November

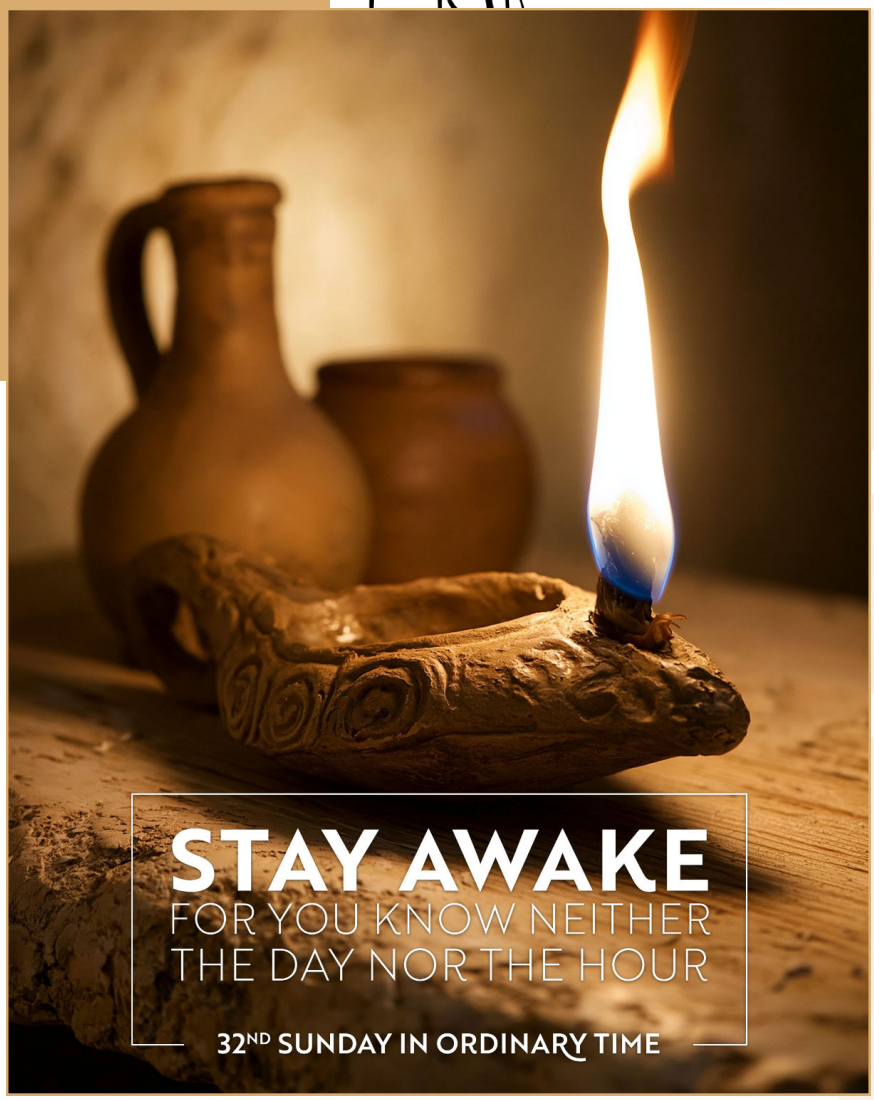
8

2026

THIRTY-SECOND *Sunday in Ordinary Time*



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*

BULLETIN DEADLINES:

MONDAY at noon before each bulletin weekend



For the Thanksgiving Bulletin
November 29th issue
If you need to have something in the bulletin for that weekend, please email the office by noon on Wed., Nov. 18th. *Thank you.*

From our Director of Parish Life

"The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, to deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine. Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield." Psalm 33:18-20

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 seventh of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is the **Gift of Fear of the Lord**.

What is meant by the biblical idiom "*Yirat Adonai*" ("Fear of the Lord") is not that we are called to live in terror of God's wrath such as portrayed in the 18th century New England minister Jonathan Edwards' famous sermon *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. Authentic Fear of the Lord is the Holy Spirit's gift of reverence and awe when we recognize the absolute transcendence of God. My sister lives in an area with many Amish neighbors in Gladwin County so there is very little artificial lighting around. When we visit her house for a bonfire, it is breathtaking to stand below a big sky absolutely filled with hundreds of stars in all their dazzling brilliance. We know that there is vast distance between all of those stars, and because of those distances, factored with the speed of light, we are literally seeing into the past when we view the night sky. The same almighty God who creates and sustains the universe also loved us into existence and cares for us inspires reverence and awe in us. If we lose that capacity for wonder in the contemplation of God's beauty or if it "educated" out of us, we become most profoundly blind and impoverished of spirit.

As a Gift of the Holy Spirit, **The Gift of Fear of the Lord is the gift of keeping reverent wonder alive in our minds and hearts in the presence of God and the beauty of God's creation**. The holy mystery is that the very immanence of the Holy Spirit's presence intimately within us keeps always before our eyes the foundational truth that God absolutely transcends us. God is God, and we are not although through the gift of Grace we have been given the gift of divinization, a sharing in the very life of the Trinity. As St. Paul reminds us, "this treasure we possess in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us." (2 Corinthians 4:7) Therefore, **the key to living a life in the power of the Fear of the Lord is through having the attitude of the humility of Christ Jesus.** (Philippians 2:3-11)

"The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. If you are wise, wisdom is to your own advantage; and if you are arrogant, you alone shall bear it." Proverbs 9:10,12

One way that we can respond to this gift of Fear of the Lord is to inform and form our consciences in accordance with the Holy Spirit, especially the way that the Holy Spirit guides the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. At the Last Supper in John's Gospel, Jesus told his disciples, "When [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin, about justice, about condemnation . . . being the Spirit of truth he will guide you to all truth." (John 16:8,13) As baptized and confirmed disciples in the Holy Spirit, we must honestly examine ourselves constantly, *"Do I judge God by human standards, or do I allow the voice of the Holy Spirit to judge my actions and the attitudes of the world?"* When we make ourselves the arbiters of good and evil, we fall into the same prideful trap as our first parents. When we humbly submit ourselves to the wisdom of God's law (which is always rooted in authentic goodness, justice, and love), we can truly be transformed by love, thus transforming our world.

Another way that we can respond live in accordance with Fear of the Lord is to reverence each and every person as the image of God that he or she is. If our experience of the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit does not bear visible fruit in a life of humble service as demonstrated by Jesus at the Last Supper by washing his disciples' feet and commanding them to do the same, our spirituality is ultimately shallow. We can always find reasons why this person or that or "those people" don't deserve our reverence or that they should get "what's coming to them." But the Holy Spirit is always the Spirit of unity, peace, and reconciliation. The Holy Spirit will always lead us to see the image of God in the face of every human person, who is unconditionally loved by God and who possesses an infinite dignity. Moses removed his sandals in the presence of the living God (Exodus 3:1-4:17), Elijah hid his face in his cloak when the Lord passed by (1 Kings 19:8-13), and Peter fell to his knees before Jesus, saying "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." (Luke 5:8) How do these examples of reverent awe compare to how we behave in the presence of God in the poor, the lonely, the sick, the stranger, and the inconvenient?

Bishop Gruss declared this Year of the Holy Spirit in our diocese in the fervent hope that the Holy Spirit wants to unleash a new Pentecost in our diocese, in our parish, and in each of our lives. In his book *Sober Intoxication of the Spirit*, Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, who served as the Preacher to the Papal Household at the Vatican for 44 years under three popes, writes, "Humility had, and has, a role to play in Pentecost . . . What can we ourselves do to make Pentecost happen? Absolutely nothing! Only God makes a Pentecost. The power descends from on high and nothing on earth can stop it. All that is positive and all that is a gift in Pentecost comes from God . . . What can we do, then, to experience our own Pentecost if we can't do anything positive? We can make ourselves empty to allow the Holy Spirit to come! Making ourselves empty means having an attitude of profound, sincere humility before God . . . Humility, then, seems to be the best preparation for receiving the Holy Spirit."

May this Year of the Holy Spirit stir up the Spirit's Gift of Fear of the Lord in us so that with wonder, awe, and humble reverence for God's presence in us and around us, the Holy Spirit can be fully released in a new and powerful way, bringing healing and peace to our minds and hearts, our parish and our diocese, our nation and our world.

John

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

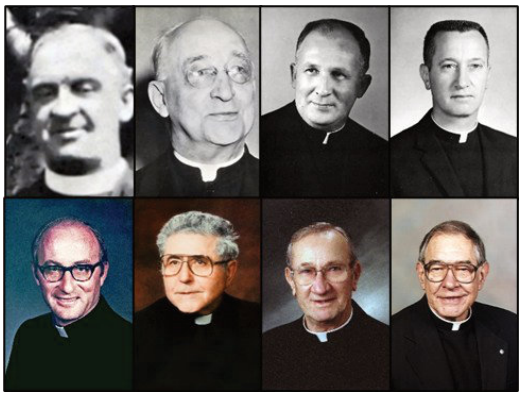
"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
Matthew 25:13

It is often easy to put off or postpone something until we "have more time" or "when we get to it." This also can apply to matters of faith and building God's kingdom on earth. But faith is not a matter of convenience or "when we have time." Ask yourself if and how you are "putting off" using your God-given gifts.

Worship Schedule

MON, November 9 Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 Jn 2:13-22	_____
TUES, November 10 Ti 2:1-8, 11-14 Lk 17:7-10	**8:00a Mass** *Dvorak & Weaver* 8:30a Rosary *Followed by Meditation*
WED, November 11 Ti 3:1-7 Lk 17:11-19	**6:30p Mass** *Followed by Exposition & Reconciliation 7:15-8:15*
THUR, November 12 Phlm 7-20 Lk 17:20-25	**8:00a Mass** / ***Patricia Weist*** 8:30a Rosary *Followed by Scripture*
FRI, November 13 2 Jn 4-9 Lk 17:26-37	**8:00a Mass** 8:30a Rosary
SAT, November 14 3 Jn 5-8 Lk 18:1-8	*No morning Mass* **4:30p Mass** ***People of the Parish***
SUN, November 15 Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Thes 5:1-6, Mt 25:14-30	**9:30a Mass** ***People of the Parish***

Remembering Our Good and Faithful Servants



We remember the pastors and all the priests who ministered to Assumption and who have gone on to Eternal Life. May others answer God's call to consecrated life and follow in their footsteps.

Fr. Edward McDonald, St B.	1910-1922
Fr. Joseph Illig, St. B.	1922-1951
Fr. Camill Klos, B.S.	1951-1963
Fr. Henry DuRussel, B.S.	1963-1966
Fr. Norman Zielinski	1966-1975
Fr. Joseph Favara	1975-1981
Fr. Henry DuRussel	1981-1998
Fr. Robert Davey	1999-2001

O God, Father of all Mercies, 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, and all the Angels and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's Needs, through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (USCCB)

Dear Parishioners of Assumption,

We are so grateful to so many of you who took the time to write a card to our seminarians. You have again gone beyond our hopes and contributed 243 cards personalized for the 9 seminarians in our diocese!

Our seminarians spend long stretches away from home, balancing studies with prayer and discernment. We believe these handwritten notes from the people they will one day serve will mean a great deal to them, and a reminder that a whole community is walking beside them.

Your cards are now at the Diocesan Office in Saginaw, where they will be delivered to the seminarians. We believe that your encouragement will be something very special to each of them!

Please continue to pray for our seminarians, and for all those discerning God's call.

With gratitude and prayers,
Your Vocations Committee





~ This Week ~

Sunday, November 8
9:30 am Mass
CFF, C.L.O.W., YM

Monday, November 9
9:30 am Stitch and Prayer
6:30 pm The Wild Goose

Tuesday, November 10
8:00 am Mass *followed by Rosary and Meditation*
10:00 am Worship Comm Meeting
3:00 pm Monicas meet
5:30 pm Christian Service Meeting
6:00 pm Confirmation

Wednesday, November 11
1:00 pm The Wild Goose
6:30 pm Mass *followed by Exposition and Reconciliation 7:15-8:15*

Thursday, November 12
8:00 am Mass *followed by Rosary and Scripture*
10:30 am Early Bird Drawing
7:00 pm Choir practice

Friday, November 13
8:00 am Mass *followed by Rosary*

Saturday, November 14
No 8am Mass
8:30 am - 3:30 pm Bazaar
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, November 15
9:30 am Mass
CFF, C.L.O.W., YM



The Woman Who Changed the World: Mary the Revolutionary

Join Kristyn Russell on
December 5th
from 9:00am to 11:30am
to learn more about how one "yes" from a teenager in Galilee changed the world forever.

Lunch will follow the presentation. Registration is coming soon!

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ"*...to bring glad tidings to the poor...liberty to captives... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4:18)*. Please consider giving next weekend to help break the cycle of poverty in our nation and in our own communities.

See this week's insert for details!

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!

Save the Dates:

Advent Lessons & Carols
Monday, December 14 / 6:00pm

Join us for an evening to celebrate the joy of Christmas with your family through Scripture and song; refreshments to follow, courtesy of the Knights of Columbus. Please bring a donation of nonperishable food items to benefit local families in need.

Family Movie Night
Friday, December 18 / 6:00-8:00pm

Don your festive jammies and kick off Christmas break with a family movie! I can't tell you the title, but "peas" don't miss it!

Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN

Nov.	**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.

Nov.	**8, 15, 22**	YM meets
	10, 17	Confirmation meets
	16, 30	Y2Y meets
Dec.	**6**	**YM @ Assumption 6pm**
	13	**MS-YM Christmas Party**
	13	No HS-YM
	13-15	**Snack bag delivery**



(No Confirmation session in December)

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

WELCOMING *New Members*

Assumption would like to welcome our new members who have joined our parish community:

Elizabeth (Betty) Mayer
Corrine and Aria VanderSpek

We welcome you as we grow in faith together!

If you are interested in becoming a member of our parish community, please call the parish office at (989) 631-4447.



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS

Just a reminder that we have Children's Worship Bags available for families with little ones that 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.

I hope your family and littles enjoy the bags!

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at 9:00 a.m.

Please bring your food/food baskets to be blessed.

The Parish Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving.

Have a wonderful weekend!



Remember your loved one with a

Christmas POINSETTIA

Please fill out an envelope indicating:

- Your name
- The name of the person you wish to honor (to be printed in the bulletin)
- Whether you would like to take a poinsettia home after the Christmas season

We are requesting donations of $20

Return envelopes to the parish office or to the donation box at the Welcome Circle by Sunday, November 29

Questions? Contact Jim Renfer at jim@assumptionmidland.org



Happy 90th Birthday

Mary Steger

Tuesday, November 10th

St. Brigid of Kildare 13th Annual Christmas Craft Sale

St. Brigid of Kildare in Midland will be holding their 13th Annual Christmas Craft Sale on:

November 21st from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall.

Come browse the wide variety of items from local vendors. Win one of the many items from the raffle to benefit the religious ed program. Quick treats can be found at the PTO bake sale.

Watching the Santa Parade downtown? Come in and warm up with a hot lunch which is served from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. *Free admission!*

Assumption Knights of Columbus Council 2141 Community Blood Drive

WHEN & WHERE

Mon, November 16
1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

Schedule your appointment
Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome!

versiti
Blood Center of Michigan



Handel's Messiah
Part I & Hallelujah Chorus
Sunday, December 20
3:00pm

Our third annual community Christmas concert, featuring chamber orchestra, choir, and soloists from throughout the Tri-City area. Presented by Assumption Parish Music Ministry and directed by Jim Renfer.

Assumption Church

55th Annual Bazaar

Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale Update

Saturday, November 14th

8:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Volunteers Needed!

Call or come and help!

This weekend through November 14th

(sign-up sheets are out this weekend)

Please contact Val Rossi at 989-631-4447.

Mon, Nov 9th
8am – noon Making Egg Noodles for the Bake Sale

Thurs, Nov 12th
Starting at 9am Bagging Noodles

Thurs, Nov 12th
1pm – 4pm Making Chicken Noodle Soup and Sloppy Joes

Thurs & Fri, Nov 12th & 13th
8am – 4pm Bake Sale Donations Accepted

Fri, Nov 13th
8am – noon Making Cinnamon Rolls
10am – 12noon Helping with Table Set-up

Come and join the fun and festivities!

Women's Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 6, 2026
6:30–8:30 p.m. / St. Brigid Parish

Featured speaker: Sheri Wohlfert

A passionate and joyful Catholic wife, mother, grandmother, speaker, and writer. Sheri is featured annually at the Michigan Catholic Women's Conference and is a contributor to our diocese own, Great Lakes Bay Catholic Magazine.

Save the date - more details and registration coming soon!



NOVEMBER FOOD COLLECTION

MONETARY DONATION ONLY

Again this year, the Midland County Food Assistance Network is requesting monetary donations to purchase food for families at Thanksgiving. They are hoping for our help again with this project.

Donations may be made to the parish (please make checks payable to Assumption) or online no later than Sunday, November 22nd.

Your generosity in helping others celebrate Thanksgiving will be greatly appreciated!

Please join Global Compassion Inc's Fall Fundraiser to help Chef Sergey's neighbors and other devastated families in Odesa, Ukraine

On November 20th, 2026
at Assumption's parish hall at 5:30 p.m.

The dinner will be prepared by Chef Sergey and Christina to feature some of the menu items they will be serving in their new restaurant, ODESA by Chef Sergey when it opens to our community.

Menu: Ukrainian Borscht, Ukrainian Varenyky (Pierogi), Savory Crepes, Garden fresh vegetable salad with Chef Sergey's salad dressing and Ukrainian Honey layer cake (Medovik).

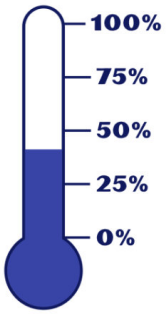
Donations will be accepted at the dinner but please call to RSVP at 989-835-1127, email: globalcompassioninc.org or go to our website: Global Compassion Inc. You may also sign-up at the welcome circle.

Please mail donations to:
3910 Concord St, Midland, MI 48642
in case you cannot attend. Thank you!

This apartment building was hit by a missile recently, on September 12th which had been Sergey and Christina's neighborhood before they moved to US as a war refugee in 2022.







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!**

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



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
Oct 15th Drawing
Rui Cruz
Oct 22nd Drawing
Fr. Rick
Oct 29th Drawing
Jeff Sczepanski

Big Raffle

Our big goal is to sell **1,000 tickets** by November 21st, and as of the printing of this bulletin, we're already **41% of the way there!**

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

Thank you for helping to make the raffle a big success!

Knights of Columbus

If you need information or want to join the Knights of Columbus, please contact the parish office at 989-631-4447.

Check out the website at: www.KofC2141.org.

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

Come Learn, Grow, Discover:
Invitation to parishioners to attend classes

Interested parishioners are invited to participate in the educational courses offered to Lay Ministers, taught at the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw Center For Ministry, Saginaw . The cost is $40 per class for commuters, and the cost to stay overnight is additional.

Please contact Amy Dore at 989.797.66654 for more information or registration.

Upcoming courses include:
December 4-5: Christian Anthropology (Fr. Andy LaFramboise)
January 8-9, 2027: Church History (Hank Messing)
February 5-6: Ecclesiology (Fr. Andy Booms and Dr. Dan Osborn)
March 5-6: Introduction to the New Testament (Fr. Jose Cabrera)
April 2-3: Trinity, Faith, and Reason (Dr. Dan Osborn)
April 2-3: Mission of the laity (John Fontana)
April 10: Evangelization (Don Buchalski)



Our 2027 Assumption calendars are in!

Pick up a copy in the gathering space.

-

ABVM Faith Formation Commission

Minutes of Meeting / **October 20, 2026 - 3:30 p.m.**

Attendees: Linda Brown, Wendy Graveline, Jane Labby, Kathy Russell, Marcia Schneider

Actions and Discussions:
Started with the *Prayer to the Holy Spirit for Guidance and Wisdom*.

1) **Adult Faith Formation** – Kathy
   a. *The Wild Goose* – 12-20 people attending Monday nights, 6-8 people attending on Wednesdays. There has been positive feedback from those who are attending.
   b. *The Chosen Review* – Very well attended.

2) **Elementary Faith Formation** – Wendy
   a. CFF and CLOW going well.
   b. Looking for CLOW leaders. One person has been asked to consider helping.
   c. Two (2) children are registered for First Eucharist/First Reconciliation at this time.

3) **Middle School/High School Youth Ministry** – Kathy
   a. YM going well – Over 55 MS and 20 HS attending.
   b. Confirmation – 32 young people are enrolled, combined with Blessed Sacrament.

4) The updated mission statement and charter will be brought to the Pastoral Council for review and approval.

5) **Book Study** – For Advent, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia M. Campbell will be offered. 4 session (Nov 18-Dec 16). Sign-ups start this weekend.

6) **Advent Retreat Day** – *Mary the Revolutionary* presented by Kristyn Russell will be held in Holy Grounds on Sat. Dec 5th, 9-11 a.m., followed by lunch.

7) ***Handel's "Messiah" Bible Study*** will be facilitated by John Graveline and others on Thursdays, November 5 thru December 3.

8) ***The Chosen*****, Season 6**, will start in February for Lent.

9) The information for the upcoming diocesan Lay Ministry Formation courses will be published in the bulletin.

10) **Future Planning and Ideas:**
   a. Pray and discern ideas for next year (2027-28)
   b. Look for ways to incorporate Jesus' weekly message into weekly communications (Flocknote, bulletin, website, etc.)
   c. There will be an informational meeting with the representative from *Hallow, The Prayer App*, on Tuesday, Nov 24th at 7 p.m. Representatives from all of the commissions and from the parish are encouraged to attend to provide feedback to John and the Pastoral Council to determine if a subscription for parishioner use would be worthwhile.
   d. Discern ways to introduce and offer formation opportunities regarding the new approved translation of the bible, the Catholic American Bible, which will be released in February 2027.

The next meeting will be held **November 17, 2026 - 3:30 p.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jane Labby (10/26/2026)

Christ's Mission Appeal impacts lives throughout the Diocese of Saginaw. Some may be those whom you know in your own parish or community, but others may be strangers.

Here are some of the ways that Christ's Mission Appeal supported ministries in our Diocese.

Growing Future Church Leaders With On-Campus Ministry

St. Mary University Parish on the campus of Central Michigan University is a thriving parish community in Mount Pleasant.

Beyond daily and Sunday Mass, opportunities for confession Sunday through Friday and adoration four days a week, the parish offers college-aged Catholics a place to grow in and share their faith.

The parish's stated mission is ***"to evangelize the students of Central Michigan University and to provide a spiritual home where students can build habits of virtue that will bear fruit in a lifelong relationship with Christ and His Church."***

Although some parishioners are not students, the great majority of those who worship at St. Mary University Parish are enrolled at CMU. Thus, the parish does not operate financially like most parishes which rely primarily on Sunday and Holy Day collections for day-to-day operations. The Diocese of Saginaw subsidizes a significant portion of the university parish's budget. Some of this aid comes from **Christ's Mission Appeal**.

Some of the great things happening at St. Mary University Parish include:

- A strong Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) – the Catholic Church's official process for adults preparing to enter the Church (formerly known as RCIA)
  - **29** new Catholics entering the faith through Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the 2026 Easter Vigil
- Students attending and/or leading Bible study. During the 2025-2026 fiscal year:
  - 170 students attended 1 or more Bible study sessions
  - 115 students attended 4 or more Bible study sessions
  - 11 students led Bible study
- 36 students attended a spring retreat
- 56 CMU students and other parish members joined hundreds of other Catholics at the 2026 SEEK conference in Columbus, Ohio. The annual conference includes prayer, sacraments, evangelization training, and community-building and features nationally recognized speakers such as Fr. Mike Schmitz and Sr. Miriam James Heidland
- The parish center is open daily for students to gather, study or just get away from the sometimes-stressful atmosphere of class studies and campus life
- A meal and social time following Sunday evening Mass – with dinner provided by non-student parish members, the pastor, parochial vicar or even students themselves







Sharing the Good News Through Various Media

Whether you read a story in Great Lakes Bay Catholic magazine, listen to a podcast or tune into a live stream of a guest speaker's presentation or the ordination Mass of a priest or deacons, the Diocese of Saginaw's communications department is behind it.

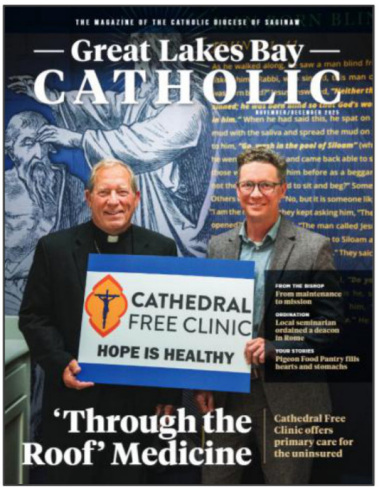
Christ's Mission Appeal helps to fund the communications department.

Six times a year, 24,100 households within the Diocese receive Great Lakes Bay Catholic magazine, which features stories about good things happening throughout the 11-county Diocese region as well as columns from Bishop Gruss and others on wide-ranging topics related to the Catholic faith.

Livestreaming of a variety of events, such as the June ordination of Fr. Charles Warner and a recent presentation by Dr. Mary Healy, a renowned theologian and dean of the School of Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Dr. Healy's presentation was open to all and was part of the year-long series of speakers for the Diocese of Saginaw's Year of the Holy Spirit.

In addition, Communications Director John Gonzalez hosts regular podcasts about happenings in parishes and throughout the Diocese, and more than 4,250 individuals subscribe to diocesan emails.

The above are only a few ways that the Diocese communications department supports evangelization and outreach and keeps the faithful informed.



The cover of the Nov./Dec. 2025 issue of Great Lakes Bay Catholic magazine



Fr. Charles Warner at his ordination



Diocesan Communications director John Gonzalez preparing for a live stream of speaker Mary Healy

Catholic Diocese of SAGINAW

Scan the QR Code:
To learn more about the 2026—27 Christ's Mission Appeal, see a video message from Bishop Gruss and make a pledge or contribution online.



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
WORKING ON THE MARGINS

The bishops of the United States founded the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) to fight poverty by empowering members of local communities, rather than by offering top-down solutions. Using this approach, CCHD-funded organizations identify the most pressing issues and develop creative solutions that lead to lasting positive changes in the community. They address poverty at its roots.

Access to affordable housing is a challenge for people in neighborhoods across the United States. Housing insecurity is not limited to big cities—it affects people in small towns and rural areas as well. Kentucky's Lewis County, where 23% of residents live below the poverty line, is one example.

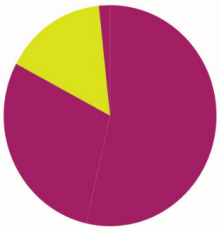
Since 1982, People's Self-Help Housing Inc. (PSHH) has helped residents of Lewis County secure affordable housing by constructing new energy-efficient homes, repairing and rehabilitating existing homes, and maintaining affordable rental units, while also creating jobs by training local residents as carpenters, electricians, and plumbers. Located in the Diocese of Covington and supported by CCHD funding, PSHH shares CCHD's commitment to helping people help themselves.

Your contribution to the CCHD collection helps organizations like PSHH to break the cycle of poverty across the country and in your own neighborhood, where 25% of your contribution remains to support local antipoverty efforts.

Learn more about how CCHD advances the Church's moral and social teaching by empowering communities: visit www.usccb.org/cchd.

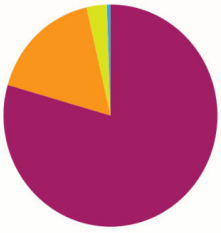
LEARN about those living in poverty who are working to improve their communities. • **ACT** and spread the word about poverty by sharing this flier. • **CONNECT** with the work of CCHD by supporting the collection. • **PRAY** for those who benefit from this collection.

2024 Grants



Category	Dollars	Number of Grants
Community Development Grants	$1,930,000	77
Economic Development Grants	$310,000	13
Total	$2,240,000	90

2024 Expenses



Category	Dollars	Percent
Grants and Donations	$2,282,881	48.59%
Allocations-Internal Grants*	$1,618,856	34.46%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	$471,745	10.04%
Program Costs	$324,641	6.91%
Total Expenses		$4,698,123
Total Expenses Excluding Internal Grants		$3,079,267
Total Grants and Donations Including Internal Grants		$3,901,737

*Internal grants in 2024 included a distribution from the CCHD collection to the education and outreach program of the Secretariat of Justice and Peace, which engages Catholics in our faith-filled call to address the root causes of poverty. In addition, in November 2024, the CCHD Subcommittee approved three internal grants totaling $277,500 to support key national initiatives within the Secretariat of Justice and Peace to enhance poverty education efforts and to sustain the essential work of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism in promoting equity, healing, and justice within the Church and society.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Catholic Campaign for Human Development | Office of National Collections | www.usccb.org/cchd

3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194 | (202) 541-3400 | Fax (202) 541-3460

Copyright © 2025, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photos: People Self-Help Housing, Las Vegas Valley Interfaith Sponsoring Committee, and Childspace Daycare.

40200426

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 or go to:
www.AssumptionMary.org/events

$10 suggested donation for book

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

Oct 31/Nov 1, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	$5,365
Online Giving (10/26 - 11/1)	$2,392
Donations	$5,000
Weekend Total	$12,757
Weekly Goal	*$9,404*
Overage/(Shortfall)	*$3,353*

Month of October

Weekly Envelopes	$15,952
Online Giving	$10,057
Donations	$10,500
Total	$36,509
Goal	*$37,616*
Overage/(Shortfall)	*($1,107)*

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.

Catholic Planners
• Planners & Calendars
• Holy Days & Feast Days
• Notes Sections & more!
Diocesan.com/shop

ACE HARDWARE 832-8829
Mon-Fri 8am-8pm
Sat 8am-5:30pm
Sun 10am-4pm
419 E. MAIN, DOWNTOWN
Greg White • *Parishioner*
www.midlandace.com

Todd M. Gambrell
ATTORNEY AT LAW
gambrell and ASSOCIATES PLC
Practicing in Wills, Trusts, Tax and Estate Planning
1605 Ashman St.
Midland
www.gambrelllaw.com
989.631.7626

Harbron Electric LLC
Since 1976
RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
Family Owned
Family Operated
Family Service
832-3743
2370 N. EASTMAN RD.
MIDLAND

MA
midlandallergyclinic.com
(989) 631-1010
Jonathan M. Horbal, D.O.P.L.C.
Richard J. Horbal, M.D., P.C.
Alexander A. Horbal, D.O., P.L.C.
MIDLAND ALLERGY CLINIC
555 W. Wackerly, Ste. 2675
Midland, Michigan 48640

what's on your horizon?
let us help you find the path.
989-497-1600 frankenmuthcu.org

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Avery Murphy

catholicmatch® Michigan
CatholicMatch.com/goMI

Modern NAILS
Professional Nail Care for Ladies and Gentlemen
989.832.8780
Midland Mall (6800 Eastman Ave.)
Modern NAILS2 (115 W Wackerly)
Receive 10th Refill FREE ($22 value)
Facials • Waxing
Walk-ins Welcome
Gift Certificates Available

Stolz-Smith Financial Consulting Group
CONNECTED WITH YOU
STIFEL
Doak R. Stolz, CFP®
Managing Director/ Investments
Branch Manager
Scott A. Smith, CFP®
Managing Director/ Investments
(989) 941-3501
415 Rodd Street, Suite 1
Midland, Michigan 48640
www.stolzsmith.com
Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated

Village Green
Est. 1963
Flowers • Godiva • Vera Bradley • Trollbeads
Gifts • Gourmet • Wine
(989) 631-2500
715 S. Saginaw Rd. • Midland, MI 48640
www.thevg.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Reggie Denny

NORTHTOWN
Collision • 835-5668
Auto Glass • 835-1145
All Insurances Welcome
ALL OF OUR WORK IS WARRANTED

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will
For further information, please call the parish office.

Ware-Smith Woolever
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
1200 W. Wheeler Street · 631-2292
www.waresmithwoolever.com

EWTN.COM/RADIO
EWTN
Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

StateFarm
Scott MacGregor
Agent
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
5108 Eastman Ave. Ste 2
Midland, MI 48640
989-631-5512
www.scottmacgregor.com

Avon
Don Murphy
Independent Avon Representative
To buy or sell 989-631-1855
murphyavon@charter.net
www.youravon.com/cmurphyc
The Company for Women... and a Few Good Men

Dennis J. Taylor, CFP®
Financial Advisor
231 E. Wackerly St.
Midland, MI 48642
989-835-1231
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

L.M. Satkowiak & SONS ASPHALT
989-697-3297

†Trust† IN THE †LORD†

Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.
Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1484
...or scan

DISCOVERMASS

Knights of Columbus
Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141
Assumption BVM Parish
To join K of C Council 2141
please call Max Schneider at 989-859-4288
or email us at gk2141midland@gmail.com
KofC2141.org

SINCE 1980
TRI CITY Remodeling
Nowak Cabinets of Midland
WHERE EVERY DETAIL MATTERS
FULL SERVICE REMODELING FROM DESIGN TO COMPLETION
KITCHENS & BATHS · WINDOWS · ROOFING · BASEMENT REMODELING
SIDING · CLOSETS · DECKS & PATIOS · FIREPLACE
COUNTERTOP REPLACEMENT · DOORS
PRODUCT SALES FOR CABINETRY, COUNTERTOPS, & VANITIES
989-496-9326
WWW.TRICITYREMODELING.COM WWW.NOWAKCABINETSOFMIDLAND.COM
3700 CENTENIAL DRIVE MIDLAND, MI 48642

Home Visits & Drop Off Services
Wireless Networking
Virus & Malware Removal
Online Backup
Computer Sales
LINKED technologies,inc
JAMES MAHONEY • Parishioner
Changing The Way You Think About Technology!
(989) 837-3060 · www.linkedtech.com

ADVERTISE HERE
Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.
Andrew Beadling ~ 616-446-6892
abeadling@diocesan.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Conner Byrne

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS
SERVING THE MIDLAND AREA SINCE 1967
SERVINSKI SOD SERVICE
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
Grading • Hydro Seeding
Lawn Maintenance
Snow Removal
New Lawn Construction
Athletic Fields
Licensed Pesticide Applicator
CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES
835-4810
3180 E. Hubbard Rd. • Midland

RELIABLE
Plumbing • Heating
Air Conditioning
Since 1949
Residential
Commercial
835-6451
414 E. Lyon Rd • Midland, MI
reliableplumbing.com
One Call Takes Care of it All!

POZNAK DYER KANAR SCHEFSKY THOMPSON PLC
Attorneys at Law
143 McDonald Street
832-1770
Wendy D. Kanar, Parishioner

©2026 Diocesan