



### April 27, 2025

#### THE DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS

When I arrived at my computer early Monday morning to begin work on the bulletin (We have a deadline of Monday noon to get it to the printer), there was a news bulletin just four minutes old. Pope Francis had died about two hours earlier at the age of 88. It was one of those moments when you are surprised but not surprised. The Pope had been in frail health for three months. He had spent 38 days in a hospital and came close to death on several occasions. Lately, though, he had started making public appearances again, including a ride through the crowd gathering for Easter Mass less than 24 hours prior to his death. After the funeral rites for Pope Francis are concluded, the cardinals will go into conclave to choose a successor. A lot of us are now familiar with the ancient rituals of a conclave, thanks to the popular book and film, *Conclave*. What is not emphasized, at least in the book (which I read), is that there is a period of time prior to the beginning of the conclave when Vatican officials educate the electors from around the world on the current state of the Church, its needs and challenges, and qualities that would be important in a new pontiff.

I wrote a column about a month ago on *The Legacy of Pope Francis*, and I am sure as the week goes by, you will have the opportunity to hear from many voices on the impact that Pope Francis has had on the Church and the world and listen to as much speculation about the next pope as you can possibly tolerate. For now, let me just quote the official statement from Cardinal Farrell, issued several hours ago: "At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of his church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favor of the poorest and most marginalized. With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."

Significantly, Christians around the world (including our sisters and brothers in the Eastern Church) had just celebrated Christ's Easter victory over sin and death when Pope Francis died. Liturgically, Christ's victory is too big an event and too central to our faith to be confined to just one day. The Easter season stretches out 50 days to the Feast of Pentecost on June 8. While Easter Sunday is known to most people as, well, Easter Sunday, this Second Sunday of Easter has gone by many names throughout the centuries. It is known as the Octave Day of Easter, because a major feast like Easter is celebrated for eight days (Every weekday of Easter week has the rank of a major feast). It has been called Low Sunday, because it contains less pomp and ceremony than Easter Sunday. For many centuries this Sunday was called White Sunday. It was customary for the newly baptized at Easter to wear to Mass the white garment they were dressed in following their baptism. White is the color of purity and baptism is the pre-eminent sacrament for the forgiveness of sin. The modern custom of christening dresses for infants being baptized derives from this tradition. As I have often told parents, it makes more sense to dress the baby in their white garment after the baptism rather than in anticipation of it.

One of the more unexpected names for the Second Sunday of Easter is Quasimodo Sunday. It is unusual only because we usually associate the name Quasimodo with the leading character in Victor Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. But there is a connection. Quasimodo was found on the steps of Notre Dame Cathedral on Quasimodo Sunday. Where does the name originate? From the opening phrase for the Latin Entrance Antiphon for this Second Sunday of Easter: *Quasi modo geniti infantes* (like newborn infants).

On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II designated this Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope John Paul was a great devotee of the Polish mystic St. Faustina Kowalska, who said that Jesus had made this request in an apparition. It is an appropriate Sunday to speak of Divine Mercy, since the Gospel passage read on this Sunday describes Jesus' appearance to the apostles and his offer of peace and forgiveness after they had mostly abandoned him during his hour of need. God's mercy was also a persistent theme in the papacy of Francis, who liked to refer to the Church as "a hospital for sinners."

Fr. Joe

### A BIG THANK YOU!

Our Holy Week and Easter services took many hours to prepare and execute. A special thank you to our liturgical ministers, singers and musicians, church decorators, many ad hoc volunteers, and the members of our Servite Secular Order, who prepared the feast for our new Catholics Holy Saturday night.

### PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Our Parish Pastoral Council consists of nine members. It is an advisory group that considers, evaluates, and makes recommendations to the pastor in all areas of parish life except for finances. Members serve a three-year term and cannot serve two consecutive terms. So, we add three new members each year. We will begin accepting nominations this weekend. You may nominate yourself or another church member. Those who are nominated will be invited to attend a virtual information session on Tuesday May 13 or Wednesday May 21 at 7:00pm and will be asked to participate in an Evening of Discernment on Thursday May 29.

## **ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS**

Assumption Young Adults is having a pizza party Sunday evening May 18, following the 5:00pm Mass. AYA is for anyone in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They participate in a number of social, spiritual, and service activities during the year. Find out more by emailing assumptionaya@gmail.com

### **CHICAGO HELP INITIATIVE**

Assumption will be providing the evening meal for Chicago Help Initiative at Catholic Charities (LaSalle and Huron) on Wednesday May 7. Would you like to help serve the meal? Volunteers are asked to be at Catholic Charities from 4:00 to 5:30. To sign up, email roz@chicagohelpinitiative.org and tell them you are from Assumption.

## **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

In honor of the Feast of St. Peregrine, the Cancer Saint, we will offer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at the 7:00 and 12:10 Masses on Monday May 5. This Sacrament is for those whose life is at risk because of age or illness.

### **HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**

Next Sunday May 4 is Hospitality Sunday. Refreshments will be served following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses. After the 10:30 Mass (weather permitting) we will have a May Crowning of the Mary statue in the Garden.

# FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

While Easter decorations and Easter candies disappear from store shelves immediately after Easter, the Church continues to celebrate Easter long after the last remnants of the Easter ham have been consumed. We have forty days of Lent, but fifty days of Easter. This reminds us that the self-discipline of Lent was not an end in itself (much less an endurance test), but a way of preparing ourselves for a renewed commitment to Christ and a celebration of his victory over sin and death. The Easter season reaches its conclusion on the Feast of Pentecost, when, according to Scripture, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. Though largely a secular activity today, the tradition of decorating eggs for Easter has its roots in religious faith. The eggs were meant to symbolize Christ emerging from the tomb on Easter Sunday morning.

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday, May 12 from 7:00 to 8:15pm in the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for parents who have never before attended a preparation session. Call the Parish Office to register. It is not necessary to wait until the baby is born to attend. Baptisms normally take place at 1:15pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and on the first weekend during Mass.

**HYMNS**: #587, #590 (except 5pm Sunday)

### **WEDDINGS:**

STEPHEN PROFFER & PAULA ROMANCHUK KEVIN LABARGE & BRIDGET MANAHAN JOSEPH WEISSMAN & EMILY STANDAGE

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

MAS	rai 22	FNTI	ONS ~ WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2025
Sat			Bernadette McDonnel
Sun	27th	7:30	† Josephine "Jo" Winter
		9:00	Dorothy R. Ransom
		10:30	† John McEneany
		12:15	† Fr. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.
		5:00	Assumption Parishioners
Mon	28th	7:00	† Rosemary Hages
		12:10	Souls in Purgatory
Tues	29th	7:00	† Michael & Rose Marie Sopko,
			Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko,
			Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		12:10	† Anthony Dolan
Wed	30th	7:00	The Dubuque Family
		12:10	† James Quinn
Thurs	1st	12:10	† Mary D. Perdomo
Sat	3rd	7:30	† Catherine Halle

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Pre-Planning Services

\* Closest Location to Assumption with

Supervised Parking Available

**GETTING MARRIED AT ASSUMPTION:** You do not have to be a registered parishioner to get married at Assumption. You do have to be free to marry in the Catholic Church and you do have to participate in the marriage preparation process. For more information, call the Parish Office.

A WAY TO HELP THE CHURCH: Our printed bulletin is supplied free to us as long as we maintain a minimum level of advertising. Right now we could use some more paid ads. By advertising in the bulletin and supporting those who do advertise, you are helping supporting the church. Ads run not only in the printed bulletin, but in the online version as well.

**GENERATION TO GENERATION:** Generation to Generation is a campaign of the Archdiocese of Chicago designed to support the long term future of the Catholic Church in Cook and Lake Counties and to support the needs of parishes like Assumption. Unlike the *Annual Catholic Appeal*, which is designed to keep the ministries and needy parishes of the Archdiocese running for another year, Generation to Generation is an invitation to make a pledge over a five year period to address long-term needs. Funds collected will go to support the health care and retirement of the Archdiocesan priests, create a scholarship fund for students attending Catholic schools, and expand evangelization efforts. Fifty percent of the funds raised return to Assumption. Our parish goal is \$775,000 (or 130% of our annual collection) and we have already reached 60% of this amount in pledges. When you receive an invitation in person or by mail, please be generous.



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