

# ASSUMPTION CHURCH

## *Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024*

323 West Illinois Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
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[www.assumption-chgo.org](http://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)

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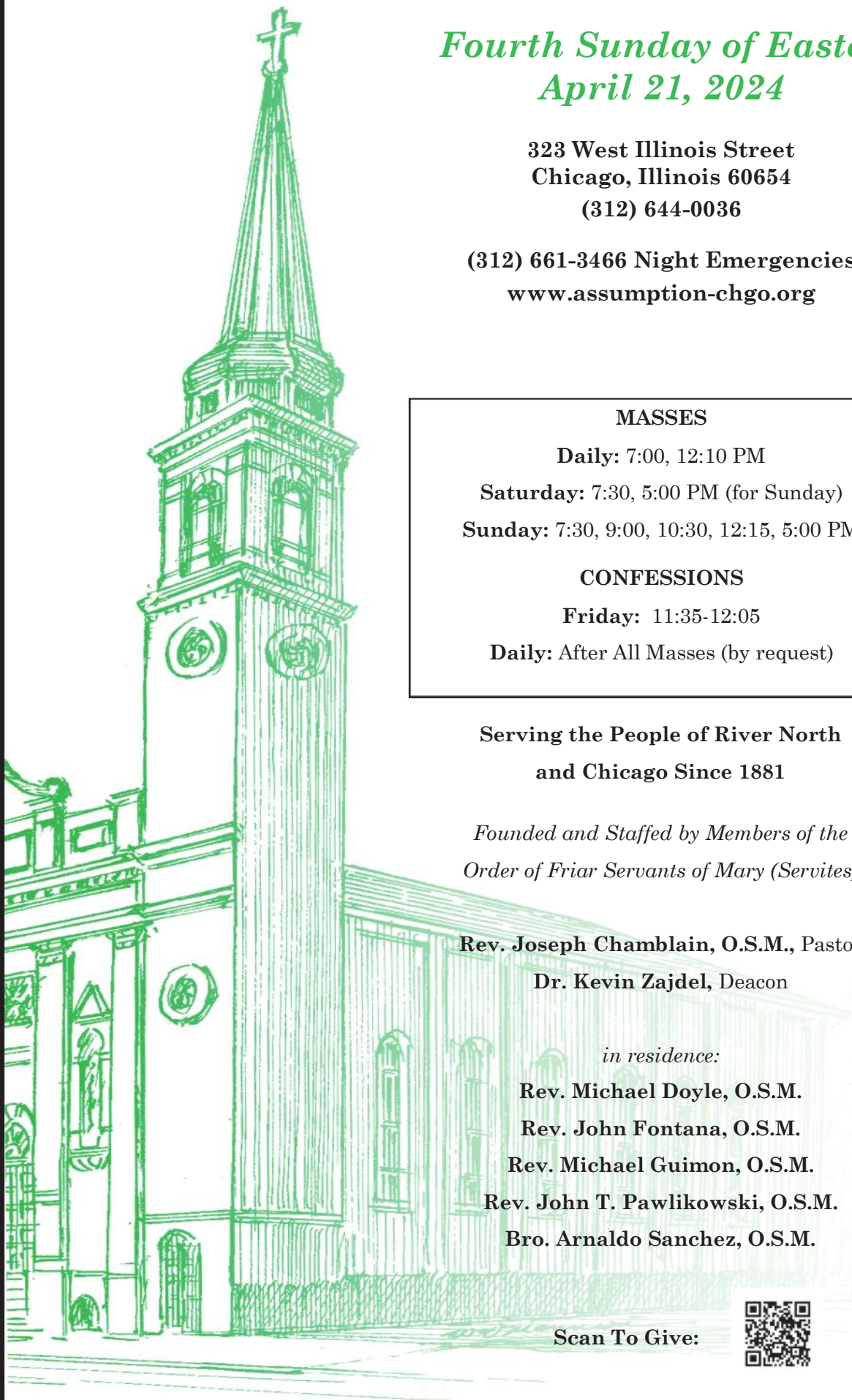
*Founded and Staffed by Members of the  
Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites)*

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

*in residence:*

Rev. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.  
Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.  
Rev. Michael Guimon, O.S.M.  
Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.  
Bro. Arnaldo Sanchez, O.S.M.

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April 21, 2024

## LIFE THROUGH DARKENED GLASSES

Here is a real surprise. You can now purchase certified solar eclipse glasses for as little as \$7.00 on Amazon. Of course, you may not need to use them until 2045, when the next total eclipse occurs, but why wait until the very last minute? Yes, brothers and sisters, the solar eclipse came and went on April 8. The eclipse provided an economic boom for Southern Illinois, and, I suspect, for Amtrak, which runs three daily trains to Carbondale. Although Chicago was not in “the path of totality” (We only got 94% of it), plenty of people here stopped what they were doing to take a look at the sky with their specially prepared solar viewing devices. Our front yard proved to be a popular viewing location. I was surprised how bright it was during the eclipse, even with only 6% of the sun illuminating us. The sun is a bright bulb, no doubt about it.

From the very earliest days of recorded history, people have seen a religious or spiritual significance in such marvels in the sky. In many cultures the sun was one of the most important gods. So, any darkening of the sun was a bad omen. Two of the world’s most prominent religions have a total eclipse like phenomenon related to their founding. In Islam, the sky darkened when the Prophet Muhammed’s son died; and in the Gospels, the sky darkened as Jesus hung on the cross. Through the centuries Christian groups have interpreted a solar eclipse as sign of God’s judgment on the world or a sign of the impending rapture, when those who hold to right belief would be raptured out in advance of the final judgment. Among those who see an eclipse as sign of impending disaster is Anne Graham Lotz, the daughter of evangelist Billy Graham and herself a prolific author and speaker. However, she adds, “When you look at the world, you don’t need an eclipse to know that things are getting really dangerous. Maybe it’s telling us it’s time to get right with God and the people in our lives, so that we have no regrets.”

An article in *USA Today* quotes Pastor Eric Moffett of Coryell Community Church in Gatesville, TX, which was in the “path of totality” as saying, “An eclipse is yet another opportunity to witness the handiwork of God that exists in the universe. We aren’t looking for any omens in the cosmos, but we are using this as an opportunity to, for a little over four minutes, be reminded that we live in a world made by God and sustained by his love and goodness.”

A similar approach is taken by Catholic blogger, Tim Clark, who writes as a father of eight children. “Consider that a total solar eclipse is almost universally acknowledged to be one of the most incredibly beautiful sights in all of nature. But we must stop for a moment to consider the fact that, for this beauty to even be possible, the sun and the moon need to be precisely the same relative size in the sky. We might simply take for granted that a planet’s sun and moon are precisely proportionate to each other. However, there is no scientific explanation or necessity why this should be the case. Indeed, astronomers haven’t observed any examples of this type of perfect moon / sun relationship elsewhere in the observable universe. The official explanation is: there is no explanation; it’s just a very, very, lucky coincidence.

“I would rather believe that God simply never tires of ways of delighting us. Jesus tells us that we should become like little children. He further tells us that we are to be perfect, as his Father is perfect. It is the delightful things in nature like this that make me realize that God is, in a sense, most childlike. Children create little drawings or paintings and run to their parents exclaiming, ‘Look! Look at what I’ve made for you!’ God does the same. He took the entire universe and fashioned it in a way that we should find pleasing and beautiful. In doing so, he too exclaims, ‘Look! Look at what I’ve made for you.’”

So, regardless of whether one believes in God or not or attaches any specific religious meaning to an eclipse or not, this rare celestial wonder was something that caused millions of people to interrupt their routine for a few moments or for a few days, get out of their own little world, and look upward and outward, and think about this grand universe that exists outside of the tiny portion of it that we occupy. Looking at the bigger picture can trigger anything from a spiritual awakening to a deeper commitment to caring for the natural world, to an opportunity to emerge from our own personal darkness into a bright light. For people of faith, the eclipse reminds us how tiny we are, and yet how big a place we occupy in God’s heart.

Fr. Joe

**MISERICORDIA CANDY DAYS**

Misericordia provides a community of care for persons with mild to profound developmental disabilities, many of whom are also physically challenged. Over 600 children and adults call Misericordia “home”. Misericordia depends on private donations to maintain quality care. Please be generous to the volunteers who will be outside church April 27-28 for Misericordia Candy Days.

**ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE CHURCH**

Purchase an ad for your business or your favorite cause on the bulletin. We need a sufficient amount of advertising to obtain our printed bulletins free of charge. Bulletin ads also appear in the online version. Contact the parish office for more information.

**PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS**

Our Pastoral Council consists of nine members, who serve three-year terms. Since members cannot succeed themselves, each year we add at least three new members. This year we will be looking for four, three for a three-year term and one to complete the term of one member who resigned after one year. We will be taking nominations in church beginning this weekend April 20-21. The deadline for nominations is Monday, May 6. You may nominate yourself or another parishioner. Nomination cards are in the back of church. You may also nominate someone on line, by emailing [parishcouncil@assumption-chgo.org](mailto:parishcouncil@assumption-chgo.org). Those who are nominated will be asked to attend an information session on Zoom on either Wednesday, May 8 or Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00pm. Those who choose to continue with the process must attend the Evening of Discernment at the Rectory on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00pm.

**OUR ADOPTED FAMILY**

Our Refugee Assistance Group has adopted a family newly arrived from Mexico. It is a single mother with six children. They are here as humanitarian parolees, because one son, who is four, is undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia. Assumption is paying this next year’s rent for the family. To donate to our Refugee Fund, go to GiveCentral and select Project Refugee or send a clearly marked check to the Parish Office.

**BAPTISMS:**

**ANTHONY RUSSELL CHAPMAN**



**HYMNS:** #213, #470, #570

**ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS**

As part of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, Chicago will host a special event for young adults Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. The event will include Mass at 6:30pm at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church (1429 W Wellington), followed by a Eucharistic procession around the block and a social. Contact Rebecca Siar ([rsiar@archchicago.org](mailto:rsiar@archchicago.org)) with questions.

**MARRIED COUPLES EVENT**

A thank you to Cathy Cahill, Anne Remien, and Jonathan Davis, who prepared a bountiful brunch for our celebration of married couples on Saturday, April 13. Thanks to Fr. John Fontana who gave a presentation to couples married less than five years. We were happy to welcome sixteen couples who returned to Assumption to renew their wedding vows at Mass.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Saturday, May 4 is the Feast of St. Peregrine, a fourteenth century Servite Friar, who was miraculously healed of cancer, after spending all night before an image of Christ crucified. He is the patron saint of those living with cancer, and devotions in honor of St. Peregrine take place after the 12:10 Mass on Mondays. In honor of St. Peregrine, we will offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of Sick during the 7:30am Mass on May 4. This Sacrament is for those whose lives are at risk because of age or illness.

**WEDDINGS:**

**DREW JASKOLSKI & NATALIE COSTELLO  
LUKE CHAFFIN & KERRY BRENNAN**

**PRAY FOR THEM:** Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Rosemary Reeves, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Wanda Escher, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Rich DiVito, Julie Villarreal, Carolina Gomez, Jason Blick, John Graff, Frank Ragase, Steve Meyers, Michael Hantsch, Katie Graff, Elizabeth McKiernan, Willie & Mary Priego

**MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF APRIL 20, 2024**

Sat.	20th	5:00	Inez Carlson (b’day)
Sun.	21st	7:30	Anthony Dombrow
		9:00	Dave McCarthy & Robert Raddatz (RIP)
		10:30	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		12:15	Assumption Parishioners
Mon.	22nd	7:00	John C. Horner, Jr. (RIP)
Wed.	24th	7:00	Special Intention
Thurs.	25th	7:00	John C. Horner, Jr. (RIP)
Fri.	26th	7:00	Bernadette McDonnel (b’day)
Sat.	27th	7:30	Robin L. Brown & Dorothy R. Ransom



**EARTH DAY 2024:** Earth Day is Monday, April 22. Don't forget to show Mother Earth some love.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday, May 13 from 7:00 to 8:15pm in the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for those who have never before attended a preparation session. It is not necessary to wait until the baby is born to attend. Call the parish office to register. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15pm and on the first weekend of the month during Mass.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Upcoming events at Assumption that you won't want to miss!

- ◆ May 19 - Ice Cream Social
- ◆ August 18 - Assumption Feast Day Event in the Garden
- ◆ November 7 - Italian Dinner

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** It's the 21st century way to support your church. Go to our homepage ([assumption-chgo.org](http://assumption-chgo.org)) and click on DONATE. That will take you to GiveCentral, where you can set up your giving profile. Then a designated amount will be transferred from your bank account or charged to your credit card each week.

**USING UP THE PLASTIC:** For the sake of the environment, we are trying to phase out the use of plastic goods at our parish events. Please allow the Parish Office to purchase these things (plates, cups, utensils) in the future. We can save money by buying in quantity, and help save the earth at the same time.

**HELP SAVE GOD'S CREATION**  
Please see the **Laudato Si'** and **Me** section of Assumption's website ([assumption-chgo.org](http://assumption-chgo.org)) for practical ideas and helpful links.




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



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




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