

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday In Ordinary Time July 27, 2025

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. Michael Guimon, O.S.M.
Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.



Scan To Give

GOING NOWHERE SLOWLY

(While I am out of the country on Servite business, I am repeating several columns from the past. This column was in the bulletin of October 15, 2017)

During the 1990's, Assumption's former pastor Fr. Gus Kulbis and I took a number of train trips in Canada, spending nights along the way in towns like Le Pas, Churchill, Prince Rupert, and Cranberry Portage. One journey that we never got to make, though, was a 14 hour ride in a remote section of northeast Quebec. Fr. Gus once described this trip to another friar: "You have to go to the end of nowhere to catch the train. You ride it all day. And then when you get there, you still aren't anywhere."

In that same spirit, during a ten day vacation in southern Colorado, I managed to schedule three train trips that allowed me to go nowhere. One went from Canon City to Parkland through the Royal Gorge, another from Leadville to Climax, and a third from Antonito to Chama. These short segments I was able to ride are remnants of the vast rail network that once served every nook and cranny of Colorado. Each of them carried me through areas of startling beauty, squeezing through mountains and canyons still inaccessible to cars. In late September the aspens were a blanket of gold against the evergreens and the mountains were capped by the season's first snowfall. The Antonito to Chama train was pulled by a hundred year old steam engine, and it was simply delightful standing out on the open platform, smelling the cinders, listening to the steam whistle, and taking in the mountains. This tame and docile scene today is a far cry from the rough and tumble beginnings of these three lines. With 1870's technology, it was impossible for railroads to bore through the front range of the Rocky Mountains due west of Denver; but a hundred miles south of Denver, there was a narrow pass through the Rockies carved by the Arkansas River. At its steepest and narrowest point just west of Canon City, the canyon is over 1,200 feet deep and only thirty feet wide. To construct a rail line through this gorge, it was necessary to build it on brackets out over the river, bracing the structure against the opposite side of the Royal Gorge. In the 1920's advancing technology finally made it possible to tunnel through the mountains west from Denver. Today the Royal Gorge route is largely abandoned save for this small section through the Gorge itself. President Roosevelt rode the train through the Royal Gorge in 1905 and described it as "the trip that bankrupts the English language."

Further to the south, along the Colorado-New Mexico border, the Rio Grande built a line to serve the many mining communities springing up in the San Juan Mountains. Here and elsewhere in Colorado where building a rail line involved carving shelves on the side of a mountain, the lines were narrow gauge. A narrower track was not only easier to build but also allowed for sharper curves. The surviving 64 mile section of the line that once west from Alamosa all the way west to Durango twists and turns through the mountains, crossing the state line a dozen times.

Leadville, at over 10,000 feet above sea level, still looks like a mining town. Streets fan out in random directions with most homes simply plopped down next to the sidewalk. In a city where winter lasts for nine months, who cares about a front yard? Leadville only has about 2,000 residents today; but in its heyday it rivaled Denver as the most important city in Colorado and was a serious contender to become the state capital. Three narrow gauge rail lines managed to reach Leadville. A section of just one of them, the Denver, South Park, and Pacific, survives. One can only imagine the grueling conditions under which laborers worked to build this line up from Denver, through Breckenridge, crossing the continental divide twice, and rising another mile above the Mile High City to reach Leadville. Yet once upon a time Silver Kings could board a mahogany paneled Pullman in Leadville in the evening, crawl into bed, and awaken refreshed the next morning in Denver. The curves were so sharp and grades so steep, that it took the train over ten hours to make the 150 mile journey to Denver.

Nineteenth century rail builders took great risks in building these lines, realizing that there were enormous profits to be made from these mining communities. But we can also point to many saints in our tradition who took even greater risks for the reign of God. St. Frances Cabrini, for example, who founded our parish school, managed to overcome obstacles even greater than mountains in establishing more than 60 hospitals, orphanages, and schools. Cardinal Cupich has challenged the Church of Chicago to think big as we try to reclaim our relevance in a secular society. In its own way, that might be an even greater challenge than the physical obstacles faced by the nineteenth century founders of our parish and school. All Aboard!

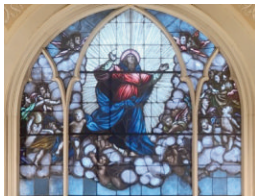
Fr. Joe

FEAST DAY PICNIC

Hot dogs and chips! Brats and Beers! Come celebrate Assumption's Feast Day with parishioners and friends. The date is Sunday August 10 (five days before the Feast of Assumption) from 1:15 to 3:30. Enjoy dogs or brats with all the fixings, chips, beer or soda, and cookies—all for \$10 per person. Children under five eat free. Church tours will be offered at 2:00 and 2:30pm. Parking is free at 311 or MartParc (with validation). Call the parish office or respond through the link on the website to buy tickets. Help celebrate Assumption's 144 years of service to the people of Chicago and River North.

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE GROUP

Assumption's Refugee Assistance Group has helped support several refugee families from other nations. Most recently they have been assisting a large Mexican family who are in Chicago as humanitarian refugees, as one of their children undergoes treatment at Lurie Children's Hospital. Donations can be made to "Project Refugee." To become personally involved, email refugee@assumption-chgo.org.



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On Friday August 15 we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption, our parish feast day and a holy day of obligation. We celebrate as an article of faith that at the end of her earthly life, Mary was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory, the first among us to share fully in Christ's redemptive act. Masses on August 15 will be at 7:00am, 12:10pm, and 6:00pm.

THIS WEEKEND

Fr. Sebastian Mulu, O.S.M., a member of the Servite Vocation Team, will speak at all weekend Masses on the vocation to Religious Life and its special role in the life of the Church.



BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday August 4 from 7:00 to 8:15pm at the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for parents who have never attended a preparation session. Call the parish office to register. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15pm and during Mass on the first weekend of the month.



WELCOMING NEW CATHOLICS

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the official name for the process of becoming Catholic for those who were baptized in another Christian faith and want to explore becoming Catholic and for adults who were never baptized. It is also for baptized Catholics who never made their first communion and confirmation. It is a group experience that runs from September to May. This year we will also run a special OCIA group for those 8 to 18. There will be an information session about OCIA Sunday, August 24 at 11:30 in the Rectory.

WHAT IS ALPHA?

Alpha is a series of videos and guided discussions that help cradle Catholics live and share their faith in a more intentional way, help those who have become alienated from church or religion to find their way back, and help those who have no experience of faith or church to address some basic questions about life. Alpha is an opportunity to ask questions or express your truth in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Our next Alpha series begins Thursday September 18. Consider coming yourself and invite a friend or family member who is not an active church member to come with you. For more information or to sign up, email alpha@assumption-chgo.org.



HYMNS: #212, #477, #203 (except 5pm Sunday)

WEDDINGS:

DANIEL BEESE & EMMA WOZNIAK
JOSEPH FONTANA & EMILY BURDA

PRAY FOR THEM: Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Mike Foster, and Mary Ann Kevin

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF JULY 26, 2025

Sat	26th	5:00 † Mary Guthrie
Sun	27th	7:30 Assumption Parishioners
		9:00 The Dubuque Family
		10:30 † Charles & Marion Joachim
		12:15 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
Mon	28th	7:00 † Jim Irsay
		12:10 † Araceli Almaraz
Tues	29th	7:00 † Dr. & Mrs. Theodore J. Dubuque, Jr.
Wed	30th	7:00 Pope Leo XIV
Thurs	31st	7:00 Special Intention
Sat	2nd	7:30 The Dubuque Family

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ♦ August 10 - Anniversary Picnic (dogs, brats, and beer) *(following the 12:15 Mass)*
- ♦ October 30 - Italian Dinner at Coco Pazzo

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP: A new group has formed at Assumption for families with children under the age of ten. Children share playground time while the parents talk. For more information, email ayf@assumption-chgo.org.

NOW STREAMING—RECENT HOMILIES: You can now listen to podcasts of homilies from the 9:00am Mass. Visit our website and click on the title that inspires you.

WERE YOU MARRIED IN 1975? If so, you are celebrating your golden anniversary this year. The annual Golden Anniversary Mass will take place at Holy Name Cathedral (735 North State) on Sunday September 14 at 2:30pm. During the Mass, couples will be invited to renew their marriage vows and tie the knot a little tighter. To register, go to pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding.

NOT YET REGISTERED IN THE PARISH? We'd love to have you as an official member of the family! Go to our homepage (assumption-chgo.org) and click "Register" or fill out a paper form in the back of church and return it.

<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. 630-261-0400</p>	
 <p><i>Coco Pazzo</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® You can help change a life. Fund a scholarship today!</p> <p>Scan here to donate</p>   <p>bigshouldersfund.org</p>	<p>#ThankYou ForYour Priesthood</p>	<p>ADVERTISE HERE</p> <p>Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.</p> <p>Give us a call! 800-783-1623</p>	
<p>Ed the Plumber Ed the Carpenter 773.471.1444 Best Work • Best Rates PARISHIONER DISCOUNT</p>	<p>catholicmatch® Illinois CatholicMatch.com/golL</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services * Closest Location to Assumption with Supervised Parking Available

