

# 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)

### **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. Stacy Wheat**

*First Penance/First Eucharist*

(318) 306-0238 - [Stacylwheat@gmail.com](mailto:Stacylwheat@gmail.com)

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

## **LIVE STREAMING**

For the benefit of our homebound parishioners, we livestream the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass weekly. To watch it on You Tube, search for MMJ Woodworth.

## **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 6, 2024

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

4:00PM - Kristian Louviere, Laura Gadel Jacob

*Lector: J. Louviere*

*Server: L. Brocato*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:00AM - Betty Jones

*Lector: G. Delaney*

*Server: B. Emerson*

10:30AM - Rita A. LaPalme 11<sup>th</sup> anniv., Ben Van Mol 37<sup>th</sup> birthday remembrance

*Lector: M. Brundrett*

*Server: A. Brundrett*

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

*Lector: J. Reynolds*

*Server: H. Reynolds*

### MONDAY, JANUARY 8

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

7:00AM - Shirley & Rickey Sayes

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

7:00AM - Raymond "Sonny" Tucker

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

7:00AM - Albert J. "Chris" Navarro

## WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2024

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

4:00PM - Guy Navarro

*Lector: M. Leleux*

*Server: A. Byrd*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

8:00AM - Betty Jones

*Lector: D. Bess*

*Server: J. Schexnyder*

10:30AM - Stephen Rodeback, Dee Smart, Bob & Johnnie Lively

*Lector: T. Reynolds*

*Server: C. Mathews*

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

*Lector: J. Montalvo*

*Server: V. Montalvo*

### MONDAY, JANUARY 15

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

7:00AM - Shirley & Rickey Sayes

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

7:00AM - PFC Justin Troy Gadel Sanders

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

7:00AM - Grady Sayes 18<sup>th</sup> anniv.

### SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



IN LOVING MEMORY OF BETTY JONES  
BY BUDDY AND DEBORAH BESS

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 PERMANENT DEACON CANDIDATE**

Brad Gadel

**THOSE PREPARING FOR MATRIMONY**

Sara Richard and Cody Fitzgerald  
November 16, 2024

**OUR FIRST EUCHARIST CANDIDATES**

*Saturday, May 4, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.*

Emma Brundrett, Jude Flook, Eric Lohman, Landry Mitten, Stevie Patin, Reed Ponthier, Miles Schexndyer, Collin Stewart, Lillie Stewart, Abigail Upton, Isabella Winegeart, Wyatt Winegeart

**OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**

*Saturday, April 6, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.*

Izzie Antee, Hannah Daigrepoint, Donald Ducote, Jadyne Foote, Cayden Mathews, Vivian Montalvo, Alexander Rubio

**OUR OCIA CANDIDATES**

Garrett Francis, Madeline Francis, Sarah Francis

**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, Daniel Jones, Linda Kelly, Lloyd Killen, Debbie Duck Lyles, Jacques Matt, Jo Tassin, John Upton, Jennifer Weatherford, Tonya Wood

**OUR HOMEBOUND**

Faye Connella, Butch Doiron, Janet Lamkin, Cecile Liotta, Janet Normand, Jane Richey, Mike Stevens, Joe & Irene Thompson

**OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Patricia "Patty" Mahone, Adrienne Stevens, Donna White

**OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY**

Kory Butler, Brandon Coreil, David J. Francis, Dustin Guillory, Michael Hawthorne, Daniel Keely, Kelley Perry, Robin Perry, Michael Smilie, 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 - 12/31/2023**

Regular Collection	\$ 4,969.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,745.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,530.00</u>
<b>Overage</b>	<b>\$ 184.00</b>
Goal for December (5 Sundays)	\$ 32,650.00
Received for December	\$ <u>30,846.00</u>
<b>Shortage for December</b>	<b>\$ 1,804.00</b>
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 20.00
Christmas	\$ 25.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 260.00

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

**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)

**“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)**

**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 in our parish. Forms for this purpose are available in the church or online at [www.mmjchurch.org](http://www.mmjchurch.org). Adult children no longer living at home and recently married couples are especially encouraged to register.

**FAITH FORMATION****GRADES PREK - 5**

Wednesday, January 10  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**GRADES 6 - 12**

Wednesday, January 10  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASS**

Wednesday, January 10  
6:00 p.m. - Church

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION CLASS**

Tuesday, March 19  
5:30p.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

**OCIA**

If you are not Catholic and have been thinking about initiation in the Catholic Church, or if you are a Baptized Catholic who has not celebrated all three of the Sacraments of Initiation, consider joining the **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults**. **OCIA** is the process by which people celebrate their Sacraments of Initiation, namely Baptism, Communion and Confirmation, in the Catholic Church.

Who is OCIA 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.

**Monday, January 8 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Church Hall**

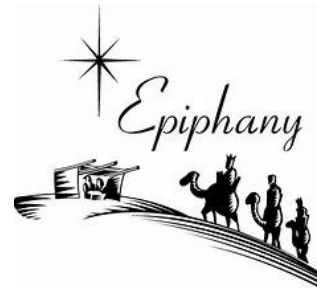
**CHURCH NEWS****A NOTE OF THANKS**

...to all whose talent, hard work, and sacrifice ensured that our Christmas celebrations would be beautiful and prayerful;

...to John and Runnie Hunter for over 15 years of service as sacristans for the 8:00a.m. Mass;

**EPIPHANY POT LUCK SUPPER**

Saturday, January 6 - Serving starts at 5:30 p.m.



The Church is providing the pork loin, chili dogs, and drinks. Please bring your favorite side-dishes to share.

**PRO LIFE MINISTRIES**

Monday, January 15  
5:00 p.m. Church Hall

**MUG AND MUFFIN**

Thursday, January 18  
9:30 a.m. Church Hall

**LADIES' 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.

**SPEND TIME IN PRAYER**

Our church is open Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to take some quiet time out of your day to spend a moment in prayer with Jesus.

## Epiphany of the Lord

### Sunday, January 7

Is 60:1-6  
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13  
Eph 3:2-3a,5-6  
Mt 2:1-12

### Monday, January 8 Baptism of the Lord

Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9  
Is 12:2-3,4b-6  
Mk 1:7-11

### Tuesday, January 9

1 Sm 1:9-20  
1 Sm 2:1,4-8d  
Mk 1:21-28

### Wednesday, January 10

1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20  
Ps 40:2,5,7-10  
Mk 1:29-39

### Thursday, January 11

1 Sm 4:1-11  
Ps 44:10-11,14-15,24-25  
Mk 1:40-45

### Friday, January 12

1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a  
Ps 89:16-19  
Mk 2:1-12

### Saturday, January 13

1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19;10:1  
Ps 21:2-7  
Mk 2:13-17

The Season of Christmas ends with a celebration that focuses on the adoration of magi from the East who had sought and found Christ the newborn king.

The Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Also called astrologers, their worship of Jesus does not validate astrology, which assigns power over us to stars and planets; rather, it validates that

Jesus was born to bring salvation to all, Gentiles as well as Jews. Their arrival at the manger demonstrates that Jesus was born for the sake of all who recognize that only God should have power over us. Jesus was born to free us from sin and all other forces that control us.

The magi also demonstrate that gift-giving is a normal part of worship. The gifts of the magi become gifts that we all give to Jesus: Gold represents our righteousness, which Christ's kingship over our lives makes possible so that we become more and more saintly each day. Incense represents our prayers going up to

God – prayers that involve giving God the gift of our trust. And myrrh is the gift of suffering for Christ: the sacrifices we make for the sake of his ongoing mission of transforming our world.

The word "epiphany" means a moment of discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Did the magi have an epiphany about Jesus when they came into his presence? Did they realize that they were looking at the Savior of the world? Did they want this little baby to save them from their own sins?



We can safely assume that they never forgot about their trip to Bethlehem. Surely they kept their ears open for news about him as the years went by. Probably they heard about the King of the Jews who was crucified.

We know that they in fact became very saintly Christians; their relics still exist and have been venerated since very early times.

What about you and me? Will we remember Jesus in some new way this year? Will our worship of him transform us? Will the power of sin be defeated by our faith in Christ when we face temptations?

Hopefully, we have been changed this Advent and Christmas Season by a new rebirth of Jesus into our lives and – through our lives – out into the world.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † What's the gold you're giving to Jesus? What is your incense? What is your myrrh?
- † Describe an epiphany you have had during this past Advent and the Season of Christmas.
- † How will you take this out to others so that they, too, experience Christ more completely?