

# FIFTH SUNDAY Of Lent



## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

April 6, 2025

### 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](mailto:Assumption@AssumptionMidland.org)

**Website:** [www.AssumptionMary.org](http://www.AssumptionMary.org)

### Parish Staff

**Director of Parish Life:** John Graveline,  
Email: [john@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:john@assumptionmidland.org)

**Sacramental Minister:** Fr. Rick Filary,  
Email: [rfilary@diosag.org](mailto:rfilary@diosag.org)

**Office Manager:** Sandy Martinski,  
Email: [sandym@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:sandym@assumptionmidland.org)

**Director of Youth Ministry:** Kathy Russell,  
Email: [kathyr@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:kathyr@assumptionmidland.org)

**Children's Faith Formation:**

Wendy Graveline,  
Email: [cff@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:cff@assumptionmidland.org)

**Music & Liturgy:** Jim Renfer,  
Email: [jim@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:jim@assumptionmidland.org)

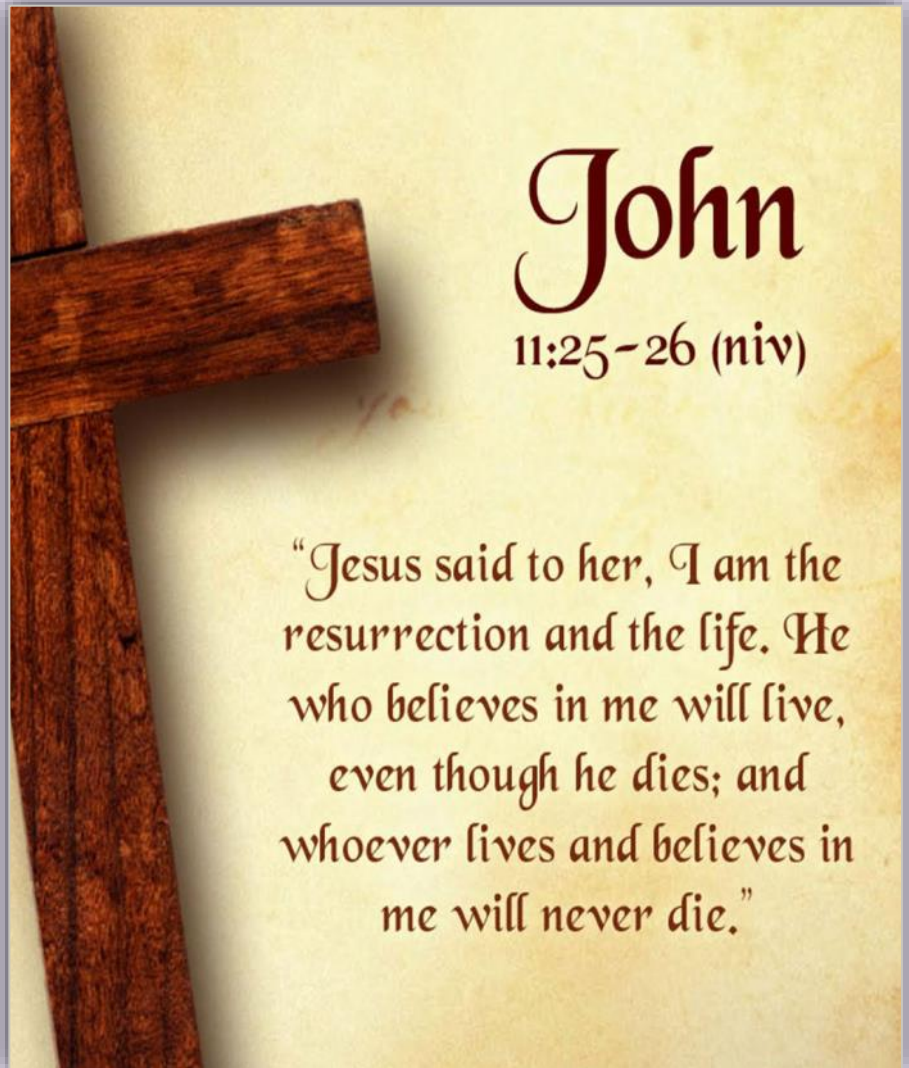
**Office Professionals:**

Val Rossi,  
Email: [val@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:val@assumptionmidland.org)

Rachelle Boyer,  
Email: [rachelle@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:rachelle@assumptionmidland.org)

**Evangelization Liaison:** Anna Martin,  
Email: [anna@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:anna@assumptionmidland.org)

**Maintenance Specialist:** Brad Hill,  
Email: [bradh@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:bradh@assumptionmidland.org)



John  
11:25-26 (niv)

“Jesus said to her, I am the  
resurrection and the life. He  
who believes in me will live,  
even though he dies; and  
whoever lives and believes in  
me will never die.”

#### 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, APRIL 7...**For the Palm Sunday Bulletin, April 13  
**THURSDAY at noon, APRIL 10...**For the Easter Bulletin, April 20



[www.assumptionmary.org](http://www.assumptionmary.org)



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



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



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

## From our Director of Parish Life



*"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread . . . and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them." —Matthew 4:23-24*

As we continue this Jubilee Year of Hope, this weekend we celebrate the **Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers**. Just as Jesus became perturbed and deeply troubled in the midst of his friend Lazarus' death and the grief of his friends Martha and Mary, the experiences of illness, suffering, death, and grief often shake us to our core. The question of human pain and suffering is perhaps the hardest to come to terms with in this life. I don't think that there is an "answer" to suffering in this life. I begin to be suspicious of anyone who attempts to answer this ultimate question in a too facile or pious way, such as Job's friends in the *Book of Job* in the Bible. I had a class led by a Polish philosopher in theology school who said that Job was acceptable to the Lord because he took his own life and suffering in his hands and *threw it at God*. While his friends were talking about God, Job cried out in anguish to God. He prayed.

So where does the **hope** that we are asked to cultivate this Jubilee year come from, how can we experience it in this "valley of tears" marked by suffering and death?

*"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . . I was ill and you cared for me.'" —Matthew 25:34, 36*

When Fred Rogers of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* fame was a child, he would sometimes become perturbed by "scary things" in the news (his childhood was in the Depression and World War II). His mother gave him this wise advice, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." When we consider the meaning of illness and suffering, we can also look to the helpers with hope. Doctors, nurses, EMTs, technicians, hospital ministers, hospice caregivers, hospital support staff work long and inconvenient hours (often on holidays when the rest of us are enjoying celebrations with family and friends) and give so much of themselves to care for those who are sick and suffering. **We owe all our health care workers a great deal of thanks!**

These caregivers are especially close to my heart. My grandmother,

Elizabeth, was a long-time nurse at Midland hospital. She was so proud of her profession. She would always go to work in her immaculately clean, white uniform and carried herself with the dignity of her calling. She would have turned 100 on March 25, and I am sure that she is enjoying the reward of her service. As our family was blessed by the example of our grandmother, so also **our Assumption family of faith is blessed by our parishioners who are doctors, nurses, caregivers, and health care support personnel. They are truly doing the Lord's work.**

*"We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." —Romans 5:3-5*

Few willingly choose illness or suffering, but when they come into our lives, we can make a choice. Sometimes, deep suffering and illness can make us bitter, slowly closing off our hearts to God and others. Sometimes, we pray for answers, healing, and comfort, with seemingly no results. Sometimes, the sick are abandoned or forgotten by family or friends and feel crushing loneliness. Sometimes, illness and pain are chronic and there seems to be no end in sight. The mental and

spiritual suffering can become just as bad, if not worse, than the physical malady. However, when we look at the crucifix with the eyes of faith, **we know that we have a compassionate God who suffers with us and who never abandons us in our sufferings** and promises us that "every tear will be wiped away." **We can choose in our sufferings to unite them to the Passion and Cross of Jesus.** When we do this, our sufferings can open up our hearts to a deeper compassion for others who are suffering, increasing our love, planting our faith firmly in the new creation of Christ's Resurrection to Eternal Life. This is not easy. In fact, Jesus himself prayed for the cup of his suffering to pass from him in the Garden of Gethsemane; but if we suffer and die with Jesus, we know that he will raise us up to glory in union with his glory.

This week, we remember and pray for our fellow parishioners who are sick and suffering. Let us continue to reach out to them with the compassion of Jesus. May they know that they are loved and cared for. May the Lord guide their health care professionals to bring them healing and alleviate their suffering. May all our sufferings draw us more deeply into the compassionate heart of Jesus, who in his mercy can bring good out of any disorder or disease.

*John*

### Easter Flowers

The Christian Service Commission is inviting you to submit names of parishioners who are homebound or have recently lost a loved one. Prior to Easter, we will be delivering a flowering plant to those people to share in the joy of New Life that comes through Easter.

**Please contact the parish office if you know of anyone.**

**We can also use help delivering flowers, please call Val in the office if you can help.**




### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

***"More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ ..."***

*—Philippians 3:8*

We are called to share our gifts – the many and unique gifts that God has given to us – to serve Him and grow His kingdom on Earth. This sharing helps us to keep Him in the center of our lives and not put other "gods" such as those of the material world before Him. Examine how you can increase your giving of your gifts of prayer, time, skills and monetary treasures to God and His people.



 Worship Schedule	
ASSUMPTION	
<b>MON, April 7</b> Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:12-20	
<b>TUES, April 8</b> Num 21:4-9 Jn 8:21-30	<b>8:00a Mass—Vicente Nguyen</b> <b>8:30a Rosary</b> <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
<b>WED, April 9</b> Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8:31-42	<b>6:30p Mass</b> <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation 7:15-8:15</i>
<b>THUR, April 10</b> Gen 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	<b>8:00a Mass</b> <b>8:30a Rosary</b> <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
<b>FRI, April 11</b> Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	<b>8:00a Mass</b> <b>8:30a Rosary</b> <b>3:30p Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>SAT, April 12</b> Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	<b>8:00a Mass</b> <b>8:30a Rosary</b> <b>4:30p Mass—People of the Parish</b>
<b>SUN, April 13</b> Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Lk 22:14-23:56	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>9:30a Mass</b> <b>Thaddeus Wandor</b>

## V is for Vocation: Fr. Thomas Held



We give thanks for Fr. Thomas Held serving as chaplain of MiMichigan Medical Center Midland and Priest in Residence. On this weekend celebrating the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers, we pray for Fr. Tom and for all those who work in healthcare. We pray, that as they minister to the sick, they may be signs of hope.

Learn more about the vocation of priesthood:  
<https://saginaw.org/god-calling-you-become-priest>

*God, the source of creation and love, You invite each of us to serve you through the life which is your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the church as priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give of themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.*



## Palm Sunday Next Weekend— WEAR RED!

**April 12 and 13**

we will be  
celebrating **Palm Sunday**  
**of the Lord's Passion.**

The liturgical color  
is red, so you  
are invited to wear  
something red to church  
next weekend.



## FOOD TRUCK OUTREACH Wednesday, July 16th

In cooperation with the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network, the Food Truck has been scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>. It will take many hands to unload the many pallets of food, load grocery carts at the various food stations, and unload the grocery carts into the cars of those in need—*please sign-up in the gathering space.*

***We are currently taking donations to pay for the food truck as a form of Lenten almsgiving in the gathering space.***

## ~ This Week ~

**Sunday, April 6**  
**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**9:30 am Mass**  
**C.L.O.W., CFF**  
**COFFEE & DONUTS AFTER MASS**



**Tuesday, April 8**

**8:00 am Mass**  
**8:30 am Rosary followed by meditation**  
**3:30 pm Millions of Monicas**  
**5:30 pm Christian Service Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 9**

**6:15 pm Confirmation**  
**6:30 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Reconciliation**  
**6:30 pm CFF**

**Thursday, April 10**

**8:00 am Mass**  
**8:30 am Rosary followed by scripture**  
**7:00 pm Choir Practice**

**Friday, April 11**

**8:00 am Mass**  
**8:30 am Rosary**  
**3:30 pm Stations of the Cross**

**Saturday, April 12**

**8:00 am Mass**  
**8:30 am Rosary**  
**1st Reconciliation Retreat**  
**4:30 pm Mass**  
**K of C Tootsie Roll Drive**

**Sunday, April 13**

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**9:30 am Mass**  
**C.L.O.W., CFF**  
**K of C Tootsie Roll Drive**  
**Welcome 5th Grade to YM**



## Stations of the Cross

**Friday at ABVM 3:30 p.m.**

All are invited to enter more deeply into Lenten prayer through the communal praying of the Stations of the Cross and other Lenten devotionals.  
*Please join us for prayer, reflection and song.*



**April 11: Scriptural Way of the Cross according to Pope St. John Paul II**

The Stations of the Cross here at Assumption are not the traditional ones but are based on the Scriptural Stations first celebrated by Pope St. John Paul II on Good Friday in 1991. He presented these Stations of the Cross as an alternative way of reflecting on the Biblical account of Jesus' Passion. We will pray these Stations to help us grow in love and gratitude for Jesus, the Word of God become human, taking on suffering and death for our redemption.

## Summer Opportunity for High School Students...

NOTRE DAME VISION | 2025

*June 23-27 / July 7-11*

Notre Dame Vision is a 5-day experience on the Notre Dame campus designed to help participants discover and renew God's call in their lives.

Connect with hundreds of other high school students as you learn from the witness of the saints and develop practices to live your faith. Immerse yourself in the Notre Dame campus and sharpen your spiritual vision to recognize God's grace at work in your life.

For more information, contact Kathy Russell at [kathyr@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:kathyr@assumptionmidland.org)

### 5TH GRADE EVENT

WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL!  
(an event for 5th graders)

pizza!  
pillow case-decorating!  
games!  
prayer!

an opportunity to ask middle schoolers about middle school!

When: Sunday, April 13, 6-8pm  
Where: Assumption BVM Parish  
Who: All current 5th graders

Do you have a 5th grader? Is he/she looking forward to middle school? Are there things that he/she is nervous about? Do they have questions about what middle school is like? Then register him/her for our Welcome to Middle School event on April 13 at Assumption!



All 5th graders are invited to this special event designed to give them a taste of what middle school and Middle School Youth Ministry is like! We'll play games, eat pizza, decorate pillow cases, and have time for students to ask current middle schoolers all about middle school and Middle School Youth Ministry! At YM, students can be themselves, and this event is designed to encourage students to do just that! **Middle Schoolers—volunteers needed to help!!**

Scan the QR code to register for the event or to volunteer to help!

<https://form.jotform.com/250784732687167>

Questions?? Contact Kathy Russell

## Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

### CHILDREN

Apr. 6, 13, 27  
9, 23, 30  
12

CFF and CLOW  
Wednesday CFF  
**Reconciliation Retreat**  
**(10:00-5:30)**

16  
20

No Wednesday CFF  
No CFF & No CLOW—(Easter Sunday)



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](mailto:cff@assumptionmidland.org)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Both Middle School and High School YM meets at Blessed Sacrament on Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm! **ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

Apr. 13 5th grade "Welcome to Middle School Event"  
26-27 Y2Y Retreat (HS)  
June 1 Graduation Mass  
9-12 VBS-MS & HS volunteers needed  
16-21 YES (Youth Encounter Service) HS  
23-27 ND Vision (9th-12th grade)  
July 7-11 ND Vision (9th-12th grade)  
Nov. 20-23 NCYC (HS—Save the Date)

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

# NCYC

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2025  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

What is NCYC? NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) is a powerfully unique three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers, of high school age. It is the premier Catholic youth event on a national scale that gathers people from all across America for a life-changing encounter with Christ.

The 2025 theme, I Am | Yo Soy, will reflect on the time God appeared to Moses through the burning bush and explore how the Sacraments are the living story of God's love, uniting us with Him through Jesus and the Church. Through the Sacraments, we encounter the fullness of salvation and the tangible presence of Immanuel—God with us.

**Cost: \$350 for registered families (\$150 with registration by April 13, balance of \$200 due Sept. 30)**

See the weekly Flocknote for registration or forms can be found in the gathering space.

For questions, contact Kathy Russell @ [kathyr@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:kathyr@assumptionmidland.org).







Mark your calendar...

## ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE May 20-22, 2025

Drop off on **May 15-17**  
(Thursday thru Saturday)

More information to follow at a later date.

### ALL CATHOLIC WOMEN ARE INVITED...

To join the Council of Catholic Women for a statewide convention, with the theme of *Rejoicing in Glorious Hope*, to be held on **Friday afternoon and Saturday, April 25-26, 2025**, in Grand Rapids at the Sheraton Airport Hotel.

The following speakers will be presenting for faith enrichment: Barbara Heil (missionary, teacher, evangelist, convert), Sean Breeden (Ave Maria Radio/St. Joan of Arc), and Christy Buck (mental health expert). Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, Bishop of Grand Rapids, will be a speaker plus will be presiding at the Eucharistic Liturgy along with Most Reverend Edward Lohse, Bishop of Lansing.

Details are on the website: [www.dpccw-mi.com](http://www.dpccw-mi.com).

For information, please call Rita Maher at 989-635-7072



### Catholic Relief Services

This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support to struggling communities and to work toward peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. *Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.* If you would like to give, there is an envelope in your packet or you can give online.

Learn more at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan is looking for committee members! Since 2006, the Catholic Community Foundation has been financially supporting the spiritual, educational, and social needs of our Catholic community. Serving on a committee is your chance to use your talents and give back to your community. We are seeking representation from all five vicariates of the Diocese of Saginaw, particularly for our Grants and Marketing committees.

If interested, please contact the Executive Director,  
Kristin Smith at **989.303.9201**.



### 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](http://www.KofC2141.org).

### Our New Website is LIVE!

#### AssumptionMary.org

The wait is finally over, and we're thrilled to unveil our new website ([AssumptionMary.org](http://AssumptionMary.org))! The address is still the same, but you'll notice some exciting differences....A fresh look with lots of new photos and easy-to-navigate menu.

The website is still a work in progress, so if you have feedback or need help locating something that has migrated to a different page, please email Anna!



### Holy Hours for Vocations with Bishop Gruss

**All are welcome!**

Bishop Gruss has **designated Pilgrimage Churches** throughout the Diocese of Saginaw for the Jubilee Year of Hope which may be visited by many who wish to make a confession and attend Mass **to receive the Plenary Indulgence**. The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Hope began in the Diocese of Saginaw on Dec 29, 2024 on the Feast of the Holy Family and ends Dec 28, 2025 on the Feast of the Holy Family. The faithful are encouraged to join Bishop Gruss when he visits our parish.

**All Holy Hours are from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 24, 2025**  
**Assumption of the BVM Parish, Midland**

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Holy Thursday, April 17**

5:30pm Parish Potluck

7:00pm Mass

8:00-10:30pm Adoration

10:30pm Night Prayer

**Good Friday, April 18**

1:00pm Liturgy

8:00pm Ecumenical Tenebrae Service

**Holy Saturday, April 19**

8:30am Morning Prayer

(with blessing of food)

9:00pm Vigil

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

9:30am Mass



# ECUMENICAL TENEBRAE SERVICE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18 | 8:00 PM**



Join us for a candlelight service of contemplative prayer, music, and scripture as we reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the Cross.

*All are welcome. Scan here for more details.*

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH**

3516 E. Monroe Rd | Midland, MI 48642

[www.assumptionmary.org](http://www.assumptionmary.org) | 989-631-4447

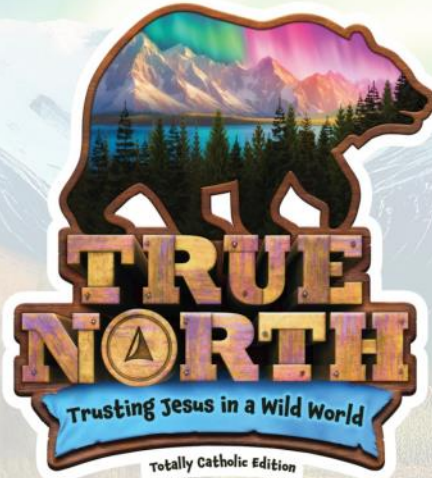


Midland Area Catholic Churches Totally Catholic

# Vacation Bible School

When:

Monday, June 9  
through  
Thursday, June 12,  
9:00am to noon



Where:

Blessed Sacrament  
Church  
(3109 Swede Ave)

Cost:

(includes True North music CD  
or digital download code)

\$30 for one child

\$50 for two siblings  
in the same family

\$70 for three or more siblings  
in the same family

Register here:

<https://www.blessed-midland.org/events/vacation-bible-school/>  
or using QR code



We need volunteers to make  
this week a success!  
You can volunteer using the  
same link!

Questions? Contact Wendy Graveline  
at (989) 631-4447 or  
[cff@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:cff@assumptionmidland.org)

Space is limited,  
so register early!  
Deadline for Registration  
and Payment is June 2.



# CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES

March 11, 2025

**Present:** John Graveline, Ray Barta, Nancy Boldizar, Anita Whitney,  
Kathy Conley, Denise Kearl, Mary Lou Leslie, Linda Brown  
**Absent:** Jean Krause, Marlana Saotome, Sarah Hocking, Laura Atton



*Opening prayer in remembrance of Anne Marie Graham,  
our fellow committee member.*

**Budgeted:** Parish Promise, Assistance Funds Distribution, Monthly Blue Bag Food Drives,  
Other Budgeted Ministries (John reported)

## Monthly Assistance Fund

February: \$1,933.00 (includes \$500 Parish Promise to Toni & Trish and \$180 in gas cards)

## Monthly Food Drive (Blue Bags)

Feb. Food Pantry Collection - \$855 in monetary assistance was collected, in addition to blue bags.

## Food Truck Update (John reported)

The food truck date has now been set for Wednesday, July 16, 2025 and the little model truck will be placed in the lobby for collection of donations and sign up of volunteers at the end of March.

## Caring Cooks (Nancy reported)

Three meals were served in February. Several parishioners are preparing breakfast at the women's shelter three times a week.

## Holiday Flowers and Gift Cards (Mary Lou reported)

For Easter, Lilies are being ordered and a list of recipients is being prepared.

## Coffee and Donuts (Anita reported)

All went well. The Knights of Columbus assisted and wish to assist more often.

## Life Clinic Mother's Day Collection (Anita reported)

Anita will coordinate the Mother's Day collection and Sarah Hocking will assist. A list of needed baby items will be published in the bulletin.

## Befriender Ministry (Denise reported)

Denise Kearl and Marcia Schneider have completed their training for the Befriender Ministry.

## Parish Promise (Ray reported)

There were four organizations nominated for Parish Promise and Caregiving Network was selected. They will receive a \$500 donation per month beginning this July through June of 2027.

## New Business - Prison Ministry exploration (John reported)

John attended a diocesan presentation on prison ministry and is considering the viability of such a program at Assumption.

Closing Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

*Respectfully submitted, Linda Morrison Brown, Recording Secretary*

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**





## ***"Thanks so much for your support!" from Assumption Knights of Columbus***

The **Knights of Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141** would like to extend their THANKS to those who supported the council's fundraising activities last month.

- Pierogi sale 3/8-9: **over \$1300** in support of the ultrasound unit at LifeClinic Community Resources here in Midland.
- Pierogi sale 3/29-30: **over \$625** in support of those in need of food assistance here in Midland County.

Thanks for your generosity to help those in need, and a big thank you to all those who joined us in the kitchen this past month!



## ***Welcome to our newest Knights!***



Last month, Knights of Columbus Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141 welcomed five men to its ranks. Congratulations to our newest Knights **John McMillan**, **Mike Fisher**, **Dan Belaen**, **John Bartos**, and **David Leslie** for their commitment to faith in action and supporting the council's charitable works and service here at Assumption and in the community.



*Assumption's newest Knights: John McMillan (brown sweater), Mike Fisher (white, long-sleeve shirt with vest), Dan Belaen (blue blazer, beige trousers), John Bartos (blue jacket, dark beige trousers), and David Leslie (white/gray striped, short-sleeve shirt) with members of K of C 2141 and the Great Lakes Bay degree team after the Exemplification Ceremony on March 19 in DuRussel Hall.*



# Charity Unity Fraternity Knights of Columbus



Let your Knights of  
Columbus membership  
be your gift to God  
during your Lenten  
journey in celebration  
of His Resurrection



**Join Now for FREE**  
Promo Code: **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**  
Use the QR code to join the Knights of  
Columbus and start your Lenten Journey.



## You're Invited!!

Join your fellow parishioners in  
the Knights of Columbus and  
keep our parish strong!

## K of C Exemplification Ceremony

**Wednesday, May 7**  
**at 7:30pm in DuRussel Hall**

For more info, contact Matt Glaccum  
989-430-8622 | [md2141@mikofc.org](mailto:md2141@mikofc.org)

Knights of Columbus Father Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141

**Over One Hundred Years of Service**

3516 E Monroe Rd, Midland, MI 48642 | [kofc2141.org](http://kofc2141.org) | [facebook.com/kofc2141](https://facebook.com/kofc2141)



# Finding Forgiveness

One of the great ironies of church life is that numerous people may actually *stay away from church* at times when they feel their lives are “too messy.” When their need for God is perhaps at its greatest, they withdraw from the very place where loving acceptance, support, and forgiveness are supposed to be freely given!



What this says about the human heart is poignant. Shame can bind us. Like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, people hide when they know that something is wrong. Unable to face other people in the hour of their distress, they may even find it hard to face God.

There are times when the “mess” is of our own making. We sin. We go astray. Perhaps we fail to live up to the standards we hold for ourselves, or we fear the judgment of others. At other times, however, it’s not so clear just what went wrong. We only know we’re in pain, and we don’t want to let others in on that.

The sad reality is that sin, whether our own or someone else’s, tends to isolate us. We become prisoners of our own unhappiness.

## JESUS LIFTS OUR SHAME

It doesn’t have to be this way. In fact, the gospel story of the woman caught in adultery offers a beautiful illustration of how Jesus lifts our shame. An angry mob, about to execute a sentence of death upon a woman caught in adultery, is dispersed by the words of Jesus: “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7).

The story does not end there, however. The next step is perhaps the most important one, and allows the full

meaning of the encounter to dawn on us. Jesus says to her, “Neither do I condemn you.” He sets her free, with the command to sin no more.

“Neither do I condemn you.” What words of grace! If only this message could resound in our parishes, and in every Eucharist we celebrate. It is good news. Jesus lifts our shame, and breaks through the trap of sin to free us. He accepts and does not condemn us. He sends us out with the admonition to sin no more, yet never destroys our dignity. The Church, as the bearer of the Good News of Jesus, has the privilege and challenge of conveying just such forgiveness and peace. The whole believing community is charged with this sacred task.

## EUCHARIST AND THE FORGIVENESS OF JESUS

The mercy of God is celebrated in the Eucharist from beginning to end. In the Penitential Act during the Opening Rites, we admit our sinfulness and ask God’s forgiveness. In the Gloria, we call upon God’s mercy in jubilation. In the Communion Rite we pray to the Lamb of God, who takes away “the sins of the world.” Before Communion, we express our humility, saying “Lord, I am not worthy...,” yet we remain confident that he will indeed come to us. “Neither do I condemn you.” In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray “forgive us our trespasses.” Aware of the sins we commit every day, we ask forgiveness. Is forgiveness given? Are

our prayers for mercy answered? Of course they are! Yet even beyond all these individual prayers, there is a great, overarching theme of forgiveness present throughout the celebration of Eucharist.

The whole mystery of redemption is, in a certain sense, about reconciliation. What sin divided, God has reunited, through the cross of Jesus Christ. "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ," St. Paul tells us, "not counting their trespasses against them" (2 Corinthians 5:19). Forgiveness flows from the Cross, because here the love of God is poured out for sinners. The reconciliation brought about by God does not wait for our initiative. It is offered to us, not because we are righteous, but "while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8). The Paschal Mystery of Jesus, to which we are united in the Eucharist, is a mystery of reconciliation. Here is the fountain of forgiveness—in the heart of the Mass.

## THE SACRAMENT OF Penance

There are times when we need or want to experience reconciliation through the Sacrament of Penance. This too is important. Serious sin, which damages our relationship with God and one another, requires sacramental reconciliation. Forgiveness of less serious sin through frequent use of the Sacrament of Penance can also bring us spiritual benefits.

The four movements of Penance—contrition, confession, satisfaction, and absolution—wonderfully lead us through a process of repentance. They allow us to return to the eucharistic banquet full of joy at having received the pardon and peace of Christ.

## THE PASSION AND FORGIVENESS

As Holy Week begins next week, we shall recall Jesus' Passion. In many ways, it is a story of sin and forgiveness. Judas's betrayal, Peter's denial, the Apostles who ran away,

the injustice of the trial, and the whole ordeal of injustice, abuse, cruelty, and mockery: all this cascades down upon Jesus. Sin, upon sin, upon sin.

What shines through the darkness of sin, however, is Jesus himself. The dazzling power of his forgiveness appears even on the Cross. The Passion according to St. Luke makes this forgiveness especially evident. "Father, forgive them," Jesus says of his torturers and executors, "they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). "[T]oday you will be with me in Paradise," he promises the repentant thief who was crucified at his side (Luke 23:43). His forgiveness is limitless. He is our peace.

## REFLECT

How ready am I to receive forgiveness, and to give it? Are there people in my life whom I need to forgive, in order to share fully in the banquet of reconciliation that is the Eucharist? For what sins do I need forgiveness?

## ACT

Be a reconciler in your family, workplace, or neighborhood. This may not be easy. You may not be thanked for trying. But try anyway. Offer your efforts to Christ.

## PRAY

Loving God, I long to hear you speak words of forgiveness. Draw me into the heart of your mercy. Make me an instrument of your pardon and peace.

**AUTHOR** ■ Rita Ferrone is an award-winning writer and speaker in the areas of liturgy, catechesis, and renewal in the Roman Catholic Church.

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# Christ's Mission APPEAL

## Christ's Mission Appeal 2024-25

We are getting closer to our goal. Please give careful consideration about how you will respond. Fill out the pledge card and return it to the Diocese of Saginaw or put it in the collection basket. **Remember, checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Saginaw, not our parish.**

You can also give online on the Diocese website at [www.saginaw.org/appeal](http://www.saginaw.org/appeal), through the weekly Flocknote or scan the QR Code.



I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

## Weekend Offerings

### March 29/30, 2025

Weekly Envelopes .....	\$4,144
Online Giving (3/24-3/30) .....	\$1,627
Donations .....	\$2,000
Weekend Total .....	\$7,771
Weekly Goal .....	\$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall) .....	(\$1,460)

### Month of March

Weekly Envelopes .....	\$20,004
Online Giving .....	\$11,250
Donations .....	\$9,250
Weekend Total .....	\$40,504
Goal .....	\$46,155
Overage/(Shortfall) .....	(\$5,651)



**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 go to our website at:

**[AssumptionMary.org](http://AssumptionMary.org)**

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



## OPERATION RICE BOWL

We will be collecting all rice bowls beginning next weekend. There will be a designated basket for your donations.

**Thank you!**

*"May our prayers and fasting unite us with those who hunger. May we share of our blessings with those in need. Amen."*

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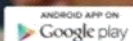
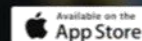
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