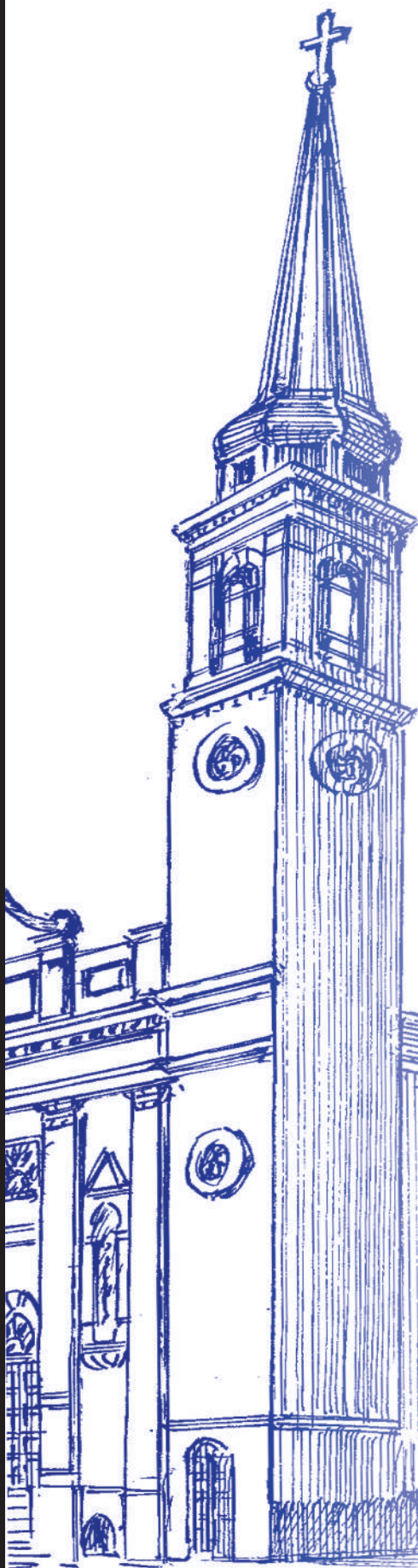


ASSUMPTION CHURCH



The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica November 9, 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)

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Dr. Kevin Zajdel, Deacon

in residence:

Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.

Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.



Scan To Give

HAUNTING A VANISHED WORLD

In last week's column I made a brief reference to my three-day trip to St. Paul, MN. I got to do some train riding, and draw on the special train fund that some of you contributed to for my 40th jubilee. It was a beautiful ride along the banks of the Mississippi; the train was well patronized, which was nice to see; and the downtown St Paul depot has been beautifully restored, which was also nice to see. But I had another reason for this trip. I wanted to see downtown St. Paul again. In 1981, when I was in the seminary, I spent a summer at St. Joseph Hospital in downtown St. Paul, doing a program common to many ministry students called Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). It is partly about developing skills needed to do pastoral visits in a hospital but also a time to confront some of the issues within us that keep us from being a more effective minister. When I did the program, I was the only Catholic in the group and the only participant from out of town (which made my experience a little different from everybody else's). While I am extremely grateful for what I learned about myself, at the time I did not handle some of the expectations of the program very well. When I finished, the program supervisor recommended that I take another unit of CPE (which is a real nice way of saying "You almost flunked").

When I walked over to what was once St. Joseph Hospital, it looked forlorn. The sign out front said "Fairview Wellness Center." The main door of the hospital where I lived and worked was locked, and a sign pointed customers to an adjacent (and newer) medical building, where some minimal services are provided. When I did a little research on the web, I found this statement from four years ago on the Fairview Medical System website: "For years St. Joseph Hospital operated as the smallest of four acute care hospitals in downtown St. Paul. More than half of the patients came from outside St. Paul and 72% of the hospital's total emergency department visits were considered preventable with proper primary care . . . It became clear that our current care model was not meeting the needs of the surrounding community. Nor was that model financially sustainable for our health system."

Yes, all that made sense. Our model of medical care has changed dramatically since the summer of 1981. When I stepped back and looked at the hospital building, it did look small and inadequate by today's standards. There was a small circle drive in front of the main entrance and six medical floors. There was a cardiac floor (where I was interned), an oncology floor, several general medical floors, a psychiatric floor, and, on the top floor, a residential hospice. On the main floor was a large cafeteria, which was popular with the senior citizens in the area. The hospital was also very Catholic. There were four Sisters of St. Joseph in pastoral care and two priest chaplains. At the time it seemed like a large modern facility; and I doubt there was any talk about whether it was "financially sustainable." But all that is gone. Now the statue of St. Joseph stands by the barricaded front entrance—like someone left behind by the rapture.

Once upon a time, these small and medium sized hospitals were at the heart of our medical system. One year in the seminary, I helped out at St. Clara Parish in Woodlawn. One of my responsibilities was bringing Communion to Catholic residents in a nursing home near the church and conducting a weekly Liturgy of the Word. When one of the residents had to go to the hospital, they usually went to Woodlawn Hospital, where I would visit them. Woodlawn was a dark, creepy old place with creaky wooden floors, two or three beds jammed into a room and a bathroom down the hall. As medical care has become more sophisticated, more specialized, and more expensive, the big systems have gobbled up the free-standing hospitals, and, the smaller players have been squeezed out. It is one thing when a small hospital in St. Paul or Chicago closes; it is another when the only hospital in a rural section of Iowa closes because it cannot keep up with the big boys. Forty five years ago it was also clear what a Catholic hospital was. That was why many patients from "outside St. Paul" went to St. Joseph's. Today, with the huge hospital systems, that Catholic identity is not so clear.

This is a fascinating time to think about all this. As of Monday morning, our federal government has been shut down for a month. The issue that caused the stand-off is affordable health insurance. But when it comes to medical care in our country, is the current stand-off just the tip of the iceberg?

Fr. Joe

HELP SERVE AT CHI

Assumption is providing the meal which Chicago Help Initiative will serve the needy on Wednesday November 12. Would you like to help serve the meal? Volunteers are needed from 4:00 to 6:00pm. Contact roz@chicagohelpinitiative.org.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Over a year ago our Pastoral Council placed a suggestion box in the back of Church. A number of people have dropped notes in the box and each of them was discussed at a Pastoral Council meeting; but since most notes were anonymous, there was no opportunity to have a conversation about them. Three years ago, as part of *Renew My Church*, we held listening sessions after each of the weekend Masses with Fr. Joe and the RMC team about future directions for the parish. These gatherings were very positive, productive, and helped shape some of the programs and events that have been initiated. Now the members of our Pastoral Council would like to hear from you in person. On the weekend of November 15-16, a representative of the Pastoral Council will be in the Parish Hall after each Mass. Come down for a cup of coffee or a glass of iced tea and offer your suggestions.

THANKSGIVING DAY

The word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving." It is the primary reason we come to Mass. How appropriate to begin your family celebration of Thanksgiving by attending Mass. Masses will be at 7:30 and 10:30 on Thursday November 27, Thanksgiving Day. The 311 Garage will be open for the 10:30 Mass. A collection will be taken up for Assumption Shares food vouchers.

BRING A TURKEY TO CHURCH

Help a needy family have a happier Thanksgiving. Our Lady of the Angels Mission on the West Side is in need of frozen turkeys for the many families they assist. Assumption is coordinating a turkey drop to help meet this need. Please bring a frozen turkey to church on Sunday morning November 23. Drivers will be parked in front of church to receive your turkeys and transport them to Our Lady of the Angels. Drop-off times are 7:15 to 9:15 and 10:15 to 12:30 only. Volunteer drivers are also needed, Contact Karen at 773-587-0018 or salasblancas1@gmail.com. Please note: we are not accepting cash donations for turkeys. Cash donations will go to Assumption Shares, which provides food vouchers for those in need.

HYMNS: #446, #372, #448 (except 5pm Sunday)

OCTOBER DONATIONS



Sunday Collection -	\$37,390
Sharing Parish -	1,588
World Mission Sunday -	2,480
<i>(includes electronic giving)</i>	

ADVENT SCRIPTURE STUDY

The Season of Advent prepares us not just for the celebration of Christmas but for Christ's return at the end of time, and the Christ we encounter in the midst of daily life. Your experience of Advent will be enriched by a study of the Advent Sunday Scriptures. A Scripture Study (based on materials from Renew) will meet on four Mondays from 6:00 to 7:15pm, beginning November 24. To sign up, email beth.schuman@gmail.com.



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.



WEDDINGS:

JOHN MARISIE & EVAN LAUREN STOLTZ
JAMES McMAHON & REBECCA GERKE

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 NOVEMBER 8, 2025

Sat	8th	5:00 † Robert Nakazawa
Sun	9th	7:30 † Donn Dresselhuys
		9:00 Assumption Parishioners
		10:30 † Charles & Marion Joachim
		12:15 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
		5:00 † Mary Helen Cahill
Wed	12th	7:00 † Marvin Obermeier
		12:10 Elise Naughton (b'day)
Thurs	13th	12:10 † Betty, Mario, & Mario Jr. Persichetti



HATS FOR THE HOMELESS: Beginning this weekend, Assumption will be collecting knit caps for the needy and unhoused who are served by Chicago Help Initiative. Place your donation in the box at the front of church next to the Vatican flag. The hat drive ends December 14.

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.

THE CABRINI PLEDGE: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini worked with Italian immigrants in our neighborhood and often prayed at Assumption Church. Today she is the patron saint of immigrants. The United States Conference of Bishops is inviting us to sign the Cabrini Pledge: to affirm in word and deed the inherent dignity of every person, to listen and learn about the circumstances facing migrants and refugees, and to join with Pope Leo in praying for migrants and refugees as fellow travelers on the journey to our true homeland. To sign the pledge, go to USCCB The Cabrini Pledge.

A GREAT CELEBRATION: Thanks to all who attended our **Italian Dinner** at Coco Pazzo, spent a few bucks, made some new acquaintances, ate some good food, and helped celebrate our blessings. A special thanks to the Events Committee: Cathy Cahill, Maryann Labelle, Beth Schuman, Rose Grieco, and Danielle Gabriel.

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. 	Help care for aging Friars who served at Assumption. Remember The Order of Friar Servants of Mary, USA Province in your will.	 We Take Service Personally Contact us today for a customized, reliable waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote. 630-261-0400	
 <i>Coco Pazzo</i> 300 W. Hubbard • 312.836.0900 cocopazzochicago.com Celebrating 30 years	If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. - Mother Teresa 	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	
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