



May 11, 2025

THE SERIOUS SIDE OF HOLYDAYS

We do not have to be an expert on languages to see a connection between the word holyday and holiday. In Catholic Europe in centuries past, holidays were holydays. They were special feasts of the church on which people went to Mass instead of going to work. In our country, where there is no established religion, we do have one holiday that is a holyday and that is Christmas. But even that is not without controversy. Until fairly recent times, most Protestant denominations did not hold services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, but celebrated Christmas on the previous Sunday. Because observing Christmas on December 25 was considered such a Catholic thing, the Puritan government in colonial Massachusetts banned Christmas. Anyone seen celebrating Christmas or taking the day off work on December 25 was subject to a fine. The grinches did not ultimately win out, and Christmas survives as a Catholic holyday and a holiday.

Our other civic holidays, especially those embedded in a three-day weekend, have largely become days for family picnics, taking it easy, and mattress sales, but it was not always thus. In a few weeks we will celebrate Memorial Day. It began in 1868 as Decoration Day, a time to visit the graves of those who died in the Civil War and to remember the cause for which they died. Independence Day honors what was a very brave move by a minority of colonists who supported independence from Britain and the ideals that lay behind the formation of our nation. Labor Day grew out of the long efforts of fledgling labor unions to provide for the safety and welfare of the working class. Thanksgiving has become inexorably tied to the proverbial "first thanksgiving" between Indians and colonists—a story that was largely fabricated in the late nineteenth century. When President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national observance in 1863, there was no mention of pilgrims and Indians. Even in the midst of a horrible civil war, he said, we must pause to give thanks to God for the rich natural resources we share and for the heroism of the people.

That brings us around to today's national observance—Mother's Day. We can all agree that moms deserve the fancy brunch, the breakfast in bed, the flowers and the presents. Self-giving love was the essence of the life and ministry of Jesus; and many of us first learned about self-giving love from our mothers. However, when Anna Jarvis and Julia Ward Howe (more famous for penning the Battle Hymn of the Republic) began the drive to establish Mother's Day back in 1865, it was meant to be a call to action. More than 600,000 Americans had died in the Civil War, leaving behind many grieving mothers. The idea that Jarvis and Howe had was that on Mother's Day, mothers throughout the country would come together to rally against war. Women did not have the right to vote, but they could exert their moral authority to avert another war that would result in more grieving mothers.

When Mother's Day finally became a national observance in 1915, President Wilson, true to the original intentions of Jarvis and Howe, encouraged families to display the flag on Mother's Day, to honor the mothers who had lost sons in war. As Mother's Day became more of an economic engine, the original intent of Mother's Day faded away. Anna Jarvis' daughter (also named Anna) often railed against this commercialization of Mother's Day, especially the fancy greeting cards that came to be associated with Mother's Day: "They are a poor excuse for the long letter that you should have written to your mother."

While we can be grateful this Mother's Day that our sons and daughters are not actively engaged in combat overseas, the number of grieving mothers in our country is still great. Daily we read about revenge shootings and gang violence on our city streets and all too often, school shootings. Young people die in accidents, from disease, and suicide. There is the hidden pain and grief of those who lost a child before he or she was born. There are also those, of course, who are grieving the loss of a mother and are having a hard time today. So, as we go about our routines of honoring mom today, it is good to remember those for whom Mother's Day is a particularly difficult day and to remember that God is close to the brokenhearted. After all, God lost a son to violence too.

Fr. Joe

Fourth Sunday of Easter

GENERATION TO GENERATION

Thank you to those who have made a pledge to the Generation to Generation campaign. Our parish has already reached 96% of our pledged goal. 50% of the funds raised come back to Assumption. If we reach our goal, that amount increases to 80%. 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

This weekend, 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.

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.

WELCOMING NEW CATHOLICS

It is not too early to be thinking about being part of the OCIA Class of 2025-26. OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for those over the age of 18 who were never baptized, never made their first communion, or who are baptized in another Christian religion and want to explore becoming Catholic. It is a group experience that meets on Sunday mornings from September to May. This past year we had a separate OCIA group for those 8 to 18 and we will have it again if there is a need. Contact Fr. Joe for more information.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction on Monday May 19 from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

APRIL DONATIONS

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Sunday Collection - (except Easter)	thank	28,331
Sharing Parish -	1,997	
Holy Thursday -		1,135
Good Friday -		1,346
Easter -		35,937

(includes electronic giving)



ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS

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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

<u>HYMNS</u>: #450, #328, #585 (except 5pm Sunday)

WEDDINGS:

JOSEPH WEISSMANN & EMILY STANDAGE
PETER IUCCIOLINO & REINELDA DIAZ
ZACHARY LEVY & MADISON ADAMS
THEO KADJO & SHANTEL JONES
BRIAN KEENAN & MARY BERKEMEYER
TRAVIS BAKER & DANA PISTEY
GIANFRANCO PARICO & SHANNON SI
RYAN O'CONNOR & NATALIE ZAJESKI
RAKESH KUMAR & KATHARINE McCORMICK

PRAY FOR THEM

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

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF MAY 10, 2025

1721		TENTION WEEK OF WHIT TO ZOZE
Sat	10th	5:00 † Joan Pernecke
Sun	11th	7:30 † Lou & Ann Manderino
		9:00 Dorothy R Ransom
		10:30 † Charles & Marion Joachim
		12:15 † Betty Persichetti
		5:00 Assumption Parishioners
Mon	12th	7:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko,
		Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko,
		Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		12:10 † Leonardo Pusateri
Tues	13th	12:10 Audrey Delegato Quinn (b'day)
Wed	14th	12:10 † Margaret "Peggy" Elizabeth Annett
Thurs	15th	7:00 The Dubuque Family
		12:10 † John Campbell
Fri	16th	12:10 † Edward & Dorothy Brennan

1631

* 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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