

# FOURTH Sunday of Lent

## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

March 15, 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:** [AssumptionMidland.org](mailto: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,

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

**Children's Faith Formation:**

Wendy Graveline,

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

**Music & Liturgy:** Jim Renfer,

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

**Office Professionals:**

Val Rossi,

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Rachelle Boyer,

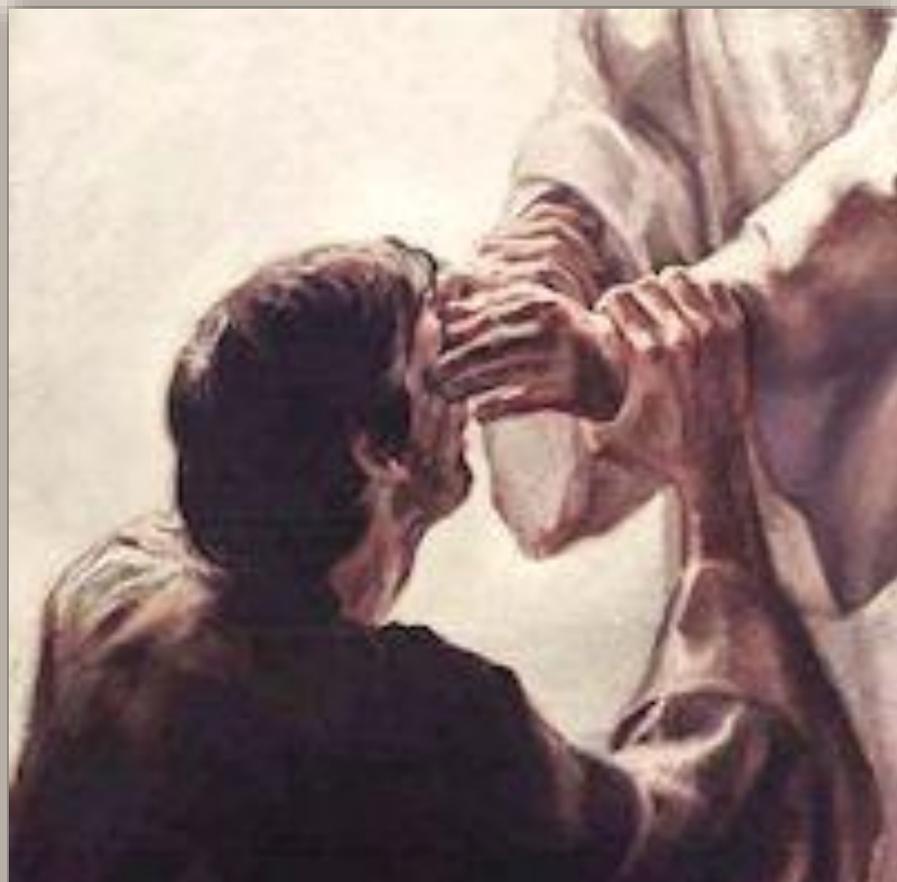
Email: [rachelle@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:rachelle@assumptionmidland.org)

**Evangelization Liaison:** Anna Martin,

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

**Maintenance Specialist:** Brad Hill,

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



**“The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went there and washed and was able to see.”**

#### **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 8:00am – 3:30pm, 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](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

*"All I know is I was blind, and now I see."* John 9:25



On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we continue our triptych of Gospel readings from the Gospel according to St. John as we prepare for the celebration of the Easter sacraments. This weekend, we hear proclaimed Jesus' healing of the man born blind, emphasizing **Jesus as the Light of the World**. I have shared with you some reflections recently on the meaning of light, so today I will invite us to consider this passage from the perspective of the man who has been healed on **the importance of vision**.

In his book *And Now I See: A Theology of Transformation*, Robert Barron writes, "Everything in Christian life flows from and circles around the transformation of vision. Christians see differently, and that is why their prayer, their worship, their action, their whole way of being in the world have a distinctive accent and flavor." Faith is not merely a matter of reciting the Creed at Mass or memorizing catechism answers, assenting to a series of beliefs formulated as propositions. It is our wholehearted response, at once intensely personal and radically communal, to the God who loves us and has revealed himself to us, a response that transforms our way of seeing the divine, ourselves, our neighbors, and all of creation. Origen of Alexandria, a revered teacher and mystic in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, defined holiness as *seeing* with the eyes of Christ, and the great medieval theologian St. Thomas Aquinas referred to heaven, the ultimate destination of the journey of the Christian life, as an experience of the "beatific vision" of God.

*"Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart/Naught be all else to me save that Thou art/Thou my best thought, by day or by night/Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light."* Ancient Irish Poem attributed to St. Dallán Forgaill

There are two ways of living in a faith tradition. One is as a cage; the other is as a lens. When faith is lived as mainly following a set of religious rules which we attempt to observe through our own

willpower (even if those rules are good and true), it is like a cage. Inevitably, we hit against the wall of either falling to our own disordered and selfish desires or we become frustrated when religious tenets seem to come into conflict with each other. We can begin to look around with envy at others who are doing the things that, deep down, we would like to do (often without seeming to experience bad consequences!) or with judgement at those who do things differently than we do, giving rise to anger and resentment. This attitude blinded the religious leaders of Jesus' time to seeing the healing work that God was doing, making them suspicious. Pope Francis referred to people in this spiritual state as "sourpuss" Christians. When faith is lived as a lens through which to better see the reality of God, ourselves, neighbor, and creation the way that God sees them, we become humble, patient, and oriented toward love.

What does faith reveal to us about reality? That God and all of creation (including all human beings) are good gifts from a God who is love. I was blessed to study under Dr. Kenneth Schmitz, a great philosopher and author of the book *The Gift: Creation*. He would teach us that our lives come down to one question of vision: Do I see everything as a good gift from a loving God or do I see everything as just "stuff," raw material to be used and consumed in an indifferent universe? How we answer that question has vast implications to our spiritual health, how to address the problems of society, and for the care (or lack thereof) for our human and natural environment.

*"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."* Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

The spiritual writer Richard Rohr speaks of seeing with the eyes of Incarnation, all created beings as an outpouring of God. "Once we know that the entire physical world around us, all of creation, is both the hiding place and

the revelation place for God, this world becomes home, safe, enchanted, offering grace to anyone who looks deeply." Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus shows us definitively what love looks like. As Pope John Paul II taught, "Human beings cannot fully find themselves except through a sincere gift of themselves." (see Matthew 20:28) With these lenses of Christ's Incarnation and Pascal Mystery, we can see reality "in wholeness, not just in parts" and see the underlying solidarity of all creatures. Do I see the immigrant, the stranger, our unborn sisters and brothers as primarily a beloved gift of God or primarily as a threat? Is my primary mode of living one of acquisition and consumption or one of gratitude, stewardship, and generosity?

A highly recommended way to train our vision to see with the eyes of Jesus that our Catholic tradition gives us is the practice of *Examen*. Examen is a daily prayer practice where we take 10-15 minutes of our day to recognize that we are always in the presence of a good and loving God, to thank God for all his gifts and blessings, to review our day asking God to reveal to us where God was present and active, and to ask God's mercy on the times we failed to love. The Examen prayer concludes with the Lord's Prayer, the prayer given to us by Jesus himself. This practice forms our hearts in gratitude and generosity, developing the eyes of our hearts to awaken to God's presence and call to receive his love and share his love each day.

I recently saw this quote from Henri Nouwen on Fr. Joe's coffee mug which to me sums up what it means to see with the eyes of faith, "My deepest vocation is to be a witness to the glimpses of God I have been allowed to catch." My prayer for us all this Lent is that we allow Jesus to heal our vision so that we can see more clearly how to love God, ourselves, all people, and all of creation in a more holy and holistic way. May ours be the cry of Bartimaeus, another blind man healed by Christ, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! I want to see." (Mark 10:46-52)

*John*

### 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.**

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

***"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.***

*1 Samuel 16:7*

God does not care about our home, our career, our possessions but He does care about how we love others and Him - and how we use our God-given gifts here on Earth.



# Worship Schedule

ASSUMPTION	
<b>MON, March 16</b> Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54	
<b>TUES, March 17</b> Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16	<b>8:00a Mass</b> 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
<b>WED, March 18</b> Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30	<b>6:30p Mass</b> <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation</i>
<b>THUR, March 19</b> 2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rm 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a	<b>8:00a Mass</b> 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
<b>FRI, March 20</b> Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	<b>8:00a Mass</b> 8:30a Rosary <b>3:30p Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>SAT, March 21</b> Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53	8:30a Rosary <b>4:30p Mass</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>SUN, March 22</b> Ez 37:12-14 Rm 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9:30a Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

## V is for Vocation: Dcn. Todd Lovas



We give thanks for Dcn. Todd Lovas of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shepherd, and we pray for him in his ministry to the faithful as Director of Parish Life. Ordained in June 2017, Dcn. Todd recently earned a Master's degree in Theology with a Certificate in Liturgical and Sacramental Theology from St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Ind. He lives with his wife, Erin, in Shepherd.

Learn more about vocations:

<https://saginaw.org/vocations>, <https://usccb.org/vocations>

*Father, we're Your people, the work of Your hands. So precious are we in Your sight that you sent Your Son, Jesus. Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, and to rejoice in Your steadfast love. We, the baptized, realize our call to serve. Help us to know how. Call forth from among us priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. With our hearts You continue to love Your people. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen. (USCCB)*

### Lenten Enrichment Series Monday evenings at 6:30pm

March 16

#### Scriptio Divina: A "Hands On" Spiritual Practice with Fr. Jose Maria Cabrera

Sacred Scripture has always been a foundation of Christian spirituality. We pray the Psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours, we meditate on the scriptures through Lectio Divina, and we contemplate God's vision for humanity through the visual arts depicting the events of the Bible. Fr. Jose Maria Cabrera, scripture scholar and pastor of All Saints Parish in Bay City, will explain and lead us in the practice of Scriptio Divina, writing out the words of scripture by hand as a way to internalize its message.

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

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



### - This Week -

**Sunday, March 15**  
**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

**Monday, March 16**

1:30 pm **Blood Drive**  
2-5 pm BeFriender Training  
6:30 pm Lenten Enrichment Series

**Tuesday, March 17**

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary *followed by Meditation*  
3:15 pm Monicas  
5:30 pm Faith Form Comm Meeting  
7:00 pm Finance Council Meeting

**Wednesday, March 18**

1:00 pm Book Study  
5:00 pm Rummage Sale Meeting  
6:15 pm Confirmation  
6:30 pm Mass *followed by Exposition and Reconciliation*  
7:30 pm K of C Exemplification

**Thursday, March 19**

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

**Friday, March 20**

8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary  
3:30 pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 21**

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

**Sunday, March 22**

**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

9:30 am Mass  
C.L.O.W., CFF, Last YM Class  
2:00 pm Communal Rec @ Bles Sac



### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Holy Thursday, April 2nd**

5:30pm Parish Potluck  
7:00pm Mass

8:00-10:30pm Adoration  
10:30pm Night Prayer

**Good Friday, April 3rd**

1:00pm Liturgy

8:00pm Ecumenical Tenebrae Service

**Holy Saturday, April 4th**

8:30am Morning Prayer  
*(with blessing of food)*  
8:30pm Vigil

**Easter Sunday, April 5th**

9:30am Mass

## WELCOMING New Members

Assumption would like to welcome our new members who have joined our parish community:

**Larry & Kathy Sedrowski**  
**Manoj Shah**

*We welcome you as we grow in faith together!*

If you are interested in becoming a member of our parish community, please call the parish office at (989) 631-4447.

# Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

## CHILDREN

Mar	15, 22	CFF and CLOW
	21	Reconciliation Retreat
	29	No CFF and No CLOW <i>(spring break)</i>
Apr	5	No CFF and No CLOW <i>(Happy Easter!)</i>
	12, 19	CFF and CLOW
	25	First Eucharist Retreat
	26	<b>Last CFF and Last CLOW</b>
May	3	First Eucharist at 9:30am Mass



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 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.	15	YM
	22	<b>Last YM session at Assumption</b>
	18, 25	Confirmation Prep



Have questions about YM or events, please contact: Kathy Russell ([kathyr@assumptionmidland.org](mailto: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](http://saginaw.org/wyd).

For questions, contact Taylor Piotrkowski, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at [tpiotrkowski@diosaq.org](mailto: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!



**Sunday,  
March 22nd**  
**Communal Reconciliation  
2pm at  
Blessed Sacrament**



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.

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



## FOOD TRUCK OUTREACH

In cooperation with the Midland County Food Assistance Network we are planning to host a food truck again this July.

It will take many hands to unload the many pallets of food, load grocery carts at the various food stations, and unload the grocery carts into the cars of those in need—*please sign-up in the gathering space if you can help.* We are currently taking donations to pay for the food truck as a form of Lenten almsgiving in the gathering space.



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 the welcome circle  
at [www.globalcompassioninc.org](http://www.globalcompassioninc.org)  
at [hope@globalcompassioninc.org](mailto:hope@globalcompassioninc.org)  
or call 989-835-1127

## 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](http://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.



### Join your fellow parishioners in the Knights of Columbus and keep our parish strong!

Did you know that joining the world's largest Catholic fraternity is simpler than ever to do? The next exemplification ceremony, which lasts 35-40 minutes, is on:

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30pm in DuRussel Hall and is open to guests including family and friends.

Contact Matt Glaccum directly (989-430-8622 / [md2141@mikofc.org](mailto:md2141@mikofc.org)) or approach any member of the Knights if you or someone you know is interested in joining our brotherhood.

Membership forms and info can be found in the gathering space. Help us help others.

Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141 – Over One Hundred Years of Service



Mark your Calendar!

## ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

May 19-21, 2026

Drop off on May 14-16 (Thursday thru Saturday)

More information to follow at a later date.

# Call for Musicians

## *ELIJAH*

PART I

Felix Mendelssohn

This thrilling oratorio for choir and orchestra tells the story of the prophet Elijah's mission to bring the people of Israel back into God's favor. Themes of justice, mercy, and faith are expressed through this dynamic and emotional work. Come join us for a memorable performance!

**Sunday, May 17 • 3pm**

***Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption***

615 Hoyt Ave, Saginaw, MI 48607

**Thursday, May 21 • 6:30pm**

***Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish***

3516 E. Monroe Rd, Midland, MI 48642

### **REHEARSALS:**

**Saturdays beginning March 7  
11am-1pm at Assumption Parish**

*Some scores provided. Bring your own if you have one!*

**For more information or to participate, please contact  
Jim Renfer at [jim@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:jim@assumptionmidland.org)**

# Feeding Our Faith

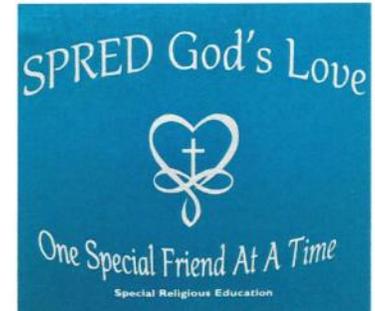
Mar./Apr. 2026

A newsletter brought to you by the **Catholic** COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MID-MICHIGAN

## Catholic Sisters Support Special Education

As the Foundation celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it honors its connection to the work of local religious sisters for National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14.

The Society of the Mission Sisters of the Holy Spirit was established in 1954 as a Saginaw diocesan community that focused on social work, religious education, and later parish ministry. Now, in 2026, their legacy continues as they celebrate the 54<sup>th</sup> year of their Sponsored Ministry called SPRED, or Special Religious Development for individuals with special needs.



SPRED was brought to the Diocese of Saginaw by Sr. Elaine Raymond in 1972. Since its beginning, Sr. Elaine “has called SPRED a process of faith formation designed to help those participating discover belonging and the celebration of the Sacraments, as well as being together and becoming part of a community.” In her experience, SPRED is truly a process, not a program. Today, SPRED continues with the ongoing support of Sisters Elaine Raymond, Mary Lou Owczarzak, and Margo Tafoya. SPRED has also continued under the direction of Marsha Caylor since 1981 with the many volunteers who journey with students.

\$7,293

disbursed from the Ann & Richard Blazewski Endowment since 2010

“Our goal is to be a faith community for students,” said Marsha. When groups of eight students with special needs meet every other week at St. Dominic Parish in Saginaw, they join volunteer catechists to quiet their minds, pray and sing together, and find a community of friendship rooted in faith. That sense of community is what truly makes SPRED such a special process. In the words of Sr. Margo, “It’s a heart ministry.”

SPRED receives annual disbursements from two endowments managed by the Catholic Community Foundation: the Ann & Richard Blazewski Endowment and the Fr. C. Albrecht Catholic Education Fund. While supporting other organizations in addition to SPRED, the two funds combined have disbursed over \$19,000 to provide religious education to individuals with special needs. “It just helps keep us going,” said Marsha. “We really want those who are contributing to know.”

\$12,193

disbursed from the Fr. C. Albrecht Catholic Education Fund since 2009

Both funds also carry on a legacy of giving that honors loved ones. In fact, Sr. Elaine was Fr. Craig Albrecht’s religious education coordinator when he was growing up. “He had a love for Elaine, and especially for SPRED,” said Sr. Margo. Now, with an endowment, his legacy of giving continues to support his love of SPRED through the Foundation.

Catholic  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

Celebrating 20 Years!

Celebrating 20 years generously supporting the spiritual, educational, and social needs of the Diocese of Saginaw.



Scan the QR code to follow our Facebook page!

# Catholic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2006

*Celebrating 20 Years!*

2026

## Our Board of Trustees

Mike Shabluk - *President*  
 Bob Miller - *Vice President*  
 Alan Watson - *Treasurer*  
 Debra Gunn - *Secretary*

Bishop Robert Gruss - *Ex officio*  
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 Ruth Buko  
 Hector Malacara  
 Mary Reynolds  
 Dcn. Bob Sasiela  
 Dcn. Rick Warner  
 Rob Warner

## Our Staff

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

## 2026 Quarter-At-A-Glance

**March 10, 11:30 a.m.**  
**Board Meeting**  
 Center for Ministry  
 5802 Weiss Street  
 Saginaw, MI 48603

**April 1**  
 2026 Grant applications open

**May 5, 12:00 p.m.**  
 Virtual Investment Forum  
 RSVP via email to receive the online meeting link.

## Catholic Sisters (continued)

In addition to the endowments, SPRED also relies on individual donors. Many Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary groups from Saginaw and the surrounding areas host Tootsie Roll drives to raise money, or donate the proceeds of Monday Burger Night to support SPRED.



*Marsha Caylor (third from right) with SPRED students at a Halloween dance.*

SPRED also holds opportunities for fellowship outside the classroom. Whether it's a summer picnic, a Mass, or a dance, students in SPRED strengthen their friendship and faith with friends, family, and volunteers in the spirit of Catholic faith.

As for the future of the program, the sisters have faith that the legacy of inclusion started by Sr. Elaine will continue, as they look for future possibilities of how to continue this vital ministry. "It is of God," the sisters say. "It will continue with the help of God."

## Investment Forum 2026

The 2026 Investment Forum will be held virtually on **Tuesday, May 5, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Our annual Investment Forum is an opportunity to hear directly from the Foundation's nationally-renowned financial advisors from CAPTRUST. Their presentation will focus on the Foundation's investment performance and strategies for growth. With \$46 million currently in assets under management, the Foundation is your local, Catholic organization dedicated to stewarding endowed funds for the Diocese of Saginaw. The Investment Forum is your opportunity to learn how investing an endowed fund can provide perpetual support to your parish, school, or organization.

This event is free and open to the public. **To RSVP, please scan the QR code or call 989.303.9200.** Prior to the forum on May 5, a link to access the virtual meeting will be sent to participants via email.





### Catholic Relief Services

This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support to struggling communities and to work toward peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. *Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.* If you would like to give, there is an envelope in your packet or you can give online.

Learn more at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

Dear John and Assumption Parish,  
Thank you so much for coming up to see us at the hospital. We appreciate all your prayers for Megan. We also want to thank the Assumption Parish family for their prayers for Megan's health. Megan has been off oxygen treatments for over one full week! Thanks be to God!

Blessings, Mike, Kathy and Megan Fischer



### 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.

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



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