

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Second Sunday In Ordinary Time January 18, 2026

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

WINNING AND LOSING

As I write these words early on Monday morning, the echoes of joy are still ringing through Chicago streets. The Chicago Bears have won a playoff game for the first time in fifteen years, and they have defeated their oldest rivals, the Green Bay Packers, in the process. Years ago *Chicago Tribune* columnist John Kass, frustrated with the Green Bay Packers ability to come to Soldier Field and defeat the Bears year after year after year, suggested that we build a wall along the Wisconsin border to keep the Packers out. People in Chicago are hungry for a winner. It has been 41 years since the Bears won the Super Bowl. This may be small potatoes compared to the Cubs going more than a century without winning a World Series; but if they do go all the way, it will be the first time it will have happened in the lifetime of most Chicagoans. And I might even count myself in that number, since I was serving in a parish in far-away New Jersey when the Monsters of the Midway were triumphant.

Of course by the end of this weekend, the Bears playoff run may be over . . . or maybe not. And that raises an important point. For every winner, there must be a loser. No one wants to be labeled a loser. President Trump, who talks a lot about winning, likes to label people with whom he disagrees as “losers.” He knows it hurts. Yet when we move away from political rhetoric and sports into the spiritual realm and talk about the super bowl of life, we find that being a loser puts us in very good company. By any objective standard, Jesus Christ was no winner. He came from a small town known only for its mediocrity, worked in the building trades, and then had a few good years as a preacher and a healer. But in the ultimate showdown with the religious and political authorities, he was a loser. He was crucified and made an example of by Roman authorities for anyone else who may want to make pretentious claims and divine authority. A convicted criminal given the death penalty is no winner. Only in the eternal sphere can Jesus be considered a winner, triumphing over sin, suffering, and death in the resurrection.

What about Christ’s followers? Are we winners or losers? By the standards of the world many of us may also be considered losers—especially if we fail to take advantage of every opportunity to claw our way to the top, regardless of the cost to our family or the harm we cause others. But to share in Christ’s ultimate victory over death, we have to move beyond self-interest and self-glorification. Buffalo area Lutheran Pastor Michael Borgstede once wrote that he likes to refer to Christians as losers for two reasons: first because we can be losers in the eyes of the world and real winners in God’s eyes, but also because calling ourselves losers makes us realize that we really do need God’s help and forgiveness.

“I think the term ‘loser’ carries more weight in our minds than sinner. In church jargon I believe we have sanitized the word sin. When we use it we think of it as having made a mistake or ‘being human.’ That is too weak of a view. Sin is the condition that we are in. It is our brokenness, our corruption, our lostness in the eyes of God.” Loser is a term, Borgstede points out, that we hate, but is also a word that can inspire us to action, to take seriously our need for forgiveness and reconciliation. “People enter into counseling to gain some healing in their life. But to do that they have to admit that something is wrong. They have to take off their mask that says ‘I am OK’ and realize that their life does have problems. And in admitting they are flawed or broken, then true healing can take place. It is a difficult process, but one that is so renewing.”

Just as we can sometimes surprise ourselves by the heroic things we can do in an emergency, so we sometimes surprise ourselves with the temptations that we fall for and the sins we fall into. These surprises make us more aware of God’s mercy in our life. Having a winning sports franchise is good for business. It is good for hotels; it is good for civic morale; it is good for restaurants; and it is especially good for bars and taverns. But in the game of life losing and failure can be powerful teachers, even though we hate them at the time. They also remind us of what we truly value and whom and what we still have. They call us back to what is essential in life, love of God and love for people.

Fr Joe

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Little Sisters of the Poor visit Assumption this weekend to speak about their ministry to the elderly poor and to ask for your prayers and financial support. St. Mary's Home near DePaul University on the North Side is one of 362 homes operated by the Little Sisters in 32 countries around the world. Virtually all of the residents of St. Mary's Home qualify for Medicaid, but reimbursements and small pensions cover only about half of the annual expenses. Your support will help the Little Sisters continue their ministry of caring for the neediest seniors of every race and religion, as they have for 146 years in Chicago.

A WARM WELCOME

The following persons registered as members of Assumption Church between July 1 and December 31, 2025: Marcella DiBartolo, Kathy McLaughlin, Jim and Madeline Murphy, Bailey Suzio, Paul Rodriguez, Emerelda Gutierrez and Michael McMannon, Matt Sesterhenn, Ann Starling, Brooke Kelley and Kevin McMahon, Lanie Trotter, John Palmer, Carly Hilgers and Mitchell Burton, Diana Saenz Mrad, Zach Stellwag, Aryan Sheikhalian and Evelina Stronberg, Ruby and David Sajdak, Dave Spahn, Matthew Phillips, Christine Kerrigan, Luke and Kerry Chaffin, Isabel and Conor Mooney, Paul O'Toole, Marlie Houston, Madelyn Francaviglia, Renata Amezcua, Miriam Madriz, Matt Evans, Matthew Currier, Chelsea Real, Amani Khalife, Nicholas DiMaggio, Jill Loftus, Kayla Brannen, Eunice and William Joseph Costello, Rieffe Dacanay, Nancy De Sandolo, Theresa Eckert, Nick Fabianski, Luke Furjanic, Gabrielle Gentile, Garrett Gloudemans and Adrienne Hagen, Sarah Brun, and Nick Restivo. Welcome to the Church family!



THE CATECHISM FOR ADULTS

Are you interested in learning more about your Catholic faith and how the Church guides us to live out this faith? Then you should consider being part of Deacon Kevin's next Adult Catechism group slated to begin Wednesday evening January 21. Using the foundational text, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, past participants have included long-time parishioners, those who recently completed the OCIA process, and anyone curious about exploring their Catholic faith in greater detail. Members support each other and grow in community as they grow in knowledge and understanding. Contact Deacon Kevin Zajdel at assumptiondeacon@gmail.com for info.

BOOK DISCUSSION

During December at the end of Mass, members of our Pastoral Council passed out copies of a small book entitled, *Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy*. Over 300 copies are now in circulation in the parish. Is anyone interested in getting together to discuss the book? If so, contact jolanta.oliver@gmail.com.



AN INVITATION TO THE MINISTRY FAIR

Assumption needs your gifts and talents in our various ministries to enliven our parish and enrich our local community. Perhaps you enjoyed a program or event like our pop-up garden party. Perhaps you were greeted at Mass. We could use more of that. Perhaps you have been thinking about offering your services as a lector or an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. We could use more of those. We are looking for hosts and hostesses, people to help with Alpha, organize young adult events, lead a Bible study, set up food. Maybe you would like to serve the needy and the unhoused. There are many opportunities for service at Assumption. Perhaps you have new idea. St. Paul tells us that all of us placing our gifts at the service of the community is what makes the church work. We welcome all, whatever your availability and your passion. Come to the Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall after all Masses February 14-15. Valentine's Day cookies provided.

HYMNS: #543, #390, #393 (except 5pm Sunday)

WEDDINGS:

ANDREW RECATTO & ISABELLA RAPHEN

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, Vinny Perri, and John Moery

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF JANUARY 17, 2026

Sat	17th	5:00 † Angelo Ciambrone
Sun	18th	7:30 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		9:00 † William Schneider
		10:30 † Charles & Marion Joachim
		12:15 Kaitlyn Clancy & Spencer Wenzloff
		5:00 Assumption Parishioners
Mon	19th	12:10 † Bob Trumpy
Tues	20th	12:10 † Vincent McInerney
Wed	21st	12:10 † Frank "Fuzzy" Zoeller
Thurs	22nd	7:00 Special Intention
		12:10 † Margaret Summers
Sat	24th	7:30 Special Intention

CHILD CARE MINISTRY: Several people have asked about reviving the child care ministry during one of the Sunday Masses. This would be for children aged 18 months through four years and would require a team of volunteers (some of whom might also be the parents of the children). If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact the parish office.

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.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: January 18-25 is the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year's theme is "There is One Body and One Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Eph 4:4). Ecumenism Metro Chicago is sponsoring a special prayer service for Christian unity and care for God's creation on Saturday January 24 at 2:00pm at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 6700 West Diversey.

<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>Flood Brothers DISPOSAL/RECYCLING SERVICES</p> <p>We Take Service Personally Contact us today for a customized, reliable waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote.</p> <p>630-261-0400</p>
 <p><i>Cocopazzo</i> 300 W. Hubbard • 312.836.0900 cocopazzochicago.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</p> <p>Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.</p> <p>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>	<p>* Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services * Closest Location to Assumption with Supervised Parking Available</p>

