

# ASSUMPTION CHURCH

## *Sixth Sunday of Easter* *May 5, 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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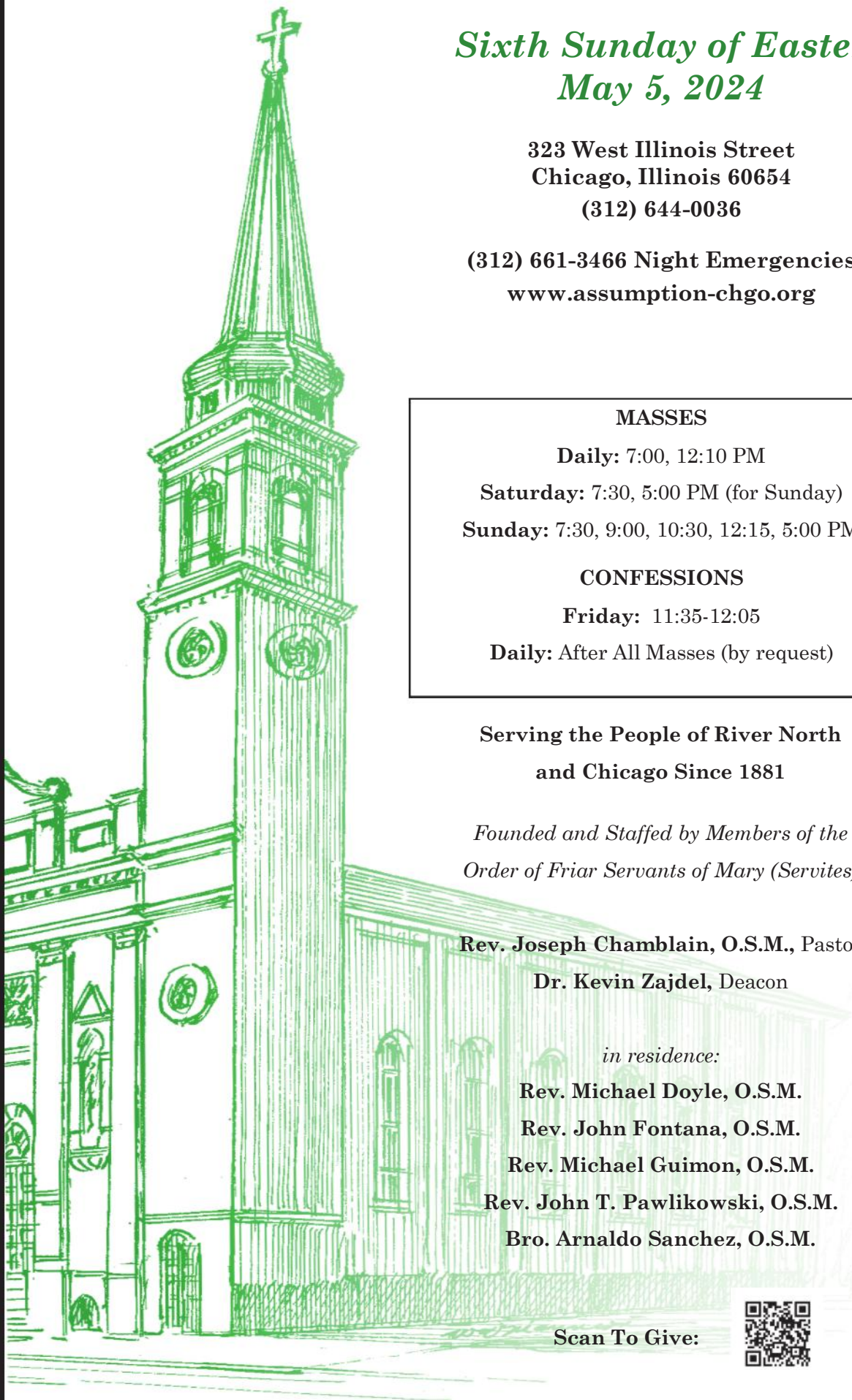
*Founded and Staffed by Members of the  
Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites)*

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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May 5, 2024

## CELEBRATING MARY'S MONTH

Those of us of a certain age likely learned in the first grade in our Catholic school that May is Mary's month. I was not a curious kid; so, it never occurred to me to ask why that was true. What was important was that when you got to Mary's month, the school year was almost over. A May altar was set up in our classroom, and we were encouraged to bring flowers from home to embellish it. With fifty plus students in the classroom and Memphis flowers in full bloom by May 1, the statue of Mary was engulfed in flowers of every sort. The other upside of May being Mary's month was the May procession and the May crowning. This was a complex operation with many moving parts. The main point, as far as most of us were concerned, was that all those moving parts took time away from boring classroom lessons. One of the eighth-grade girls was elected to crown the statue of Mary. Being elected May Queen in your school was only one step below the summit of Memphis royalty, being Queen of the Cotton Carnival. (For that you had to be from a socially prominent family, and we didn't have any of those). All of us had to rehearse the hymns and practice for the procession, since our mothers would be attending the May procession and crowning. There was also a prayer of dedication to Mary that the upper grades recited. It began with "O august and blessed Virgin Mary" and we had to be reminded each year that the accent was on the last syllable of august and not on the first. Once again, I wasn't a curious kid; so I never wondered what "august" actually meant. I presumed I was saying something complimentary about Mary.

So, why was May dedicated to Mary? A little research shows that the tradition of calling May the Month of Mary goes back to the thirteenth century. It was partly an attempt by the church to eradicate lingering customs from Greek and Roman times. In ancient Greece, the month of May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fertility and childbirth. In ancient Rome the month of May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of flowers and blossoms. Festivals connected with Artemis and Flora were still popular in some places in Europe. Instead of trying to force people to give up their festivals because of their pagan origins (which would have been immensely unpopular) the church encouraged them to transfer this devotion to Mary, who, after all, gave birth to the one who brought new life to us all. Mary was already immensely popular as a model and intercessor, so dedicating May to Mary, incorporating some of the popular customs, was not a difficult transition to accomplish.

May crownings, May processions, Marian hymns, and devotion to Mary in general, along with many other Catholic traditions were shoved aside in the late 1960's and early 1970's during a time of great change in society and a renewed emphasis on the centrality of the Mass. Some feel a nostalgia today for the comfort these devotions brought us. And they have made a comeback to some degree. We are planning to crown our outdoor statue of Mary on Pentecost Sunday. However, if Mary is to play a significant role in the Church today, we need to look forward and not just backward. How might these devotions from the mid-twentieth century find new meaning today?

An obvious place to start is with Pope Francis' persistent teaching that Catholics must take an active role in preserving and caring for our planet. May devotions always witnessed to the wonder of God's creation and the many varieties of flowers and plants that beautify our world. In the past, it was easy to assume that the flowers that decorated our May altars would always be with us. Now we know that this might not always be the case. Might we honor Mary during May by bringing to consciousness a greater respect for God's creation? And since Mary is the mother of the author of all life, might we not also honor Mary during May by prayer and action on behalf of the most vulnerable among us—those who are not yet born, those who at the end of their life are increasingly regarded as expendable, and our youth at risk from gun violence? While politicians continue to debate the future of Eastern Europe and the Middle East, thousands and thousands of people (including thousands of children) are being killed in wars that offer no sign of coming to an end. May devotions were always a celebration of life. Honoring Mary in May takes on a new relevance in a world so full of death. And, finally, as we seek to renew the missionary spirit of the early Christian community, we can look to Mary, who, as soon as she received the Good News from the Angel Gabriel, set out on an arduous journey to share that good news with her kinswoman. Mary did not deliver a sermon. She simply glowed with the greatness of God. Inspired by Mary, might we not also make more of an effort to share our faith and our experience of the Lord when the opportunity presents itself? Mary was given to us as our mother. What might our mother be asking of us today?

Fr. Joe

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

May 19, Pentecost, is the birthday of the church. How better to celebrate a birthday than with ice cream! Come to the Ice Cream Social in the Garden following the 9:00, 10:30, and 12:15 Masses. We will honor Mary with a May Crowning in the Garden following the 10:30 Mass.

**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 a member's term. We are now accepting nominations. The deadline 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.

**ROSARY GROUP STARTING**

The Servite Secular Order & the Knights of Columbus are uniting forces to pray the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows for the intentions of the parish and for world peace. Join them on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 11:40am beginning Pentecost, May 19. Rosaries will be provided. For more info, contact Mary Ann Andersen at [maandersen.ossm@gmail.com](mailto:maandersen.ossm@gmail.com).

**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 prep session. It is not necessary to wait until the baby is born. 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.

**HYMNS:** #338, #487, #200

**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

**MOTHER'S DAY COLLECTION**

On Mother's Day weekend, May 11-12, we will take up a second collection for Catholic Charities, in support of their work for mothers and children in Cook and Lake Counties. From mothers in need of food, to pregnant adolescent mothers in need of guidance, to wounded mothers in need of refuge from domestic violence, Catholic Charities, among the largest private charitable organizations in the country, is here to serve and accompany them. Please be generous.

**HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**

The Pastoral Council is hosting Hospitality Sunday on May 5, following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses. Plan on hanging around in the Parish Hall this Sunday, munch on tantalizing treats, and enjoy great conversation with the members of the Pastoral Council and other coffee drinkers.



**GARDEN CLUB ALERT**

Do you still like to play in the dirt? Do you have a green thumb? Do you find gardening therapeutic? Are you a patriotic Chicagoan who believes our city's motto, "City in a Garden"? Is God calling you to help others appreciate the beauty of creation? All of these are good reasons for joining the Garden Club. But you do not even need a reason. If you are

interested in being part of this year's team, contact [jeannesowa@comcoast.net](mailto:jeannesowa@comcoast.net).

**BAPTISMS:**

**FREDRICK GUENTHER FRANK**

**WEDDINGS:**

**THOMAS CRANE & BRITTANY MEAD  
DAVID KRZEPICKI & KOURTNEY O'BRIEN**

**MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF MAY 4, 2024**

Sat.	4th	5:00	Valentina Hallihan (RIP)
Sun.	5th	7:30	Mari Egan (RIP)
		9:00	Assumption Parishioners
		12:15	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		5:00	Dorothy Brennan (RIP)
Mon.	6th	7:00	Brian Leonard, Jr. (RIP)
Tues.	7th	7:00	Hans Aeschbacher (RIP)
		12:10	Special Intention
Wed.	8th	7:00	Lisa Lopez (RIP)
Thurs.	9th	7:00	Special Intention
Fri.	10th	7:00	Jose DeLeon (RIP)
		12:10	Patrick & Allison Reisch
Sat.	11th	7:30	Lillian Pusateri (RIP)

**CARE OF CREATION:** You are cordially invited to Holy Name Cathedral to join other Christians and their representatives for an Ecumenical Service and reception celebrating the installation of the Chicagoland Christians United for the Care of Creation Declaration. The Service is at 7:00pm Saturday, May 18. Free Parking in the Holy Name parking garage (entrance on Superior).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

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

**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 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.



**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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