

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

(318) 452-6415 - collene.vanmol@royomartin.com

Mr. Brad Gadel

Confirmation Preparation

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

Mrs. Beth Chapman

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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

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 AUGUST 23, 2025

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

4:00PM - Raymond "Sonny" Tucker

Lector: J. Louviere

Server: A. Schexnyder

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

8:00AM - Carl Bess, Jr.

Lector: D. Bess

Server: B. Emerson, E. Lohman

10:30AM - Msgr. Bruce Miller

Lector: J. Leglue

Server: A. Byrd

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo

Server: B. Winegeart

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

NO MASS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

7:00AM - Randy and Janet Lamkin

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

7:00AM - Lynn Richey

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

7:00AM - Walter Preau

WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 2025

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

4:00PM - Albert J. "Chris" Navarro

Lector: J. Montalvo

Server: S. Barth

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: B. Edwards

Server: J. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Shirley Allemand Olivier

Lector: J. Antee

Server: J. Moreau

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lectors: J. Reynolds

Server: H. Reynolds, E. Lohman

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:00AM - Lily Beard

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

7:00AM - Michael Laborde

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

7:00AM - Guy Navarro

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

7:00AM - PFC Justin Troy Gadel Sanders

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ALICE DEWITT CONNELLA
BY HER DAUGHTERS, BEVERLY JANE RICHEY
AND FAYE CONNELLA**

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.

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 RECENTLY DECEASED**

Joseph Thompson

OUR RECENTLY BAPTIZED

Leonel Alejandro Martinez

OUR PERMANENT DEACON CANDIDATE

Brad Gadel

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.

Kathi Burns, Alfred Cook III, Brian Dobard, Robert Gates, Celia Halbert, Thomas Hickman, Annie Johnson, Daniel Jones, Brad Kohler, Pearl LaFleur, Curtis Meaux, Terry Melancon, Deacon Doug Moreau, Jo Tassin, Tonya Wood

OUR HOMEBOUND

Faye Connella, Butch Doiron, Joan McLure, Richard Milano, Sr., Beverly Jane Richey, Irene Thompson, Constance Weil

OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Michael Flynn, LaVerne Fortenberry, Cecilia "Tookie" Liotta, Adrienne Stevens, Donna White

OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Parker Barrett, 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 - 08/16/2025**

Regular Collection	\$ 4,484.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,637.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 6,925.00
Shortage	\$ 804.00
Goal for August (5 Sundays)	\$ 34,625.00
Received for August	\$ 19,117.00
Still Needed for August	\$ 21,629.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 21.00
One Time Donation	\$ 4,000.00
Assumption	\$ 550.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
MERCI BEAUCOUP!!

MMJ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Parish Goal	\$ 1,000,000.00
Pledges Received (132 families)	\$ 946,696.00
Monies Received	\$ 514,098.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 53,304.00

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

Parish Goal 2025	\$ 22,506.00
Pledged (39 families)	\$ 18,810.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 3,696.00

On behalf of Bishop Marshall and myself thank you for your generosity to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your gift can make a real difference by supporting faith formation, Spiritual Renewal through the work of Maryhill Renewal Center and in the education and formation of our seminarians. If you have not made your gift it is not too late. Pledge envelopes may be placed in the collection basket, brought to the parish office or mailed directly back to the diocese.

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

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.

WHOLE FAMILY NIGHTS (ONCE A MONTH)

Once a month, all families (PreK–12 + parents) will meet together in the church hall from 6:00–7:15 PM for a special evening of fellowship, review, and prayer. These nights will include a brief overview of the material, help preparing for the upcoming month, and a shared activity like the Rosary or Adoration.

Jr. High and High School students will come with their families and will not have separate class.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Wednesday, September 3 at 6:00 PM - *First Whole Family Night* (PreK - 12 + parents in the church hall).

Wednesday, September 10 at 6:00 PM - *weekly youth group* begins for Grades 7–12.

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

CHURCH NEWS**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

If you are celebrating a 25, 40, 50, 60 or 70th or other significant anniversary in 2025, we would like to honor you on Saturday, February 7, 2026 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 Sunday, August 31, 2025.

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.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

This candle is available to burn weekly for any intentions for the living, the deceased, in thanksgiving, in need, etc. The suggested donation is \$7.00. Please call Cindy at the church office.

FORMED

This online platform subscription service offers access to the best Catholic digital content producers - studies, films, audio, and eBooks. All parishioners of every age can access this great Catholic material. Go to www.formed.org, select Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, and complete the simple registration.

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.

LIVE STREAMING

For the benefit of our homebound and/or sick parishioners, we livestream the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass each week. To watch it anytime on You Tube, search for MMJ Woodworth.



August 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21 | Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 | Lk 13:22-30

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Have you ever felt as though God is punishing you? Throughout the course of our lives, we experience what might seem like a barrage of hardships. This battering down of our interior and exterior fortresses over time can test our faith and weaken our resolve. If you find yourself in this position, read today's passage from Hebrews again: "Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord," St. Paul reminds us, "for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines." In our human nature, we may find these "disciplines" painful (and rightfully so). But Paul urges us to shift our mindset, recognizing that just as a good father disciplines his children for their greater good, so our heavenly Father does the same for us. Paul goes on to explain that we may consider every trial we endure in this sense, as a loving "discipline" — a sign of the Lord's attention and desire for our sanctity.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Modern society loves the concept of a God who is soft, inviting, sweet, and tender. Of course, our Lord in his goodness and mercy can be described by those adjectives. But today's Gospel reminds us of an equally important characteristic of the Lord: He is the supreme and final judge, and at the final judgment we will be held accountable for our lives. In the end, we will stand before the Lord, and he will put all things in proper order. Will it be glorious, loving, and merciful? Yes. Painful and piercing? Perhaps. Our Lord's love knows no bounds, and he withholds his mercy from no one. It is precisely from this place of perfect love and profound mercy that rightful judgment emerges. May we live a life worthy of welcome when we meet him face to face.

REFLECT

In addition to accepting the discipline that the Lord sends our way, we can engage in voluntary practices to strengthen our spiritual lives. These practices are necessary, as Jesus tells us that many "will not be strong enough" to enter through the narrow gate that leads to life. Our second reading exhorts us to "strengthen [our] drooping hands and [our] weak knees." What spiritual disciplines have you found helpful to foster your growth in holiness? What areas are weak or need strengthening?