



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

August 31, 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.,

Closed on Fridays until after Labor Day

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,

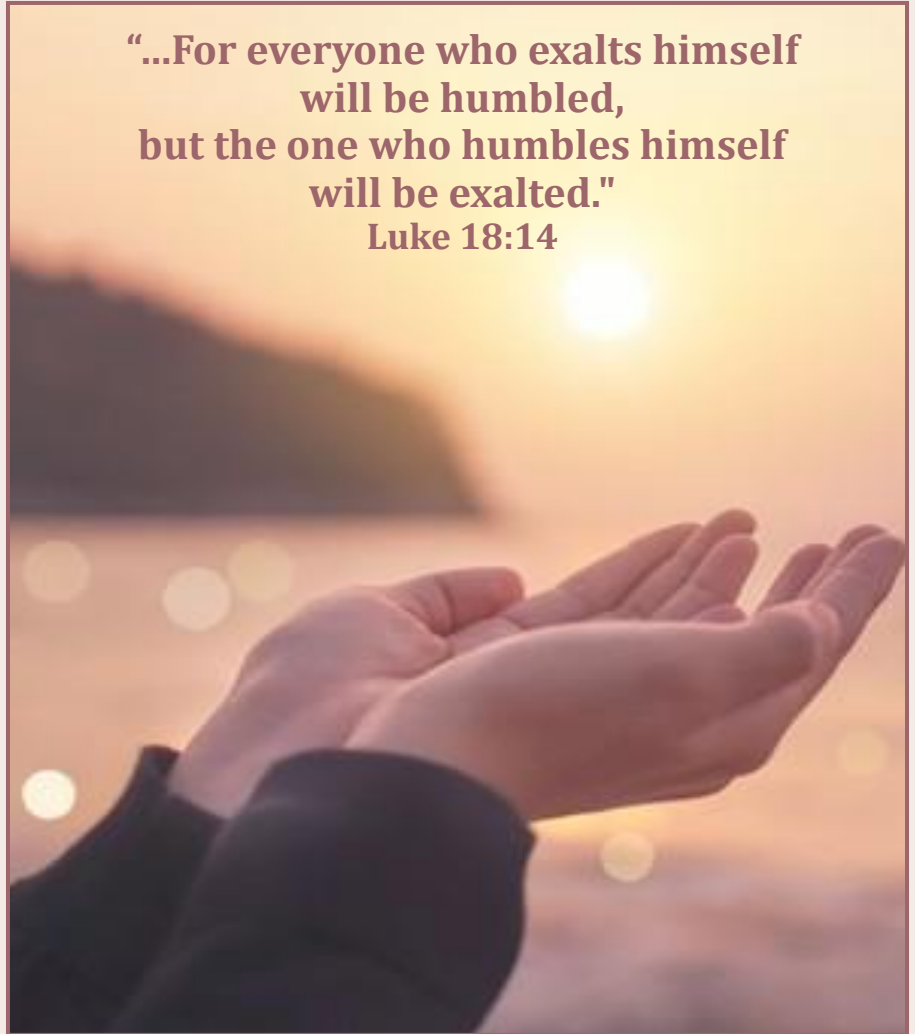
Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org

Maintenance Specialist: Brad Hill,

Email: bradh@assumptionmidland.org

**"...For everyone who exalts himself
will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself
will be exalted."**

Luke 18:14



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, home-bound or hospitalized.

Happy Labor Day

The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday, September 1st for Labor Day

Have a safe and wonderful weekend!





Dear Parish Family,

My name is Anna Martin, and I'm sure you're probably familiar with my face at Mass, but you might not be as familiar with my role at Assumption. I've worked part time at the parish for just over a year now, and my official role is "Evangelization Liaison." This isn't a common job title, so people often ask me what exactly it means. To put it simply, I help our parish invite others to encounter Christ through our worship, service, celebration, and community.

Since I am a young adult with a background in communication, a special focus of mine is extending invitations to the greater Midland community online through our parish website, social media, and online community calendars. I also enjoy designing flyers and handouts to highlight the events and activities taking place here. You can often find me experimenting with graphic design, snapping photos around church, or writing (and re-writing...and re-re-writing) social media captions in an effort to communicate the beauty and vibrance of our faith community.

Evangelist (noun): one who proclaims or promotes something enthusiastically.
—Random online dictionary

When I first stepped into this role, I was honestly intimidated by the job title. "Evangelization Liaison" sounds quite imposing, and I wondered if I could live up to that title, being shy by nature and lacking any sort of religious degree. Then one day I saw a definition of "evangelist" that completely changed my perspective. This definition wasn't out of the Catechism or a Church document (as a matter of fact, it came off a random dictionary on the internet), but it deeply resonated with me. It defined an evangelist as "one who proclaims or promotes something enthusiastically."

I thought to myself, I can do that! I can enthusiastically proclaim that my relationship with Christ has made a positive impact on my life. I can enthusiastically proclaim that my life has been enriched through my involvement in the Assumption Parish community. I can enthusiastically promote the

wonderful ministries and events that take place here because I want others to be part of this also. I don't need to be gifted at preaching or teaching; I just need to be enthusiastic!

Recently, I was blessed with an encounter that further deepened my understanding of evangelization. Sometimes, we can think of evangelization as a sort of recruitment, gathering new members into our church to increase attendance and grow faith. But the following experience showed me that true evangelization starts with a spirit of giving that doesn't expect something in return. It's not a response to empty pews; it's a response to hungry hearts.

Earlier this summer, I was walking past Barnes & Noble in the Midland Mall when I was approached by three young people. (They looked to be in their teens, but I won't hazard a guess at their exact ages. Despite being three years out of college myself, I'm still routinely mistaken for a high schooler, so I know that looks can be deceiving!) In the most friendly and respectful way, these young people explained that they were on a prayer walk and asked if I had any intentions they could lift up. At that moment, I was actually trying to process some unexpected changes at my other job. When I shared this, the leader of the group asked if they could pray with me right then and there. He offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the gifts God had given me and asked that Jesus would bring peace and healing into the situation. Then they simply wished me a good day and we parted ways.

I have no idea who they were or what church they were from. They didn't ask me if I knew about Jesus or belonged to a church. They weren't out to recruit new members. Their message wasn't one of condemnation or condescension. Rather, their message was that

God loved me and desired good things for me. They were there to be a tangible reminder of that love, to intercede for me, and to lift me up in the midst of my difficulties. They were truly out evangelizing.

"[W]hen you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." —Luke 14:13-14

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus tells his listeners not to offer a banquet for people who can repay them, but to invite those from whom nothing is expected. I think true evangelization is motivated by this same spirit. It's tempting to invite others to join us in order to secure their commitment to our creed and community. Instead, let's invite others because we want to fill their hearts with the love of Christ we have received as part of this family of faith. Let's continue to make our parish a place of warmth and welcome where we cultivate relationships with our neighbors without expecting repayment. Let's offer a generous banquet for their hungry hearts and souls.

This week, I'd like to invite each of us to find an opportunity, no matter how small, to proclaim the love of Christ and to invite another into deeper community with God and neighbor. May the Holy Spirit inspire and guide our parish family as we seek to grow as enthusiastic evangelists!

Anna
Evangelization
Liaison



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:13-14

When we use any of the gifts that God gives us – which is all that we have and all that we are – we are called to do so without expecting anything "in return." That seems contrary to what the world teaches us. Pray about how you may be better about sharing your gifts without seeking earthly returns.

	
Worship Schedule	
ASSUMPTION	
MON, September 1 1 Thes 4:13-18 Lk 4:16-30	Happy Labor Day!
TUES, September 2 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11 Lk 4:31-37	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
WED, September 3 Col 1: 1-8 Lk 4:38-44	6:30p Mass <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation</i>
THUR, September 4 Col 1:9-14 Lk 5:1-11	8:00a Mass—<i>Pauline Tapia</i> 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
FRI, September 5 Col 1:15-20 Lk 5:33-39	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
SAT, September 6 Col 1:21-23 Lk 6:1-5	4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, September 7 Wis 9:13-18b Phlm 9-10, 12-17 Lk 14:25-33	9:30a Mass <i>Wilburn & Geraldine Saia</i>

V is for Vocation: Fr. Alberto E. Vargas



We give thanks for Fr. Alberto Vargas, one of the eight priests of the diocese who serve concurrently as pastor for two parishes. We pray for Fr. Alberto in his ministry to the faith communities of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Saginaw and St. Francis de Sales Parish in Bridgeport. The Judicial Vicar and Chancellor of the diocese, as well, he was ordained at the Cathedral in Saginaw in May

2012. St. Francis of Assisi Parish underwent a major renovation in 2024. Commenting on this "renewed space", Fr. Alberto said, "It is a sanctuary where faith is nurtured, prayers are lifted and lives are transformed." Learn more about Fr. Alberto's work to make the church a "new space for upcoming Catholics": <https://greatlakesbaycatholic.com/rededications-marchapril-2025>

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. (USCCB)

Men's FAITH Study Fall / Winter 2025

All are welcome to the upcoming Men's Saturday Morning Faith gatherings sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141. We will focus our discussion on the readings for the upcoming Sunday's Mass. Guide booklets will be available at the first meeting. Even if you can only make a few of these meetings know that you are always welcome and your presence and contributions will help make the discussions richer for all.

The schedule is below and on the parish calendar:

13 September 8:00 AM Mass, 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow
27 September 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow
11 October 8:00 AM Mass, 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow
25 October 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow
1 November 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow
15 November 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow
13 December 8:00 AM Mass, 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow
20 December 8:30 AM Rosary and Faith Group discussions to follow

To sign-up please email: greggzank@mac.com or sign-up at the welcome circle to ensure we have guide booklets for all!

A Simple Way to Invite Others

Imagine that you're new to the neighborhood and searching for a faith community nearby...where would you look, and how would you decide where to go? For many people, this search begins online. If your life has been enriched by sharing in our worship, fellowship, celebration, and ministry, consider inviting others to become part of the Assumption Parish family by leaving an online review! Scan the QR code, visit:

<https://g.page/r/CcDmvtKCq0-FEBM/review>, or look up our parish on Google Maps and click "Write a Review."



~ This Week ~

Sunday, August 31

9:30 am Mass

Monday, September 1

HAPPY LABOR DAY

Parish office closed

John Graveline's Birthday



Tuesday, September 2

7:30 am Open Door in Kitchen

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary

followed by Meditation

6:30 pm Pastoral Council Mtg

Wednesday, September 3

10:00 am Serving at Open Door

6:30 pm Mass

followed by Exposition and Reconciliation

7:30 pm K of C Meeting

Thursday, September 4

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary

followed by Scripture

Friday, September 5

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary

Saturday, September 6

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, September 7

9:30 am Mass

CFF & Children's Liturgy of the Word begins (CFF Parent meeting)

Coffee & Donut Sunday

2025/26 Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Programs

THE TIME TO REGISTER IS NOW!!

If you have not yet registered your child(ren)... online family registration is now open for both Children's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry! This 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 (ages 12+), 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!

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. Register for the 25-26 year! Watch your email and the bulletin for YM events!

Sept. 10 Deadline to register for NCYC
Sept. 21 Youth Ministry Kickoff
Nov. 20-23 NCYC (HS—Save the Date)

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



NCYC

November 20-23, 2025 Indianapolis, IN

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.

NCYC 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 Emmanuel—God with us.

What teens can expect at NCYC:

JUST ANNOUNCED...Pope Leo XIV will encounter the youth through a real-time digital encounter at the NCYC general session on Fri, Nov 21st!

INSPIRING SPEAKERS...Some of the best speakers in the Catholic space.

MASS & ADORATION...Celebrate liturgy and the Eucharist with tens of thousands, led by our American bishops.

MUSIC & WORSHIP...Praise and entertainment led by award-winning artists.

INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS...Countless games, crafts, obstacle courses, live radio shows, challenges, and so much more.

COST \$700...Family pays \$350/parish pays \$350 (Includes: bus transportation, registration fee, hotel, backpack, and dinner on Friday and Saturday evening.)

Limited spots available.

Scan the QR code to reserve a spot today!

Deadline to register:

Wednesday, September 10th!

For more information or registration forms, contact Kathy Russell at (989) 631-4447 or Kathyr@assumptionmidland.org



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOUTH MINISTRY ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We Need YOU!

We invite YOU to consider joining us at Youth Ministry this year to help lead our young people as they learn about the treasures of our Catholic faith! We have an awesome Youth Ministry program that meet at Blessed Sacrament on Sunday evenings, and we need awesome volunteers (like you!) to help run our games, activities, and discussions! **YM meets from 6-8 p.m. on most Sunday nights** from the end of September through March. Volunteers for Confirmation prep, beginning in January are also needed. The great thing about volunteering in Youth Ministry is that there's no guesswork or prep work! Everything (right down to what you'll say to the students) is written and prepared for you and most of the night is led by the Youth Ministers!

But we do need faith-filled adults to accompany our youth in their small groups. Contact Kathy Russell @ kathyr@assumptionmidland.org



2024-25

Goal: \$95,236

Current Gifts & Pledges: \$89,843

Percentage of Goal Attained: 94.3%

Gifts & Pledges Needed this
Summer to Meet Goal: **\$5,393**

**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 Flock-
note or scan the QR Code.



RIGHT TO LIFE Focus on Life Dinner

Join us for our Annual Focus on Life Dinner!

It will be at The Great Hall

Tuesday, September 16th

Doors will open at 5:30 pm, dinner/program at
6pm. There will be a cash bar and a silent auc-
tion! \$40/person or \$300 for table of 8

Contact RTL Midland County at 989-835-2222
or email us at mary@midlandrtl.org.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony

Bishop Gruss invites couples to receive a spe-
cial blessing on their marriage at Mass on:

**Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025 at 2 p.m.
at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
in Saginaw**

A small reception will follow at the
diocesan Center for Ministry
5802 Weiss in Saginaw

Those married in the **Church within the past
five years and any couples who have celebrat-
ed or will celebrate milestone anniversaries
(10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years, etc.)** in 2025 are
welcome to join this free event.

To register, please contact Tammy Heinlein
at 989-797-6693 or email
development@diosag.org

Space is limited. Registrations will be accepted
on a first-come, first-come basis.

Next Blood Drive

Monday
**September
15**

1:30 PM - 6:00 PM

**Assumption Knights of Columbus
Council #2141**

**Blood Drive Location: Holy Grounds
3516 E. Monroe Rd.
Midland, MI**

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

-Call 866-642-5663

-Visit versiti.org/mi

-Or scan the QR code below

***Walk-ins welcome, as schedule allows!**

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood
and or platelets. Donating blood takes about an hour
and has the potential to impact up to three lives.

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a
healthy meal and drink
plenty of water before
donating.

For eligibility questions
please call
866-642-5663



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QUESTIONS ABOUT CATHOLICISM?

ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO (OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO) ...

- Has wondered "What is my purpose?" or "Why am I here?"
- Has been seeking deeper meaning in life?
- Has wondered if "being spiritual" and "being religious" are really com-
patible?
- Has wondered if goodness and unconditional love are really possible?
- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic or learning more
about Catholicism?
- Is married to a Catholic or raising Catholic children?
- Is related to or in a relationship with a Catholic, and wants to under-
stand them more?
- A Catholic who has been away from church for a while or are looking
to update your understanding of the Catholic faith?

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is offering a weekly
opportunity for **Inquiry into Catholicism**. All you need to bring is your
questions or a friend with questions of their own. Sessions focus on the
teachings and experience of Catholicism. **Fall Inquiry sessions will meet
each Sunday morning at the church from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.
beginning September 14.**

Please contact John Graveline, john@assumptionmidland.org,
for more information.

Coffee and Donut Sunday September 7th

Join us for coffee and donuts
after 9:30 am Mass!





POLISH FEST

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

6:30PM-10:00PM | DOORS OPEN 5:45PM

3516 E. MONROE RD, MIDLAND, MI 48642



PARISH COOKED DINNER

Kielbasa, gołąbki (stuffed cabbage),
pierogi (potato & cheese dumpling),
zupa z dyni (pumpkin soup), plus
sauerkraut & much more!

Beer & wine available.



STEVE DRZEWICKI BAND

Live polka music provided for the
entire evening!



FUN FOR ALL AGES

Includes dancing, family games,
and kids zone!



LIMITED SEATING

Adults | \$20.00

Kids ages 5-12 | \$7.00

Kids ages 0-4 | FREE!

FAMILY DEAL | \$50.00*

(2 adults & 2+ kids ages 5-12)

*Only available at parish office



Buy now!

ONLINE/CREDIT CARD FEES APPLY

Scan the QR Code • Call 989-631-4447 • Visit AssumptionMary.org

WATCH | DISCUSS | DISCOVER

The CHOSEN

LAST SUPPER

MONDAYS | 6:30-8:00 PM

September 8 - November 3

Off October 13

- OR -

WEDNESDAYS | 1:00-2:30 PM

September 10 - November 5

Off October 15

The table is set for Season 5!

Come explore the most recent episodes of *The Chosen* TV series and dive into their historical, cultural, and Scriptural depth.

Sessions led by Assumption parishioner Donna Semanco.

Please sign up at the Welcome Circle



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AN EVENING WITH



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5:45 PM SOCIAL HOUR

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\$20/TICKET
**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT PARISH
YOUTH MINISTRY**

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Scan the QR code ☆ Call 989-631-4447
Visit AssumptionMary.org/Events





The Saginaw Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Will hold their Annual Meeting on

Wednesday, September 10th
at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw

All women of the diocese are invited to attend.

Registration will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. The morning program will be about Medjigore, and the afternoon presentation will be one of Bishop Barron's videos on *12 Pivotal Players*. Mass will be celebrated.

The cost is \$12 for members; \$14 for nonmembers, which includes a box lunch. The conference will end at approximately 3:30 p.m.

*Please RSVP to Rita Maher (989-635-7072)
by Sunday, September 7th.*

October 4th: Emmaus Retreat for Grieving Parents

Are you a parent who has lost a child and would appreciate support? Whether it happens through miscarriage, still-birth, or later in life, the death of a child is a deep and tragic loss for parents – and for their hopes and dreams for the future. On Saturday October 4th, 2025, a one-day Emmaus Retreat for Grieving Parents will be offered at Holy Spirit Parish in Saginaw. There is no cost to attend (a free will offering will be optional to help cover catering and the cost of materials). The day begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends by 7:00 p.m. *For information or to register, call Deacon Gary Patel-ski at 989.295.5849 or email us at gapatelski@aol.com.*



Happy
92nd Birthday
Janet Brubaker
Thursday, September 4th

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 or scan the QR Code.

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

**Let's craft
your future.**



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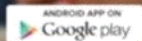
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