



Twenty-First Sunday *in Ordinary Time*

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

August 24, 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,

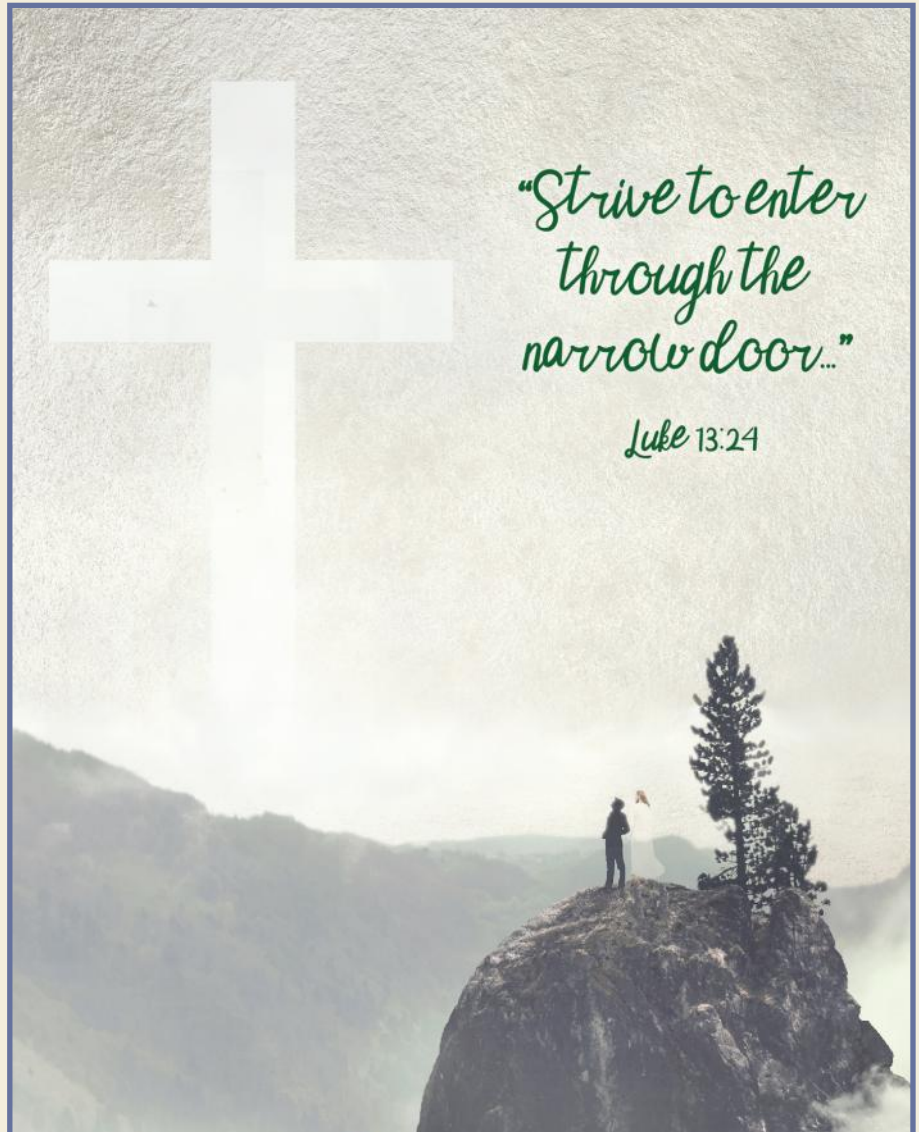
Email: rachelle@assumptionmidland.org

Evangelization Liaison: Anna Martin,

Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org

Maintenance Specialist: Brad Hill,

Email: bradh@assumptionmidland.org



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.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please know that the church doors will be opened from **8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday** if anyone is in need of a quiet place to pray and/or meditate.



"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me."
— John 10:14

Last week, I wrote about the three main tasks of true education at the beginning of this new school year. As we are currently enrolling children and youth in our faith formation programs, I would like to show how these tasks of education correspond to the Catholic Church's catechetical vision as expressed in the Vatican's *Directory for Catechesis* (DFC) and the methodology that we use here at Assumption Parish. Although I will use examples from our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program for children (CGS), the same principles inform our youth ministry and adult faith formation as well.

First, I would like to speak about the role of our catechists. They are not merely "Sunday School teachers." The word *catechist* comes from the Greek word *katékhein* which means "to echo down." The role of the catechist is not to teach their own message, but to "echo" our Catholic faith as it has been given to us in the Bible and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. A good catechist is like a midwife, bringing to healthy fruition the eternal life given in baptism.

Our catechists **awaken baptized disciples to wonder and lead them in the discovery of the truth.** Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." (John 14:6) "At the center of every process of catechesis is the living encounter with Christ. Accordingly, the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ." (DFC, no. 75) While our catechists spend many hours of catechetical formation, they do not need to become expert theologians, rather they seek to become "experts in the *art of accompaniment*." (DFC, no. 113) Their emphasis is always on fostering the *relationship* between disciples and Jesus. They don't give rote answers to someone else's questions but help young disciples to formulate their own questions and seek the answers together in Christ. For example, when a story from scripture is presented in CGS, the catechist invites the children to reflection: "I wonder what Mary (or Joseph or this shepherd) was feeling when Jesus was born?" or "What do you hear God say to you through this work we just performed?"

Our catechists **demonstrate the connectedness and beauty of God's creation and God's plan, facilitating what the bible refers to as knowledge.** It would be much easier to have a "Religious Education" program with classrooms, desks, and textbooks. We

could try to cram as many Catholic faith facts as possible in an hour into the children's brains. However, "the encounter with Christ involves the person in their totality: heart, mind, and senses. It does not concern only the mind, but also the body, and above all the heart." (DFC, no. 76) In CGS, there are no classrooms. Formation spaces are called *Atria*, and extreme care is taken in the preparing the environment of each atrium. Our Level I (age 3-6) atrium has a miniature altar, tabernacle, baptismal font, liturgical vestments, and much more. The whole child is engaged in formation. In Level II (ages 6-9), the students create a *Fettuccia*, an extremely long timeline made of ribbon which corresponds to the presentation *The History of the Kingdom of God*. The young disciples learn "hands on" how all creation and all of history are part of God's one big plan from the beginning to the end of time, including all people. They are encouraged to contemplate how they are part of God's plan of love and marvel at all of God's gifts and how we are called to steward them.

Our catechists aim to **shape the character of disciples**, conforming their attitudes and behavior to Jesus, whom they have received in baptism and the other sacraments. "The catechetical task of educating the believer to the good life of the Gospel involves the Christian formation of the moral conscience, so that in every circumstance they may listen to the Father's will in order to discern, under the guidance of the Spirit and in harmony with the law of Christ, the evil to be avoided and the good to be done and putting this into practice with diligent charity." (DFC, no. 84) A good catechist not only informs the consciences of disciples, teaching right from wrong, but also forms them through putting virtue into practice. CGS catechists spend a good deal of time learning about the moral capacities of children at their various developmental stages. With the very young children in Level I, self-control of the body and picking up after yourself are emphasized, along with encouragement to consider how to empathetically recognize and honor other children's work space, materials, and feelings. Level II young disciples are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation: learning to take accountability for their sinful choices, ask for forgiveness, and seek to repair damages. In CGS atria, young disciples learn and grow from their successes and challenges in a safe space, always listening to God's Word and seeking to put

it calmly, consistently, and lovingly into practice at their appropriate developmental stages.

Finally, our CGS and youth ministry faith formation programs strive to be a vital partnership with parents. "Believing parents, with their daily example of life, have the most effective capacity to transmit the beauty of the Christian faith to their children . . . the greatest challenge is for mothers and fathers, active participants in catechesis, to overcome the mentality of delegation that is so common, according to which the faith is set aside for specialists in religious education." (DFC, no. 124) Faith is caught more than it is taught. That is why "catechesis is intrinsically linked with the whole of liturgical and sacramental activity, for it is in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, that Christ Jesus works in fullness for the transformation of human beings." (DFC, no. 96) **Holistic faith formation becomes fruitful and effective when households participate in Mass and parish faith formation sessions every week** and live Catholic liturgical traditions in their home (regular family prayer together, Advent wreaths and calendars, Christmas manger scenes, Lent Rice Bowl almsgiving, celebrate baptism anniversaries and patron saint feast days, etc.)

Rooted in the Sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—we are called to nourish the mystery of life of faith that we have received by the Grace of Jesus Christ. In other words, Christian faith formation is a life-long dialogue, journey, and responsibility. These Sacraments also call us to become evangelizers (catechists) ourselves: in our families and homes, in our parish church, in our neighborhoods and community. Together, let us grow in the full stature of Christ the Good Shepherd this school year!


John



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." Luke 13:30

When it comes to the Kingdom of God, it does not matter what we have on earth or how people may see us in terms of wealth or status. God will not judge us on human standards but rather how we have used the gifts that He has given us.

	
Worship Schedule	
	ASSUMPTION
MON, August 25 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10 Mt 23:13-22	
TUES, August 26 1 Thes 2:1-8 Mt 23:23-26	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
WED, August 27 1 Thes 2:9-13 Mt 23:27-32	
THUR, August 28 1 Thes 3:7-13 Mt 24:42-51	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
FRI, August 29 1 Thes 4:1-8 Mk 6:17-29	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
SAT, August 30 1 Thes 4:9-11 Mt 25:14-30	4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, August 31 Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a Lk 14:1, 7-14	9:30a Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>



V is for Vocation: Fr. Nathan E. Harburg

We give thanks for Fr. Nathan Harburg who, after spending six years at Good Shepherd Parish in Ubly, recently began his new clerical assignment serving as pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Bay City. Ordained in 2011, Fr. Nate also served as the bishop's representative for Vicariate 1 while at Good Shepherd.

He didn't think he had it in him to become a priest. In his words, "In college, the Lord changed my mind and said, 'You can do it,' by encouraging me through others."

Learn more about Fr. Nate's vocational calling at <https://www.michigansthumb.com/news/article/father-nate-harburg-reassigned-ubly-bay-city-20328858.php>.

Lord Jesus, we ask you to send more servants to your people. Choose from our parishes, from our homes, from our schools and colleges, an abundant harvest of apostles for your Kingdom: priests, sisters, brothers, deacons and lay ministers. We pray that those you call may never lose awareness of the dignity and need of their vocation. O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, teach to all those the Master calls to say a joyful "yes" as you did at the Annunciation. Amen. (USCCB)



CELEBRATING DEACON BOB ZONDLAK THIS WEEKEND

We are overjoyed and proud to welcome long-time Assumption parishioner Deacon Bob Zondlak to preach at the weekend Masses. Deacon Bob was ordained as a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Saginaw on June 27th at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in Saginaw. Over the years, Bob, our former Director of Music Ministries and Parish Liturgy, and his wife Sandy have contributed so many of their gifts at the service of God's people both here at Assumption parish and through their work at the diocesan level. Bob is currently overseeing the diocesan Office of Liturgy. At the diaconal ordination Mass, Bishop Gruss assigned Deacon Bob to serve at St. Brigid Parish. We will have a reception after both Masses this weekend to recognize and celebrate one of our own answering God's call to put his life at the service of the People of God in the ordained ministry.

Please plan to join in the celebration and congratulate Deacon Bob on his ordination!

PRODUCE FOR THOSE IN NEED!

Hidden Harvest and The Bridge store collect food from organizations, churches, and individuals and then distributes it to various food pantries, organizations, and soup kitchens that reach out to those in need.

We invite you to participate in this worthwhile project of providing food for people in need. We invite you to bring in vegetables and/or fruit from your garden on:

**Tuesday or Thursday morning before 9:30 am
(please do not leave outside the night before).**

Produce can be dropped off by the office door.

Thanks for your support.



This weekend is our monthly Food Pantry Collection

Please remember to bring back your blue bags of donations this weekend. Thank you...

- This Week -

Sunday, August 24

9:30 am Mass

FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND

Monday, August 25

10:00 am Stitch and Chat

6:30 pm Catholicism Clarified

Tuesday, August 26

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary

Wednesday, August 27

No Mass, No Reconciliation

K of C Family Picnic

Thursday, August 28

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary

Friday, August 29

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, August 30

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, August 31

9:30 am Mass



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



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, stillbirth, 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. No matter what the age, cause of death, or how much time has passed, the grief over the loss of a child weighs heavily on the hearts of parents. 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. During this spiritual retreat, everyone is free to participate at their comfort level.

For information or to register, call Deacon Gary Patelski at 989.295.5849 or email us at gapatelski@aol.com.

The deadline for registration is Sept 29th.

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. 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)



"Faith Formation is more than a subject to be taught —it is an invitation to a way of life." - Joe Paprocki



**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:

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 & Saturday evening.)

Limited spots available.

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

Christ's Mission APPEAL

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.



AN EVENING WITH

ELVIS

Elvis has NOT left the building!

On **September 27th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.**, Assump-
tion Parish will be hosting Elvis Tribute Artist Jake
Slater in the Fr. Henry DuRussel Hall!

**Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. with
a social hour preceding the event.**

Tickets will be \$20.00 per person!

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served,
with alcohol available for purchase!

All proceeds will benefit our youth
ministry program for the parish!

Tickets can be purchased online
by scanning the QR code, going to
<https://elvis-evening.square.site>
or by stopping by the parish office!



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.

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



Assumption of the B.V.M.

September 2025

3516 E. Monroe Rd.
Midland, MI 48642
Phone: 989-631-4447
www.AssumptionMary.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day  Parish Closed John Graveline's Birthday	2 Open Door in Kitchen / 7:30am Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Pastoral Council 6:30pm	3 Serving at Open Door / 10am Mass / 6:30pm followed by Reconciliation/Exposition 7:15-8:15pm K of C / 7:30pm	4 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Scripture Reflection after Rosary	5 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am	6 Mass / 4:30pm
7 Mass / 9:30am CFF & CLOW Begins (parent meeting) Coffee & Donut Sunday	8 Stitch and Prayer 9:45am The Chosen 6:30pm Y2Y Team Sign-up @ Bless Sac	9 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Monicas / 3:30pm Christian Service Meeting / 5:30pm	10 The Chosen 1pm Mass / 6:30pm followed by Reconciliation/Exposition 7:15-8:15pm CFF Begins 6:30pm	11 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Scripture Reflection after Rosary Liturgy Mtg 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	12 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am	13 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Men's Faith Study after Rosary Mass / 4:30pm
14 Mass / 9:30am CFF, C.L.O.W.* Catholic Inquiry 11:00am	15 Y2Y Meeting Blood Drive 1:30-6pm The Chosen 6:30pm	16 W&C / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Monicas / 3:30pm Faith Form Comm Meeting / 5:30pm Admin/Finance Meeting 7pm	17 The Chosen 1pm Mass / 6:30pm followed by Reconciliation/Exposition 7:15-8:15pm CFF 6:30pm K of C / 7:30pm	18 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Scripture Reflection after Rosary Choir Practice 7pm	19 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am	20 Serving at Open Door / 10am Mass / 4:30pm
21 CATECHETICAL SUNDAY Mass / 9:30am CFF, C.L.O.W.* YM Kickoff Catholic Inquiry 11:00am	22 Stitch and Chat 10am The Chosen 6:30pm	23 W&C / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Monicas / 3:30pm	24 The Chosen 1pm W&C / 6:30pm followed by Exposition, no Reconciliation CFF 6:30pm	25 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am Scripture Reflection after Rosary Choir Practice 7pm	26 Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am	27 Rosary / 8:30am Men's Faith Study after Rosary Mass / 4:30pm Food Pantry An Evening with Elvis / 6:30pm
28 Mass / 9:30am CFF, YM C.L.O.W.* Food Pantry Catholic Inquiry 11:00am	29 Y2Y Meeting The Chosen 6:30pm	30 Open Door in Kitchen / 7:30am Mass / 8am Rosary / 8:30am followed by meditation Monicas / 3:30pm				
* Children's Liturgy of the Word						

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



ASSUMPTION PARISH | 3516 E. MONROE RD, MIDLAND
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Call 1-866-MIBLOOD or visit
<https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor>



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.



I am the way, the truth and the life,
says the Lord; no one comes to the
Father, except through me.

Weekend Offerings

August 16/17, 2025

Weekly Envelopes \$2,510
Online Giving (8/11—8/17) \$2,214
Donations \$0
Weekend Total \$4,724
Weekly Goal \$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall) (\$4,507)

August 1-17, 2025

Weekly Envelopes \$10,878
Online Giving \$8,113
Donations \$6,500
Weekend Total \$25,491
Goal \$27,693
Overage/(Shortfall) (\$2,202)

THANK YOU so much for
your continued support
in getting your contribu-
tions 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.

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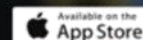
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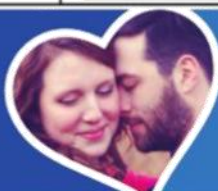
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