



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

SECOND SUNDAY in Ordinary Time

January 18, 2026

Weekend Liturgical Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Exposition/Reconciliation:
Wednesdays 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Mass from Assumption is LIVE streamed at our SUNDAY Mass, so keep an eye out for our Flocknote; you can also check out our Facebook page and website for a link.

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

How To Contact Us

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs / 8:30 a.m.—4 p.m.,

Fridays / 8:30 a.m.—noon

Parish Office: 989-631-4447

Fax: 989-835-9722

Email: Assumption@AssumptionMidland.org

Website: www.AssumptionMary.org

Parish Staff

Director of Parish Life: John Graveline,

Email: john@assumptionmidland.org

Sacramental Minister: Fr. Rick Filary,

Email: rfilary@diosag.org

Office Manager: Sandy Martinski,

Email: sandym@assumptionmidland.org

Director of Youth Ministry: Kathy Russell,

Email: kathyr@assumptionmidland.org

Children's Faith Formation:

Wendy Graveline,

Email: cff@assumptionmidland.org

Music & Liturgy: Jim Renfer,

Email: jim@assumptionmidland.org

Office Professionals:

Val Rossi,

Email: val@assumptionmidland.org

Rachelle Boyer,

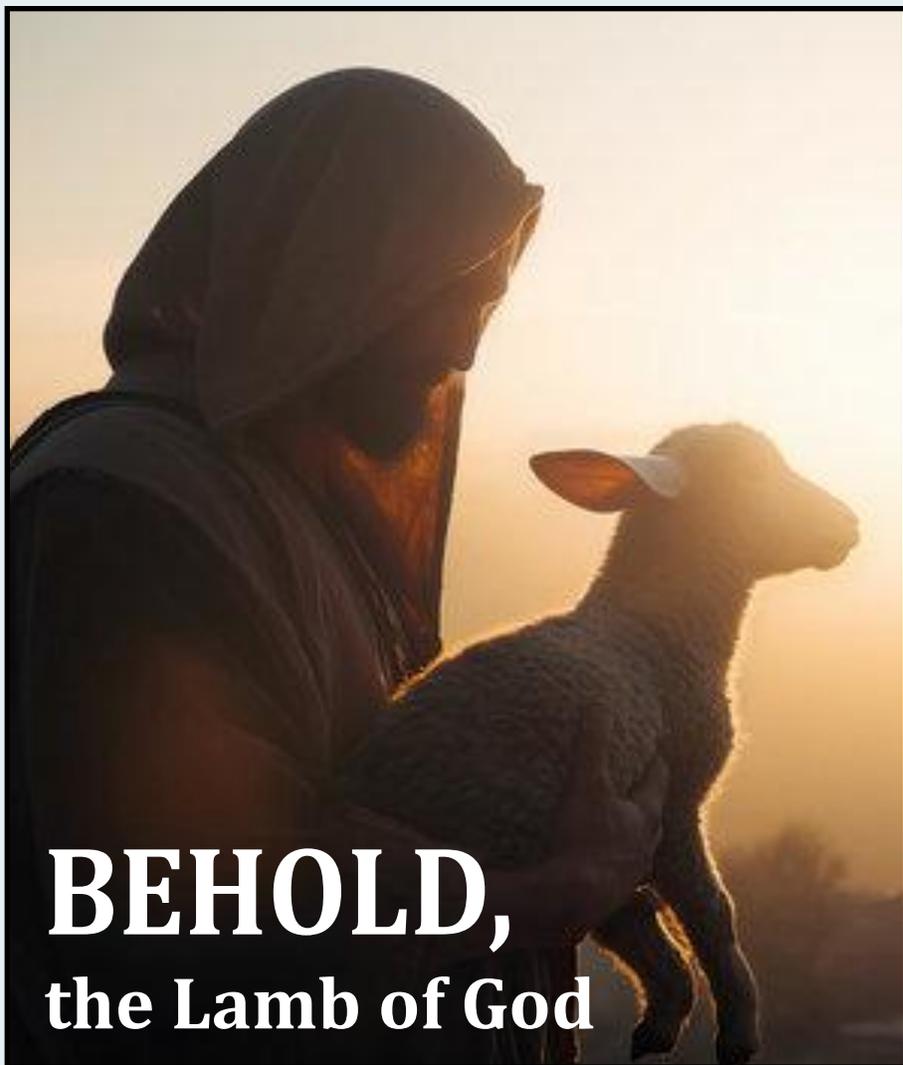
Email: rachelle@assumptionmidland.org

Evangelization Liaison: Anna Martin,

Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org

Maintenance Specialist: Brad Hill,

Email: bradh@assumptionmidland.org



BEHOLD, the Lamb of God

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please know that the church doors will be opened from 7:30am – 4:00pm, **Mon thru Thurs** if anyone is in need of a quiet place to pray and/or meditate.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: MONDAY at noon



www.assumptionmary.org



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



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From our Director of Parish Life



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:1-5

Every once in a while, it is good for us to reconnect with the simple truths because we human beings tend to complicate simple things. At the core of a life of discipleship of Jesus, the Word made Flesh for the life of the world, is a commitment to defend and promote human dignity, human flourishing, and human rights. The foundation of these rights lies in what our Declaration of Independence—we are celebrating its 250th anniversary this year—called **"the right to life."** Catholic Christians are Pro-Life. Moral theologians and ethicists rightly bring nuance and distinctions that are necessary for the formation of conscience and for the discernment of specific actions in specific circumstances, but these never negate our essential orientation toward saying "yes" to life as Mary did to the angel Gabriel. (Luke 1:38)

This Thursday, January 22, the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* Supreme Court decisions in 1973 that first legalized abortion nationwide, the bishops of the United States ask us annually to observe a day of "prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and penance for the violations of the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion." We do not believe that life begins at birth or when it is determined that the child is "wanted" or at one of the various stages of fetal development. We believe the science that individual human life begins at conception, with his or her own unique genetic code and internal dynamism of growth. She or he is one of us, and as such deserves to live and flourish. That is why we are proud to support LifeClinic in Midland. They walk with expectant mothers to help make the choice for life possible. May the life of every child, born or preborn, be accepted as a gift from God!

This Monday, we also observe as a

nation the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a Christian minister, Dr. King held a mirror up to our nation, and through appeals to conscience and organizing non-violent protest, demonstrated that we as a country have not always lived up to promise of equal rights and dignity for all. The work of dismantling racial prejudice and racial discrimination in the law is Pro-Life ministry. This past fall, the United States bishops established a special subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation that seeks "to teach about and to witness to the intrinsic dignity of the human person as an antidote to the grave sin of racism."

As we remember Dr. King, it might also be appropriate to recall his strong Pro-Life stance against violence and war. He saw militarism, racism, and materialism as interconnected evils. As the technology of modern warfare makes the costs of violent conflict more and more devastating and takes the lives of an astonishing number of innocent civilians (especially women and children), Dr. King's advocacy for non-violent solutions to the injustices of our world becomes a truly prophetic witness to all of us that violence never brings about social justice, but only feeds the cycle of violence. All the popes who have spoken before the United Nations have proclaimed a similar message, "War never again!"

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

In 1995, Pope St. John Paul II published a worldwide letter entitled *The Gospel of Life*. In this letter, he highlighted the many threats to the sanctity of human life in our modern world. More importantly, he demonstrated the underlying logic that creates both a "culture of life" and a "culture of death." I've been thinking about this a lot in the

past few weeks and months as I follow the news. The logic of death is the logic of separation. Death is alienation and separation: spirit from body (physical death) and spirit from God (spiritual death). The logic of life is unity and harmony in vital tension. It includes everyone and every part of ourselves and our society. On one news channel, killing is excused because the victim was "a racist" or "a fascist." On another news channel, killing is excused because the victim was "an illegal" and "a domestic terrorist." Whether the topic is abortion or immigration or the economy, our political arguments highlight the things that divide and polarize us. There is always a reason that "that person" or "those people" are not like "us" so it is all right to hate them or abuse them or eliminate them. This is the logic of the "culture of death." Catholic Christians can heal the national dialogue by starting with the fundamental truth of **solidarity**, that—without exception—we are all beloved children of God our Father. What we have in common is so much more important than what has the capacity to divide us. The things that make us different are an opportunity to become beautifully harmonious and can fill our lives with depth and wonder. This is the logic of the "culture of life."

In our times, just as much if not more so than the times in which St. John Paul II wrote *The Gospel of Life*, we are called to be witnesses to a "culture of life." We are called to resist the temptation to contribute to a culture of polarization and alienation. We are called to build up human solidarity, which leads to true human flourishing through loving all people and each person with the same love with which God sent his only Son into the world to bring healing, peace, and new life.

John

TAX STATEMENTS

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.**

Thank you for your stewardship giving!



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb ... " – Isaiah 49:5

God is calling each of us to use the unique gifts that He has given us. Recognizing and sharing those gifts is how we participate in the plan He has designed for us. Your gifts and His plan are different from anyone else's. Use your gifts wisely and generously.



Worship Schedule

ASSUMPTION	
MON, January 19 1 Sm 15:16-23 Mk 2:18-22	_____
TUES, January 20 1 Sm 16:1-13 Mk 2:23-28	8:00a Word & Communion 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
WED, January 21 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Mk 3:1-6	6:30p Word & Communion <i>Followed by Exposition, no Reconciliation</i>
THUR, January 22 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Mk 3:7-12	8:00a Word & Communion 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
FRI, January 23 1 Sm 24:3-21 Mk 3:13-19	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
SAT, January 24 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-37; Mk 3:20-31	8:30a Rosary 4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, January 25 Is 8:23—9:3 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 Mt 4:12-23	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!

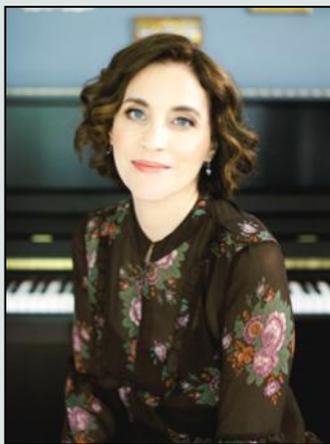


V is for Vocation: Fr. Richard John

We give thanks for Fr. Richard John who has served as St. Dominic Parish's parochial administrator since July 2023, and we pray for him in his ministry to the faithful. Originally from the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, Telangana, in southern India, Father Richard is one of 10 priests from India (as of last August) currently serving the 56 parishes of the diocese alongside the 26 active priests below retirement age and the 17 senior priests helping with the celebration of the sacraments. Hear more about Fr. Richard's journey to become a priest [scroll to the June 3, 2025, recording]:

<https://saginaw.org/listen-to-our-podcast>

Gracious God, You have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through Baptism, You have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others. Strengthen me to respond to Your call each day. Help me to become all You desire of me. Inspire me to make a difference in others' lives. Lead me to choose the way of life You have planned for me. Open the hearts of all to listen to Your call. Fill all with Your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and the courage to respond to You. Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire to make the world a better place. Amen. (USCCB)



Save the Date: Sarah Hart at Assumption

Fruit of the Spirit: Planted, Thriving, Yielding

Two evenings of story and song with Grammy-nominated and BMI-winning contemporary Christian artist Sarah Hart

Sunday, February 15 | 6:30-8 PM
Monday, February 16 | 6:30-8 PM

All are invited
No ticket required

Scan the QR Code
to explore Sarah's music!



FOOD PANTRY

Our next collection for

Food Pantry will be next weekend Jan. 24/25.

Please be sure to pick up a blue bag from the gathering space and bring it back the following weekend with your donations. Thank you for your consideration of those who are not as fortunate as we are.

- This Week -

Sunday, January 18

9:30 am Mass

CFF and C.L.O.W. meet
No YM-HS; YM-MS MLK Event
Catholic Inquiry / 6:30pm
Baby Bottle Collection



Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 20

8:00 am Word & Communion
8:30 am Rosary followed by Meditation
3:15 pm Monicas
5:30 pm Faith Formation Comm Mtg
7:00 pm Admin/Finance Mtg

Wednesday, January 21

6:15 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm W&C followed by Exposition, no Reconciliation
7:30 pm K of C Meeting

Thursday, January 22

8:00 am Word & Communion
8:30 am Rosary followed by Scripture
7:00 pm Choir practice

Friday, January 23

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary

Saturday, January 24

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

FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND
K OF C PASTY SALE

Sunday, January 25

9:30 am Mass
CFF, C.L.O.W., YM
FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND
K OF C PASTY SALE
Catholic Inquiry / 6:30pm



Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS

Just a reminder that we have Children's Worship Bags available for families with little ones that are too young to understand Mass yet. Please be considerate and *take only one bag per family*. There are a variety of materials in each bag for your children to share. Please check to see you have returned all materials to the bag and place it back on the shelf as you leave Mass.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the bags, please send them to cff@assumptionmidland.org.

I hope your family and littles enjoy the bags!

CHILDREN

Jan. 18, 25	CFF and CLOW
Feb. 1, 8	CFF and CLOW
1, 15	Sacramental Prep, 3-4:30
15, 22	No CFF and 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 YM meet on Sunday evenings at Blessed Sacrament from 6-8 pm.

Confirmation Prep meet on Wednesday evenings at Assumption from 6:15-8 pm.

Watch your email and the bulletin for YM news & events!

Jan. 18	MS-MLK Service Day @ Assumption 6-8 pm
21, 28	Confirmation Prep
25	YM



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

Youth Ministry

Middle School...

Last Sunday we studied The Creed and how it is a foundational statement of our faith.

This Sunday, January 18th, though not a "regular" session because of the long MPS weekend, the middle schoolers will have an opportunity to prepare a meal and decorate pillowcases for the Open Door Women and Children's shelter. **This will take place on Sunday, from 6-8 pm at Assumption.**

High School...

"**No U-Turn**" was the title to last week's lesson. The goal was to help teens to respond to the call, received at Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation, to live and witness to their faith.

Main Ideas...

- * In Baptism, we are claimed as God's son or daughter and given sanctifying grace. In Confirmation, we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to the faith.
- * These sacraments imprint a permanent seal that changes us forever and is meant to give life a definitive direction.
- * Receiving the Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation calls us to cooperate with God's grace and bear witness to the faith in word and deed.

How do you live out and witness to the faith?

Catechism Reference

"Since, like all the faithful, lay Christians are entrusted by God with the apostolate by virtue of their Baptism and Confirmation, they have the right and duty, individually or grouped in associations, to work so that the divine message of salvation may be known and accepted by all men throughout the earth. This duty is the more pressing when it is only through them that men can hear the Gospel and know Christ." (CCC 900)

High School YM does not meet on Sunday, January 18th.



Christ's Mission Appeal 2025-26

The annual appeal is the primary opportunity for Catholics throughout the Diocese to support one another.

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

For more information go to:

www.saginaw.org/appeal

You can also contact the stewardship and development office at 989-797-6679.

Or scan the QR Code.

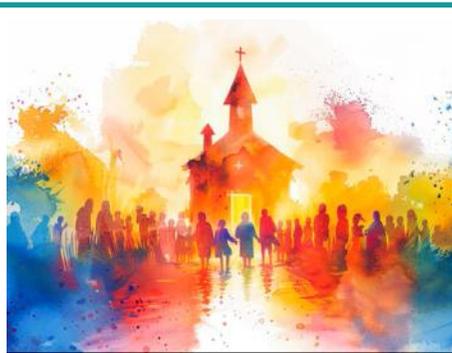


Faith Formation

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.





Join the Celebration...

Saturday, February 14th

as "Assumption Celebrates Family"

(your family, my family, OUR family of faith & community!)

Dinner, games, music, silent auction, fellowship, & fun!!

Save the date! More details to come!

QUESTIONS ABOUT CATHOLICISM?

Assumption will offer 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. Inquiry sessions will meet each **Sunday evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m.**



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



Support Catholic Education!

Purchase Your St. Brigid Cash Raffle Ticket Today!

Help us support Saint Brigid Catholic School by purchasing an Emerald Evening cash raffle ticket for just **\$25**. Our schools help form disciples who know Christ, love His Church, and strengthen the parish's long-term vitality. Your contribution makes a difference in the lives of our students, making Catholic education possible for everyone — and you could win BIG!

Prizes Include:
\$5,000 Grand Prize
\$2,500 Second Prize
Five \$500 Third Prizes



Don't miss your chance to win! Purchase tickets online at <https://charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2026>, stop by the Saint Brigid School Office, scan the QR code or purchase from any St. Brigid School family.

Families will be present after Masses at Assumption January 24 & 25 selling tickets!

Thank you for your generosity and support of Catholic education!

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 and 8, 2026. There will be no strangers there, just friends you have not yet met.

Registration information in future announcements!
If you have any questions, please contact Tom Quoss at (989) 941-9770.

Men's FAITH Study Winter/Spring 2026

All are welcome to the Men's Saturday Morning Faith gatherings as part of our COR activities for your 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.

The schedule is below and on the parish calendar:

24 January—8:30 AM Rosary & Faith Group discussions to follow
14 February—8:00 AM Mass, 8:30 AM Rosary & Faith Group discussions to follow

Lent Begins Ash Wednesday 18 February

21 February—8:30 AM Rosary & Faith Group discussions to follow
28 February—8:30 AM Rosary & Faith Group discussions to follow
7 March—8:30 AM Rosary & Faith Group discussions to follow
14 March—8:00 AM Mass, 8:30 AM Rosary & Faith Group discussions to follow

21 March—8:30 AM Rosary & Faith Group discussions to follow
28 March—8:30 AM Rosary & Faith Group discussions to follow

To sign-up please email: greggzank@mac.com.

"I have a dream."

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

"THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT."

"only in the darkness

CAN YOU SEE THE STARS."

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is,

"What are you doing for others?"

-Martin Luther King Jr.



Kindergarten-8th grade
Open Enrollment begins January 26th.

Call for an individualized tour today!

(989) 835-9481

www.stbrigidmidland.org/school



NAMI Family to Family Program Spring 2026

The NAMI Middle Michigan Affiliate will be hosting their Family to Family Program **beginning Tuesday evenings February 24th thru April 14th, 2026.** Classes are Virtual, and begin at 6:15 p.m., concluding at 8:45 p.m. each evening.

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-week educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there, and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises.

NAMI Family-to-Family not only provides information and strategies for taking care of the person you love, but you'll also find out that you're not alone. Recovery is a journey, and there is hope!

Registration is now open. If you are interested in registering or would just like to know more, you may contact our Program Coordinator Dan Corbat at 989.513.2137. Dan's email address is dcorbat57@gmail.com.

Free Tax Assistance for Those Who Need it Most

AARP Tax-Aide offers free, volunteer-run tax preparation for individuals with low to moderate income, with a focus on seniors and basic returns.

Midland Location: Appointments available Tuesdays and Thursdays starting February 3, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Greater Midland Community Center.

Call 832-7937 or email taxhelp@greatermidland.org beginning January 5 to schedule.



Mother Teresa Fund

Having a new baby is a joyous time, but can be very difficult when parents have limited financial resources. The Mother Teresa Endowment Fund of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw provides financial assistance to individuals or couples experiencing limited financial "resources while awaiting the birth of their child and/or during the initial period following the birth. The fund was originally established through the generous gifts of many individuals to support LIFE. The dollars contributed are invested and the interest generated provides revenue for the assistance.

You will find an envelope in your packet for next weekend; you can also contribute through Online Giving. Thank you!

LifeClinic Baby Bottle Campaign

If you took a bottle, please remember to bring it back this weekend.

The money we collect will help them share God's love and provide free and confidential services such as pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting education classes and much more.



Your change can change lives! Thank you for your support.

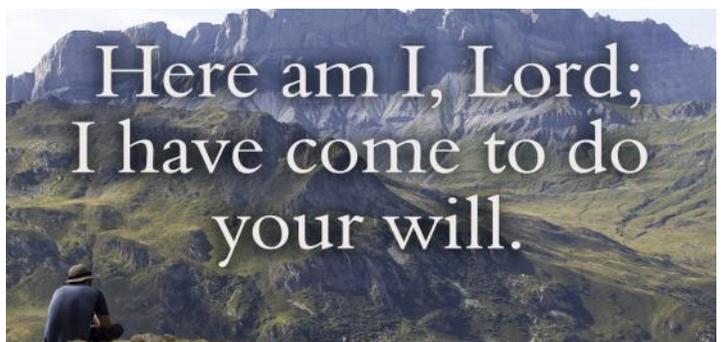
Share the Faith

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

Make a Positive Impact by Showing Solidarity with the Church in Latin America

Since 1965, Catholics in the United States have built relationships of unity and love with Catholics in Central and South America and the islands of the Caribbean through their participation in the annual special collection for the Church in Latin America. Next weekend, many U.S. parishes will take up this collection in order to support ministries that bring Christ's mercy to prisoners, train catechists in remote rural areas, and build up pastoral programs that address the crucial needs of refugees and victims of natural disasters.

You will find an envelope in your packet for next weekend; you can also contribute through Online Giving. Thank you!





Assumption K of C

SALE January 24 & 25 after Mass

Get yer PASTIES, eh!!

Dinner & Breakfast

3 for \$25 or 1 for \$10

Any
combination

Limited number
available

Pre-order now

989-430-8622 knights2141@gmail.com
or sign up in the Gathering Space

Proceeds Support Seminarian Education



The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. To those who accepted him, he gave power to become children of God.

Weekend Offerings

January 3/4, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$6,206
Online Giving (12/29-1/4)	\$5,604
Donations	\$4,375
Weekend Total	\$16,185
Weekly Goal	\$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall)	\$6,954

January 10/11, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$3,486
Online Giving (1/5-1/11)	\$3,929
Donations	\$2,500
Weekend Total	\$9,915
Weekly Goal	\$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall)	\$684

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

Please make out a separate check for the special collections.



Online Giving

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

AssumptionMary.org

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

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For further information, please call the parish office.

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Avery Murphy

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