

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

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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 APRIL 25, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

4:00PM - Stanley Hromadka, David Stephenson

Lector: P. Gadel

Server: A. Schexnyder

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: G. Delaney

Server: E. Lohman

10:30AM - Deceased members of the Doiron Family

Lector: J. Antee

Server: B. Upton

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo

Server: A. Byrd

MONDAY, APRIL 27

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

7:00AM - Gene Tucker

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

7:00AM - Doyle Olivier 68th birthday remembrance

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

7:00AM - Stanley Hromadka

WEEK OF MAY 2, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, MAY 2

4:00PM - Kristian Louviere, Charles Medica 84th birthday remembrance, Stanley Hromadka

Lector: G. Patty

Server: J. Louviere

SUNDAY, MAY 3

8:00AM - Frank Smith, III

Lector: D. Bess

Server: M. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Helen Mathews Smart, Ashley Mathews Brinson

Lector: J. Foote

Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo

Server: A. Byrd

MONDAY, MAY 4

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, MAY 5

7:00AM - Eugene H. LaPalme 64th anniv.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

7:00AM - Stanley Hromadka

THURSDAY, MAY 7

7:00AM - Randy & Mallary Smith 11mo. wedding anniv.

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 CHARLES MEDICA
IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS 84TH 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**OUR FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES**

Lucy Lamkin, Harper Landry, Oliver Lopez, Ashtyn Moreau, Cali Williams, James Michael Upton, Charlee White, John David White

Saturday, May 2 - 10:00 a.m.

OUR PERMANENT DEACON CANDIDATE

Brad Gadel

THOSE PREPARING FOR MATRIMONY

Peyton 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, Maggie Guillory, Celia Halbert, Melou James, Daniel Jones, Henry Jones, Deacon Doug Moreau, Sharman Steltenpohl, 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 - 04/19/2026**

Regular Collection	\$ 3,723.00
EFT Collection	\$ 2,706.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,925.00</u>
Shortage	\$ 496.00

Goal for April (4 Sundays)	\$ 27,700.00
Received for April	\$ <u>21,522.00</u>
Still Needed for April	\$ 6,178.00

Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 20.00
Infirm Priests	\$ 20.00

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>697,298.00</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 (33 families)	\$ <u>16,579.00</u>
Balance Remaining	\$ 7,143.00

Thank you to everyone who made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge to the ADA there are pledge envelopes available. Please take the time to make your commitment to the larger Church, knowing that your gift to the ADA makes a real difference to the lives of the laity of the Diocese.

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.

*April 26
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 2026 PRAYER INTENTION**

For April 2026, Pope Leo XIV asks us to pray for priests experiencing moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find support, accompaniment, and renewed hope.

This month, the Holy Father invites the faithful to pray specifically for priests going through difficult times in their vocation, including moments of loneliness, doubt, or exhaustion. The intention emphasizes that priests are not merely functionaries but beloved sons of God, and that communities are called to support them with understanding, prayer, and accompaniment.

**CHURCH PARISH PICNIC**

Sunday, June 7

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Food - Games - Fun For All Ages
Everyone Is Welcome and Invited

Sponsored by MMJ Youth Ministries

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

If you are celebrating a 25, 40, 50, 60 or 70th or other significant anniversary in 2026, we would like to honor you on Saturday, February 13, 2027 at the 4:00 p.m. Mass and present you with a Papal Blessing in honor of your marriage. If you would like to participate, please call or email the church office. Deadline is Monday, August 31, 2026.

ROSARY MINISTRY

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

ROMEOs

(Retired Old Men Enjoying Ourselves)

Wednesdays - 7:30 a.m. - Honee  Donuts

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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.

April 26, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 | 1 Pt 2:20b-25 | Jn 10:1-10

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

Today's readings invite us to reflect on our willingness to hear the voice of the Lord, especially when he speaks a word that will convict our hearts. In the first reading, Peter stands up and proclaims Christ crucified and risen, and some three thousand people who heard this were "cut to the heart" and were baptized. Peter's message was not an easy one to hear; he was, in part, reminding them that they had put Jesus to death. But something about Peter's words made it clear that he was speaking the truth. And they repented. They recognized, as we hear in our second reading, that they "had gone astray like sheep" but now they "have returned to the shepherd and guardian of [their] souls." As we seek to grow in discipleship, may we learn to recognize the Lord's voice in our lives, especially when he speaks a word that convicts our hearts, because it is only through him that we find abundant life.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our Gospel tells us that the sheep recognize the shepherd's voice. We "sheep" who know the Lord have the awesome task of helping others to come to know his voice. One of the most powerful tools we have at our disposal in the work of evangelizing is simply sharing about our own walk with the Lord. Take some time to talk with someone about the ways you recognize the Lord's voice in your life. Those for whom a relationship with God seems far-fetched or difficult can draw great encouragement from hearing about what that relationship looks like in your own life. Often, our own sharing can make it clear that it is possible to hear and communicate with God in a personal and life-changing way, leading them to seek that in their own life.

REFLECT

St. Ignatius of Loyola outlined several rules for the "discernment of spirits," a way of recognizing God's movement in our hearts. A simple summary of the rules says that when we stray from the Lord, the Spirit convicts our hearts, drawing us to repentance. When we are moving toward the Lord, the Spirit encourages our growth toward holiness by gifts of his peace and consolation. Spend some time reflecting on this current phase of your spiritual life. How is the voice of the Good Shepherd speaking to draw you toward his abundant life?

