

# Mary, Mother of Jesus Roman Catholic Church

## PARISH OFFICES

9323 Highway 165 South  
P. O. Box 408,  
Woodworth, Louisiana 71485  
Phone - (318) 487-9894 - Website: [mmjchurch.org](http://mmjchurch.org)



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## **ALL ARE WELCOME**

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., you are invited, welcomed, loved, and respected here.

### **Rev. Paul M. LaPalme, KHS**

*Pastor*

2120 Coulee Crossing Road, Woodworth, LA 71485  
(318) 487-9894 - [fatherpaul@mmjchurch.org](mailto:fatherpaul@mmjchurch.org)

### **Ms Cindy Campbell**

*Secretary/Bookkeeper ~ Safe Environment*

(318) 487-9894 - [secretary@mmjchurch.org](mailto:secretary@mmjchurch.org)

### **Dr. Mary DeVile, PhD**

*Organist/Director of Music*

*Adult Faith Formation ~ Lectors*

(318) 487-9894 - [devillem@nsula.edu](mailto:devillem@nsula.edu)

### **Mrs. Katie Upton**

*Director, Religious Ed and Youth Ministries*

(318) 308-9991 - [ccd@mmjchurch.org](mailto:ccd@mmjchurch.org)

### **Mrs. Stacy Wheat**

*First Penance/First Eucharist*

(318) 306-0238 - [Stacylwheat@gmail.com](mailto:Stacylwheat@gmail.com)

### **Mr. Brad Gadel**

*Confirmation Preparation*

(318) 446-1153 - [bgadel@prodigy.net](mailto:bgadel@prodigy.net)

### **M/M Keith and Beth Chapman**

*Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)*

(318) 623-8016 - [bethchapman@bellsouth.net](mailto:bethchapman@bellsouth.net)

### **M/M Jody and Jackie Byrd**

*Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)*

(318) 451-5596 - [jodybyrd@hotmail.com](mailto:jodybyrd@hotmail.com)

## **LIVE STREAMING**

For the benefit of our homebound parishioners, we livestream the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass weekly. To watch it on You Tube, search for MMJ Woodworth.

## **OUR MISSION Statement**

To live, love, forgive, and serve the needs of others in the example of Jesus Christ.

## **SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH**

### Reconciliation/Confession

30 minutes before every weekend Mass.

### Baptism

Celebrated during any weekend Mass or other convenient time. Contact the church office.

### Holy Matrimony

Contact the pastor at least six months in advance.

### Anointing of the Sick and Communion Calls

Please call the office when a parishioner is confined at home, is in the hospital, or placed in a nursing home or hospice. Holy Communion is brought weekly to all shut-ins.

### Mass of Christian Burial

All arrangements should be made directly with the funeral home who will then contact the church.

# MASS INTENTIONS

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH  
2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION: VOCATIONS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

4:00PM - Jack Ellington, Jackie Kroll Reine  
Neil Kavanagh, David Foshee, Sr.

Lector: P. Gadel  
Server: B. Gadel

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00AM - Mary Lee and Gerald Robichaux, Sr.

Lector: E. Lohman  
Server: B. Emerson

10:30AM - Lisa Ann Wilkerson Williams  
Stephen Rodeback

Lector: J. Leglue  
Server: V. Montalvo

4:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo  
Server: A. Byrd

6:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: P. Gadel  
Server: A. Schexnyder

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30AM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: S. Cranford  
Server: TBA

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

**NO MASS**

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:00AM - Betty Jones

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 30, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:00PM - Garland "Buddy" Williamson, Gene  
Tucker

Lector: J. Louviere  
Server: A. Daigrepoint

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00AM - Betty Jones

Lector: B. Edwards  
Server: A. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Eric Steltenpohl 69<sup>th</sup> birthday  
remembrance, Maynette Dobard 1<sup>st</sup>  
anniv., Barbara Rigby 1<sup>st</sup> anniv.

Lector: B. Lowe  
Server: C. Mathews

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo  
Server: L. Brouillette

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1

8:00AM - Mary Lee and Gerald Robichaux, Sr.

Lector: P. Gadel  
Server: B. Gadel

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

7:00AM - Eugene F. LaPalme 24<sup>th</sup> anniv.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

7:00AM - Wilfred Moras 40<sup>th</sup> anniv.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

7:00AM - Richard Gadel

### SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



IN LOVING MEMORY OF JACK ELLINGTON  
BY BRINDA AND RUSSELL EDWARDS

If you would like to have a loved one or special intention remembered by providing for the sanctuary candle, please contact the parish office. The cost is \$7.00 per candle.

If you are a victim or survivor of sexual abuse by members of the Catholic clergy or representatives of the Catholic Church and you want to make a formal complaint of abuse to the diocese, arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, and/or to obtain support for the needs of the individual and families, call Dr. Lee Kneipp, Victim Assistance Coordinator (318) 542-9805 or the LA Child Abuse **HOTLINE** (855) 452-5451. Diocesan Protecting our Children - Understanding, Reporting, and Preventing Child Abuse" brochures are available in the narthex bookcase. Both the Diocesan Policy for the Protection of Minors, and the Diocesan Code of Pastoral Conduct are in the safe environment section at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**OUR PERMANENT DEACON CANDIDATE**

Brad Gadel

**THOSE PREPARING FOR MATRIMONY**

Sara Richard and Cody Fitzgerald  
November 16, 2024

**OUR FIRST EUCHARIST CANDIDATES**

*Saturday, May 4, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.*

Emma Brundrett, Jude Flook, Eric Lohman, Landry Mitten, Stevie Patin, Reed Ponthier, Miles Schexndyer, Collin Stewart, Lillie Stewart, Abigail Upton, Isabella Winegeart, Wyatt Winegeart

**OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**

*Saturday, April 6, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.*

Izzie Antee, Hannah Daigrepont, Donald Ducote, Jadyne Foote, Cayden Mathews, Vivian Montalvo, Alexander Rubio

**OUR OCIA CANDIDATES**

Garrett Francis, Madeline Francis, Sarah Francis

**OUR SICK, RECOVERING, CONVALESCING**

*After two weeks names are removed unless notification to retain someone is received in the collection, at secretary@mmjchurch.org, calling 487-9894x1200 or by mail. Exceptions can be made, of course.*

Brian Dobard, Daniel Jones, Linda Kelly, Lloyd Killen, Debbie Duck Lyles, Jacques Matt, Jo Tassin, John Upton, Jennifer Weatherford, Tonya Wood

**OUR HOMEBOUND**

Faye Connella, Butch Doiron, Janet Lamkin, Cecile Liotta, Janet Normand, Jane Richey, Mike Stevens, Joe & Irene Thompson

**OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Patricia "Patty" Mahone, Adrienne Stevens, Donna White

**OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY**

Kory Butler, Brandon Coreil, David J. Francis, Dustin Guillory, Michael Hawthorne, Daniel Keely, Kelley Perry, Robin Perry, Michael Smilie, Chuck Williams

*Please inform us if you know of anyone who should be included or removed. You may also use a pew envelope for this purpose.*

**STEWARDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY GIFTS - 12/17/2023**

Regular Collection	\$ 3,860.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,910.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,530.00</u>
<b>Shortage</b>	<b>\$ 760.00</b>
Goal for December (5 Sundays)	\$ 32,650.00
Received for December	\$ <u>19,237.00</u>
<b>Still needed for December</b>	<b>\$ 13,413.00</b>
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 30.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 200.00
Christmas	\$ 30.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!  
MERCİ BEAUCOUP!!**

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

This is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow. It allows you to create or alter your contribution schedule at any time and see reports of your contribution history that you can use for your records. When you can't attend Mass, your electronic contributions will arrive without delay. Visit our website: [www.mmjchurch.org](http://www.mmjchurch.org)

**"Remember that when you leave this earth, you take with you nothing that you have received only what you have been given: A full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage." (St. Francis of Assisi)**

**REGISTRATION/CENSUS**

Do you consider Mary, Mother of Jesus Church "home"? Do you worship with us regularly? If you have not done so already, we ask that you please register in our parish. Forms for this purpose are available in the church or online at [www.mmjchurch.org](http://www.mmjchurch.org). Adult children no longer living at home and recently married couples are especially encouraged to register.

**FAITH FORMATION****GRADES PREK - 5**

Wednesday, January 10  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**GRADES 6 - 12**

Wednesday, January 10  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASS**

Wednesday, January 10  
6:00 p.m. - Church

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION CLASS**

Tuesday, March 19  
5:30p.m. - Church Hall

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Every Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Mass  
During the Liturgy of the Word  
Ages 4 - 7 - Youth Center

**OCIA**

If you are not Catholic and have been thinking about initiation in the Catholic Church, or if you are a Baptized Catholic who has not celebrated all three of the Sacraments of Initiation, consider joining the **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults**. **OCIA** is the process by which people celebrate their Sacraments of Initiation, namely Baptism, Communion and Confirmation, in the Catholic Church.

Who is OCIA for?

- ⇒ **Unbaptized...** Persons (7 years and older) who want to follow in Jesus' footsteps and become members of the Catholic Church;
- ⇒ **Baptized in Another Christian Church...** Those members from a different Christian community other than Catholic who are seeking full initiation in the Catholic Church;
- ⇒ **Baptized but no previous Religious Education...** persons who were baptized as babies in the Catholic Church but have not had any Religious Education within the Catholic Tradition. Have you celebrated all of your sacraments of Communion and Confirmation?

Please contact either Beth and Keith Chapman or Jody and Jackie Byrd. Their contact information is on the front page of the bulletin.

**Monday, January 1 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Church Hall**

**CHURCH NEWS****CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND**

This fund enables us to decorate the Church during the Christmas season. The donors and those remembered will be listed in the bulletin the weekend of January 13-14, 2024. The suggested donation is \$10. An envelope for this purpose is in the pews and your monthly packet. You may use one of your own envelopes. Remember to include on the envelope the name(s) of those to be remembered/honored.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS**

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25

9:30 a.m.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

Monday, January 1, 2024

8:00 a.m.

Since the holy day falls on Monday this year, attendance at mass is not obligatory.

**EPIPHANY POT LUCK SUPPER**

Saturday, January 6 - Serving starts at 5:30 p.m.

The Church is providing the pork loin, chili dogs, and drinks. Please bring your favorite side-dishes to share.

**LADIES' ROSARY MINISTRY**

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Church.

**ROMEOS**

*(Retired Old Men Enjoying Ourselves)*

Wednesdays - 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

**QUILTING MINISTRY**

Wednesdays beginning at 9:00 a.m.  
Call Brenda Mathews (318) 730-8123

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Thursdays - 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Sunday, December 24

2 Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16  
Ps 89:2-5,27,29  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

### Monday, December 25

#### Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Ps 98:1-6  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18

### Tuesday, December 26

#### St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
Ps 31:3c-4,6,8ab,16bc,17  
Matthew 10:17-22

### Wednesday, December 27

#### St. John, Apostle

1 John 1:1-4  
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12  
John 20:1a,2-8

### Thursday, December 28

#### Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 John 1:5 – 2:2  
Ps 124:2-5,7b-8  
Matthew 2:13-18

### Friday, December 29

1 John 2:3-11  
Ps 96:1-3,5b-6  
Luke 2:22-35

### Saturday, December 30

1 John 2:12-17  
Ps 96:7-10  
Luke 2:36-40

Today's Gospel shows us how the mission of Christ affected the Virgin Mary even before Jesus became human through her.

However, that is not when his salvation plan began. Jesus is God; he has always existed. His salvation plan impacted Mary in the moment of her own conception.

In the Nicene Creed we say that God "came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." In other words, his Spirit bathed Mary in his pure, holy presence. Even though she could not understand how the Messiah could possibly be conceived within her, by the grace of God's Spirit she could know that God was the one who was asking for it and God was the one who was doing it.

All of us are called by God to carry the presence of Christ and birth him more fully into the world. What are you doing about it? How much are you fulfilling your divine destiny? Remember, he always empowers us to accomplish whatever he asks us to do. God knows what he's doing when he calls us to continue what

Mary began, and he is always trustworthy and dependable. There is nothing to fear, no reason to hold back from fulfilling our true destiny.

Everything that God does is always good, even when his plan



for our mission requires a journey through the cross. If we follow Christ, sooner or later we hang with him on the cross, persecuted for our faith.

With this in mind, when he asks us to do something for his kingdom, of course our answer is yes, right?

Why wouldn't it be? Of course we want to cooperate with his plan. Mary shows us that we can say yes to his plan even when we don't understand it nor see how God could possibly do what he says he'll do.

It's normal to feel inadequate, like he cannot fulfill his plan *through us*, because we know we are weak, sinful, and unqualified. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God!

#### Reflect & Discuss:

- † When was the last time you said to God, "But how can this be? You want me to do WHAT? I don't understand why!" What were you afraid of?
- † How strong was your trust in God?
- † When God chooses you for a task or responsibility, what helps you move from uncertainty or confusion or reluctance into saying "yes"?
- † When the plans of God don't make sense or they seem unpleasant, how do you overcome your reluctance?