

FOURTH Sunday of Lent

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

March 30, 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

Website: www.AssumptionMary.org

Parish Staff

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**"The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my
eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.'
So I went there and washed and was able to see."**

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



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



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



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



"[Jesus] went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor . . . Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'" —Luke 4:16-19, 21

As we continue the Jubilee Year of Hope, this weekend we celebrated the **Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy**. The Bible called for a Year of Jubilee to be celebrated every 50th year. In a Jubilee Year, a person was called to return home to their inherited land, the land was not to be cultivated (giving the land a sabbath rest), debts were forgiven, and slaves and prisoners freed. Unfortunately, we do not have evidence that Jubilee was actually practiced by the Jewish people. It's demands were probably deemed too radical and difficult economically, requiring too great of a "leap of faith."

The coming of Jesus, his life and teachings, proclaimed the fulfillment of the meaning of Jubilee called for in the books of Leviticus and Isaiah. Jesus did work signs and miracles that freed the oppressed and healed those under the burdens of illness and disability. However, his true mission was to heal and free us, not from earthly infirmity or bondage, but from the tyranny of sin and death, offering us eternal life in union with himself. This is the deepest freedom, the ultimate fulfillment of Jubilee. (Galatians 5:1)

In order for us to fully enter into the Jubilee of Jesus, we must be honest about our relationship to sin. The Hebrew and Greek words which we translate in the Bible as "sin" comes from the archery term for "missing the mark." When we misuse our freedom to choose selfishness instead of love of God and neighbor, we miss the bullseye, since the purpose or aim of human freedom is to choose to love God and neighbor. Sin is also associated with freely choosing to act without regard for justice (the right relationship between God, humans, and all of creation). Sin is not simply "breaking God's rules" as if God's moral law is something arbitrary and outside of us. Sin wounds us and others because it goes against who we are most fundamentally created to be, to be loved and to love.

The first step toward the freedom of Jesus' Jubilee is to admit and repent of our sinful choices. Each one of us has wounded others through our sin, and we have been wounded by the sins of others. Like the folk singer Pete Seeger

sang, we are all "waist deep in the big muddy." Pope Francis was asked in an interview shortly after he was elected Pope twelve years ago, "Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?" His humble answer was, "I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon." We echo this humility at the beginning of each Mass in the Penitential Act when we call to mind our sin and ask "Lord, have mercy."

"If you, Lord, keep account of sins, Lord, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness and so you are revered."
—Psalm 130:3-4

The Good News (Gospel) is that sin and death does not have the last word. Through his obedience, love, and compassion, Jesus' Cross and Resurrection heals our pride and selfishness. The Mercy of Jesus brings good out of evil. As St. Paul wrote, "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." (Romans 5:20) Pope Francis inaugurated Missionaries of Mercy to offer Christ's forgiveness and mercy widely to all because **the name of God is Mercy.**

The normal way that we receive God's forgiveness and mercy in our lives is through the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. On the night of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his apostles, then "he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'" (John 20:22-23) Jesus shared with his first priests his power to forgive sins in his name through the Holy Spirit. Confession of sins has always been a Christian practice. "To receive his mercy, we must admit our faults." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1847). Jubilee freedom from the bondage of sin can be found through humbly confessing our sins and receiving God's healing forgiveness. It is sad that so few Catholics avail themselves of this great sacrament of healing and peace. Perhaps this because, like accepting the economic consequences of the biblical Jubilee, honestly confessing our sins requires a trusting "leap of faith" from us. I would like to encourage each of us to courageously take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation this

Lent in preparation for the celebration of the Easter mysteries.

Another way that we can receive God's mercy during this Jubilee year is through an Indulgence. "An indulgence is obtained through the Church who, by virtue of the power of binding and loosing granted by Christ Jesus . . . opens up for us the treasury of the merits of Christ." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1478) Popes and bishops can attach an indulgence (remission of some or all punishment due to sin) for performing certain actions performed in faith. Pope Francis and Bishop Gruss have strongly encouraged us to avail ourselves of indulgences during the Jubilee Year. For example, **we are looking forward to hosting Bishop Gruss here at Assumption on Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m. for a Holy Hour for Vocations.** The bishop has attached a full or plenary indulgence to those who attend the Holy Hour, if they also receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion a week or so before or after the Holy Hour, pray for the intentions of Pope Francis, and sincerely repent of all sins, mortal and venial.

My prayer is that all of us fully receive the Grace of freedom from sin and of freedom to love God and neighbor more fully offered to us during this Jubilee year.

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.

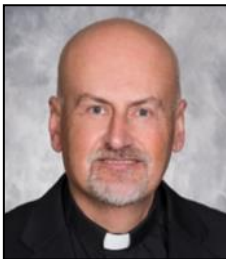
Please contact the parish office if you know of anyone.

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



Worship Schedule	
ASSUMPTION	
MON, March 31 Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54	
TUES, April 1 Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
WED, April 2 Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30	6:30p Mass <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation</i>
THUR, April 3 Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
FRI, April 4 Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	8:00a Mass—<i>Maria Nguyen</i> 8:30a Rosary 3:30p Stations of the Cross
SAT, April 5 Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53	4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, April 6 Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30a Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

V is for Vocation: Fr. Rob Howe



We give thanks for Fr. Rob Howe serving as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish. Born in Detroit, he studied philosophy at the University of St. Thomas and St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and later received a Master of Divinity degree from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA. Fr. Rob was ordained by Bishop Untener and recently celebrated 30 yrs as a priest this past December. He has served as pastor at a number of the parishes throughout the Diocese. Previously an associate pastor at the parish, he returned as its pastor in 2019. We pray for Fr. Rob as he continues his ministry at Blessed Sacrament.

Learn more about the vocation of priesthood:

<https://saginaw.org/god-calling-you-become-priest>

O Lord, help me know your will for me. Let your light shine in the depths of my heart that I may know what you want me to do with my life. Help me believe that you have a special plan for me. Lord, I know I pass through this life only once; help me decide how you want me to make a difference. Like our Blessed Mother, give me the wisdom to hear your voice and the courage to answer your call. Above all, give me peace of mind and heart. I offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 16th. 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 weekend is our monthly

Food Pantry Collection

March 29/30

Please remember to bring back your blue bags of donations.

Thank you!



~ This Week ~

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



Tuesday, April 1

7:30 am Open Door in Kitchen

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary followed by meditation

3:30 pm Millions of Monicas

6:30 pm Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 2

10:00 am Serving at Open Door

6:30 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Reconciliation

CFF does not meet

7:30 pm K of C Meeting

Thursday, April 3

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary followed by scripture

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Friday, April 4

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary

3:30 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 5

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, April 6

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

9:30 am Mass

C.L.O.W., CFF

COFFEE & DONUTS AFTER MASS



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.

April 4: Visual Way of the Cross

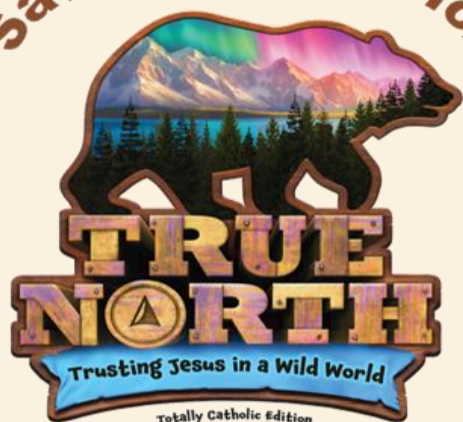
April 11: Scriptural Way of the Cross according to Pope St. John Paul II



On April 4, Visual Way of the Cross

This week we will offer brief meditations on the Way of the Cross using artistic representations of the hands of Jesus and the people he encountered during his Passion. Our hands express our love and also express our indifference or hate. Hands create beautiful art and also strike in violence. Through considering these images of the Passion, we lift our hearts in prayer seeking compassion and transformation.

Save the Date for



**Vacation Bible School
June 9-12, 2025**

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

Mar. 30	No CFF & No CLOW— (Spring Break)
Apr. 2, 16	No Wednesday CFF
6, 13, 27	CFF and CLOW
9, 23, 30	Wednesday CFF
12	Reconciliation Retreat (10:00-5:30)
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

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)

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.





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



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. See this weekend's insert for more details.* 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.



Happy
86th Birthday
Bernie LeBeau
Friday, March 28th



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

"... *No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.*" – Joshua 5:12

God provided manna when the Israelites were in the desert. It was what they needed at the time. When the Israelites reached the Promised Land, the manna ceased. They no longer needed it. God's gifts to us also change over time. Think about how His gifts have differed through the years and how you can best share your current gifts with others.

Our New Website is LIVE!

The wait is finally over, and we're thrilled to unveil our new website! 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


April 2025

Assumption of the B.V.M.



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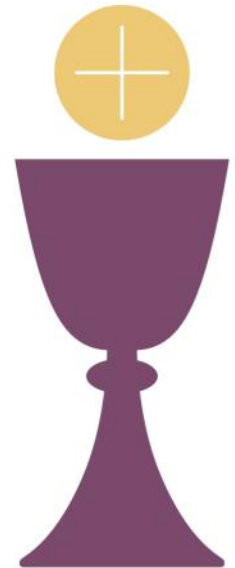
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Open Door in Kitchen / 7:30am Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Monicas / 3:30pm Pastoral Council Meeting / 6:30pm	2 Open Door / 10am Mass / 6:30pm followed by Reconciliation/ Exposition 7:15-8:15pm No CFF K of C / 7:30 pm	3 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Scripture Reflection after Rosary Choir Practice / 7pm	4 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Stations of the Cross / 3:30pm	5 Mass / 4:30pm
MPS School Spring Break						
6 5th Sunday of Lent Mass / 9:30am CFF, C.L.O.W.* Coffee & Donuts after Mass	7 Y2Y Meeting	8 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Monicas / 3:30pm Christian Service Meeting / 5:30pm	9 Mass / 6:30pm followed by Reconciliation/ Exposition 7:15-8:15pm Confirmation / 6:15pm CFF / 6:30pm	10 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Scripture Reflection after Rosary Choir Practice / 7pm	11 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Stations of the Cross / 3:30pm	12 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Mass / 4:30pm K of C Tootsie Roll Drive 1st Reconciliation Retreat
13 Palm Sunday Mass / 9:30am CFF, C.L.O.W.* K of C Tootsie Roll Drive Welcome 5th Grade to YM	14 Stitch and Prayer 9:45am	15 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation No Monicas Meeting	16 Mass / 6:30pm followed by Reconciliation/ Exposition 7:15-8:15pm No CFF K of C / 7:30 pm	17 5:30pm Parish Potluck Holy Thursday Liturgy 7:00pm 8:10:30pm Adoration 10:30pm Night Prayer	18 Good Friday Liturgy 1:00pm Ecumenical Tenebrae Service / 8:00pm	19 8:30am Morning Prayer w/ Blessing of Food Easter Vigil Liturgy / 9:00pm
20 Easter Sunday Liturgy 9:30am No CFF No C.L.O.W.*	21 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Y2Y Meeting	22 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Monicas / 3:30pm	23 Mass / 6:30pm followed by Reconciliation/ Exposition 7:15-8:15pm CFF / 6:30pm	24 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Scripture Reflection after Rosary PEO Meeting / noon Holy Hour w/ Bishop Gruss 7:00 pm	25 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Mass / 4:30pm Food Pantry Y2Y Retreat	26 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Mass / 4:30pm Food Pantry Y2Y Retreat
27 Mass / 9:30am CFF, C.L.O.W.* Food Pantry Y2Y Retreat	28 Stitch and Chat 10am	29 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Monicas / 3:30pm Faith Form Comm Meeting / 5:30pm Admin/Finance Meeting 7pm	30 Mass / 6:30pm followed by Reconciliation/ Exposition 7:15-8:15pm CFF / 6:30pm			

 = days of fast and/or abstinence

*Children's Liturgy of the Word

Healing Through the Eucharist

"A leper came to [Jesus]... and said... 'If you wish, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.' The leprosy left him immediately..." (Mark 1:40–41).



The gospel accounts record numerous occasions when Jesus healed the sick. Many people came to him for healing. The stories are poignant: the woman with a flow of blood, the boy with convulsions, a paralytic, a deaf-mute, a man born blind, a lame beggar, and more. Jesus came into a world awash with suffering and need. Because of the miraculous healings he performed, Jesus is sometimes called the Great Physician, or healer.

He did much more than restore ailing bodies to wellness, however. He also restored broken lives to wholeness, broken relationships to community, and sinners to forgiveness.

When the leper asks for healing, in the story from Mark's gospel account recounted above, Jesus touches him. The very action was shocking. Hanson's disease, or leprosy, rendered one untouchable. Anyone who touched a leper risked contracting and spreading this deadly and excruciating disease. Nevertheless, full of compassion, Jesus reaches out and touches him. What compassion was in that touch! What a profound gesture of human solidarity.

"I DO WILL IT"

Today, no less than during his lifetime on earth, Jesus wills to heal those who turn to him in faith. He wills to heal our hurts and restore our broken lives to wholeness. Sometimes, the healing Jesus wills is physical. There are attested exam-

ples of healing through prayer that indeed manifest a physical change that cannot be explained in any other way. Yet it is no less a miracle when the healing Jesus grants is spiritual.

The Church celebrates the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for those who are seriously ill or near to death. In this sacrament, the priest lays hands on the sick and anoints them with blessed oil, and both the priest and the community pray for them. Whether this takes place at the bedside in a hospital with only one or two people present, or in the parish church with a large congregation, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is always an expression of the Church, as the Body of Christ, carrying out the ministry of healing.

Yet this is not the only occasion at which the healing power of Christ is manifest in the Church. In ordinary ways, by participation in the Eucharist, Jesus continues his work of healing and we are brought to wholeness and peace.

HEALING THROUGH THE EUCHARIST

How does the Eucharist bring us healing and peace? The following three examples show some of the many ways that the Eucharist is a conduit of Christ's healing love.

1 ■ The Eucharist puts us in touch with the love and compassion of Jesus. Christ comes to be with us out of

an infinite love for us. His love heals the hidden wounds we bear because of human rejection, loneliness, and fear. Sometimes physical healing results as well. Through the Eucharist Jesus enters our lives, and his very presence is healing. As food and drink nourish us, so the real presence of Jesus nourishes us. Holy Communion unites us with him in an intimate way.

The Christ we meet in the Eucharist is Emmanuel, God with us. By becoming human, our God has entered into the joys and struggles of human life and shared them. Our Savior knows fully the pain of suffering, rejection, humiliation, and death. He is the slain Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus is the Suffering Servant, of whom the prophet Isaiah wrote, “by his wounds, we were healed” (Isaiah 53:5). His compassion is infinite.

2 ■ *The Eucharist invites us to share in Christ’s Paschal Mystery.* Through dying and rising, Jesus redeemed all humanity, restoring us to friendship with God. This is one aspect of the Paschal Mystery. The other aspect of this mystery, however, is also crucial: we ourselves are called to share in Christ’s passover from death to life. We share in Christ’s Paschal Mystery by dying to sin and rising to the new life of grace. Every time we repent, we die to sin and rise to new life. Every time we experience self-denial for the sake of love, we die to self and rise to a life that is greater than ourselves. This liberating, paschal movement takes us out of the trap of living only for ourselves, and brings us into the freedom of the children of God (Romans 8:21). Our final passover, at the end of this life, into eternal life with God, is the ultimate healing.

3 ■ *The Eucharist heals our imagination, giving us new images of ourselves, our neighbor, and our world.* We generally imagine we are separate from other people, perhaps alone, and frequently at odds or in competition with one another. The sins of pride, envy, and hatred can reinforce the tensions among us, and deepen the loneliness we feel. When we see ourselves and one another as the world sees

us, we stand divided. At the table of the Eucharist, however, we glimpse ourselves and the world through the eyes of God—redeemed, whole, good, and at peace. The one bread and one cup of Communion are central signs of the unity to which we are called.

REFLECT

We can experience illness in body, mind, or spirit. Sometimes, too, a damaged relationship needs to be healed. Where do I need healing at the present time? Can I bring this need to prayer, inviting Jesus to heal me through the Eucharist?

ACT

Make time for someone who needs your help or simply your presence, such as an elderly family member, a sick friend, or someone you know who is going through a rough time. Your presence and interest can be an occasion of healing and joy.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, your body was broken on the Cross for us. Heal our brokenness. Christ Jesus, your blood was poured out for us. Heal our selfishness. Lord Jesus, God raised you to new life. Raise up all who are bowed down!

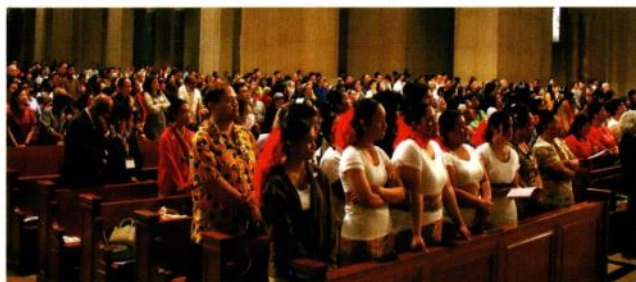
AUTHOR ■ Rita Ferrone is an award-winning writer and speaker in the areas of liturgy, catechesis, and renewal in the Roman Catholic Church.

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REVEAL Christ's LOVE

For people living in developing countries around the world, lack of access to traditional financial services keeps them from providing for their material needs. A Catholic Relief Services (CRS) program has created Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) to address this lack by helping poor communities to pool savings, which then can be lent to SILC members to build or grow businesses at low cost. In Chad, Claudine, a mother of six, uses loans from her local SILC to buy large, lower-cost quantities of the ingredients she needs to make the beignets she sells at market. Before the SILC was established, Claudine was barely able to sell enough beignets to live. But now these cost savings allow her to care for her family and pay school fees.

Your support for The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps CRS address the needs of people in developing countries through innovative solutions that strengthen communities and equip them with resources and skills to prosper—and you also support five other Catholic organizations' outreach to other vulnerable people.



Your Donations Help Our Brothers and Sisters . . . In the United States

Reveal Christ's love by welcoming suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.

Reveal Christ's love through legal aid to struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.

Reveal Christ's love in ministry to people on the margins . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.

And Around the World

Reveal Christ's love to hungry mothers and children in Chad through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**, the official overseas relief agency of the bishops of the United States.

Reveal Christ's love by working for peace . . . through the public policy and education and outreach work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace***.

Reveal Christ's love to the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.

* In June 2024, the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development was renamed the USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection 2023

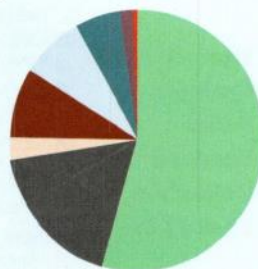
Grants

- Catholic Relief Services
- USCCB Migration & Refugee Services
- USCCB Cultural Diversity in the Church*
- USCCB Justice, Peace and Human Development†
- CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.)
- Holy Father's Relief Fund

Administration

- Promotion & Education Costs
- Administrative Expenses

Amount	Percentage
\$6,849,470	52.03%
\$2,031,216	15.43%
\$1,775,187	13.49%
\$801,732	6.09%
\$787,866	5.99%
\$500,000	3.80%



* The USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church includes Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (\$1,150,833) and Asian and Pacific Island Affairs (\$624,354).

† The USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development includes International Justice and Peace (\$653,054) and education activities (\$148,678).

In June 2024, the Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development was renamed the USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace.



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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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, through the weekly Flocknote or scan the QR Code.



I am the light of the world,
says the Lord; whoever follows me
will have the light of life.

Weekend Offerings

March 22/23, 2025

Weekly Envelopes \$3,057
Online Giving (3/17-3/23) \$1,520
Donations \$0
Weekend Total \$4,577
Weekly Goal \$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall) (\$4,654)

March 1-23, 2025

Weekly Envelopes \$15,860
Online Giving \$9,623
Donations \$7,250
Weekend Total \$32,733
Goal \$36,924
Overage/(Shortfall) (\$4,191)



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.



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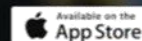
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