

# 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 30, 2023

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:00PM - Garland "Buddy" Williamson, Gene Tucker

*Lector: J. Louviere*  
*Server: A. Daigrepoint*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00AM - Betty Jones

*Lector: B. Edwards*  
*Server: A. Schexnyder*

10:30AM - Eric Steltenpohl 69<sup>th</sup> birthday remembrance, Maynette Dobard 1<sup>st</sup> anniv., Barbara Rigby 1<sup>st</sup> anniv.

*Lector: B. Lowe*  
*Server: C. Mathews*

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

*Lector: J. Montalvo*  
*Server: L. Brouillette*

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1

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

*Lector: P. Gadel*  
*Server: B. Gadel*

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

7:00AM - Eugene F. LaPalme 24<sup>th</sup> anniv.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

7:00AM - Wilfred Moras 40<sup>th</sup> anniv.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

7:00AM - Richard Gadel

## 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: Andrew 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

### SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
MAYNETTE DOBARD AND BARBARA RIGBY  
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DEATHS  
BY THEIR SON AND BROTHER, LEO DOBARD

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 RECENTLY DECEASED**

Lloyd Killen

**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 - 12/24/2023**

Regular Collection	\$ 3,250.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,645.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,530.00</u>
<b>Shortage</b>	<b>\$ 1,635.00</b>

Goal for December (5 Sundays)	\$ 32,650.00
Received for December	\$ <u>24,132.00</u>
<b>Still needed for December</b>	<b>\$ 8,518.00</b>

Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 273.00
Vocations	\$ 50.00
Christmas	\$ 6,799.00
One Time Donation	\$ 5,000.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!  
MERCI 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****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.

**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.

**If You Really Want To Help,  
Don't Enable Panhandling**

Instead, Donate Directly To These Organizations  
That Directly Benefit The Homeless Population:

**CLHC**  
318-443-0500 ext. 0  
**Volunteers of America (VOA)**  
318-442-8026  
**Hope House (Alexandria)**  
318-487-2061

## Feast of the Holy Family

### Sunday, December 31

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or  
*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*  
Ps 105:1-7a, 8-9 or  
*Ps 128:1-5*  
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or  
*Colossians 3:12-21*  
Luke 2:22-40

### Monday, January 1 Mary, Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27  
Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8  
Gal 4:4-7  
Lk 2:16-21

### Tuesday, January 2 Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

1 Jn 2:22-28  
Ps 98:1-4  
Jn 1:19-28

### Wednesday, January 3

1 Jn 2:29 – 3:6  
Ps 98:1, 3c-6  
Jn 1:29-34

### Thursday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 Jn 3:7-10  
Ps 98:1, 7-9  
Jn 1:35-42

### Friday, January 5 St. John Neumann, Bp

1 Jn 3:11-21  
Ps 100:1b-5  
Jn 1:43-51

### Saturday, January 6

1 Jn 5:5-13  
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20  
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth [joyful] mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple." Saint John Paul the Great wrote this in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, his interesting encyclical about the Rosary.

He continued: "Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who 'teaches'. The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, 'did not understand' his words."

We, too, often fail to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously standing up for the truth and adhering to high moral standards that are counter-cultural.

Our preference, when living this way is inconvenient or unpleasant, is to rationalize and make excuses for our worldly behavior. But once we truly understand the demands of the Kingdom of God, we see

their benefits and we obey gladly.

Without this understanding, we have to simply trust that the words of Jesus are right and true. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we don't understand, while moving forward and doing what Jesus wants us to do.

As challenging as this is, that's when we discover how amazing God is.

### Reflect & Discuss:

† What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5,6,7) or elsewhere in the

Gospels do you excuse yourself from?

- † How much is your disobedience due to not understanding what is really being taught?
- † What will you do to seek and gain a better understanding?
- † How meaningful is the Holy Family to you? What is it about the relationships between Jesus, Mary and Joseph that appeals to you?
- † What has this taught you about God's Kingdom?

