

FIFTH SUNDAY Of Lent

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

March 22, 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.

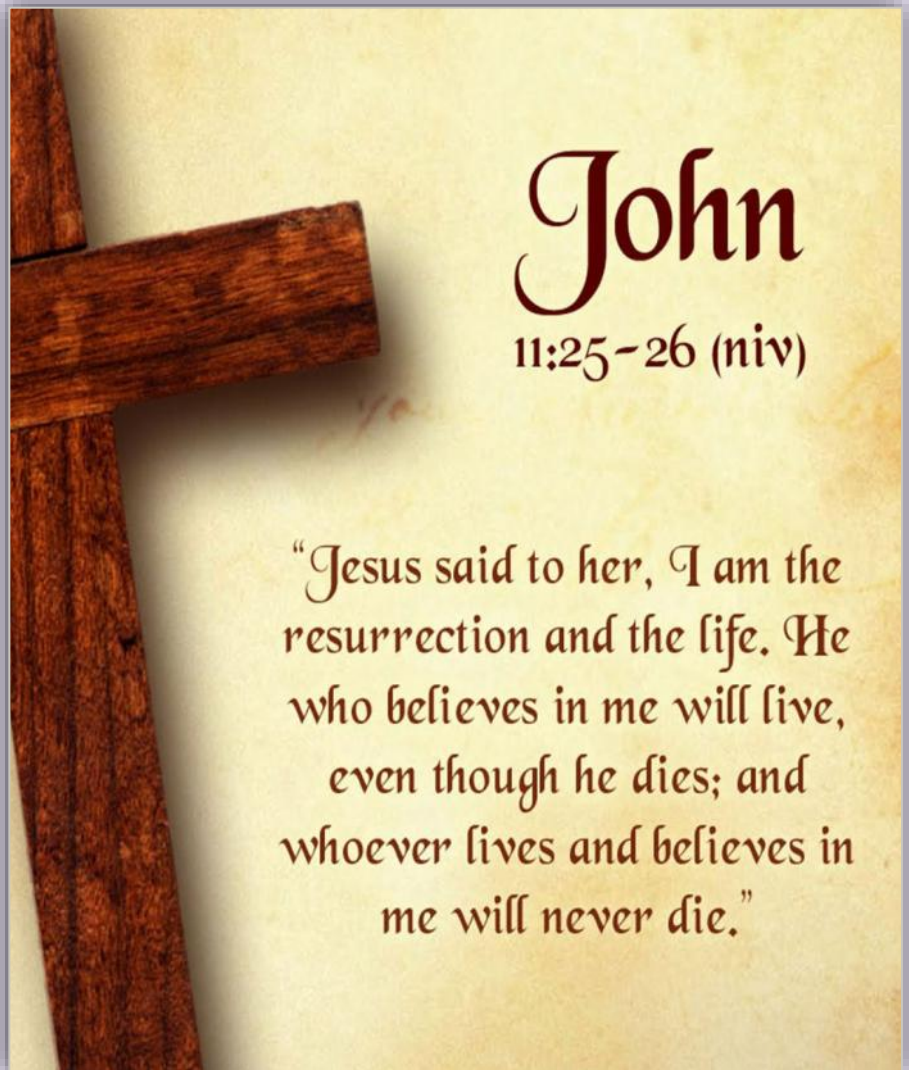
See inside the bulletin for the weekday schedule of worship services.

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



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.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

MONDAY at noon, **MARCH 23**...For the Palm Sunday Bulletin, March 29
THURSDAY at noon, **MARCH 26**...For the Easter Bulletin, April 5

From our Director of Parish Life



"When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said: See, I have come to do your will, O God as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" Hebrews 10:5-7

This week, we celebrate the Fifth week of Lent before the celebration of Palm Sunday and the commemoration of Holy Week. A number of years ago, the priest at the parish where I was attending Mass on Palm Sunday began by saying, "Well, if you haven't had the Lent you were hoping for on Ash Wednesday, if you haven't prayed as much or as fervently, if you haven't kept your Lenten fast, if you haven't given alms, if you have fallen back into the sins of which you repented at the beginning of Lent . . . it's too late now. You've blown your opportunity! In the name of the Father . . ." Not quite the encouraging message that I was expecting!

I'll take a different angle on this as we near the culmination of Lent. If your Lent hasn't been what you were planning on Ash Wednesday, there is still time to finish strong! There are two Monday spiritual enrichment opportunities and Stations of the Cross this Friday in which you can participate. Commit yourself to two good weeks of prayer, fasting, and works of charity. CRS Rice Bowls are still available in the Gathering Space for collection between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If you feel you've lost your battle with our human weaknesses, offer your woundedness to the Lord, for the Grace of God "is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. So, I will boast more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. (2 Corinthians 12:9). It's never too late to look with trust to God's love and mercy.

"Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord. Let it be done unto me according to your word.'" Luke 1:38

This Wednesday, March 25, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. We remember the day that the angel Gabriel came to Mary and asked her to become the mother of Jesus. This moment has been called the "fullness of time." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 744) It is the apex point of human history, the moment in time when God become human and dwelled among us. (John 1:14) Theologically, we call this mystery the Incarnation.

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.

We are blessed at Assumption Parish to have a powerful reminder of the Incarnation in our Worship Space. Our statue of *Mary Ark of the New Covenant*, bearing Jesus within her womb, fashioned for us by artist Suzanne M. Young of Detroit, is an inspiring artistic representation to the pre-eminent way that Mary gives us, each of us personally and together as a parish faith community, the perfect example of Christian discipleship. The original Ark of the Covenant symbolized God's presence among his Chosen People. Through her "Let it be" to the call of God, Mary became the Theotokos, the God-Bearer. She became the Ark of the New Covenant. Wherever she went when pregnant with the Christ child, she brought within her the Divine Presence. When the time came for her to give birth, she revealed to the world the love of God incarnate in the Christ child. Likewise, we are called to bear the presence of God poured into our hearts at Baptism and that we receive into our bodies each week in the Eucharist. We are called, both personally and as a church to give birth to the love of God in the flesh through our participation in the works of charity and justice.

In the fall of 2025, former Assumption parishioner and staff member Sue LeVasseur found a Mary statue at a local Goodwill store. It was an almost exact replica of our *Mary Ark of the New Covenant* statue. It was signed and dated similarly to our life-sized statue. Sue contacted the artist who confirmed it was a model of our statue that she created for our parish. Sue purchased the statue at Goodwill and donated it to us. Anne Fitak asked Ken Simmer to make a base for it, and we are now discerning a permanent location for it. Truly, the Lord was involved in this seeming "coincidence!"

"Jesus advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.'" Matthew 26:39

At a staff meeting a few weeks ago, our Director of Youth Ministry Kathy Russell pointed out that there is no permanent

crucifix in the Holy Grounds fellowship area. When I brought this to the Worship Commission, Noreen Warrick generously offered to bring a crucifix of hers to donate for this area.

The Cross of Christ also has a possible connection to the date of March 25. According to an article published this past December on the *Biblical Archeology Society* website authored by Anglican theologian Andrew McGowan, Dean and President of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University, it was a common belief in the early Church that Jesus was crucified on the same date that he was conceived, March 25. St. Augustine in the 5th century was aware of this, writing, "he [Jesus] is believed to have been conceived on the 25th of March, upon which day also he suffered; so the womb of the Virgin, in which he was conceived, where no one of mortals was begotten, corresponds to the new grave in which he was buried, wherein was never man laid, neither before him nor since." Another person who seemed to be aware of this tradition of thought was J.R.R. Tolkien, the Catholic author of *The Lord of the Rings*. He designed his saga so that the climactic event of the trilogy, the destruction of the One Ring (the symbol of evil and the spirit of domination) happened on March 25, the day of Christ's Incarnation and also his Crucifixion. We don't know with absolute certainty the exact dates of any of the mysteries of our faith. However, there is a tradition of Christian thinking that makes it fitting to remember both the Incarnation and the Crucifixion on March 25.

Consequently, **we will have Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation at 6:30 this Wednesday evening. During the liturgy, Fr. Rick will bless our new statue of *Mary Ark of the New Covenant* and our new Holy Grounds crucifix.** As usual, our Wednesday evening Mass will be followed by an opportunity for Individual Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration. This is another opportunity to focus our Lenten observance before we enter Holy Week.

John

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'" John 11:40

It is easy to say that we believe in God when things are going smoothly, but do our thoughts and words and actions change when we are in crisis or when life is not going as we had hoped or planned? This Lent can be a good time to examine our lives and consider if we live our lives with gratitude for God's gifts and recognize that He provides for all our needs.



Worship Schedule

ASSUMPTION	
MON, March 23 Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11	_____
TUES, March 24 Nm 21:4-9 Jn 8:21-30	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
WED, March 25 Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD 6:30p Mass <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation</i>
THUR, March 26 Gen 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
FRI, March 27 Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary 3:30p Stations of the Cross
SAT, March 28 Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	8:30a Rosary 4:30p Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
SUN, March 29 Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14-27:66	9:30a Mass PALM SUNDAY <i>People of the Parish</i>



V is for Vocation: Sisters of Our Mother of Divine Grace

We give thanks for the Sisters of Our Mother of Divine Grace who call St. Mary Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Port Sanilac home. We pray

for them in their ministries to the faithful of the parishes of the Thumb. The Sisters started their order 15 years ago, but their journey began much earlier, taking them across the country and across the sea to discern what God was calling them to do. Please read this article for more info: <https://greatlakesbaycatholic.com/journey-yes>

Learn more about a vocation to the Sisters of Our Mother of Divine Grace: <https://www.sistersmdg.org/vocation/come-see>

Hail Mary, full of grace; all generations call you blessed.

Be with us as we discern our life's work and guide us in the way we are called to follow in the footsteps of your Son. Bless and embrace the loving parents of all priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to the harvest in this land dedicated to your honor. Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of the Sick, inspire vocations in our time. Amen. (USCCB)

Lenten Enrichment Series Monday evenings at 6:30pm

Monday, March 23rd

The Music of the Saints with Jim Renfer

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, many saints have been moved to compose music to honor God and to give us new words and tones with which to pray. In this reflective service, we will pray with music focused on the sources of strength and healing that the saints found their solace in: the Eucharist and the intercession of Mary. As our Lenten journey draws to a close, come and fill your hearts and souls with peaceful music and inspired words written by those who are closest to God.

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



- This Week -

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

Monday, March 23

10:00 am Stitch and Chat

6:30 pm Lenten Enrichment Series

Tuesday, March 24

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary followed by Meditation

3:15 pm Monicas

Wednesday, March 25

1:00 pm Book Study

6:15 pm Confirmation

6:30 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Reconciliation

Thursday, March 26

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary followed by Scripture

7:00 pm Choir practice

Friday, March 27

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Rosary

3:30 pm Stations of the Cross

6:00 pm Lenten Family Movie Night

Saturday, March 28

8:30 am Rosary

Men's Faith Study after Rosary

4:30 pm Mass

FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND

K OF C TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

Sunday, March 29

PALM SUNDAY

9:30 am Mass

No C.L.O.W., No CFF

FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND

K OF C TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE



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



FOOD PANTRY

Our next collection

will be

March 28/29

Please be sure to pick up your blue bag after Mass this weekend. If you have a blue bag at home you might consider using it or bringing it in for others to use. Thank you!

Congratulations

to the Freeland Boys' Basketball Team

Who won the D-2 state championship last Saturday in East Lansing. Their head coach is parishioner John Fattale. He and his wife Lauren were married here one year ago this weekend, on March 22, 2025.



**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!

**Sign-up today by scanning
the QR code. Questions??
Contact Kathy Russell.**



**The time to register is now!!
Please register before Spring Break!!
Deadline to register...Wednesday, April 8th!**

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)

**Save \$25 by registering by March 31st. Save an additional \$25 if 5 or more register as a group (Please contact Kathy Russell to register as part of a group!)*

For more information contact Kathy Russell!

Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN

Mar	22 29	CFF and CLOW No CFF and No CLOW <i>(spring break)</i>
Apr	5 12, 19 25 26	No CFF and No CLOW <i>(Happy Easter!)</i> CFF and CLOW First Eucharist Retreat Last CFF and Last CLOW
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

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.	22 25	Last YM session at Assumption Confirmation Prep
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*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 a movie! Join us for this animated classic about Moses, featuring an incredible score with an Oscar-winning song, and stunning artwork. We'll have the popcorn, bring any additional snacks you'd like. So get comfy, grab your blanket and stuffie, and join us for this "royal" show!



**FOOD TRUCK
OUTREACH
is scheduled for
July 22, 2026**

*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.

**Happy
BIRTHDAY**

Shirley Siebert
March 21 / 91 years



**Happy
BIRTHDAY**

Sheldon Levy
March 21 / 88 years

Thank You!

We continue to collect cans and bottles for Youth Ministry events. There is a container by the doors to the DuRussel Hall on the south side of the building.

Thank you all for your continued support of our youth!! ~Kathy



OPERATION RICE BOWL

We will be collecting all rice bowls beginning next weekend. There will be a designated basket for your donations. Thank you!

"May our prayers and fasting unite us with those who hunger. May we share of our blessings with those in need. Amen."



Looking for a Treasure?
**Come to Our Lady of Grace Annual
Rummage/Bake Sale**

Thurs, April 16....9:30am – 5pm
Fri, April 17....9:30am – 5pm
Sat, April 18....8:30am – 12noon

No early sales...

Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall, Sanford

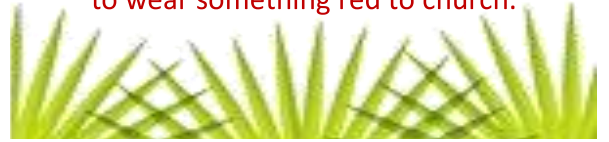


**Palm Sunday
Next Weekend—WEAR RED!**

March 28 and 29

we will be celebrating *Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.*

The liturgical color is red, so you are invited to wear something red to church.



*Mark
your
Calendar!*

**ANNUAL
RUMMAGE SALE**

May 19-21, 2026

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

More information to follow



**Praise and Worship
is Thursday, March 26!**

Did you know that praising God pushes against the realm of Satan?

**Come and join us at
Our Lady of Grace (St. Agnes)
in Sanford to praise God in song!
Praising starts at 7:00 p.m.**



Questions? Contact Music Director, Ceil Duley

In Loving Memory of
Robert Gray

Lord, we remember in our prayers Robert whom you have recently called to be with you. May the calming peace of your love be with his family.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." ~John 11:25-26

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**



“Thanks so much for your support!” from Assumption Knights of Columbus

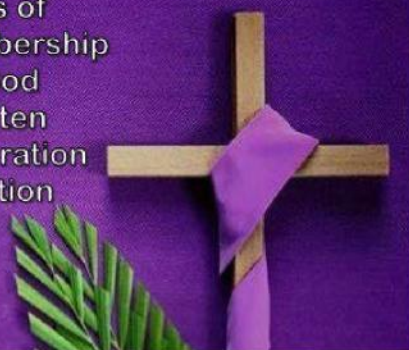
The **Knights of Fr. Henry P. DuRussel Council 2141** would like to extend their THANKS to those who supported the council’s recent pierogi sales.

- February sale - 2/21-22: **over \$1240** in net proceeds to support operating the ultrasound unit at **LifeClinic Community Resources** here in Midland.
- March sale - 3/14-15: **over \$820** in net proceeds to support **Midland County Food Assistance Network** providing resources to the food insecure.

Thanks for your generosity to help those in need, and a big thank you to all those who joined us in the kitchen these past few months!



Let your Knights of Columbus membership be your gift to God during your Lenten journey in celebration of His Resurrection



Join Now for FREE
Promo Code: **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**
Use the QR code to join the Knights of Columbus and start your Lenten Journey.



You're Invited!!

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

K of C Exemplification Ceremony

Coming up later this spring

For more info, contact Matt Glaccum
989-430-8622 | md2141@mikofc.org

WORSHIP COMMISSION MINUTES

March 9, 2026

Present: John Graveline, Jim Renfer, Dave Vickery, Noreen Warrick, and Marilyn Zank



Jim Renfer called the meeting in order with prayer at 10:30 a.m.

1. Jim reviewed the proposed agenda for the meeting (Theme for the Easter Season and Plans to Honor the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Current Worship Space). No amendments to the agenda were proposed.
2. Discussion by the commission regarding the agenda items ensued, with the following ideas being suggested as possible themes for the Easter season.
 - a. The presentation of Act I of Felix Mendelsohn's oratorio *Elijah* focuses on the restoration of the faith of the Israelites and the end of the three-year drought.
 - b. The 25th Anniversary of our Worship Space suggests a theme of stewardship.
 - c. The Resurrection caused the disciples to re-think everything that they understood in light of Christ's Resurrection, suggesting a theme: "*What Does the Resurrection Mean for Me?*"
 - d. As a Diocese, we are focused on evangelization, suggesting a theme of "City on a Hill" or "Let Our Light Shine." As an alternative, the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter suggests a theme "That All May Come to Believe."
 - e. As a parish preparing to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our current Worship Space, the commission considered a theme that encourages us to reflect backward with gratitude and look forward with hope.
3. The Commission discussed activities to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Sanctuary.
 - a. John proposed working toward a celebration in the fall, including the celebration of Mass with the Bishop.
 - b. In connection with a discussion of stewardship, we discussed hosting a Ministry Fair. This idea can be considered along with planning for the 25th Anniversary Celebration to complement that work.
 - c. We discussed inviting parishioners to give three-minute witness talks each weekend during the Easter season speaking to how membership in the parish has specifically helped each witness to grow in their faith. Commission members shared some names and will share additional names of possible witnesses with one another via email. Dave Vickery volunteered to work with John to invite and schedule witnesses.
4. Details were shared to confirm the order for Easter lilies for the Easter season.

Jim led the commission in a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Noreen Warrick

ABVM Finance Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026

Present: John Graveline, Dave Vickery – Chairperson, Brenda Gordert,
Barbara Junga, Sandy Martinski, April Timm
Absent: Paul Brown



The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
John Graveline led the group in prayer.

The meeting minutes from January 20, 2026 were approved.

Administrator’s Report

A few more donations have been received toward this year’s Christ Mission Appeal. As of this meeting date, we are close but still a little short of our goal of \$80,951.

Establishing Parish Capital/Endowment Fund

- John and Paul will update the capital improvement inventory’s immediate and future needs.
- Dave and Barb will talk with Kristin Smith from the Catholic Community Foundation to gather more details for startup activities.

Draft of Updated Finance Council By-Laws

Dave presented a draft of the updated Finance Council By-Laws from the Diocese for the council to review. A Zoom meeting will be held March 10 for final approval.

Finance Review FY 2025-2026

The financial statement for January was not available due to moving the meeting date earlier in the month.

Building and Grounds

John discussed remodeling the restrooms that are near classrooms. The Council was in agreement to move forward with design and estimates.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Gordert

Future Meeting Dates

March 10, 2026 (Zoom Mtg)
May 19, 2026

March 17, 2026

April 21, 2026

Assumption BVM
Pastoral Council Committee Minutes
March 10, 2026

Present: Lucy Daykin, Bob Dvorak, Ann Gach, John Graveline, John Havel,
Sam Kearl, Sean Richards and Noreen Warrick

Excused: Heather Fisher



John called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

John led the council in opening prayer.

1. **Review and Approve Minutes of February Meeting**

The council approved the minutes of the February 3, 2026 meeting as presented.

2. **Welcome New Member**

John welcomed Sean Richards as a joint member of the Pastoral Council and Finance Council.

3. **Review and Approval of Amended Pastoral Council Statutes**

John provided an update on the project to update the Pastoral Council by-laws in response to the decree of Bishop Gruss. John led a detailed discussion of the proposed by-laws, directing the council members to language in the existing by-laws and the diocesan norms to highlight the amendments proposed. Discussion by the council ensued with minor editorial suggestions offered which were accepted by John. A motion to accept the by-laws as discussed was approved by the council without objection.

4. **Council Questions and Perspectives**

Beginning with the next term year, photographs of the parish council and finance council will be in the gathering space to promote feedback and communication.

The parish staff will be cleaning the building on Thursday, April 9th. A bulletin announcement will be placed soliciting volunteers.

A suggestion was made to include Act of Spiritual Communion prayer in each worship aid for the benefit of those unable to receive the Eucharist sacramentally.

Favorable feedback was received on the formation activities underway by the Befrienders Ministry, with four befrienders in training.

5. **New Business**

John updated the council on the work of the recent work of the finance council.

Following a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at about 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Noreen Warrick

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.



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.

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 Jearthiele@gmail.com



Weekend Offerings

March 7/8, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$3,836
Online Giving (3/2-3/8)	\$3,235
Donations	\$5,000
Weekend Total	\$12,071
Weekly Goal	\$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall)	\$2,840

March 14/15, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$3,094
Online Giving (3/9-3/15)	\$2,216
Donations	\$1,900
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