

October

18

2026

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



Assumption

of the **Blessed Virgin Mary Parish**



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 services.

How To Contact Us

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs / 8:30 a.m.—4 p.m.,

Fridays / 8:30 a.m.—noon

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,
Email: kathyr@assumptionmidland.org

Children's Faith Formation:

Wendy Graveline,

Email: cff@assumptionmidland.org

Music & Liturgy: Jim Renfer,

Email: jim@assumptionmidland.org

Office Professionals:

Val Rossi,

Email: val@assumptionmidland.org

Rachelle Boyer,

Email: rachelle@assumptionmidland.org

Evangelization Liaison: Anna Martin,

Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org

Maintenance Specialist: Brad Hill,

Email: bradh@assumptionmidland.org

**"I have made you a light to the Gentiles,
that you may be an instrument of salvation
to the ends of the earth."**

Acts 13:47

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.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: MONDAY at noon



www.assumptionmary.org



[@assumption.midland](https://www.facebook.com/@assumption.midland)



[@assumptionmidland](https://www.instagram.com/@assumptionmidland)



[@assumptionmidland](https://www.youtube.com/@assumptionmidland)



"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear . . . whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:16-19

This fall as we celebrate The Year of the Holy Spirit throughout the Diocese of Saginaw, we will explore each of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit that we received through Baptism and were fully activated in us through the Sacrament of Confirmation. By better understanding the meaning of these Gifts, we will be better able to put them to use in our journey of Christian discipleship.

The fourth of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is the **Gift of Fortitude**.

When I was growing up, we received the news in a few ways. We had a local newspaper such as the *Midland Daily News* and a "big city" one such as the *Detroit Free Press* at home. There were a couple of radio stations that specialized in news and information like WSGW and WJR, and our "rabbit ears" TV received four stations, with news usually at 6:00 and 11:00. In the early 80s, 24-hour cable news began with the arrival of CNN. In the early 90s, radio stations began to transition to brash politically partisan talk shows. Around the turn of the century, physical newspapers were in decline as more people got their news online. A decade later, the advent of the smartphone and social media have brought us to our current media climate where algorithms bring each of us individually curated content, which has pretty much fragmented community, national, and international discourse.

In order to break through the flood of information aimed at us each day, "content creators" have relied on more and more extreme content to call attention to themselves. We have all heard the maxim, "If it bleeds, it leads." Headlines are aimed to "get clicks and likes" in order to raise revenues. Increasingly, media outlets and influencers seek engagement through stoking **fear** in their audience. This has reached the point that people spend hours on end "doomscrolling" through their social media accounts or continually watching cable news channels, building up fear and resentment against those whom we are told are seeking to destroy all decency and civilization. Fear keeps us coming back to the media platform, clicking, commenting, and reacting. The problem with this constant cycle of fear is that it manipulates and emboldens our emotions to the detriment of reasoned dialogue and common action, replacing compassion with outrage.

We are called however to integrate our emotions with reason so that we may choose to act with justice and love. In his book *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle described courage as the rational mean between cowardice and foolhardiness when confronted with a fearful

situation. There are things of which we should be afraid. A young child should be afraid to touch a hot stove. Teenagers (or anyone, really) should be afraid to get into the car with a driver who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. But how much of our lives are ruled by irrational fears? For example, would one know from following the news that violent crime rates are currently at historic lows in our country and have trended that way for a number of years? True courage is not the absence of fear, but living confidently, taking precautions to address reasonable fears while not becoming incapacitated by irrational fears.

Specifically, as a Gift of the Holy Spirit, **The Gift of Fortitude is the power to overcome irrational fears and continue to confidently do what is right and just even in the face of rational fears.** As my former professor Fr. Francis Martin wrote in his book on the Holy Spirit, *The Life-Changer*, "Freedom from fear is a deep inner work of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter." However, the Holy Spirit's power to free us from fear is entirely different from our usual sense of power.

We usually understand power as the ability to coerce someone to do something regardless of their willingness. The boss at work has the power to make sure we accomplish tasks in a certain way or else we will be fired and lose our means of economic survival. The government can ensure compliance with the law through their ability to imprison or use physical force. In these instances, power is exercised through strength.

The power of the Holy Spirit is the power not of coercion but of transformative love. It relies not on strength of will but upon weakness. Fr. Martin continues, "Weakness is necessary to experience the grace of God . . . we are in constant need of him, for without him we can do nothing . . . God uses the broken and humble person to accomplish mighty deeds . . . Jesus himself died in weakness and rose in power." We overcome irrational fears not through sheer willpower, but through the power of love. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. put it, "Power, properly understood, is that ability to achieve purpose . . . Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love."

When the Bible says that "perfect love casts out fear" it is not speaking of becoming stronger than our fears, it is speaking of allowing the love of God who has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5) to flow through us for

God's "power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9) As theologian Mary Ann Fatula O.P. highlights in her book *The Holy Spirit: Unbounded Gift of Joy*, God's love is not something but someone, the Holy Spirit. In our relationships, there are two persons ("I" and "You") and the love between them ("We"). But within the Trinity, "the Father's and the Son's love for one another, their 'We,' is Someone, the Spirit who is the person of love." The Holy Spirit dwelling within us creates change and exhibits power not through coercion, but through the transformation that is the fruit of being loved and choosing to love.

Two of the biggest fears that hold people back in their journey of Christian discipleship is the fear of others' opinions ("What will 'they' think if I give my life fully to Jesus in the Holy Spirit?") and the fear that God will ask more of us than we are capable. The Spirit's Gift of Fortitude allows the love of God to carry us beyond these fears to fulfil our mission to spread the Gospel and invite all people to experience the peace and joy that comes through intimate communion with God and neighbor. As Pope Leo told the young people gathered in Indianapolis last fall for the National Catholic Youth Conference, "As you go closer to Jesus, do not fear what he might ask of you. He challenges you to make changes in your life, it's always because He wants to give you greater joy, greater freedom. God is never outdone in generosity." This is a message not just for young people but for all of us.

May this Year of the Holy Spirit stir up the Spirit's Gift of Fortitude in us so that we can live our lives of discipleship passionately, confident in God's love for us which is alive in our hearts and empowering us to evangelize all people and serve their needs in charity.

John

You're Invited!!

Join your fellow parishioners in the Knights of Columbus and support our Assumption community of faith!

K of C Exemplification Ceremony

**Wednesday, October 21st
at 7:30pm in DuRussel Hall**

For more info, contact Membership
Director Matt Glaccum 989-430-8622

md2141@mikofc.org

Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Knights of
Columbus Council 2141



 Worship Schedule	
MON, October 19 Eph 2:1-10 Lk 12:13-21	
TUES, October 20 Eph 2:12-22 Lk 12:35-38	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
WED, October 21 Eph 3:2-12 Lk 12:39-48	6:30p Mass <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation 7:15-8:15</i>
THUR, October 22 Eph 3:14-21 Lk 12:49-53	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
FRI, October 23 Eph 4:1-6 Lk 12:54-59	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
SAT, October 24 Eph 4:7-16 Lk 13:1-9	8:30a Rosary 4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, October 25 Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40	9:30a Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>



V is for Vocation: Midland Guatemala Stove Team

We give thanks for the volunteers of the Midland Stove Team who travel to Guatemala each year to help improve residential respiratory and clean drinking water conditions. In February 2026, eight teams

installed vented stoves and water filters in 176 homes among the villages of the Alto Verapaz municipality. Tom Tolton brought the HELPS International concept to Midland with the first team traveling to Guatemala in 2014. For more information about the next trip scheduled for February 13-22, 2027, visit <https://www.midlandstoveteam.com/>

Gracious God, You have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through Baptism, You have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others. Strengthen me to respond to Your call each day. Help me to become all You desire of me. Inspire me to make a difference in others' lives. Lead me to choose the way of life to Your call. Fill all with Your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and the courage to respond to You. Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire to make the world a better place. Amen. (adapted from USCCB)

Collection for Midland Family Center's Preschool Winter Boots

It's that time of year when we work together to provide new winter boots for our preschool friends at West Midland Family Center and the Greater Midland North Family Center.

Look for the "boot board" in the gathering space filled with envelopes. Each envelope will have a boot label identifying the gender and age of a local preschooler in need of warm, winter boots.

Simply select an envelope, return with your monetary donation to the collection box in the gathering space and we will do the boot shopping for you or scan the QR code to give online!



The average price of one pair of children's winter boots is \$40.

Cash or checks are greatly appreciated.

Please write checks payable to Assumption BVM.

We would like all monetary donations turned in by October 18th.



ANGEL TREE - Prison Fellowship

Share the hope of Jesus with a child in the Midland community as you deliver a Christmas present and a personal message of love on behalf of their parent in prison. Angel Tree Christmas starts with a gift and is followed by kids connecting with their incarcerated parents, families finding new strength, and the Gospel changing hearts. It also opens the door for year-round ministry opportunities for our parish.

After a fantastic first year, we are excited to bring this incredible ministry program back to Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. Volunteers to help buy gifts, wrap gifts, and deliver gifts will be needed. Prayerfully consider joining us in bringing true joy to local children and their families this Christmas. Volunteer opportunities will be announced in early November. *Opportunities for all ages!*

~ This Week ~

Sunday, October 18

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

9:30 am Mass
CFF, C.L.O.W., YM

Boot Drive

11:00 am Catholic Inquiry

Monday, October 19

1:00 am BeFriender Meeting
6:30 pm The Wild Goose

Tuesday, October 20

8:00 am Mass followed by Rosary and Meditation
3:00 pm Monicas meet
5:30 pm Faith Formation Comm Mtg
6:00 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Finance Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 21

1:00 pm The Wild Goose
6:30 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Reconciliation 7:15-8:15
7:30 pm K of C Exemplification

Thursday, October 22

8:00 am Mass followed by Rosary and Scripture
10:30 am Early Bird Drawing
7:00 pm Choir practice

Friday, October 23

8:00 am Mass followed by Rosary

Saturday, October 24

8:30 am Rosary
Men's Faith Study after Rosary
4:30 pm Mass

Food Pantry Weekend

Sunday, October 25

9:30 am Mass
CFF, C.L.O.W., Y2Y Discernment Day
Food Pantry Weekend
11:00 am Catholic Inquiry
3:00 pm Sacramental Prep

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!!



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

*It's not too late to register your child(ren)...
Online family registration is open for both
Children's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry!*

ALL are welcome!

**Please scan the QR code to
register today!**



In Middle School Youth Ministry, students started the year by learning how Catholic Social Teaching is our toolbox to help build up the Kingdom of God! The remainder of the year, we will focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy.

For the full description of the Catholic Social Teachings, visit the USCCB website.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Church's social teaching shows us how to build a just society and live lives of holiness in the 21st century.

Each person is SACRED,
made in God's image, equal in dignity.

Each person is SOCIAL,
called to participate in family and community.

All people have RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES.
The right to life and its necessities, the responsibility to respect the rights of others and work for the common good.

We care for people who are POOR and vulnerable,
before all else.

Workers have rights. WORK has dignity.
We are partners with God in creation.

SOLIDARITY is our call.
We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

We care for CREATION.
We live in interdependence with all God has made.



*Our next
collection for
FOOD PANTRY
will be next
weekend
October 24/25*

Please be sure to pick up a blue bag from the gathering space and bring it back the following weekend with your donations.
Thank you for your consideration of those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN

Oct.	18, 25	CFF and CLOW
	25	Sacramental Prep, 3-4:30
Nov.	1, 8, 15, 22	CFF and CLOW
	29	No CFF and No CLOW
Dec.	6, 13	CFF and CLOW
	14	Lessons & Carols, 6-7pm
	18	Family Movie Night, 6-8pm
	20, 27	No CFF and No CLOW



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

YOUTH MINISTRY

**It's time to register for YM! This year's theme... "SHINE"!
Watch your email and the bulletin for news & events!**

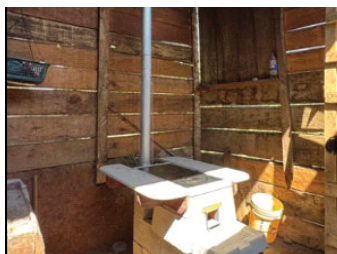
**Middle School and High School YM meet on Sunday evenings
at Blessed Sacrament from 6-8 pm starting 9/27/26.**

**Confirmation Prep, year 2, will meet on Tuesday evenings
at Assumption from 6-8 pm starting in October.**

Oct.	18	YM meets
	25	No YM
	26	Y2Y meets
	13, 20, 27	Confirmation meets
	25	Y2Y Discernment Retreat at Assumption
Nov.	1, 8, 15, 22	YM meets
	10, 17	Confirmation meets
	16, 30	Y2Y meets



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



Guatemalan Stove Team Mission 2027

A team is formed for our 13th Mission Trip to the NW mountain villages in Guatemala in February 2027 in partnership with HELPS International. Past generosity of Midland area parishioners has made it possible to purchase materials for vented stoves and water filters; while our volunteers pay their room & board and airline costs. As a result, we've helped

1450+ families and are targeting to help another 175+ families.

We are seeking your financial support again; hoping to raise ~\$55,000 for materials. These water filters and vented stoves provided to the rural poor are life changing. The stoves replace a smoky fire pit on the floor in the homes. They are safer and run with 70% less wood; saving the family hours of work each week or, if purchased, about 40% of their income. The water filters eliminate the risk of waterborne illnesses (e.g. dysentery), a leading cause of death, especially in children.

To contribute to this effort, please make your check out to:

Midland Area Community Foundation

Memo: Midland-Based HELPS Fund

Mail to: Kevin Shaughnessy, 809 Honeysuckle Cir, Midland, MI 48642

*If you are interested in being a future volunteer, check out
www.midlandstoveteam.com/ or send information requests to:*

Kevin Shaughnessy at kmshaug6@gmail.com.

ASSUMPTION PARISH PRESENTS

An Evening with ELVIS

Hits from the 50s, 60s, and 70s!

FEATURING

**TRIBUTE ARTIST
JAKE SLATER**

Saturday, Nov 7

6:30PM - 8:30PM

5:45PM Social Hour

**Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Parish**

3516 E. Monroe Road
Midland, MI 48642

Includes Elvis-inspired snacks & beverages!

Beer & wine available for purchase

★ *Proceeds support parish Youth Ministry* ★

Get your tickets today!

Scan the QR code • Call 989-631-4447

Visit www.AssumptionMary.org

\$25/Ticket



**Men's
FAITH
Study**

*All are invited to Men's Saturday
Morning Faith gatherings sponsored
by the Knights of Columbus
Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141.*

We will focus our discussion on the readings for the upcoming Sunday's Mass.

The schedule is below:

24 October 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow

21 November 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow

28 November First Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow

5 December Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow

12 December Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Mass, 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow

19 December Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow

THANK YOU

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

*A reminder.....
to please make
out a separate
check for the
special collections.*

Mozart's "Requiem"

November 1, 3pm

Location: **Cathedral of Mary
of the Assumption**
615 Hoyt Ave, Saginaw

Considered one of the greatest pieces of sacred music ever written, this dynamic and powerful setting of the prayers from the Mass for the Dead is sure to stir your hearts and minds. Featuring full-scale orchestra, choir, and soloists, don't miss the chance to hear this work brought to life at the Cathedral by some of the best musicians from all across the diocese.



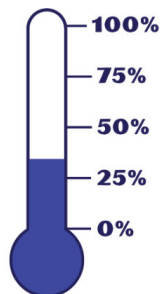
QUESTIONS ABOUT CATHOLICISM?

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.**

*For more information, please
contact John Graveline,
john@assumptionmidland.org.*



BIG RAFFLE



1st Prize | **\$10,000**
2nd Prize | **\$2,500**
3rd-6th Prizes | **\$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!



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



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

EARLY BIRD WINNERS



August 15th Drawing
 James Bourne
 Denise Kearl
Sept 17th Drawing
 Kayla Reger
Oct 1st Drawing
 Linda Yoder
Oct 8th Drawing
 Dave Vickery

Big Raffle Progress Update

Our big goal is to sell **1,000 tickets** by November 21, and as of the printing of this bulletin, we're already **34% of the way there!** Here's the top two ways we are inviting each parish household to help keep the momentum going:

- Start small: Sell one ticket each month** between now and November to a person outside the parish. *You can...*
- Sell a ticket in person
 - Send someone the link below to purchase online
 - Give away a handout with a QR code

Pick up paper tickets from the parish office to sell to friends, neighbors, family, etc. *Return the money, ticket stubs, and any unsold tickets to the office.*

Help the thermometer reach the top by sharing this link:
abvmbigraffle.auctria.events

Thank you for helping to make the Big Raffle a big success!

55th Annual Bazaar



Saturday, November 14, 2026

8:30am - 3:30pm

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
 3516 E. Monroe Rd, Midland, MI 48642

- **Crafts & Gifts:** Over 60 Vendors
- **Bake Sale:** Fresh-Made Noodles, Cinnamon Rolls & More!
- **Lunch available for purchase:** Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup, Sloppy Joes & More
Served by Knights of Columbus Council #2141
- **Event proceeds benefit local charities**



Our Lady of Grace Women's Guild
Cordially invites all ladies to our annual Ladies Fall Social

Tuesday, October 20
10:30am - 2:00pm

Where: Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall, Sanford

Guest speaker: Fr. Jose Cabrera speaking on "The Holy Spirit in Sacred Scripture"

Luncheon served at 11:00

Please RSVP to Cathy Satkowiak (989) 415-8201



Happy 83rd Birthday
Don Martinski
 Sunday, October 18th



Happy 74th Birthday
Fr. Joe Griffin
 Monday, October 19th

2026-2027 Christ's Mission Appeal

Christ's Mission Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese of Saginaw. The appeal is the primary opportunity for Catholics throughout the Diocese to support one another. It allows the local Church to carry out the work of Jesus throughout the Diocese and beyond through ministries and programs that would not otherwise be possible through one individual or parish.

Please prayerfully consider your gift to this year's Christ's Mission Appeal.

To find out more information, visit www.saginaw.org/appeal or scan the QR code.



Letting our Seminarians know we are supporting them

We as a Parish have been active in our recognition of all vocations. Understanding the current needs of our diocese, we have also been devoted in our prayer lives asking for more individuals to answer the call to enter the seminary and serve our God as Priests. We now see some of the initial fruits of our prayers and the actions across the Saginaw Diocese with nine men currently at different stages of Priestly Formation. This is but the start of the journey for these nine individuals and while we continue to pray for more to answer God's call, we need to support those that have been called. To let these individuals know that they are not alone and that they are supported by our thoughts and prayers, we are encouraging all families to help us demonstrate this support.

Now through November 1st we are asking individuals and families to personalize a card to a seminarian. You do not have to fill out a card for every seminarian, but even doing a few will help show our support for these individuals. There are cards on the welcome circle, you can take some home and complete some at your leisure and return them by November 1st. We will collect the cards by seminarian and deliver them to the Saginaw Diocese for distribution.

Thank you in advance for your help making sure that these individuals know how much we appreciate and support them.

Handel's *Messiah* Bible Study



Thursdays beginning November 5th | 6:00-7:00pm

Open to all beliefs • All are welcome!

Questions? Contact John Graveline at john@assumptionmidland.org

Messiah, by George Frideric Handel, is perhaps the most widely-known musical work in the classical repertoire. It is also unique in that the entire oratorio consists of quotations from Scripture: God's living word, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Guided by an award-winning book by Stephen J. Binz, we will deepen both our understanding of God's redeeming plan and our appreciation for the timeless music telling the story of salvation.

Scan the QR Code to register, sign-up at the welcome circle or go to www.AssumptionMary.org/events

\$10 suggested donation for book



October 18, 2026 - World Mission Sunday

This year, the Church celebrates the 100th World Mission Sunday this Sunday. On this special centennial celebration, we are invited to pray for missionaries, support their work, and generously contribute to the World Mission Sunday collection. Our gifts help provide for the pastoral and evangelizing work of the Church in mission territories, including formation of priests and religious, and assistance to communities in need. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the missionary work of the Church through your prayers and generosity. There is an envelope in your packet, you can give online or put a check in the collection with "World Mission Sunday" in the memo line.

Warm Their Feet This Christmas

Knights of Columbus is collecting socks to be distributed to local shelters and pregnancy centers throughout Michigan.

Drop your donations of new, packaged athletic socks in the collection bin located in the gathering area by November 29. The socks can be any size, from newborn to adult.

Your gift will help to bring warmth and hope to those in need this Winter.

Thank you for your support!



Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES

September 8, 2026

Present: Ray Barta, Denise Kerl, Sarah Hocking, Jean Krause, Linda Brown, Kathy Conley, Nancy Boldiszar

Absent: John Graveline, Paul Sery, Marlena Saotome, Anita Whitney, Mary Lou Leslie



Monthly Assistance Fund

August Assistance was \$2,150

Includes \$500.00 Parish Promise-Caregiving Network

\$180.00 gas cards this month

\$250.00 Visiting missionary from China

John had noted that demand was high for utilities payment assistance, rent assistance, and gasoline card assistance.

Monthly Food Pantry (Blue Bags)

August monetary food collections were \$1,106.00. \$1,721.59 overall was donated to Greater Midland North Family Center and the Food Assistance Network (this included leftover funds from Lent Food Truck Collection).

Open Door (Ray reported)

This year Dine on the Door will be November 10 at 12:00 PM. John Graveline has confirmed that a table will again be sponsored by the parish. Anyone interested in attending should notify John.

Ray is scheduling servers and cooks for the next four months for the Open Door shifts.

Caring Cooks (Nancy reported)

In August, 5 meals were delivered to one parishioner, 11 breakfasts were served at the Open Door women's and children's shelter.

BeFriender Ministry (Denise reported)

Two parishioners are now receiving services from the BeFriender Ministry, a few people are being asked if they would like a BeFriender. Carol Watters, from the BeFriender Ministry in Saginaw area, will be making a presentation to the Assumption BeFriender team. Denise is planning to have the BeFriender team man a small table and have brochures available at coffee and donuts this month.

Stitch and Prayer (Jean reported)

There is no stitch and prayer activity yet to report, as the group will be meeting for their first fall meeting next week, Monday, Sept 14.

Coffee and Donuts (Anita reported by e-mail)

Coffee and donuts will resume for the fall on Sunday, Sept 13.

Boot Drive (reported by Sarah and Jean)

The preparation for the drive, which will be held in October, has begun. Jean will reach out to Greater Midland North Family Center to obtain a list of children that need boots, along with the needed sizes. Sarah Hocking will be reaching out to West Midland Family Center to obtain a list of children needing boots and their sizes.

Sharing Tree (Linda reported)

Linda and Paul Brown will again chair the Sharing Tree project beginning on Bazaar weekend.

Angel Tree (Paul reported by email to Ray)

The parish will again participate this year in the Angel Tree Ministry. We expect to serve more families this year. Gift purchasing and wrapping will take place in November and deliveries of gifts will be in December.

Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Linda Brown

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 5:30 PM**

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"At that he said to them,
'Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what is God's.'" Matthew 22:21*

Jesus does not allow the Pharisees to entrap him in his answer to their question about paying civil taxes. He states that people are responsible to obligations in the material world; but he also strongly states that people need to repay to God for the gifts He has given to them. And – those gifts from God are everything that we have.



A Listening Presence

BeFriender

BeFriender Ministers are specially trained to provide companionship, prayer, and a confidential listening presence to parish members that are unable to attend Mass due to life circumstances.

If you or someone you know homebound, temporarily or permanently, please contact the parish office at 989-631-4447 for more information and request a visit. *There are also printed request forms at the welcome circle.*

If you are not receiving your weekly Flocknote, go to midlandabvm.flocknote.com to sign up online and keep in touch with what is going on at Assumption or text **MIDLANDABVM** to **84576** to get it on your mobile device.

Weekend Offerings

October 10/11, 2026

Weekly Envelopes\$5,062
Online Giving (10/5 - 10/11) ..\$4,210
Donations\$0
Weekend Total.....\$9,272
Weekly Goal\$9,404
Overage/(Shortfall) (\$132)

October 1-11, 2026

Weekly Envelopes \$10,487
Online Giving\$6,877
Donations\$0
Total \$17,364
Goal\$18,808
Overage/(Shortfall) (\$1,444)

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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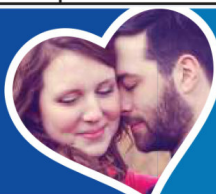
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