

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 - ccd@mmjchurch.org

Mrs. Stacy Wheat

First Penance/First Eucharist

(318) 306-0238 - Stacylwheat@gmail.com

Mr. Brad Gadel

Confirmation Preparation

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

M/M Keith and Beth Chapman

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

M/M Jody and Jackie Byrd

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

(318) 451-5596 - 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 DECEMBER 2, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

4:00PM - PFC Justin Troy Gadel Sanders,
Kristian Louviere

Lector: B. Patty
Server: A. Schexnyder

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00AM - Betty Jones

Lector: G. Delaney
Server: A. Daigrepoint

10:30AM - Todd Mizell

Lector: J. Foote
Server: J. Malone

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds
Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

7:00AM - Mary Virginia Young

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:00AM - Betty Jones

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

5:30PM - Mavis Tucker

Lector: P. Gadel
Server: J. Schexnyder

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:00AM - Elizabeth Parker

Lector: M. Brundrett
Server: A. Brundrett

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



IN LOVING MEMORY OF "PAPA" DEE SMART
BY MIKE AND MARCIA LELEUX

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.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH
2ND COLLECTION: RETIRED RELIGIOUS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

4:00PM - Jim, Marty, Adrien, Larry, and Lena
Doiron, Gena Tucker

Lector: S. Cranford
Server: L. Brocato

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00AM - Mary Lee and Gerald Robichaux, Sr.

Lector: D. Bess
Server: A. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Sue and Charlie Wagener, Dee Smart

Lector: M. Brundrett
Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: R. Mallach
Server: A. Byrd

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00AM - Rickey and Shirley Sayes

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00AM - Terry Kohler 74th birthday
remembrance

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00AM - Irma "Tookie" Cospelich

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

THOSE PREPARING FOR MATRIMONY

Alexandra Rollins and Thomas Roberts
December 15, 2023

Sara Richard and Cody Fitzgerald
November 16, 2024

OUR FIRST PENANCE CANDIDATES

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

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.

Sharan Bellard, Rochelle Brasseaux, Brian Dobard, Daniel Jones, Linda Kelly, Debbie Duck Lyles, Jacques Matt, Jo Tassin, John Upton

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 - 11/26/2023

Regular Collection	\$ 3,686.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,645.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,530.00</u>
Shortage	\$ 1,199.00

Goal for November (4 Sundays)	\$ 26,120.00
Received for November	\$ <u>24,821.00</u>
Short for November	\$ 1,299.00

Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 40.00
Manna House	\$ 190.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 190.00

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

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

Parish Goal 2023	\$ 21,256.00
Pledged (52 families)	\$ <u>34,870.00</u>
Over Goal	\$ 11,185.00

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

“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. Adult children no longer living at home and recently married couples are especially encouraged to register.

FAITH FORMATION**GRADES PREK - 5**

Wednesday, December 6
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

GRADES 6 - 12

Wednesday, December 6
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASS

Wednesday, December 6
6:00 p.m. - Church

FIRST PENANCE PREPARATION CLASS

Tuesday, December 5
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, December 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Church Hall

A NOTE OF THANKS

"Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and well-wishes you have sent to me! All are deeply appreciated. Please keep the prayers coming for a complete recovery. I have missed you! Love to each and every one!" - Mary DeVille

CHURCH NEWS**SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

A Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 7 - 5:30 p.m.
Friday, December 8 - 7:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST & PICTURES WITH ST. NICHOLAS

Sunday, December 10
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Church Hall

Sponsored by the Men of MMJ.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Our annual giving tree is available in the narthex this weekend. Please take at least one tag and return the gifts to the church **no earlier** than the weekend of December 16 and 17.

Blue Envelopes

(Please put gift cards in the blue envelopes)

Gift Cards for our Seminarians

Ornaments

(Place unwrapped gifts around the altar.)

Cenla Pregnancy Center, Hope House (green), & Catholic Charities (red)

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND

This fund enables us to decorate the Church during the Christmas season. The donors and those remembered will be listed in the bulletin the weekend of January 13-14, 2024. The suggested donation is \$10. An envelope for this purpose is in the pews and your monthly packet. You may use one of your own envelopes. Remember to include on the envelope the name(s) of those to be remembered/honored.

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.

1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3

Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7
Ps 80:2-4,15-16,18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Monday, December 4

Isaiah 2:1-5
Ps 122:1-9
Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 5

Isaiah 11:1-10
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 6

Isaiah 25:6-10a
Ps 23:1-6
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bp, Dr
Isaiah 26:1-6
Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a
Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday, December 8 Immaculate Conception

Genesis 3:9-15,20
Ps 98:1-4
Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9

Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26
Ps 147:1-6
Matthew 9:35 – 10:1,5a,6-8

As we prepare for Christmas, of course we're thinking about how to show fondness and appreciation to the special people in our lives by choosing gifts that will be meaningful to them. And yet, assuming that we can actually find (or make) something that will be appreciated, will the gift really make a difference in the long run?

Since Christmas is the celebration of the birthday of Jesus, let's give him a gift, too – a long-lasting gift. But what can we give to someone who already has everything? Or does he?

What gift can you give to Jesus that will have an eternal impact, a gift that no one else can give him, a gift he doesn't already have? Here's the answer: What have you been withholding from him?

Today's first reading reminds us that God is our Father. The responsorial Psalm asks the Father to help us turn to him. The second reading gives thanks to God for all that he has done for us. So – what gift can you give to God to express your appreciation for what he has given to you?

this Christmas. And it's about the way he is coming to you right now, today.

There's something new that he wants to give you. When he offers it, will he find you doing what's right (as in the first reading)? Will he find you using your spiritual gifts (as in the second reading)? Will he find you alert and ready to do his bidding (as in the Gospel reading)?



Advent is an opportunity to take notice of the gifts he gives us and become aware of the gifts we can give to him that he doesn't already have. It should make an eternal difference – for him *and* for us.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † List the gifts that God has given to you. Then think about how much appreciation you have given to God for the gifts on that list. Do you know how much he appreciates your appreciation?
- † Name ways that Jesus comes to us today.
- † What will you do this Advent to become more aware of Jesus coming to you?
- † How will this make you more ready for Christmas?

In the Gospel reading, we're reminded of the need to prepare – to actually do something that makes a difference – for the coming of Christ. This not only refers to his Second Coming; it's also about the day when he comes for us as we breathe our last earthly breaths. And it's about the way he wants to come to you