

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 FEBRUARY 28, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

4:00PM - Stanley Hromadka

Lector: B. Patty

Server: M. Schexnyder

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: D. Bess

Server: C. Lohman

10:30AM - Peggy Trotter

Lector: B. Lowe

Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo

Server: A. Byrd

MONDAY, MARCH 2

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

7:00AM - Stanley Hromadka

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

7:00AM - Robert Antoon

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

7:00AM - Irma Cospelich

WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

4:00PM - Randy and Mallary Smith 9th month wedding anniv., Kristian Louviere

Lector: S. Cranford

Server: J. Louviere

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

8:00AM - Frank Smith, III

Lector: G. Delaney

Server: J. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Deceased members of the Olivier family

Lector: J. Leglue

Server: J. Moreau

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: M. Leleux

Server: L. Brocato

MONDAY, MARCH 9

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

7:00AM - Mary Mrozinski

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

7:00AM - David Stephenson

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

7:00AM - Russell Cospelich

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DAVID STEPHENSON
IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS 41ST BIRTHDAY
BY MIKE AND SHERRI STEPHENSON

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 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

THOSE PREPARING FOR MATRIMONYPeyton J. Bellard and A'lysse M. Wallace
October 10, 2026 - St. Charles Borromeo**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, Henry Jones, Deacon Doug Moreau, Mike Stevens, 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, 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 - 02/22/2026**

Regular Collection	\$ 3,971.00
EFT Collection	\$ 2,606.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,925.00</u>
Shortage	\$ 348.00
Goal for February (4 Sundays)	\$ 27,700.00
Received for February	\$ <u>29,768.00</u>
Overage for February	\$ 2,068.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 50.00
Church in Eastern Europe	\$ 110.00
Black and Indian Missions	\$ 175.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,397.00

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	\$ <u>651,631.00</u>
Over Goal	\$ 300.00

"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)**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)**

Parish Goal 2026	\$ 23,732.00
Pledged (0 families)	\$ <u>.00</u>
Balance Remaining	\$ 23,732.00

Jesus didn't do it alone. He called disciples to assist him in his mission. Jesus challenged and supported his disciples - at times gently chiding them, or reaching out a hand to help, and at times demanding a lot from them. Our Lord walks with us but he also challenges us to be good disciples by supporting the universal Church. Do we ask ourselves if we are imitators of Christ by giving freely of ourselves - our time, talent, and financial resources? Are our gifts to our church parish acceptable? Are our gifts to the local Church through Annual Diocesan Appeal acceptable.

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

Sunday, March 8
2:00 a.m. - We Spring Ahead By One Hour

POPE LEO XIV'S 2026 PRAYER INTENTION

For disarmament and peace: *Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.*

LENTEN COLLECTION

To put into practice the Lenten discipline of almsgiving, we will have a second collection at all Sunday Masses, during the season, for the benefit of Catholic Charities Cenla. They provide many and various services for our sisters and brothers. May our generosity assist them in continuing their ministry.

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

COMMUNITY REWARDS

Visit 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

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.

LENTEN NEWS



As is our Lenten tradition, there will be no music, bells, or the St. Michael the Archangel prayer at the end of weekend Masses. Also, the weekend homilies will be brief enough to allow time for meditation and reflection.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and we have only one full meal. The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines. But Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health. It is obvious that abstaining from meat is meaningless for vegetarians, who must choose some other form of abstinence. It is equally obvious that replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with the spirit of Lent.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND

This fund enables us to decorate the Church during the 50 days of the Easter season. The donors and those to be remembered will be listed in the May 30-May 31 bulletin. The suggested donation is \$10. An envelope for this purpose is available from a sacristan, your monthly packet, or one of your own. Don't forget to include on the envelope the name(s) of your loved one(s) to be remembered/honored.

WAY OF THE CROSS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursdays of Lent
Adoration begins at 6:00 p.m.
The Way of the Cross begins at 6:15 p.m.
Benediction begins afterwards.

MEN OF MMJ - FRIDAY FISH FRY

February 27, March 6, 13, 20
Serving begins at 5:00 p.m.
Still \$9.00 per plate - Take out only.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Saturday, March 28
4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, April 1 - 6:00 p.m.

There will be 4 priests to celebrate individual Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession.

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday, April 2, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 3, 2026

The Lord's Passion - 3:00 p.m.
The Way of the Cross - 6:00 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 4, 2026

8:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5, 2026

8:00 a.m. - Mass
10:30 a.m. - Mass

No 5:00 p.m. Mass Easter Sunday





March 1, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Lent

Gen 12:1-4a | 2 Tim 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9

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

What struck me when I first read this passage from the Book of Genesis, in which the Lord speaks to Abraham, is God's proclamation that it is through *his will* and *his work* that the blessings and goodness of Abraham's future will come about. It is not a vague statement, in which the subject is omitted. God clearly says, "I will make your name great." Abraham was a faithful servant of God and sought to obey God's will, but that is not what made his name memorable. It is due to God's will and generosity that Abraham's blessings came about. I sometimes struggle with giving up credit for the good things in my life. I want to believe that *my work*, *my talents*, and *my dedication* have brought about these good things. But the reality is that all of who I am and the skills that I have is a gift. I was created by God and formed by others to hone certain dispositions and talents that have led to my accomplishments. When we come to realize that all we have is a gift, we are able to offer our lives back to be transfigured and glorified by God, who creates and gives all things.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Many scholars identify this moment of the Transfiguration as the climax of the narrative arc of the Gospels, after which Christ's actions lead to his suffering and death. In his passion, Christ demonstrates the ultimate submission to the will of God, taking on the weight of human sin in order to redeem us. In this moment of Transfiguration on the mountain, we glimpse the beauty of the glorification that will result from this perfect obedience to God's will. We, too, are called to surrender ourselves fully to God. Following Jesus' model of humble submission to the Father's will does not involve false humility, in which we are self-deprecating or overly critical of ourselves. Instead, we are called to acknowledge and celebrate our gifts and accomplishments, while also recognizing that who we are and the gifts that we have come from our generous and loving God.

REFLECT

Reflect on the gifts and talents you have been given, as well as the accomplishments that have come about because of these gifts. Take a moment to thank God for all that he has given to you, and ask him to reveal how you can be a witness to his goodness through the prudent use and celebration of these gifts.

Public Notice – Action Required

Sexual Abuse Claims in the Diocese of Alexandria Bankruptcy

**Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred,
you need to file your claim so that it is received by June 8, 2026.**

The Diocese of Alexandria (“Diocese” or “Debtor”) has filed bankruptcy to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Putative Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re: Diocese of Alexandria*, Case No. 25-31257 (Bankr. W.D. La.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, go to <https://cases.stretto.com/diocesefalexandria> or call (855) 655-5795.

Who Should File a Putative Abuse Survivor Claim?

Anyone who alleges they were abused and believes the Diocese, or persons affiliated with the Diocese, may be responsible for the abuse must file a claim. This includes abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese, including schools, orphanages, parishes, or Catholic Charities. A list of such entities associated with the Diocese is available on the website or by calling the toll-free number listed below. If you have an abuse claim against any entity on that list, you may have a claim against the Diocese. Only the Diocese is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against any entity on that list, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

When and How Should I File a Putative Abuse Survivor Claim?

You should file a claim using the Putative Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim so that it is received by **June 8, 2026. If you do not file a timely Putative Abuse Survivor Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese, including any right to compensation.**

Your information will be kept private. You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.

Your information will be kept private

<https://cases.stretto.com/diocesefalexandria> and (855) 655-5795

Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the
FREE mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "[Instant Church Directory](#)" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions?



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