

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 JANUARY 3, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

4:00PM - Eugene F. LaPalme 26th anniv.,
Wilfred Moras 42nd anniv.

Lector: S. Cranford
Server: J. Louviere

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: K. Bellard
Server: C. Lohman

10:30AM - William "Wien" Denley, Randy &
Mallary Smith 7th month wedding
anniv.

Lector: J. Antee
Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds
Server: L. Brocato

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

7:00AM - Communion Service

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

7:00AM - Rita A. LaPalme 13th anniv.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

7:00AM - Ben Van Mol 39th birthday
remembrance

WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH
2ND COLLECTION: THE CHURCH TODAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

4:00PM - Mary Mrozinski

Lector: B. Patty
Server: L. Brocato

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

8:00AM - Frank Smith, III

Lector: E. Lohman
Server: J. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Noah Upton 6th birthday

Lector: J. Foote
Server: J. Moreau

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: M. Leleux
Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

7:00AM - Kathi Burns

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

7:00AM - Janet Hoyt

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

7:00AM - Lawrence 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

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS AND BENEFACTORS

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.

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, Kay Andries, Brian Dobard, 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 - 12/28/2025**

Regular Collection	\$ 3,811.00
EFT Collection	\$ 2,189.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,925.00</u>
Shortage	\$ 925.00
Goal for December (4 Sundays)	\$ 27,700.00
Received for December	\$ <u>27,120.00</u>
Shortage for December	\$ 580.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 40.00
Christmas	\$ 2,530.00
Church Vocations	\$ 100.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MERCI BEAUCOUP!!

MMJ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Parish Goal	\$ 1,000,000.00
Pledges Received (137 families)	\$ 1,000,300.00
Monies Received	\$ <u>615,314.00</u>
Over Goal	\$ 300.00

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

Parish Goal 2025	\$ 22,506.00
Pledged (46 families)	\$ <u>21,278.00</u>
Balance Remaining	\$ 1,128.00

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**A NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

To all those who ensured that our liturgies, celebrations, and hospitality during the Christmas season would be filled with love and prayer.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

This weekend at all the Masses, we will be handing out bags for each family to take home. Inside each bag is chalk and a prayer card. On the Feast of Epiphany, the family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. Traditionally chalk is used to write above the home's entrance and/or above any of the doors in the house.

+20 C M B 26+

The letters CMB have 2 traditional meanings: 1) the initial of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar; 2) the abbreviation of the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The + sign represents the cross and 2026 is the year. Each of you is invited to bless your home on this Feast when Jesus Christ was manifested to the world and invites us to continue this manifestation through our work in the world.

MUG AND MUFFIN

Thursday, January 15
9:30 a.m. - Youth Center

PRO LIFE MINISTRIES

Monday, January 19
5:00 p.m. - Youth Center

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

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.



January 4, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

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

Have you ever had a moment where you've been so joyful that your heart "throbbed and overflowed"? (Is. 60:5) Perhaps this prompt might call to mind moments we have been chosen or noticed, especially when we otherwise felt sidelined or forgotten. (Imagine expecting to be picked last for the team, only to be someone's first choice!) Today's first reading speaks of a moment like that. While the nations of the earth are shrouded in darkness, God shines his light and glory on Jerusalem, and all the nations come streaming to her bearing precious tributes. Similarly, our Gospel speaks about how God chose Bethlehem — a seemingly insignificant town — to be the birthplace of his Son: "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people." Like Jerusalem and Bethlehem, we, too, have been chosen by God. As we continue our celebration of Christmas, our hearts are filled to overflowing when we recall that by taking on our flesh, God has chosen to make his home with us for all eternity.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul reminds us that God has chosen us, not only for ourselves, but for the sake of others: "You have heard of the stewardship of *God's grace that was given to me for your benefit.*" God gives Paul a special revelation to know the mystery of God so he could preach the Gospel to the Gentiles and to all peoples. We who know the joy of having been chosen to be God's beloved sons and daughters have the beautiful task of helping others to know that they, too, are chosen by God. Because of this, evangelization is not simply an item on our spiritual to-do list; it is a work of joy — the joy of helping others to discover their own "belovedness" as children of God. And of course, this message is for *everyone!*

INVITATION

One of the best presents we can offer to someone is our presence. Make an effort this week to intentionally spend time with someone who may feel lonely or forgotten, setting aside other tasks to focus entirely on them. The goal is to help them feel special and *chosen* as a way of giving a glimpse of God's love that chooses each of us out of the many. May the gift of your presence help them to remember how very loved they are.