

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out:  
“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”



## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

April 13, 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,

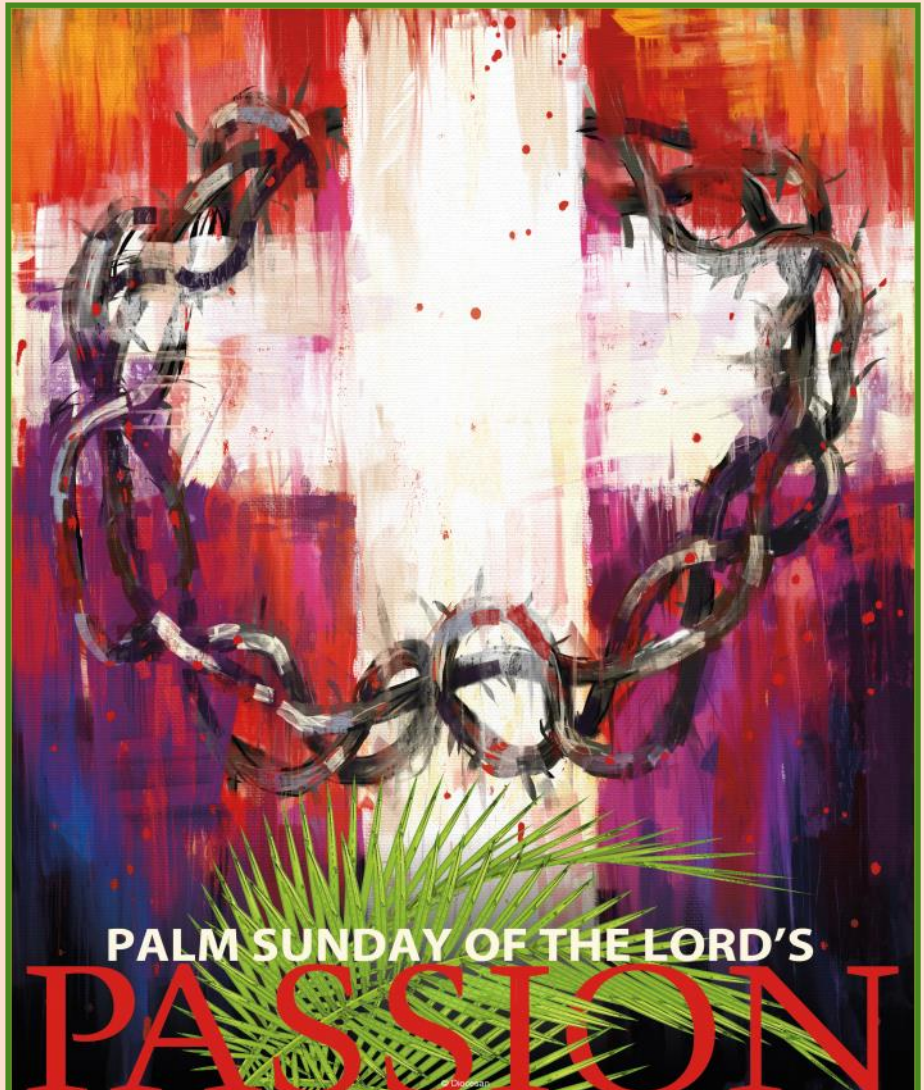
Email: [rachelle@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:rachelle@assumptionmidland.org)

**Evangelization Liaison:** Anna Martin,

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

**Maintenance Specialist:** Brad Hill,

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



### TRIDUUM LITURGY SCHEDULE

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday Liturgy  
(preceded by parish potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m.)  
Adoration after Mass, Night Prayer at 10:30 p.m.

Friday, 1:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

Friday, 8:00 p.m. Ecumenical Tenebrae Service

Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer/Blessing of Food

Saturday, 9:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Liturgy

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Liturgy



*“Jesus answered them: ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.’” —John 12:23*

We now begin our Holy Week observance. However fruitful we may personally feel our Lent has been, now is the acceptable time to fully enter into the mystery of Jesus’ redeeming death and resurrection.

I have been blessed this Lent by contemplating **The Seven Last Words of Christ**. We quite rightly give huge weight to someone’s last words. The last thoughts and ideas expressed by our loved ones are very precious and give us deep insight into the meaning of their existence. The final words of Jesus recorded in the Bible and set musically by Théodore Dubois were given breath and life by our music ministry (and friends) this Lent, under the direction of Jim Renfer. This beautiful concert stirred the soul with the wondrous love of our Savior who suffered and died for us. We meditated on these words on March 21 during our Friday Lent devotions. I also read a short book of meditations of the Last Words of Christ by Stanley Hauerwas entitled *Cross-Shattered Christ*.

I would like to share with you some of the fruit of my contemplation of The Seven Last Words of Christ, not as if I have some especially insightful thoughts but as an encouragement to you to contemplate these words in your own way this Holy Week.

- **“Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)** This prayer from Jesus to his Father in an expression of his constant prayer at the Father’s right hand. (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25) Since “by embracing in his human heart the Father’s love for us,” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 609) a Father whose love is mercy as expressed in his parable of the Prodigal Son and the Forgiving Father (Luke 15:11-32), all forgiveness of sins and reconciliation is made possible through the blood of Jesus’ Cross. (Colossians 1:20)

- **“I assure you, this day you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)** One of the criminals crucified with Jesus pleaded, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!” We all wish to be remembered. For a great majority of us, memory of our lives will flicker out with our grandchildren or great-grandchildren. Does this make our lives meaningless? Absolutely not. For those alive in Christ Jesus, life has changed not ended. “To be in paradise

is to be with Jesus, to be pulled into God’s life by the love made visible on the cross. Our salvation is no more or no less than being made part of Christ’s body.” (Hauerwas, p. 44) When someone dies in Eastern Christianity, it is common to pray, “May her (or his) memory be eternal.” If we unite our life and death with Jesus’, we will receive the gift of his eternal life. (Romans 6:8)

- **“Woman, there is your son . . . There is your mother.” (John 19:26, 27)** John’s Gospel reports that Mary stood, strong and silent, beneath the Cross of Jesus. All the men had run away except the disciple “whom he loved.” Mary’s faith led her to say “Let it be” to the angel’s offer to become the Mother of the Redeemer. Her faith gave birth to Christ in this world. Her faith caused her to stand at the foot of the heart- and body-rending Cross. She is our model of faith, just as Abraham was to the Chosen People. (Catechism, no. 144) Jesus now gives Mary to the disciple whom he loves (isn’t that each of us?) as our Mother, our model of faith and our caregiver. Deathbed gifts are the most precious gifts.

- **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)** Again, Jesus prays. This time, he prays Psalm 22, which improbably corresponds to his suffering of body and spirit on the Cross. I have visited nursing homes and memory care units many times. When all other mental functions have receded, it is often only the prayers learned in childhood that remain. Have you ever suffered so much that it is hard to address God as *a loving Father*? Read the horrors of Psalm 22 but notice the trust and hope in the Lord in the final verses. The Lord has never “hidden his face” from the “poor man who cried out” to God. (Psalm 22:25) God will never abandon us in our tribulations.

- **“I thirst.” (John 19:28)** Biblical scholar Scott Hahn in his book *The Fourth Cup* makes a compelling argument that this request and the sour wine raised to Jesus’ parched lips constitutes the last ritual cup of wine (The Cup of Covenant—“I shall take you as my people, and I will be your God.”) to be consumed at the Passover Seder. Jesus has now established the New Covenant, the expanded People of God on the Cross. Jesus’ thirst was not only for some liquid to quench his bodily desire. He thirsts for our love, completely giving ourselves to God and neighbor, as the response to his total gift of himself in love for our sake on the Cross.

- **“It is finished.” (John 19:30)** What

is finished? Jesus’ earthly life? Yes, in that he truly died on the Cross. No, in that he will be raised, never to die again. Jesus’ mission? Yes, in the sense that he will not preach or heal as he did in his public ministry. No, because his mission is continued in us, the Church. His suffering? Yes, in so far as his body is about to wear out. No, because Christ is still suffering in his Body, especially the poor suffering injustice. We live in the time of already/not yet. The Kingdom of God is among us, but God is still brining about the final consummation of all creation in justice, harmony, and love—in our hearts and in our world. We can taste the first fruits of this consummation in our Holy Communion with Jesus. (Galatians 2:20)

- **“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)** Jesus’ final words are a prayer to his Father. Every night in the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church makes this prayer our own, and we respond, “You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth.” What is Jesus’ spirit? More accurately, who is Jesus’ Spirit? The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life. Sin and death will not have the last word. “The spirit gives life . . . the words I spoke to you are spirit and life.” (John 6:63) That Word and that Spirit have been poured into us through Baptism and Confirmation. (Romans 5:5) Jesus’ public ministry in the flesh is drawing to a close, but his ministry and mission continue through us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I will be praying that each of you will have a blessed, transformative, and fruitful Holy Week.

*John*

## **PALM SUNDAY**

***“I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me.” — Luke 22:34***

What do you do or how do you react when someone says something negative about God or the Catholic faith? Think about it. Do you stay quiet or avoid saying something just to not have conflict? Are you afraid that you don’t know what to say or that you won’t say the right thing or explain things correctly? If so, consult with others or do other research about how to respond and pray for the strength to speak up and share the faith without hesitation.

Worship Schedule	
ASSUMPTION	
<b>MON, April 14</b> Is 42:1-7 Jn 12:1-11	
<b>TUES, April 15</b> Is 49:1-6 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38	<b>8:00a Mass—Dennis Rey</b> <b>8:30a Rosary</b> <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
<b>WED, April 16</b> Is 50:4-9a Mt 26:14-25	<b>6:30p Mass</b> <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation 7:15-8:15</i>
<b>THUR, April 17</b> Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15	<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> <b>7:00p Holy Thursday Liturgy</b> <b>10:30p Night Prayer</b>
<b>FRI, April 18</b> Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>1:00p Good Friday Liturgy</b> <b>8:00p Ecumenical Tenebrae Service</b>
<b>SAT, April 19</b> Gen 1:1-2:2; Gen 22:1-18 Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 55:1-11 Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 Rom 6:3-11; Lk 24:1-12	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> <b>8:30a Morning Prayer</b> <i>w/Blessing of Food</i> <b>9:00p Easter Vigil Liturgy</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>SUN, April 20</b> Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <b>9:30a Easter Sunday Mass</b> <i>Regina Graveline</i>

## V is for Vocation: Fr. Matthew Federico



We give thanks for Fr. Matthew Federico serving as pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Pinconning. We pray for Fr. Matthew as he ministers to the faithful both at Holy Trinity and at parishes of Vicariate 4 of which Fr. Matt is the Regional Vicar. Vicariate 4 includes the parishes in Midland County. Learn more about the vocation of priesthood: <https://saginaw.org/god-calling-you-become-priest>

[god-calling-you-become-priest](https://saginaw.org/god-calling-you-become-priest)

*Loving God, the provider of all our needs, we, your faithful people, ask that you bless this parish and our Diocese with an increase of men and women for priestly and committed ministry. Provide from among us those who will lead and work with us in priestly and consecrated service. As you call, so may you also provide the context for listening so that they may respond with generosity and joy. Form our hearts so that we may be a people given to Gospel living and generous for Christian service. Help us all to discern and pursue our vocation in life with strength and courage, making of us a priestly people. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, the priest and servant of our hearts. Amen.*

## Holy Hours for Vocations with Bishop Gruss

All are welcome  
from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.!

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 faithful are encouraged to join Bishop Gruss when he visits our parish on:

**Thursday, April 24th**



## FOOD TRUCK OUTREACH

**Wednesday, July 16th**

In cooperation with the Midland County Food Assistance 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 also taking donations to pay for the food truck in the gathering space.*

## PARISH POTLUCK HOLY THURSDAY

All are invited to attend a potluck dinner in the parish hall on:

**Thursday, April 17 at 5:30pm**

Please bring a dish to pass and join fellow parishioners for a meal.

*No sign-up required.*

Then immediately after the potluck, we encourage everyone to stay for the **7:00pm HOLY THURSDAY** liturgy to celebrate the *Mass of the Lord's Supper*. This will be a wonderful way to gather as community and to begin our Easter Triduum journey together.

*We will have adoration after Mass followed by Night Prayer at 10:30pm.*

~ This Week ~

**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**



**Monday, April 14**

**9:45 am Stitch and Prayer**

**Tuesday, April 15**

*Office closed, staff attending Chrism Mass*

**8:00 am Mass**

**8:30 am Rosary followed by meditation**

**Wednesday, April 16**

*No CFF*

**6:30 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Reconciliation**

**7:30 pm K of C Meeting**

**Thursday, April 17**

**5:30 pm Parish Potluck**

**7:00 pm Holy Thursday Liturgy**  
*(followed by adoration)*

**10:30 pm Night Prayer**

**Friday, April 18**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

**1:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy**

**8:00 pm Ecumenical Tenebrae Service**

**Saturday, April 19**

**8:30 am Morning Prayer**

*w/Blessing of Food*

**9:00 pm Easter Vigil Liturgy**

**Sunday, April 20**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**9:30 am Mass**



## 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. 13, 27	CFF and CLOW	
23, 30	Wednesday CFF	
16	No Wednesday CFF	
20	No CFF & No CLOW (Easter Sunday)	
May 4	Last CFF, Last CLOW and May Crowning	
7	Last Wednesday CFF	
10	First Eucharist Retreat (noon-3pm)	
18	First Eucharist Mass, 9:30am	

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

Middle School and High School Sunday evening Youth Ministry has ended for the year. Watch for registration for the 25-26 year! Also watch your email and the bulletin for YM events!

Apr. 13	5th grade "Welcome to Middle School" Event
26-27	Y2Y Retreat (HS)
June 1	Graduation Mass
3	Cedar Point
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 30, balance of \$200 due Sept. 30)

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

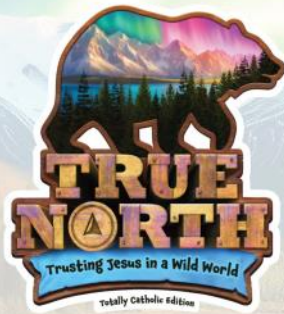
For questions, contact Kathy Russell @ [kathyr@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:kathyr@assumptionmidland.org).

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.

Once again we are sponsoring a



## Mothers' Day Baby Shower Collection

For Life Clinic

Bring In Your Donations  
May 3/4 and May 10/11

### TOP DONATION REQUESTS:

- Infant onesies, receiving blankets
  - \*Toddler pajamas and clothing for sizes 24 mo., 2 T, and 4T
  - \*Diapers (name brand or store brand) sizes 4 through 7
  - Diaper bags
  - Sippy cups
  - Baby wash or shampoo
  - Desitin or A&D ointment
  - Formula—Regular (yellow can) and Gentlease (purple can)
  - New or gently used infant or children's books
  - Rice packs/lotions, breast pads for mother's comfort
  - \$10 gas only, gas cards
  - Cash donations also accepted
- \*They have extended their offerings to include items for children up to 3 years old and are especially in need of these items.*



## Monthly Praise and Worship is Thursday April 24!

Come lift your voice  
to the Lord in song!

At Our Lady of Grace Church  
in Sanford at 7:30pm



## ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

May 20-22, 2025



The parish rummage sale for charity, is coming up soon, just in time for spring cleaning! This is a great chance for parishioners to clean out the clutter and other possessions you no longer need.

### DROP OFF SCHEDULE:

**MAY 15-17 FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**

are the available hours for donating items. PLEASE, NO EXCEPTIONS.

*We are unable to accept large pieces of indoor exercise equipment (treadmills, stationary bikes, etc.), expired baby items like car seats and cribs, non-flat screen monitors or TVs.*

**SALE DATES ARE MAY 20-22**

**MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AND ALWAYS WELCOME!**

*No experience necessary.*

**Help is needed from May 15-22, times are flexible.**

*Sign-up sheets are at the welcome circle at church or contact Laura Atton [lauraatton@gmail.com](mailto:lauraatton@gmail.com).*



### 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.*



# 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

# The Good Life

Ah, the good life... cocktails on the beach, leisure time, beautiful women, heroic men, fast cars, adventure, plenty of money, good health ... These staples of Hollywood and advertising tell us something about the dreams and fantasies of people in our society.



Sure enough, everybody has ideas about what they'd like their life to be like in an ideal world. Pleasure, excitement, success, and abundance figure in many of those dreams. Often our fantasies are an escape from the hard realities of life. Somewhere—somewhere *else*—there's "the good life."

What Christianity has to offer us, however, is far different from the elusive dreams of affluence and satisfaction that keep the wheels of commerce turning. It is the good life right here and now, wherever we are. The good life can exist in the midst of sorrow or pain, grief or poverty, because the good life is not about having good things. It's about being good.

## CHOOSING THE GOOD

Virtue is described in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as "an habitual and firm disposition to do the good" (CCC 1803). The four cardinal virtues—prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance—are called natural virtues because they are basic to human life. They are a strong component of the Christian tradition for living a good life.

Living a good life also means practicing the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love. These are called "theological" because they direct our hearts to God and because God is the fulfillment of them.

Virtue is cultivated through practice. It is something that grows over time. Virtue shapes who we are. And it can happen anywhere, under any circumstances.

## SHAPING A LIFE

Our circumstances in life, for the most part, are given to us. Indeed, many things about our life are givens. We are born into a particular family, at a particular time in history. Our race, language, and culture are given to us. We inherit characteristics from our parents. A religious heritage and identity may have been given to us, too.

But that is never the whole story. What we become—our life—is a work of human freedom under grace. It is the dynamic interaction of those givens with our character, our choices, our dreams, and God's plan for us. To live a life that "holds together"—a good life, a virtuous life—is no small task. It is the work of a lifetime.

## THE EUCHARISTIC WAY

How does the Eucharist enable us to live a good life? Pope Benedict XVI, in writing about the Eucharist, reminds us, "It is not the eucharistic food that is changed into us, but rather we who are mysteriously transformed by it" (*The Sacrament of Charity*, 70). In this, he reaffirmed the teaching of St. Augustine, who saw clearly that the Eucharist effects

the transformation of the faithful into the Body of Christ. “Christianity’s new worship,” Pope Benedict goes on to explain, “includes and transfigures every aspect of life” (*The Sacrament of Charity*, 71). To live as Christ is the outcome of the Eucharist.

When we partake of the Eucharist, something happens to us. But what is it? Do we receive Christ, and take him into ourselves? Or does our reception of the Lord in Holy Communion result in *our being taken into him*? Clearly, as Pope Benedict has presented it, the latter is the case. We are taken into Christ. The Lord in the Eucharist is not accommodated to the form of our life, but rather our life begins to take on the form of his. We become more Christ-like, by the mysterious workings of grace in the Eucharist.

### BECOMING CHRIST-LIKE

To become like Christ is to become bread for a hungry world—feeding people, teaching them, nourishing them. To become Christ-like is to become the wine of justice and peace, a potent and refreshing cup—speaking truth, acting with justice, promoting peace. Through continued participation in the Eucharist, and by living the Eucharist, we ourselves become the sacrament of love—a living sign.

Being transformed by the Eucharist means too that our lives are shaped by the Cross. One of the clearest signs that we are following in the footsteps of Christ, and conforming our life to his, is that we take up our cross. Self-denial motivated by love, and the acceptance of suffering for the sake of the Kingdom, are sure signs that we are living the Eucharist.

### GROWTH IN HOLINESS

Another way to name this transformation is to say we grow in holiness. The whole Church is called to holiness, as the Second Vatican Council taught. Holiness is not the special preserve of a few exceptional people, such as saints or clergy or religious. Rather, it is the state to which all people are called.

A life of holiness includes worship, prayer, and devotion. Yet holiness is not some kind of other-worldly state. Our moral life, our firm disposition to seek the good in every situation, is essential to holiness. A life of virtue is an expression of holiness, of being close to God, who is all-good.

Of course, we cannot become holy by our own efforts. Rather, the sacraments make us holy, by sharing the life of God with us. The more we receive God’s grace, which is the activity of the Holy Spirit within us, the better we are able to imitate him. We become more just, more loving, and more forgiving. We grow more concerned for the poor and more devoted to God’s Kingdom. The Eucharist enables the transformation of our lives.

### REFLECT

They say that a checkbook is a theological document. So is a calendar of our appointments. Think about how you spend money and time. What do your priorities, expressed in your checkbook and calendar, say about virtue? About holiness? About Eucharist?

### ACT

Spend some time this week in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Be open to whatever God may be calling you to be or to become, through the Eucharist.

### PRAY

Holy God, thank you for giving me life. Thank you for my days and years, for the unfolding seasons and times you have given me. Thank you for the goodness of my life.

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

Copyright © 2012 by Paulist Evangelization Ministries. All rights reserved. *Nihil Obstat*: Rev. Christopher Begg, S.T.D., Ph.D., Censor Deputatus. *Imprimatur*: Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, Archdiocese of Washington, March 28, 2012. The *nihil obstat* and *imprimatur* are official declarations that a book or pamphlet is free from doctrinal or moral error. There is no implication that those who have granted the *nihil obstat* and the *imprimatur* agree with the content, opinions or statements expressed therein. Published by Paulist Evangelization Ministries, 3031 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017, [www.pemdc.org](http://www.pemdc.org)



# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2025

## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



### Thoughtful Moments

#### St. Catherine of Siena

Born in 1347, St. Catherine of Siena experienced divine visions from a young age. Rejecting marriage over her mother's objections, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and embraced a life of poverty, prayer, and charity. Known for her wisdom, she became a sought-after advisor and peacemaker. Her theological contributions and spiritual writings earned her the title of Doctor of the Church, recognizing her lasting influence on Catholic doctrine and devotion.



#### PACT — prayers on the go

If you have just a few minutes to pray as a family, focus on the four essential forms of prayer: Petition, Adoration, Contrition, and Thanksgiving. Entrust all your concerns to God, reflect on His goodness and love, seek His forgiveness in areas where you have fallen short, and express gratitude for His many gifts – especially His mercy. Amen!

*"In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" (John 16:33).*



## Sunday Mass: a sacred invitation – will you accept?

If a friend invited your family to dinner and told you Jesus would be there, wouldn't you do whatever it took to attend, knowing the immeasurable blessing of being in His presence? Each time Mass is celebrated, Jesus is truly present. Do whatever it takes to attend every Sunday Mass so your family is blessed by:

**Nourishment for the Soul** – Just as parents ensure their children eat well to grow strong and healthy, Jesus provides the spiritual food we need to strengthen our souls. The Eucharist is not just symbolic; it sustains and transforms us.

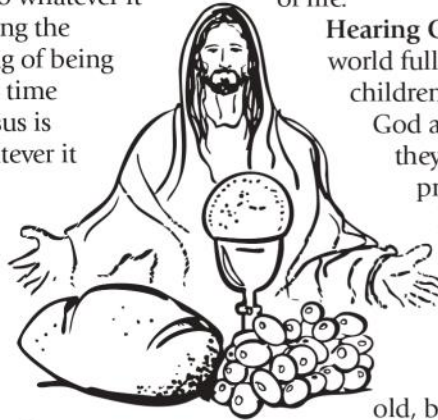
**Obedience to God** – He explicitly calls us to keep the Sabbath holy. Bringing children to Mass teaches them

to prioritize God's law, reinforcing the importance of obedience in all aspects of life.

**Hearing God's Word** – In a world full of distractions, children must learn to listen to God above all else. At Mass, they hear Scripture proclaimed, forming a habit of recognizing and responding to His voice.

**Belonging to a family** – Every Catholic, young and old, belongs to God's family, the Church. *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:20). Children bless others simply by being active members.

**Regular Mass attendance isn't just a duty**—it's a gift that helps children become spiritually strong.



### Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics observe Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, recalling Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Crowds honored Him with palm branches, shouting "Hosanna!" During Mass, we receive blessed palms, symbolizing victory and the

### Why do Catholics commemorate Palm Sunday?



fleeting nature of human praise. The liturgy includes the reading of Christ's Passion, shifting from joy to solemnity, preparing us for His suffering and sacrifice.

This day calls for solemn and thoughtful preparation for the most solemn week of the year and the joy of Easter.

## Make Easter joy last all year

Easter joy isn't meant for just one morning—it's meant to be lived every Sunday. As Pope John Paul II reminded us, "Sunday recalls the day of Christ's Resurrection. It is Easter which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death" (*Dies Domini*). Keep that joy alive by making every Sunday a "little Easter."

**Joy follows sacrifice.** Just as darkness precedes the dawn, atonement for sin prepares us to fully experience Easter's triumph. Make Fridays penitential in your home—share meatless meals, fast from entertainment,

go to Confession, serve others through acts of charity.

**Rejoice in second chances.** Jesus knows our good intentions don't always hold, so He gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Go as a family at least once a month. When children see you seeking God's mercy, they'll know it's there for them too.

**Immerse yourself in the Mass.** It's not meant to be observed but lived. Read the Scriptures beforehand, sing wholeheartedly, and pray with intention. Celebrate the Resurrection with true joy.



### Scripture LESSON

### John 20:19-31, Mercy triumphs over doubt

Poor Thomas! Despite his years of faithful discipleship, he will forever be known as "the Doubter." Even after witnessing Jesus' miracles firsthand for several years, he struggled to believe in the Resurrection. Not even the testimony of multiple eyewitnesses could convince him that his Lord had returned.

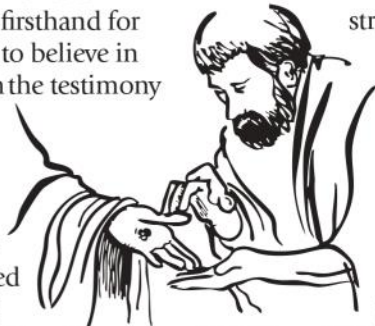
Yet Jesus, in His mercy, met Thomas in his doubt. A week later, Jesus appeared to him, offering the proof Thomas needed—even inviting him to touch His wounds. Thomas hesitated, but when confronted with the Truth, he embraced it.

*What can a parent do?* Remind

children that God is not troubled by our questions or doubts, especially when we say, "I'm

struggling—please help me." As we grow in faith, we will encounter ideas that challenge or confuse us. In those moments, we can turn to God in prayer and seek wisdom in the teachings of the

Church, guided by the Holy Spirit. St. Thomas' journey of doubt ultimately led him into deeper intimacy with Christ. The same can be true for us—if we are willing to seek and trust.



### Feasts & Celebrations

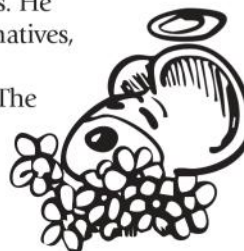
**April 7 – St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle (1719).** St. John was born at Rheims, France, to a noble family, and was ordained a priest in 1678. He taught groups of poor and rich children together – which was unusual for that time. He formed the Brothers of the Christian School, a successful community of educators.

**April 13 – Palm Sunday.** This Sunday recalls Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when He was greeted by crowds waving palms. It marks the beginning of Holy Week.

**April 23 – St. Adalbert of Prague**

(997). St. Adalbert was bishop of Prague, but his evangelizing activities earned him enemies and he was forced to leave. He was later invited by the Duke of Poland to evangelize Pomerania and Hungary and was martyred.

**April 28 – St. Peter Chanel (1841).** St. Peter Chanel entered the Society of Mary and was sent to evangelize the Marshall Islands. He baptized a few natives, including the chieftain's son. The entire island converted two years after his martyrdom.



### Parent TALK

For more than a week, Tessa came home upset about the environment in her classroom. The way Tessa told it, the teacher had little

control over the class, nor any idea of what the kids were up to when her back was turned. When it continued into the next week, I

decided to email the teacher to tell her I wasn't happy.

As I started typing, I realized I wasn't being fair. What if Tessa wasn't giving me the whole story? Shouldn't I be helpful rather than critical?

My email instead asked for a meeting and the teacher responded immediately. When we met, she acknowledged that there were issues in class but detailed the excellent steps she was taking to get on top of them. Further, she had suggestions for how I could support her at home.

This experience convinced me to be a partner rather than a critic.



### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™  
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax  
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

# 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.



Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

### Weekend Offerings

#### April 5/6, 2025

Weekly Envelopes .....	\$5,029
Online Giving (3/31-4/6) .....	\$3,963
Donations .....	\$300
Weekend Total .....	\$9,292
Weekly Goal .....	\$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall) .....	\$61

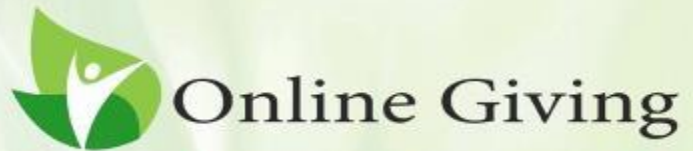
#### Month of March

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.*



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 this 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."*

Let's craft your future.

Michael Gavin CFP®  
Senior Vice President,  
Financial Advisor

989-631-1454  
2401 Eastlawn Dr | Midland, MI 48642  
[wealthenhancement.com](http://wealthenhancement.com)

Wealth Enhancement® Wealth is in the details.

**ACE HARDWARE**  
832-8829

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm  
Sat 8am-5:30pm  
Sun 10am-4pm  
419 E. MAIN, DOWNTOWN  
Greg White • Parishioner

[www.midlandace.com](http://www.midlandace.com)



**TODD M. GAMBRELL**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Practicing in Wills,  
Trusts, Tax and  
Estate Planning

**Gambrell**  
and ASSOCIATES PLC

1605 ASHMAN ST.  
MIDLAND

[www.gambrelllaw.com](http://www.gambrelllaw.com)  
989.631.7626

what's on your horizon?  
let us help you find the path.

989-497-1600  
[frankenmuthcu.org](http://frankenmuthcu.org)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Avery  
Murphy

**EWTN.COM/RADIO**

**EWTN** Global Catholic Radio

TUNE IN

**Harbron Electric**  
Since 1976

RESIDENTIAL  
COMMERCIAL

Family Owned  
Family Operated  
Family Service

832-3743  
2370 N. EASTMAN RD.  
MIDLAND

**MA**

[midlandallergyclinic.com](http://midlandallergyclinic.com)  
(989) 631-1010

Jonathan M. Horbal, D.O.P.L.C.  
Richard J. Horbal, M.D., P.C.  
Alexander A. Horbal, D.O., P.L.C.  
MIDLAND ALLERGY CLINIC

555 W. Wackerly, Ste. 2675  
Midland, Michigan 48640

**myParish**

The App for  
Catholic Life Every Day

[www.myParishApp.com](http://www.myParishApp.com)

Available on the App Store | ANDROID APP ON Google play

**catholicmatch®**  
Michigan

[CatholicMatch.com/goMI](http://CatholicMatch.com/goMI)

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

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

**TRI CITY REMODELING**  
When only the best craftsmanship will do!!!  
COMPLETE INTERIOR & EXTERIOR REMODELING  
KITCHENS • BATHS • BASEMENTS  
ROOFING • GUTTERS • SIDING • WINDOWS • DOORS  
**Nowak Cabinets**  
Of Midland  
Serving You Proudly Since 1980  
Brandon Boothe  
989-496-9326  
tricityremodeling.com  
www.nowakcabinets-midland.com

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

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

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

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

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

**Lighthouse Family Dental Care**  
Cynthia Skiba D.D.S.  
111 Harold Street, Midland  
989-631-6760  
www.cynthiaskibadds.com  
Let us light up your smile!

**Satkowiak & SONS ASPHALT**  
989-697-3297

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

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

ADVERTISE HERE  
Promote your Business Andrew Beadling  
AND support your Parish. 616-446-6892

**NOVAK BROTHERS LANDSCAPING**  
(989) 640-7133  
novakbrothersmidland.com  
novakbrotherslandscaping@gmail.com  
Connect with one of our experts to make your vision come to fruition. We thrive on taking a dream and making it a reality!

**MICHIGAN DOODLE RESCUE CONNECT**  
MATCHING DOGS TO PEOPLE  
fetch our social media  
call or text 989-486-3315  
www.michigandoodlerescueconnect.org

**LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS**  
SERVING THE MIDLAND AREA SINCE 1907  
**SERVINSKI OD SERVICE**  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL  
Grading • Hydro Seeding  
Lawn Maintenance  
Snow Removal  
New Lawn Construction  
Athletic Fields  
Licensed Pesticide Applicator  
CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES  
835-4810

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

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

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

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

**All Night Towing & Recovery**  
989-488-0110 • OPEN 24HOURS  
TOWING • LOCK OUT • TIRE CHANGES • GAS DELIVERY

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

**ThankYouForYourPriesthood.com**  
#ThankYouForYourPriesthood

DIOCESAN • To Advertise 1-800-783-1623 Online at Diocesan.com/Business VISA 1484