

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

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)*

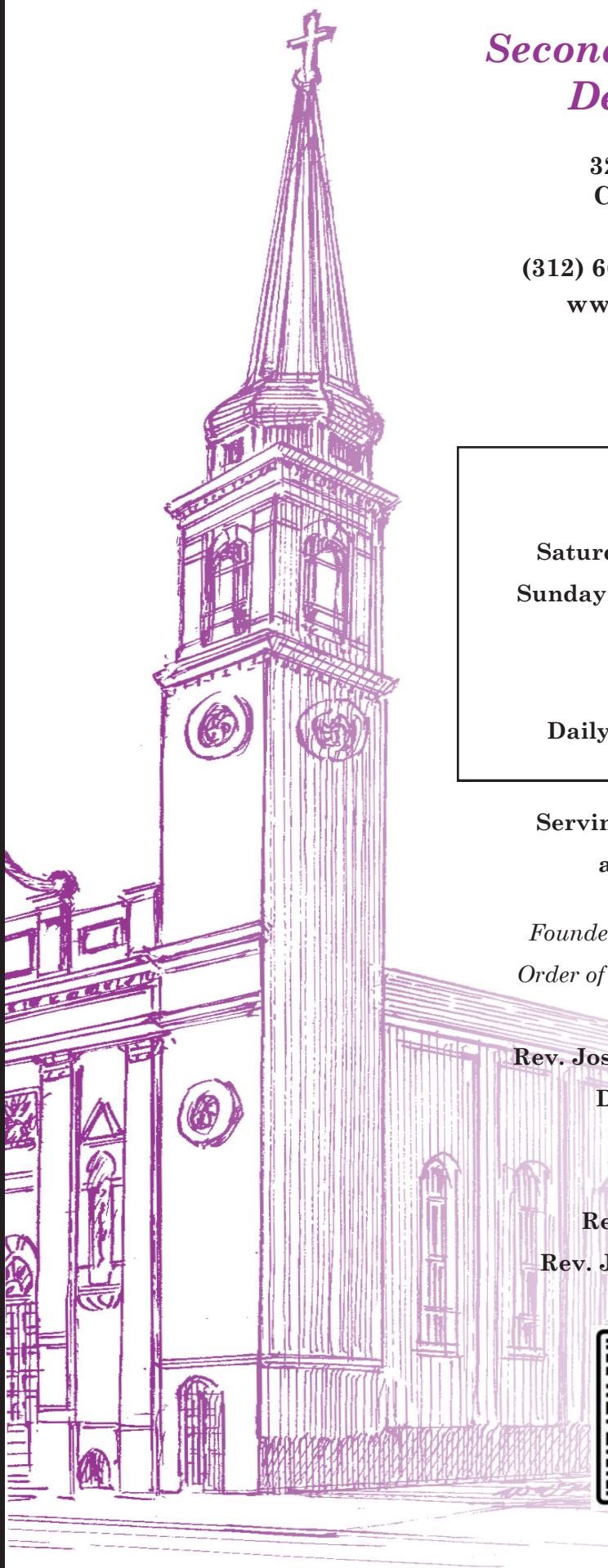
Rev. Joseph Chamblain, O.S.M., Pastor
Dr. Kevin Zajdel, Deacon

in residence:

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



Scan To Give



COMING TO CENTER STAGE

During the great snowstorm last Saturday, the news broke that British playwright Tom Stoppard had died. Over the course of a long career, Stoppard wrote for television and film as well as for the theatre. I first became aware of Tom Stoppard during my summer college program in England in 1974. His new play called *Travesties*, about the figures behind the Russian Revolution, had just opened in London to rave reviews. One of Stoppard's earliest plays was called *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, which is a line from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are minor characters, friends of Hamlet, and the play imagines how the events of *Hamlet* would be viewed through the eyes of these peripheral participants. That got me to thinking. During this Advent season, our major focus is on John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph. But what about the peripheral characters, Zachary and Elizabeth? What if we viewed the events leading up to Christmas through their eyes?

Zachary and Elizabeth lived "up in the hill country," which suggests to me that they were far removed from the movers and shakers in Jerusalem; and that making a living off the land was difficult. They were from the priestly family, but derived very few benefits from it. However, Zachary did enjoy one privilege. Twice a year Zachary traveled to Jerusalem and one priest from his division was chosen to offer sacrifice in the Temple. Luke's Gospel tells us what happened the time Zachary was chosen to enter the Temple; but what about all those other trips? He would have seen the corruption of the high priestly class, the encroachment of the buying and selling on a place of worship. He would have seen the same things that would later anger Jesus. He would have been a source of information to the people in the hill country about what was happening "downtown." We can imagine young John hearing those stories year after year and becoming "radicalized," becoming a prophetic voice crying in the wilderness.

I suspect this also explains Zachary's reluctance to believe the message of the angel that he and his wife Elizabeth were to become parents at an advanced age. Whereas Mary says, "Let it be done to me as you say," Zachary asks for proof. Mary was young, perhaps idealistic, and did not yet fully grasp what her "yes" to God would mean. Zachary and Elizabeth had kept the faith for decades, but had little to show for it. He had seen the profiteering at the Temple, but could do little about it. His wife was ridiculed in the community because they were childless. They were probably struggling economically. Then, after decades and decades of nothing coming his way, an angel tells him that God has shuffled the deck. Of course, he should have simply rejoiced at the good news, but we can also understand why he doubted that it could be true. Mary had to believe that God could choose a teenage girl from a town famous for its mediocrity to be the mother of the Messiah. Zachary had to believe that life is never over until it is over and that God is never finished with us.

Then there is Elizabeth, who after decades of scorn by her neighbors becomes the object of a "holy fear" when she became pregnant. I wonder if she, like Mary, just longed for a normal life. While Mary may have come to help Elizabeth who was further advanced in her pregnancy, Elizabeth offered Mary something extremely valuable: an understanding heart. Whatever the neighbors may have been saying about Mary's pregnancy back in Nazareth, Elizabeth knew that it was true. Her words were, "Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" And, unlike Zachary, she does not seem to have had any trouble believing that God's good news can come to us, regardless of our age and station in life. How marvelous must have been that moment when these two women hugged one another in the doorway and celebrated God's divine secret that had been made known to them. I can picture Elizabeth being a mentor to Mary during the time they spent together, helping prepare her for the challenges she would face as the Mother of God and the inevitable ups and downs of life. Perhaps during the last part of their lives, Zachary and Elizabeth became highly respected members of the community for their special role in God's plan of salvation.

Like most secondary characters, Zachary and Elizabeth simply disappear when their time on stage is over. In Luke's Gospel, no one bursts into the room and says, "Zachary and Elizabeth are dead." In fact they live on whenever the Gospels are read. They continue to challenge us, to encourage us, and accompany us through this season of Advent.

Fr. Joe

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This doctrine holds that Mary was free from sin from the first moment of her existence. Mary, under the title of The Immaculate Conception is our national feast day. It is celebrated on December 8 and is always observed as a holy day. Masses on Monday December 8 will be at 7:00, 12:10, and 6:00pm.



ART INSTITUTE TOUR Blessed Mary is a favorite subject in many styles of religious art. Join in a one-hour tour of select depictions of her in paintings and sculpture at The Art Institute of

Chicago. The tour at The Art Institute will be led by art historian Karen Barzman on Thursday, December 18th (*a free entry day!*) at 6:00 pm and, afterwards, we will continue with libations and discussion nearby. Space is limited and will be provided on a first-come, first served basis. Email or call the parish office to register (312-644-0036) or parishoffice@assumption-chgo.org.

HATS FOR THE HOMELESS

Assumption is collecting knit caps for the needy and unhoused who are served by Chicago Help Initiative. Place your donation in the box at the front of church next to the Vatican flag. The hat drive ends Dec. 14.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

There will be an Advent Reconciliation Service Wednesday December 10 at 7:00pm. A reconciliation service consists of Scripture, homily, a communal examination of conscience, and an opportunity for private confession with one of several confessors. This is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds and souls for Christmas.

THANKS FOR THE TURKEYS

We received a total of 71 turkeys for our Turkey Drop on Sunday November 23. Sister Stephanie from Our Lady of the Angels Mission wrote, "We received 1,500 turkeys and every single one of them was distributed. Please know that we are grateful for your support and help in making sure that everyone had a very nice Thanksgiving meal." Our thanks to Karen Salasblancas, who coordinated the event, and to her team (Marion, Marie, Ashley, Rosy, and Dan) who took care of the transportation.

HYMNS: #41, #67, #47 (*except 5pm Sunday*)



CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24: 3:00, 5:00, 10:00pm
December 25: 8:30, 10:30, 12:15pm.

CHRISTMAS AT ASSUMPTION

There will be music at all Christmas Masses (3:00, 5:00, and 10:00pm on Christmas Eve; 8:30, 10:30, and 12:15pm on Christmas Day). A musical quartet will lead the singing at the 3:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve and will offer a musical program beginning at 2:30pm. The music program for the 10:00pm Mass begins at 9:30pm. Our parish choir and organ will be joined by additional voices and by musicians from the nationally acclaimed Haymarket Opera Company. This is a very special liturgy. There is nothing quite like celebrating Jesus' birth as the shepherds did, in the still watches of the night. A parking attendant will be present in the 311 Building for all Christmas Masses.

ADVENT CALENDAR

To help you through the season of Advent, an Advent calendar will be posted on Assumption's homepage, Facebook page, and Instagram, beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 30. There will be a different reflection and challenge for each day.



WEDDINGS:

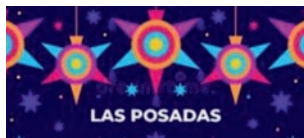
MICHAEL HETTMAN & GWEN GRONOWSKI
JEFFREY TAYLOR & ISABEL ODOM

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, and Vinny Perri

REST IN PEACE: Gordon Nary

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2025

Sat	6th	5:00	† Mary Helen Cahill
Sun	7th	7:30	† Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
		9:00	† Julius Sivori
		12:15	† Norrice Grindler
		5:00	Assumption Parishioners
Mon	8th	7:00	Dee Tevonian (b'day)
Thurs	11th	12:10	Special Intention
Fri	12th	7:00	Matthew, Jacob, and Guadalupe Replogle
		12:10	Special Intention
Sat	13th	7:30	Priests & People of Assumption



EXPERIENCE THE POSADA: Assumption and Holy Name Cathedral are cosponsoring a Latin American custom called *Las Posadas*. This reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem will leave from Holy Name Saturday December 20 at noon. The procession will make several stops along the way until arriving at Assumption, where they will find welcome, food, drink, and music. All are invited.

OUR PARISHIONER'S MOVIE: Maura Smith, an Assumption Parishioner and an adjunct faculty member at Columbia College, has directed a movie about her late husband, internationally famous photographer Steve Schapiro. The film, entitled *Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere*, will be screened at the Gene Siskel Theatre, 164 N State, on Friday evening December 5, Sunday afternoon December 7, and Wednesday evening December 10. Maura will be present.

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.

<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>We Take Service Personally Contact us today for a customized, reliable waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote. 630-261-0400</p>
 <p>Cocopazzo 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>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>Big Shoulders Fund® It takes Big Shoulders to carry a child's dreams.</p>  <p>bigshouldersfund.org</p>	<p>Ed the Plumber Ed the Carpenter 773.471.1444 Best Work • Best Rates PARISHIONER DISCOUNT</p>	<p>ADVERTISE HERE Promote your Business AND Support your Parish. Give us a call! 800-783-1623</p>
<p>catholicmatch® Illinois CatholicMatch.com/golL</p> 	<p>EWTN.COM/RADIO EWTN Global Catholic Radio</p> 	<p> Get this bulletin emailed to you every week. Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1631 ...or scan </p> <p>DISCOVERMASS</p>
 <p>Michalik Funeral Home Family Owned & Operated Since 1929</p>	<p>1056 West Chicago Avenue (312) 421-0936 www.michalikfuneralhome.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services * Closest Location to Assumption with Supervised Parking Available 	

