



October 12, 2025

RUNNING IS MORE THAN RUNNING

One of our country's most prolific contemporary writers is Joyce Carol Oates. She is the author of some 58 novels (many of them nominated for prestigious literary prizes), plus several plays and collections of short stories. What is the secret of her success? Running. In at least three different interviews, she has referenced running as her hidden muse. "Running seems to allow me an expanded consciousness, in which I can envision what I am writing as a film or a dream. I rarely invent at the typewriter, but recall what I saw when I was running." On another occasion she said, "I often find that the solution to a problem I am facing in the form that the story should take will be found on a run, or at the end of a run, or coming back from a run; whereas if I stayed home at my desk, I wouldn't get it." Another time, she shared that running has been part of her life since childhood. "Running is when I do a lot of my writing—in my head. When I was a girl and I lived on a small farm, some nights I couldn't sleep, and I would go outside in the light of the moon and run along our long driveway. There was such a feeling of some strange romance, smelling the fresh air—it was almost unspeakably exciting and beautiful. Now I run in my neighborhood. There is a country road that goes up a hill. And when I run up that hill, I feel that there will be ideas waiting for me. It's like they're waiting for me up in that place. So I run up there. If I just sat in a room, it wouldn't be the same thing."

There is also a spiritual dimension to running, which runners experience in different ways. The discipline we develop training for a marathon is the same discipline we need to be disciples of Christ. If we only go for a run when we feel like it, when we are not too tired, when the weather is pleasant, when we don't have a long day ahead of us, when we didn't stay out too late the night before, when we don't have guests from out of town, we will be in no shape to run 26 miles. So it is that if we only practice out faith when it is convenient or when we feel like it, we will be in no shape for the kingdom of heaven. Christian writer Mary Carter points out that "in the Bible, running represents endurance, perseverance, and the pursuit of God's will. Hebrews 12:1 says, 'Let us run with perseverance the race marked out before us.' This verse encourages believers to stay focused on their faith, to throw off distraction, and to keep moving forward. The race of faith is not a sprint, but a marathon, requiring patience and determination."

Mary Carter also comments on the sometimes perplexing passage in Isaiah: "They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not grow faint." "This verse reminds believers that God gives strength to the weary. When life feels overwhelming, God provides the energy to keep going. Running on human strength alone leads to burnout, but running with God's strength brings endurance and renewal. Trusting in the Lord allows believers to keep moving forward, no matter how difficult the race becomes." Or, as runner and Episcopalian priest Jim Friedrichs writes, "The perpetual context between weariness and perseverance is familiar to every athlete and every saint. You're going to get discouraged. You may faint and fall. But keep your eye on the prize. Hold on." And Katie Talarico comments, "Every time I run, I'm reminded of the Scripture verse about running the race set before us. It's long, It's hard. It builds our strength. It's got hills and valleys that are more or less difficult to run through. It's not for the faint-hearted, but we have the assurance that God is there running the race with us."

The bottom line is that running is about a lot more than running, and those who run marathons have a lot to teach the rest of us who only run when someone is chasing us. Although our usual traffic patterns are thrown into chaos by the Marathon, it is still a fabulous weekend in Chicago. Approximately 45,000 runners from over 100 countries typically descend upon downtown Chicago. About a fourth of those runners are raising money for a charity, and last year charity runners raised \$36 million dollars. The Marathon would not happen without the 12,000 volunteers from some 200 volunteer groups who provide support in so many ways. And then there are the cheering spectators who help keep runners running when they do feel weary—not unlike the "cloud of witnesses," the saints, described in the Letter to the Hebrews as cheering us on to eternal life. This weekend at our Saturday Vigil Mass we welcome runners and offer them our blessing and, we might add, our admiration.

Fr. Joe

Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

ONE OF THREE HUNDRED

This past January we initiated an appeal to find 300 people willing to donate \$10 a month to Assumption's charities. We



have not yet met our goal. Three hundred such donors would fund our Saturday morning sandwich group, our refugee assistance ministry, and enable us to increase the value of the food coupons we offer the poor and homeless on the first Wednesday. To help us reach our goal, use the marked envelopes in the back of church or donate online to "Assumption Shares."

SECOND COLLECTION

On the weekend of October 18-19, we will take up a second collection for World Mission Sunday. This collection supports the work of the Church in 1,124 dioceses that are too young, too poor or being persecuted and need our help. As Cardinal Cupich writes: "In this time wounded by war, conflict, and injustice . . . let us be inspired to transcend the confines of our individual parishes, dioceses, and nations. May we be illuminated by the light of Christian hope and bear witness to the message of God's love in every part of the world."

BLESSING OF PETS

For the blessing of pets last Saturday on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we welcomed 66 dogs, 5 cats, and one bird—and their pet persons. May all have a blessed year.



ASSUMPTION ITALIAN DINNER

Thursday, October 30, 2025, 6:00pm—9:00pm Coco Pazzo, 300 W. Hubbard

Back by popular demand!

We are returning to Coco Pazzo for our annual event. By the time you read this, we might be sold out, but your name can be added to the Wait List if you call the Parish Office (312-644-0036). Doors open at 6, dinner at 6:45. Don't miss out on great food, fine wine, fabulous company and exciting auction items, including a Nashville stay!

HYMNS: #663, #348, #205 (except 5pm Sunday)

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

Sunday Collection -	\$37,348
Sharing Parish -	2,301
Gaza Relief -	2,391
Archdiocesan Seminaries -	2,134

(includes electronic giving)

CATECHISM 101

Is your knowledge of the Catholic faith a little fuzzy? Are you an OCIA graduate who would like to learn more about



the beliefs and practices of the religion you have joined? Has your own spiritual journey led you to a deeper hunger for knowledge and understanding of our Catholic heritage? For these and many other reasons you may want to join Deacon Kevin and the group making its way through *The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. New members are welcome any time. Contact AssumptionDeacon@gmail.com

ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS

AYA is for anyone in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They participate in a number of service, social, and spiritual activities during the year. Email assumptionaya@gmail.com for more information.

WEDDINGS:

CONOR MOONEY & ISABEL RAMOS JOBIN NADAYIL & PATRICIA SOO AUSTIN GUIDO & CHRISTINA GARGANO

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

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF OCTORER 11, 2025

MAS	<u> </u>	<u>ENTIONS ~ WEEK OF OCTOBER 11, 2</u>
Sat Sun	11th 12th	5:00 † Mary Helen Cahill
		Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Familie
		5:00 † Edward Brennan
Mon	13th	7:00 Hayes Family
		12:10 Priests & People of Assumption
Tues	14th	7:00 † Marc Hill
Thurs	16th	12:10 Souls in Purgatory
Fri	17th	12:10 † Francisco & Cornelia Pestanas
Sat	18th	7:30 Arky Aliano

 Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services

Supervised Parking Available

* Closest Location to Assumption with

ROSARY OF THE SEVEN SORROWS: We pray the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:40am. All are welcome. Rosaries are provided



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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday November 10 from 7:00 to 8:15pm at the Rectory. This program is for new parents and for those who have never before attended a preparation session. It is not necessary to wait for the baby to be born to attend. Call the parish office to register. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15pm and on the first weekend during Mass.



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