

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Third Sunday In Ordinary Time January 25, 2026

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**

*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.



Scan To Give

SAFETY AND SECURITY

About thirty years ago, when I did not have a full-time parish assignment, I spent much of the summer traveling to cities and towns where the Servite Friars had been invited to give the annual mission appeal on behalf of our Servite missions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. Often the pastor would use the mission appeal weekend as an opportunity to take vacation time. In one small town in Iowa, the absent pastor had left a note on the dining room table in the rectory, “Please don’t lock the door. I don’t know where the key is.” This harkens back to a time when many people left their front door unlocked. Many Catholic churches were open all day long without any concern about safety or security. Unfortunately that is not Chicago in 2026. Our neighbor churches of St. Peter and Holy Name Cathedral do remain open all day, but with professional security guards on duty. The attack on a Catholic church in Minneapolis during an all-school Mass awakened everyone to the very real possibility that a mass shooting could happen anywhere, including our own worship space.

In response to this general concern, the Archdiocese of Chicago scheduled a series of presentations on Security and Preparedness Training. About 30 of us attended one of these sessions on January 14 at St. Stanislaus. In the first part of the meeting, Kaitlyn Weitzel, Director of Security for the Archdiocese, offered practical suggestions about security for church properties. Based on her recommendations, we are doing well in certain areas. We do have security cameras inside as well as outside our property (although they are not always monitored), and we do have two levels of security to enter the parish office/rectory (A visitor must be “buzzed in” twice). To enter the church when the doors are locked, the visitor (visible on security camera) must also be buzzed in. She spoke about a “security film” that holds glass together when someone tries to break through glass doors—something worth looking into.

Our biggest security deficit is not having a regular team of ushers or greeters at every weekend Mass, who remain at least close to the back of church throughout Mass and can intercept someone who enters the building who may be having mental problems or who is not otherwise intent on worship. Kaitlyn calls this initiating the hello (as in “Hello. How can I help you?”). We need to renew our efforts in this area, not only from the point of being secure but also for being welcoming. Some Masses have coverage. Others do not. The other point that Kaitlyn made is that all of us need to be attentive of suspicious activity on our church property. Who is walking around, checking doors, taking pictures of entryways, etc.? She also emphasized the importance of reporting incidents to the Archdiocese as well as to the police (if applicable). Just as break-ins at businesses in a particular area sometimes follow a pattern, so too do break-ins at churches. Do not hold open a secure door for someone you do not recognize. We also need to develop a safety plan, which would cover not only criminal activity but also what to do in case of fire or smoke or other catastrophe that would require us to evacuate the building quickly.

In the second part of the program, a representative of the Department of Homeland Security focused specifically on active shooters like the one in Minnesota. He defined a mass shooting as an effort to kill as many people as possible at random. This is distinguished from gang killings and domestic disputes that may involve multiple fatalities but are aimed at specific individuals. By this definition, mass shootings are extremely rare, but come with tremendous consequences. While the same safety measures apply to mass shooters as to someone breaking into a donation box, the key is getting help to the individual prior to the attack. Most mass shooters do not just “snap”; they have put in considerable time researching and developing their plan and often “leak” their intentions. They have been building a grievance against society for a long time and do not have common coping skills. The only way to overcome a grievance is massive retaliation. He asked us to pay attention to coworkers or family members whose behavior, moods, or interactions have changed. The other point that he made was how to react to a mass shooting. The key response is “Don’t freeze.” Based on circumstances, either run, hide, or fight.

This is all sobering stuff to consider only one month after the birthday of the Prince of Peace. It is a sad reminder of how far we are from God’s vision for our world and the vast social, economic, mental health, and spiritual needs in our country. It is also a reminder that we have a role to play, not just in protecting ourselves, but in offering Christ’s light to the world.

Fr. Joe

AN INVITATION TO THE MINISTRY FAIR



Assumption needs your gifts and talents in our various ministries to enliven our parish and enrich our local community. Perhaps you enjoyed a program or event like our pop-up garden party. Perhaps you were greeted at Mass. We could use more of that. Perhaps you have been thinking about offering your services as a lector or an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. We could use more of those. We are looking for hosts and hostesses, people to help with Alpha, organize young adult events, lead a Bible study, set up food. Maybe you would like to serve the needy and the unhoused. There are many opportunities for service at Assumption. Perhaps you have new ideas. St. Paul tells us that all of us placing our gifts at the service of the community is what makes the church work. We welcome all, whatever your availability and your passion. Come to the Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall after all Masses February 14-15. **Valentine's Day** cookies provided.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Many households in our parish will receive or have already received the Annual Catholic Appeal mailing from Cardinal Cupich. Please respond as soon as possible. On behalf of all the schools, parishes, and ministries in the Archdiocese of Chicago that receive funding from the Appeal, we thank you for your gifts. In addition to funding many essential services of the Catholic Church, the Annual Catholic Appeal also serves as an important source of funding for Assumption. The theme of this year's appeal is "Together We Bring Light." As we consider God's many gifts to us, we should also express our gratitude by sharing these gifts. Your financial support for the work of the parish, the Archdiocese, and the Church throughout the world is one concrete way to express your gratitude.

PRAY WITH THE POPE

Throughout 2026 Pope Leo will share a monthly prayer intention through both audio and video, inviting the universal church and all people of good will to unite spiritually using the same prayer. For more information go to popesprayer.va.



HYMNS: #388, #327, #672 (except 5pm Sunday)

SPECIAL COLLECTION

On the weekend of January 25-26, there will be a second collection for the needs of the Catholic Church in Latin America.

SPECIAL FEASTS ON THE HORIZON

Monday February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, when Christ was revealed as a Light to the Nations. Candles for home use will be blessed at the 7:00 and 12:10 Masses on February 2. Tuesday February 3 is the Feast of St. Blase, and throats will be blessed at our daily Masses in memory of the Saint who miraculously saved a child who was choking.

THE SERVITE ROSARY

The Servite Secular Order & Knights of Columbus lead the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 11:40am. All are welcome. Rosaries are provided.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Wednesday February 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick. We will offer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at the 7:00 and 12:10 Masses. This Sacrament is for anyone whose life is at risk because of age or illness.

WEDDINGS:

ANDREW RECATTO & ISABELLA RAPHEN
MAX WORONICZ & MARISA MARTENS

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, John Moery, and Carlos Bastidas

REST IN PEACE: Vincent Perri

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF JANUARY 24, 2026

Sat	24th	5:00 Herrera Family
Sun	25th	7:30 Assumption Parishioners
		9:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		10:30 † Kathleen O'Malley
		12:15 † Fernando Arias
		5:00 Priests & People of Assumption
Mon	26th	7:00 † Allen Hawkins
		12:10 Julie Holzrichter
Tues	27th	7:00 † Damien Wren
		12:10 † David Campbell
Wed	28th	7:00 Robin L. Brown (b'day)
		12:10 † Vincent McInerney
Thurs	29th	7:00 Robert Landgren (b'day)
		12:10 Souls in Purgatory
Sat	31st	7:30 Special Intention

CHILD CARE MINISTRY: Several people have asked about reviving the child care ministry during one of the Sunday Masses. This would be for children aged 18 months through four years and would require a team of volunteers (some of whom might also be the parents of the children). If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact the parish office.

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 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 info.

<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>Big Shoulders Fund® It takes Big Shoulders to carry a child's dreams.</p>  <p>bigshouldersfund.org</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>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>		
<p>catholicmatch® Illinois CatholicMatch.com/golL</p> 	<p>EWTN.COM/RADIO EWTN Global Catholic Radio</p> 	
 <p>Michalik Funeral Home Family Owned & Operated Since 1929</p>	 <p>1056 West Chicago Avenue (312) 421-0936 www.michalikfuneralhome.com</p>	<p>* Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services * Closest Location to Assumption with Supervised Parking Available</p>

