



# June 8, 2025

#### A PRESENT TO OPEN

Depending upon the number of birthdays, Christmases, weddings, anniversaries, and graduations we have accumulated in a lifetime, we have all received many, many gifts and presents. Even if we were raised in very modest circumstances and received few gifts, many of these gifts have long since been forgotten. Looking at old photographs might jar our memory of a game, a toy, or article of clothing that someone (including Santa) gave us. The clothes we outgrow, wore out, or never cared for in the first place. The toys and games lost their luster after a while. Some gifts that we never liked in the first place ended up being re-gifted like the proverbial Christmas fruitcake. And the money—long gone.

Among these many gifts that we received and then eventually forgot are some gifts that never wear out, never lose their luster, and we never outgrow. They are gifts that we all received regardless of our family's finances. They are gifts that some of us never bothered to unwrap. I am talking about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which were bestowed upon us at our baptism and renewed in us at our confirmation. Today on Pentecost, we honor the member of the Holy Trinity who lives within us, reminds us of everything that Jesus said and did, and serves as our advocate when we are in danger of being overwhelmed by the false promises of the world. These seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (based on Isaiah 11) are seven ways in which the Spirit operates in our life and enables us to live a life of faithfulness to God and fulfill our mission to the world. But they need to be actualized. In other words, we have to unwrap them in public.

I have often thought that one of the most disrespectful things that we can say to one another is "That's easy for you." Yes, we are all born with innate talents and abilities that others do not have; but nobody gets good at something without putting in the work. We know it is possible to become rich and famous without being good at anything; but to be good as an athlete, a performer, a writer, or a financial advisor, or anything else, we have to work at it. Nothing is all that easy. So it is with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We have to unwrap them and practice using them in the context of daily life. That is why after the homily, as we have done in past years, we will pass out miniature flames with the name of one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the inside. During the coming year, try to be more conscious of the fact that you have that gift, and look for opportunities to employ it.

The word **wisdom** comes from the Latin word "to savor." We use wisdom when we slow down and savor the goodness of God and the goodness of people around us. Wisdom helps us see the difference between things that can be overlooked and things that really matter in the long run. **Understanding** is the inner yearning to know more about God and our place in God's creation. It is about remaining hungry for God and the growth of the reign of God. The gift of **knowledge** is the practical side of understanding. It enables us to get the most out of everything that happens in life, whether talking to someone about Christ, caring for those in need, or putting up with suffering or disappointment. **Counsel** helps us make decisions when common sense and reason are not enough. What is God asking me to do in this situation? **Fortitude** (or courage) enables us to do the right thing even if it costs us something. It enables us to refuse to do the wrong thing when it is the easy thing to do.

When I was confirmed in the third grade, we had to memorize the gifts of the Spirit and my favorite gift was **piety**, because it contained the word pie and I liked pie. But piety has nothing to do with pie or about acting pious. It is the old Roman virtue of being in right relationship with one's family. Jesus expanded that virtue to being in right relationship with God and the whole human family. Pope Francis expanded it to include all of creation. **Awe and wonder** (fear of the Lord) prevents us from losing our sense of amazement at who God is and the universe God created. It helps us live with humility, being grateful for what we have and not being jealous of what others have.

There you have it. The gifts of the Holy Spirit. Actualized they make for a very dynamic faith community. Let's all see how we can grow in the life of the Spirit this coming year.

Fr. Joe

# ATTENTION YOUNG FAMILIES

We are planning a new Young Family Group at Assumption. If you are a family with children under the age of 10 and are interested in joining, we'd love to hear from you. Please email ayf@assumption-chgo.org to express interest. We'll follow up to learn more of what you would like to see within this group,For our debut event, we will meet in the Garden after the 10:30 Mass on June 29 and walk over to Ward Park (a ten minute walk) for playtime and for conversation at the playground. We will plan events after other Masses to accommodate all families. We look forward to hearing from you!

#### CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF CREATION

All are invited to attend an ecumenical prayer service on Pentecost Sunday, June 8 at 3:00pm at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral (1017 N LaSalle) as Catholic Bishop Lawrence Sullivan and other Christian leaders gather to celebrate the Mystery of Creation as the foundational event in salvation history. The Service also marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, which stated definitively the Christian belief in God's salvific, creative act. A reception will follow immediately after the service.

# **WELCOMING NEW CATHOLICS**

It is not too early to be thinking about being part of the OCIA Class of 2025-26. OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for those over the age of 18 who were never baptized, never made their first communion, or who are baptized in another Christian religion and want to explore becoming Catholic. It is a group experience that meets on Sunday mornings from September to May. This past year we had a separate OCIA group for those 8 to 18 and we will have it again if there is a need. Contact Fr. Joe for more information.

# **BE PART OF THE JOY!**

Make a couple's special day even more beautiful by serving as a Wedding Greeter—welcoming guests, guiding the wedding party, and sharing in sacred moments of celebration. For more info, contact <a href="wedgreet@assumption-chgo.org">wedgreet@assumption-chgo.org</a>.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This weekend's Second Collection goes to the support of the health and retirement fund of the 386 active and 247 retired priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

**HYMNS:** #440, #350, #382 (except 5pm Sunday)

# **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Our next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) will be Monday, June 23 from 7:00—8:15pm in 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. Infant baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15pm and on the first Sunday of the month during Mass.

#### ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS

Assumption Young Adults will gather in the Parish Hall after the 5:00pm Mass Sunday, June 22 for Chinese food. In addition to the meal, there will be time to plan service and faith formation activities. The cost for dinner is \$15/person. Venmo @Rosana\_Murphy or pay with cash that night. AYA is for anyone in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. Email assumptionaya@gmail.com.

# **WEDDINGS:**

JOHN BUCKENTIN & ERIN BROOKS
VINCENT LUONGO & SAMANTHA LACSAM
JUSTIN REDINGTON & GLORIA CORUJO
EDDIE BAVA & MAKAYLA MAY
MATEUSZ PIETRUSIAK & MICHELLE LEE
WILLIAM TACK & GRACE ALBER

# <u>BAPTISMS:</u> EMMA JO ASPAN

**PRAY FOR THEM:** Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Mike Foster, and Mary Ann Kevin

	MASS	INTENTIONS -	WEEK OF	JUNE 7	2025
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MIA	<u> </u>	<u> TENTIONS ~ WEEK OF JUNE 7, 2025</u>
Sat	7th	5:00 James Woods
Sun	8th	7:30 Assumption Parishioners
		9:00 Richard Chittendon
		10:30 † Charles & Marion Joachim
		12:15 † Patricia A. Chiovare
		5:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko,
		Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko,
		Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
Mon	9th	12:10 <b>†</b> Fr. Dan Nolan
Tues	10th	12:10 Special Intention
Thurs	12th	7:00 † Al McGuire
		12:10 † James P. Cahill
Fri	13th	1 2
		12:10 † Leo Pusateri (b'day)

VISA

# **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

- ♦ July 6 Garden Blessing
- August 10 Anniversary Picnic (dogs, brats, and beer)
- October 30 Italian Dinner at Coco Pazzo

**REFUGEE ASSISTANCE GROUP:** Assumption's Refugee Assistance Group has partnered with Catherine's Caring Cause, an organization that assists families who have sought refuge in the United States. For almost a year, our parish has been helping with rent, food expenses, and transportation for a family who have come to Chicago as humanitarian parolees. For the second year in a row, we supported the women and children of Bethany House by contributing funds to host a Mother's Day party. The Refugee Assistance Group welcomes participants and ideas for projects. For information, email refugee@assumption-chgo.org. Donations are always welcome and can be made on Assumption's online giving platform. Donations should be directed to Project Refugee.

**GENERATION TO GENERATION:** The Generation to Generation campaign is an historic effort above and beyond the Annual Catholic Appeal. It is intended to address the long-term needs of the Archdiocese of Chicago as well as help Assumption's restoration fund and expand its faith formation programming. You can make a difference by giving what is right for your household. We have been blessed by the generosity of previous generations of parishioners. We now have an opportunity to pass on these blessings and strengthen the next generation of Catholics. If you have received a pledge form in the mail, please complete it and return it. Those who have not received a pledge form by mail will have the opportunity to make your pledge in church next weekend.



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 Sí.



Help care for aging Friars who served at Assumption. Remember The Order of Friar Servants of Mary, USA Province in your will.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

- Mother Teresa



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