

# 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 DECEMBER 9, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH  
2<sup>ND</sup> 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 74<sup>th</sup> birthday  
remembrance

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00AM - Irma "Tookie" Cospelich

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 16, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

4:00PM - Neil Kavanagh, David Foshee, Sr.

*Lector: G. Patty*

*Server: A. Byrd*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00AM - Betty Jones

*Lector: R. Normand*

*Server: J. Schexnyder*

10:30AM - Stephen Rodeback

*Lector: J. Antee*

*Server: V. Montalvo, J. Malone*

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

*Lector: J. Reynolds*

*Server: H. Reynolds*

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00AM - Gene Tucker

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00AM - Betty Jones

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00AM - Betty Mathews 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
remembrance

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

### 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**

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, Lloyd Killen, Debbie Duck Lyles, Jacques Matt, Jo Tassin, John Upton, Jennifer Weatherford

**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*

**STEWARDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY GIFTS - 12/03/2023**

Regular Collection	\$ 4,947.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,795.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,530.00</u>
<b>Overage</b>	<b>\$ 212.00</b>

Goal for December (5 Sundays)	\$ 32,650.00
Received for December	\$ <u>6,742.00</u>
<b>Still needed for December</b>	<b>\$ 25,908.00</b>

Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 45.00
Manna House	\$ 500.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 410.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 1,000.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 25.00
Retired Religious	\$ 20.00

**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](http://www.mmjchurch.org)

**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, December 13  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**GRADES 6 - 12**

Wednesday, December 13  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASS**

Wednesday, December 13  
6:00 p.m. - Church

**FIRST PENANCE PREPARATION CLASS**

Tuesday, December 12  
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 11 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Church Hall**

**CHURCH NEWS****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**

Please return the gifts to the church next weekend.

**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.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS**

Sunday, December 24  
4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25  
9:30 a.m.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

Monday, January 1, 2024  
8:00 a.m.

Since the holy day falls on Monday this year, attendance at mass is not obligatory.

**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

**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.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Sunday, December 10

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11  
Ps 85:8-14  
2 Peter 3:8-14  
Mark 1:1-8

### Monday, December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Ps 85:9ab,10-14  
Luke 5:17-26

### Tuesday, December 12

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 214-17 or  
Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab  
Judith 13:18b-19  
Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

### Wednesday, December 13

#### St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Isaiah 40:25-31  
Ps 103:1-4,8,10  
Matthew 11:28-30

### Thursday, December 14

#### St. John of the Cross

Isaiah 41:13-20  
Ps 145:1,9-13b  
Matthew 11:11-15

### Friday, December 15

Isaiah 48:17-19  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Matthew 11:16-19

### Saturday, December 16

Sirach 48:1-4,9-11  
Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19  
Matthew 17:9a,10-13

Reconciliation and create a wider road into your heart that's easy for Jesus to travel, a through-way upon which he can arrive in great speed and glory.

All humankind is as frail as grass, and all our glory is like the flower of the field that withers and wilts. Only the glory of

Prepare for the Lord! – for whatever he wants to give us, do for us, and ask of us. He has a plan for our lives, a divine purpose that will bring us to our full potential.

We can only do this by uniting ourselves to Christ, joining him on the straight path, the holy path. How do we know when we are on the right path? By the fruits of the journey.

Isaiah says: A voice cries out in the desert! What is barren in your life, and dry, hot, or empty? Sins dry up our potential for fruitfulness.

Advent is a good preparation for Christmas – and meeting the Lord anew – if we use it to face our sins, reconcile with God, and follow Jesus back onto the holy path. If we neglect this opportunity, our lives will be barren of the strong faith we need during difficulties.

Prepare the way of the Lord! He has more love to give you, more healing, more joy! Make straight in the wasteland of your sins a highway for our God. Go to the Sacrament of



God stands forever.

What are your troubles and struggles? Here is where Jesus wants to minister to you, and here is where you are most vulnerable to sin.

What in your life is going well? What activities are you doing that seem

productive? Are any of them grassy glories that can wither away? A hundred years from now, will what you're doing today still have an impact – a beneficial impact?

God has given you talents and a calling, a special purpose that requires those talents. Yes, you! We are all called to have fruitful lives that make an eternal difference. Jesus wants to come straight to us to produce the fruits of his kingdom in our lives and in others.

Prepare for the Lord to make an eternal difference through you!

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † What are you going to do to straighten a crooked path?
- † What are you spending time on that will wither up and wilt away?
- † How does thinking about eternity straighten the path that you're walking on today? What changes because of this perspective?