

# ASSUMPTION CHURCH

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025*

323 West Illinois Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
(312) 644-0036

(312) 661-3466 Night Emergencies  
[www.assumption-chgo.org](http://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. John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.**



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## THE VIEW FROM THE CRIB

Most of us when we are young have someone we look up to or idolize. It could be an older sibling, a crazy uncle, a teacher, a coach, a famous athlete or performer, perhaps, even our parents. We may try to imitate their speech or their mannerism or their singing. It is all part of discovering who we are and who we want to be in life. The one exception to that would be God. Who could God possibly look up to? God is all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful, all-everything and has been that way from before time began. If God were to look up, he would only see empty space. That is universally true except for one night of the year. That is Christmas night. On Christmas we are not looking up to God. God is looking up at us. God is a tiny baby lying in a crib. What might that baby be saying to us? Let's listen in.

"Is this any way to treat God? Doesn't it bother you that a newborn baby is left in a feeding trough? If you thought a loaded diaper smelled bad, get a load of this bed of straw that animals have been slobbering in. Yuk. I don't blame my parents because there were no beds available. They got turned away. We had no choice but to come here. Caesar Augustus, the wealthiest and most powerful guy on the planet, decided to hold a census, and we all know what that's for: count them, tax them, draft them, enslave them. We had to go to dad's hometown to register. Ninety miles and mom nine months pregnant. You ever travel ninety miles on a donkey? They don't come with shock absorbers, you know. Then, nobody came to see me except nasty old shepherds. Everybody else is using me as an excuse to run up credit card debt and get drunk at the office party. How did my heavenly father talk me into this?"

Maybe that is not exactly what Baby Jesus said on that first Christmas night; but I am not so sure it is not the message that God wanted to send that night. God, the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-seeing creator of heaven and earth could have been born anywhere. He could have booked the Presidential Suite at the Palmer House. God did not have to lower himself as far as he did. I believe he did so to draw attention to what we had allowed to happen to the world God created for us. God did not create a world in which marginal people like Mary and Joseph become pawns in the hands of the rich and the powerful. We did. God did not decree that the richest nation on earth should have 650,000 homeless people in it. We allowed that to happen. God did not create a world in which millions of people have fled their homeland for safety or economic survival. We did that. God did not create a world in which religion is used as a weapon to start wars or treat people as objects of hate. We did that.

At Christmas God did not come to yell at us in a thundering voice from Mount Sinai or as an avalanche to bury us or as a flood to drown us. Yes, God promised never again to destroy the world with a flood, but that may be a bit academic, since pretty soon we may be able to do that to ourselves. God did not come as an old scold but as a baby, to try to awaken the love and compassion that lives within each one of us—a love and compassion that too often gets buried under anger, disappointments, resentments, and our self-centered ways. God said to us at Christmas, "If you can love me as a baby, could you please love all of my brothers and sisters?"

At Christmas God left his superpowers behind in the hopes that he could work his way into our hearts. If we let him in, he will work with us to fix up this little planet. He will free us from our cynicism and old guilt and sins new and old and give us new hope for ourselves and for the world. All the things we do to celebrate Christmas with our family are wonderful: the traveling, the decorating, the cooking, the gift-giving, the ugly sweaters). These are all ways that we show love for one another as a family. But the biblical story of Christmas pushes us beyond family and into a deeper love for all humanity. So, after all the Christmas leftovers have been eaten, and all the out of town company has left, and all the Christmas decorations have been put away, let's not forget what the angels sang, "Good news for all the people" (not just some of the people). Let's see if we can make that baby's trip to earth worthwhile.

On behalf of our Servite Community at Assumption and our parish staff, have a truly blessed Christmas.

Fr. Joe



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.

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized will be Monday January 12 from 7:00 to 8:15pm. 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 a preparation session. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15pm and on the first weekend during Mass.

### **THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Although most of the world has been celebrating Christmas for months, the Christmas season in church begins with Christmas Eve and ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 11. The Sunday after Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family. On January 4, we celebrate the Epiphany of The Lord.

### **GETTING MARRIED AT ASSUMPTION**

It is not necessary to be a registered member at Assumption to have your wedding at Assumption. You do have to fulfill the requirements the Catholic Church has for marriage and participate in a marriage preparation program. For more information, see our website or contact the Parish Office.

**HYMNS:** #44, #68, #43 (except 5pm Sunday)

### **NO 12:10 MASS ON DECEMBER 24**

There will be a 7:00am Mass but no 12:10 Mass on December 24. Masses for Christmas begin at 3:00pm on Christmas Eve.

### **ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS**

AYA is for those in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They participate in a number of spiritual, social, and service activities during the year. Find out more by emailing [assumptionaya@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionaya@gmail.com).

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Thursday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and a holyday. This is one of the most ancient titles given to Mary. It affirms that Jesus was truly God as well as truly human from the first moment of his existence. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 31 and at 7:30 and 10:30 on January 1.

### **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.

### **WEDDINGS:**

**JEFFREY TAYLOR & ISABEL ODOM**

**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 DECEMBER 20, 2025**

Sat	20th	5:00 Assumption Parishioners
Sun	21st	7:30 † Dave Egan
		9:00 † Gordon Nary
		10:30 † Charles & Marion Joachim
		12:15 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
		5:00 † Edward & Dorothy Brennan
Mon	22nd	7:00 Special Intention
		12:10 † Damien Wren
Tues	23rd	7:00 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Landgren
Wed	24th	3:00 Carlson & Grassi Families
		5:00 † Mario Persichetti
		10:00 † Charles & Marion Joachim
Thurs	25th	8:30 Garvey Family
		10:30 † Simone Romanos
		12:15 † Francisco & Cornelia Pestanas
Fri	26th	7:00 Special Intention
		12:10 † Robert Sullivan
Sat	27th	7:30 Jamal Ransom (b'day)

## STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are a registered member of the parish and would like to receive a statement of contributions for 2025, please call or email the Parish Office.



## HELPING ASSUMPTION WITH YOUR IRA

If you have an individual retirement account and have reached the age of 70 ½, you can direct your IRA custodian to transfer up to \$108,000 per year to qualified charities, including Assumption. This transfer will count towards your minimum required IRA distribution, and you do not have to pay an income tax on the amount transferred directly from the IRA to the charity.

## 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><b>HELP SAVE GOD'S CREATION</b> 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><b>Flood Brothers</b> DISPOSAL/RECYCLING SERVICES</p> <p><b>We Take Service Personally</b> Contact us today for a customized, reliable waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote.</p> <p><b>630-261-0400</b></p>
 <p><i>Cocopazzo</i> 300 W. Hubbard • 312.836.0900 cocopazzochicago.com Celebrating 30 years</p>	<p>If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. - Mother Teresa</p> 	<p><b>ADVERTISE HERE</b></p> <p><b>Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.</b></p> <p><b>Give us a call! 800-783-1623</b></p>
<p><b>Big Shoulders Fund®</b> It takes Big Shoulders to carry a child's dreams.</p>  <p>bigshouldersfund.org</p>	<p><b>Gene &amp; Georgetti</b> 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><b>Ed the Plumber</b> <b>Ed the Carpenter</b> <b>773.471.1444</b> Best Work • Best Rates PARISHIONER DISCOUNT</p>		
<p><b>catholicmatch®</b> Illinois CatholicMatch.com/golL</p> 	<p>EWTN.COM/RADIO <b>EWTN</b> Global Catholic Radio</p> 	
<p><b>Michalik Funeral Home</b> Family Owned &amp; Operated Since 1929</p>   <p>1056 West Chicago Avenue (312) 421-0936 www.michalikfuneralhome.com</p>		<p>Get this bulletin emailed to you every week. Simply go to <a href="http://www.DM.CHURCH/1631">www.DM.CHURCH/1631</a> ...or scan </p> <p>✂ DISCOVERMASS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services</li> <li>* Closest Location to Assumption with Supervised Parking Available</li> </ul>

