

ASSUMPTION CHURCH

The Epiphany of the Lord *January, 4, 2026*

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. John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.



Scan To Give

ACCEPTING THE INVITATION

Merry Christmas! Maybe no one has said that to you in a while (Maybe no one has said Happy New Year to you in a while either!); but we are still very deep in the Christmas Season. I have sometimes heard the Feast of the Epiphany referred to as “Little Christmas.” If anything, the Epiphany should be called “Big Christmas.” When the angels proclaimed “glad tidings of great joy for all the people,” they really meant all of the people—not just the people of the promise or people who were habitually devout and holy. The word “epiphany” means a “bursting forth”. What was revealed to a small group of people on Christmas is meant for the whole world. When Christ came, it was an explosion so massive that it demolished the walls that we try to erect to keep people apart. The Magi, who are Gentiles and who come from a foreign country to worship Christ, offer the first concrete evidence that the love, compassion, and saving grace that Christ brought really was meant for everybody. Of course, just because everyone is invited does not mean that everyone wants to come. That is, in fact, a persistent theme in Jesus’ parables. The Gospel for today’s feast about the visit of the Magi highlights three different ways that people of every generation have reacted to the news of Christ’s coming.

First, we have King Herod. The Magi show up in Jerusalem asking about a new born King of the Jews. But Herod IS the King of the Jews. He was installed as King with the help of the Roman Emperor and the Roman Legions. In truth he has no real claim on the title of King, and now his illegitimacy is being exposed. We know from many outside sources that Herod was cruel, paranoid, and an egomaniac; so, it is not surprising that he saw a defenseless child as a threat to his power. But Herod plays it cool. Even though he has no intention of letting Jesus into his life or changing his life in any way, he pretends to be very religious in front of the Magi. He expresses a desire to go worship the new King, only to use the information for his own purposes. Now, we do not have to be as cruel and paranoid and deceptive as Herod to respond to Christ’s coming in exactly the same way. When our life is all about us and our program for happiness, there is little room for Christ. Like Herod we may go through the motions of being religious. We may decorate and give gifts and celebrate with a meal and even go to Christmas Mass. But Christ is not the king we serve. We do not directly attempt to kill Christ as Herod did, but we do kill his spirit, his message, his love, and his vision for the world. By the empty witness we give the world, we can tarnish the name of Christian.

Then we have the chief priests, the scribes, and the scholars that Herod consults about this newborn King. They have no problem supplying the information that Herod needs: The Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem of Judea. However, with all their background and years of attention to the Hebrew Scriptures, they never set foot in search of Christ. They passed along the information, and then apparently went back to whatever they were doing. They knew about Jesus, but they never made an effort to get to know Jesus. Their faith was all in their heads. Once again, we do not have to be religious scholars to react just as they did. We can have an opinion about everything pertaining to religion: what the Pope should do, what the Church should do, what Jesus was really like, the role of religion in our secular culture, etc. But our knowledge, our information, our opinions never reach our heart or our hands or our feet. When we graduate from Catholic school, we also graduate from faith and religious practice. We never actually do anything with what we have been taught and what we believe to be true. We do not really desire to know Christ or to follow Christ. We just find his life and teaching really interesting.

Then finally we have the Magi themselves. They are variously described as magicians, wise men, kings, or astrologers. We really do not know who they were. What we do know is that they did not have the religious training of the scholars. We also know that they were not so full of themselves that they were no longer searching for truth. They were still seeking wisdom wherever it may be found. They were willing to set foot into the unknown and walk by faith into another country, guided only by a star. Finally, upon arrival, they prostrated themselves as an act of surrender and placed their gifts at the service of the newborn King. They truly put their heart, and their hands and their feet into the journey.

The moral of the story is: It does not matter where we start from. It is where we finish that matters. Will 2026 be the year we put more of our heart and our hands and our feet into following Christ? Can we be more welcoming of all our brothers and sisters this year?

Fr. Joe

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 18-25 is the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year's theme is "There is One Body and One Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Eph 4:4). Ecumenism Metro Chicago is sponsoring a special prayer service for Christian unity and care for God's creation on Saturday January 24 at 2:00pm at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 6700 West Diversey.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Ministry of Care training will be offered Saturday January 31 from 8:30 to 4:00pm at Advent Health LaGrange Hospital, 5101 Willow Springs Road in LaGrange. Lunch will be provided. Participants must be 18 years of age and have the support of their pastor. Topics will include the spirituality, theology, and rites of the Pastoral Care of the Sick. Contact Deacon Tom Carlson at tcarlson@archchicago.org or 630-746-8384 to register. This training is required for those who wish to bring communion to the sick at home or in hospitals.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

On the weekend of January 17-18, the Little Sisters of the Poor will visit Assumption to speak about their ministry to the elderly poor and to ask for your prayers and financial support. St. Mary's Home near DePaul University on the North Side is one of 362 homes operated by the Little Sisters in 32 countries around the world. Virtually all of the residents of St. Mary's Home qualify for Medicaid, but reimbursements and small pensions cover only about half of the annual expenses. Your support will help the Little Sisters continue their ministry of caring for the neediest seniors of every race and religion, as they have for 146 years in Chicago.



BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized will be Monday January 12 from 7:00 to 8:15pm. This session is for new parents and for parents who have never before attended a preparation session. Call the parish office to register. It is not necessary to wait until the baby is born to attend a preparation session. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15pm and on the first weekend during Mass.



THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we have our monthly collection for Our Lady of Sorrows Parish. Refreshments and conversation will be served in the Parish Hall following the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses.



STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are a registered member of the parish and would like to receive a statement of contributions for 2025, please call or email the Parish Office.

THE CATECHISM FOR ADULTS

Are you interested in learning more about your Catholic faith and how the Church guides us to live out this faith? Then you should consider being part of Deacon Kevin's next Adult Catechism group slated to begin Wednesday evening January 21. Using the foundational text, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, past participants have included long-time parishioners, those who recently completed the OCIA process, and anyone curious about exploring their Catholic faith in greater detail. Members support each other and grow in community as they grow in knowledge and understanding. Contact Deacon Kevin Zajdel at assumptiondeacon@gmail.com for more information.

HYMNS: #113, #117, #115, #105 (except 5pm Sunday)

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

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2026

Sat	3rd	5:00 † William Carlson (b'day)
Sun	4th	7:30 † Leo & Helen Dillon
		9:00 † Dorothy & Edward Brennan
		10:30 † Charles & Marion Joachim
		12:15 Assumption Parishioners
		5:00 † Frank & Mary Deneen
Mon	5th	7:00 Cannonito Family
		12:10 † Anne Konrad
Tues	6th	7:00 Conway Family
		12:10 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
Wed	7th	7:00 Clark Family
Thurs	8th	12:10 † Nick Rossas
Fri	9th	7:00 Hayes Family
Sat	10th	7:30 Dubuque Family

MINISTRY FAIR: On Valentine's Day weekend, Assumption will have a new-style Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall after all Masses. Show your love for your brothers and sisters in the parish community and the larger Chicago community by getting involved in one of our many ministries.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: In light of expanded Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in Chicago, it is important to know that, regardless of one's immigration status, all people are entitled to certain rights by the Constitution. If approached by an ICE agent, you have the right to remain silent and you do not have to sign any papers. If you are not being arrested or detained, you may walk away. ICE agents cannot search you or your home without your consent or a search warrant signed by a judge. You have the right to speak to an attorney and to have your lawyer with you at any hearing before an immigration judge.

GETTING MARRIED AT ASSUMPTION: It is not necessary to be a registered member at Assumption to have your wedding at Assumption. You do have to fulfill the requirements the Catholic Church has for marriage and participate in a marriage preparation program. For more information, see our website or contact the Parish Office.

ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS: AYA is for those in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They participate in a number of spiritual, social, and service activities during the year. Find out more by emailing assumptionaya@gmail.com.

<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>Cocopazzo</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>Big Shoulders Fund® It takes Big Shoulders to carry a child's dreams.</p>  <p>bigshouldersfund.org</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>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>EWTN.COM/RADIO EWTN Global Catholic Radio</p> 			
	<p>Michalik Funeral Home Family Owned & Operated Since 1929</p>		<p>1056 West Chicago Avenue (312) 421-0936 www.michalikfuneralhome.com</p>	<p>* Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services * <u>Closest Location to Assumption</u> with Supervised Parking Available</p>

