

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

Mrs. Collene Van Mol

First Penance/First Eucharist

(318) 446-0155 - cvanmol@levertonfarms.com

Mr. Brad Gadel

Confirmation Preparation

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

Mrs. Beth Chapman

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

(318) 623-8016 - bethachapman@bellsouth.net

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 JANUARY 24, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH
2ND COLLECTION: THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

4:00PM - Zelma Cospelich

Lector: P. Gadel
Server: C. Lohman

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

8:00AM - Frank Smith, III

Lector: D. Bess
Server: A. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Omega Dobard 77th birthday
remembrance

Lector: B. Lowe
Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds
Server: L. Brocato

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

7:00AM - Iva Tucker

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

7:00AM - Adrien Doiron

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

7:00AM - Mary Virginia Young

WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

4:00PM - Ham Prestidge

Lector: G. Patty
Server: M. Schexnyder

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: B. Edwards
Server: C. Lohman

10:30AM - Peggy Trotter

Lector: J. Leglue
Server: J. Moreau

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: M. Leleux
Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:00AM - Cheryl Armour

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:00AM - Michael Flynn month's mind

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

7:00AM - Sherman Williamson

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

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**OUR OCIA CATECHUMEN**

Cate Nettles

OUR FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES

Lucy Lamkin, Harper Landry, Oliver Lopez, Ashtyn Moreau, Cali Williams, James Michael Upton

*Saturday, May 2 - 10:00 a.m.***OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**

Georgia Buller, Ayden Byrd, Isaac Delaney, Andrew Lohman, Marcie Loken, Maya Reynolds

*Saturday, April 11, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.***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.*

Sara Andries, Kay Andries, Brian Dobard, Celia Halbert, Daniel Jones, Linder Holland, Deacon Doug Moreau, Joel Petrus, Jo Tassin, Tonya Wood

OUR HOMEBOUND

Faye Connella, Butch Doiron, Joan McLure, Richard Milano, Sr., Constance Weil

OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

LaVerne Fortenberry, Cecilia "Tookie" Liotta, Terry Melançon, 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 - 01/18/2026**

Regular Collection	\$ 3,045.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,656.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 6,925.00
Shortage	\$ 2,224.00

Goal for January (4 Sundays)	\$ 27,700.00
Received for January	\$ 19,276.00
Still Needed for January	\$ 8,424.00

Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 20.00
Church Today	\$ 15.00
Church in Latin America	\$ 15.00

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

Parish Goal	\$ 1,000,000.00
Pledges Received (137 families)	\$ 1,000,300.00
Monies Received	\$ 625,617.00
Over Goal	\$ 300.00

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

Parish Goal 2025	\$ 22,506.00
Pledged (46 families)	\$ 21,278.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 1,128.00

“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)**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

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.

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.

March 15, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Church Hall

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

CHURCH NEWS**POPE LEO XIV'S
OFFICIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2026**

January: For prayer with the Word of God
That praying with Scripture may nourish our lives, give hope to our communities, and help build a fraternal and missionary Church.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School invites anyone interested in Catholic Schools to attend our Open House Tuesday, January 27th at 8:15 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. in the DPC. Families will be given a tour of classrooms to see learning in process, and to truly feel the love of Jesus present in our school.

ST. BLAISE

In commemoration of the February 3rd memorial of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, and the patron of those who suffer from throat ailments, throats will be blessed as the final blessing at all Masses next weekend, January 31 - February 1, in addition to the 7:00 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, February 3.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Saturday, February 7th - 4:00 p.m. Mass
World Marriage Sunday

Papal blessings will be presented and vows reaffirmed for parishioners who previously notified us of their 2025 "milestone" anniversary: Michael & Darlene Antee (50), Carl and Deborah Bess (50), Bruce & Rebecca LaBorde (35), Brinda and Russ Edwards (25), Jerry and Katherine Leglue (25).

ROSARY MINISTRY

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

ROMEOs

(Retired Old Men Enjoying Ourselves)

Wednesdays - 7:30 a.m. - Sweet Delta Bakery

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

FORMED

This online platform subscription service offers access to the best Catholic digital content producers - studies, films, audio, and eBooks. All parishioners of every age can access this great Catholic material. Go to www.formed.org, select Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, and complete the simple registration.



January 25, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 8:23—9:3 | 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 | Mt 4:12-23

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

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For most of my life, any time I have heard these words of Jesus, the emphasis has always been on “*Repent*.” Recently, I’ve started to pay more attention to the second half of Jesus’ proclamation: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Through his coming into our world and the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus’ reign has begun. The signs of his kingdom’s arrival are striking and immediate; we see Jesus “curing every disease and illness among the people.” This is cause for great rejoicing, like the rejoicing we hear of in today’s reading from Isaiah: “Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness ... upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.” Jesus’ miracles reveal that the reign of darkness, sin, and death is coming to an end; this is good news, indeed! It’s also a major part of our call as disciples. We’re called to pray (“thy kingdom come”) and to work to advance Jesus’ reign on earth.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like the Apostles Peter, Andrew, James, and John in today’s Gospel, we, too, have been called to help build God’s kingdom on earth. We do this in a particular way by continuing the works of Jesus here on earth. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us in *Dilexi Te*, “The signs that accompany Jesus’ preaching are manifestations of the love and compassion with which God looks upon the sick, the poor and sinners ... The Church, if she wants to be Christ’s Church, must be ... a place where the poor have a privileged place.” (21) Part of the way we bear witness to the inbreaking of God’s kingdom on earth is to put those who are ill and marginalized at the center of our concern. Then the kingdom of God will be manifest and visible in the world, drawing others to Christ.

SERVE

This week, spend some time researching ways you can work with other Christians to serve the sick and the poor of our world. As we conclude this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (which ends Jan. 25, 2026), there’s no better witness we can offer to the dawn of the kingdom of God than being “united in the same mind and in the same purpose” (as Paul calls us to be today) in serving those in need.