

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

A VOICE CAME
FROM HEAVEN,
"YOU ARE MY
beloved SON;
WITH YOU I AM
well pleased."

LUKE 3:22

THE
BAPTISM
of the LORD

JANUARY 9, 2022



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January 9, 2022

CHRIST'S BAPTISM AND OUR OWN

During the course of my priestly ministry, I was assigned to Seven Holy Founders Parish in St. Louis on two occasions, from 1989 to 1993 and from 2000 to 2006. In 1993, a few months before I was transferred to Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago, I was called to the hospital to baptize two tiny infants born very prematurely. They were so tiny that neither boy was expected to survive. With the parents and several nurses in attendance, I placed a few drops of water on the forehead of each newborn. Shortly after my return to St. Louis seven years later, I was distributing Communion at our First Communion Mass. It was the custom in our parish for parents to walk up with their child who was receiving their First Communion (and hopefully receive Communion too). As one boy approached, I looked up at the parents and I froze in place. Tears came to my eyes. This was one of the twin boys who had not been expected to survive. His brother had died, but he had lived. Here he was a healthy seven-year-old!

This is the story of one infant who was baptized; but what about all the others? In the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2020, even with our churches closed for three months and attendance limited after that, there over 13,000 infant baptisms. The year before, under “normal” conditions, there were more than 20,000. The other night I totaled up my own numbers. In the fifteen years that I have been at Assumption, I have baptized 562 infants. Where are they now? With the kind of housing available in our area, it is not surprising that growing families will leave for larger quarters and other faith communities. But on this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it is worth stopping to think about what our baptism means for us now.

Clearly for Jesus, baptized as an adult, baptism marked the beginning of his public ministry. At his baptism he was revealed as God’s beloved son, and was thereby obliged to undertake the mission to which he had been called. That is also true of the rest of us. When infants are baptized, they are anointed to be priests, prophets and shepherds: to share in the worship of the church (priests), be persons of integrity who speak the truth (prophets), and lead others to Christ (shepherds). What a load to place on a baby! Why do we do this? Well, the baptism of infants and small children can be traced to the earliest days of Christianity; but, as the Bible suggests, it started when an entire household became followers of Christ. The baptism of infants coincided with the conversion of their parents. Clearly the parents were making a commitment to raise their child in the faith, since they were making this same commitment themselves.

As our theology of baptism developed over the centuries, there was greater emphasis on the necessity of baptism for removing original sin and paving the way to heaven. Cultural norms also developed in many places that an infant’s first trip outside the family home had to be for her baptism. The presumption still was, however, that baptizing a child was a time for parents and godparents to renew their own commitment to their Catholic faith. That is a strong feature of the baptismal liturgy. Parents are asked at the beginning of the ceremony if they are prepared to take responsibility for raising their child in the practice of the faith, and in the intercessions, we pray that parents and godparents will be examples of faith to inspire the child. If neither parent or godparent is willing to commit to raising the child in the faith, that is grounds for a pastor or pastoral minister to delay (but not refuse) to baptize an infant. Yet, how often in life and in church matters do we settle for formalities? We say what is expected of us, even if we do not mean it. Fr. James Mallon in his book *Divine Renovation*, describes how this attitude of settling for external observance has invaded all of our sacraments. He writes, “If we get so accustomed to settling for externals, how long will it be before we settle for externals in our Christian lives, without the corresponding internal reality? Was this not the central critique the Hebrew prophets had about the religious systems of their time? Was this not the heart of the conflict Jesus had with the religious establishment of his time?”

There are so many influences on children today that it can be frightening. And it is not just children. All of us need to be sources of encouragement to one another to live the life that was professed for us at our baptism. How well are we carrying out the commission we received at baptism, to take on the work of Christ as priest, prophet, and shepherd? And, if we were given a good foundation in the faith by our parents, how responsibly are we treating that gift?

Fr. Joe

Baptism Of The Lord

Lectors

Eucharistic Ministers

January 15-16, 2022

D. Laria	5:00	P. Foster
M. Brennan		
R. Tevonian	7:30	R. Tevonian
P. Brown	9:00	Dea. K. Zajdel
M. Fedele		
G. Bjurman	10:30	A. Amend
K. Nagatoshi	12:15	K. Moery
Z. Espeland	5:00	J. McGinnis

RENEW MY CHURCH

As one of the last Groupings to be activated as part of the *Renew My Church* process, we at Assumption will be discerning our future along with Holy Name Cathedral, St. Peter, St. Patrick, St. Mary, and St. James. Although no structural changes are anticipated in our Grouping at the present time, each of our parishes will participate in the Building the New Reality phase of Renew My Church, which is focused on energizing our mission and evangelization efforts. Representing Assumption will be Deacon Kevin Zajdel, Beth Schuman, Eva Bernacki, Lukas Cichon, and myself. We will meet virtually with Cardinal Cupich and the representatives from the other parishes on Thursday evening, January 20. Then we will all meet in person with a facilitator on Saturday, February 5 and Saturday, March 5 to talk about what we might do as a Grouping and as individual faith communities. The final phase of the process is to draw up an action plan for Assumption, a plan to which everyone here will be invited to contribute.

MASS FOR LIFE

Our annual Mass in support of human life and the right to life will take place at 10:30 a.m. January 16.

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.

DECEMBER DONATIONS

Sunday Collection —	\$63,787
Immaculate Conception —	667
Sharing Parish —	1,691
Retired Religious —	9,443
Christmas —	65,016
(includes electronic giving)	



WELCOME!

We officially welcome the following persons, who have formally registered at Assumption since July 1, 2021: Ruby Love, Quinlan and Lucille Phalen, Megan Stoppelman, Krista Lindseth, Andy Hughes, Katherine Hyde, Blake Mayfield, Kathleen Quirke, Jane McEnaney, Michael and Kelly Cavoto, Estefania Garcia, Patrick Sondles, Daniel Polacek, Karen Healey, Corey and Anahi Radcliff, Steve and Amanda Bringardner, Michael and Maura Weber, Brennan Elias, Scott Tumberger, Dean Aguilar, Matthew Dippold, Theodore Hogan, Angelica Paleczny, Pahoua Hang, Joseph McCarthy, Amanda McCay, Kayla Matthews, Jimmy Kemper, Katherine Kamosh, Michael and Madeline Scott, Suzette Luke. Not registered? It's easy. Go to our homepage (assumption-chgo.org) or fill out a form in the back of church.

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.

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.

GETTING “FULLY” REGISTERED

It's not as controversial as getting vaccinated. Some of you only shared an email address with us in order to make a reservation for Mass, when advance registration for Mass was expected. But that is not the same as being registered as a member. Right now we have approx. 800 in that category. Being a member of the parish helps us to better serve you and our community. If Assumption is your regular church, we invite you to complete the process of signing up.

Here's how: Login from our homepage as you did when you were making Mass reservations. Then, from the “Welcome To Assumption Church” screen, click the link for “Address and family details” and enter your address information. You can also add other members to your family from this page. Feel free to include as much personal information as you wish.

TAX LETTER

If you are a registered member of the parish and would like to receive a statement of contributions for 2021, please call or email the Parish Office.

HYMNS FOR MASS

#110, #594, #106 (except 5:00 p.m. Sunday)

BAPTISMS

**ANNE ELIZABETH BELLISARIO
GRACE ADRIENNE HAMMOND**

WEDDINGS

MATT MOCHEL & MARY PENNINGTON

PRAY FOR THEM

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

REST IN PEACE:

Theresa Hufnagel

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2022

Sat.	8th	5:00	Dr. William Frett (RIP)
Sun.	9th	9:00	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko (RIP), Helen Morris (RIP) Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
		10:30	Florence Sowa (RIP)
Mon.	10th	7:00	Theresa Hufnagel (RIP)
		12:10	Mrs. Theodore J. Dubuque
Tues.	11th	7:00	Theresa Hufnagel (RIP)
Wed.	12th	7:00	Christopher Cannonito (b'day)
Thurs.	13th	7:00	Sally Gordon (b'day)
Fri.	14th	7:00	Theresa Hufnagel (RIP)

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Third Monday of the Month: 5:00 - 7:00 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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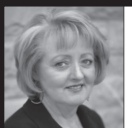


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