



The Solemnity of THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

June 15, 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

Director of Parish Life: John Graveline,
Email: john@assumptionmidland.org

Sacramental Minister: Fr. Rick Filary,
Email: rfilary@diosag.org

Office Manager: Sandy Martinski,
Email: sandym@assumptionmidland.org

Director of Youth Ministry: Kathy Russell,
Email: kathyr@assumptionmidland.org

Children's Faith Formation:

Wendy Graveline,
Email: cff@assumptionmidland.org

Music & Liturgy: Jim Renfer,
Email: jim@assumptionmidland.org

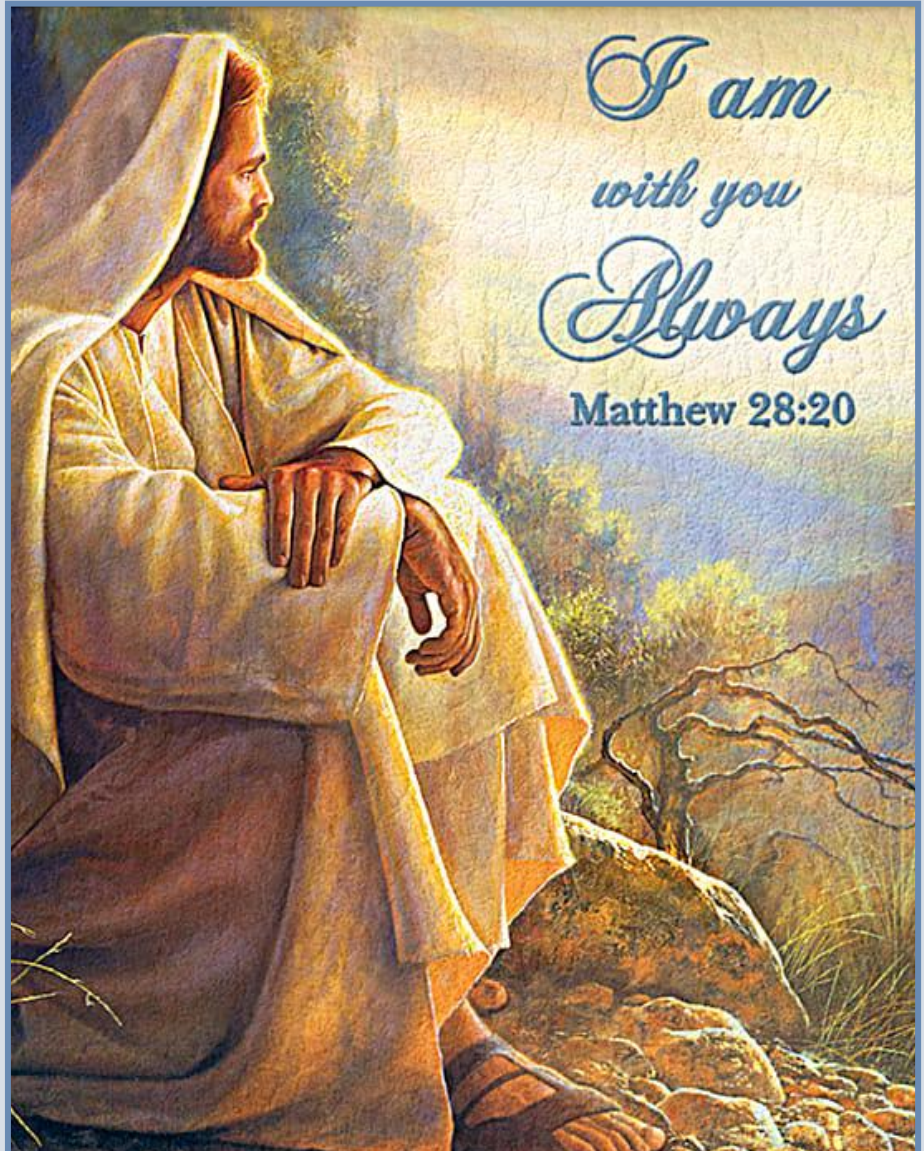
Office Professionals:

Val Rossi,
Email: val@assumptionmidland.org

Rachelle Boyer,
Email: rachelle@assumptionmidland.org

Evangelization Liaison: Anna Martin,
Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org

Maintenance Specialist: Brad Hill,
Email: bradh@assumptionmidland.org



MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Those wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick prior to surgeries, hospitalizations, or because of health concerns are asked to please contact the parish office. Otherwise, please notify the parish office if you or a family member is ill, homebound or hospitalized.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: MONDAY at noon

From our Director of Parish Life



"You know that while all the runners in the stadium take part in the race, only one receives the prize. In that case, run so as to win! Athletes deny themselves all sorts of things. They do this to win a crown of leaves that withers, but we a crown that is imperishable. I do not run like one who loses sight of the finish line. I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. What I do is discipline my own body and master it, for fear that having preached to others I myself should be disqualified." – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

As we continue the Jubilee Year of Hope, this weekend we celebrate the **Jubilee of Sports**. Sports have always enjoyed the esteem of the Church. As Pope Francis addressed the International Conference on Sports and Spirituality last year, "The Apostle Paul more than once compared the spiritual life to an athletic competition . . . whose prize is Christ himself. The discipline and self-control of athletes, as well as their spirit of healthy competition, have often served as images of Christian life and virtue." Sports teach the virtues of discipline and endurance, teamwork and cooperation, and stewardship and care for our bodies. Catholic parishes and schools have long served their communities by offering opportunities to participate in sports, especially for youth and the poor. Sports also offer a way toward inclusion and solidarity. Special Olympics was founded by a Catholic, Eunice Kennedy Shriver—President Kennedy's sister—and her son Timothy Shriver is currently the organization's Chairperson. He states that Special Olympics uses sports to "educate the public about people with intellectual disabilities, change perceptions, challenge stereotypes, and address barriers to inclusion." Many saints have used sports as a way to build strong, healthy relationships with God, nature, and neighbor, such as St. John Bosco, St. Teresa of the Andes, St. Luigi Scrosoppi, St. John Paul II, Blessed Chiara Badano, and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

However, something does seem to be askew about our current sports culture. Sports have become "big business" in our nation, leading to a "win at all costs" mentality that actually harms athletes physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Athletes, even young athletes, are injured, used up, and discarded when no longer profitable to the organization. I'm a big fan of sports and of Michigan's teams (especially the Detroit Lions), but sports fandom has increasingly gone off

the rails. It has become increasingly common online to see over-the-top abusive language or violence by sports fans. If I find that I'm in such a bad mood when my team loses that it negatively impacts my relationships in my marriage, with my children, and amongst my friends and co-workers, it is a reality check that, as St. Augustine warned, my loves have become wrongly ordered.

We can see another challenge to what St. Augustine referred to as well-directed love—"loving things in the right order"—in youth sports culture. Earlier this year, Fr. Joshua Whitfield wrote an article in *America* magazine entitled, "Soccer vs. Sunday Mass: How youth sports are undermining religion and hurting our kids." Fr. Whitfield writes from a unique perspective as pastoral administrator of a large Catholic parish in Dallas (the heart of Cowboy country!) and as a husband and father of five children (he's a former Episcopal priest). I would encourage everyone, especially parents, to read his article online. In the article, he questions if our current youth sports culture is truly beneficial to our young people. He quotes the writers of the book *Overplayed*, who have "become increasingly concerned about the toll that current youth sports culture is taking on children, young people, and families. Families' dollars and time are stretched and stressed. Children are suffering overuse injuries and burning out at younger and younger ages. They're being asked to perform beyond appropriate developmental stages. They're failing to develop some of the intrinsic values that adults assume sports will teach them. Parents are damaging their relationships with their kids and with each other. And far too often, as we struggle to navigate this new terrain, we're driven not by love but by fear." This diagnosis aligns with some of the things that I have witnessed both as a father and throughout my career as a lay minister.

Sports are a wonderful part of human life, but it makes a very poor religion. When I was serving in North Muskegon around the year 2000, I was told that my faith formation classes had to be on Wednesday because "Wednesday night is church night in North Muskegon. Games are not scheduled, and coaches don't have practice. There are no dance classes or recitals." I don't know if that is still true there, but I would doubt it. In our era of travel leagues, multiple teams, individualized coaching, etc., no time is viewed as more sacred than sports, even Sunday mornings! A couple years ago, the bishop in Grand Rapids ordered all parish gymnasiums closed (no games, no practices) on Sundays throughout the diocese when the priests were reporting seeing more of their parishioners at the Sunday afternoon basketball or volleyball game than at Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass. For St. Augustine, **God is the summum bonum, the highest good, and love for God and communion with God is what the rest of our loves and passions should be scheduled around.** When our participation in or passionate fandom for sports takes the place of our participation in the weekly Eucharist and our passion for Holy Communion with God and neighbor in love, we have lost sight of our true "finish line" and our priorities need to be recalibrated.

May this Jubilee of Sports be an opportunity for all of us to give thanks for the gift of sports and the virtues they inculcate, put our passion for sports in the right perspective, and always put our first priority on worship and communion with the one God who is Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

John



All Midland Corpus Christi Procession Sunday, June 22nd

12:30pm (meet at St. Brigid) Followed by Potluck at 1:30pm
Meal Location: St. Brigid's School Gym

In celebration of The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) there will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament on the church grounds following the 11:30am Mass. A potluck meal will be served after the procession at approximately 1:30pm. The church will provide drinks, plates, napkins, and silverware.



Most Holy Trinity

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth." – John 16:13

Do you listen to what God is saying to you? Do you listen when you pray or do you do most of the "talking?" The Lord will reveal how He is calling you and how you can serve His kingdom on Earth, but you need to be open to, and listening for, His messages.

 Worship Schedule	
ASSUMPTION	
MON, June 16 2 Cor 6:1-10 Mt 5:38-42	
TUES, June 17 2 Cor 8:1-9 Mt 5:43-48	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
WED, June 18 2 Cor 9:6-11 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	6:30p Mass <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation 7:15-8:15</i>
THUR, June 19 2 Cor 11:1-11 Mt 6:7-15	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
FRI, June 20 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30 Mt 6:19-23	8:00a Word & Communion 8:30a Rosary
SAT, June 21 2 Cor 12:1-10 Mt 6:24-34	4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, June 22 Gen 14:18-20 1 Cor 11:23-26 Lk 9:11b-17	BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST 9:30a Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

V is for Vocation: Fatherhood



We give thanks for the fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and spiritual fathers in our lives, and pray for all those who have sought fatherhood.

Lord God, we pray that expectant fathers lovingly support the mothers of their children in welcoming new life. We pray that expectant fathers find courage in the example of St. Joseph, as they prepare to love, protect, and provide for their child.

We pray that all priests, through the intercession of St. Joseph, will be filled with the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We pray that the Lord will grant peace and comfort to all married couples struggling to have a child. We pray for all those longing to welcome a child through adoption; may the Lord guide their journey and grant them peace along the way. We pray that fathers who mourn the loss of a child will find peace and consolation in the heart of God the Father. Amen. (adapted from USCCB).

[Painting of St. Joseph with Jesus by "Adum" (1907) from the sacristy in the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Rožňava, Slovakia.]

Happy Father's Day

This Sunday is Father's Day. We salute and give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, adoptive fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, spiritual fathers, and father figures who have showed us how to pray, work, laugh, love, and live with faith and integrity. Your service to your families is truly an inspiration!

We also recognize that today can be difficult for those who have lost their father or fathers who have lost a child, those who have been hurt or abandoned by their fathers, or those who are estranged from their fathers, etc. On this Trinity Sunday, we recall that we have a heavenly Father who always keeps his promises. We can count on him in good times and bad times to welcome us into his house and into his embrace. (Luke 15:11-32; 1 John 3:1) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation!" (2 Cor. 1:3)

Only a dad, but he gives his all
To smooth the way for his children small,
Doing, with courage stern and grim,
The deeds that his father did for him.
This is the line that for him I pen,
Only a dad, *but the best of men.*

Edgar A. Guest



Bishop's Golf Outing and Banquet for Seminarian Education and Vocations

Bishop Robert Gruss will host his golf outing and luncheon on Wednesday, July 23 at Currie Golf Course in Midland.

The banquet will take place on Thursday, July 24 at the Great Hall in Midland. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 or \$560 for a table of eight. All funds raised from these two events go to support education of seminarians in the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw and vocation efforts.

See this weekend's insert for more details.

Contact Tammy Heinlein at 989-797-6693 or theinlein@diosag.org

The participation deadline is Wednesday, July 2.

- This Week -

Sunday, June 15
HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

9:30 am Mass
Happy Father's Day
(breakfast after Mass)



Monday, June 16
6:30 pm Catholicism Clarified

Tuesday, June 17
8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary

Wednesday, June 18
6:30 pm Mass
*followed by Exposition
and Reconciliation*
7:30 pm K of C Meeting

Thursday, June 19
8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary

Friday, June 20
8:00 am Word and Communion
8:30 am Rosary

Saturday, June 21
10:00 am Serving at Open Door
Edick & Bragg Wedding
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, June 22
BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
9:30 am Mass



2025/26 Faith Formation
and Youth Ministry Programs
EARLY REGISTRATION

Why wait until August when you can register NOW!

Online family registration is now open for both Children's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry! Next year's theme will be "Treasured" Children's FF will again be using Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Middle School YM will be learning about the treasures found within the Catholic faith and all things Catholic. High School YM will be taking a "Road Trip" finding treasures along the way and within themselves. Friends are welcome at all Youth Ministry levels... *ALL are welcome!*

Please scan the QR code to register today!

Watch your emails for more information.

Cost for CFF and YM will remain the same as last year: 1 child/\$45; 2 children/\$90; 3+ children/\$120

If you have questions concerning Children's Faith Formation, contact: Wendy Graveline @ CFF@assumptionmidland.org

Questions about Youth Ministry (6-12th grade) or Confirmation (age 12-14), contact: Kathy Russell @ Kathyr@assumptionmidland.org



Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN

CFF has ended for the year, but please watch the bulletin for other events!

July 16 Mobile Food Truck
(need volunteers)

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

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

June 23-27 ND Vision (9th-12th grade)
July 7-11 ND Vision (9th-12th grade)
July 16 Mobile Food Truck (need volunteers)
Nov. 20-23 NCYC (HS—Save the Date)

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

Congratulations Class of 2025!



From L-R: **Fr. Rick, Dan Schneider, Dominic Griffin, Aloisia Graveline, Julia Edick, and college graduate: Allison Leslie**

Congratulations to all graduates (not pictured):

Maya Garza, Luke Gracer, Andrew Hudack, Leyton Minuth, Michaela Quinn, Jenna Remacle, Gibson Roberts, Andrea Ross, & Owen Zanotti

May the Lord continue to guide you on your journey and bless you with every success, happiness, and hope for the future.



ASSUMPTION PARISH PRESENTS

Catholicism Clarified

A Summer Series for Catholics

Do you ever hesitate to share your Catholic Faith because someone might ask a question you don't know how to answer? Or have you learned parts of the Catholic Faith without understanding how they all fit together?

Join us for a series of presentations based on Adult Christian Initiation formation to hear the message of our Catholic Faith in a comprehensive way and grow in confidence so you can share it with others!

June 16	Creation
June 23	Who is Jesus?
June 30	The Teachings of Jesus
July 7	Liturgy & Sacraments
July 14	Baptism & Confirmation
July 21	Mass & Eucharist
July 28	Sacraments of Service
August 4	Sacraments of Healing
August 11	Faith & Creed
August 18	Christian Living (Morality)
August 25	The Way of Love and Justice



All sessions held Monday evenings at 6:30 PM

No sign up required. Drop in for as many sessions as you would like!

Contact John Graveline at john@assumptionmidland.org for more information

Mobile Food Drive

St. Brigid Catholic Church, along with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and Midland County Food Assistance Network, will be hosting a Mobile Food Drive on Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 9:30am-12:00pm. The drive will take place in the parking lot of St. Brigid Parish. Pre-registration for food is required by calling (989) 486-9393 and press 1. Distribution begins at 9:30am and registration will be done from your car. No identification or proof of income is necessary.

If you are interested in volunteering for this corporal work of mercy, you may sign up for a shift at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAFA828A6F5C16-57120949-enhanced>

Having Trouble Making Ends Meet?

Visit the

MIDLAND COUNTY FOOD ASSISTANCE NETWORK MOBILE PANTRY
and receive free food to help supplement your family's pantry.

Date: Tuesday – June 24, 2025

Pre-Registration starts: **on June 17 by calling 989-486-9393 line 1**

Distribution Time: **9:30 a.m.**

Location: **Blessed Sacrament Parish**

Please stay in your cars. Registration will be done in your car.

Volunteers will put the food into your car.

Please be patient as we try to keep everyone safe.

No identification or proof of income necessary.

Sponsored by: Blessed Sacrament, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and Midland County Food Assistance Network. QUESTIONS? Contact 989-486-9393



Knights of Columbus

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

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



Catholic Diocese of Saginaw Priests' Retirement Fund Collection Father's Day Weekend June 14/15

Most parish priests dedicate decades to serving the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw. Much of the work they do goes largely unnoticed. They have modest incomes during their years in active ministry and many rely on the diocese's Priests' Retirement Fund. This fund assists priests who are currently retired and those who will retire in the future.



Please carefully and prayerfully consider a donation to this fund. Envelopes for this special collection are in your regular envelope packet or you can donate online through our Online Giving, go to www.AssumpitonMary.org or the Diocese website at www.saginaw.org/priestsretirement.

Midland-Based Stove Team

Rooted in Connection. United by Purpose.

Interested in Joining?



If you have a heart for service, there is an annual February mission team that travels to the NW mountain area of Guatemala to serve the Mayan communities.

Each year, we're joined by new team members as well as some volunteers who return from previous years. Whether you're new to mission work or a seasoned traveler, there's a place for you here. We invite you to learn more and see if this might be a good fit for you.

<https://www.blessed-midland.org/parish-news/midland-based-stove-team/>



MIDLAND AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

DIVE IN and make your way out to Dow Diamond on Friday, July 25th to watch the Great Lakes Loons battle the Beloit Sky Carp. Enjoy the ball game and listen to our very own MACC Choir sing the National Anthem.

Friday, July 25th
TIME @ 7:05 PM

TICKET PRICES
Northern Lights Pavilion
(includes buffet)
\$27.00



You can buy your tickets online this year at
<https://www.gofevo.com/event/macc25>
or scan the QR code.

You may also order tickets from Travis Webb at the Loons ticket office at 989-837-6173 or email twebb@loons.com.

For any questions, please contact your parish office.
Assumption/989-631-4447 Blessed Sacrament/989-835-6777
St. Brigid/989-835-7121 Our Lady of Grace/989-687-5657



989.837.2255

LOONS.COM

Diocesan Marriage Prep Class

Saturday, July 19th from
9:00am to 4:00pm
Center for Ministry

Cost: \$90

Preparing for a Covenant marriage between God, and an engaged couple provides a solid foundation for moving forward as you journey together as husband and wife with Christ at the center of your relationship and marriage. Engaged couples in need of marriage preparation are invited to attend this one day event which will offer you time to hear presentations by other couples and a Priest on: Marriage as a Sacrament and the Catholic Wedding ceremony, Family of Origin, the 5 Love Languages and 4 Temperaments, Conflict, problem solving, finances, and more. Any questions, contact Beth Bauer at bbauer@diosag.org or call 989-797-6655.

Registration Link
<https://saginaw.org/Registration-Marriage-Prep>



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.



ABVM Parish Garden

The Assumption Community Garden has been prepared and planted for the 2025 growing season. We can't wait to see what God will grow this year!



Raising Funds for the Future of Vocations

Join Bishop Robert Gruss and supporters throughout the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw for events to support the education of future priests and the promotion of vocations in our Diocese.

New Time of Year!

Golf Outing & Luncheon

Wednesday, July 23, 2025
\$100 each/\$400 per foursome

Currie Golf Course
1300 Currie Parkway, Midland, 48640

Morning ~ limited to 100 golfers; fills up fast
7 a.m. ~ Registration and breakfast
8 a.m. ~ Shotgun start
12:30 p.m. ~ Luncheon and awards

Afternoon

12:15 p.m. ~ Registration and luncheon
1:15 p.m. ~ Shotgun start
Reception and awards following golf

New Banquet Location!

Banquet & Auction

Thursday, July 24, 2025
\$75 each/\$560 table of eight

The Great Hall
5121 Bay City Road, Midland

5:30 p.m. ~ Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and
silent auction
6:45 p.m. ~ Dinner and program

Guests will enjoy a special program ~ and
silent and live auction items will include a wide
variety of gifts and experiences that will appeal
to many tastes and budgets

All proceeds from these events provide for the educational expenses of our current seminarians and nurturing and discernment of new vocations.

To register for either event, contact the diocesan Stewardship and Development Department at 989-797-6693 or email Tammy Heinlein at theinlein@diosag.org

To learn about sponsorships or contributions, or to discuss donation of an auction item, contact Geri Rudolf at 989-797-6679 or email grudolf@diosag.org

Or go to www.saginaw.org/golf for more details. **Participation deadline is: Wednesday, July 2**



Pictured above: Fr. Matthew Gembrowski (right) his brother-in-law Landon Reed and his mother Sharon take a second for a photo before hitting the course in 2024. Fr. Matthew is the parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish and St. Mary University Parish in Mount Pleasant; Fr. Bill Rutkowski, director of seminarians, gives an update on seminarians at the 2024 dinner. Fr. Bill is also the diocesan vicar general and pastor of St. John Paul II Parish in Carrollton; Bishop Gruss just one second before sinking a putt in 2024; seminarian Michael Kuehne chats with a 2024 banquet guest as a cardboard cutout of him "looks on." Michael has completed his second year of pre-theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

ABVM Administration/Finance Council Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2025

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



The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
John Graveline led the group in prayer.

The meeting minutes from March 18, 2025 were approved.

Administrator's Report

John gave an update on the Christ Mission Appeal. We currently have pledges and donations totaling \$83,733. That is 86% of our \$95,236 goal with 39% of our parish participating. John and Dave are following up with parishioners who have not yet responded.

Finance Review FY 2024-2025

The financial statement for March was presented and discussed.

- Sunday collections for the month were under budget \$104.
YTD total revenue is under budget \$540.
- Expenses for the month were under budget \$1,390.
YTD total expenses are over budget \$4,032.
- YTD we are -\$4,432 net income.

Mass attendance numbers for Easter weekend were very good with close to 600 people attending.

Building and Grounds

John had a few minor repairs that have come up:

- Repair to the font
- Repair fuel line for plow truck
- Lawn mower prep for the summer
- Repair a few shingles that have come loose

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Gordert

Future Meeting Dates

June 3, 2025

The Committee does not meet over the summer.

September 16, 2025

October 21, 2025

November 18, 2025

December 16, 2025

January 20, 2026

February 17, 2026

March 17, 2026

April 21, 2026

May 19, 2026

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

June 2025

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Thoughtful Moments

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

St. Aloysius wanted to be a priest but had to wait for his father's approval. As the eldest son of a Marquis, St. Aloysius was expected to inherit the position. After three years, he was permitted to join the Jesuit Order in 1585. His studies for the priesthood were interrupted by a devastating plague. He helped tend the victims and shortly died after catching the disease. He is remembered for his purity, holiness, penances, and scholarly brilliance.



Jesus reveals the Father's love

Through the Gospels, Jesus teaches us about God's incredible love. By His example, He encourages us to respond as sons and daughters to a Father who loves us selflessly, extravagantly, compassionately, infinitely.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep"
(John 10:14-15).

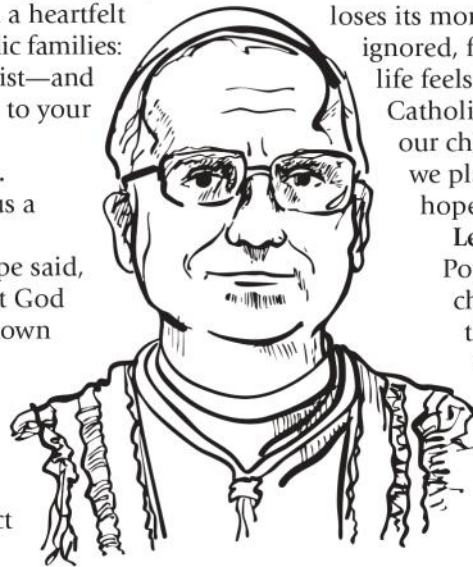


Pope Leo urges parents to raise faithful Catholics in a troubled world

In his first papal homily, Pope Leo XIV delivered a heartfelt message to Catholic families: stay rooted in Christ—and pass that faith on to your children.

Jesus as model. "[Jesus] showed us a model of human holiness," the Pope said, reminding us that God made Himself known in every stage of life: as a trusting child, a curious teenager, and a devout adult. Jesus is the perfect example of obedience, humility, and service—qualities we can nurture in our children.

Parents have a mission. The pope said, "We are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Jesus the Savior."



When faith fades, he warned, society loses its moral compass—mercy is ignored, families fall apart, and life feels empty. Passing on the Catholic Faith isn't just for our children's sake—it's how we plant seeds of love and hope that will bear fruit.

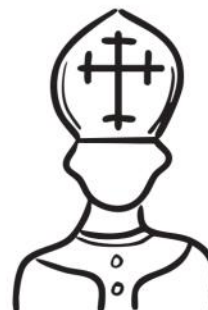
Lead by example. The Pope closed with a challenge, "It is essential that we too repeat with Peter, 'You are the Christ...'" (Matthew 16:16). The Holy Father said Peter's response is meant to be ours, too. "It is essential to do

this ... in our personal relationship with the Lord, in our commitment to a daily journey of conversion." If you live as if Jesus is Lord of your whole life, your children will, too.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics call the pope Peter's successor because we believe Jesus appointed St. Peter as the first leader of the Church, saying, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18). Peter became the first

Why do Catholics call the Pope "Peter's Successor"?



bishop of Rome, and his authority has been passed down through an unbroken line of popes. Each pope inherits Peter's role as the visible head of the Church on earth, guiding the faithful in unity, truth, and pastoral care.

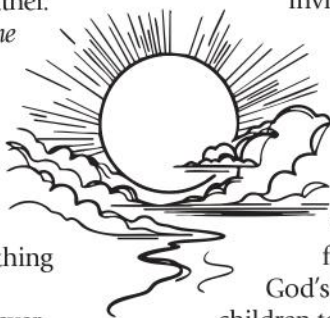
"What is God like?"

Explaining an infinite God to children can be challenging, but Jesus teaches us to think of God as our own Father.

"No one is father as God is Father" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #239). Here are three truths to share:

"Merciful and gracious." God isn't cold or distant. He is moved by our suffering (Exodus 3:7-8). He gives good gifts (Matthew 7:11), and even gave us His Son (Romans 8:32). If He withholds something we want, it's to offer something even better.

"Slow to anger." God's love doesn't fade. He never



tires of forgiving us if we are repentant. His patience invites us to be more patient—with our children, our families, and ourselves.

"Abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." The Bible is one long story of God keeping His promises. In the Old Testament, He vows redemption and restoration. In the New, He fulfills them through Christ. Reassure children that the same "forever" love is for us today.

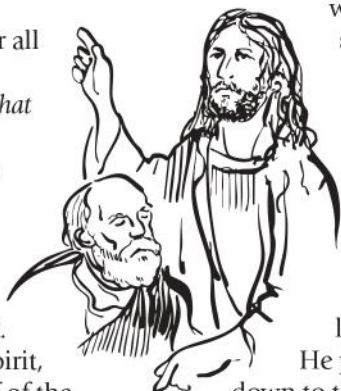
God's love is real, unshakable, and personal. Teach children to respond.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 16:13-19, "Who do you say that I AM?"

This passage marks the foundation of the Catholic Church—established to endure for all time. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" It's a question not about popularity or public opinion, but about truth. At its core, Catholicism is built on the truth of who Jesus is. And truth stands, whether it's popular or not.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simon answered on behalf of the others: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). In response, Jesus renamed him Peter, meaning "Rock," and entrusted him



with the keys to the kingdom. This was more than symbolism; it was the transfer of real authority to teach, to forgive, and to welcome people into the Church.

What can a parent do?

Trust that Jesus established the Church on Peter to be a visible, lasting guide. Through it, He preserves the truth passed down to the Apostles. When our own faith is strained, Peter's bold witness reminds us: Jesus is who He says He is, and His Church stands on that unshakable truth.

Feasts & Celebrations

June 2 - Saints Marcellinus and Peter (304). St. Marcellinus, a priest, and St. Peter an exorcist, were martyred under Emperor Diocletian. St. Peter freed the prison-keeper and his family from demonic influence by his prayers, and they were eventually baptized by St. Marcellinus.

June 9 - Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Even in Heaven, she continues to support us by her prayers as our spiritual mother.

June 15 - The Most Holy Trinity. Today, we honor the central mystery of our Faith – that there is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus revealed this mystery after the Resurrection (Matthew 28:19).

June 28 - St. Irenaeus of Lyons (c. 202). As bishop of Lyons, Irenaeus investigated and disproved assertions of the Gnostics, who claimed to have secret knowledge imparted by Jesus. In great service to the Church, Irenaeus clarified Church teaching and gradually ended the influence of the Gnostics.



Parent TALK

Toby and Alden fought over everything. I tried mediating, negotiating, even punishing, but nothing worked. I decided to step out of it.



The next night, the fight was about who got to pick the next television show. I calmly turned off the TV and told the kids that when they agreed on what to watch, they could turn it back on. Instead, they stomped out.

The next fight was about which book I should read at bedtime. Again, I calmly got up and walked to the doorway. I said that when they could agree on a book, I would be back, but they better hurry. It was 15 minutes to bedtime.

A few minutes later, they came to get me. "We decided that you should read a book we both wanted to hear," said Alden. "This way, we both win." Needless to say, I read that book with great enthusiasm.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)



An Opportunity To Serve
FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
Wednesday, July 16, 2025

We are still in need of 18 more volunteers to unload and distribute the food to those in need. The more volunteers we have the lighter the work and the more fun we will have together!

Help is needed from 8am – 12:00noon, with lunch provided for the event. Everyone's safety will be a priority.

You can sign up to volunteer by calling the parish office at 989-631-4447.



If you are not receiving your weekly Flocknote, go to midlandabvm.flocknote.com to sign up online and keep in touch with what is going on at Assumption or text **MIDLANDABVM** to 84576 to get it on your mobile device.

Weekend Offerings

June 7/8, 2025

Weekly Envelopes	\$3,949
Online Giving (6/2–6/8)	\$2,872
Donations	\$6,000
Weekend Total	\$12,821
Weekly Goal	\$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall)	\$3,590

Month of May

Weekly Envelopes	\$15,571
Online Giving	\$9,451
Donations	\$10,750
Weekend Total	\$35,772
Goal	\$36,924
Overage/(Shortfall)	(\$1,152)



THANK YOU so much for your continued support in getting your contributions into the office.

Please make out a separate check for the special collections.



Online Giving

It is easy to sign up, just go to our website at:

AssumptionMary.org

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

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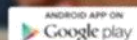
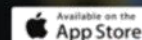
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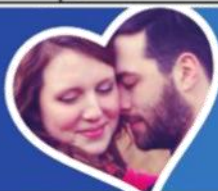
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