

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 FEBRUARY 14, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

4:00PM - Ellarene Gallaway 90th birthday,
David Stephenson 41st birthday
remembrance

Lector: P. Gadel
Server: B. Gadel

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: B. Edwards
Server: E. Lohman

10:30AM - Dawin "Papa D" Smart, Stephen
Rodeback

Lector: J. Foote
Server: B. Upton

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: M. Leleux
Server: L. Brocato

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:00AM - Eugene Elkins

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00AM - Emile Gadel

Lector: P. Gadel
Server: B. Gadel

4:00PM - Liturgy of the Word

Lector: M. Leleux

5:30PM - Polly Walton

Lectors: M. Reynolds, F. Hines
J. Schexnyder
Server: A. Schexnyder

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

7:00AM - Simon Moore

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK

IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEPHEN RODEBACK
BY HIS WIFE, JUNE

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.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH
2ND COLLECTION: BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

4:00PM - Eulah Elkins

Lector: J. Louviere
Server: L. Brocato

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:00AM - Frank Smith, III

Lector: E. Lohman
Server: A. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Robert Antoon

Lector: M. Brundrett
Server: B. Upton

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds
Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:00AM - Michael Flynn

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00AM - Msgr. Bruce Miller 1st anniv.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00AM - Leonie Gadel

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 OCIA CATECHUMEN**

Cate Nettles

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

THOSE PREPARING FOR MATRIMONYPeyton J. Bellard and A'lysse M. Wallace
October 10, 2026 - St. Charles Borromeo**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, Henry Jones, Terry Melançon, Deacon Doug Moreau, Mike Stevens, Jo Tassin, Tonya Wood

OUR HOMEBOUND

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

OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

LaVerne Fortenberry, Cecilia "Tookie" Liotta, 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 - 02/08/2026**

Regular Collection	\$ 5,917.00
EFT Collection	\$ 2,471.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 6,925.00
Overage	\$ 1,463.00

Goal for February (4 Sundays)	\$ 27,700.00
Received for February	\$ 18,007.00
Still Needed for February	\$ 9,693.00

Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 20.00
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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	\$ 647,520.00
Over Goal	\$ 300.00

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

Parish Goal 2025	\$ 22,506.00
Pledged (46 families)	\$ 21,448.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 1,058.00

"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)**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**POPE LEO XIV's 2026 PRAYER INTENTION**

February: *Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.*

CHURCH OFFICES

The offices will be closed on this Monday, February 16th and Tuesday, February 17th, in observance of Mardi Gras.

PRO LIFE MINISTRIES

Monday, February 16 - 5:00 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18, 2026

7:00 a.m. - Mass with imposition of ashes

4:00 p.m. - Prayer Service with imposition of ashes

5:30 p.m. - Mass with imposition of ashes

Fr. Paul will be visiting our shut-ins with holy communion and ashes.

MUG AND MUFFIN

Thursday, February 19
9:30 a.m. - Youth Center

MUSICAL MASS SETTING

Typically, we would change the sung Mass setting from the one currently being used to another option for the season of Lent. However, we will continue to sing the Mass of St. Francis of Assisi since this year marks a moment of great historical and spiritual importance on the 800th anniversary of his death: For the first time, his body will be transferred from its resting place in an underground chapel and placed in front of the papal altar in the Lower Basilica. In this way, the church will hold a "revealed treasure" for one month, granting pilgrims time for veneration and prayer. To mark this occasion, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special jubilee year which will extend until Jan. 10, 2027, during which the faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence.

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

LENTEN NEWS



As is our Lenten tradition, there will be no music, bells, or the St. Michael the Archangel prayer at the end of weekend Masses. Also, the weekend homilies will be brief enough to allow time for meditation and reflection.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and we have only one full meal. The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines. But Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health. It is obvious that abstaining from meat is meaningless for vegetarians, who must choose some other form of abstinence. It is equally obvious that replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with the spirit of Lent.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND

This fund enables us to decorate the Church during the 50 days of the Easter season. The donors and those to be remembered will be listed in the May 30-May 31 bulletin. The suggested donation is \$10. An envelope for this purpose is available from a sacristan, your monthly packet, or one of your own. Don't forget to include on the envelope the name(s) of your loved one(s) to be remembered/honored.

WAY OF THE CROSS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursdays of Lent
Adoration begins at 6:00 p.m.
The Way of the Cross begins at 6:15 p.m.
Benediction begins at 6:45 p.m.

MEN OF MMJ - FRIDAY FISH FRY

February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20
Serving begins at 5:00 p.m.
Still \$9.00 per plate - Take out only.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Saturday, March 28
4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, April 1 - 6:00 p.m.

There will be 4 priests to celebrate individual Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession.

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday, April 2, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 3, 2026

The Lord's Passion - 3:00 p.m.
The Way of the Cross - 6:00 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 4, 2026

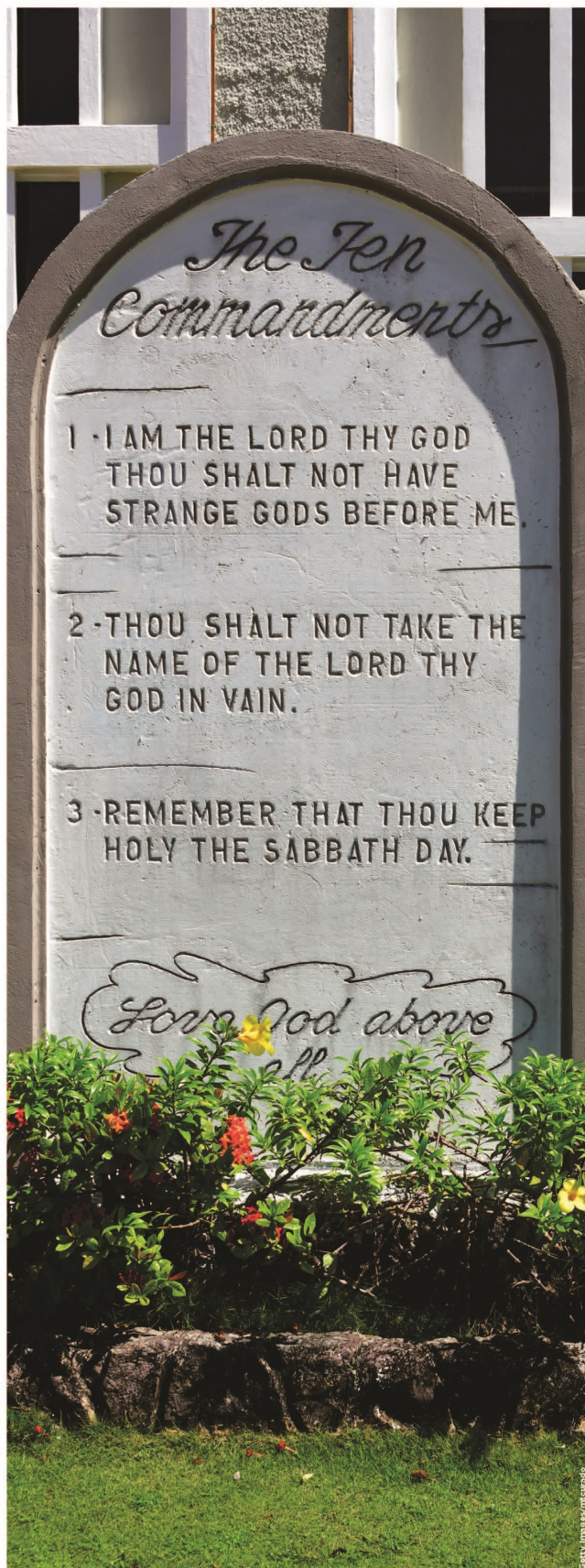
8:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5, 2026

8:00 a.m. - Mass
10:30 a.m. - Mass

No 5:00 p.m. Mass Easter Sunday





February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that "unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." In Matthew 23:3-5, Jesus says, "Do and observe all things whatsoever [the scribes and Pharisees] tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice ... All their works are performed to be seen." What Jesus is inviting us to see is that to authentically live the commandments requires more than mere external compliance with the letter of the law. It's also not about putting on a show so that others think we're "holy." Rather, it's about the quiet, inner transformation of our hearts. The Gospel tells us it's not enough that we avoid murder; God wants to free us from anger and wrath. It's not enough to avoid unfaithfulness in marriage; God wants to give us hearts that are pure and free from lust. Our task is to open our hearts to the transforming power of his commandments which, if we live them, lead us to fullness of life.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In our second reading, St. Paul speaks about some challenges we face when sharing the faith with others. There are those who are unable to grasp God's wisdom, which is different from the wisdom of this age. God's wisdom is mysterious, hidden, and can only be understood and grasped through a revelation of the Spirit. This is an important concept for us as evangelizers. Sometimes no matter how hard we try, no matter how eloquent we are at explaining something, those who are not ready to receive what we have to share will not be able to receive it. In order for others to understand the Gospel, the Spirit must open their hearts to receive it. While we are responsible to share the Gospel as well as we're able, it is up to the person before us to respond to God's invitation.

PRAY

Accepting the Lord's teaching in the commandments requires humility, and understanding their true meaning and depth is the result of the Spirit's work in our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you true insight to live the commandments with your whole heart. Consider using these lines from today's psalm in your prayer: "Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart."

Public Notice – Action Required**Sexual Abuse Claims in the Diocese of Alexandria Bankruptcy**

**Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred,
you need to file your claim so that it is received by June 8, 2026.**

The Diocese of Alexandria (“Diocese” or “Debtor”) has filed bankruptcy to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Putative Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re: Diocese of Alexandria*, Case No. 25-31257 (Bankr. W.D. La.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, go to <https://cases.stretto.com/diocesefalexandria> or call (855) 655-5795.

Who Should File a Putative Abuse Survivor Claim?

Anyone who alleges they were abused and believes the Diocese, or persons affiliated with the Diocese, may be responsible for the abuse must file a claim. This includes abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese, including schools, orphanages, parishes, or Catholic Charities. A list of such entities associated with the Diocese is available on the website or by calling the toll-free number listed below. If you have an abuse claim against any entity on that list, you may have a claim against the Diocese. Only the Diocese is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against any entity on that list, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

When and How Should I File a Putative Abuse Survivor Claim?

You should file a claim using the Putative Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim so that it is received by **June 8, 2026. If you do not file a timely Putative Abuse Survivor Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese, including any right to compensation.**

Your information will be kept private. You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.

Your information will be kept private

<https://cases.stretto.com/diocesefalexandria> and (855) 655-5795

Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the
FREE mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “[Instant Church Directory](#)” to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions?



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