

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time August 3, 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)*

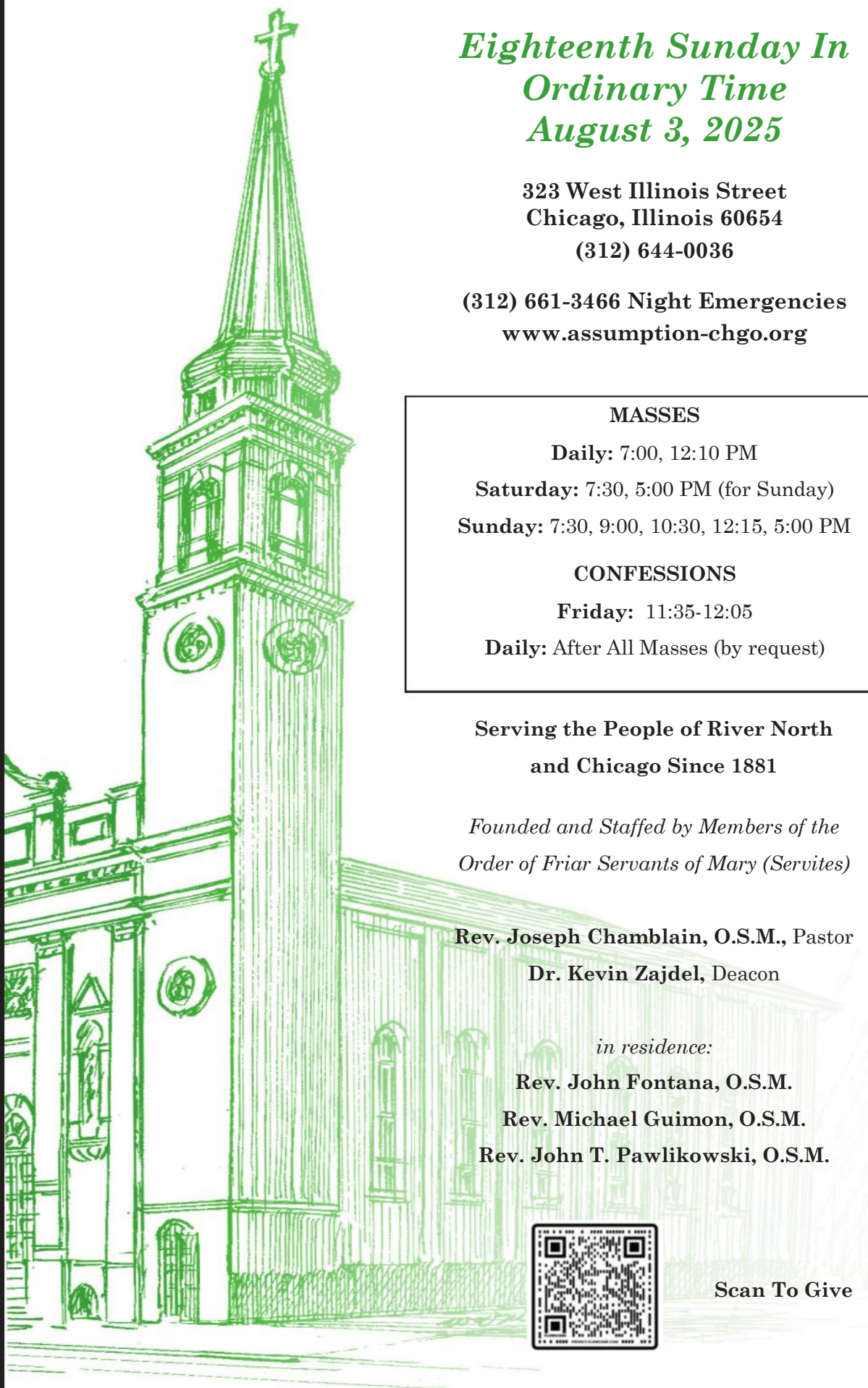
Rev. Joseph Chamblain, O.S.M., Pastor
Dr. Kevin Zajdel, Deacon

in residence:

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



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CHASING “THE WORLD’S LARGEST”

(While I am overseas on Servite business, I am rerunning several columns from the past. This column appeared in the bulletin of June 9, 2013).

My father, who was an artist, once told me, “If you can’t make it pretty, then make it big and gold.” Maybe a corollary to that principle is “If you can’t make it big and gold, then just make it big.” After all, the United States is a country that likes big things. To anyone who doubts that statement, I refer them to a website I stumbled across called World’s Largest Things, which claims to offer the world’s largest list of the world’s largest things in the United States (Never mind other countries: If it is the world’s largest, then it has to be in the United States). There are hundreds of these landmarks on the list, all personally visited by the site’s webmaster. Since we are in the heart of the vacation season, it would be easy to draw up an itinerary for a summer road trip organized around visiting oversized things.

One might start in suburban Chicago at the world’s largest milk bottle in Libertyville, then go south through Indiana, visiting the world’s largest stump in Kokomo, head into Kentucky to see the world’s largest Dixie cup in Lexington, then continue on to my home state of Tennessee to gaze upon the world’s largest catfish in Paris. Heading west through Arkansas, one could visit the world’s largest can of spinach in Alma and the world’s largest charcoal grill in Magnolia. Passing through Oklahoma, there would need to be a stop at the world’s largest bottle of hair tonic (Tulsa) and the world’s largest beaver holding a cow chip (Beaver)—though I do not know if there would be a lot of competitors in that last category.

Such a road trip would have to include Texas, the largest of our contiguous states. Of the many possibilities in Texas, one might see the world’s largest mosquito (Clute), rattle snake (Freer), fire hydrant (Beaumont), and mule shoe (Muleshoe). In Albuquerque, NM one could pause and refresh at the world’s largest scales of justice, which also doubles as a water fountain. The golden state of California is literally a gold mine of world’s largest things. There is the world’s largest thermometer (Baker), sack of cement (Colton), donut hole (La Puente) and bulldozer (Turlock). In Chico, at the National Yo-Yo Museum, one can find the world’s largest working yo-yo. However, weighing in at 250 pounds and containing 75 feet of string, I am not sure who could work it. Heading back to Chicago, who would not want to stop and gaze upon the world’s largest ball of twine in Cawker City, KS, which if unwound would stretch 1,325 miles. After such a driving marathon, anyone would surely be ready for a good night’s sleep. And, believe it or not, there is a “world’s largest” for that too. In tiny Sumner, Missouri, the wild goose capital of the world, the world’s largest wild goose doubles as the town’s motel room. One can spend the night inside the goose for only \$10 (\$15 with the electricity turned on).

I suspect that anyone who actually attempted such a road trip would not be interested in big things for a long time afterward. In fact, on such a trip one might even develop a deeper appreciation for Jesus, who spent his time calling our attention to little things and ministering to the little ones, those who are often overlooked or marginalized. When he spoke about his vision, which he called the Kingdom of God, he compared it to a woman kneading a little yeast into the dough and impacting the whole loaf or a mustard seed, among the tiniest of seeds, planted in the earth. That mustard seed, he says, can grow into “the largest of shrubs.” But it is still just a shrub. The mustard tree is still puny compared to the cedars of Lebanon of Jesus’ time or the giant redwoods of our west coast. Jesus’ point seems to be that our job as his followers is not so much to tower over everything as to mix in with it, not so much to control and dominate as to influence from within. His kingdom does not so much depend on a few big people but on a lot of little people who persist in doing the right thing. In our time, when the Catholic Church has been humbled by its own sins and failings, when few religious bodies of any sort have much influence on legislation or government policy, and when most all churches are hemorrhaging members, it might be good to remember that Jesus did not necessarily envision his followers forming the “the world’s largest” anything. He did, however, expect us to make a difference.

It is not hard to see a pattern in “the world’s largest” compendium. Most of these world’s largests are found in small towns or other communities far from the tourist trail. Having the world’s largest of something is a way of getting “on the map.” As followers of Jesus, we have a different way of getting on the map. It is through works of charity, justice, and obedience.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend we will take up our monthly collection for Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.

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.



HYMNS: #525, #364, #576 (except 5pm Sunday)



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? (It starts on Sept 25)

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 25 (not Sept 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.

WEDDINGS:

DANIEL BEESE & EMMA WOZNIAK
JOSEPH FONTANA & EMILY BURDA
CARL-PHILIP MAJGAARD & ALLYSON VANEK
OWEN MELIA & KATHERINE KARNOSH

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 AUGUST 2, 2025

Sat	2nd	5:00 Assumption Parishioners
Sun	3rd	7:30 The Dubuque Family
		9:00 † Margaret Munster
		10:30 † Fr. Michael Doyle, OSM
		12:15 † John McEneaney
		5:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
Mon	4th	12:10 † Barbara O'Brien
Tues	5th	7:00 † Scott Attar
Wed	6th	12:10 The Dubuque Family
Thurs	7th	7:00 † Bernard Karik
		12:10 † John McEneaney
Fri	8th	12:10 † Pope Francis
Sat	9th	7:30 The Priests & People of Assumption

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.

ON-LINE GIVING: It is the twenty-first century way to support your church. Click on-line giving on our homepage (assumption-chgo.org) and set up your giving plan on Breeze. Weekly donations and special collection offerings will be automatically charged to your credit card or transferred electronically from your bank account. Payments can be made for special events, weddings, and special causes on-line too.

ROSARY OF THE SEVEN SORROWS: We pray the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:40am. All are welcome. Rosaries are provided.

<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 cocopazzoichicago.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>
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