

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent November 30, 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**

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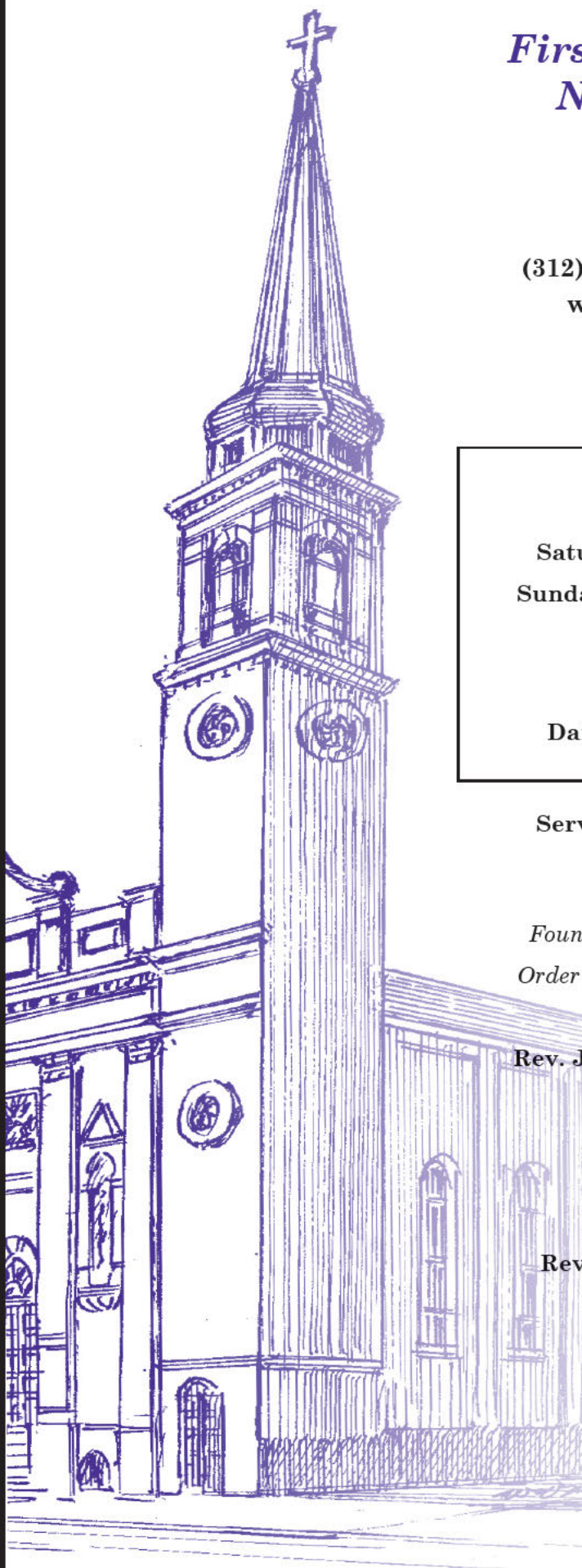
Rev. Joseph Chamblain, O.S.M., Pastor
Dr. Kevin Zajdel, Deacon

in residence:

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



Scan To Give



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Happy New Year! Yes, this is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new church year. Think of it as January 1 without the drinking and the party favors. Just as at the beginning of a calendar year, we make new year's resolutions, so in relation to church, we can make resolutions. I have a few suggestions, but feel free to supply your own.

Be More Hospitable. A hundred years ago, Catholic churches in a strongly Catholic city like Chicago did not have to worry about being hospitable. You were expected to attend Mass in whatever parish you resided. When you arrived, you went to your pew and you kept your mouth shut. Very few churches invited the people to sing or to participate in the Latin responses. Talking in church was a sin. It was disrespectful to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Protestant churches had to worry about being friendly. They were congregations, not parishes. You were free to join the closest church or one across town or the one your grandparents attended. They had to worry about attracting people. I remember when I did a year of graduate study at the U of I in the mid 1970's, several people in my dinner group remarked about what the Baptist Church and the Presbyterian Church did to welcome students the first Sunday of the semester. When I went to Mass for the first time, one of the priests said, "Hey, would you mind helping with the collection?" While we all know that there is nothing more important than the collection, it could have been preceded by a welcoming gesture.

We have thousands of visitors in Chicago every weekend. Some of them end up at Assumption. People move in and out of our neighborhood all the time. Many young people who have grown up without any religious formation, start to explore faith as young adults. Studies show that on a typical Sunday, many of these visitors are not Catholic. Just resolve to notice the people that you have never seen before. You don't have to start up a conversation in church (Most of the yackity-yak is still better outside), but smile, shake hands warmly at the sign of peace. See if the person next to you is struggling to figure out the worship book. A first time visitor may not understand the Mass, but will remember if someone offered to help them.

Be On Time for Mass. In my sixteen years as pastor here, I have never fussed at people for being late for Mass. Stuff happens. We oversleep; there is traffic; a last minute phone call we have to attend to, etc. When I started a library job in St. Louis prior to entering the seminary, the first Sunday I was there, it snowed. Being from the South, I had never driven on snow before, but decided to make the effort to get to Mass. I pulled in the church driveway and found a space beside cars parked by the side of church. At the beginning of Mass, the pastor announced that some people were parking in spaces next to the church, "which everyone knows is for the handicapped." No, not everyone knew. Whatever markings there were for handicapped parking were covered by the snow. So, I don't presume to know what struggle you went through to get to Mass or why you were fifteen minutes late, or why you had to leave early. But, as a rule of thumb, the same crisis should not occur every weekend. We begin Mass by acknowledging our need for God's mercy and strength. That sets the tone for the rest of the liturgy. At the end, we are sent forth to feed the physical and spiritual hungers of the world. How about resolving to make worship time more of a priority?

Follow Through On Something You Said You Were Going to Do. One of my dad's favorite phrases was, "As soon as I get around to it, I want to . . ." It became a family joke, because he rarely got around to it. How many times have we thought about responding to the call to serve in a ministry or organization or give our time for a project, but never got around to taking the first step? St. Paul, who knew a thing or two about building churches, insisted that every member of the church has a God-given gift to share with the community. Like the human body, he said, we cannot always compensate for a missing body part. The whole body suffers. If some interior voice has been nagging you, it is probably the Holy Spirit pushing you to get involved. And if you have not been very regular at church this past year, let that be the first thing you decide to "get around to" in this new year. Have a wonderful Advent and a blessed new year.

Fr. Joe

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This doctrine holds that Mary was free from sin from the first moment of her existence. Mary, under the title of The Immaculate Conception is our national feast day. It is celebrated on December 8 and is always observed as a holy day. Masses on Monday December 8 will be at 7:00, 12:10, and 6:00pm.



ART INSTITUTE TOUR

Blessed Mary is a favorite subject in many styles of religious art. Join in a one-hour tour of select depictions of her in paintings and sculpture at The Art Institute of Chicago. The tour at The Art Institute will be led by art historian Karen Barzman on Thursday, December 18th (*a free entry day!*) at 6:00 pm and, afterwards, we will continue with libations and discussion nearby. Space is limited and will be provided on a first-come, first served basis. Email or call the parish office to register (312-644-0036) or parishoffice@assumption-chgo.org.



HATS FOR THE HOMELESS

Assumption is 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 Dec. 14.



RECONCILIATION SERVICE

There will be an Advent Reconciliation Service Wednesday December 10 at 7:00pm. A reconciliation service consists of Scripture, homily, a communal examination of conscience, and an opportunity for private confession with one of several confessors. This is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds and souls for Christmas.

EXPERIENCE THE POSADA

Assumption and Holy Name Cathedral are cosponsoring a Latin American custom called *Las Posadas*. This reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem will leave from Holy Name Saturday December 20 at noon. The procession will make several stops along the way until arriving at Assumption, where they will find welcome, food, drink, and music. All are invited.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24: 3:00, 5:00, 10:00pm
December 25: 8:30, 10:30, 12:15pm.

CHRISTMAS AT ASSUMPTION

There will be music at all Christmas Masses (3:00, 5:00, and 10:00pm on Christmas Eve; 8:30, 10:30, and 12:15pm on Christmas Day). A musical quartet will lead the singing at the 3:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve and will offer a musical program beginning at 2:30pm. The music program for the 10:00pm Mass begins at 9:30pm. Our parish choir and organ will be joined by additional voices and by musicians from the nationally acclaimed Haymarket Opera Company. This is a very special liturgy. There is nothing quite like celebrating Jesus' birth as the shepherds did, in the still watches of the night. A parking attendant will be present in the 311 Building for all Christmas Masses.

ADVENT CALENDAR

To help you through the season of Advent, an Advent calendar will be posted on Assumption's homepage, Facebook page, and Instagram, beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 30. There will be a different reflection and challenge for each day.



HYMNS: #44, #56, #59 (*except 5pm Sunday*)

WEDDINGS:

SEAN GARVEY & MADISON COOK
SPENCER WENZLOFF & KAITLYN CLANCY
MICHAEL HETTMAN & GWEN GRONOWSKI

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

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2025

Sun	30th	7:30 † Annetta Taylor
		9:00 Assumption Parishioners
		10:30 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
		12:15 † Chase Hunnicutt
Mon	1st	7:00 † Dr. Theodore Dubuque (b' day)
Tues	2nd	7:00 Special Intention
Fri	5th	7:00 Dubuque Family
Sat	6th	7:30 † Marcia E. Miller

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. There is still time to join. Our Scripture Study (based on materials from Renew) will meet on four Mondays from 6:00 to 7:15pm, beginning November 24. Email beth.schuman@gmail.com.

OUR PARISHIONER'S MOVIE: Maura Smith, an Assumption Parishioner and an adjunct faculty member at Columbia College, has directed a movie about her late husband, internationally famous photographer Steve Schapiro. The film, entitled *Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere*, will be screened at the Gene Siskel Theatre, 164 N State, on Friday evening December 5, Sunday afternoon December 7, and Wednesday evening December 10. Maura will be present.

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.

<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>Cocopazzo</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>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>	
<p>Big Shoulders Fund® It takes Big Shoulders to carry a child's dreams.</p>  <p>bigshouldersfund.org</p>	<p>ADVERTISE HERE</p> <p>Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.</p> <p>Give us a call! 800-783-1623</p>	<p>Ed the Plumber Ed the Carpenter 773.471.1444 Best Work • Best Rates PARISHIONER DISCOUNT</p>	
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