

ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH MINISTRIES

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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers

Greeter Ministry

Ministers of the Eucharist

Ministry of Lector

Ministry to the Sick

Music Ministry

Wedding Greeter Ministry



Serve at the Table of the Lord. Help lead worship with reverence and joy.

Altar Servers assist at Sunday Mass and special liturgies throughout the year—especially during Holy Week. This ministry is a meaningful way to participate in the heart of Catholic life at Assumption Church.

Why this matters

Our Eucharistic celebrations are at the center of our parish life and mission. Serving at Mass is a privilege that honors the Trinity and supports the congregation in worshiping with greater solemnity, focus, and prayerfulness.

When do we serve?

- **Sunday Masses** (primary commitment)
- **Special liturgies** (occasionally), such as **Holy Week**
- Short practice sessions may be offered before major celebrations

Time commitment

Simple and manageable: Servers arrive **30 minutes before Mass** to prepare and be ready to serve.

Who can join?

Anyone who:

- Appreciates the Mass and the Eucharist
- Wants to take an active role in leading the congregation in prayer and praise
- Is dependable and willing to learn

New members are always welcome. (The number of servers naturally changes as people move or schedules shift).

Interested?

Email: servers@assumption-chgo.org



Be the friendly face of Assumption for before Mass.

Greeters welcome our parishioners and visitors who attend our weekend Masses and Holy Days of Obligation. This ministry is a joyful way to practice Radical Hospitality and make our attendees feel at home from the moment they arrive.

What you'll do

- Welcome parishioners and visitors and answer questions (restrooms, seating, directions, etc.)
- Have visitors sign the Guest Register and provide them with brochures of our ministries and statuary

When you serve

You would sign up for the Masses you want to greet one month ahead of time

Time commitment

Arrive 15 minutes before Mass

We need you!

We currently have only 1-2 Masses that have greeters on a regular basis. This is a fun, uplifting ministry and a great way to make a lasting impression on behalf of Assumption.

Interested?

Email: greeters@assumption-chgo.org



Ministers of the Eucharist

Ministers of the Eucharist are trained laypeople who assist bishops, priests, and deacons in distributing the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ during Mass and serve as a vital supplement to ordained clergy

Ministers of the Eucharist need to be practicing Catholics, at least 18 years old, and are encouraged to have a strong faith life, with specific training provided by the diocese and parish

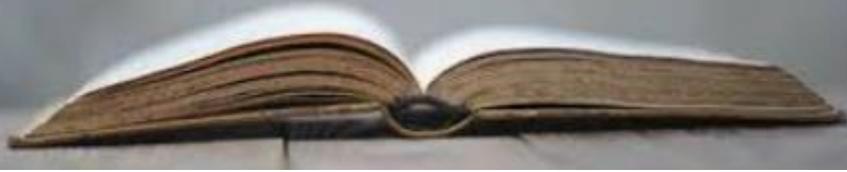
We currently have 35+ ministers who receive Mass assignments and updates via email a month in advance. We need more! Please consider serving.

Time commitment varies on parishioner availability, 2-3 Masses per month, ideally

Contact Eddie Bunzol at eddiebunzol@gmail.com or eme@assumption-chgo.org for more information

We look forward to having you on the team!

Ministry of Lector



“The Word of the Lord” Powerful Stuff

The lector ministry at Assumption proclaims the readings at all Sunday Masses, as well as for holidays and other holy days of obligation. Lectors take part in the liturgy, reading scripture, petitions, etc. Lectors appreciate participating in Eucharistic liturgies (that is, the Mass) and want to take an active role in leading the congregation in prayer and praise of the Lord

A robust lector ministry ensures broader Parish participation in the Mass, and that those attending are able to hear the Word of God proclaimed by a diverse group of voices

Meeting times: The Lectors meet about once a year for a retreat/in-service at Assumption. Scheduling, etc. is handled via email. While Lectors may attend an occasional practice session prior to a special liturgy (for example, during Holy Week), Lectors are involved in actual Sunday Mass times

We could always use more lectors!

We have around 40 on the roster that rotate. Please join us by contacting proclaimers@assumption-chgo.org or elizabeth.a.kabacinski@gmail.com

Time commitment is relatively small. Serving at a Sunday liturgy involves arriving 15 minutes prior to the liturgy in order to prepare. A Lector can serve as much or as little as they like - some lectors are only "on the sub list," while others serve two or three times a month

The Lectors do like to commit to the same Mass for the most part; however, every once in awhile, they will cover other Masses depending on the need



Ministry to the Sick is a specialized service to members of the parish and other Catholics who are unable to attend Mass on a temporary or long-term basis

Ministers of the Sick bring communion and provide spiritual support to Catholics living at home, in convalescent homes or in the hospital

Potential ministers must complete a training program offered by the Archdiocese on an occasional basis and have the permission of their pastor

Time commitment varies, depending on the number of persons that the minister visits and the frequency with which the individual wishes to receive Communion

Some Ministers to the Sick volunteer at Northwestern Hospital, in collaboration with Holy Name Cathedral

Contact: pastor@assumption-chgo.org



Music Ministry

Do you find yourself singing out loud during Mass, or at home when no one is around. The Music Ministry could be for you!

Our Ministry is comprised of the Assumption Choir and Cantors who provide music for the Masses.

We could use a few more voices!

The Choir sings at the 10:30 Mass on the Second and Fourth Sundays of the month. In addition, the Choir sings at Christmas, Holy Week, and other feast days

Rehearsals take place at the church every Tuesday for 2 hours
We currently have 10-15 members and would like to increase our numbers

Contact John Eskola at johneskola@comcast.net or music@assumption-chgo.org for more information



WILL YOU BE OUR

Wedding Greeter?

Be the friendly face of Assumption for every wedding guest!

Wedding Greeters welcome the many guests who attend weddings at Assumption and help each celebration run smoothly. This ministry is a joyful way to practice Radical Hospitality and make visitors feel at home from the moment they arrive

What you'll do

- Welcome guests and answer questions (restrooms, seating, directions, etc.)
- Help ensure photographers/videographers know the church "rules"
- Tidy pews afterward (collect programs, straighten up)
- Occasionally assist with the procession or bride's entrance (*as comfortable*)

When you serve

Assumption hosts 50–60 weddings each year, busiest in summer/fall. Weddings may be Friday afternoons, Saturday afternoons, or Sundays at 3:00pm. No regular meetings—training and shadowing provided until you're ready

Time commitment

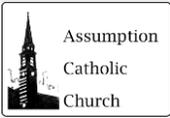
Arrive 45 minutes before and stay about 30 minutes after
Total: ~2 hours 15 minutes per wedding

We need you!

We currently have 9 greeters, but busy weekends can include multiple weddings— we welcome more volunteers. This is a fun, uplifting ministry and a great way to make a lasting impression on behalf of Assumption

Interested?

Email: wedgreet@assumption-chgo.org



FAITH FORMATION

Adult Catechism Group



Adult Catechism Group

Are you interested in learning more about your Catholic faith and how the Church guides us to live out this faith? Have you just completed OCIA and are looking to go deeper?

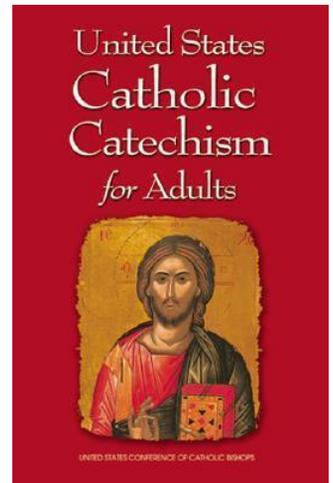
Consider being a part of Assumptions Adult Catechism group

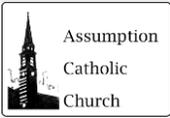
The group follows the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. The four parts covered are: the Creed (what we believe), the Sacraments (how we celebrate what we believe), Christian Morality (how we live out what we believe), and Prayer (how we pray our faith)

The Adult Catechism group meets bi-weekly during weeknight evenings for 90 minutes to discuss a chapter of the text and how the material applies to their lives. Members can volunteer to lead various chapters and gain wider perspective about the content

All are welcome as members to support each other and grow in community in their Catholic knowledge and understanding

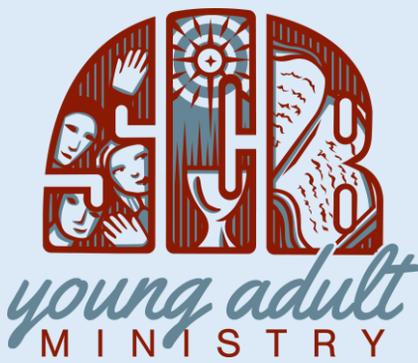
For more information contact catechism@assumption-chgo.org





OTHER MINISTRIES

Assumption Young Adult Ministry
Garden Club
Hospitality Ministry
Special Events



Assumption Young Adult Ministry

Assumption Young Adults (AYA) is for anyone in their 20s or 30s, married or single. AYA assists with the liturgy at the 5 PM Mass on the third Sunday of the month and participates in various service, spiritual, and social activities. We frequently host events including pizza nights and barbecues (during the summer) to build a sense of community here at Assumption.

We are looking for more volunteers to help plan events or contribute to the AYA mass by serving as a Greeter, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or musician.

There is currently only one leader of the Young Adults Ministry, and having more planners will be a huge help. Please contact assumptionaya@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved in any way.

For those simply interested in participating in events, please join our AYA GroupMe with the QR code below.





Got a **green** thumb? Join the **Garden Club!**

Assumption's garden is our Parish's 'front-porch' and 'welcome mat' drawing parishioners and non-parishioners alike to enjoy the green space. Garden club members care for our small slice of our 'common home' channeling the Laudato Si' encyclical

Our team meets during the warm weather months: April – October. The approximate time commitment is between 1 – 10 hours per week at peak times (spring and fall) with flexibility. 20-60 minutes per week on average during the summer and very little during the winter months

We benefit from having a wide variety of talents and interests amongst our members. Anyone with an interest in gardening and especially with skills in design and color planning, planting and landscaping should come check out the Garden Club!

Come get involved in growing a beautiful garden for our parish community by contacting gardenclub@assumption-chgo.org





Hospitality Ministry

Have a passion for coffee, donuts and service?

Hospitality Sunday is offered the first Sunday of each month to inspire faith and community in the Parish beyond Mass

We serve coffee and confections to the Parishioners after the 9A and 10:30A Masses

We are comprised of two members that organize the calendar of hosts which are our fellow Ministries and ensure they have everything they need to host

We are seeking other individuals to volunteer as needed to support other Ministries who may need more people to help host their Sunday or if you feel so inspired, a group of parishioners are welcome to host a Hospitality Sunday!

The time required is only preparing for and executing the event; from purchasing/making confections, set-up, service to clean up. 3-6 individuals are ideal for each Hospitality Sunday

While Assumption very much appreciates the items purchased as donation, the church is happy to reimburse your reasonable purchase

If interested in becoming a Hospo Helper or hosting your own, please contact Danielle Gabriel at dgabriel62@gmail.com or hospitality@assumption-chgo.org

Many hands make light work!



The Special Events Ministry plans and executes 8-9 events throughout the year. Some events are focused on building community while others add a fundraising component.

Our largest event is the annual Italian Dinner each fall, which raises enough funds to cover some major parish expenses.

The ministry meets as needed, more frequently before an event. There is also one major planning meeting toward the end of the year to set dates for the following year.

We currently have 5 volunteers and could use more. Our needs are with hosting the event itself: help setting up, manpower at the event (bartenders, food servers, greeters, runners, etc.) and tear down/clean up.

We would like to have a **volunteer-at-large group** for those whose schedules do not allow for a full commitment. You would volunteer for a specific event only, as your schedule permits. We have a couple of volunteers on our short list like that, and they are a blessing to us.

We would love to have different faces take part in our events!

Contact Cathy Cahill at cathy.cahill22@gmail.com or events@assumption-chgo.org to learn more.

OUTREACH GROUPS

Assumption Ambassadors

Assumption Shares Ministry

Evangelization Team

Social Justice:

-Creation Care

-Refugee Assistance Group



Assumption Ambassadors

Assumption Ambassadors distribute flyers to 36 hotels around Assumption Parish. The flyers list current & special Masses and events at Assumption to encourage visitors to Chicago to come to Mass. The **flyers are distributed** approximately **five times a year: Christmas / New Year's Masses; Ash Wednesday; Easter / Holy Week**. Time commitment is approximately 1 – 1.5 hours (some walk, some drive).

Each volunteer distributes **25 copies of the flyer to each hotel** on their designated group (5-6 hotels). Flyers are brought to the Hotel Concierge or Front Desk of the hotel. Volunteers inform hotel staff who they are and the purpose of the flyers. Most hotels are very grateful to distribute to interested guests looking for a Catholic Church. If hotel staff refuse the flyers, the volunteers simply say thank you and leave. Volunteers keep informed about new hotels in their area or if one has closed, they report back.

Ministry volunteers generally attend the 7:30 am or 9:00 am Mass and get to know each other, but certainly not a prerequisite. Several of the volunteers are married couples and they do the distribution together. We currently have 7 members and would love to have more.

Please contact ambassadors@assumption-chgo.org or Susan Gold susangld@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this team.

Volunteers should be familiar with the downtown area. Flyers are written and printed by Parish Office.



ASSUMPTION SHARES MINISTRY

Assumption Shares involves distributing Chicago Shares Food Vouchers to disadvantaged on the 1st Wednesday of each month between 11:30 and Noon in the Parish Garden in front of the Rectory – rain or shine.

The Food Vouchers are accepted mainly at Jewel Stores and can be used to purchase anything except liquor and tobacco. They may also be used as funds to be added to a CTA Ventra Card or purchase a CTA bus pass. Each booklet is valued at \$5.00, and we give away two booklets to each person for a total value of \$10.

Currently we distribute to approximately 125 people monthly. The actual time it takes to distribute these vouchers is minimal. We complete the entire process in under 30 minutes but also stay around for latecomers.

We are mission-oriented and we all interface with the people that come for the Shares. We know something about most of them and engage in simple conversation. When we have clothing, something to drink or eat, we hand those out also. It would be wonderful to have more people join us and bring food or drink, etc. to hand out.

Volunteers should be open to meeting all types of people, be friendly and welcoming. Working with the disadvantaged / homeless requires patience, understanding, empathy, and a dose of diplomacy.

Please email shares@assumption-chgo.org or Susan Gold susangld@gmail.com to get involved. Currently, we have only 3 members.

Are you being called to take a more active role in *evangelization*?

The Evangelization Team develops, manages, and promotes activities in the parish that help people explore and deepen their faith: parishioners, visitors to church, those who have left the church, and importantly, non-believers.

Our activities:

Soft (welcoming) entry points

- Focused on getting to know people in and around our community (happy hours, etc.)

Kerygmatic (faith focused) entry points

- **Alpha**, run at Assumption every Fall, is a 9-week series of gatherings to teach non-believers and the 'curious' about the basics of Christian belief, explored in a welcoming environment along with a light dinner
- **Prayer Walk** meets in the garden after a specific Mass and walks to several locations nearby, stopping at each to pray. This activity also serves as a great example to passersby - - planting seeds of faith with onlookers

Our team of 10 volunteers meets quarterly for 60-90 minutes and sometimes more depending upon activities and events. The events themselves run an hour or longer

Our biggest need is for hosts & helpers for Alpha: team members are scheduled for four or five evenings during the run. They typically arrive around 6pm and leave by 8:15 and may also need to order food ahead of time

Contact Beth Schuman at beth.schuman@gmail.com or evang@assumption-chgo.org to learn more



The Catholic Church asks us to address some of the underlying causes of poverty and to work to end things in our society that are simply wrong or unjust.

This is the work of **social justice**, grounded firmly in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Many of our dedicated parishioners are hard at work on specific programs that support social justice (**Creation Care** and **Refugee Assistance Group ministries**), but the Social Justice Committee itself has been inactive since the Covid shutdown. We need your help to explore the future of Assumption's social justice programs. We need your participation.

If you are interested in developing new initiatives that fall under the **Social Justice** banner, please contact socialjustice@assumption-chgo.org and let's talk.



"The Church knows that her proclamation of the Gospel is credible only when it is translated into gestures of closeness and welcome."

Pope Leo XIV



"Working for a just distribution of the fruits of the earth and human labor is not mere philanthropy. It is a moral obligation. For Christians, the responsibility is even greater: it is a commandment."

Pope Francis

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Solidarity

Care for God's Creation

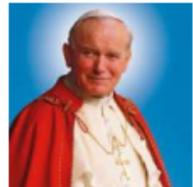


"Catholic" is a verb; it's what we do.



"We can serve our weakness or we can serve our purpose. Not both."

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini



"The social message of the gospel must not be considered a theory, but above all else a basis and motivation for action."

Pope St. John Paul II



"The Gospel takes away our right forever to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor."

Dorothy Day



Creation Care

FAITH TO ACTION

Assumption Parish strives to have an active Creation Care Ministry that reflects the teachings of Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*. This path integrates all parish ministries, staff, and parishioners to efficiently collaborate on developing initiatives, prayer, education, liturgy, and transformative actions to respond to the inseparable Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor regarding care for the earth that God so lovingly created for us.

There is currently only one member of the Creation Care Ministry, so we encourage any interested parishioners to contact commonhome@assumption-chgo.org.

New members are needed to lead the CCM in a new direction. Pope Leo has fully embraced these encyclicals and continues to stress the importance of environmental justice to all Catholics. The most important need is a leader willing and able to re-energize the Creation Care Ministry to a new group of Assumption churchgoers!

Examples of our Creation Care Ministry's prior actions:

- Our beautiful *Laudato Si'* designated garden
- Our screening of the film *The Letter*
- Our web page *Laudato Si' and Me*
- Our participation in the Archdiocese Creation Care Synod and the installation of the Chicago land Christians United for the Care of Creation Declaration





Refugee Assistance Group

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

- *Matthew 25:40.*

The Refugee Assistance Group endeavors to assist immigrants and refugees where they are by providing support and mentorship to recently arrived families.

Our outreach efforts to our sponsored immigrant families include:

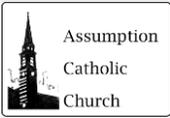
- Sharing information about immigrant support initiatives throughout the city
- Providing transportation to humanitarian parolees in need of medical care
- Purchasing school supplies for the children
- Preparing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for the families.

In addition, our team members are active with Know Your Rights initiatives, legal services and court observation.

Our team meets via Zoom to coordinate our efforts, and our members are able to dial in their time commitment.

We are looking for additional members to assist in our community outreach including people who like fundraising, organizing events, planning and driving.

Contact Peggy Brown at pegita@aol.com or refugee@assumption-chgo.org to learn how you can get involved!



AFFILIATED GROUPS

The Chicago Help Initiative
Assumption Feed the Homeless
Knights of Columbus
Secular Order of Servants of Mary



The CHICAGO HELP INITIATIVE (CHI)

THE CHICAGO HELP INITIATIVE (CHI) is a consortium of business, residential, religious, social service, institutional and volunteer leaders striving to promote an atmosphere of dignity and compassion toward those in need by providing access to food, health services, shelter and employment. CHI works to educate local businesses and residents as to how they can help ease the plight of the homeless and disadvantaged and improve their well-being, self-esteem, and productivity.

CHI is linked to the parish vision to be mission-oriented in helping parishioner become active members of the community.

CHI serves hot meals on Wednesdays and distributes bag meals and clothing on Saturdays at the facilities of Catholic Charities at 721 North La Salle Street and has been doing so since March, 2001. (Catholic Charities allows us the use of their dining hall and other facilities.)

CHI has 7 staff members (3 full time and 4 part time), but CHI has over 2,500+ volunteers who come and serve at the hot meals on Wednesdays and on Saturdays to help with the collection and distribution of bag meals, toiletries and clothing.

Time commitment: Volunteers on Wednesday spend approximately 2 to 2-1/2 hours serving the hot meals and interfacing with the guests. (approximately from 3:30 to 6 pm). There are other volunteers who run programs available for guests who attend the meals who commit often to longer hours. Volunteers on a Saturday spend 3+ hours. There is also another opportunity to participate in cooking meals at a partner organization on Wednesday mornings (at First St. Paul). The prepared food is then brought to Catholic Charities to add to the meal already provided by a hotel or restaurant. On Saturday mornings, at 10:30 a hot meal is also prepared and served at First St. Paul.

CHI could use assistance in picking up and delivering needed items, volunteering at any of the Wednesday and/or Saturday programs, creating a class for our guests to participate in, writing grants, updating CHI's website, making bag meals, collecting gently used clothing, helping organizing events, collecting books and magazines, and more.

Email Jacqueline C Hayes, President jhayes@chicagohelpinitiative.org to become a member of this vibrant community.



Assumption Feed the Homeless

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who meet the first Saturday of each month to assemble and deliver bag lunches to Chicago Help Initiative. The lunches are ultimately handed out and distributed to the homeless and others in need.

2 of our volunteers shop at Costco the week prior and drop the food off at Assumption for assembly. They are re-imbursed by Assumption from the Sandwich Fund.

We are seeking monetary donations to help grow this ministry. Our typical output is 220 bag lunches each month (each includes a turkey/cheese sandwich, chips, applesauce, a drink, and a treat). Each month we spend approximately \$500 (\$2.27/meal).

If we can increase the donations, we would consider adding a second week each month and would then need another group of volunteers.

Donations can be made on the Assumption website (click DONATE and select "Give to Sandwich Fund for The Hungry" in the drop-down menu), and questions can be sent to Katie Pomroy katmapom@hotmail.com.





Knights of Columbus

**Calling all Catholic men and interested volunteers!
Our Knights of Columbus council needs YOU!**

Since its founding in 1882, the Knights of Columbus has remained steadfast in its mission to help men more fully live out their Catholic faith and assist with the financial security of their families. Originally started by Father Michael McGivney to support the immigrant Catholic community in Connecticut, the Knights have grown to an international organization proving support and fellowship to its members through its core values of: **Charity, Unity, Fraternity.**

Here at Assumption Parish, the Knights of Columbus are represented by Council 15198 (also known as the River North or Mother Cabrini Council). Our Council is involved with numerous events throughout the year including:

- **Serving** as on-call hosts for the Hospitality Sunday events
- **Tootsie Roll Drive** fundraising for people living with intellectual disabilities
- **Baby Bottle Drive** fundraising in support of new mothers

We are currently seeking more members to join our Council and volunteers to assist with our fundraising and fellowship events and programming throughout the year.

If you would like to learn more about our Council and how you can get involved with the Knights, contact Matthew Lee-Own at matthew.leeown@gmail.com or knights@assumption-chgo.org.



Are You Called?

St. Mary, Source of Our Joy Community of the Secular Order of Servants of Mary, established at Assumption Parish, Chicago, USA, was canonically decreed and erected on 31 December 2006 by Fr. Angel Maria Ruiz Garnica, OSM, Prior General, from the Priory of San Marcello, Rome, on the Feast of the Holy Family.

St. Mary, Source of Our Joy, Secular Servites at Assumption Parish, Chicago

Who Are the Servites?

The Servites, formally known as the *Order of Servants of Mary*, are a Catholic religious order founded in the 13th century and dedicated to following Christ in the spirit of Mary—as both Mother and Servant of the Lord.

A Call to Live Your Faith More Deeply

Are you called to live your faith more intentionally—right where you are?

As Secular Servites, we seek to live our baptismal calling by serving the Church and the world, drawing inspiration from Mary’s faithful presence, compassion, and trust in God.

Life in Community

We gather regularly as a community for prayer, faith sharing, and spiritual reflection rooted in the Servite way of life.

Monthly Gathering:

Third Sunday of each month
2:00 PM in the Parish Rectory

Discerning Community

Those who feel drawn to this way of life are invited into a one-year formation journey.

This time of discernment offers prayer, study, and accompaniment before making a promise as a Secular Servite.

Come and See

Learn more or begin a conversation.

Email: ssm@assumption-chgo.org

secularservites.org/st-mary-source-of-our-joy



Secular Servites are lay women and men who live this Servite charism in everyday life through prayer, service, and community, remaining fully engaged in their families, professions, and parish life.

Rooted in the Servite Tradition

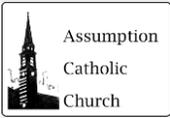
Assumption Parish has been shaped by the Servite tradition since 1881, founded and staffed by Servite Friars and Sisters. Within this living tradition, our Secular Servite community joyfully celebrates 20 years of prayer, service, and fraternity.

Prayer and Service

Our vocation unites contemplation and action. We support and participate in parish ministries and outreach, including:

- Christ Jesus School, Petit-Goâve, Haiti
- Chicago Help Initiatives
- Immigration Program
- **Servite Rosary** – first and third Sundays of the month (Chapel, following the 10:30 AM Mass)





INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A NEW MINISTRY?

PLEASE CONTACT ppc@assumption-chgo.org