

## Weekend Liturgical Schedule

**Saturday:** 4:30 pm

**Sunday:** 9:30 am

See inside the bulletin for the weekday schedule of worship services.

*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.

### Exposition/Reconciliation:

Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 p.m.

### How To Contact Us

#### **Office Hours:**

Mon-Thurs, 8:30 am—4:00 pm

Fri, 8:30 am—12noon

**Parish Office:** 989-631-4447

**Fax:** 989-835-9722

#### **Email:**

assumption@assumptionmidland.org

#### **Website:**

[www.AssumptionMary.org](http://www.AssumptionMary.org)

### Parish Staff

**Director of Parish Life:** John Graveline,  
Email: [john@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:john@assumptionmidland.org)

**Sacramental Minister:** Fr. Rick Filary,  
Email: [rfilary@diosag.org](mailto:rfilary@diosag.org)

**Office Manager:** Sandy Martinski,  
Email: [sandym@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:sandym@assumptionmidland.org)

**Director of Youth Ministry:** Kathy Russell,  
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#### **Children's Faith Formation:**

Wendy Graveline,  
Email: [cff@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:cff@assumptionmidland.org)

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#### **Office Professionals:**

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

**Maintenance:** Brad Hill,  
Email: [bradh@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:bradh@assumptionmidland.org)

*Let the  
KING  
Of Glory Come*

### **Bulletin Deadline**

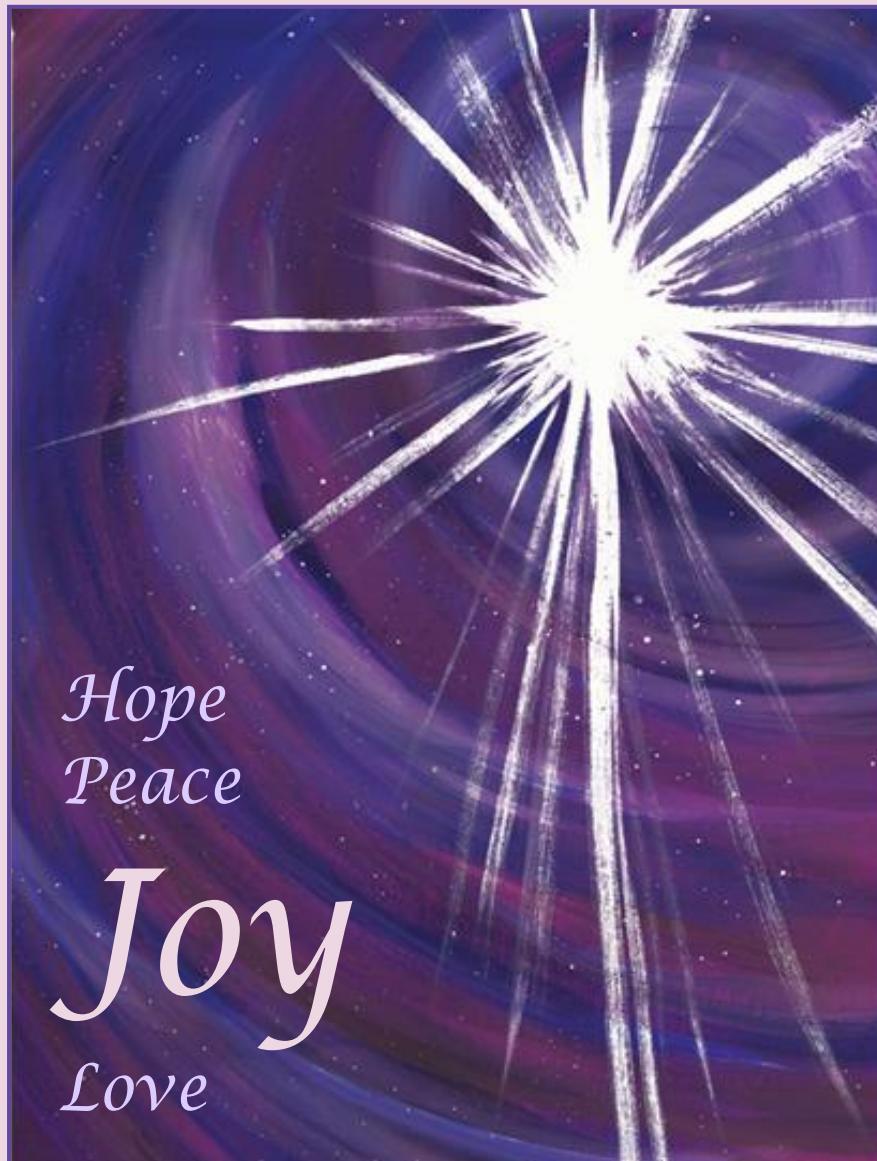
4pm on Mon, December 15  
for the December 28 bulletin

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

December 14, 2025

# Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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



**THIRD SUNDAY  
of Advent**



[www.assumptionmary.org](http://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



*"[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore, he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord.'"* – Luke 4:16-19

We are just a week and a half away from the crowning jewel of the Jubilee Year of Hope, the liturgical celebration of Jesus' birth at Bethlehem 2025 years ago! Over the past year, we have commemorated this anniversary through the various Jubilee Days highlighting various aspects of community, both within the Church and in civic society. The model of our Jubilee celebration comes from the beautiful Jewish concept of Jubilee as found in the Scriptures. Central to Jubilee is the forgiveness of debts and release of prisoners and slaves. Therefore, it is most fitting that as this Jubilee Year comes to its culmination, we celebrate the **Jubilee of Prisoners** this weekend.

Over the Thanksgiving break, my daughter and I watched the powerful movie *Just Mercy* on Netflix. Based on real events, the movie centers on the work of Bryan Stevenson, the lawyer who founded the Equal Rights Institute, which works toward "ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, challenging racial and economic injustice, and protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society." In the movie, he worked toward saving the lives of inmates sentenced to the death penalty. Over the course of the film, it becomes apparent that one of the inmates was innocent of the crime for which he was sentenced to death. Other inmates had admitted to their crimes, but Bryan continued to try to save their lives because of his belief that "each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done." The movie had a very Christian Pro-Life message.

The Jubilee that Jesus states that he was sent to proclaim includes liberty to captives and release of prisoners. While always compassionately keeping in our care the victims of violence and crime and always encouraging accountability, repentance, restitution, and penitential practices, Jesus calls us to never "give up" on prisoners, whether the punishment that they are suffering is justified or not. Even though those who have committed grave injustices have grievously wounded their victims and loved ones and warped their own character, they cannot destroy their own beloved status as an image of God, which is the basis of all human dignity. One of the purposes of

criminal punishment is as "an instrument for the correction of the offender." (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 403) As disciples of Jesus, we never lose faith in the power of conscience or lose hope for repentance, redemption, and rehabilitation. (Luke 23:39-43)

One example of what God can do through the gift of Grace is the conversion of Chuck Colson. Colson had served as a key political advisor to President Nixon during the Watergate scandal. He has been described as "an evil man" and the President's "hatchet man." He is reported to have even suggested firebombing some of President Nixon's enemies. He was the first member of the Nixon administration to be imprisoned for his part in the Watergate scandal. While serving his punishment in federal prison, he became a committed disciple of Jesus and became very involved in advocacy for better conditions for inmates and more effort toward facilitating prisoner rehabilitation. In 1976, he founded **Prison Fellowship**, which is now "the nation's largest outreach to prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families." He led this Prison Fellowship for 35 years, and President George W. Bush presented the Presidential Citizens Medal to him in 2008.

In preparation for this Jubilee Christmas, Assumption Parish was asked by the diocese to partner with Prison Fellowship to support their **Angel Tree** ministry. Parishioners Paul and Sarah Sery stepped up to lead this initiative, and I am happy to report the enthusiastic response from parishioners. This Christmas, 10 local families (18 children) whose loved one is incarcerated this Holiday season will receive a Christmas gift from their loved one through your generosity. They will also receive a Bible appropriate to their age and a personal

invitation to join our Advent and Christmas services (Lessons & Carols, Handel's Messiah concert, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, etc.). It's not just about the material gift, but also the gift of inclusion in a community of faith that values them and their unique contribution. This is truly the work of Jubilee!

Finally, we always realize that Jesus' **Jubilee is first of all the promise of forgiveness and freedom from sin through the reconciliation of his Cross and Resurrection**. We celebrated a very moving Midland Area Catholic Community Communal Reconciliation service here at Assumption last Sunday afternoon, in which we gathered to "prepare the way of the Lord" by seeking the Grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is the most appropriate way to prepare our hearts for this Jubilee Christmas. We have one more opportunity for the Individual Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas, this Wednesday evening, December 17, 7:15-8:15 p.m. Other local parishes are also offering opportunities to receive this Sacrament as well. Also, the Cathedral in Saginaw is offering a final opportunity to receive a Jubilee indulgence this Tuesday evening at 7:00 when Bishop Gruss will preside at a Holy Hour for Vocations.

As we quickly approach this Jubilee Christmas, may Jesus—for whom there was no room in the inns of Bethlehem—find room in our hearts to do his Jubilee work of freedom, renewal, reconciliation, and healing in us and through us, so that his light of love and compassion may radiate from our parish to bring new life to our Larkin/Midland community! May you all have a blessed Jubilee Christmas!

*John*



## Third Sunday of Advent

*"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."* James 5:8

Very often waiting is difficult. We live in a world where information is given and received in an instant; packages can be ordered one day and delivered the next; and we are accustomed to things being done to accommodate our schedules. But God's will for us doesn't always fit into our fast-paced and instant lives. His plan for how He wants us to use the gifts He has given to us very likely will take some time – God's time. Spending time with God in prayer helps to reveal and understand what He wants from us.



Worship Schedule	
ASSUMPTION	
<b>MON, December 15</b> Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a Mt 21:23-27	_____
<b>TUES, December 16</b> Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
<b>WED, December 17</b> Gen 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	6:30p Mass <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation</i>
<b>THUR, December 18</b> Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	8:00a Mass— <b>Sue Stanko</b> 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
<b>FRI, December 19</b> Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
<b>SAT, December 20</b> Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	8:30a Rosary 4:30p Mass <b>Miguel Tapia</b>
<b>SUN, December 21</b> Is 7:10-14 Rm 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30a Mass <b>People of the Parish</b>

*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*

## 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!*

## V is for Vocation: Fr. Nicholas F. Coffaro



We give thanks for Fr. Nick Coffaro, pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Bay City since July 2023, and we pray for him in his duties to the parish faithful. Born and raised in the Cleveland, OH, area, Fr. Nick attended Catholic University of Lublin in Poland, Borromeo College Seminary in Cleveland, and SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, MI. Ordained in 2008, he served as pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Linwood prior to his current pastorship.

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

*O loving and gracious God, Father of all, You bless Your people in every time and season and provide for their needs through Your providential care. Your Church is continually in need of priests, sisters, and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the gospel by lives of dedicated love. Open the hearts of Your sons and daughters to listen to Your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern Your invitation to serve You and Your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow Your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel who found fulfillment in his life when he said to You, "Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening." We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen. (USCCB)*

## ~ This Week ~

**Sunday, December 14**

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 am Mass  
CLOW, CFF, YM Christmas Event

**Monday, December 15**

6:00 pm Lessons & Carols



**Tuesday, December 16**

8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary followed by Meditation  
3:30 pm Monicas  
5:30 pm Faith Form Comm Mtg  
7:00 pm Admin/Finance Mtg

**Wednesday, December 17**

1:00 pm Book Study  
6:30 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Reconciliation  
7:30 pm K of C Meeting

**Thursday, December 18**

8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary followed by Scripture  
7:00 pm Choir practice

**Friday, December 19**

8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary  
5:30 pm Movie Night  
6:00 pm Messiah Dress Rehearsal

**Saturday, December 20**

8:30 am Rosary  
Men's Faith Study after Rosary  
10:00 am Serving at Open Door  
4:30 pm Mass

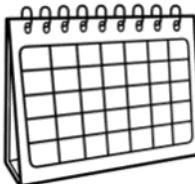
### FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND

**Sunday, December 21**

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 am Mass  
FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND  
3:00 pm Handel's Messiah Concert

**Our Assumption  
2026  
Calendars**  
are in the  
gathering space  
—pick up a copy





## Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

### CHILDREN

Dec. 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](mailto: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. 14	YM-Christmas Parties
13-15	Exam snack bag drop-off
21, 28	No YM (Merry Christmas)
Jan. 4	No YM (Happy New Year)
11, 18, 25	YM
7, 14, 21, 28	Confirmation (@ABVM 6:15-8 pm)



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

### Youth Ministry

Middle School & High School

Both groups will celebrate Christmas this Sunday. Middle School will be ice skating at the ice arena...check your email for registration and time!! High School will celebrate at Blessed Sacrament at our regular scheduled time. All are welcome!

**Snack Packs:** Exam snack bags will be delivered to the homes of both Middle & High School students on Monday & Tuesday! Be sure to check your front porches!

From the Treasure Box...

**The Incarnation:** The baby Jesus doll in the box represents baby Jesus, but do we ever really take time to think about what it means that our all powerful, all knowing, all forgiving, all loving God decided to come and live with us as a human being; and **NOT** as a big and powerful King, but as a little tiny baby? God chose to be with us and experience life like we do. Jesus was human in all ways but sin. But even Jesus struggled with the hard things that happened to Him, and when the hard things did happen, He prayed that God's will be done, not His. What are some difficult things that are happening in your lives right now? As a family offer these to God by praying an Our Father being particularly mindful that when we pray we say the words, "thy will be done" just like Jesus did.

### 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.



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](mailto:kathy@assumptionmidland.org).*

### Youth Ministry

Last Sunday we spent some quiet time preparing our hearts for Christmas by spending time with Jesus in Adoration. Thank you to Fr. Rob, Anya Stachowiak, a HS student who gave a witness talk on prayer, and Kristyn Russell who led us in praise and worship music.

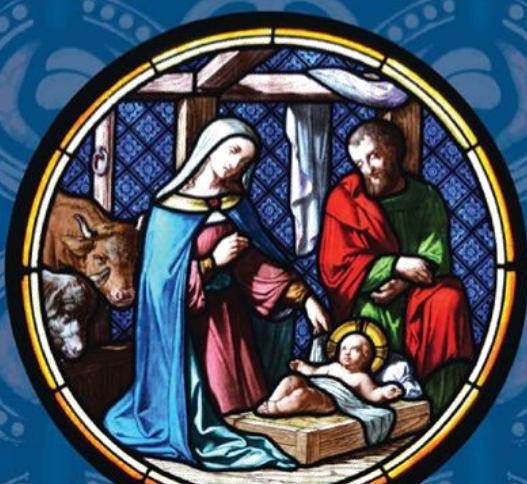
One of our 6th graders said of his experience in Adoration..."I felt it was the first time I truly connected with God."



*"When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now."*  
~St. Teresa of Calcutta



## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS Poster Contest



### Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas

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!**



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



### 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.](http://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 Parish Celebrates 25th Anniversary of New Church

25 years ago, a new chapter began in the history of Assumption Parish. After long months of loving labor, the people of Assumption finished the construction of our current church: a new and larger worship space built to welcome a growing population and meet the parish's needs in the new millennium.

The last Mass in our previous worship space (now Holy Grounds) took place on **December 17, 2000**. Following the Mass, the Holy Eucharist was transferred in procession from the old church to the new church. The first Mass in the new worship space was celebrated just a few days later on **Saturday, December 23**. With over 1,000 people in attendance, the crowd overflowed into the gathering space (which was part of the former church), creating a bridge between the old and new.

In **May of 2026**, we will mark the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the new church. Stay tuned for more details as we prepare to celebrate this milestone!

### Photos from the Construction of the New Church:



(Baptismal font:) Lawrence Bartos and his crew wheel in the baptismal font through the south side entrance.



(Crucifix:) A crew raises the cross for installation behind the altar.



(Crane:) A crane swings one of the enormous church beams into position. The crane was rented for 14 hours!

## Christmas Mass Times

**Christmas Eve**  
**4:30pm (prelude 4pm)**

**Christmas Day**  
**9:30am (prelude 9am)**



Invite your family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

## FOOD PANTRY

**December 20/21**

Please pick up a blue bag this weekend and bring back your items next weekend.

Thank you for your willingness to help those in need.



## CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

The Christmas Eve liturgy will include prelude music starting at **4:00pm** (with Mass at 4:30pm).

The Christmas Day liturgy will include prelude music starting at **9:00am** (with Mass at 9:30am).



Everyone is invited to bring a jingle bell with them to the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass to ring during the GLORIA - there will be some bells available at church if needed.

*Please come and actively participate in our Christmas liturgies to make them a festive celebration as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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!*



**Happy 90th Birthday  
Mary Anne Chritz**  
Wednesday, December 17th

# Feeding Our Faith

Nov./Dec. Issue 2025

*Merry Christmas!* Catholic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MID-MICHIGAN

## Endowment Honors Knights' Legacy



When brothers John and Mike Leen first met with Kristin Smith, Executive Director of the Catholic Community Foundation, in February 2025, they knew their prayers had been answered. As members of Knights of Columbus Council #4693 in Sandusky, John and Mike knew their Knights' Hall was becoming too expensive to maintain and needed to be sold. But how could the sale continue the Knights' charitable mission?

In the end, Kristin helped them set up the new *Knights of Columbus Endowment for Vocations*. Selling the Hall was, as John says, a vehicle to help the Knights generate charity. "The money in the endowment can be used regardless of whether there's membership in Council #4693 or not," said John. Now, their initial contribution of \$125,000 is protected in perpetuity—and will carry on the ministry of Knights Council #4693 and honor their legacy. "That's nothing short of a miracle," John said.

The Leen brothers knew that selling the hall was a complex decision for Council #4693. Many of the Knights consider the Council's legacy to be personal. Growing up, the Leen brothers went to church with a tight-knit community of Knights. Their own father was a former Grand Knight and one of the Council's earliest members. John knew right away that the money should be used for something that would last.

Council #4693 wanted to give the money to the Catholic church, but they also wanted to do more than make a one-time donation. "We should put it into something that will benefit the growth of the Catholic faith for years to come," Mike said, "without us having to touch it." John began researching different ways to protect the money, keep it local, and grow the Catholic faith.

That's when John came across the Catholic Community Foundation through the Diocesan website. "It's just strange that we ended up back at the Catholic Community Foundation," said Mike, who served as a board member in 2021. "It just makes all kinds of sense to have the money directed and funneled to the Catholic Community Foundation where it will be protected forever by a board."

John and Mike decided to call Executive Director Kristin Smith to see how the money could be used. "In ten seconds, she convinced me of our idea," said John. "We told her, 'We want to grow the faith.'" Mike and John's dedication to honoring the legacy of the Knights and growing the Catholic faith fit perfectly with Kristin's suggestion to support the growth of vocations.

The Leen brothers know a bit about finding a vocation through their journey to becoming Knights. Many parishioners of St. Joseph's (now Holy Family Parish in Sandusky) were Knights when John and Mike were growing up.

*Continued* →

Written by Grace Giroux  
Edited by Joan Ramm

Catholic  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF MID-MICHIGAN

Generously supporting the spiritual, educational, and social needs of our Catholic community.



Scan the QR  
code to  
follow our  
Facebook page!

## Catholic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MID-MICHIGAN

### Our Board of Trustees

Maureen Becker - *President*  
Bob Miller - *Vice President*  
Den. Bob Sasiela - *Treasurer*  
Joe Day - *Secretary*  
Bishop Robert Gruss - *Ex officio*  
Fr. Bill Rutkowski - *Liaison to  
the Bishop*  
Ruth Buko  
Debra Gunn - *new member!*  
Hector Malacara  
Mike Shabluk - *returning member!*  
Den. Rick Warner  
Rob Warner  
Alan Watson

### Our Staff

Kristin Smith - *Executive Director*  
Sandy Zondlak - *Finance Manager*  
Chad Cook - *Endowment &  
Database Manager*  
Grace Giroux - *Communications &  
Development Specialist*

### 2025 Quarter-At-A-Glance

**December 17, 4:00 p.m.**

**Advent Gathering**  
Center for Ministry  
5802 Weiss Street  
Saginaw, MI 48603

**December 24**

Foundation offices close

**January 5**

Foundation offices open

## Endowment (continued)

After church one Sunday, Knight Dick LeGault told Mike that John was planning on joining the Knights at the Monday night meeting. When Mike and John got home, Mike asked John if he really planned to join. John said he hadn't made any commitments, but the next night, the brothers went to the meeting.

It wasn't until another John—a friend named John Guttowski—entered the building that the Leen brothers realized Dick LeGault misled them on purpose—or as John says jokingly, how Dick "conned us into becoming members." Nevertheless, Mike and John decided to join. "How else are we going to do charity on our own?" asked John. "We could join and do charity as a group."

John and Mike credit Knights like Dick LeGault for inspiring them to be part of the Council. Dick and his wife Bev are one of the reasons Council #4693 felt obligated to use the money from the sale in a way that would last. "When the money came out of the sale, it was the responsibility of the current members to do something that would mean something to the whole council—years past and current members," said Mike.

That's why the Leen brothers and the Knights Council #4693 worked with the Catholic Community Foundation to fill a critical need with the new *Endowment for Vocations*. "There's a shortage of priests," says John. "We need to support parish priests through promotion, attraction, and having an actual recruiter out there."

In the future, John and Mike hope the fund grows to the point that a dedicated Vocations Director could be supported to work full-time throughout the Diocese.

"It's a lofty goal," said Mike. "But many hands make light work. Lots of Knights of Columbus Councils in our Diocese support seminarians. Why not support vocations more?"

To make a donation to the *Knights of Columbus Endowment for Vocations*, scan the code or visit [www.ccfmm.org](http://www.ccfmm.org).

To leave a legacy gift through your will, please contact Executive Director, Kristin Smith, at 989.303.9201 or [kristin.smith@ccfmm.org](mailto:kristin.smith@ccfmm.org).



# Family Movie Night

Friday, December 19 • 6 PM  
Assumption Holy Grounds

Join us for a FREE evening with a family-friendly Christmas movie & treats! Don your favorite Christmas jammies, grab your stuffie and a blanket, and let's kick off Christmas break together!

## Religious Retirement Fund Collection

Your gift to the Religious Retirement Fund helps to provide funds for medications, nursing care, and more. Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests by giving generously to this special collection. There is an envelope in your packet or you can give online on our website, or go to: [www.osvhub.com/assumptionmary/giving/funds](http://www.osvhub.com/assumptionmary/giving/funds).

Visit [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org) for more details.

## St. Brigid Catholic School Kindergarten Open House

Come discover the difference a **Catholic, classical education** can make for your child.

**January 13th / 6:00 PM**

RSVP to [amitus@stbrigid-midland.org](mailto:amitus@stbrigid-midland.org) by January 9th.

## Thank You!

We continue to collect cans and bottles for Youth Ministry, events and service projects. **Thank you all for your continued support of our Youth Ministry program!!** ~Kathy

## Weekend Offerings

### December 6/7, 2025

Weekly Envelopes .....	\$5,916
Online Giving (12/1–12/7) .....	\$4,055
Donations .....	\$5,250
Weekend Total .....	\$15,221
Weekly Goal .....	<u>\$9,231</u>
Overage/(Shortfall) .....	\$5,990

### Month of November

Weekly Envelopes .....	\$21,483
Online Giving .....	\$11,953
Donations .....	\$14,250
Weekend Total .....	\$47,686
Weekly Goal .....	<u>\$46,155</u>
Overage/(Shortfall) .....	\$1,531

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](mailto:sandym@assumptionmidland.org) or call the parish office at 989-631-4447.

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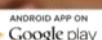
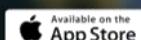
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