



TWENTIETH *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

**3516 E. Monroe Rd.
Midland, MI 48642-8824**

August 16, 2026

Weekend Liturgical Schedule

**Saturday: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.**

**Exposition/Reconciliation:
Wednesdays 7:15-8:15 p.m.**

Mass from Assumption is LIVE streamed at our **SUNDAY Mass**, so keep an eye out for our **Flocknote**; you can also check out our **Facebook page** and **website** for a link.

See inside the bulletin for the weekday schedule of worship service.

How To Contact Us

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs / 8:30 a.m.—4 p.m.,
Fridays / closed until after Labor Day
Parish Office: 989-631-4447
Fax: 989-835-9722
Email: Assumption@AssumptionMidland.org
Website: www.AssumptionMary.org

Parish Staff

Director of Parish Life: John Graveline,
Email: john@assumptionmidland.org
Sacramental Minister: Fr. Rick Filary,
Email: rfilary@diosag.org
Office Manager: Sandy Martinski,
Email: sandym@assumptionmidland.org
Director of Youth Ministry: Kathy Russell,
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Children's Faith Formation:
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Evangelization Liaison: Anna Martin,
Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org
Maintenance Specialist: Brad Hill,
Email: bradh@assumptionmidland.org



MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Those wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick prior to surgeries, hospitalizations, or because of health concerns are asked to please contact the parish office. Otherwise, please notify the parish office if you or a family member is ill, homebound or hospitalized.

UPCOMING BULLETIN DEADLINE:

For the Sept 13 bulletin by noon on Thursday, Sept 3rd
The rest of the bulletins are the normal Monday by noon.

From our Director of Parish Life



"Those who are learned will be as radiant as the sky in all its beauty; those who instruct the people in goodness will shine like the stars for all eternity." Daniel 12:3

As we continue to reflect upon the documents of Vatican II at the beginning of the Year of the Holy Spirit, this week we continue to consider the question "What is our mission as modern Catholics?" by exploring Vatican II's *Declaration on Christian Education* (also known by its Latin title *Gravissimum educationis*). Two weeks ago, we contemplated how our mission begins with hearing and heeding the Word of God. Last week, we pondered how the Word then sends us out to spread the Gospel message in an incarnational manner (evangelization). This week, we will consider how the Gospel message comes to fruition in people's hearts and in entire communities through the mission of Christian education.

It is pretty self-evident that education is the key to advancement in life. This is all the more true for us who live in the Information Age. But education is about far more than the memorization of facts (even in religious education) and training in technical skills (important as they are). "True education is directed towards the formation of the human person in view of their final end and the good of that society to which they belong and in the duties of which they will, as an adult, have a share." (Declaration on Christian Education, no. 1) The purpose of education is the formation of the whole person; intellectually, spiritually, physically, psychologically, and morally. The "final end" for all of us is communion with God and neighbor in love, so the fostering of friendship and character formation is central to the educational task.

Catholic philosopher Josef Pieper in his book *Leisure: The Basis of Culture* makes a distinction between two different intellectual functions: *ratio* and *intellectus*. *Ratio* is the active function of the mind—research, calculation, technical know-how. *Intellectus* is the more receptive function of the mind—observation, interpersonal dialogue, insight. Both are important for intellectual formation. However, in modern times education has often over-emphasized *ratio* to the diminishment of *intellectus*, and *intellectus* is the place where wisdom resides. We see the devastating results of this because we can now develop awesome technologies through *ratio* but do not always have the moral and intellectual wisdom to know how to use them in accordance with human dignity and the common good. This was a major theme of the

award-winning film *Oppenheimer*, which detailed the events surrounding the making of the first atomic bomb, as well as my daughter's favorite movie *Jurassic Park* ("Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether they could, they didn't stop to think if they should."). As ever more functions relating to *ratio* are able to be accomplished through AI and other technologies, the functions relating to *intellectus* will become increasingly rare and precious because these functions can only be performed by human beings, as Pope Leo has recently pointed out.

Because the capacity for knowledge and wisdom is so central to the meaning of what it means to be fully human, we have a duty to seek the truth about God, ourselves, all of creation, and how all reality is related. We have a duty to seek the wisdom that comes through careful observation, collaborative dialogue, and the insights of our teachers, friends, and ancestors. Therefore, "all humans of whatever race, condition or age, in virtue of their dignity as human persons, have an inalienable right to education." (Declaration on Christian Education, no. 1) Furthermore, "All Christians—that is, all those who having been reborn in water and the Holy Spirit are called and in fact are children of God—have a right to a Christian education." (Declaration on Christian Education, no. 2).

As for the education of children, it must be recognized by all that "as it is the parents who have given life to their children, on them lies the gravest obligation of educating their family. They must therefore be recognized as being primarily and principally responsible for their education." (Declaration on Christian Education, no. 3) The Church and the State have responsibility as well for the education of youth, but these claims must always respect the unique role of parents as the primary educators of their children.

Parents, therefore, must take seriously their obligations toward their children's education, not only their secular education but also their formation in the Catholic faith in which their children have been baptized. "Parents are reminded of their grave obligation to make all necessary arrangements and even to insist that their children may be able to take advantage of" educational services to form young people in the Catholic faith. (Declaration on Christian Education, no. 7) Here at Assumption Parish, we offer faith formation from preschool throughout all of high school through our *Catechesis of the*

Good Shepherd program and comprehensive youth ministry in collaboration with all the Midland parishes. **We are currently enrolling children and young people in these programs for the Fall. All households are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities for our parish to partner with parents in the Christian formation of their families.**

Finally, a word should be said for the invaluable contribution of Catholic Schools to the educational landscape of our church and nation. During the first two-thirds of the 20th Century in America, Catholic Schools welcomed children from all over the world, often from poor or working-class households, and helped them to grow in their Catholic faith and their American citizenship. However, this Catholic School ministry was made possible by the work of many Religious Sisters and Brothers who served for little more than their food and shelter. In the years after Vatican II, Catholic Schools still strive to assist young people "to grow in that new life which has been given to them in baptism . . . orienting the whole of human culture to the message of salvation that the knowledge which the pupils acquire of the world, of life and of humanity is illuminated by faith." (Declaration on Christian Education, no. 8) This mission, however, is performed in very different economic circumstances which threaten Catholic Schools' ability to fulfill their mission. We are blessed here in Midland by the presence of St. Brigid School, and we have a duty to support Catholic Schools through our prayers, goodwill, and financial support.

As schools begin classes at the end of this month, a special thank you is warranted for the sacrificial work performed by teachers and school administrators. They give so much of themselves for the sake of the human flourishing of our young people, often with little pay or appreciation. Let us as a parish cover them in prayer as they begin a new school year!

This upcoming week, we will continue our reflection on the question "What is our mission as modern Catholics?" by reading the Vatican II document *Decree on the Means of Social Communication* (also known by its Latin title *Inter mirifica*). It can be found on the Vatican website by doing an internet search for either title. There is also a link to this document in this past Friday's parish Flocknote email.

John

 Worship Schedule	
ASSUMPTION	
MON, August 17 Ez 24:15-23 Mt 19:16-22	
TUES, August 18 Ez 28:1-10 Mt 19:23-30	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
WED, August 19 Ez 34:1-11 Mt 20:1-16	6:30p Mass— <i>Nancy Carbary (hospitalized)</i> Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation 7:15-8:15
THUR, August 20 Ez 36:23-28 Mt 22:1-14	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
FRI, August 21 Ez 37:1-14 Mt 22:34-40	8:00a Mass <i>Damien Vigil & Isabel Moore (marriage on 8/22/26)</i> 8:30a Rosary
SAT, August 22 Ez 43:1-7ab Mt 23:1-12	4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, August 23 Is 22:19-23 Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20	9:30a Mass <i>Helenanne Kingsbury Bourne</i>



Please keep in prayer the four young people who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, August 15th:

Elizabeth Graveline, Benjamin Graveline, Jacob Pelt and Joshua Ross.

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you will renew the face of the earth. Amen"



V is for Vocation: Religious Sisters of Mercy Postulants



As we celebrate our parish's patronal feast day this weekend, we give thanks for the four new postulants of the Religious Sisters of Mercy announced on August 1. We pray for these four women, as they discern devoting themselves to consecrated life. The Religious Sisters of Mercy offer retreats each year for women to "Come and See" what religious life is like. The next scheduled retreat is Nov 13-15.

For more information, contact vocations@almamercy.org or visit <http://almamercy.org/vocations-1>

O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their life-long service of You. Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ. Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (USCCB)

EVENSONG 2026 THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Thursday, Aug. 20
at 7:00 PM
At Holy Spirit Parish**

*Featuring the Bishop
and the Priests of the
Diocese of Saginaw*

This event combines
Music with
Scripture,
Sacred Tradition
and visuals.

*Everyone is
welcome!*

~ This Week ~

Sunday, August 16

9:30 am Mass

Monday, August 17

1:00 pm BeFriender Meeting
6:30 pm Catholic Discipleship
Small Groups

Tuesday, August 18

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary
5:30 pm Faith Form Comm Mtg

Wednesday, August 19

6:30 pm Mass
followed by Exposition &
Reconciliation 7:15-8:15

No K of C Meeting

Thursday, August 20

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary

Middle School—
Back to School Event

Friday, August 21

Parish Office Closed

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary

Saturday, August 22

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, August 23

9:30 am Mass



Mission Co-op Appeal



USCCA
美中大主教交流协会

Last weekend, Assumption welcomed Tom McGuire, who was visiting us as a representative of the US-China Catholic Association, for our annual Mission Co-op Appeal. For over 35 years, USCCA has fostered faith, dialogue, and friendship between Catholics in the United States and China. Tom's visit is an opportunity to witness how global faith communities are connected in hope, prayer, and mission.

Please prayerfully discern supporting the missionary work of USCCA.

You can learn more about USCCA's mission at uscatholicchina.org.

There are envelopes at the entrance of church. Please make checks payable to Assumption with Mission Co-op Appeal in the memo line.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!!!



2026/27 Children's Faith Formation (CFF) and Youth Ministry (YM) Programs

It's time to register your child(ren)...

Online family registration is now open for both Children's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry!

The formation of the faith of our youngest disciples is guided through **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)**. Rooted in sacred scripture & the liturgical life, CGS aims to foster a personal relationship between the child and God in a prepared environment, the atrium, a peaceful, sacred space where children can encounter the mystery of God in a way that is tailored to their age and spiritual capacity.

Middle School YM

We will be learning about Catholic Social Teaching and the Corporal Works of Mercy. These topics will be explored in fun and hands on ways with objective lessons, games, food and social fun!

High School YM

Welcome to "Game Day"! These dynamic sessions are designed to introduce teens to a variety of catechetical topics and inspire them through the examples of different saints as we move toward our common goal — a deeper relationship with God and one another. Friends are welcome at all Youth Ministry levels... *ALL are welcome!*

Please scan the QR code to register today!

*Cost for CFF and YM
will remain the same
as last year:*

**1 child/\$45
2 children/\$90
3+ children/\$120**



**If you have questions concerning
Children's Faith Formation, contact:**

**Wendy Graveline @
CFF@assumptionmidland.org**

**Questions about Youth Ministry
(6th-12th grade) or Confirmation (age 12+)**

**Contact: Kathy Russell @
Kathyr@assumptionmidland.org**

*"Faith Formation is more than a
subject to be taught—it is an
invitation to a way of life." - Joe Paprocki*

Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN

Sept. 13	CFF and CLOW Begin
14	Monday CFF Begins
20, 27	CFF and CLOW
21, 28	Monday CFF



**If you have any questions about Children's Faith Formation
or Children's Liturgy of the Word, please contact
Wendy Graveline at cff@assumptionmidland.org**

YOUTH MINISTRY

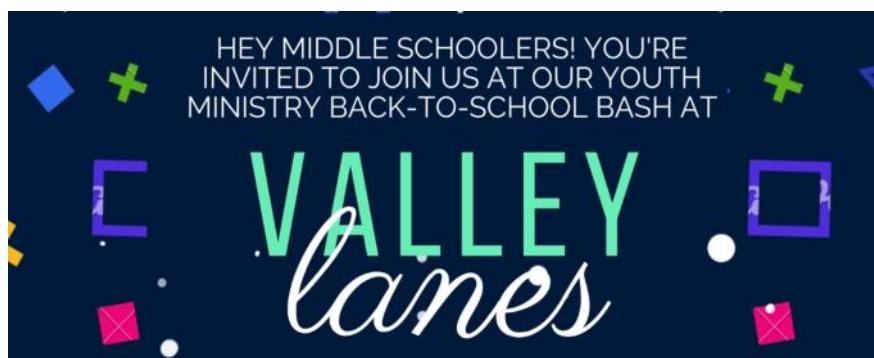
**YM has wrapped up for the year. Watch your email and
the bulletin for summer YM news & events!**

**Middle School and High School YM meet on Sunday evenings
at Blessed Sacrament from 6-8 pm starting 9/27/26.**

**Confirmation Prep will meet on Tuesday evenings
at Assumption from 6-8 pm starting in October.**

Aug. 20	MS Back to School Bash @ Valley Lanes 2:15-4:30 pm
Sept. 20 27	Catechetical Sunday YM Kickoff!!!

**Have questions about YM or events, please contact:
Kathy Russell (kathyr@assumptionmidland.org)**



**Thursday, August 20th
2:15-4:30 pm**

Cost: \$20 per student (pay cash upon arrival)

One hour of bowling, pizza & pop.

One hour of fun using student's choice of
one or two attractions: mini-golf, laser tag, bumper cars,
the arcade or virtual reality games!

*(Students can bring additional money for
additional games if they wish!)*

Use the QR code to register.

*Parents: Please bring your child into the bowling
alley for drop off and come into the building
when picking up your child at 4:30. Thank you!*

Questions: Contact Kathy Russell





Guatemala Mission Trip

Do you have interest in serving others in the rural communities of NW Guatemala?

Another mission trip is being formed to install vented stoves and water filters in February 2027.

There are a couple possible openings. We also keep a list of possible volunteers if you're interested in the future.

If you'd like more info, you can inquire via <https://www.blessed-midland.org/ministry/guatemala-stove-team/>

Take a look at the Midland Daily News, the Bartos family was highlighted. They gathered at the family homestead during a reunion on August 8th. This is the final year the family plans to hold the reunion at the homestead. *Read more in the August 11th issue of the Midland Daily News.*



QUESTIONS ABOUT CATHOLICISM? ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO (OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO) ...

- Has wondered "What is my purpose?" or "Why am I here?"
- Has been seeking deeper meaning in life?
- Has wondered if "being spiritual" and "being religious" are really compatible?
- Has wondered if goodness and unconditional love are really possible?
- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic or learning more about Catholicism?
- Is married to a Catholic or raising Catholic children?
- Is related to or in a relationship with a Catholic, and wants to understand them more?
- A Catholic who has been away from church for a while or are looking to update your understanding of the Catholic faith?

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is offering a weekly opportunity for **Inquiry into Catholicism**. All you need to bring is your questions or a friend with questions of their own. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Catholicism. **Fall Inquiry sessions will meet each Sunday morning at the church from 11:00 - 11:55 a.m. beginning September 13.** For more information, please contact John Graveline, john@assumptionmidland.org.



Faith Formation
LIFELONG AND ONGOING

Faith Formation Commission

The Faith Formation Commission is seeking new members. This committee is missioned with overseeing and maintaining a proper balance regarding faith formation of the entire parish and supports and nurtures a comprehensive plan for faith formation and education, from preschool through senior citizens. Members need to coordinate, collaborate, and brain storm to drive initiatives, evaluate current FF offerings, propose new FF and educational offerings, etc. Seeking members from 16 years of age and older.

This commission meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

There is a meeting this Tuesday, August 18th, stop in if you would like to see what the Faith Formation Commission is all about. All are welcome!

If you or someone you know are interested or would like more information, please contact Kathy Russell at kathyr@assumptionmidland.org.

Grief Recovery

Blessed Sacrament will be hosting a six-week grief recovery process on Wednesdays beginning September 9th. The sessions will run from 1:00-3:00 and are for anyone who has experienced a loss three or more months ago. The sessions are led by trained facilitators Mary Jo Kerlin and Jean Thiele and provide time for reflection and sharing.

The process is free, but please register by contacting Christy at christyg@blessed-midland.org.



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." - Romans 11:29

God has given us all unique gifts. But those gifts are not for our own use alone. We are called to be good stewards of those gifts and use them to serve others and build His kingdom on Earth. Ask yourself if you are using your God-given gifts as He planned for you.



Year of the Holy Spirit

One Heart - One Mind

2026 - PENTECOST - 2027

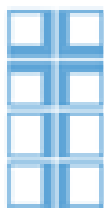
CATHOLIC DISCIPLESHIP

Small Group Series at Assumption

Mondays at 6:30 PM through August 31

Grow in discipleship during the Year of the Holy Spirit through a summer small group! Each session will offer time for fellowship, prayer, Scripture reflection, and discussion of a weekly theme, from personal encounter to missionary discipleship.

Pre-registration is not required. All are welcome!



VIRTUS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY AT ASSUMPTION Monday, September 14th

Location: Assumption Church

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

To participate in this LIVE training session, the following is required: **Register in VIRTUS by 09/13/2026: <https://www.virtusonline.org>**

Please have a current e-mail address in your VIRTUS account!

Call the parish office with ?'s or help on registering.

Save the Dates!

Fall Events @ Assumption

**OCT
10**

PolishFEST

Homecooked Polish dinner, live entertainment by the Steve Drzewicki Band, and family fun for all ages!

**NOV
07**

An Evening with Elvis

Elvis Tribute Artist Jake Slater returns to the stage for a crowd-pleasing performance of Elvis' hits!

**NOV
14**

Fall Bazaar

Over 60 craft vendors, plus our famous homemade noodles, egg rolls, cinnamon rolls, and more!

**NOV
21**

Big Raffle Drawing

Our annual parish fundraiser raffle concludes with a final drawing for \$10,000 – you won't want to miss it!

Stay tuned for more details!

DONATE BLOOD

**Monday
August**

31

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Helpful tip:

Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

For eligibility questions please call
866-642-5663

Assumption Knights of Columbus Council 2141 Community Blood Drive

Assumption Church - Multi-Purpose Room
3516 Monroe Rd.
Midland, MI 48642

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

-Call 866-642-5663

-Visit [versiti.org/mi](https://www.versiti.org/mi)

-Or scan the QR code below

*Walk-ins welcome, as schedule allows!

Close out summer with a memory that matters! Donate to receive one Michigan State Fair Ticket as a thank you!



**SAGINAW
VOCATIONS**

**Fishers of
Men Appeal**

Good news! We now have nine seminarians and a plan to reach more young men than ever before. Your gift supports our current seminarians and our efforts to inspire young men to consider the priesthood. In the years ahead, as priest retirements accelerate, in order to staff our parishes we will need to ordain a large number of new priests.

This appeal directly funds the efforts of our Vocation Team to inspire the next generation of priests for our diocese.

Thank you for your generosity and continued prayers for vocations.

*There are envelopes at the entrance of church. For checks, please make out to **Assumption** and write in the memo line, **Fishers of Men Appeal**.*

You may also give online at osvhub.com/assumptionmary/giving/funds.



BIG RAFFLE

**BIG
Impact**

**BIG
Prizes**

Enter Today!

1st Prize

2nd Prize

3rd-6th Prizes

\$10,000

\$2,500

\$500

Your participation will help Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish continue to thrive for years to come! Proceeds from the raffle will provide funding for parish ministries and ensure future growth.

\$50/Ticket Only 1,000 tickets available!

EARLY BIRD PRIZES

10 Drawings - Aug 15 (award 2 prizes), Sept 17, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, Nov 5 & 12 | 10:30am (except Aug 15, drawing at 7:30pm)

\$50 Prize (Winner remains eligible for all subsequent drawings!)

BIG RAFFLE DRAWING

Prize Drawing & Reception
Saturday, November 21, 2026
6:00 PM at Assumption Parish



DON'T WAIT TO ENTER!

- Scan the QR code or visit www.AssumptionMary.org
- Purchase at the parish office
- Call the parish office at **989-631-4447**
- Place an order using the form below



The Big Raffle benefits Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 3516 E. Monroe Rd, Midland, MI 48642
For more information, call 989-631-4447

TO PURCHASE TICKETS BY MAIL:

Fill out the ticket stub at right and mail it with your payment to Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 3516 E. Monroe Rd, Midland, MI 48642. Please make checks payable to Assumption Parish.

Proceeds from the Big Raffle will provide funding for parish ministries and future growth.

\$50/Ticket

Must be 18 years or older to purchase. Individuals need not be present to win. Tickets must be purchased by 3:00 PM the Tuesday before to be entered in that week's early bird drawing (except Aug 15). Winner assumes responsibility for federal, state, and local taxes.

WWW.ASSUMPTIONMARY.ORG

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ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH BIG RAFFLE

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STATE

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PHONE

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☐ CHECK

NO. OF TICKETS

DO YOU NEED YOUR NUMBERED TICKET STUB?

☐ No

☐ Yes, please use my contact information to send me my stub:

☐ Text me a photo

☐ Email me a photo

☐ Mail my stub

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS



Just a reminder that we have Children's Worship Bags available for families with little ones that are too young to understand Mass yet.

Please be considerate and *take only one bag per family*. There are a variety of materials in each bag for your children to share. Please check to see you have returned all materials to the bag and place it back on the shelf as you leave Mass.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the bags, please send them to cff@assumptionmidland.org.

The Saginaw Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

will hold their Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, September 16, at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw**. All women of the diocese are invited to attend. Registration will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. The morning speaker will be Kelly Hadd from the diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life. The afternoon speaker will be Fr. Stephen Blaxton who will talk about Saints of America's Founding and the Holy Spirit. Mass will be celebrated. The cost is \$13 for members; \$15 for nonmembers, which includes a box lunch. The conference will end at approximately 3:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Rita Maher (989-635-7072) by Sunday, September 13.



Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people.

Weekend Offerings

August 8/9, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$3,397
Online Giving (8/3-8/9)	\$2,808
Donations	\$0
Weekend Total	\$6,205
Weekly Goal	\$9,404
Overage/(Shortfall)	(\$3,199)

August 1-9, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$7,854
Online Giving	\$5,574
Donations	\$5,000
Total	\$18,428
Goal	\$18,808
Overage/(Shortfall)	(\$380)

THANK YOU so much for your continued support in getting your contributions into the office.

Please make out a separate check for the special collections.



Online Giving

It is easy to sign up, just scan the QR code or go to our website at: **AssumptionMary.org** and click donate.

If you have any questions: email Sandy at sandym@assumptionmidland.org or call the parish office at 989-631-4447.

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Avery
Murphy

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Formation
is more
than a
subject to
be taught
— it is an
invitation
to a way
of life."
- Joe Paprocki



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