

# THIRD Sunday of Lent

## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

March 23, 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,

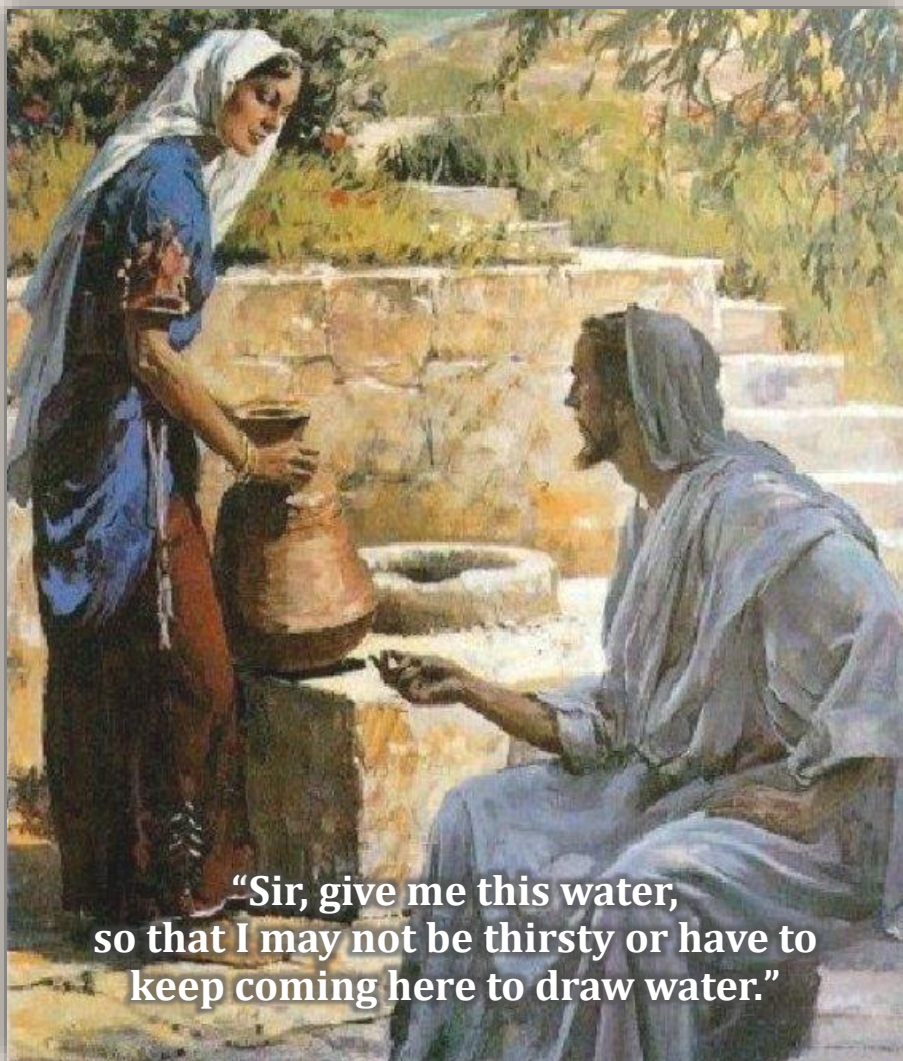
Email: [rachelle@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:rachelle@assumptionmidland.org)

**Evangelization Liaison:** Anna Martin,

Email: [anna@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:anna@assumptionmidland.org)

**Maintenance Specialist:** Brad Hill,

Email: [bradh@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:bradh@assumptionmidland.org)



“Sir, give me this water,  
so that I may not be thirsty or have to  
keep coming here to draw water.”

#### 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.

#### ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please know that the church doors will be opened from 8:00am — 3:30pm, Mon thru Thurs if anyone is in need of a quiet place to pray and/or meditate.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** MONDAY at noon



[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



*"Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.'" —John 3:5-7*

Over the next three Sundays of Lent, we will take our scripture readings from the Year A sequence of readings rather than the Year C readings that are proclaimed every other Sunday this liturgical year. The reason for this change-up is that we will be celebrating the three Scrutinies with our Elect (those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil). The prayers of the Scrutinies are connected to the Gospel passages proclaimed in the Year A Gospel passages. The Scrutinies give the Elect opportunities to reflect on their lives thus far, to seek liberation from sin, and to be strengthened in their resolve to become true disciples of Jesus Christ. This is a delicate spiritual time for them.

For us who are already baptized, we are strongly encouraged to keep our Elect (and Candidates for Full Communion in the Catholic Church) in our prayers during their Lenten period of Purification and Enlightenment. This is also a time for us to contemplate the meaning of baptism in our own lives. We are all preparing to renew our own baptismal promises at the Easter liturgy. This is a perfect time to reflect on the effects of our own baptism day on our lives.

Some of the effects of our baptism, whether we received this sacrament as a child or as an adult, are the washing away of our sins, our recreation in Christ, our anointing in the Spirit of Jesus, and our incorporation into the Church.

At our baptism, we died to sin. Through the grace and mercy of God obtained for us through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, we were washed clean of our sins, both original sin and our personal

sins (if we were old enough at baptism to have knowingly chosen sin). However, we know from experience that the effects of sin remains with us. This is why we are called to always, but especially during the time of Lent, to honestly acknowledge our sins, repent, and seek the Lord's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We do not live in desolation or fear of sin as baptized Christians, but in the freedom of those who know that Christ has conquered sin and death.

At our baptism, we were "born again" as a "new creation" in Christ. We were given a participation in the very life of Christ. We call this gift Grace. The kingdom of God is within us. We can call upon the power of Christ's divine life within us whenever we share with Christ our prayers, work, desires, joys, fears, and sufferings. Lent is a time to deepen our prayer life (the communication that nourishes the new life in Christ) and more closely model our behavior on his through fasting which strives for justice and almsgiving that realizes the love of Christ in our world.

At our baptism, we were anointed as priests, prophets, and royalty in Jesus: Priest, Prophet, and King. We live our baptismal priesthood through offering our prayers and sacrifices in union with Jesus in the Holy Spirit. We live our prophetic role when we speak the truth in love, as Jesus did. We live our royalty when we follow the example of Jesus who came to bring us life through service to all God's children, even to the point of laying down his life for us on the Cross.

At our baptism, we were also incorporated into the Church, which is the Body of Christ. Our unity in Christ brings men and women of every nation and culture together in the worship of God the Father in Christ through the

Holy Spirit. We are called to carry each other as we strive toward the fullness of God's kingdom in Heaven. We each have our own personal gifts, perspectives, and histories that are to be used in service to enrich all. All spiritual gifts and experiences are given so that we build the unity of Christ's body.

For many of us, our baptism seems like a ritual that my parents asked of the Church when we were babies with very little relevance to our day-to-day life. But seen the eyes of faith, Baptism is the most defining event of our life (and our afterlife!). Because of our baptism we now live, and move, and have our being in Jesus Christ. (*Acts of the Apostles 17:28*) We have the pledge of eternal life in Christ. We are empowered by Grace to love God and neighbor in ways that are impossible without this gift. We are forgiven our sins and set free from the effects of sin. We have been given entrance into a family whose unity is in the love of the Holy Spirit. Have we thanked God for the graces of Baptism? Do we call upon them daily?

This Lent, let us pray for our Elect preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil while at the same time laying ahold of the precious gift of our baptism with gratitude. May the Light of Christ, shared with us at Baptism, radiate in our lives, inspiring more and more people to live in the light of Christ, who is the Light of the World.

*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.**



### FOOD PANTRY

*Our next collection for*

**Food Pantry will be next weekend March 29/30**

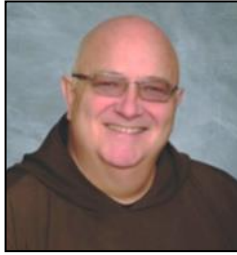
Please be sure to pick up a blue bag from the gathering space and bring it back the following weekend with your donations.

*Thank you for your consideration of those who are not as fortunate as we are.*



| Worship Schedule  |   |
|---|---|
| ASSUMPTION  |   |
| <b>MON, March 24</b><br>2 Kings 5:1-15ab<br>Lk 4:24-30                      |   |
| <b>TUES, March 25</b><br>Is 7:10-14, 8:10<br>Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38        | <b>8:00a Mass</b><br><b>8:30a Rosary</b><br><i>Followed by Meditation</i>                 |
| <b>WED, March 26</b><br>Dt 4:1, 5-9<br>Mt 5:17-19                           | <b>6:30p Word &amp; Communion</b><br><i>Followed by Exposition,<br/>no Reconciliation</i> |
| <b>THUR, March 27</b><br>Jer 7:23-28<br>Lk 11:14-23                         | <b>8:00a Word &amp; Communion</b><br><b>8:30a Rosary</b><br><i>Followed by Scripture</i>  |
| <b>FRI, March 28</b><br>Hos 14:2-10<br>Mk 12:28-34                          | <b>8:00a Mass</b><br><b>8:30a Rosary</b><br><b>3:30p Stations of the Cross</b>            |
| <b>SAT, March 29</b><br>Hos 6:1-6<br>Lk 18:9-14                             | <b>4:30p Mass</b><br><i>Mike Erdman</i>   |
| <b>SUN, March 30</b><br>1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a<br>Eph 5:8-14<br>Jn 9:1-41 | <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b><br><b>9:30a Mass</b><br><i>People of the Parish</i>          |

## V is for Vocation: Fr. Daniel Fox



We give thanks for Fr. Daniel Fox, OFM Cap., serving as Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish. Professing his first vows in 1970 and ordained a priest in 1975, Fr. Dan has been ministering to the faithful of the parish since 2009. A native Detroitier, he previously served as director at the Solanus Casey Center and as a member of the Capuchin provincial council. We pray for Fr. Dan as he continues his ministry at St. Agnes and St. Anne. Learn more about the vocation of priesthood: <https://saginaw.org/god-calling-you-become-priest>

*O God, in the past you called men and women to dedicate their lives to you through priesthood and religious life. Today stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many within our parish community. Grant them the willingness and generosity to place their lives completely in your hands as priests, brothers and sisters. Help me to support them by my own fidelity to your call to holiness through prayer & Christian service. If you desire that one of my family or friends follow you in this way, grant me the wisdom and insight to support and encourage that person to listen to your voice and follow you without delay. Amen.*



## 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.***



## Stations of the Cross

**Friday afternoons 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.*

**March 28: Mary's Way of the Cross**

**April 4:** Visual Way of the Cross

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



**On March 28,** please join us as we follow Jesus' Way of the Cross through the eyes of his mother, Mary. These stations tap into our experiences as children and parents and engage our imaginations as we place ourselves with Mary within the scenes of Jesus' journey.

*Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. --John 19: 25*

## ~ This Week ~

**Sunday, March 23**  
**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**9:30 am Mass**  
**O.C.I.A., C.L.O.W.**  
**CFF, Last YM class**



***The Seven Last Words of Christ Concert / 3pm***

**Monday, March 24**

10:00 am Stitch and Chat

**Tuesday, March 25**

8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary followed by meditation  
3:30 pm Millions of Monicas

**Wednesday, March 26**

6:30 pm Word and Communion  
*followed by Exposition,  
no Reconciliation*  
6:30 pm CFF

**Thursday, March 27**

8:00 am Word and Communion  
8:30 am Rosary followed by scripture  
7:00 pm Choir Practice

**Friday, March 28**

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

**Saturday, March 29**

**4:30 pm Mass**  
**FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND**  
**K OF C PIEROGI SALES**

**Sunday, March 30**  
**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**9:30 am Mass**  
**O.C.I.A.**  
**No C.L.O.W., No CFF**  
**FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND**  
**K OF C PIEROGI SALES**





Calling all high school students....

**Youth 2 Youth Retreat**  
**April 26-27, Camp Rotary**  
**Cost: \$70**

A weekend retreat designed *by teens, for teens!* Step away from the stress of school and home, and discover a space where you can truly be yourself. Bring a friend or come ready to make new ones—it's going to be a weekend you'll never forget! Let the journey begin at the **Youth 2 Youth Retreat**—we can't wait to see you there!

Scan the QR code to register online! *Questions.... contact Kathy Russell*



**Registration deadline: Wednesday, March 26th**

## Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

### CHILDREN

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Mar. 23    | CFF and CLOW                               |
| 26         | Wednesday CFF                              |
| 30         | No CFF & No CLOW—<br>(Spring Break)        |
| Apr. 2, 16 | No Wednesday CFF                           |
| 6, 13, 27  | CFF and CLOW                               |
| 9, 23, 30  | Wednesday CFF                              |
| 12         | <b>Reconciliation Retreat (10:00-5:30)</b> |
| 20         | 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!!!**

|            |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Mar. 23    | YM Final Session                 |
| Apr. 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 13th, balance of \$200 due Sept. 30th)**

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).



ASSUMPTION PARISH  
PRESENTS

# THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

BY THEODORE DUBOIS

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23**  
**3:00 PM**

Encounter Jesus' powerful words from the cross through the music of this poignant work for orchestra, choir, and soloists.

**NO CHARGE**

*Free will offerings welcome*

*Are you interested in financially supporting our upcoming spring concert?  
Or are you interested in sponsoring an instrument for our concert series?*

Please reach out to Jim for questions and/or more information.

## PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE

Fr. Marcel Portelli invites you to join him on a prayerful 11-day pilgrimage to Greece in the footsteps of St. Paul. We'll visit Philippi where Paul the Apostle delivered his first sermon and established the first church in Europe, Mars Hill in Athens where he spoke to the philosophers, Corinth and the site of St. Paul's trial. We'll visit the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus in Turkey where she lived until her Assumption. On our 3-day cruise we'll discover the captivating Greek islands of Mykonos, Crete, Santorini, and even pray in the grotto on Patmos Island where St. John wrote the Book of Revelation.

Full info <https://bit.ly/4bkUKAu>  
or (989) 426-7154.



REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONE WITH AN

# Easter Lily

**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 lily home

**We are requesting donations of \$30**

RETURN ENVELOPES TO THE PARISH OFFICE OR TO THE DONATION TABLE AT WEEKEND MASSES BY MARCH 23

Questions? Contact Jim Renfer at [jim@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:jim@assumptionmidland.org)



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

*"... he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree, but have found none.'" – Luke 13:7*

What are you doing with the "fruit" that God has planted in you? Do you let it bloom and nourish others or do you let it lie dormant? We are called to share our fruits – our gifts – with others and to do so generously.



**Sunday,  
March 23rd**  
**Communal  
Reconciliation  
2pm at Blessed  
Sacrament**

## LENTEN BLACK BOOKS

You can receive the daily reflections through email by signing up on Flocknote. Go to <https://midlandabvm.flocknote.com/BlackBook> to sign-up or click the button in the weekly Flocknote.



*Last Sale of Lent!!!*



# Potato & Cheese Pierogi Sale

Limited  
Number  
Available

10/\$7 OR 30/\$20

Fresh  
Made

*Sale March 29 & 30 after Mass @ ABVM*

Taking Pre-orders

989-430-8622 knights2141@gmail.com  
or sign up in the Gathering Space

Proceeds Support  
**Food Assistance**  
in Midland County

Father Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141  
**Over One Hundred Years of Service**  
3516 E Monroe Rd, Midland, MI 48642



## 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*



### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Holy Thursday, April 17th**

5:30pm Parish Potluck

7:00pm Mass

8:00-10:00pm Adoration

10:00pm Night Prayer

**Good Friday, April 18th**

1:00pm Liturgy

8:00pm Ecumenical Tenebrae Service

**Holy Saturday, April 19th**

8:30am Morning Prayer (with blessing of food)

9:00pm Vigil

**Easter Sunday, April 20th**

9:30am Mass

### Catholic Relief Services Collection

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 next weekend or you can give online.*



### 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 location of these churches are where he will offer a Holy Hour for Vocations each month and may be found below. The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Hope began in the Diocese of Saginaw on December 29, 2024 on the Feast of the Holy Family and ends December 28, 2025 on the Feast of the Holy Family.

The faithful are encouraged to join Bishop Gruss when he visits their parish and/or make a pilgrimage to other parishes.

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

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**—Corpus Christi Parish, Holy Trinity Church, Bay City

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**—Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Church, Clare

**Thursday, April 24, 2025**

**Assumption of the BVM Parish, Midland**



# MARDI GRAS 2025

## Let the Good Times Roll!



# Mardi GRAS

Thank you to the many people who helped make our annual Mardi Gras a great success!! **Special thanks to...** Sarah for leading the decorating crew, the silent auction crew who put together the baskets, Mary, who painted the faces of the kids, John & Doug who led the bingo, Mark and the bar crew, Donna & the youth who helped in the kitchen with the meal, a huge shout out to the men of the Knights who helped with last minute food preparation, serving, and clean up, staff for all the behind the scene preparation, Sandy and the checkout folks...**we could not do this without you all!!** Thanks, also, to Jim and the jazz band who got the party rolling and to Kristyn for keeping the party going with the fun music & entertainment! And thanks to all who came out to enjoy the party and bid on the silent auction items!! It was a fun evening for all!!

~ Wendy & Kathy







**Thank you to the following people and businesses who donated to the silent auction...**

Children FF Families  
 Diane Servinski-Servinski Sod  
 Bonnie Courter-Common Place  
 Gregg & Marilyn Zank  
 Mary Ann Szczepanski  
 Cindy Coon-Norwex  
 Graveline Family  
 Ken Simmer  
 Denise Kearl  
 NAPA Auto Parts  
 Midland High School  
 Alan Conley  
 Chippewa Nature Center  
 Linda Yoder  
 Chef Sergey's Bakery  
 Molasses Smokehouse and Bar

Youth Ministry Families  
 Martinski Family  
 Fr. Joe Griffin  
 Donna Militello  
 Marcia Schneider  
 Aimee Matthews  
 Ann DeAgazio  
 Marlene Sautome  
 Lorie Servinski  
 Assumption Choir  
 Dow High School  
 Beer & Brats  
 Roe Baker  
 Anonymous Donors  
 Grove Tea Lounge

*Thanks to Tri-City Brewing and Joe Stanko for the beer donation!*



## ***ABVM Administration/Finance Council Meeting Minutes*** **February 18, 2025**

Present: John Graveline, Dave Vickery – Chairperson, Paul Brown,  
Sandy Martinski, April Timm  
Excused: Brenda Gordert, Barbara Junga



The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

*John Graveline led the group in prayer.*

The meeting minutes from January 21, 2025 were approved.

### **Administrator's Report**

- John gave an update on the Christ Mission Appeal. We currently have pledges and donations totaling approximately 80% to our goal of \$95,236. John has now appealed to the parish at the masses for the past 2 weekends. We will review the status report from the diocese at the end of February and John and Dave will develop a plan for calling parishioners based on the status at that time. A question about a final date for the appeal was asked and the response was that there isn't one per se, they will take donations up to the beginning of the next appeal.
- Staff Updates – Rachelle Boyer is the new Office Assistant. She started Monday, February 17.

### **Finance Review FY 2024-2025**

- The FY 23/24 Annual Report was included in last weekend's (Feb. 15 and 16) Bulletin. A link was also provided in that weekend's Flocknote. We will target October 1, 2025 for releasing the FY 24/25 Annual Report.
- The financial statement for January was presented and discussed.
- While collections for the month were ~\$3K over budget, total income was almost \$5K under budget.
- Expenses for the month were \$1,841 above budget. The single largest factor was an unexpected \$1,500 assessment from the County Drain Commission.
- We had a brief discussion on what new Fund-Raising Activity/Activities might be viable. We will plan on chartering a subcommittee to explore that further. We will also consider creating a subcommittee to look at how best to maintain/sustain the physical assets of the parish.

### **Building and Grounds**

Nothing to report.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by David Vickery*

### **Future Meeting Dates**

March 18, 2025

April 29, 2025

June 3, 2025



# CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES

February 11, 2025

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



*The meeting opened with prayer led by Ray Barta.*

## **Caring Cooks (Kathy reported)**

Three meals were served in January

## **Volunteer Opportunities (Anne Marie reported)**

Anne Marie is continuing to collect brochure samples and desires to review samples from those churches with many active parish programs. The brochure will work in tandem with the redesigned parish website.

## **Parish Promise (Ray reported)**

Parish Promise Guidelines and a list of possible recipients were sent to all members. Nominations for the Pledge are to be sent to Ray by March 1<sup>st</sup> and the recipient will be selected at the March meeting.

## **Monthly Assistance (John reported)**

January - \$1,555; Includes \$500.00 Parish Promise to Toni and Trish and \$180 in gas cards. The January food drive collection was \$1,415 in addition to the blue bags.

## **July Mobile Food Truck (John reported)**

The July food truck date is July 16<sup>th</sup>. Donations and volunteers will be solicited during Lent.

## **Open Door Women's Shelter (Nancy reported)**

Some of the Caring Cooks have been preparing breakfast a couple days a week for the women and children in the women's shelter.

## **Stitch and Prayer (Jean reported)**

In January, six items were donated to various recipients.

## **Coffee and Donuts (Anita reported by e-mail)**

February event was staffed by the Knights. New coffee and scrubbed coffee pots were much appreciated.

## **Life Clinic Bottle Drive (Sarah reported by e-mail)**

All money collected in the baby bottle drive campaign was picked up by Life Clinic on February 4<sup>th</sup> and will be counted by the Life Clinic, as is the established procedure.

## **Rummage Sale Report (Laura reported by e-mail)**

A preliminary meeting for the rummage sale was held on January 29<sup>th</sup> and went well. The rummage sale will be May 20-22.

*The meeting was closed at 6:20 p.m. with a prayer.*

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Morrison Brown, Recording Secretary*



# Belief and Belonging



A few years ago, a popular department store launched an advertising campaign at the holiday season centered on a logo made up of the word “Believe!” This cheerful exclamation emblazoned on shopping bags and the like might suggest believing in Santa Claus, or yourself, or, really, anything.

It might be an act of faith to believe you’ll have enough money to pay your credit card bill at the end of the month! The success of the campaign (it was repeated the following year) suggests that belief itself has a kind of magic or charm, regardless of the object of that belief.

There may be something to this. It is human nature to believe, after all, and human dignity demands a respect for belief as part of the human person. But we also know that placing faith in an unworthy object can diminish people, and leave them empty and disappointed. Beliefs give shape to our commitments and guide our actions. Beliefs that matter must be grounded in truth.

## TO BELIEVE IS TO TRUST

To believe, *credere* in Latin, is to trust. It is to give one’s heart to something. In the Eucharist on Sundays we profess our faith, saying “I believe.” We say this together to affirm that we are believers together. At times my personal faith may be weak. The faith of others supports me. At other times it is my faith that provides the support for those around me. Believing is a community project.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms that “faith needs the community of believers” (CCC 1253). Infants are baptized based on the faith of their parents. The Church community walks with catechumens on their journey of

faith. Even to the end of our days, sharing faith is important. It is no accident that the funeral rites make reference to the faith of the person who has died. The journey is long, but it leads us to God, in whom we have placed our trust. Blessed are those who have given their heart to *this* something—a faith that leads beyond death, to eternal life.

## THE CREED AT SUNDAY MASS

The Creed that we say at Sunday Mass is a wonderful witness to the multi-faceted nature of Christian believing. What is most personal to each individual—the trust I give to God’s revelation—is also something universal, shared with millions of other believers. In a day and age when people try to “make their mark” by being different, the Creed is counter-cultural. What the Creed gives us is something that individuality and personal flair can never provide: the strength that comes from a believing community. Christians in some parts of the world have been professing their faith at Sunday Mass since the fourth century. The Creed has deep roots.

The Apostles’ Creed is a summary of the profession of faith made in Baptism. Therefore, every time we say the Creed we should remember our dignity as the baptized. The Creed tells our story. The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed was composed as an expression of the faith of the bishops gathered at the Council of Constantinople in the fourth



century. Its precise expressions concerning each Person of the Trinity guard and protect us from false ideas (heresies) and keep us grounded in the truth that sets us free. Today, either may be used at Sunday Mass.

Within the flow of the liturgy, the profession of faith follows the homily. Coming as it does after the Word of God, it affirms God's revelation. The Creed also prepares us to enter into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the second great section of the Mass. At the center of the Creed stands the Paschal Mystery—Christ's death and resurrection—which is the pivot on which the whole revelation turns. The Paschal Mystery is the heart of the Eucharist. Thus, the Creed points us forward, to the Eucharist.

## WHAT'S IN THE CREED?

The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed consists of four parts. Each person of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—is named, and their interrelationships are named as well. The unique work of each Divine Person for our salvation is recalled. The fourth part of the Creed concerns the Church and her beliefs. It may surprise some that belief in the Church is an article of faith. Yet the Church is indeed part of the mystery of Christ. Gift from the heart of God, the Church is integral to the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in the world. It continues to the end of time.

At various moments in our faith journey, specific articles of the Creed can stand out and call us to more abundant life. Here are some examples: After the tragic attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on 9/11, some people heard our profession of faith in "one God" as a call to solidarity with all monotheistic religions: it became a key to reconciliation. A passion for the natural environment has made some acutely aware of affirming God as "maker of heaven and earth": it has become a call to stewardship of the gifts of the earth. After burying a loved one, some hear the affirmation of "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come" as a fresh promise: it has become

an occasion of healing and hope. How has the faith we affirm in the Creed called you to more abundant life? Each person has particular moments of insight. Although we say "Yes" to all of it at once, we realize the power of what we proclaim only a little at a time.

## REFLECT

Try this exercise at home, as a way to hear the Creed afresh: At every point where it says "I believe" substitute the words "I put my trust." What insights occur to you, when you consider the Creed in light of trust?

## ACT

Memorize the Creed. In the early Church the Creed was never written down on paper or parchment, but "retained in the hearts of the faithful" (Rufinus, *Commentary on the Apostles' Creed*, 4th century). Get to know it "by heart."

## PRAY

Giver of the gift of faith, we thank you for the Creed, and for the Church that has passed it on to us. Let it be our strong support in the midst of life. Help us to bear witness to our common faith, by all we say and do.

**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.**

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## Weekend Offerings

### March 15/16, 2025

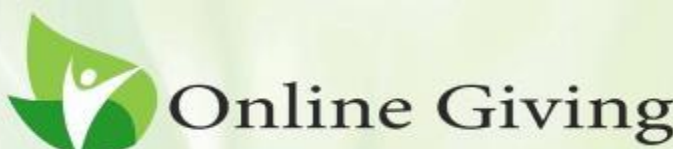
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|---------------------------------|---------|
| Weekly Envelopes .....          | \$2,426 |
| Online Giving (3/10-3/16) ..... | \$2,304 |
| Donations .....                 | \$5,000 |
| Weekend Total .....             | \$9,730 |
| Weekly Goal .....               | \$9,231 |
| Overage/(Shortfall) .....       | \$499   |

### March 1-16, 2025

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Weekly Envelopes .....    | \$12,803 |
| Online Giving .....       | \$8,103  |
| Donations .....           | \$7,250  |
| Weekend Total .....       | \$28,156 |
| Goal .....                | \$27,693 |
| Overage/(Shortfall) ..... | \$463    |

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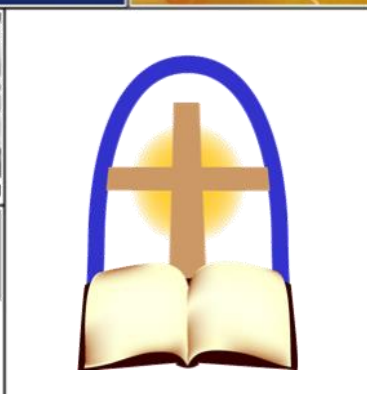
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