

ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
323 WEST ILLINOIS STREET CHICAGO, IL 60654
www.assumption-chgo.org
312-644-0036

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**
DECEMBER 26, 2021



*Jesus said to his parents,
“Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I
must be in my Father’s house?”*

Luke 2:49

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December 26, 2021

TRYING TO THINK POSITIVE

During the years that I was Director of the National Shrine of St. Peregrine, the cancer saint, I read many books and articles by people who were living with cancer or who had survived cancer. One of the persistent themes in these books and articles was “Don’t tell me how I’m supposed to feel.” It is true that the will to live and the positive feeling that comes from trusting in God’s healing power can play a powerful role in surviving cancer or any life-threatening illness. Yet those who speak from experience say that being told to think positive can become just another burden in an over-burdened life. That is because people who are seriously ill have already surrendered so much. Many have had to step aside from their career, from family activities, from recreational activities, and from their ability to provide for and care for others. They may only be able to move out of bed with assistance, or not be able to leave the bed at all. One thing that disease did not force them to give up was their feelings. If they were having a bad day and feeling depressed about the future, they resented being told that they had to think positive or look on the bright side or feel obliged to keep a smile pasted on their face. “How are you doing today?” is a better question than “How are you doing?”

As we come to the end of a second year under the cloud of a pandemic, maybe some of us are having a hard time thinking positive. Even if we have managed to escape the virus itself, coronavirus has been the backdrop to everything we have done and everything we have not done these past two years. If you are feeling discouraged, depressed, and pessimistic about the future today, that’s perfectly all right. If you have no one else to share those feelings with, tell God about it. A lousy feeling can become a really great prayer. Last year at this time, we were experiencing one of the highest infection rates yet. Many people who reserved a place at Christmas Mass decided not to come—either because of the health risk or because of the extreme cold that gripped the city last year at Christmas. Yet it was easy to think positive last December. The pandemic would not last much longer. The worst was behind us. Vaccines were on the way—perhaps as soon as the beginning of the new year. We knew it would take a few months to get everyone vaccinated, but by late spring life would surely return to normal. Only pessimists were saying that it could take as long as the fall for the pandemic to be over. But then those who were thinking positive did not anticipate that a large swath of the country would fear the cure more than the disease, and that the disease itself would keep making a comeback with sneaky new variants. So, at the dawn of another new year, what can we say that is positive?

How about this? We have learned to give up control, because we realized we never had control in the first place. Over the last four hundred years, since humanity has experienced “enlightenment” and left the religious world-view behind, human beings have become increasingly independent not only of God but of creation itself. There was nothing that could not be solved by science and technology. We had come to think of ourselves as independent of the forces of nature and of the rest of humanity. Institutions had grown lazy, corrupt and turned in upon themselves. And now we are waking up to discover that not only have we wrecked our planet, but our life choices have made addressing the pandemic more difficult. Because we see our leaders as corrupt and self-serving, many of us do not believe them or trust them. Because we see ourselves as exempt from the problems facing the rest of humanity, the rest of humanity has become the breeding ground for the resurgence of the virus. So, what exactly is positive about all this? We have come back to reality. Having more resources and more options in life does not exempt us from having to deal with the problems others face. We have discovered that we have to take care of our common home and we have to take care of one another if any of us are going to survive. That kind of stuff is in the Bible and Church Teaching, of course, but it is a whole other thing to realize that it is actually true.

There were many things that our various councils, committees, and ministries had planned for Assumption this year—much of it having to do with getting us back on track. Many of those things did not happen. That has been humbling, but it has made me more focused on the present. “If you build it, they will come” may work in a corn-field in Iowa, but not too often elsewhere. It is important to have a vision for the future, but all we really have is the present moment. How are we being attentive to one another right now? How are we being the People of God right now? Or, as we might ask a cancer patient, “How are you doing today?”

Fr. Joe

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
January 1-2, 2022		
D. Laria	5:00	
B. Schuman		
R. Tevonian	7:30	R. Tevonian
P. Brown	9:00	D. Sutherland
R. Zanger		
G. Bjurman	10:30	Dea. K. Zajdel
K. Nagatoshi	12:15	D. Iaccino
K. Salasblancas	5:00	J. Choromanski

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: Our church was a place of joy and beauty at Christmas—during a time when joy and beauty are truly needed. A special thank you to those who decorated the church, to the musicians and singers, and to those who read and ministered and ushered.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible) godparents of infants to be baptized is Monday, January 10 from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. at the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for those 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 1:15 p.m. and on the first weekend of the month during Mass.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The miracle of Christmas was shared by only a small group of people in the middle of the night in a small town in a remote corner of the Roman Empire. Next weekend we celebrate The Epiphany of the Lord. An epiphany is an explosion of light, a bursting forth. On the Epiphany we celebrate the fact that the Good News of Christmas was meant to be shared with everyone everywhere.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

This feast day, which comes one week after Christmas on January 1, dates from the fifth century. The title Mother of God not only honors Mary but also affirms the divine nature of Christ. Jesus was truly God from the first moment of his existence. Mary is not just the mother of Jesus. She is the mother of God. This Feast is not observed as a holyday of obligation when it falls on Saturday or Monday. We will honor Mary as Mother of God at the 7:30 a.m. Mass on January 1.

OUR VIDEO MASS CONTINUES: For those who have not yet returned to church, Sunday Mass from Assumption is uploaded on our website at 4:00 p.m. Saturday (www.assumption-chgo.org). Sunday Mass from Assumption is also available on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY: For Thanksgiving and Christmas, many churches and charities offer meals to the needy and homeless. But people are still hungry in January and February. Chicago Help Initiative has been allowed to resume offering indoor hot meals on a limited basis on Wednesday evenings at Catholic Charities, 721 North LaSalle. However CHI feeds many more people across Chicago with bag meals, and the number of volunteers who prepare these meals has declined. Find out how you can provide bag meals to your sisters and brothers who are struggling by contacting chicagohelpinitiative.org.

ELECTRONIC GIVING: Electronic giving is the twenty-first century way to support your church. Go to our homepage (www.assumption-chgo.org) and click on electronic giving. That will take you to GiveCentral, where you can draw up your giving plan. Thereafter, the amount you have designated will be charged to your credit card or transferred electronically from your checking account each week.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN ENGLEWOOD

When Englewood makes the news, it is not usually in a good way; but one of the really good news stories in Englewood is the Academy of St. Benedict the African, a Catholic elementary school offering a quality education to students in pre-k through eighth grade. The school currently serves 220 students and has an enrollment waiting list that is contingent on scholarship funding. St. Benedict has a long-standing relationship with Assumption and Assumption parishioners. How can you help? Make a direct donation or make use of the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Contact Assumption parishioner Patricia Murphy (the school's President) at pmurphy@academystbenedict.org or call 773-776-3316.

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Pope Francis has reminded us over and over again that care for God's creation is an integral part of Catholic teaching. One of his latest efforts to get all of us involved in caring for our common home is to establish a Creation Care Committee in every parish and every Catholic institution. That is a tall order, but it will certainly fail if Assumption fails to comply. Three members of our parish attended an information session offered by the Archdiocese last month and they are willing to serve on that committee, but we need more members. The role of the committee is to keep this issue before the members of the parish and to explore specific ways that we as a parish can respond to the challenge of climate change. Would you be willing to serve on this committee? Contact Fr. Joe at jchamblain@assumption-chgo.org.

MASKING IS BACK

Although we wish it were over, “It ain’t over till it’s over.” With the resurgence of the virus due to the Delta Variant, the City of Chicago as well as the Archdiocese of Chicago now requires everyone, vaccinated or unvaccinated, to be masked while in church or at other indoor church gatherings. The Archdiocesan COVID-19 Task Force wrote in part: “We will continue to monitor the situation and will reevaluate our policy if conditions and public health guidance warrants it. It is our hope and our prayer that measures taken now and scrupulously applied will enable us to adopt a mask-optional policy for vaccinated persons in the future. Certainly we are disappointed and saddened that infection and serious illness rates have again surged. We must do our part to bring the pandemic under control and the suffering to an end. This is both our civic and Christian duty. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to keep each other safe and well.”

HYMNS FOR MASS

#91, #103, #78, #102 (except 5:00 p.m. Sunday)

BAPTISMS

**ANNE ELIZABETH BELLISARIO
MATEO SOLARI CANO
GRACE ADRIENNE HAMMOND
LEILI JUNE LEHNERER**

WEDDINGS

**KEVIN MUELLER & KELLI HENSELER
MATTHEW CASE & ANINA DE TOMMASO
MATT MOCHER & MARY PENNINGTON**

PRAY FOR THEM

Sick: Annette Russo, Bill Hjorth, Nancy Alfano,
Rosemary Reeves, Kevin Atwood, Terrie Stevens,
Maripat Nellis, Craig Mitchell, Terry Hufnagel,
Davy Hart, and Anita Lopez

REST IN PEACE: Kevin Pentoney

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sun.	26th	9:00	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko (RIP), Helen Morris (RIP) Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
		10:30	Dubuque Family
		12:15	Assumption Parishioners
		5:00	Robert Sullivan (RIP)
Mon.	27th	7:00	Robert Shriver (RIP)
Tues.	28th	7:00	Dubuque Family
Wed.	29th	7:00	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Landgren
		12:10	Barbara Fiege (RIP)
Thurs.	30th	7:00	David Klawinski (RIP)
Fri.	31st	12:10	Patrick & Allison Reisch

Assumption Church

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. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.

Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.

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

Bro. Arnaldo M. Sanchez, O.S.M.

Rev. Eugene Smith, O.S.M.

MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 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

CONFESSION:

Friday: 11:35 –12:05 PM

Daily after all Masses (on request)

ST. PEREGRINE DEVOTION:

Monday following the 12:10 Mass

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Third Monday of the Month: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

WEDDINGS: You do not have to be a member of Assumption to get married at Assumption. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

BAPTISMS: Second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15 and the first weekend of the month during Mass.

TEXT TO GIVE: Sundaycoll to 312-900-8747

NIGHT EMERGENCIES: 312-661-3466

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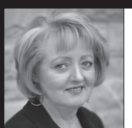
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