

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 MARCH 7, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

4:00PM - Chris Jardoian

Lector: J. Louviere

Server: L. Brocato

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

8:00AM - Frank Smith, III

Lector: E. Lohman

Server: A. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Kathi Burns

Lector: J. Leglue

Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Montalvo

Server: A. Byrd

MONDAY, MARCH 23

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

7:00AM - Frank & Angelina Cortello

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

7:00AM - Mike Flynn

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

7:00AM - Joe Gerchow

WEEK OF MARCH 14, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

4:00PM - Kathi Burns.

Lector: P. Gadel

Server: B. Gadel

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: E. Lohman

Server: E. Lohman

10:30AM - Robert Antoon

Lector: J. Antee

Server: B. Upton

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds

Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, MARCH 30

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

7:00AM - Mary "Boonie" Treuting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

7:00AM - Thomas & Eunice Antoon

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

6:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: P. Gadel

Servers: B. Gadel, B. Upton

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

3:00PM - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Lectors: P. Gadel, E. Lohman

Servers: B. Gadel, C. Lohman, B. Upton

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 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, Maggie Guillory, Celia Halbert, Daniel Jones, Henry Jones, Deacon Doug Moreau, Sharman Steltenpohl, 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 - 03/15/2026**

Regular Collection	\$ 3,867.00
EFT Collection	\$ 4,164.00
Weekly Goal	\$ 6,925.00
Overage	\$ 1,106.00

Goal for March (5 Sundays)	\$ 34,625.00
Received for March	\$ 23,131.00
Still Needed for March	\$ 11,494.00

Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 285.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 1,617.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 105.00

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	\$ 665,328.00
Over Goal	\$ 300.00

“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)

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (ADA)

Parish Goal 2026	\$ 23,732.00
Pledged (20 families)	\$ 7,055.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 16,677.00

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources - themselves - at God's service in and through the Church." Prayerfully consider supporting your church parish by weekly contribution and the diocesan church by contributing to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

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 22, 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**

For disarmament and peace: *Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.*

LENTEN COLLECTION

To put into practice the Lenten discipline of almsgiving, we will have a second collection at all Sunday Masses, during the season, for the benefit of Catholic Charities Cenla.

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

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.

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

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.

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for a way to increase the love and romance in your marriage? Do you need time just for the two of you? Worldwide Marriage Encounter is the largest pro-marriage organization in the world and promotes Weekend experiences for couples who want to make their good marriage even better. For more information call 800-586-5469 or log onto wwme.org.

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 afterwards.



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.

The altar of repose will be in Cumella Hall for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This year we ask that families spend up to one hour in adoration at the following times: Last name begins with...

A-H: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

I-P: 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

P-Z: 9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

These are not exclusive assignments, merely recommendations. Anyone may spend time in adoration at any time from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Fr. Paul will be bringing Communion in the morning to our homebound parishioners.

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

Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:30 a.m. Mass

No 5:00 p.m. Mass Easter Sunday



March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Ez 37:12-14 | Rom 8:8-11 | Jn 11:1-45

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

The raising of Lazarus marks an irreversible turning point in Jesus' ministry. It's impossible to publicly raise someone from the dead and continue to fly beneath the radar. It's no surprise that the next time we meet Jesus, he'll be greeted with Hosannas and palm branches as the promised Son of David. But we also know that by raising Lazarus, Jesus attracts the attention of his enemies and sets himself on a course that ultimately leads to the cross. In our own life of discipleship, there may be times when we will have to step up and make a decisive and public choice for our faith or our values. Standing up for what's right may bring praise and admiration, or lead to misunderstanding or even persecution. We can draw strength in these decisive moments from the knowledge that the One we follow is the resurrection and the life. Any risk we take in following him is worth it in the end.

GO EVANGELIZE**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Today's Gospel passage features the shortest and perhaps one of the most profound verses in all of Scripture: "And Jesus wept." This text reveals that before he restored his friend to life, we have a God who weeps with us over the losses and tragedies of our lives. Likewise, before we can announce the Good News of the Gospel, we must learn the "art of accompaniment," as Pope Francis reminded us in *Evangelii Gaudium*. (169) This requires that we offer "our closeness and our compassionate gaze" to all those we seek to evangelize. When our first action consists of compassion, empathy, and entering into the joys and sorrows of others, our efforts at evangelization will bear much fruit.

INVITATION

St. Paul tells us to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." (Rom 12:15) As we enter the final week of Lent and prepare for Holy Week, spend some time thinking about who in your life is experiencing a particular moment of joy or sorrow at this time. Consider one concrete action you can take to be present to them: it could be dropping off a meal to someone who recently had surgery, sitting with someone who lost a loved one and listening as they share stories of their lives together, or, bringing a special treat to celebrate a friend's recent accomplishment. Then – do it.

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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