

### May 4, 2025

#### THE SPIRIT OF POPE FRANCIS

I was up early enough last Saturday morning to catch most of Pope Francis' funeral live. Over 250,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square. There were the cardinals, bishops, priests, and deacons; over 130 foreign dignitaries (including 50 heads of state and 10 reigning monarchs); and an amazing array of ordinary folks. At one point the overhead camera panned over the foreign dignitaries and then on to the Pope's plain wooden coffin. This simple contrast between these powerful people and the late pope made me think of a passage in Richard John Neuhaus' book, *Death On A Friday Afternoon*, in which he recounts the experience of going down Fifth Avenue on Good Friday and walking past St. Patrick's Cathedral during the Good Friday Service:

"In the Good Friday liturgy, the priests and deacons lie prostrate, collapsed before the cross. St Patrick's Cathedral in New York is directly across from Rockefeller Center, and at the entrance to Rockefeller Center is the great sculpture of Atlas holding up the world. On Good Friday, the doors of the cathedral are opened, and you can see the great cross from the street. Turn in one direction and there is the mythical Atlas holding up the world; turn in the other, and there is the One broken by the world. Which image speaks the truth? Is the world upheld by our godlike strength or by the crucified love of God? Upon that decision everything, simply everything, turns."

Some popes have captured the spirit of the times; other popes have moved counter to the spirit of the times, and Pope Francis was one of those. He never failed to remind world leaders what their priorities should be, and he did that to the annoyance of many of them. How do we keep his spirit alive? By committing ourselves to the causes that were close to his heart. What were some of them?

- a) The Marginalized Any group that tended to be overlooked, invisible, or demonized was close to the heart of Pope Francis. At Assumption, we partner with Chicago Help Initiative in its many services to the poor and the unhoused; we pass out food vouchers once a month; and we prepare sandwiches for distribution on Saturday mornings. If your schedule does not permit being actively engaged in these ministries, you can answer the call that was put out several months ago to "Become One in Three Hundred." If 300 people offer a sustaining donation of \$10 a month, we would have sufficient funds to finance these three ministries and more.
- b) *Immigrants* Pope Francis was in touch with the terrible conditions that lead people to flee their homeland. It is important to remember that no person is ever illegal, even if they are in this country illegally. Everyone deserves to be respected as a human being and should enjoy basic human rights which is not the case at the present time.
- c) *The Environment* Pope Francis broke new ground in 2015 when he made care for our common home a moral imperative for Catholics. This goes against what seems to be the prevailing attitude of surrendering to or trying to adapt to climate change—a solution that will not work in the long run, even for the most privileged among us who have the greater ability to adapt to climate change.
- d) The Right to Life Pope Francis was a constant critic of the abortion mentality and pushed to amend the Catholic Catechism to make capital punishment a violation of church teaching. There are many ways to support the gift of life, from taking up the cause of the unborn to engaging in projects to reduce violence in our communities.
- e) *Peace* Whether in the Gaza Strip or in Sudan or in Ukraine, the Pope spoke out against nations taking aggressive military action against another. He called upon us to build bridges and not walls. We can work to do that in our relationships in daily life.
- f) A Synodal Church Pope Francis was a frequent critic of clericalism the sense of entitlement and arrogance among church leaders and officials. He envisioned what he called a synodal church, where clergy and laity together would listen to the call of the Spirit. The simplicity of his own life was a powerful witness to that. Here and in so many other ways he leaves us a vision for the future.

#### 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 are now accepting nominations. 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.

#### 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.

## 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 <a href="mailto:roz@chicagohelpinitiative.org">roz@chicagohelpinitiative.org</a> and tell them you are from Assumption.



#### 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 <a href="mailto:assumptionaya@gmail.com">assumptionaya@gmail.com</a>

# **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.

### **HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**

This Sunday, following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses, refreshments will be served. After the 10:30 Mass (weather permitting) we



will have a May Crowning in the Garden.

### **GENERATION TO GENERATION**

Thank you to those who have made a pledge to the Generation to Generation campaign. Our parish has already reached 79% of our pledged goal. Unlike the Annual Catholic Appeal, which enables the Archdiocese of Chicago to maintain essential services for another year, Generation to Generation seeks to address the long-term needs of the Archdiocese and Assumption. You can make a difference by giving what is right for your household. Just as we have been blessed by previous generations of Catholics, let us seize this opportunity to pass on the blessings we have received to strengthen the next generation of Catholics.

### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION**

Next weekend, May 10-11, there will be a second collection for Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal. Your generous support helps more than 61,000 moms and families across Cook and Lake Counties.

**HYMNS:** #627, #338, #177 (except 5pm Sunday)

#### **WEDDINGS:**

KEVIN LABARGE & BRIDGET MANAHAN JOSEPH WEISSMAN & EMILY STANDAGE PETER IUCCIOLINO & REINELDA DIAZ ZACHARY LEVY & MADISON ADAMS THEO KADJO & SHANTEL JONES BRIAN KEENAN & MARY BERKEMEYER TRAVIS BAKER & DANA PISTEY

#### **PRAY FOR THEM**

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

# MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF MAY 3, 2025

Sun	4th	7:30 John Klagas
		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
Mon	5th	7:00 The Dubuque Family
Tues	6th	7:00 † Charles Brummel
Wed	7th	7:00 The Priests & People of Assumption
Fri	9th	7:00 † Stephen Sullivan

VISA

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\* Closest Location to Assumption with

Supervised Parking Available

### 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.

### **REFUGEE ASSISTANCE GROUP**

Assumption's Refugee Assistance Group has partnered with Catherine's Caring Cause, an organization that assists families who have sought refuge in the United States. For almost a year, our parish has been helping with rent and food expenses and transportation for Virginia and her six children who have come to Chicago as humanitarian parolees. Son, Emiliano, five years old, is being successfully treated for leukemia at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. For the second year in a row, Assumption is supporting the women and children of Bethany House by contributing funds to host a Mother's Day party for the moms and the kids. The Refugee Assistance Group welcomes participants and ideas for projects. For more information, email refugee@assumption-chgo.org. Donations are always welcome and can be made on Assumption's online giving platform. Donations should be directed to Project Refugee.



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