

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Twenty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time September 7, 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)

**Serving the People of River North
and Chicago Since 1881**

*Founded and Staffed by Members of the
Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites)*

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

WOULD IT HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE?

One of the big news stories in our country these past weeks is the August 27 mass shooting at a Catholic Church in Minneapolis, while the parish school children and their teachers were gathered for the Opening School Mass. Two children were killed and 17 other people (including 14 children) were injured. It is a story that resonates in a special way with many Catholics because so many of us were part of “all school Masses” or Masses at which all the parish’s religion students came together. That could have happened to us or our children or our grandchildren.

In a statement released the next day, Cardinal Cupich offered his prayers for the families affected, but then added: “The facts are clear. Guns are plentiful and common-sense attempts to limit their availability have been largely rejected in the name of a freedom not found in our Constitution. Cutbacks in funding for healthcare and social service programs will only exacerbate a national mental health crisis and increase alienation. We therefore pray for those who hold the power to make the safety of our people a national priority.”

Gun control at the national level is often sighted as the key ingredient for preventing such incidents in the future. One nation that attempted to address this issue thirty years ago is Australia. As a result of the 1996 legislation entitled *The Australian National Firearms Agreement*, 650,000 firearms owned by individuals were purchased by the government as part of a mandatory buyback program, and strict licensing requirement were put into place about the number and kind of firearms an individual could possess. When I visited the Servite Friars in Australia last fall, several of them pointed to the success of the program and most news articles also tout its success. Of course, there are dissenting voices. Skeptics point out that Australia was never as violent a place as the United States and a parallel decline in poverty and unemployment during these years may also have been a significant factor in the decline in gun violence. There has been a clear decline in the number of homicides involving firearms, but not as significant a decline in homicides themselves. People are finding other ways to kill one another.

If we look at the church shooting in Minneapolis, though, we can see that such laws could have made a significant difference. If the lone gunman had not been able to purchase three different weapons (including a high-powered rifle), he would not have been able to fire 116 shots through the stained glass windows, assuming that with that many bullets, some of them would hit a target. Since the church doors were locked from the inside, he would not have been able to enter the church with a pistol and shoot at close range. If he possessed only a knife, he might have been disarmed before any harm was done.

As close to home as this story hits, it is important that we not lose our perspective. The two children killed were only two of 28 children 10 and younger who were killed in the United States in August. That includes one five year old in Chicago who died from gunfire. Since the outbreak of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, 18,000 children have been killed in Gaza. They left behind grieving parents also, and in war, children are also left without parents. (This weekend Catholic churches throughout the United States are taking up a collection for Gaza relief, with the funds entrusted to Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.)

Any of us who walk the streets of downtown Chicago, know the presence of the mentally ill, many of them off their meds and some completely lost in their head. Sheriff Dart has noted on several occasions the high percentage of prisoners in the city jail who are mentally ill. When health services are not available, people end up in jail because there is no other place to put them. With some very dedicated volunteers, Chicago Help Initiative does some marvelous things for the unhoused population; but we know that mental illness is also a factor in the growth in homelessness. As I write this, President Trump is considering sending troops (National Guard or regular military) to help us clamp down on crime; but soldiers are not really trained in policing. Is it really about crime and violence or is it about stepped up immigration enforcement (involving many people who are not criminals). Congress appropriated more money for immigration enforcement. When they get back to work, could they help us with some other stuff that we really need?

Fr. Joe

BAPTISM PREPARATION

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

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In light of expanded Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations 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 home 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.

BLOOD DRIVE SEPTEMBER 8

Our second annual parish blood drive will take place Monday September 8 from 2:30 to 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Short on time? You can schedule an appointment. Call 877-258-4825 or visit vitalant.org and use group code ORDO807E. Your blood donation could help save a life. Before donating, eat well, hydrate and bring an ID with you.

LOOKING AHEAD

Stephen Millies, Professor of Public Theology at Catholic Theological Union, will give a presentation entitled "Being Bridges" on Thursday October 9 at 7:00pm in our Parish Hall. The talk will explore the spirituality and theology of welcoming marginalized persons in our midst. No registration is needed.

OCIA BEGINS SEPTEMBER 14

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the official name for the process of becoming Catholic for those who were baptized in another Christian faith and want to explore becoming Catholic and for adults who were never baptized. It is also for baptized Catholics who never made their first communion and confirmation. It is a group experience that runs from September to May. Contact Fr. Joe for more information.

YOU'RE INVITED

The Events Committee is sponsoring a Fall Pop-Up Cocktail Party in the Parish Garden, Tuesday September 16 from 5:30 to 8:00pm. Enjoy wine, cocktails, and light bites. \$15 per person.

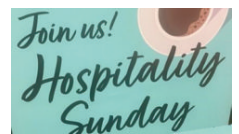


ALPHA BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 25

Alpha is a series of videos and guided discussions that help cradle Catholics live and share their faith in a more intentional way, help those who have become alienated from church or religion to find their way back, and help those who have no experience of faith or church to address some basic questions about life. Alpha is an opportunity to ask questions or express your truth in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Our next Alpha series begins Thursday September 25. Consider coming yourself and invite a friend or family member who is not an active church member to come with you. For more information or to sign up, email alpha@assumption-chgo.org.

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Assumption Young Adults invite you to share food and conversation following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses this weekend.



HYMNS: #506, #207, #211 (except 5pm Sunday)

WEDDINGS:

BRIAN BURKE, JR & ALICIA GARCIA
JEFFREY CHONKO & NATALIE PACINI
MATTHEW O'CONNOR & OLIVIA CAREY
JUSTIN LEIDER & MARY KATE SAUER
NICHOLAS METZGER & JOANNA BARRAGAN
ANTHONY BOSCO & EMMA PERONA

PRAY FOR THEM: Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Mike Foster, and Mary Ann Kevin

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

Sun	7th	7:30 † Dan Garvey
		9:00 Assumption Parishioners
		10:30 † Fr. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.
		5:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
Mon	8th	12:10 Janet FitzGerald (for healing)
Tues	9th	7:00 Michael Jones
Wed	10th	7:00 † Oliver Gibson
Thurs	11th	7:00 † Angela Lansbury
Fri	12th	12:10 † Harry Teinowitz

NOW STREAMING—RECENT HOMILIES: You can now listen to podcasts of homilies from the 9:00am Mass. Visit our website and click on the title that inspires you.

THE ITALIAN DINNER: By popular demand, we are returning to Coco Pazzo for this year's event, slated for Thursday October 30. That means not just delicious food but also that tickets are limited. We are holding the price at \$125.00. Tickets go on sale soon.

PRAYER WALK: Our next Parish Prayer Walk on Sunday, September 28. Meet in the garden at 11:30am and we will walk to three nearby locations for prayer and reflection. We hope you can join us for fun, spiritual exercise!

FIRST SATURDAY SAMMICHES: For the past two years, on the first Saturday of each month, a team of volunteers has prepared bag meals to distribute to the unhoused through Chicago Help Initiative. Recently the team doubled the number of meals they prepare—now averaging 220 meals each month. Assumption spends approximately \$550 per month on sandwich supplies and more donors are needed. You can donate online through our website's "Donate" button or by sending a check to the Parish Office. Interested in joining the team, contact Katie Pomroy at katmapom@hotmail.com.

YOUNG FAMILIES: Our Young Families Group for those with children under ten is planning their next gathering for Sunday, September 28 after the 5pm Mass. Meet in the garden and head over to Ward Park for playtime for the kids and refreshments & conversation for the parents. Email ayf@assumption-chgo.org for more details.

<p>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.</p> 	<p>Help care for aging Friars who served at Assumption. Remember The Order of Friar Servants of Mary, USA Province in your will.</p>	<p> Flood Brothers DISPOSAL/RECYCLING SERVICES</p> <p>We Take Service Personally Contact us today for a customized, reliable waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote. 630-261-0400</p>
 <p><i>Coco Pazzo</i> 300 W. Hubbard • 312.836.0900 cocopazzo-chicago.com Celebrating 30 years</p>	<p>If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. - Mother Teresa</p> 	
<p>Big Shoulders Fund. You can help change a life. Fund a scholarship today!</p> <p>Scan here to donate</p>   <p>bigshouldersfund.org</p>	<p>Gene & Georgetti CHICAGO'S STEAKHOUSE SINCE 1941 We offer weekend brunch, lunch, catering and takeout. Great options for private events, including rehearsal dinners. GENEANDGEORGETTI.COM 312.527.3718 500 N FRANKLIN ST</p>	
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 <p>Michalik Funeral Home Family Owned & Operated Since 1929</p>	 <p>1056 West Chicago Avenue (312) 421-0936 www.michalikfuneralhome.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services * Closest Location to Assumption with Supervised Parking Available

