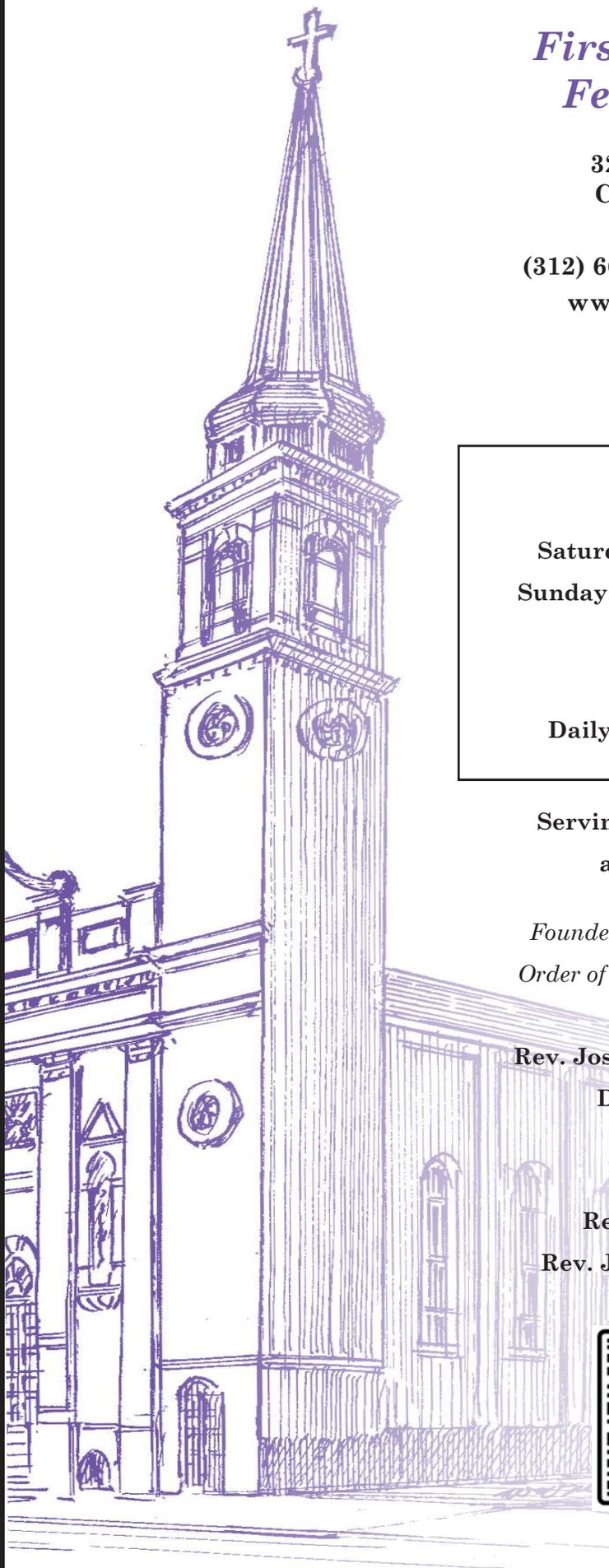


ASSUMPTION CHURCH



First Sunday of Lent February 22, 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

EVERY THIRD YEAR

Why are certain Scriptures read on certain Sundays? Except for a few minor revisions, the Readings that we have at Mass are from a Lectionary (literally, a book of readings) that was mandated for the whole Catholic Church by Pope Paul VI in 1971. The Lectionary follows a three-year cycle: the Gospels of Year A (which we are in now) are mostly taken from Matthew's Gospel; the Gospels for Year B from Mark; and the Gospels for Year C from Luke. While the Lectionary may have been put together in just a few years following the Second Vatican Council that called for a reform of the liturgy, the movement to open up the Bible to the Catholic faithful had been going on for decades. There had been a great reluctance on the part of Catholic leadership to encourage Catholics to read the Bible. This was partly due to the strong focus that many Protestant churches gave to reading the Bible. If Catholics started reading and interpreting the Bible for ourselves, would we all become Baptists? In a touch of irony, the Catholic cycle of Readings proved so popular that it was also adapted by many mainline Protestant churches. Go to a Lutheran Church or an Episcopal Church and you are likely to hear the same Scriptures you would hear at Assumption.

Prior to the present Lectionary there were only two readings at Sunday Mass and they were repeated every year. Most of the Gospels came from Matthew. Very rarely did we hear a Scripture from the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures. When Mass was in Latin, the Epistle and the Gospel were read or chanted at the altar, and then read again in English from the pulpit prior to the sermon. The cycle of Readings we now use at weekday Mass simply did not exist prior to 1971.

Though the Lectionary introduced in 1971 was revolutionary in its efforts to open up the Scriptures to the Catholic faithful, it still follows traditional patterns, especially during Lent. We continue to hear an account of the Temptations of Christ on the First Sunday of Lent, an account of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the Second Sunday, and an account of the Passion and Death of Christ on Palm Sunday, but only in Year A does that account come from the Gospel of Matthew. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Gospels vary greatly from year to year. But there is one exception, and here we really go "old School."

When I was in the seminary in the early 1980's, one of the new things being discussed was the RCIA (now OCIA). Instead of having adults who had not been baptized or people who wanted to become Catholic attend a "convert class" or receive individual instruction from a priest and then be baptized or received into the Church whenever they finished the textbook, RCIA would be a group experience centered around Easter, as it was in the early church. It would not be just about absorbing information but also on putting the Scriptures into practice and being integrated into the community. Because I had no experience with it, I found all the terminology (pre-catechumenate, catechumen vs candidate, rite of election, scrutiny) confusing, but when I encountered it in practice my first year after ordination, I quickly came to appreciate its value. Focusing adult initiation on Easter restored a deeper understanding of Lent, which had begun as a time of preparation for those preparing for baptism. Now as a community we accompany our catechumens and candidates on a Lenten journey of prayer, fasting, and charity.

Here is where we go "old school." Whenever there are adults preparing for baptism present at Sunday Mass, rituals called scrutinies (or calling down of the Holy Spirit) take place at Mass on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. At the Mass when scrutinies take place, Readings from Year A are always used, since they relate specifically to Baptism: the woman at the well who seeks living water, the man born blind who can see after washing in a pool of water, and the raising of Lazarus, since baptism is being born again. In two out of three years, the Gospels are different at the Mass when the scrutinies take place (typically the 10:30) than at the other Sunday Masses. This year, though, since we are in Year A, we will all hear these foundational Gospels relating to Baptism. This Lent offers us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our own baptism, our own calling to be a disciple of Christ, and our need for constant conversion, as we journey with and pray for those who will be born again at Easter.

Fr. Joe

EVENINGS OF FAITH

On the Wednesdays of Lent, there will be Mass at 6:00pm, followed by a meal in the Parish Hall and a presentation from 7:00 to 8:00pm.

Here is our program for this Lent:

- *Feb 25 - Evangelizing in an Interfaith Context (Dan Olsen)
- *Mar 4 - Spirituality: The Center of our Life (Fr John Fontana, OSM)
- *Mar 11 - Between Heaven and Earth (a film presentation)
- *Mar 18 - Come Back to Me With All Your Heart (Fr Ed Shea, OFM)
- *Mar 25 - Faith and Religion in the Age of A.I. (Dr. Joseph Vukov)

EVANGELIZING IN AN INTERFAITH CONTEXT

Catholics are increasingly encouraged to become “missionary disciples,” evangelizing those they meet in everyday life. What does evangelization, meaning the call to witness to the Good News of Christ, look like when encountering a Christian relative, friend, or even a spouse that is not Catholic? What should evangelization look like, and not look like, when speaking with a Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, or someone who professes no faith at all? How do Non-Christians view evangelization? Dr. Daniel Olsen, Director of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of Chicago, will give the first presentation in our Evenings of Faith Series, on Wednesday February 25 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Dr. Olsen will suggest how we can be committed to interreligious dialogue while still holding true to the mission Christ gave us.

Every Wednesday night in Lent, there will be Mass at 6:00pm, a Lenten meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30, and a presentation from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Reservations are required only for the meal and may be made by phone, by going to our website, or by signing the list in the back of church. The 311 Garage will be open on Wednesday evenings.

ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS

Assumption Young Adults is for those in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They sponsor a number of social, service, and spiritual activities during the year. AYA will gather for pizza and conversation following the 5:00pm Mass this Sunday, February 22. For more information, email assumptionaya@gmail.com.

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX

Like all parishes in the Archdiocese, Assumption is on a journey to know, love and serve Christ in a more intense way and to embrace Christ’s call to become missionary disciples. One step in the process is to assess our greatest strengths and opportunities for growth. That is where the Disciple Maker Index comes in. The DMI is a survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at Assumption and to help parish leadership make decisions about the future. This 20-minute survey may be completed online or on paper. All responses are confidential. Some of you will remember completing this survey three years ago. One of the goals is to see if our efforts to respond to our areas of weakness three years ago have made a difference.

LENTEN FISH FRY



Back by popular demand, his Lenten tradition returns to Assumption Friday March 13 from 5:00 to 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. \$30 per person (\$15 if you are under 12). Meal includes fish, sides, salad, dessert, and drink. The 311 Garage will be open. Reservations are necessary. Call the parish office (312-644-0036) or reserve and pay online (assumption-chgo.org).

HYMNS: #130, #664, #368, #125 (except 5pm Sunday)

WEDDINGS:
JOSEPH RUNNELLS & ANNA WARING

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, John Moery, Carlos Bastidas, and John O’Brien

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2026

Sat	21st	5:00	† Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
Sun	22nd	7:30	Assumption Parishioners
		9:00	† Daniel Schuman
		10:30	Jerry (†) and Pauline Kowalczyk
		12:15	Elaine Danchise
		5:00	† Antimo G. Candel
Mon	23rd	7:00	Joseph Compton
		12:10	† Dorothy Brennan
Tues	24th	7:00	Jose Chairez
		12:10	† John McKeon
Wed	25th	7:00	† Wilbur Wood
		12:10	† Rodrigo Jopson
		6:00	Sister Sally Stevens
Thurs	26th	7:00	† Gloria Lang
Fri	27th	12:10	† Lillian LaCrosse
Sat	28th	7:30	Dubuque Family

YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

Friday March 13—Fish Fry
 Sunday June 21—Ice Cream Social
 Sunday August 16—Anniversary Picnic
 Thursday November 5—Italian Dinner



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL: It's not too late to make your pledge in support of the many vital ministries that the ACA supports. Pick up a pledge envelope in the back of church.

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE: We are all encouraged to sacrifice more, pray more, and be more generous during Lent; but here are the minimum requirements of the Catholic Church. Abstinence from meat is to be observed for all Catholics 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed by those 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those bound by the fast may take only one full meal a day. Two smaller meals are permitted, but eating solid food between meals is not permitted.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Following the 12:10 Mass on Fridays of Lent

<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>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. It takes Big Shoulders to carry a child's dreams.</p>  <p>bigshouldersfund.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ADVERTISE HERE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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/goIL</p> 	<p>EWTN.COM/RADIO EWTN Global Catholic Radio</p> 	<p>Get this bulletin emailed to you every week. Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1631 ...or scan </p> <p style="text-align: center;">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