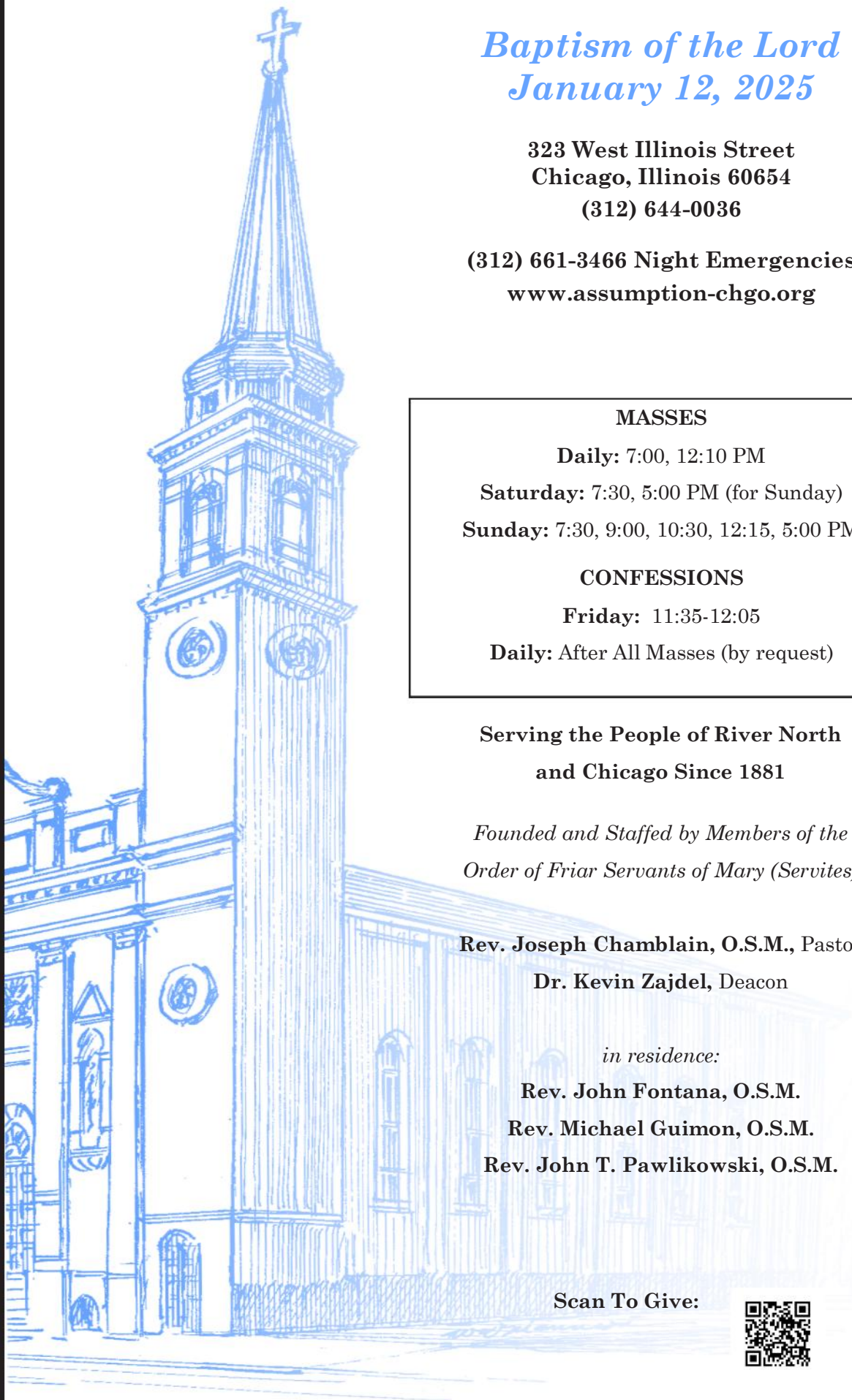


ASSUMPTION CHURCH



Baptism of the Lord *January 12, 2025*

323 West Illinois Street
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(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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in residence:

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Rev. Michael Guimon, O.S.M.

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

Scan To Give:



GOD PITCHED HIS TENT HERE

Except for the flowers still in church, most of the rest of the world has moved on from Christmas. In fact, in the world around us, Christmas ends when the Christmas shopping season ends. Decorations and displays in stores serve to put us in the mood to buy. But for Christians, Christmas is not just a holiday; it is not just an event; it is about a new relationship that God formed with the world on Christmas day. To use St. Paul's language, when God came to earth, a marriage was formed between heaven and earth.

As I look back to my childhood, it is hard to remember many of the presents I received for Christmas. I do have some old color slides of Christmases in the 1950's and 1960's, slides which I took down from the shelf and looked at a year ago. I was shocked to discover that when I was about seven, somebody gave me a toy cigarette machine. What a clever marketing tool from the cigarette companies: train seven year olds to imitate their dads, who would buy a pack of cigarettes from the big cigarette machines once found in many diners and restaurants.

What I do remember, though, without any help from old slides, are the people who would gather every year at our home in Memphis: my cousins, my grandparents, my uncle and aunt, my great uncles, and a few neighbors, and shirttail relatives. My great uncle Lawrence was an attorney and the first Public Defender in Memphis. My great uncle Ed, a lifelong bachelor, had worked as a bookkeeper for a paint company. He was a man of set rituals. Every day he came home for lunch and ate one large bowl of alphabet soup (He made an exception for Christmas). My grandmother's cousin, Joe Latura, had a famous relative. He was the nephew of Wild Bill Latura, a bootlegger, who had murdered six people. Wild Bill was shot by a cop when he threatened to kill everyone who worked for the local newspaper because they had referred to him as Wild Bill. He was a man so unpopular that after he had been shot, no one would touch the body for thirty minutes. They wanted to make sure he was dead before the ambulance brought him to the hospital. All of those folks, save one cousin, are long deceased. I don't remember the gifts; I don't remember the food; but I sure remember the people.

It is interesting how each of the four Gospel treats the miracle of God coming to earth differently. In St. Mark's Gospel, Jesus simply appears as an adult. Matthew and Luke each contribute different scenes to what we often call "The Story of Christmas." John takes a very different approach. John is not so much interested in telling us what happened as telling us the meaning of what happened. The child born in Bethlehem was none other than a manifestation of the creative power of God, the Word that had created heaven and earth. He wants us to understand that Jesus was so much more than a great teacher or ethicist or prophet. He was truly God. He declares, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us," or, literally, "put his tent among us." John's Christmas story is a bold statement that God is not a remote being, but a God who is present to us. God's presence endures, not just in memory but in day to day reality: whenever we gather to pray; whenever we gather for Eucharist; whenever we look into the face of a person in need.

Today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord inaugurates a new phase of Emmanuel (God with us). Jesus is now publicly revealed as God's Beloved Son, and he prepares through fasting and prayer to begin his public ministry. This Jesus would no longer be the lovable infant of Christmas or the self-confident twelve-year-old we met on the Feast of the Holy Family. This Jesus would ruffle some feathers, especially among the political and religious establishment. This Jesus would let us see that love of God and love of neighbor takes precedence over our religious rituals, our political preferences, our financial advantages, and our family loyalties. In all that Jesus said and did, St. John told us, we would be able to see the face of God.

So, while being a disciple of Christ can sometimes force us to make tough choices, we know that however we fail to live up to God's hopes for us, God will never fold up his tent and cease to dwell among us. At our own baptism, which for most of us happened long before we had accomplished anything of note, God declared us his beloved daughter, his beloved son. That is our identity. While the love of the world is often conditional, the love of God is not. For God has also pitched his tent within our heart and our soul.

Fr. Joe



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

This weekend, the Little Sisters of the Poor are visiting our parish. The Sisters operate over 170 homes for the elderly poor in 31 countries, including St. Mary's

Home, only a few miles north of Assumption. Your generosity to the second collection that weekend will enable the Sisters to continue their mission of caring for the elderly poor in a spirit of joy and dignity.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction Monday, January 20 from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

TAX LETTER

If you are a registered member of the parish and would like to receive a statement of contributions for 2024, please call or email the Parish Office.

COMMUNION

If you would like Communion brought to someone residing in a nursing home or no longer able to come to church, please contact the parish office.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE 1 OF THE 300?

Thanks to all who responded so generously to Susan Gold's Assumption Shares appeal in November. Shares are the food coupons we offer the unhoused and needy on the first Wednesday of the month. But the mission is ongoing. Our numbers are growing and we need to increase the size of our gift from \$10 to \$15. If we have 300 people willing to make a sustaining donation of \$10 a month, then we will be able to adequately fund not only Assumption Shares, but also the Saturday sandwiches we make for Chicago Help Initiative and the monthly grocery bill for the migrant family of eight that Assumption helps support. \$10 a month is a very small amount that will go a long way if we have the participation we need. And your monthly gift is easy to set up electronically. Just go to our website (assumption-chgo.org), click the DONATE button on top of our homepage. The first option in the dropdown menu will be Assumption Shares. Complete the other information required (if you are not already giving electronically) and you will be one of the 300! Sometimes we feel frustrated that we cannot do more to ease poverty. By becoming one of the 300, your small amount will help feed hundreds of people.

HYMNS: #119, #599, #112 (except 5pm Sunday)



DECEMBER DONATIONS

Sunday Collection -	\$25,033
Christmas -	61,493
Sharing Parish -	1,966
Religious Retirement -	5,621
<i>(includes electronic giving)</i>	

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Our Creation Care Committee, in collaboration with the Wellness Spirituality Center, is offering a three part series on caring for creation, led by Sr. Pat Bergen, CSJ, an educator, retreat facilitator, and spiritual director. The presentations may be viewed live at the Wellness Center, 1515 West Ogden in LaGrange Park or online, at either 9:30 am or 7:00pm on Wednesday January 15 (Where on Earth Is God), Thursday January 23 (The Cry of Earth and the Cry of the Poor), and Thursday January 30 (What Does Liturgy Have to Do with Care of Creation). The presentations will be recorded for future viewing. To view the presentation free online, please register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/mp8k4wm4>

BAPTISMS:
BETTY REECE BAUER

WEDDINGS:
JOE LINGINFELTER & ELIZABETH HEDRICK
RUBEN VILLEGAS & MICHELE JUNE

PRAY FOR THEM: Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Rich DiVito, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Michael Graul

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF JANUARY 11, 2025

Sat.	11th	5:00	John McEneaney (RIP)
Sun.	12th	7:30	Leo & Helen Dillon (RIP)
		9:00	Linda Graca (RIP)
		10:30	John McEneaney (RIP)
		12:15	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		5:00	Assumption Parishioners
Mon.	13th	7:00	The Cannonito Family
		12:10	John Robinson (RIP)
Tues.	14th	7:00	Catherine Fedele (RIP)
		12:10	Sally Gordon
Wed.	15th	7:00	Tony Hydzik (RIP)
Thurs.	16th	7:00	The Dubuque Family
		12:10	Pete Rose (RIP)
Sat.	18th	7:30	The Close Family

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.

UPDATING OUR EMAILS

One of the benefits we anticipate from our new information system *Breeze* is better communication with parishioners. We were amazed when our first attempt at using *Breeze* for the weekly online bulletin mailing resulted in a nearly ten percent failure rate. Many of these email addresses had not been verified for years. If you did not receive an email from Assumption these past three Fridays (and did not opt out of the mailing), then we do not have your email in the new system. Here is how you can help. Go to our website at <https://www.assumption-chgo.org> and click REGISTER. We'll use your entries to fix our records, and we promise not to bother you with a lot of "junk" mail.

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.

HELP SAVE GOD'S CREATION
Please see the **Laudato Si'** and **Me** section of Assumption's website (assumption-chgo.org) for practical ideas and helpful links.




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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