

SECOND Sunday of Lent

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

March 1, 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

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Val Rossi,

Email: val@assumptionmidland.org

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Email: rachelle@assumptionmidland.org

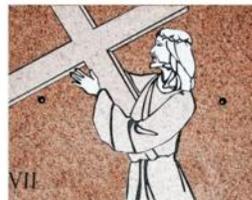
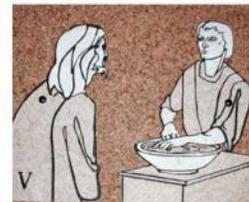
Evangelization Liaison: Anna Martin,

Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org

Maintenance Specialist: Brad Hill,

Email: bradh@assumptionmidland.org

Lord Jesus,
HELP US WALK IN YOUR STEPS



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.

Bulletin Deadline: noon on Mon, March 2 for the March 15 bulletin

From our Director of Parish Life



"The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.'" Mark 6:31

In last weekend's Gospel, we listened to St. Matthew's account of the temptations Jesus experienced at the conclusion of his time in the wilderness between his baptism and the beginning of his public ministry. This week's Gospel recounts St. Matthew's version of Jesus' Transfiguration, also at the threshold time in Jesus' mission as he begins to move from the life of an itinerant preacher to embarking upon his road to Jerusalem to meet his destiny, which will culminate in his Passion and Cross. It is very common to face temptation and doubt whenever we move from one stage of the spiritual journey to the next. Perhaps this is why at these transitional stages, Jesus (and his disciples) hear the voice of the Father, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17, 17:5) When this one truth—that we are loved unconditionally—is the bedrock of our identity, nothing can shake us.

Bishop Untener, who pastored the Diocese of Saginaw during its own transition time after Vatican II, wrote a well-known prayer that began, "It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The Kingdom of God is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision." Jesus knew the importance of taking a step back to reflect upon the meaning of God's plan in our lives and where our lives are called to be part of God's overall plan. He fasted and prayed in the desert, he went off in solitude to pray, he invited his disciples to rest with him, and he even invited a select few to accompany him to the mountaintop to glimpse his glory. This is where the Christian spiritual tradition of **retreat** finds its roots.

*"Be still and know that I am God."
Mark 46:10*

A retreat is time that we spend away from our day-to-day life to be with God, either alone or in a small group of disciples. Our lives are filled with to-do lists, work to be accomplished, and appointments to keep. A retreat is time where all those things are put aside to focus exclusively on our relationship with God. There is no other agenda. Sometimes, people become frustrated on retreat because they go for rest, enlightenment, or other pre-conceived good reasons; but retreat time with God is something that we undertake for its own sake. Good fruit like refreshment, spiritual uplift, etc. may happen, but they are always a gift of God (Grace). It is always in some sense a surprise. We cannot manufacture spiritual fruit. We can only create the atmosphere where we are open to whatever gifts God has for us. Even if we don't immediately feel the fruit of retreat, we take comfort that time spent in loving dialogue God is always fruitful, even if we don't experience it on a conscious level. The important part is showing up with an open heart.

*"Where you come from is gone,
where you thought you were going
to never was there, and where you
are is no good unless you can get
away from it. Where is the place for
you to be? No place . . . in yourself
right now is all the place you got."
Flannery O'Connor, *Wise Blood**

There are solitary silent retreats, couple's retreats, youth retreats, men's retreats, and women's retreats. Some retreats are one day, others a weekend. Some retreats last a week or even a month (such as the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises). Retreats can be nearby; others can be a distance away either in secluded areas or oases of stillness in the midst of large cities. Our bulletin right now has opportuni-

ties for many different retreats in the near future. I would like to encourage you to give some prayerful consideration this Lent to registering for a retreat this year. If you don't think that you can afford the time away from your busy schedule, then I would encourage you even more to consider scheduling some retreat time in the near future. Spouses, consider giving your husband or wife the gift of time away for communion with the Lord either together or alone. If you have questions about how or where to schedule a retreat, I would be happy to help you.

Hearts and lives can be transfigured when we take the time away to focus on our relationship with God. This is not to say that every retreat will be a life-defining experience. God's grace is always a free gift. However, I have met so many people during my ministry whose lives were completely redirected through a retreat with the Lord. This is also my experience after a retreat when I was a teenager. It wasn't an instantaneous and transcendent occasion, but an unmistakable turning point that slowly reoriented me, leading me toward decisions that ended up changing the trajectory of my life. When we place our time and undivided attention in Jesus' hands, he can and does work miracles.

May this Lent be a time for us to renew our baptismal commitment to live in communion with God and neighbor in love. One of the most powerful experiences that we can have of turning from sin in our lives, seeking the guidance of divine wisdom, and fostering a deep, intimate friendship with Jesus is time away on retreat. My prayer for all of you is that you may soon experience this unique opportunity to grow in faith, hope, and love through retreat with the Lord.

John

Worship as One

On **Friday, March 6th at 7pm** churches from around the Midland area are holding nights of worship in their own spaces, at the same time, with the simple vision of filling the city with songs of praise to Jesus in unity for an hour. Assumption Parish is joining this initiative by holding an hour of scripture, praise, and worship.

This is an ecumenical service and all are invited!



Second Sunday of Lent

*"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father's house to a land that
I will show you." Genesis 12:1*

While our call to follow God very likely will not be as drastic as that of Abram to leave his homeland, God does call us to leave our old ways and follow Him. But just as Abram had to trust God to lead him, so must we place our trust in God to guide us into the life that He wants for us.



Worship Schedule

ASSUMPTION	
MON, March 2 Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38	_____
TUES, March 3 Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12	8:00a Word & Communion 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
WED, March 4 Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28	6:30p Word & Communion <i>Followed by Exposition, no Reconciliation</i>
THUR, March 5 Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
FRI, March 6 Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary 3:30p Stations of the Cross 7:00p Worship As One Service
SAT, March 7 Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	8:30a Rosary 4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, March 8 Ex 17:3-7 Rm 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30a Mass <i>Edward Mytkowski</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: Colleen Snyder, Director of Parish Life

We give thanks for Colleen Snyder who is Director of Parish Life at St. Mark Parish in Au Gres, and we thank her for her ministry to the Church. Bishop Cistone announced Colleen's assignment to St. Mark when Carol Hale retired as Pastoral Administrator in July 2018. She also serves as the head of the Au Gres Christian Charities—a food bank (at St. Mark) started by area churches and serving Arenac County.

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

Loving and Generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice. Bless our faith community by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers. Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through our Lord. Amen. (USCCB)

Lenten Enrichment Series Monday evenings at 6:30pm



March 2

The Coptic Church & Christians of Egypt with Dr. Peter Malek

The Catholic Church is composed of 24 ritual churches throughout the world, each with their own governance, and liturgical/spiritual traditions. The largest is our ritual church, the Latin Church (usually referred to as Roman Catholics). Of the other 23 ritual churches in union with Rome, the Coptic Catholic Church of Alexandria is rooted in the long history of Egyptian and Greek spirituality, tracing its roots back to St. Mark the Evangelist. Dr. Peter Malek, a native of Egypt and Coptic Christian, will help us understand Coptic history and spirituality so that our vision of Church can expand and our discipleship can “breathe with both lungs” of Eastern and Western Catholicism.

March 9 *Our Everyday Walk with God with Noreen Warrick*

March 16 *Scriptio Divina: A “Hands On” Spiritual Practice with Fr. Jose Maria Cabrera*

March 23 *The Music of the Saints with Jim Renfer*

March 30 *Fully Experiencing Holy Week Liturgy with Fr. Jim Bessert*

Christ Renews for Women

Christ Renews is an on-going process for personal spiritual renewal of women over the age of 18 that results in the renewal of our faith community. The process begins with a weekend of prayer, talks given by women of our Midland Area parishes, times of silence and reflection, social activities and small group discussion. This is a wonderful time spent exploring our faith and growing in relationship with Christ. It is held at the **Blessed Sacrament Parish Center beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 18th and ending about 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19th, 2026.** Note: This is not an overnight retreat. The renewal weekend is a gift from the women putting on the weekend to the women attending the weekend. Volunteers provide food and service. There is no cost. There will be no strangers there, just friends you have not yet met.

For more information & to register, contact Blessed Sacrament parish office at (989) 835-6777 or Jeanthiele@gmail.com



- This Week -

Sunday, March 1
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

9:30 am Mass
C.L.O.W., CFF, YM
Coffee and Donuts After Mass

Monday, March 2

6:30 pm Lenten Enrichment Series

Tuesday, March 3

8:00 am Word & Communion
8:30 am Rosary *followed by Meditation*
3:15 pm Monicas
5:30 pm Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 4

8:00 am Open Door Prep
10:00 am Serving at Open Door
1:00 pm Book Study
6:15 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm Word & Communion *followed by Exposition, no Reconciliation*
7:30 pm K of C Meeting

Thursday, March 5

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

Friday, March 6

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary
3:30 pm Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm Worship As One Service

Saturday, March 7

8:30 am Rosary
Men's Faith Study after Rosary

4:30 pm Mass
set clock's ahead Saturday evening

Sunday, March 8
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

9:30 am Mass
C.L.O.W., CFF, YM





A retreat for all high schoolers!

Youth 2 Youth Retreat

SAT, APRIL 18 –
SUN, APRIL 19

CAMP ROTARY, CLARE, MI

Cost: \$70

Join us at Camp Rotary for an unforgettable weekend retreat designed by high school students, for high school students! Leave behind the stresses of daily life and dive into a weekend of self-discovery, faith, and meaningful connections. Participate in thought-provoking discussions led by inspiring mentors who will challenge and broaden your perspective. Experience the joy of community as you share stories, laugh, play games, and sing together around a crackling bonfire under a star-filled sky. Don't miss this chance to grow, connect, and create memories that will last a lifetime!

Join us for a weekend of fun, friends and fellowship!! Sign-up today by scanning the QR code. Questions?? Contact Kathy Russell.



NOTRE DAME VISION 2026 June 22-26 / July 6-10

Notre Dame Vision is a 5-day experience on the Notre Dame campus designed to help high school students discover and renew God's call in their lives. Connect with hundreds of other students as you learn from the witness of the saints and develop practices to live your faith. Sharpen your spiritual vision to recognize God's grace at work in your life and immerse yourself in the Notre Dame campus. Sleep in the dorms, eat in the dining hall, and pray at the numerous sacred spaces across campus.

Notre Dame Vision combines the theologically - rich experience of hearing nationally-known keynote speakers with the mentorship of college students. From large group sessions to small faith-sharing groups comprised of your peers, Notre Dame Vision gives you the space and the community to ask big questions about how God is calling you to use your talents in service to the Church and world.

Cost: \$465 (family pays \$265, parish pays \$200)

For more information:

<https://mcgrath.nd.edu/conferences/summer-institute/vision-youth-conference/>
or contact Kathy Russell

Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN

Mar 1, 8, 15, 22 CFF and CLOW
29 No CFF and No CLOW
(spring break)



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!

Mar. 1, 8, 15 YM
22 Last YM session @ Assumption
4, 11, 18, 25 Confirmation Prep

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



World Youth Day 2027

Join one million young Catholics on pilgrimage from August 1-9, 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, along with Pope Leo XIV, the first American Pope. Young adults, parish leaders, and 16+ high school juniors and seniors with a parent/guardian are invited. The cost is \$4,699 (paid in installments).

Registration deadline is April 15, 2026.

Go to the following link, or scan the QR code, for more information and to register: saginaw.org/wyd.

For questions, contact Taylor Piotrkowski, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at tpiotrkowski@diosaq.org or call 989.797.6639.



LENTEN Family Movie Night

March 27, 2026 / 6-8pm

Kick-off your Spring Break and prepare for Holy Week with us! I can't tell you the movie title, but it's an animated classic about Moses. It features an incredible score that includes an Oscar-winning song, and some absolutely stunning artwork. We'll have yummy popcorn, and you're welcome to bring any snacks you'd like. Grab your blankets and a stuffie and join us for this "royal" show!



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.



BLOOD DRIVE

**Monday
March
16**

1:30 PM - 6:00 PM

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

For eligibility questions please call 866-642-5663

Assumption Knights of Columbus Council 2141 Community Blood Drive

Assumption Church - Multi-Purpose Room
3516 Monroe Rd.
Midland, MI 48642

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

- Call 866-642-5663
- Visit versiti.org/mi
- Or scan the QR code below

*Walk-ins welcome, as schedule allows!

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



LifeClinic Baby Bottle Campaign

We received a thank you from LifeClinic.

Participants from the recent Baby Bottle

Campaign back in January helped to raise \$2,158.22.

Thank you for partnering with LifeClinic to eliminate barriers, restore hope and empower choices for life.

Thank you for your support.



You're invited to participate in CRS Rice Bowl!

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in dioceses throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 100 different countries each year.

25% of donations stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

PLEASE PICK UP A RICE BOWL IN THE GATHERING SPACE AND BRING IT BACK STARTING PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND. OR YOU MAY USE YOUR ENVELOPE IN YOUR MONTHLY PACKET OR GIVE ONLINE.

Easter Flowers

The Christian Service Commission is inviting you to submit names of parishioners who are homebound or have recently lost a loved one. Prior to Easter, we will be delivering a flowering plant to those people to share in the joy of New Life that comes through Easter.

Please contact the parish office if you know of anyone.

We can also use help delivering flowers, please call Val in the office if you can help.



Update from Sarah Hart Performance

Thank you to all who joined us for Sarah Hart's performances at Assumption on February 15-16!

We were blessed to welcome around 300 people for these two uplifting evenings of story, song, and fellowship. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who assisted with the event, extended hospitality to Sarah, and provided a wonderful reception after each concert, including delicious King Cake on the eve of Mardi Gras. We are so grateful to Sarah for sharing her joy and gifts with our community.

Inspired by her witness, may we grow more deeply rooted in God's love this Lent, that our lives may yield the fruit of the Spirit!



Remember your loved one with an

Easter Lily

Please fill out an envelope indicating:

- Your name
- The name of the person you wish to honor (to be printed in the bulletin)
- Whether you would like to take a lily home

We are requesting donations of \$30

Return envelopes to the parish office or to the donation box at the Welcome Circle by **Sunday, March 1**

Questions? Contact Jim Renfer at jim@assumptionmidland.org



Please join us

Global Compassion Inc's Fundraiser for Ukraine

**First United Methodist Church
of Midland**

315 Larkin St, Midland

March 15, 2026

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

MENU:

Red Borscht, Herb-Roasted chicken, green vegetable salad, Sergey's specialty ranch salad dressing, fresh sourdough bread and L'viv cheesecake. Vegetarian option available.

**Luncheon prepared by
Chef Sergey Pokanevych**

Donations accepted at the time of dinner, but reservations are must.

Please RSVP at

www.globalcompassioninc.org

or email at

hope@globalcompassioninc.org

or call 989-835-1127



FISH FRY

130 W Larkin Street, Downtown Midland

March 6, 13, 20, and 27

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

Please Call Ahead 989-835-9481 ext. 75

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (No calls after 1:00 p.m.)

DINE IN PRICING:

Adults: \$20

Children: \$10

Children under 5 eat FREE

TAKEOUT PRICING:

All walleye box: \$18

Seafood meal: \$15

Grilled cheese: \$5



RELIGIOUS ART WORK

Next weekend, a representative of the *Holy Land Family* will be selling beautiful hand carved religious art work made from olive wood and mosaics to help the Christian families in the Holy Land who rely on the selling of their religious work to make a living. These families livelihood have been largely affected due to the political conflict in the region. The Christian population in Bethlehem is decreasing and with the support to help these families continue their work, will help maintain their employment so that they stay in their homeland. We invite you to come and browse after each Mass, and we greatly thank you for your support! God Bless You.

Last Sale of Lent!!!

March 14 & 15
after Mass @ Assumption
proceeds to benefit

Midland County Food Assistance Network

supporting eight pantries in Midland County

taking pre-orders

989-430-8622 knights2141@gmail.com

or sign up in the Gathering Space

*Limited
number
available*



10/\$7 OR
30/\$20

*Fresh
made*

Potato & Cheese Pierogi Sale



Knights of Columbus
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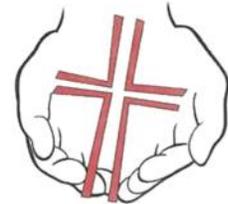
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CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES

January 13, 2026

Present: John Graveline, Ray Barta, Kathy Conley, Denise Kearl, Anita Whitney, Linda Brown, Nancy Boldizar, Mary Lou Leslie

Absent: Marlena Saotome, Sarah Hocking, Paul Sery, Jean Krause



Meeting opened with prayer led by Ray Barta

Invited Speaker:

Pastor Ed Doerner of Messiah Lutheran Church spoke to us about Elevate Community Ministries, particularly Gateway Medical Clinic.

Committees reported at this meeting as follows.....

Budgeted (John):

December Monthly Assistance - \$1,180

December Food Pantry - \$1,630, plus blue bags of food collected.

Caring Cooks (Nancy):

In December 2025, 10 breakfasts were served to women and children at Open Door.

Year 2025 total - 53 meals to parishioners, plus 124 breakfasts served at the Open Door.

Open Door (Ray):

Ray is putting together the schedule of food servers and preparers for the next four months.

Coffee and Donuts (Anita):

Sergey's Bakery provided croissants; event was well attended.

BeFriender Ministry (Denise):

Volunteers are currently being trained.

Life Clinic (Sarah):

Bottles with donations are being collected until January 18th and will be returned to Life Clinic.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Morrison Brown, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting:

**Second Tuesday of the month
Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**

Centering Prayer For Lent

Come and join us during Lent for a time to experience Centering prayer, starting on **Mondays, March 2nd through the 23rd from 12:00 to 1:00 in the small chapel at Blessed Sacrament**. The practice is normally about 30 minutes and we will be available for the full hour if you have questions. Centering prayer is a listening prayer where you focus on your breath or a sacred word and invite God to sit with you in stillness, solitude and silence as you allow God's love to wash over you. We will have handouts to bring clarity to your practice. The practice connects us to the peace of all understanding. Led by Carol Maciag and Jean Thiele.

Registration is not required.

Every Child Matters New Ministry to Invisible Youth

If you've never interacted with people in jail or detention, it's common to have concerns:

Q: These children have very big problems. Occasional visits won't solve their problems, so why bother?

Yes, many of the children we will be visiting have major life problems but this question misses the point. Only God can solve those sorts of serious problems; the ultimate outcome isn't our responsibility. What IS our responsibility is to show up and be a friend to those in need. Kids in detention generally don't have many reliable adults to support them. One genuine connection might mean a lot.

For more information, contact Julie 989-631-6735 or email maurer.julie@yahoo.com



Weekend Offerings

February 21/22, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$4,349
Online Giving (2/16-2/22)	\$1,425
Donations	\$3,624
Weekend Total	\$9,398
Weekly Goal	\$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall)	\$167

February 1-22, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$17,628
Online Giving	\$9,662
Donations	\$17,424
Total	\$44,714
Goal	\$36,924
Overage/(Shortfall)	\$7,790

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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832-8829

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Jonathan M. Horbal, D.O.P.L.C.
Richard J. Horbal, M.D., P.C.
Alexander A. Horbal, D.O., P.L.C.
MIDLAND ALLERGY CLINIC

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