

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



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

Ms Cindy Campbell

Secretary/Bookkeeper ~ Safe Environment

(318) 487-9894 - secretary@mmjchurch.org

Dr. Mary DeVille, PhD

Organist/Director of Music

Adult Faith Formation ~ Lectors

(318) 487-9894 - devillem@nsula.edu

Mrs. Katie Upton

Director, Religious Ed and Youth Ministries

(318) 308-9991 - dre@mmjchurch.org

Mrs. Colleen Lohman

First Penance/First Eucharist

(318) 447-8287 - clohman@bellsouth.net

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First Penance/First Eucharist

(318) 452-6415 - collene.vanmol@royomartin.com

Mr. Brad Gadel

Confirmation Preparation

(318) 446-1153 - bgadel@prodigy.net

Mrs. Beth Chapman

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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M/M Ryan and Brandie Brocato

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

(318) 715-1742 - rbrocato55@gmail.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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH
2ND COLLECTION: CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

4:00PM - Kristian Louviere, Bernice Moore

Lector: M. Leleux

Server: A. Schexnyder

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

8:00AM - Msgr. Bruce Miller

Lector: K. Bellard

Server: C. Lohman

10:30AM - Omega Dobard 4th anniv., Mallary
and Randy Smith 3rd month wedding
anniversary

Lector: M. Brundrett

Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo

Server: A. Byrd

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

7:00AM - Elizabeth Parker

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

7:00AM - Viola Ruemker

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

7:00AM - Marty Doiron

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

4:00PM - Elizabeth Parker

Lector: P. Gadel

Server: J. Louviere

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

8:00AM - Betty and M. H. Jones

Lector: G. Delaney

Server: J. Schexnyder, E. Lohman

10:30AM - Viola Ruemker

Lector: B. Lowe

Server: B. Upton

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lectors: J. Reynolds

Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

7:00AM - Gena Tucker

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:00AM - Jim Doiron

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00AM - Joseph Thompson Month's Mind

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS AND BENEFACTORS

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 suggested donation 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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**OUR PERMANENT DEACON CANDIDATE**

Brad Gadel

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.

Kathi Burns, Alfred Cook III, Brian Dobard, Robert Gates, Celia Halbert, Thomas Hickman, Annie Johnson, Daniel Jones, Brad Kohler, Pearl LaFleur, Curtis Meaux, Terry Melancon, Deacon Doug Moreau, Jo Tassin, Tonya Wood

OUR HOMEBOUND

Faye Connella, Butch Doiron, Joan McLure, Richard Milano, Sr., Beverly Jane Richey, Irene Thompson, Constance Weil

OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Michael Flynn, LaVerne Fortenberry, Cecilia "Tookie" Liotta, Adrienne Stevens, Donna White

OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Brandon Coreil, Dustin Guillory, Daniel Keely, Kelley Perry, Robin Perry, 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 - 08/31/2025**

Regular Collection	\$ 4,675.00
EFT Collection	\$ 2,740.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 6,925.00
Overage	\$ 490.00
Goal for August (5 Sundays)	\$ 34,625.00
Received for August	\$ 32,956.00
Shortage for August	\$ 1,669.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 31.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**MERCI BEAUCOUP!!****MMJ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Parish Goal	\$ 1,000,000.00
Pledges Received (132 families)	\$ 946,696.00
Monies Received	\$ 519,876.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 53,304.00

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

Parish Goal 2025	\$ 22,506.00
Pledged (41 families)	\$ 19,980.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 2,526.00

COMMUNITY REWARDS

Visit [Kroger.com](https://www.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

LIVE STREAMING

For the benefit of our homebound and/or sick parishioners, we livestream the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass each week. To watch it anytime on YouTube, search for MMJ Woodworth.

FAITH FORMATION**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Every Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Mass
During the Liturgy of the Word
Ages 3 - 7 - Youth Center

GRADES 7 - 8

Meets weekly on Wednesday evenings in the *youth center* from 6:00–7:15 PM. The format will include lessons, small group discussion, and videos from current Catholic speakers.

HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9 - 12)

Meets on Wednesday evenings in the *church hall* from 6:00–7:15 PM. The format will include lessons, discussion, and opportunities for faith-sharing.

PREK - 6TH GRADE

A home-based program using God's Plan in Scripture from Ascension Press. Each week focuses on the same Bible story for the whole family, with age-specific workbooks for each child. The church will provide all materials, and support you with weekly emails, reminder texts. Katie is available for any questions or guidance.

WHOLE FAMILY NIGHTS (ONCE A MONTH)

Once a month, all families (PreK–12 + parents) will meet together in the church hall from 6:00–7:15 PM for a special evening of fellowship, review, and prayer. These nights will include a brief overview of the material, help preparing for the upcoming month, and a shared activity like the Rosary or Adoration.

Jr. High and High School students will come with their families and will not have separate class.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Wednesday, September 10 at 6:00 PM - *weekly youth group* begins for Grades 7–12.

FIRST PENANCE & FIRST EUCHARIST

If you have a child who is or will be 7 years old in the Fall and is expecting to celebrate their first Penance and receive their first Eucharist in the Spring of the next year, the following conditions must be met: Attend separate class; one year previous religious education, either CCD or Catholic School; complete and submit a religious education/CCD registration form.

*First Class: October 19, 2005
9:00a.m. to 10:15a.m.
Youth Center*

CHURCH NEWS**ADDITIONAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**

A portion of our monthly obligations to the Diocese of Alexandria includes \$375 (\$4,500 annual) to support our retired priests. There will be a separate second collection to help our parish defray these costs.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING

As part of the *Together as One Church* pastoral planning process, parishioners are invited to participate in upcoming Regional Planning Area Sessions. These gatherings will provide an opportunity to hear about the proposed parish models, ask questions, and share feedback that will help shape the future of our diocese. Our church parish is part of Central 5, and our session will be held on:

Sunday, September 21, 2025

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

St. Martin, Lecompte

Please make plans to attend and add your voice to this important conversation.

PRO LIFE MINISTRIES

Monday, September 15

5:00 p.m. - Church Hall

MUG AND MUFFIN

Thursday, September 18

5:00 p.m. - Church Hall

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.

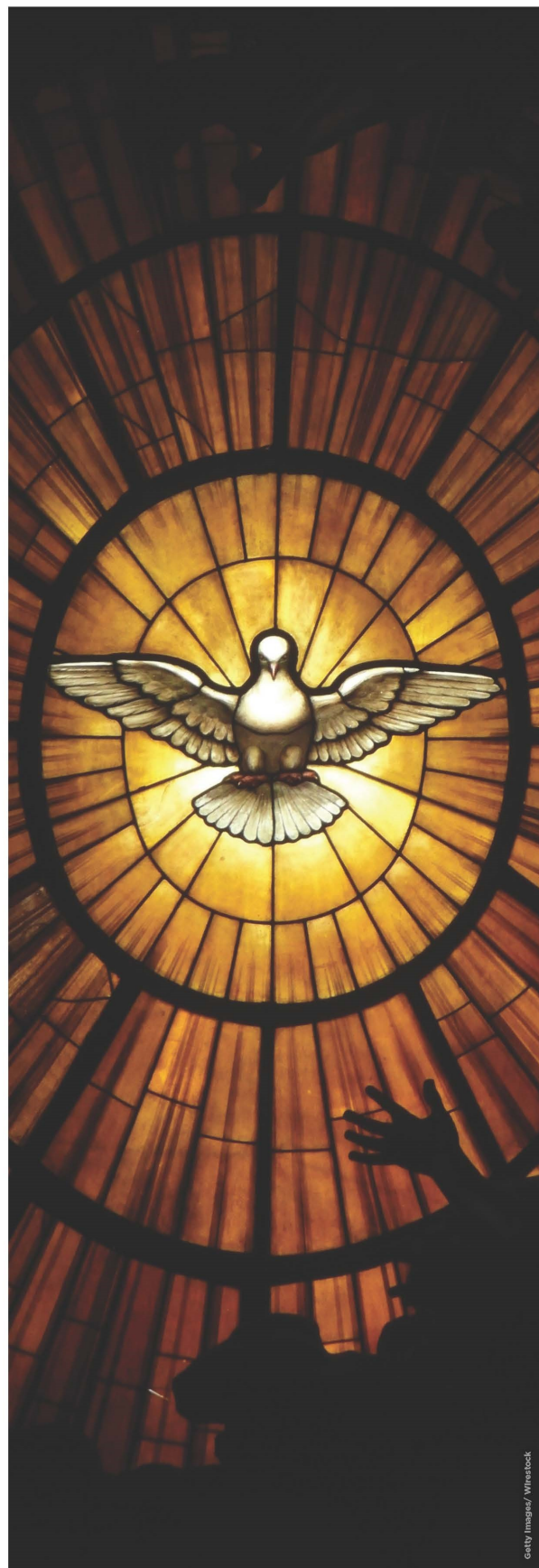
Call Brenda Mathews (318) 730-8123

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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 online at www.mmmchurch.org, under the "parish forms" tab. Adult children no longer living at home and recently married couples are especially encouraged to register.



September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b | Phlm 9-10, 12-17 | Lk 14:25-33

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I am particularly struck by this line from Solomon's prayer in today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom: "Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?" Solomon doesn't seem to be seeking direct answers to the questions he presents today, but rather, uses them as a sort of poem of praise to honor God in all his glory. In modern language, we could rephrase his questions: *What do we know that God has not instilled into our minds? What wisdom do we have that was not infused by the Holy Spirit?* There are many things that we cannot understand without the wisdom God gives us. May we, like Solomon, praise and thank God for this gift. Let us trust that where our feeble, corruptible humanity falters, our heavenly Father is our refuge in every age.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel is certainly one that we need God's wisdom to understand. This reading always makes me do a double take or a read-over. "*What* did Jesus just say?!" His words today are stark and can feel disconcerting. "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." When I encounter a challenging Scripture such as this one, I try to immediately root myself in concrete truths about the Lord. First, I acknowledge that he is good and desires *my* good. He is all-knowing, all-powerful and all-loving. After centering on those realities, I can look at this Gospel again, but this time through a clearer lens. Ultimately, this Gospel is a piercing reminder of the radical renunciation desired by the Lord. It is a rubric for the narrow road and for sanctity. Jesus does not mince his words, nor does he seek to confuse or confound: to follow Jesus is to release our hearts from earthly attachments, to embrace our cross and to set our lives in proper order. Clear and direct? Certainly. Easy? Not at all. But doing this in union with Jesus? *Absolutely possible.*

REFLECT

Today, consider reflecting on your attachments – the places you cling to anything that is not Christ. As you go into these tender places, invite Jesus to gently reveal where he wants to grant you his freedom.

PRAYER AND REFORM IN THE WAKE OF THE ATTACK ON ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

At the heart of every social issue is the human person. We have become afraid as a society to speak about the mental health crisis.

We are united in prayer for those who died, were injured and traumatized by the attack on Wednesday at Annunciation Catholic School during Mass in Minneapolis. We pray that Our Lord will embrace in his love the children who died; heal those who were injured; and grant strength and consolation to the children's families and the entire community. We entrust the shooter to God's divine love and infinite mercy.

As we continue to witness killings and violence in our country, we ask: "What can we do to eradicate such evil?" Regrettably, I have seen some elected officials and media personalities dismiss the power of prayer. We alone cannot bring peace to the world. Only with the Lord is peace possible.

Christians do not consider prayer as a substitute for action, rather we recognize that prayer is the foundation for all good and holy work. Prayer is also a means by which we grow in relationship with God and even plead with him to reform our broken and wounded hearts. Thus, we must never tire of praying fervently for the precious gift of peace that our world, nation, and communities need in abundance.

Some have answered the question of "What we can do?" in the face of attacks like those on Annunciation Catholic School by reducing the issue to merely one of gun violence. There is no doubt that reasonable law can and should prevent the easy legal acquisition of firearms by those, for instance, whose criminal behavior or psychological and mental health conditions suggest that gun ownership would present a grave risk because they may mistakenly feel license to do harm.

At the same time, we must respect the basic rights of citizens and soberly recognize that criminal violence by its nature will never be entirely constrained by law. The issue of gun violence, like all forms of life-threatening violence, will always be challenging, but it must be addressed by elected officials and law enforcement officers with a renewed commitment to uphold laws and equitably protect the lives of vulnerable citizens. May the Holy Spirit lead and guide public servants in their work.

At the heart of every social issue is the human person. We have become afraid as a society to speak about the crisis of persons who manifest delusions, far removed from reality, and are dealing with temptations and inner torments. We must acknowledge and respond to the crisis of mental health in our country.

Those who violently take the lives of innocent children surely have severe mental or emotional health challenges. So often, such persons demonstrate behaviors that are alarming and routinely go unaddressed. Out of love for them and others, we must speak the truth, name the issue, and provide the mental and emotional support needed prior to their acting out in ways that harm themselves or others.

Federal and state lawmakers have a particular responsibility to ensure that those so afflicted, but perhaps abandoned by those closest to them, may still receive lifesaving health care.

In the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, we have established a Mental Health Council with talented and gifted experts to assist in providing guidance, responses and resources to support those experiencing mental health issues as well as to their family members. We are also committed to providing training for counselors who are, first and foremost, capable of speaking the truth in love to those struggling while also emphasizing the sacredness of all human life, the dignity that belongs to each person as divine image bearers, and the happiness that God wants us all to enjoy.

May God continue to bless all such endeavors so that all those crying out for help may receive the pastoral, psychological and spiritual support necessary for true happiness.

What can we do? Certainly, more than one thing. We can encourage greater fervency among leaders and communities to proactively protect our churches and schools. We can acknowledge the vast scale of the mental health crisis afflicting our nation and encourage elected officials to reform our laws so that those suffering mentally or emotionally may receive lifesaving care.

As faithful citizens, we can promote peace through acts of charity and compassion, accompanying those who struggle and suffer, and encourage growth in virtue in our communities. Above all, we can and must pray with daily fervency, calling out to the Lord, striving to remain close to him, and asking him to grant us all the peace only he can give.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

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