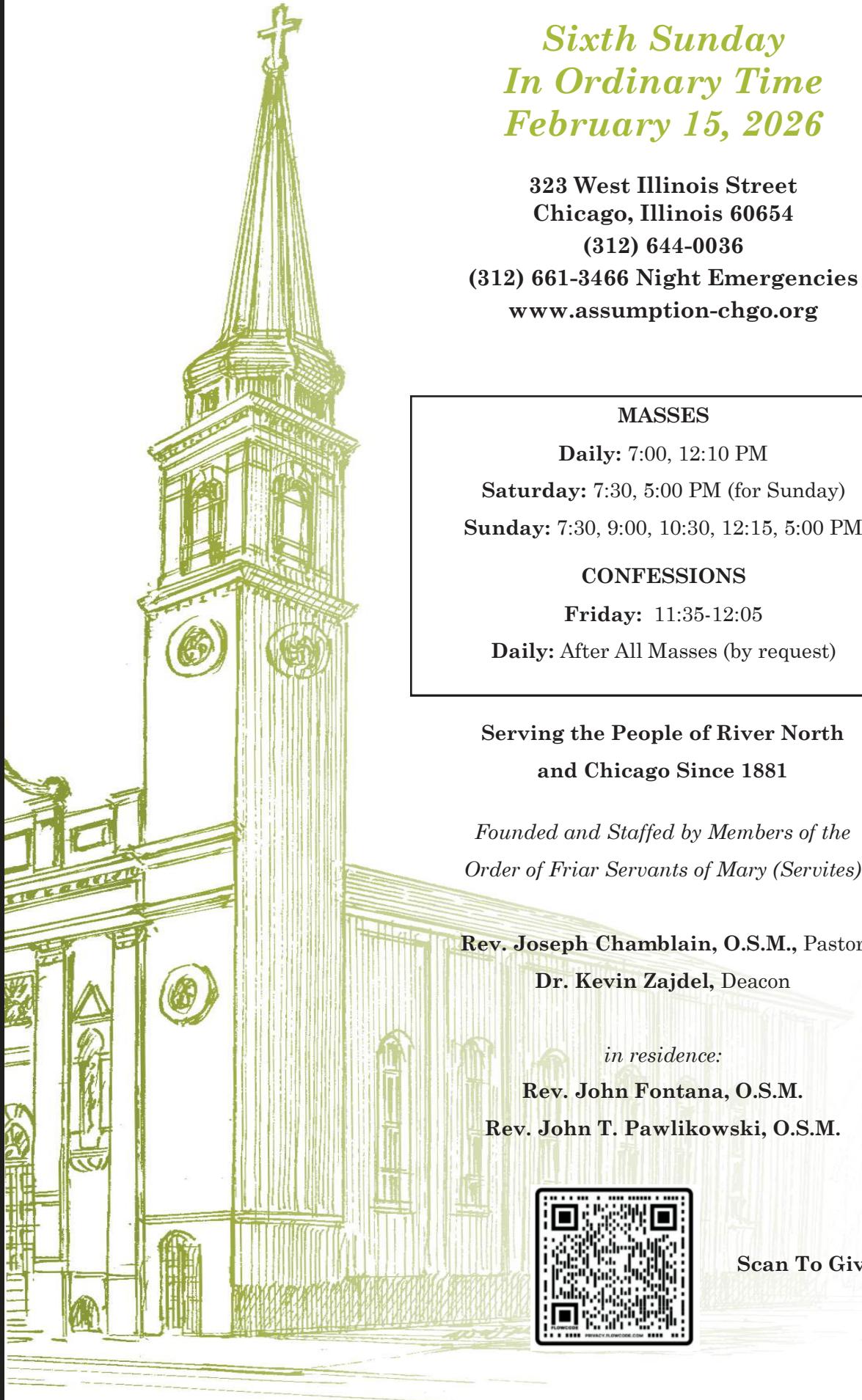


# ASSUMPTION CHURCH



*Sixth Sunday  
In Ordinary Time  
February 15, 2026*

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[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

## CONFESIONS

**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.**



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## ASH WEDNESDAY AND BEYOND

Lent always begins with an explosion of religious fervor. In our secular age, it has become common to refer to large numbers of Catholics as Christmas and Easter Catholics. They show up for Mass twice a year; but I suspect that the number of Catholics who observe Ash Wednesday is much greater. At first, this might seem surprising, since Ash Wednesday is not an important feast day, and there is certainly no obligation to receive ashes or attend Church that day. Yet churches get slammed on this mid-week workday, and people who are the most irregular of churchgoers openly give witness to their faith by wearing a cross of ashes on their forehead. What is the attraction? I think it is two-fold

First, Ash Wednesday is personal. The big feasts of the Church, like Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, are about God's grand design for humanity; but receiving ashes is personal. "Remember that you are dust and into dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday is a reality check. I need to get my act together. The fact that our outer shell will one day turn to dust is not necessarily depressing. It can actually be liberating. We live in a death denying culture, where with the right diet and exercise program and some strategic plastic surgery, we can avoid coming face to face with death. Ash Wednesday strips away our denial, and it does so by offering us some genuine good news. If I lay aside my pathetic attempts at immortality and stop trying to hide my weakness, my vulnerability, and my sinfulness, then God can give me what I most desire—real immortality. The truth really can set me free.

Second, Ash Wednesday provides us with a physical connection with Christ and the Church, even if we no longer attend Mass or feel worthy to attend Mass or take communion. In one of the most touching scenes of the Gospel of Mark, a woman who has been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years, says, "If I could but touch the hem of his garment, I shall be cured." Between the former Catholics who do not belong to any faith community and those who go to church on a fairly regular basis, there are lots of non-churchgoers who still identify as Catholic. Being signed with ashes every year is a way of affirming that I am still connected to Christ and that I am still part of the Catholic Church, even if I am on the church property for only a few minutes. Some may receive ashes from a minister at a train stop who may not be Catholic. But for that individual that day, those ashes show that they still belong to Christ.

We "churchy" folks know that this week's ashes are not meant to be a one-time hit. Ash Wednesday is meant to be the beginning of a journey of prayer, penance, and charity—not just to prove that we can do it, but to lead us into a deeper commitment to serving God and neighbor. Lent began as the final season of preparation for those who would be baptized at Easter. Since we are all constantly in need of conversion to Christ, the Lenten practices and disciplines were extended to the whole church. This year we are blessed to have 14 adults and 4 younger candidates for the Easter sacraments. A great Lenten practice would be to keep them in your daily prayer. Included in this week's bulletin is the schedule of our Wednesday Evenings of Faith. Learning something new or experiencing something new is an excellent way of jumpstarting our faith journey. We also have a Scripture Study that will meet on Monday evenings and we will have Stations of the Cross after the 12:10 Mass on the Fridays of Lent. These are meant to be helps on our Lenten journey, but deep down we all know what most needs to change in our life and what we need to do to address it. And Ash Wednesday is a day to be extra friendly to the strangers who appear. They may just need an invitation to join us on the journey to Easter.

One specific sacrifice I am asking you to make this Lent is to complete the Disciple Maker Index. This can be easily accessed by clicking on the link on our homepage. There are also paper copies in the back of church. This is a survey which parishioners in all parishes in the Archdiocese are being asked to participate, beginning Ash Wednesday. We took part in this survey three years ago, and the results were very helpful in exposing the weaknesses in our parish and the areas we need to improve. The results will only mean something, though, if enough people participate. So, think of it as a gift you are offering the parish. You are helping us move forward as a faith community rooted in Christ.

Fr. Joe

**LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

We are all encouraged to sacrifice more, pray more, and be more generous during Lent; but here are the minimum requirements of the Catholic Church. Abstinence from meat is to be observed for all Catholics 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed by those 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those bound by the fast may take only one full meal a day. Two smaller meals are permitted, but eating solid food between meals is not permitted.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

Mass with ashes: 7:00am, 12:10pm, 6:00pm  
Ashes only in Parish Hall: 7:30-9:00, 11:30-1:30, 4:30-6:00  
*(The 311 garage will be open for the 12:10 and 6:00 Masses)*

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

This weekend those who did not receive an Annual Catholic Appeal mailing will have the opportunity to fill out a pledge form in church. In addition to funding many essential ministries of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the ACA 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.

**MINISTRY FAIR THIS WEEKEND**

Assumption needs your gifts and talents in our various ministries to enliven our parish community and enrich our community outreach. Come to the Parish Hall after Mass this weekend. Enjoy a Valentine's Day cookie and consider your call to ministry.

**ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS**

Assumption Young Adults is for those in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They sponsor a number of social, service, and spiritual activities during the year. AYA will gather for pizza and conversation following the 5:00pm Mass on Sunday, February 22. For more information, email [assumptionaya@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionaya@gmail.com).

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

We invite you to participate in a weekly guided study and discussion of the Scriptures assigned for the Sundays of Lent, using materials provided by Renew International. The group will meet in the Rectory on Monday evenings at 6:00, beginning February 16. For more information, contact [beth.schuman@gmail.com](mailto:beth.schuman@gmail.com).

**JANUARY DONATIONS**

Sunday Collection -	\$29,279
Sharing Parish -	2,284
Mary, Mother of God -	2,588
Church in Latin America -	1,500
Little Sisters of the Poor -	9,997

*(includes electronic giving)*

**DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX**

Like all parishes in the Archdiocese, Assumption is on a journey to know, love and serve Christ in a more intense way and to embrace Christ's call to become missionary disciples. One step in the process is to assess our greatest strengths and opportunities for growth. That is where the Disciple Maker Index comes in. The DMI is a survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at Assumption and to help parish leadership make decisions about the future. This 20-minute survey may be completed online or on paper, beginning Ash Wednesday. All responses are confidential. Some of you will remember completing this survey three years ago. One of the goals is to see if our efforts to respond to our areas of weakness three years ago have made a difference.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Following the 12:10 Mass on Fridays of Lent

**HYMNS:** #730, #529, #582 (except 5pm Sunday)

**WEDDINGS:**

**JACQUES CAMALICK & BRITTANY BRINDZA**  
**JOSEPH RUNNELLS & ANNA WARING**

**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, Carlos Bastidas, and John O'Brien

**MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2026**

Sat	14th	5:00	Andrew Dubuque (b'day)
Sun	15th	7:30	† Helen Dillon
		9:00	† Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfeister & Jenkins Families
		10:30	† James & Mary Helen Cahill
		12:15	† Robert Abreu & † Frances Orth
		5:00	Assumption Parishioners
Mon	16th	12:10	† Bobby Parks
Tues	17th	7:00	† Scott Adams
		12:10	† Terry Deneen
Wed	18th	12:10	† Charles & Marion Joachim
Thurs	19th	7:00	† Gloria Lang
Fri	20th	7:00	† David Klawinski



## YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

Friday March 13—Fish Fry  
 Sunday June 21—Ice Cream Social  
 Sunday August 16—Anniversary Picnic  
 Thursday November 5—Italian Dinner



## EVENINGS OF FAITH

On the Wednesdays of Lent, there will be Mass at 6:00pm, followed by a meal in the Parish Hall and a presentation from 7:00 to 8:00pm.

Here is our program for this Lent:

- \*Feb 25 - Evangelizing in a Non-Christian Context (Dan Olsen)
- \*Mar 4 - Spirituality: The Center of our Life (Fr John Fontana, OSM)
- \*Mar 11 - Between Heaven and Earth (a film presentation)
- \*Mar 18 - We Come to Share Our Story (Fr Ed Shea, OFM)
- \*Mar 25 - Faith and Religion in the Age of A.I. (Dr. Joseph Vukov)

**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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