

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

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 MAY 23, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, MAY 23

4:00PM - David Stephenson, Laura Gadel Jacob,
Ernest Moore

Lector: B. Patty

Server: C. Lohman

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:00AM - Frank Smith, III

Lector: D. Bess

Server: E. Lohman

10:30AM - Stephen Rodeback

Lector: M. Brundrett

Server: A. Brundrett

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds

Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, MAY 25

8:00AM - For all Who Died in Service of Our
Country

TUESDAY, MAY 26

7:00AM - Pauline Theriot

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

7:00AM - Mike Flynn

THURSDAY, MAY 28

7:00AM - Stanley Hromadka

WEEK OF MAY 30, 2026

REG. COLLECTION: SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, MAY 30

4:00PM - Jacquelyn Brown, Gene Tucker

Lector: P. Gadel

Server: B. Gadel

SUNDAY, MAY 31

8:00AM - David Smith

Lector: G. Delaney

Server: M. Schexnyder

10:30AM - Papa Dee & Helen Smart, Deceased
members of the Doiron Family

Lector: J. Antee

Server: B. Upton

5:00PM - For Our Parish Family

Lector: J. Reynolds

Server: H. Reynolds

MONDAY, JUNE 1

7:00AM - Zachary Veillon

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

7:00AM - Felicite Moore

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

7:00AM - Stephen Rodeback birthday remem-
brance

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

7:00AM - Stanley Hromadka

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK



FOR ALL WHO DIED IN SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

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**

Avery Laverne Fortenberry, Jr.

OUR PERMANENT DEACON CANDIDATE

Brad Gadel

THOSE PREPARING FOR MATRIMONYAbby Lebleu and Ronald Bass
June 12, 2026 - Mary, Mother of JesusPeyton 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, Deacon Doug Moreau, Sharman Steltenpohl, Jo Tassin, Tonya Wood

OUR HOMEBOUND

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

OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Cecilia "Tookie" Liotta, Adrienne Stevens, Donna White

OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Luke Borrel, 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 - 05/16/2026**

Regular Collection	\$ 4,374.00
EFT Collection	\$ 1,687.00
Weekly Goal	\$ <u>6,925.00</u>
Shortage	\$ 864.00

Goal for May (4 Sundays)	\$ 34,625.00
Received for May	\$ <u>21,414.00</u>
Still Needed for May	\$ 13,211.00

Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 20.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 50.00
Catholic Communications	\$ 130.00
Annual Donation	\$ 5,200.00

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>728,360.00</u>
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 (37 families)	\$ <u>19,279.00</u>
Balance Remaining	\$ 4,453.00

Thank you to everyone who made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge to the ADA there are pledge envelopes available. Please take the time to make your commitment to the larger Church, knowing that your gift to the ADA makes a real difference to the lives of the laity of the Diocese.

FAITH FORMATION**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Every Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Mass
During the Liturgy of the Word
Ages 3 - 7 - Youth Center

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS

On June 11, 2026, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Parishes around the country are encouraged to join the bishops in celebrating the consecration of our nation to the Sacred Heart.

In response to the bishops' invitation, Mary, Mother of Jesus Church will be praying the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 3 & 4 and 8-11 following the 7:00a.m. Mass. For those who cannot attend, and for the days we don't celebrate 7:00a.m. Mass, copies of this novena are available on the bookcase and also online at www.usccb.org/weholdthesetruths. Each day reflects on the wisdom of saints and pontiffs on the Sacred Heart and offers opportunities for prayer and action, framed by Pope Francis' encyclical *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us) and Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te* (I Have Loved You).

On Thursday, June 11, at 6:00p.m. we will consecrate our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a prayer service including exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, benediction, scripture readings, and singing.

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**

That everyone might have food:

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

MEMORIAL DAY

May 25 - 8:00a.m. Mass

Church offices are closed.

CHURCH PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, June 7

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Food - Games - Fun For All Ages

Everyone Is Welcome and Invited

Sponsored by MMJ Youth Ministries

CONSECRATION OF OUR COUNTRY

Thursday, June 11

6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

If you are celebrating a 25, 40, 50, 60 or 70th or other significant anniversary in 2026, we would like to honor you on Saturday, February 13, 2027 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 Monday, August 31, 2026.

ROSARY MINISTRY

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

ROMEOS

(Retired Old Men Enjoying Ourselves)

Wednesdays - 7:30 a.m. - Honee  Donuts

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursdays - 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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.

We Hold These Truths

An article series exploring Catholic contributions over 250 years of American history.



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops



An American Catholic Patriotism

by **M.T. Lu**, University of St. Thomas (MN)

“Our country, right or wrong.”

So Commodore Steven Decatur famously declared his loyalty to the United States in celebration of his victory over the Barbary Pirates in 1815. This notoriously American sentiment has long been regarded as an expression of unthinking nationalism. Reflecting on it many years later G. K. Chesterton would acidly remark that it was “a thing that no patriot would think of saying. It is like saying, ‘My mother, drunk or sober.’”

How should American Catholics think about patriotism today? Is Chesterton right, and Decatur’s boast just a slightly more eloquent version of the “USA! USA! USA!” chants that so offend the sensibilities of the sophisticated? Or, is Decatur’s heart in the right place, even if open to misinterpretation?

As is so often the case, we can find clarity by turning to St. Thomas Aquinas. In fact, he is unambiguous in holding that patriotism is a virtue—it is a part of piety and, therefore, of justice. He explains that we owe honor to our parents and country (*patria*) because they are “principles of our being and government.” With this he grounds our duties of piety and patriotism in the fact that who we are, and our

understanding of the good, substantially derives from our parents and country.

Obviously, each of us owes a great debt to our parents. Not only did they beget us, but the vast majority of us were also raised and formed by them. Just as a good ruler governs the state for the sake of the common good, good parents “govern” their children by shaping them to desire and pursue what is authentically good. Our obligations to our parents, expressed through the virtue of piety, involve acknowledging their rightful authority, which exists for the sake of that same good. Even as adults, when we have passed out of their direct authority, we still owe them honor and respect, which is perhaps why the Fourth Commandment is actually the first concerned with human morality.

Thomas notes that the nature of our duty to parents is directly parallel to our natural moral obligation to God. This is likely to occasion some confusion since we Catholics normally think of our relationship to God in supernatural terms. When we receive the sacraments we are receiving supernatural gifts. While these gifts are ultimately higher and better than what we are able to do by human means alone, the Church

has long taught that we can also know God by natural reason. Accordingly, all humans have obligations to God in natural justice, apart from what the baptized may also owe to God on account of his revealed Law. Thomas calls this the natural virtue of religion.

Like our parents, God is a “principle of being and government” for each of us. Of course, God is the primary principle, and so our obligations to Him outweigh any other, including even our duties to our parents. Nonetheless, it’s very important to see that the duties in both cases have the same normative structure and arise for the same reasons, precisely because we are the kind of thing that has principles of being and government.

We are now ready to see how patriotism fits into this. As already noted, we actually have two secondary principles of being and government: our parents and also our country. We owe our existence as the kinds of people we are not only to our parents but also to our civil community. Our nation, through its laws and institutions, educates and shapes us in much the same way that our parents form us. Therefore, just as we have natural duties to God and our parents, we have analogous duties of patriotism to our civil communities.

Of course, it is one thing to see that we have duties of patriotism in general, and quite another to know exactly what they require. But the same is true with our parents; I know it would be wrong to let my aged parents be put out onto the street, but does honoring them require that I give them a veto over my choice of spouse? Similarly, I know it would be wrong to abandon my country in her hour of need, but does honoring the flag require me to accept any given policy the government might choose to advance? In both cases, practical wisdom (prudence) is required, and we cannot articulate

ahead of time simple rules that will easily resolve the many difficult questions that arise. But just as my duty to honor and respect my parents remains even if they are flawed or imprudent or even occasionally maddening, the honor and respect owed to my country does not depend on who is in charge or whether I happen to like or dislike that administration’s policies.

So where does that leave us? From the perspective of natural reason, we can unambiguously say that patriotism is a virtue and a requirement of natural justice. In our day and age, it is difficult to see anything other than the Constitutional Republic in which we live as the proper object of that patriotic duty. At the same time, we also know that many of our country’s laws and policies are contrary to that same natural justice, from legalized abortion to euthanasia and much more. And yet, for all her flaws, America remains a principle of our being and government. So, in one very important sense, Commodore Decatur was correct: as Americans, she is our country, right or wrong, and we are called to honor her much as we are called to honor our parents. However, Chesterton’s concern was not unfounded; we cannot let a legitimate love of country blind us to injustice. As Catholics, then, we are called to the hard work of making her more right than wrong, even while knowing that task will never be complete.

About the Author

M.T. Lu is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, with expertise in normative ethics.

Aristotelian philosophy, and bioethics. He holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University and frequently writes on the intersection of faith, ethics, and contemporary issues.



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?



Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](#).



May 24, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11 | 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 | Jn 20:19-23

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

The Solemnity of Pentecost is about the gift of the Spirit in our lives. St. Paul reminds us that despite the variety of gifts we have received, we are one Body. To make sense of this, consider that on a human level, some of us are introverts, while others are extroverts. Each personality type has particular gifts and struggles. Sometimes, our differing personality types can grate on each other, causing tension. And yet, how often do others who are our “opposites” remind us of truths we often forget? (Speaking as an extrovert, I need introverts to remind me that you can often learn more from quiet listening than talking out loud.) So, too, with spiritual gifts! As we consider the ways God has gifted each of us, let us remember that the differences between us have a specific purpose: to equip all of us to grow and experience the fullness of life in Christ.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In our first reading, we see that the Holy Spirit enables the disciples to speak in languages they did not know. While they were given an extraordinary spiritual gift to do so, today’s missionaries serving in foreign lands must learn the local language to effectively minister among the people they serve. No matter where we find ourselves, perhaps we, too, can learn a new “language,” or find new ways to live our faith and share the Gospel. Effective evangelization happens when we can look to the “signs of the times” and propose, “in language intelligible to each generation,” that Jesus Christ is the answer to the “perennial questions” which arise in each human heart.

(Gaudium et spes 4)

INVITATION

The word Catholic comes from a Greek word meaning, “according to the whole” or “universal.” As we see in today’s first reading, from the beginning of our Church, the Spirit’s desire was to gather people of every nation, tribe, and tongue into the one Body of the Church. The Catholic Church is a global communion, consisting of the Latin Church and 23 Eastern Churches that worship according to their particular rite, customs, and language. Each of these Churches has unique spiritual gifts that enrich the wider Church. Plan to visit another Catholic Church in your area that worships in a different language or rite than your own to experience the manifold gifts of the Spirit that exist in every place where the Church is.