

Meet the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) 2025/2026



OFFICERS:

Chairperson – Matthew Lee-Own; Vice-Chairperson – Jola Oliver; Secretary – Conora Shaw

Mark Chapman is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana. He and his wife Catherine have been attending Assumption since they moved to Chicago in June of 2022. Their first child, Anthony, was baptized at Assumption. When he's not spending time with his family, he loves cycling and competing in triathlons. He is excited to continue connecting with fellow parishioners of Assumption and contributing to the parish as part of the council.



Albert Ferolie is an attorney specializing in general civil litigation who has been a solo practitioner in the West Loop since 1994. Born in Rockford, he's a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and John Marshall Law School (now UIC Law). Albert began attending Assumption Church shortly after he and his family moved downtown from Sauganash in 2014. Al is a lector at the 9 o'clock mass and was previously a member of the Parish Pastoral Council from 2018 to 2021. He often volunteers to feed the homeless through the Chicago Help Initiative at Catholic Charities.



Bob Gordon is fed and fulfilled by attending daily Mass at Assumption. He enjoys being part of this faith community where he receives Jesus in the Sacraments. He is also a Knight in the Knights of Columbus and volunteers with Big Shoulders. He is a graduate of Notre Dame and works in the financial services industry and also moonlights at NBC Sports. He can be found sitting near the statue of St. Patrick in church. Bob is usually praying for Notre Dame, the White Sox, and the Bears ... it's full-time work, but a labor of love.



Bill Ladewski began attending Assumption shortly after moving to the River North neighborhood in 2003. He found it to be a vibrant and welcoming community and became a parishioner soon after. He looks forward to serving as a new member of the Parish Council. Most recently, Bill has participated in Assumption's Adult Catechism course led by Deacon Kevin, and also the varied Bible study courses led by Assumption leaders. Professionally he works in the association management industry and currently serves as executive director for a national professional association.



Matthew Lee Own has been a parishioner at Assumption for the past three years. He was born in a suburb of Atlanta and came to the city to study law at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. After graduating, Matthew clerked for a justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court for two years before returning to Chicago to begin a career in private practice. He currently works as a litigation attorney focusing on complex commercial litigation and insurance coverage. Outside of the courtroom, he can be found enjoying the sights, sounds and atmosphere of downtown Chicago and is always eager to learn something new about the city. A resident of River North, he attends the Sunday 9am Mass serving as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Usher. He is honored to be part of the Parish Pastoral Council, meeting the larger Assumption community, and serving the needs of the Parish.



Turn over for more!

Assumption Parish Pastoral Council (2025/2026)

Page 2



Jola Oliver became a parishioner at Assumption in March of 2024. She was actively involved in her previous parish leading the Evangelization team and being part of the Pastoral Council, as well as leading scripture studies. Jola is a consumer insights director and strategic leader who uses data driven processes to bring insights to help organizations get closer to their customers. She loves to invite and engage parishioners to learn about Christ and develop a deep relationship with Him, and to share her joy with others. She is happy to be a part of the Parish Pastoral Council and to serve the lovely people at Assumption Church.



Conora Shaw is a Chicago native and mother to two children. She came to Assumption through prayer in 2023, stayed due to the warm welcoming of the Parish, continued with RCIA (now OCIA) and was confirmed at Easter 2024. As her children witnessed Conora's joy they too decided to continue with OCIA for children and were confirmed at Easter 2025. Conora has a BA in Business Administration with a Concentration in Accounting and a Minor in Psychology from East West University. She is currently working as a Consolidated Plan Manager for Illinois. She enjoys vibrant colors, advocating for children, spending time with Seniors, all things dealing with water, traveling, live music, and laughter. You can find Conora volunteering in various roles around the Parish. She is honored to be a part of the Parish Pastoral Council and excited to serve while meeting more of the Assumption Community.



Luca Ripani enters his second year on the PPC after being a parishioner at Assumption since 2019. A lifelong resident of Chicagoland, Luca first moved to River North before attending the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 2023. After a post-grad stint in Washington, DC, Luca returned to Chicago in 2024 to work for the Chicago government. He has worked for various Aldermen and always loves to talk Chicago politics. Elsewhere around Assumption, Luca also taught the OCIA youth classes for children this past year. In his free time, he loves cheering on his beloved Fighting Irish, and is also a docent at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture on the southwest side. Luca is looking forward to continuing his work on the Council and making Assumption a beacon of Catholic tradition and Christ's teaching in River North.



Adam White is from Dayton, Ohio and moved to Chicago four years ago and began going to Assumption shortly after. He graduated from the University of Louisville with a BSBA in Accountancy and currently works for BDO USA as a Tax Accountant. When he isn't crunching numbers, he enjoys watching NFL games, cheering on Notre Dame football, playing golf, tennis, pickleball and spending time with his girlfriend Keit. He currently assists with Saturday sandwiches every month and goes to a majority of the social events throughout the year at the parish. Adam is extremely grateful and excited to be a part of the Parish Pastoral Council and looks forward to serving and meeting new people at Assumption.

