

ASSUMPTION CHURCH



First Sunday of Lent March 9, 2025

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:

SAILING THROUGH LENT WITH NOAH

One of the first Bible stories to capture my imagination as a child was the story of Noah and the Ark. I expect that I am not alone. Noah and the ark has all the elements that would appeal to children. It is an adventure story; it features animals as well as people; it has a happy ending; it helps explain phenomena in the sky; and, like most children's stories, it has that "long ago and far away" vibe. However, the very elements that make this story appealing to children make it difficult to swallow for adults. It demands a massive suspension of disbelief. We are asked to believe that a man and his family were able to construct a massive waterproof ark in their backyard within a short period of time, while at the same time rounding up a huge menagerie of animals from all over the world (7 pairs of clean animals and 2 pairs of unclean) who would then all live together peacefully on this ark for several months. Yes, all things are possible for God; but Noah's ark really pushes the envelope. In short, it is a story that we may easily file away in the back of our brain with other memories of childhood.

Recently I found myself reflecting on the story of Noah. I concluded that while some of its elements may not be entirely factual, it is most definitely a true story, for it contains spiritual truth for us at any stage of our life. In fact, Noah might make the perfect companion for our Lenten journey. Why do I say that?

First, when called by God, he acted. Noah was no youngster looking around for something to do. He had already raised a family. Like many of us when we reach a certain age, we presume that our life is set, that the great adventure of our life has already taken place. The Hebrew Scriptures, though, are filled with stories of people being called later in life to a whole new life. Abraham and Sara at an advanced age set off to a whole new land. Eli, who had largely been a failure as a religious leader of Israel and is going blind, takes on the role of mentor to young Samuel. Go to the New Testament and we find twelve apostles who had families and occupations and thought they were set in life until they met Jesus. God called them and they acted. What is God calling us to this Lent? We all know what needs to change in our life. We are probably not being called into ark building or to go anywhere for that matter. Yet we are being called to conversion this Lent. Have we acted on it like Noah, or have we just thought about it?

Second, while thousands of animals on a houseboat may be unrealistic, imagine that there were just a few. None of them were housebroken or potty trained. Noah had to walk through a lot of mature. Imagine the scoffing of neighbors as he prepared for his epic journey, the smells on the ark, the noises, the efforts to keep the peace. Being called to discipleship does not make our troubles disappear. Often it brings us more trouble, just as it did for Jesus. Seeing nothing but rain can be depressing; seeing all your possessions washed away causes grief. Yet, Noah persisted for forty days before seeing new life. If we persist for the forty days of lent, we too will see new life.

Third, the ark may have been a mess after forty days of use, but it is a vivid reminder that we are all in this together. The future of creation was encapsulated in that ark. Sometimes we forget about that. We feel little pain when wars drag on in other parts of the world and the destruction of people's homes, possessions, and livelihood goes on day after day. The war dead become just statistics. Because the Midwest has not been directly challenged by climate change, we may not take to heart the impact that it is happening all around us. Our Lenten sacrifices should not only be an exercise in self-discipline, but also a way of connecting with those who have no choice but to sacrifice. Lent should draw us closer to all humanity and make our own prayers for peace and the care of our planet more fervent. We really are on one little boat together.

Fourth, when Noah disembarked from the ark he offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving; and God made a new promise to the world. The dove that Noah sent off to explore the earth is often seen as a symbol of peace. The world got a fresh start. The peace that was present at creation was present once again. Sin and division, of course, continue to mar creation, but through our own Lenten journey we get to experience a new life at Easter, we get to make a fresh beginning, and hopefully that change in us will restore a bit of freshness to the earth. The habits of prayer, charity, and self-discipline should not end at Easter, but should become an integral part of our life. For Noah, the new life was not like the old life. Old patterns had been broken and the opportunity was there to develop new patterns. So it is with us. If we journey through Lent with Noah, we will find a new freedom to serve God and neighbor, no longer constrained by the compulsions of the past.

Fr. Joe



LENTE 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 mripani@handler.law.

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

HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA

In 2024 there were more than 770,000 unhoused people in the United States, an 18% increase over 2023, which was itself a 12% increase over 2022. Yet some American cities have been successful at reducing their homeless population. Learn more about the factors that have led to the growth of homelessness in one of the richest countries in the world, what the experience of homelessness is like, and what we can and should be doing about it. Doug Fraser, Executive Director of Chicago Help Initiative, which provides many basic services to the unhoused population, will offer the first presentation in our Lenten *Evenings of Faith* series on Wednesday March 12 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Every Wednesday in Lent there will be Mass in Church at 6:00pm, followed by a Lenten meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30, and the Presentation at 7:00. Reservations are required only for the meal. Reservations can be made online, by phone, or by signing the list in the back of church.

LENTE BIBLE STUDY

Join one of our two guided studies of the Scriptures assigned for the Sundays of Lent. The evening group meets on Mondays at 6:00pm in the Rectory. The daytime group meets on Friday mornings at 10am in the Rectory. To sign up, please email bible@assumption-chgo.org.

HYMNS: #130, #565, #125 (except 5pm Sunday)

FEBRUARY DONATIONS

Sunday Collection - \$39,721
 Sharing Parish - 2,978
(includes electronic giving)

PROMOTING LIFE

During Lent the Knights of Columbus are conducting 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. Empty baby bottles are available in the back of church. Bring them back full of cash and change by April 6.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

BAPTISMS:
CHARLOTTE BRIDGET KINASZ

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.

<u>MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF MARCH 8, 2025</u>			
Sat	8th	5:00	† Ted & Esther Rybicki
Sun	9th	7:30	† Leo & Helen Dillon
		9:00	† Linda Hepburn
		10:30	† John McEneaney
		12:15	† Theresa Deeb
		5:00	Assumption Parishioners
Mon	10th	7:00	Julien Naughton
		12:10	† Ronald Boracchia (b’day)
Tues	11th	7:00	† Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		12:10	† Ed Boddy
Wed.	12th	12:10	† Lillian Pusateri
Fri.	14th	7:00	The Dubuque Family
		12:10	Margaret Mary Bracey
Sat	15th	7:30	† Eddie Fisher

LENTE 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.

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: 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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If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
 - Mother Teresa



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