

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 28, 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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*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

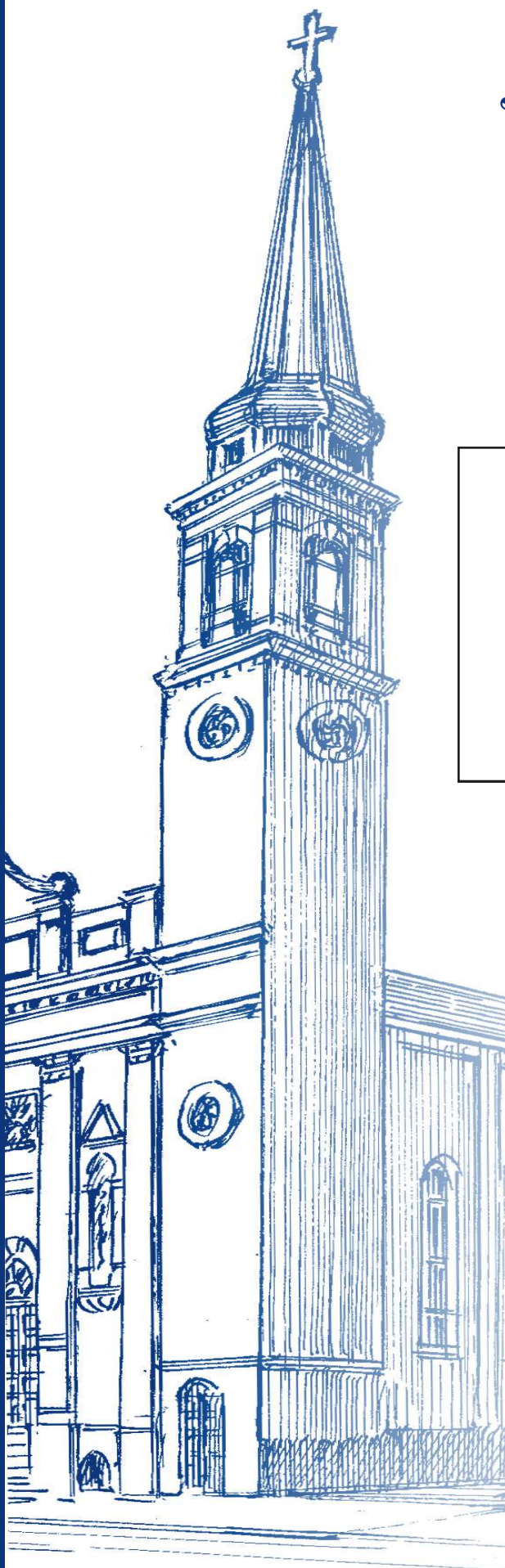
in residence:

Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.

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



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HOW ARE YOU SPENDING NEW YEAR'S EVE?

In many ways 2025 was a good year for our faith community. There is much for which we should be grateful. Attendance has continued to rebound after the COVID nightmare, and this year we have fourteen adults and four young people in the OCIA process. This year's ALPHA was the best attended in years, and Bible Study, after chugging along for years with a group of hardy regulars, has attracted some youthful energy. We continue to serve the poor and the unhoused through our participation in Chicago Help Initiative and our distribution of Chicago Shares food coupons. We are still offering support to the refugee families that we helped sponsor and we have people actively engaged in securing help for individuals facing deportation. Almost all of our ministries are short-handed, but we are hoping to address that with a new style Ministry Fair in February. Our social events have been well-received and successful. You have been generous to the parish and to the Archdiocese. There were challenges, of course; but nothing that was insurmountable.

The end of the year is also a good time to count our own blessings and maybe include some that might not seem like blessings. One of the oldest symbols of the New Year features a tired, bent old man with a scraggly beard dragging a baby in diapers. This little cartoon goes back to Roman times when a parade was held on January 1. An old man and a baby would be at the tail end of the parade. This cartoon has remained popular because many of us feel that the previous twelve months have aged us quite a bit. Good things may indeed have taken place during the year, but there were also many unpleasant things that we would like to forget. Perhaps we experienced the death of a close friend or loved one; maybe we experienced an embarrassment or humiliation that we wonder if we will ever live down; maybe our vacation plans turned into a disaster; perhaps we battled a serious illness; maybe we were out of a job and under financial stress. Our culture's way of dealing with the year's disappointments and setbacks is a wild party on New Year's Eve. Get really drunk and forget all your troubles—at least for a few hours. But, of course, the memories do not disappear. They are still there on January 1, along with a headache.

I have found that a more productive way of dealing with past hurts is not to try to forget them, but to look for a hidden blessing in them. If we lost a close friend or loved one this past year, we might think about what virtue or personal quality made them special to us. What if we incorporated what we most treasured about them into our life and relationships—so that their goodness could continue through us? If we suffered a disappointment, an embarrassment, a failure, well, what did we learn from that experience? What did we learn about ourselves that will be useful in the future? What did we learn not to try ever again? Darkness is a better teacher than light. Failure can teach us humility and strengthen our relationship with God, because we now have concrete evidence that we are not all-powerful and all-knowing. If our vacation was a disaster, maybe we can learn to find more joy in the day to day and not load all our fun and happiness onto one two week trip. And if we battled illness this year, well, maybe the gift is coming to appreciate each day and focusing on the things that mean the most to us.

Reflecting on the events of our life in light of the bigger picture is actually a tried and true way of praying. In the Gospel of Luke, after the shepherds have left the stable and all the commotion is over, the Scripture says that Mary “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Yes, giving birth in a barn is no joy and she was hardly prepared to entertain shepherds; but, on reflection, what a marvelous thing has happened that night. God had come to earth, and she had been privileged to participate.

So, as we approach the end of the year, do not be too quick to dismiss the bad memories of this past year. There might be a blessing hidden within them. Are there things that we should forget and not carry into the new year? Sure there are: things like grudges and resentments and anger toward people who are long dead. These memories only hurt us and disturb our peace of mind. They pull us backward instead of propelling us forward. And, as a wise person once said, “If we come to the end of the year and we are still alive, we really have not had a bad year.”

Fr. Joe

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.



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.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A big thank you to those who decorated the church for Christmas, to the singers and musicians, to those who ministered at our Christmas Masses, and to all who are working to make Assumption a warm and welcoming place for visitors.

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.



RITE OF ADMISSION

On Sunday afternoon December 21, seven people entered into a year of formation in the Servite Secular Order Community at Assumption. Participating in the Rite of Admission were Benjamin Becker, Kristi Becker, Austin Kindig, Emily Kindig, Lynette Reith, Karen Salasblancas, and Conora Shaw. Secular Servites are lay people who seek to live their baptismal calling according to the spirituality of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order, emphasizing community, service, and devotion to Mary. The Servite Friars have staffed Assumption Church since it began in 1881.

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.



THE CATECHISM FOR ADULTS

Are you interested in learning more about your Catholic faith and how the Church guides us to live out this faith? Then you should consider being part of Deacon Kevin's next Adult Catechism group slated to begin Wednesday evening January 21. Using the foundational text, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, past participants have included long-time parishioners, those who recently completed the OCIA process, and anyone curious about exploring their Catholic faith in greater detail. Members support each other and grow in community as they grow in knowledge and understanding. Contact Deacon Kevin Zajdel at assumptiondeacon@gmail.com for more information.

NEXT WEEKEND

On the weekend of January 3-4, we will have our monthly collection for Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.



Refreshments and conversation will be served in the Parish Hall following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses.

HYMNS: #93, #110, #101, #85 (except 5pm Sunday)

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 27, 2025

Sat	27th	5:00 † Jorge Ramos
Sun	28th	7:30 † Mary Bauer Palkovitz
		9:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
		10:30 Assumption Parishioners
		12:15 † Juan Davila
		5:00 † Edward & Dorothy Brennan
Mon	29th	7:00 Bernadette McDonnell
		12:10 Margaret Mary Bracey
Wed	31st	7:00 The Masterson Family
		5:00 † Edward & Dorothy Brennan
Thurs	1st	7:30 The Bare Family
		10:30 † Francisco & Cornelia Pestanas
Fri	2nd	7:00 The Dubuque Family
		12:10 † Leo Pusateri
Sat	3rd	7:30 The Close Family

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.

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.

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.



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If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. - Mother Teresa



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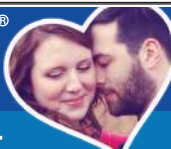
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