWS:** During Lent, the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary will be prayed every Sunday morning at 11:40am. All are welcome. Rosaries are provided.


**HELP SAVE GOD'S CREATION**  
We can make a difference if we each take one small step every day to help save God's gift of creation. Let's embrace Laudato Si.



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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