

# 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)

### **Deacon Paul Sunderhaus, M.D.**

*Permanent Deacon ~ Adult Faith Formation*

*Altar Servers*

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

### **Ms Cindy Campbell**

*Secretary/Bookkeeper ~ Safe Environment*

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

### **Dr. Mary DeVille, 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. Linda Kelly**

*First Penance/First Eucharist*

(318) 447-3149 - [lkelly@mmjchurch.org](mailto:lkelly@mmjchurch.org)

### **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 - [bethachapman@bellsouth.net](mailto:bethachapman@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)

## **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 APRIL 8, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH  
ADD'L COLLECTION: INFIRM PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 8

8:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: B. & K. Chapman, J. Reynolds  
M. Leleux, S. Cranford, B. Edwards  
Server: B. Gadel, A. Brundrett

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 9

8:00AM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: G. Delaney  
Server: J. Schexnyder

10:30AM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: B. Lowe  
Server: C. Mathews

5:00PM - **NO MASS**

#### MONDAY, APRIL 10

**NO MASS**

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 11

7:00AM - Jerry Brawner

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

7:00AM - Angelle Matt

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 13

7:00AM - Rickey Sayes

### WEEK OF APRIL 15, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 15

4:00PM - Adrien, Lena, Mary, Larry, and Jim  
Doiron

Lector: G. Patty  
Server: A. Byrd

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 16

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

Lector: R. Normand  
Server: L. Delaney

10:30AM - Ernestine Moras 51<sup>st</sup> anniv., Stephen  
Rodeback

Lector: J. Leglue  
Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds  
Server: H. Reynolds

#### MONDAY, APRIL 17

7:00AM - Shirley Sayes

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 18

7:00AM - Isabelle Weltring

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

7:00AM - Charlie and Alma Gaiennie

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 20

7:00AM - Margurite Steinkamp

### SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
MARY LEE ROBICHAUX  
91<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BY YVONNE AND FRANK EMERSON

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 RECENTLY DECEASED**

Billy Ray Brock

**THOSE PREPARING FOR FIRST EUCHARIST**

Saturday, May 6 - 10:00 a.m.

Corbin Bennett, James Ducote, Thomas Long, Harper Rajewski, Bentley Ryland, Ben Upton, Lawson Wheat, Charlie White

**THOSE PREPARING FOR MATRIMONY**

Jennifer Smilie and C. J. Fuqua - April 15, 2023

Christina Rubio and Chad Doyle - October 21, 2023

**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, Eric Duck, Rhonda Earhart, Jana Fontenot, Linda Kelly, Helen Mathews, Jacques Matt, Terry Melançon

**OUR HOMEBOUND**

Evelyn Bartow, Phyllis Broussard, Faye Connella, Butch Doiron, Janet Lamkin, Janet Normand, Jane Richey, Joe & Irene Thompson

**OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Betty Jones, Adrienne Stevens

**OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY**

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



*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 - 04/02/2023**

Regular Collection	\$ 6,200.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,600.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 6,530.00
<b>Overage</b>	<b>\$ 1,270.00</b>

Goal for April (5 Sundays)	\$ 32,650.00
Received for April	\$ 7,800.00
<b>Still Needed for April</b>	<b>\$ 24,850.00</b>

Maintenance and Repair	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 425.00

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

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)**

Parish Goal 2023	\$ 21,256.00
Pledged	\$ 16,372.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 4,884.00

Thank you to everyone who had made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. If you have not yet had the opportunity to make your pledge to the ADA, you may visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) and click on the *donate* tab at the top of the page. Please take the time to make your commitment to the larger Church, knowing your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal makes a real difference in the lives of the laity of the Diocese.

**COMMUNITY REWARDS**

Visit [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com) and sign up under Community at the bottom of their home page. Mary, Mother of Jesus will receive a percentage of your purchases. There is no charge to the shopper.

**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)

**FAITH FORMATION****MARK YOUR CALENDARS****VBS - JUNE 5-9**

Volunteer Informational Meeting  
Tuesday, April 11 - 6:00 p.m.

Please come and see all of the opportunities to help with VBS this year. We need Virtus-trained folks for the week of VBS; help setting up (June 3) and taking down (the afternoon of June 9). Please call Katie Upton if you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to help, or if you have any questions.

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Sunday, April 16 - 3:30 p.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



Who Is OCIA (Formerly RCIA) 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.

**CHURCH NEWS****EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 8, 2023**

8:00 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9, 2023**

8:00 a.m. - Mass

9:00 a.m. - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

9:45 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. - Mass

**NO 5:00 P.M. MASS EASTER SUNDAY**

**HOLY WATER BOTTLES**

A basket containing bottles of water blessed at the Easter Vigil is located near the baptismal font. Every family is invited to take one with you for use at home.

**SECOND COLLECTION - INFIRM PRIEST**

A portion of our monthly obligations to the diocese of Alexandria includes \$250 (\$3,000 annual) to support the sick/infirm priests of our diocese. This weekend, there will be a second collection to help our parish defray these costs. All funds collected will be directly applied to this \$3,000 budget item.

**THANK YOU...**

...to everyone whose stewardship of time, talent, and treasure ensured that our Triduum and Easter season would be filled with joy and beauty.

...to the Men of MMJ for their hard work and dedication, especially during our Lenten Fish Fry. They netted a total of \$6,193 for the five weeks. Thanks also to those who supported these men. This group is open to all men of the parish. For more information, contact Brad Gadel at bgadel@prodigy.net or 318-446-1153.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - NEXT WEEKEND**

As the concluding rite to the 10:30AM Mass, we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and pray the chaplet of the Divine Mercy followed by Benediction. Everyone is encouraged to join us as we thank God through Jesus Christ for the gifts of his mercy and compassion lavishly poured out upon us, his sons and daughters.

**ROMEOs**

*(Retired Old Men Enjoying Ourselves)*

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

Coffee, biscuits, conversation - Church Hall





## The Reception of Holy Communion at Mass

### The return of Receiving the Precious Blood of the Risen Lord from the Chalice

In the Gospel of Matthew, at the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples “Take and eat; ‘this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, ‘Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” From the first days of the Church’s celebration of the Eucharist, Holy Communion consisted of the reception of both species in fulfillment of the Lord’s command to “take and eat...take and drink.” The distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful under both kinds was thus the norm for more than a millennium of Catholic liturgical practice. (Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion). Because of the concerns about sharing

from the chalice during the COVID pandemic, the Diocese of Alexandria, like so many others, placed a moratorium on its distribution to the assembly. It has remained only for the clergy to receive from the chalice as they are obligated (for validity) to receive under both species at every Mass. On February 7th, Bishop Marshall announced to the priests his plan to authorize Communion under both species beginning at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023. The decision to return the chalice is at the discretion of each pastor after he assesses the availability of Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion to assist in the distribution of the Eucharist.

### Proper Reception of the Body and Blood of Christ:

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all. (USCCB: Guidelines for the Reception of Communion)

#### Body:

To properly receive, one should approach the minister in a standing position (normative way) or you can kneel, regardless you should offer a slight bow and either receive on the hand or the tongue. When the minister says “The Body of Christ” you reply audibly, “Amen”. If receiving on the hand, you should place your dominant hand under your other and create a space where the minister can safely place the Body of our Lord. One should refrain from any other way of placing their hands. One should also never take the host from the minister. The body of Christ is given to us, it’s not something we take. If you choose to receive on the tongue, generously project your tongue forward to allow the minister to place our Lord safely on your tongue. An audible “Amen” is to be said as well when the minister says “The Body of Christ”.

#### Blood:

To properly receive, one should approach the minister in a standing position and when the minister raises the cup and says “The Blood of Christ”, audibly say “Amen”, reverently receive the cup, take a sip and hand it back to the minister.



---

## FAQ's about reception of the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord

**1. Must I receive from the Chalice?** No. The opportunity to partake of the Precious Blood of Christ in the chalice is always a choice of the communicant.

---

**2. If I only receive the Consecrated Host and not the Precious Blood, do I lessen the reception of Communion?** No. The real presence of Christ, Body and Blood, is fully present when one receives the Body of our Lord. As stated in the Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion, "the real presence of Christ in the Eucharistic elements, whole and entire-in each of consecrated bread and wine under the Doctrine of Concomitance which states that since Christ is indivisible, no part of Christ's substance can be divided." The General Instruction of the Roman Missal #281, however does state that Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds.

---

**3. Is it possible for me to just "dip" the Consecrated Host into the Chalice of Precious Blood?** No. The normative way to receive of the Precious Blood of the Lord is by taking a small sip from the cup. What you are referring to is what's called "Intinction". If the practice of Intinction occurs, it can ONLY be done by a Bishop or Priest. It is never permitted for individuals to intinct on their own.

---

**4. Is it safe to receive from the Chalice?** As always, it does carry some risk but the risk of infectious disease transmission remains low when proper safeguards are maintained. At the same time if one is sick, presumed to be sick or simply not feeling well, one should refrain from receiving from the chalice.

---

**5. Why aren't individual cups used?** The Lord himself gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper. The eucharistic sacrifice "is wholly directed toward the intimate union of the faithful with Christ through communion." (NDHC #6). This is made visible in the sharing of the one cup which remains more faithful to the command and action of our Lord at the Last Supper.

---

**6. What if I am not able to receive Communion?** Any who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and one another. (USCCB: Guidelines for the Reception of Communion)

---

**7. Can I receive Communion more than once a day?** As canon 917 states, "A person who has already received the Most Holy Eucharist can receive it a second time on the same day only within the eucharistic celebration in which the person participates, without prejudice to the prescript." The current interpretation is that a person may receive Holy Communion twice if they have participated in two Masses on the same day.

"May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgement and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection of mind and body and a healing remedy." (Priest's prayer before reception of Holy Communion- Roman Missal)



# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## Easter Sunday

### Easter Sunday April 9

Acts 10:34a,37-43  
Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23  
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8  
John 20:1-9

### Monday April 10

Acts 2:14,22-33  
Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-11  
Matthew 28:8-15

### Tuesday April 11

Acts 2:36-41  
Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22  
John 20:11-18

### Wednesday April 12

Acts 3:1-10  
Ps 105:1-4,6-9  
Luke 24:13-35

### Thursday April 13

Acts 3:11-26  
Ps 8:2ab,5-9  
Luke 24:35-48

### Friday April 14

Acts 4:1-12  
Ps 118:1-2,4,22-27a  
John 21:1-14

### Saturday April 15

Acts 4:13-21  
Ps 118:1,14-15b,16-21  
Mark 16:9-15

Are you ready to proclaim the Good News about how Jesus has helped you? What holds you back? Do you hesitate because you don't yet understand how the deaths in your life (the sacrifices, the lost hope, the broken relationships, etc.) have been resurrected into new life?

Such hesitation was the mental state of the disciples on the first Easter morning, as depicted in the Gospel of John.

The attitude of Peter in the reading from Acts is quite a contrast! The disciples now know their calling: They were empowered and commissioned to testify that Jesus is the Savior, and they fully embraced this vocation.

Do you understand how Jesus is turning your tragedies and other difficulties into triumphs and great blessings?

To "testify" means to share the truth based on your own experiences. Peter specifically proclaimed that everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins. Of course he did! Peter knew first-hand what it's like to need and then receive Christ's forgiveness.

We will not understand much about how our sufferings have led us to a new and blessed life until we start talking about it. The first inklings of insight awaken when we discuss it within our close, holy friendships, like Mary of Magdala did when she ran to Peter and John after discovering the empty tomb. They, in turn, told the other disciples.

It was while they were together – in community – that Jesus appeared and revealed his resurrection to them. Later, after having lots of time to talk about it with friends, the Holy Spirit



empowered them to go out and evangelize the world by sharing their experiences with anyone willing to listen.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † The empty tomb doesn't immediately make sense. What has been confusing to you during your faith journey? What has caused you to feel empty and frightened? Where might Jesus be in this?
- † How have your own experiences of being forgiven enabled you to feel more compassionate toward others? Does that change the way you talk to them about God and church and other spiritual or moral issues?
- † What is the biggest change that Jesus has brought into your life? What were you like before this change? How did God intervene? What were the results? This is your testimony. Practice sharing it by telling the story to your community of friends.

# The Divine Mercy Sunday Indulgence

## What is an indulgence?

"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."

"An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin." The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church 1478-1479*

## What are the conditions for a plenary indulgence?

- Sacramental confession (within about 20 days before or after)
- Eucharistic communion (preferably on the day, or the days before or after)
- Prayer for the pope's intentions

## What are the specific conditions for the Divine Mercy Sunday indulgence?

- On Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy.
- Or, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. "Merciful Jesus, I trust in you.").
- A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who, at least with a contrite heart, pray to the merciful Lord Jesus.



*The message of the Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that his mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon him with trust, receive his mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share his joy.*

*The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:*

**A:** Ask for his mercy. God wants us to approach him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking him to pour his mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B:** Be merciful. God wants us to receive his mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love

*and forgiveness to others just as he does to us.*

**C:** Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of his mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

*This message and devotion to Jesus as the Divine Mercy is based on the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to the Divine Mercy had begun to spread. Learn more at [thedivinemercy.org](http://thedivinemercy.org).*