

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) 446-0155 - cvanmol@levertonfarms.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 DECEMBER 13, 2025

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH
2ND COLLECTION: RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

4:00PM - Terry Kohler 76th birthday
remembrance

Lector: B. Patty
Server: J. Louviere

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: B. Edwards
Server: J. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Beverly Richey

Lector: J. Foote
Server: B. Upton

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds
Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:00AM - Virginia Kroll

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00AM - Irene Thompson Month's Mind

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00AM - Mary Virginia Young

WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2025

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

4:00PM - Michael Kroll

Lector: M. Leleux
Server: A. Schexnyder

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00AM - Addie Cook

Lector: E. Lohman
Server: E. Lohman

10:30AM - Stephen Rodeback, Papa Dee Smart,
Helen M. Smart, Ashley Brinson

Lector: M. Brundrett
Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo
Server: B. Winegeart

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00AM - Kathi Burns

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00PM - Our Church Family

Lector: J. Leglue
Server: L. Brocato

6:00PM - Our Church Family

Lector: P. Gadel
Server: J. Schexnyder

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30AM - Our Church Family

Lector: S. Cranford
Server: TBD

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK

IN THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED

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 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 FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES**

Lucy Lamkin, Harper Landry, Oliver Lopez, Ashtyn Moreau, Cali Williams, James Michael Upton

Saturday, May 2 - 10:00 a.m.

OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Georgia Buller, Ayden Byrd, Isaac Delaney, Andrew Lohman, Marcie Loken, Maya Reynolds

Saturday, April 11, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

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.

Sara Andries, Brian Dobard, Rachel Ellington, Celia Halbert, Daniel Jones, Linder Holland, Curtis Meaux, Deacon Doug Moreau, Joel Petrus, Jo Tassin, Tonya Wood

OUR HOMEBOUND

Faye Connella, Butch Doiron, Joan McLure, Richard Milano, Sr., Constance Weil

OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

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 - 12/07/2025**

Regular Collection	\$ 5,704.00
EFT Collection	\$ 2,171.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,925.00</u>
Overage	\$ 950.00

Goal for December (4 Sundays)	\$ 27,700.00
Received for December	\$ <u>7,875.00</u>
Still Needed for December	\$ 19,825.00

Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 425.00
Christmas	\$ 10.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 655.00
Retired Religious	\$ 10.00
Church Vocations	\$ 10.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MERCI BEAUCOUP!!

MMJ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Parish Goal	\$ 1,000,000.00
Pledges Received (136 families)	\$ 970,000.00
Monies Received	\$ <u>570,782.00</u>
Balance Remaining	\$ 30,000.00

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Should you need a pledge card, please speak with Fr. Paul or one of our sacristans after Mass. In this way we can track our success as we move through the future. If you are having trouble setting up online giving, call Cindy at the office.

COMMUNITY REWARDS

Visit [Kroger.com](https://www.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.

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.

FIRST PENANCE & FIRST EUCHARIST

If you have a child who is or will be 7 years old in the Fall and is expecting to celebrate their first Penance and receive their first Eucharist in the Spring of the next year, the following conditions must be met: Attend separate class; one year previous religious education, either CCD or Catholic School; complete and submit a religious education/CCD registration form.

March 15, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Church Hall

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 encouraged to register.

CHURCH NEWS**RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION**

The Sacrament continues to be celebrated in Fr. Paul's office, in the hall, at the normal times. As always, you may email or call to make an appointment at another time.

HOMEBOUND VISITATION

Fr. Paul will be visiting our homebound on Tuesday, December 23, bringing them Communion and a present from our Church community.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Please return all gifts to the church this weekend.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND

This fund enables us to decorate our worship space during the Christmas season. The donors and those remembered will be listed in the bulletin the weekend of January 17-18, 2026. The suggested donation is \$10. An envelope for this purpose is available from one of the sacristans and in your monthly packet or 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***A Holy Day of Obligation***

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

Thursday, December 25
9:30 a.m.

The church office will be closed December 24th-28th. As always, in the event that you need to speak with Fr. Paul, please call the office at (318) 487-9894 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

ROSARY MINISTRY

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Hall.

ROMEOs

(Retired Old Men Enjoying Ourselves)

Wednesdays - 7:30 a.m. - Sweet Delta Bakery

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursday, December 18
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

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

One morning, I woke up feeling exhausted after a fitful night of sleep. I was achy and generally under the weather. Despite this, I made a to-do list because the day's work still needed to be accomplished. I was determined to not let this sickness interrupt my productivity, even though I *knew* I needed to rest. It occurred to me, then, that rest — and dependence on others and God — is sacred also. In today's psalm, we hear of the many ways the Lord provides: The *Lord* gives, the *Lord* raises, the *Lord* loves, the *Lord* protects, the *Lord* saves. We cannot accomplish our own salvation, but we can rest in the promise the Lord provides, and we can hope in the salvation offered in Christ. As we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, let us find time to rest in his Word and his presence, trusting that our salvation does not depend on us and has already come to fruition in Christ.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we saw in our psalm, God is the one who takes initiative, who provides for our salvation. In our work to share the faith with others, sometimes our task is simply to help others become aware of the ways God is providing for them by pointing out the signs of his action in their lives. When the disciples of John came to Jesus asking if he was “the one who is to come” or whether they should “look for another,” Jesus reminds them of the evidence all around them: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. As we help others to see God's work in their lives, we are also leading them to greater faith and trust in him.

REST

We are more able to see the signs of God's providence in our lives when we take time to reflect. Make time to rest in God's presence this week. This could mean stopping into a chapel for a couple minutes of quiet prayer, reflecting on Scripture using *Lectio Divina*, or reading the story of Christ's nativity in the Gospel. These simple practices will prepare our hearts to recognize Christ's presence and goodness at each moment of our lives.

