

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



SECOND SUNDAY of Advent

December 7, 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:

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Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org

Maintenance Specialist: Brad Hill,
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Bulletin Deadlines

If you need to have something in the bulletin for the following
weekends, please email sandym@assumptionmidland.org by:

noon on Mon, December 8 for the December 14 bulletin

noon on Thurs, December 11 for the December 21 bulletin

4pm on Mon, December 15 for the December 28 bulletin

4pm on Wed, December 17 for the January 4 bulletin

Thank you.



www.assumptionmary.org



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



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



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

From our Director of Parish Life



"I handed on to you first of all what I myself received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried and, in accordance with the Scriptures, rose on the third day . . . this is what we preach and this is what you believed." – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4,11

Last week, Pope Leo made the first Apostolic Journey of his pontificate when he visited Türkiye to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which is now called İznik. From that Council came the beginnings of the **Nicene Creed** which we profess at Mass every weekend. He used this opportunity to plea for peace and to emphasize unity, both between Christians and between Christians and believers of non-Christian religions, calling all people "to walk together by appreciating what unites us, breaking down the walls of prejudice and mistrust, promoting mutual knowledge and esteem in order to give to all a strong message of hope."

As we commemorate this anniversary, it may be a good opportunity to ask, "why do we have a creed?" Creeds began as statements of faith that were made in the midst of the liturgical assembly immediately before baptism. As time went on, some people were teaching things about God and Jesus that could not be supported by the entirety of Scripture. Therefore, these *professions of faith* over time became more theologically sophisticated to counteract these heresies, eventually becoming outgrowths of Ecumenical Councils. In the case of the Nicene Creed, many of its statements directly address the popular-at-the-time and false teachings of Arius, a priest in Alexandria.

Usually, when we recite the Nicene Creed at Mass (although sometimes we use the Apostles' Creed or the question and response format), we do so after hearing the Word of God proclaimed in the context of the Liturgy of the Word. We call this the **Profession of Faith**. Faith is always our response to hearing God's revelation. We listen to the Word, we ponder it, and we profess it in our words and deeds. This is why our Profession of Faith at Mass should be thoughtful and robust. In Pope Leo's recent Apostolic Letter on this anniversary, he invites us to let the Creed question us, "What does God mean to me and how do I bear witness to my faith in him? Is the one and only God truly the Lord of my life, or do I have idols that I place before God and his commandments? Is God for me the living God, close to me in every

situation, the Father to whom I turn with filial trust? Is he the Creator to whom I owe everything I am and have, whose mark I can find in every creature? Am I willing to share the goods of the earth, which belong to everyone, in a just and equitable manner? How do I treat creation, the work of his hands? Do I exploit and destroy it, or do I use it with reverence and gratitude, caring for and cultivating it as the common home of humanity?"

What is it that we profess belief in when we recite the Creed? The "outline" of the Creed highlights the most central beliefs of Christians: the Trinity, the Incarnation of the Son of God, the redeeming power of his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, the necessity of the Church, and our expectant hope of eternal life. *"The Church never ceases to proclaim her faith in one only God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."* (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 152) The core of the Creed is our faith in Jesus Christ. This is symbolized in the manner in which we bow during the lines, "by the Holy Spirit [Jesus Christ] was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man." In their recent commentary on the Nicene Creed, Drs. Jared Ortiz and Daniel A. Keating explain it thus, "we can also—in our own way—seek to imitate the great humility of the Word." The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. (John 1:14) Just as the Son of God descended to become human and descended to wash the feet of his disciples, Jesus descended to become the victim of human sin and violence through his Cross. If we unite ourselves with the humble "attitude of Christ," then we will share in his being raised to glory. (Philippians 2:5-11)

Finally, our profession of the Creed is

symbolic of our unity. "Faith is a personal act—the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone. You have not given yourself faith as you have not given yourself life. The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others. Our love for Jesus and our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in a great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others in the faith." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 166) Faith is at once intimately personal and expansively communal. The Nicene Creed in Greek begins, "We believe," and the Nicene Creed in Latin begins, "I believe." Both are true at the same time.

May this commemoration be for us an opportunity to reflect on what we believe and why we believe it. May our Profession of Faith each week at Mass give evidence to our deepest convictions. May we heed Pope Leo's call to live in greater unity with our fellow Christians (most Christian denominations also recognize and profess the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds) and peace with all people, whatever their beliefs. As he says in his Apostolic Letter, "Wars have been fought, and people have been killed, persecuted and discriminated against in the name of God." Let our faith and our Creed proclaim a God who is love and mercy, who heals and saves, and who invites all people into an intimate, eternal communion of love, compassion, and peace.

John



Second Sunday of Advent

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10

Take time to examine your 'good fruit' and how you use it. Do you use your good fruit – that is all of your gifts of time, treasure and talent -- to help others and build God's kingdom on earth or do use your time with mundane activities and your treasure on things that go unused. Do you share your talents with your parish or for helping those in need? Advent is a good time to look deeply at these questions and determine ways to use more of your good fruit for Jesus.



Worship Schedule

ASSUMPTION		
MON, December 8 Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38	7:00p	Immaculate Conception Mass
TUES, December 9 Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14	8:00a 8:30a	Mass— <i>Susan Barta</i> Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
WED, December 10 Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	6:30p	Mass <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation</i>
THUR, December 11 Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	8:00a 8:30a	Mass— <i>Debbie Sharp</i> Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
FRI, December 12 Zech 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38	8:00a 8:30a	Mass Rosary
SAT, December 13 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	8:00a 8:30a 4:30p	Mass Rosary Mass— <i>Robert Myers</i>
SUN, December 14 Is 35:1-6a, 10 Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30a	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

Please note that if the Midland Public Schools are closed or on delay, weekday morning and evening Mass is cancelled!

Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 15 • 6 PM

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
3516 E. Monroe Rd, Midland, MI 48642

Celebrate the joy of Christmas!
Come join us for a special evening of Scripture and song that all ages will enjoy.

Reception with refreshments to follow

Hosted by Knights of Columbus Council #2141

Freewill offerings of nonperishable food items are welcome to benefit local families in need

Communal Reconciliation Schedule

Sunday, December 7th
2pm at Assumption

Tuesday, December 9th
7pm at Our Lady of Grace, Sanford



Immaculate Conception of Mary Mass Schedule

Monday, December 8th

6:45am	Blessed Sacrament
8:00am	Saint Brigid (school Mass)
9:00am	Our Lady of Grace, Sanford
12:05pm	Saint Brigid
7:00pm	Assumption BVM
7:00pm	Our Lady of Grace, Sanford

V is for Vocation: Fr. George I. Amos

We give thanks for Fr. George Amos, parochial administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Caseville, and we pray for him in his ministry to the faithful. Ordained in 2001, Fr. George is from Nigeria where he has served as parochial vicar, pastor and chancellor. He came to the United States in 2014 with his bishop's blessing to continue his studies. He has been at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish since 2002.



Learn more about vocations at <https://saquinaw.org/vocations>.

Loving God, You speak to us and nourish us through the life of this Church community. In the name of Jesus, we ask You to send Your Spirit to us so that men and women among us, young and old, will respond to Your call to service and leadership in the Church. We pray especially, in our day, for those who hear Your invitation to be a priest, sister, or brother. May those who are opening their hearts and minds to Your call be encouraged and strengthened through our enthusiasm in Your service. Amen. (USCCB)

~ This Week ~

Sunday, December 7

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 am Mass
CLOW, CFF, YM Adoration/XLT
Coffee and Donuts after Mass
2:00 pm Communal Reconciliation

Monday, December 8

Stitch and Prayer Mtg / Christmas Lunch
7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Mass

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary *followed by Meditation*
3:30 pm Monicas
5:30 pm Christian Service Mtg

Wednesday, December 10

1:00 pm Book Study
6:00 pm Messiah Choir practice
6:30 pm Mass *followed by Exposition and Reconciliation*

Thursday, December 11

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary *followed by Scripture*
6:00 pm Liturgy Meeting
7:00 pm Choir practice

Friday, December 12

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary

Saturday, December 13

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary
Men's Faith Study *after Rosary*
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 14

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 am Mass
CLOW, CFF, YM Christmas Event

Confirmation

Confirmation preparation will begin January 7th for all students who are the age of 12 years old, as of September 1, 2025, and older, who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation. Letters went out to families in October who have a child that turned twelve by Sept 1st.

If you have a child who has not received the sacrament of Confirmation and did not receive a letter, please contact

Kathy Russell at 989-631-4447 or email kathy@assumptionmidland.org.

*Justice shall flourish
in his time, and fullness
of peace for ever.*

Faith Formation

It's never too late to register your child(ren) for either CFF or YM. Your children are always welcome! Scan the QR code to register.



If you have any questions about either CFF or YM please contact Kathy or Wendy.



Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN

Dec. 7, 14
21, 28

CFF and CLOW
No CFF, No CLOW



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 meet on Sunday evenings at Blessed Sacrament from 6-8 pm. Watch your email and the bulletin for YM news and events!

Dec. 7, 14
13-15
21, 28

YM
Exam snack bag drop-off
No YM (Merry Christmas)



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

Youth Ministry

What's happening in YM this Sunday, December 7th

Middle School & High School...

Both groups will come together to experience Jesus in Adoration/XLT. What is XLT? A liturgical celebration of Eucharistic Adoration that includes worship music, a message, and a period of Eucharistic Adoration with benediction. One of our high school Y2Y members will give a message on the importance of Christian Community and prayer. Kristyn Russell will lead us in praise and worship music. All are welcome!

From the Treasure Box...

Prayer: The rosary is a reminder of two of our most traditional and beloved prayers (the Our Father and the Hail Mary) as well as a treasured devotion (praying the rosary) practiced by millions of Catholics. So often we think of prayer as talking to God, but what prayer strives to be is sitting in the presence of God and just being his beloved child. We talk, we listen, we meditate, we read Scripture. God desires to spend time with us and prayer is how we do that. Make your life a prayer to God... your homework, the laundry, cooking meals, going to work, playing sports... offer it all as an intentional prayer to God.

Liturgy of the Eucharist: During the Liturgy of the Eucharist there is A LOT going on but basically we bring our offering to the altar and ask God to join it together with Christ's offering, to bless it and make it enough for us to go out and serve others. Our offering consists of the money we put in the collection basket, all that we have done well during the week and times that we have fallen short. Maybe bake a batch of cookies together sometime this week and look at all of the ingredients and how a good baker can make a strange list of ingredients into something amazing...just like God does with our offering! Share the cookies with a neighbor.

The Liturgical Year: "The Church's liturgical calendar is a reminder to us that all time belongs to God. And so, we do not identify days simply by the month of the year and the day of the week but in relation to events in the lives of Jesus, his mother Mary and the saints." We have a rhythm to the year filled with celebrations and remembrances. There isn't anything "unremarkable" about Ordinary Time as every day is special because every day belongs to God. We can mark time in a Catholic way by taking time to pray a short prayer in the morning, at noon, at dinner time and at night. We can also celebrate the change of the "seasons" of the liturgical year by having a colored candle or placemat or centerpiece that changes as we move from Ordinary Time to Advent to Christmas to Ordinary Time to Lent to Easter and back to Ordinary Time. The colored paper can be placed by the candle/centerpiece/placemat or used as a Bible bookmark as a reminder that all time is borrowed from God and is blessed.

Handel's Messiah Sponsorship Opportunity

Assumption Parish's sacred concert series aims to bring professional-grade performances of great sacred works of music into church settings for the community to enjoy. Join in as a sponsor to help present Handel's masterpiece just in time for Christmas!

Sponsorship Levels:



\$50 "Shepherd" Sponsor

- Included in program



\$100 "Angel" Sponsor

- Included in program
- Acknowledged on social media



\$200 Sponsor-A-Musician

- Listed in program with musician
- Acknowledged on social media
- Announced at concert

Come Join Us!

Concert held **Sunday, December 21, at 3:00 PM** at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Featuring:

- Thomas Heidenreich, organ
- David King, bass
- Jim Renfer, tenor
- Jude Renfer, alto
- Erin Whitfield, soprano
- Chamber orchestra & choir

Directed by
Grace Marra

Free will offerings welcome

Interested in supporting the concert?

To become a sponsor, please visit the parish office or call **989-631-4447**.
For more information about our concert series, scan the QR code or contact
Jim Renfer, Director of Music Ministry, at jim@assumptionmidland.org

Donations must be received by Friday, December 12



Christ's Mission Appeal 2025-26 has begun throughout the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw.

The annual appeal is the primary opportunity for Catholics throughout the Diocese to support one another. It is an opportunity to offer thanksgiving to God for his abundant gifts. The appeal allows the local Church to carry out the work of Jesus Christ throughout the Diocese and beyond through ministries and programs that would not otherwise be possible through one individual or parish.

Please prayerfully consider your gift to this year's Christ's Mission Appeal.

We currently have donations and pledges of \$53,973 toward our financial goal of \$80,951.

More information about Christ's Mission Appeal and a message from Bishop Gruss can be found on the diocesan website:

www.saginaw.org/appeal.

You can also contact the stewardship and development office at development@diosag.org or 989-797-6679.

Or scan the QR Code.



Handel's Messiah

Part I + Hallelujah Chorus



FEATURING:

Grace Marra

DIRECTOR

Erin Whitfield

SOPRANO

Thomas Heidenreich ORGAN
David King BASS
Jim Renfer TENOR
Jude Renfer ALTO
Chamber orchestra & choir



**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER
21st
at 3:00 p.m.**

**ASSUMPTION
CHURCH**

**Community Concert
Free will offerings
welcome**

Assumption CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS TO HOMEBOUND

It's that time of year when we begin to review our list of those to whom we would like to bring a little joy into their lives by delivering flowers for the holidays. If you know of someone who is homebound or if you would like to represent the parish by delivering flowers to someone, please call the parish office **before noon on Monday, December 8.**

GIFT CARDS

If you know of any parishioners needing a little help this Christmas season, please call the parish office with the following information: *your name, the name of the person/family you are recommending, their address and phone number, along with the number of adults and children in the family.* We do have money allotted for gift cards. Please call the office **before noon on Monday, December 8.**



CHRIST RENEWS FOR MEN SAVE the DATE!

God has given us many graces and wants us to share them with others to bring them to Him. He will hold us accountable to share our faith with others. Christ Renews weekend is a time to draw others to God and share those graces. We know we should pay more attention to our relationship with God, and this is your chance! Christ Renews is about men supporting men in faith.

Please consider breaking out of the routine and attending the Christ Renews weekend at Blessed Sacrament on March 7 & 8, 2026.

There will be no strangers there, just friends you have not yet met. *More information in future announcements!*

Stitch and Prayer SEWING GROUP



Warmest Christmas greetings to all the parishioners of Assumption Parish from the Stitch and Prayer group! May your holiday season be filled with God's Blessings.

Our December 22nd Stitch and Chat session has been cancelled so each of us can continue our preparations for Christmas, including baking cookies for Santa.

Our next Stitch and Prayer meeting will take place January 12, 2026, at Assumption, beginning at 9:45 am.

We welcome new members!

Little Blue Books for Advent

Advent has begun, which means it's time for the Advent little books.

You can receive the daily reflections through email or text by signing up on Flocknote. Or you may pick up a hard copy in the gathering space.

Go to <https://midland-abvm.flocknote.com/AdventLittleBook> to sign up and receive daily readings. Any questions, please contact the office.

Welcome Our Newest Members

On Sunday, November 23rd, Marc Tarkington was received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, was confirmed, and received his first Communion. Marc and his wife, Lisa, were married here at Assumption in 2023.



At the same Mass, their son Lucas was baptized.
Congratulations!



END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

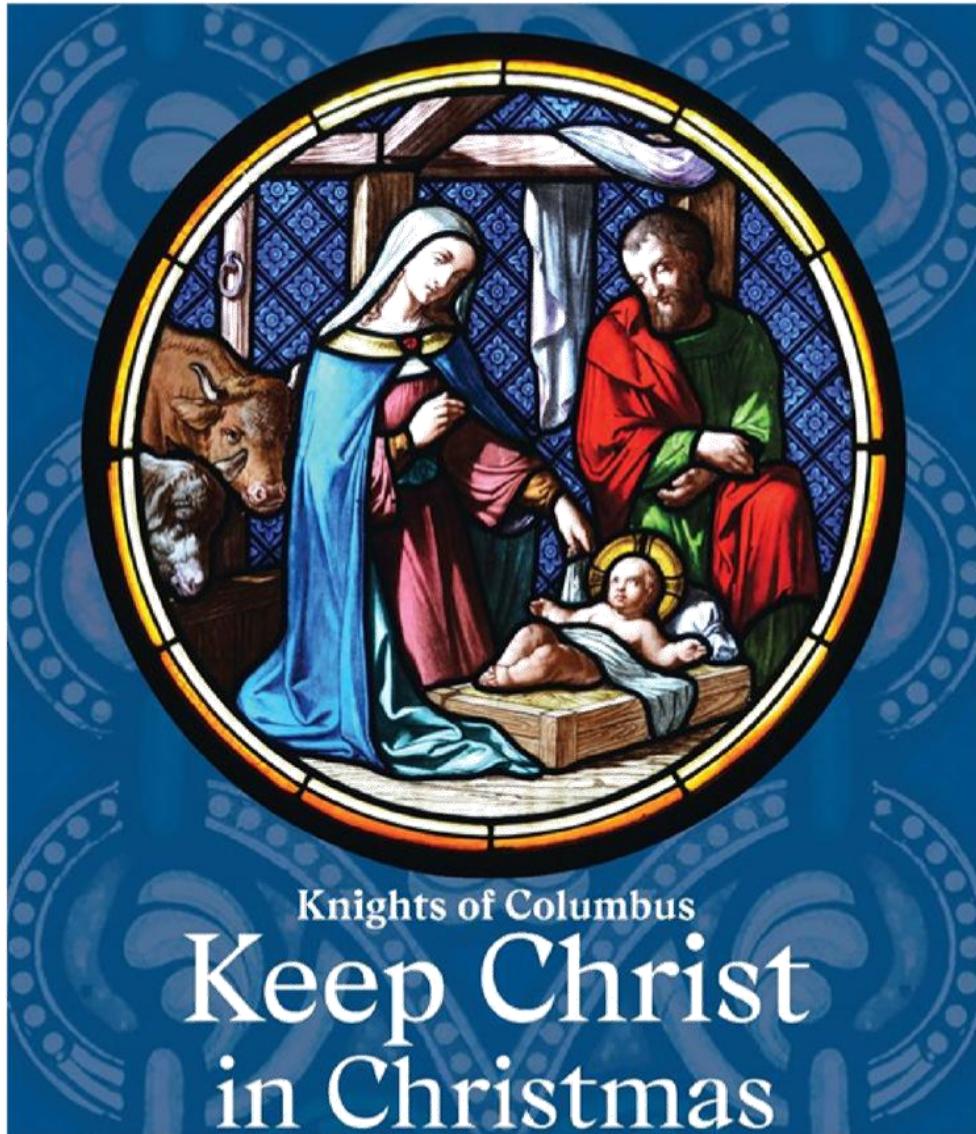
If you wish your contributions or stock checks to be posted to 2025, please make sure they reach the parish office by Monday, December 29, 2025 (or in the collection for Dec 27/28).

Contributions received after that date will be posted to 2026.

Statements will be made available for everyone as soon as the postings for Dec 31 are complete. Please call the parish office if you would like a copy of your statement or sign up in the gathering space. Watch the bulletin for more details. Thank you for your stewardship giving!



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS Poster Contest



[Download entry form
with the QR code](#)

...OR

[Pick up an entry form at
the Circle in the Gathering
Space in December](#)

Completed posters due
by: **Sunday, Dec 28**

Children can submit
multiple entries!

Return posters and entry
forms to the Welcome
Circle or Parish Office

*Sponsored by
Knights of Columbus
Fr. Henry P. DuRussel
Council 2141*

All boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to take part in the Knights of Columbus **Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest**. This contest is a fun and easy way to help children focus on the true meaning of Christmas!

By engaging the talents of our youth, we hope they will come to a deeper understanding of the true meaning of Christmas, and that their artwork will bring others to remember Christ in Christmas.

There are \$25 awards for the winners in each age group!

For more info: mikegriffin66@gmail.com



“Donors like you have made it possible for me—and religious like me—to continue our mission in spirit and in prayer. Thank you for helping us live with dignity and peace.”

Sister Maria Cigolini, MSCS, 86, center

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. They have spent decades caring for those in need, but years of service for little or no pay have left many religious communities without sufficient retirement savings. Today, over 20,500 elderly religious depend on the Retirement Fund for Religious to help cover their rising health care costs, medication, and daily living expenses. Your gift can help ensure they receive the care they deserve. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

From left:
Brother Jordan Coonen, OP, 84;
Sister Maria Cigolini, MSCS, 86;
Sister Sharon Glumb, SLW, 76.
Visit retiredreligious.org/2025photos
to meet the religious pictured.

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

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Yes, I agree.

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Assumption BVM
Pastoral Council Committee Minutes
October 7, 2025

Present: Lucy Daykin, Bob Dvorak, Heather Fisher, Ann Gach,
John Graveline, John Havel, Sam Kearn, and Noreen Warrick

John called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.



1. Opening Prayer

John led the council in opening prayer in gratitude for the 109th anniversary of our parish.

2. Review and approve minutes from September minutes

The council approved the minutes of the September 2, 2025 meeting with minor edits.

3. Council questions and perspectives

John solicited questions and perspectives of the council. A brief discussion ensued regarding music which will be shared with the worship commission.

4. Review of Diocesan Communications and Budget

John reported that there are new diocesan norms for pastoral and finance councils.

John will circulate the new diocesan norms to the council for review. John will propose edits to our existing statutes to reflect the new norms for discussion at the next council meeting.

John shared the budget. Discussion ensued regarding rising health care and building insurance costs. The budget forecasts a deficit offset by a one-time disbursement from the diocese in September 2025. The council discussed supplementing online giving options with QR code technology in the worship aids or pews. Input will be communicated to the finance committee.

John provided a report on the Christ's Mission Appeal. He reported that we ended the 2024-2025 fundraising campaign below our target. He reported that our current target dropped from the prior \$95,236 target to an \$80,951 target. In the current campaign, parishes will not be responsible to cover shortfalls between their targets and actual collections but will only receive fifty percent of amounts collected in excess of their targets.

Following a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at about 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Noreen Warrick

Men of Music's "Wonderful Peace"

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR THE COMMUNITY

WHERE: Memorial Presbyterian Church
1310 Ashman St.

WHEN: Sunday, December 7th
Matinee -- 2pm & Evening -- 7pm

WHY: Bring seasonal good cheer to the community
with men singing four-part harmony

Concerts are FREE Admission and the
freewill offering benefits the Midland County
Food Assistance Network

(formerly the Midland County
Emergency Food Pantry Network)



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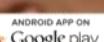
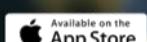
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If you are not receiving your weekly Flocknote, go to midlandabvm.flocknote.com to sign up online and keep in touch with what is going on at Assumption or text MIDLANDABVM to 84576 to get it on your mobile device.

Weekend Offerings

November 22/23, 2025

Weekly Envelopes \$3,620
Online Giving (11/17–11/23) \$1,342
Donations \$1,000
Weekend Total \$5,962
Weekly Goal \$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall) (\$3,269)

November 29/30, 2025

Weekly Envelopes \$3,667
Online Giving (11/24–11/30) \$1,735
Donations \$0
Weekend Total \$5,402
Weekly Goal \$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall) (\$3,829)

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:

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If you have any questions: email Sandy at sandym@assumptionmidland.org
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