



Easter Sunday

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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

April 5, 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,

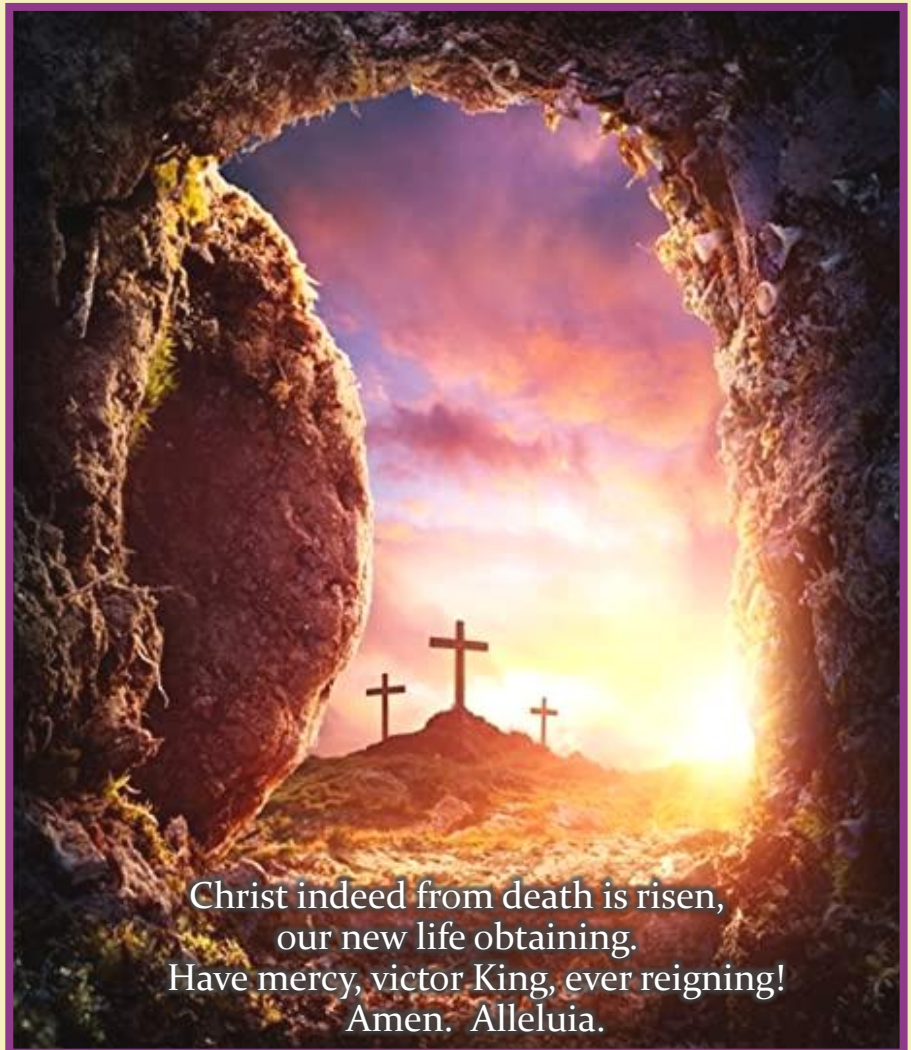
Email: val@assumptionmidland.org

Rachelle Boyer,

Email: rachelle@assumptionmidland.org

Evangelization Liaison: Anna Martin,

Email: anna@assumptionmidland.org



Christ indeed from death is risen,
our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia.

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

From our Director of Parish Life

"Jesus said to them, 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'" John 10:10

Easter is the celebration of new and abundant life, a new creation; but what kind of life are we celebrating?

Life on earth is a miracle. Once, when exploring the Badlands, naturalist, as he recounted in his book *The Immense Journey*, Loren Eiseley noted the fossilized ground he traversed. "The shearing molars of dead titanotheres, the delicate sabers of soft-stepping cats, the hollow sockets that held the eyes of many a strange, outmoded beast," composed of a combination of carbon, iron, calcium, and phosphorous. Then, overhead, a "wild flight of south-bound warblers hurtled over me into the on-coming dark. There went phosphorus, there went iron, there went carbon, there beat the calcium in those hurrying wings. Alone on a dead planet, I watched that incredible miracle speeding past." The same elements and chemicals were present both in the dead fossils and soil and the vibrant birds. What was the difference? Science alone cannot discern what makes these chemicals *alive* here and those same chemicals *not alive there*? The answer lies in the immaterial miracle of life, what we have come to call **soul**. When we have eyes open to this miracle of life, we see that all life (plant, animal, and human) is a good and wondrous gift, teeming with abundance.

However, we sense that all is not well. While life is abundant, it is not infinite. It has limits. When I say *yes* to this good thing, I am simultaneously saying *no* the possibility of other good things. When I give you my undivided attention, I necessarily cannot give anyone else my undivided attention. Over and over again, we run into (and are often frustrated by) the limitations of life. There is only so much time, so much energy, so much material wealth. The ultimate limit to life is *death*. Our time in this earthly life is finite. It will end. Thereupon, the chemicals that comprise our bodies will lose their vital tension and dissipate. Coming to this stark realization, some people come to see life itself as absurd and lose the will to live. However, we sense in our rebellion against the limitations of life, especially the ultimate limitation of death, evidence that we are meant for more. We believe that some essential element of our existence, our souls, are immortal. The soul lives on forever even after the death of the body.

While this truth may be comforting, it is not itself free from problems. What

does life after death look like, feel like? Can life without a body ever be properly called *human*? How can we find out? Is there pain and suffering on the other side of death? Is there hatred and violence? Is there peace and love? If our immortal souls after death are united with God the loving creator, sustained, and ground of all existence, then what bliss! But if our immortal souls after death are alienated from that good God, everlasting life is the ultimate curse! As Catholics, isn't it our belief that the meaning of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that he has saved our souls so that they can participate in the blessedness of Heaven? Absolutely, for "by his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has 'opened' heaven to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1026)

But through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, God offers us something much better than everlasting bliss. God offers us a share in God's own **eternal life** through Baptism and the other Sacraments. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states it this way, "The Word became flesh to make us 'partakers of the divine nature' (2 Peter 1:4) For this is why the Word became man . . . so that we, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a child of God. For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." (no. 460) Theologian Romano Guardini in his book *The Lord* explains it this way, "eternal life has nothing to do with the length of that life; it is not the opposite of transitory life. Perhaps we come closest to the truth when we define it as life which participates in the life of God . . . this eternal life does not wait until after death to begin. It already exists. The essence of Christian consciousness is founded on its presence—through faith." Eternal life, the absolute, infinite, abundant life that Jesus says is the reason that he became one of us, is present to us right here and now if we open ourselves to this mystery in faith and approach the Sacraments, especially Holy Communion



as frequently as possible. "Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.'" (John 6:53-57)

*"May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this."
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

This offer of Eternal Life through the death and resurrection of Jesus is the meaning of Easter, is the Life—the New Creation—that we celebrate today. To gratefully open our minds and hearts to receive this gift, to allow this gift of Eternal Life to grow and transform us, to share this gift with everyone we meet is salvation, for our entire persons—spirits, souls, and bodies—for our entire world and for the entire cosmos.

John

Easter Sunday

"... He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that He did ... This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance ... He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God ..." Acts 10:38; 40-42

In his preaching, Peter reminds us that we are chosen to bear witness to the risen Christ. This presence and witness were not just for the followers of Jesus during his worldly life, but to us all as members of His Church today. Reflect how you bear witness to Christ in your everyday life.



Worship Schedule

ASSUMPTION	
MON, April 6 Acts 2:14, 22-33 Mt 28:8-15	8:00a Mass
TUES, April 7 Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
WED, April 8 Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35	6:30p Mass <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation</i>
THUR, April 9 Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Scripture</i>
FRI, April 10 Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary
SAT, April 11 Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15	8:00a Mass 8:30a Rosary 4:30p Mass <i>Steve Fitak</i>
SUN, April 12 Acts 2:42-47 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31	SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY 9:30a Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>



V is for Vocation: The Faithful of Assumption Parish

We give thanks for the good and faithful servants of Assumption Parish. We pray for all who serve as volunteers, staff, and ministers to others—the young, the needy, the sick, and the dying. We pray that their actions inspire others to heed God’s call to holiness. As we stand united in our faith that Christ is risen, so too this day we joyfully proclaim, “we are an Easter people, and Hallelujah is our Song!” Learn more about opportunities to serve in parish ministries at www.assumptionmary.org.

Father in heaven, You sent us Your only Son to redeem us and to build Your kingdom on earth. Grant to the faithful a spirit of generosity, as You have called them to life and gifted them in many ways. Through Baptism, You have sent us to continue the mission of Jesus. Help us to become all You desire of us. Inspire us to make a difference in others' lives. Fill us all with Your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and the courage to respond to You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (adapted from USCCB)

New Here? Welcome!

We're so happy to meet you. If you're new or returning to your faith and want to go deeper, or you're looking for connection and a community to call home, there's a place for you at Assumption.



To learn more and get connected, scan the QR code or visit

www.AssumptionMary.org/welcome



EASTER ALLELUIAS would not be possible without the help of so many



- The Art & Environment committee who spent countless hours creating and preparing the environment to enhance our prayer;
- All the liturgical ministers who served in roles of sacristan, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers and greeters;
- Musicians, both singers and instrumentalists, whose gifts enhanced our full and active participation;
- The Media Outreach Ministry's livestream of all of the liturgies, including outside at the fire on the Easter Vigil;
- In a special way, Fr. Rick Filary, our parish Sacramental Minister, who presided at our liturgies, preached inspiring homilies, and guided our Holy Week liturgies with his wealth of experience.

All told, over 50 parishioners served in one of the above ministries (some people served in more than one role or served on multiple occasions). The parish family of ABVM is ever so grateful for your generous spirit and the way you live out your baptism in service to all of us!

We truly are blessed! Alleluia, Alleluia!



- This Week -

Sunday, April 5
EASTER SUNDAY
9:30 am Mass

Monday, April 6
8:00 am Mass

Tuesday, April 7
8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary followed by meditation
No Monicas
5:30 pm Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 8
6:30 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Reconciliation

Thursday, April 9
8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary followed by Scripture
7:00 pm Choir practice

Friday, April 10
8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary

Saturday, April 11
8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Rosary
Men's Faith Study after Rosary
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, April 12
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
9:30 am Mass
C.L.O.W., CFF
Coffee & Donut Sunday
Welcome 5th Grade to YM





Save the Date
June 15-18, 2026
at Blessed Sacrament

RAINFOREST FALLS
Exploring the Nature of God

Welcome to Middle School!
An event for 5th grade students
(from any church and any school)
Sunday, April 12th from 6-8pm
at Assumption

Do you have a 5th grader? Is he/she looking forward to middle school? Are there things that he/she is nervous about? Do they have questions about what middle school is like? Then register him/her for our Welcome to Middle School event **on April 12 at Assumption!** All 5th graders are invited to this special event designed to give them a taste of what middle school and Middle School Youth Ministry is like! We'll play games, eat pizza, decorate pillow cases, and have time for students to ask current middle schoolers all about middle school and Middle School Youth Ministry! At YM, students can be themselves.

Middle Schoolers Volunteers Needed!

We need middle school volunteers to help out at this event! If you have a middle schooler who would love to share their experiences in middle school and help the 5th graders to feel more at ease with this transition, please sign them up by registering them for the event! Thank you! :)

Register 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.
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

- Apr 5 No CFF and No CLOW (Happy Easter!)
- 12, 19 CFF and CLOW
- 25 First Eucharist Retreat
- 26 **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.

YM has wrapped up for the year. Watch your email and the bulletin for spring/summer YM news & events!

- April 12 5th grade event 6-8 pm
- 18-19 Y2Y Retreat
- May 31 **Graduation Mass**



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.



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. **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!





Filled with Easter Joy, **we remember those who have gone to be with our resurrected Lord.**

**Thank you to those who donated to the Easter
Flower Fund in remembrance of a loved one.**

*In honor of their memory, we list those here
whom we have been asked to remember.*

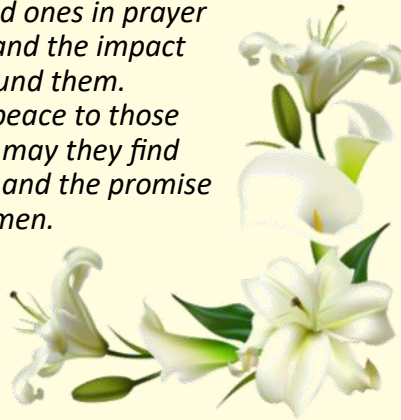
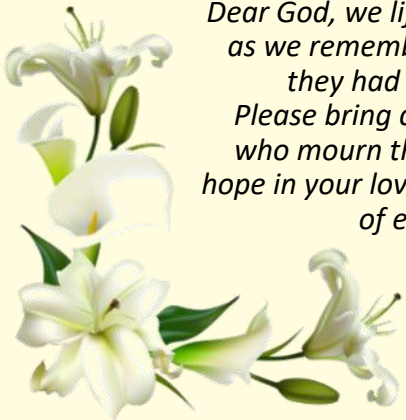
**If you have requested an Easter Lily to take home,
they will be available to be picked up from the
church gathering space after the Easter octave.**

*Michael, Elizabeth &
Patricia Antczak
Irene Beck
HelenAnne Kingsbury
Bourne
Delores Cusick
Dan & Dorothy Filary
Jerry & Doris Havel
Joe & Lois Kearl
Cal Kessler
Kenneth J. Kessler
Marie T. Kessler*

*Kurt & Colleen Kleinhans
Mary Kuchta
Larry Lovely
Richard & Frances Miller
Rex Morrison
Natalie Pfenninger
John & Barb Russell
James Semanco
Richard & Mary
Tarchinski
Mary Lou Turin*

*Dear God, we lift up our loved ones in prayer
as we remember their life and the impact
they had on those around them.*

*Please bring comfort and peace to those
who mourn their loss, and may they find
hope in your loving presence and the promise
of eternal life. 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, Sanford

**Divine Mercy Sunday
April 12, 2026**

*The bilingual "Heritage Mass"
will be celebrated at*

2:00 PM at Our Lady of

Czestochowa Parish in Bay City

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Eucharistic Benediction will follow. The Mass and the homily will be in English with hymns and some responses sung in English and Polish. All are invited to the Polish-style reception (*Święconka*) in the Parish Center after the Liturgy.

To receive the plenary indulgence and special graces on Divine Mercy Sunday, Catholics should make a sacramental confession within a reasonable time before (or after) the feast, ideally within 20 days, and be in a state of grace, free from attachment to sin.

**Coffee, Donuts
& Fellowship**

**will be served after Mass
next Sunday, April 12th.**

Please plan to join in!



Assumption Parish Music Ministry is happy to host the Canada-based string trio "Infinitus" for an educational workshop for string players on **Saturday, April 18, 10-11:15am**. This workshop will focus on drawing out your creativity while refining your technique. *There will be light refreshments to follow.*

This workshop is geared towards middle/high school students. Participation is open to individuals who have been playing a stringed instrument for at least a year. *No cost to attend.*



To Register: Scan the QR code or visit www.AssumptionMary.org/events
Questions? Contact Jim Renfer at jim@assumptionmidland.org

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

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

Once again we are sponsoring a

Mothers' Day Baby Shower Collection

For Life Clinic

Bring In Your Donations
May 2/3 and May 9/10

TOP DONATION REQUESTS:

Infant onesies, receiving blankets
*Toddler pajamas and clothing for sizes 24 mo., 2T, and 4T
*Diapers (name brand or store brand) sizes 4 through 7
Diaper bags
Sippy cups
Baby wash or shampoo
Desitin or A&D ointment
Formula—Regular (yellow can) and Gentlease (purple can)
New or gently used infant or children's books
Rice packs/lotions, breast pads for mother's comfort
\$25 gas only, gas cards
Cash donations also accepted



**They have extended their offerings to include items for children up to 3 years old and are especially in need of these items.*



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

May 19-21, 2026

The parish rummage sale for charity, is coming up soon, just in time for spring cleaning! This is a great chance for parishioners to clean out the clutter and other possessions you no longer need.

DROP OFF SCHEDULE: MAY 14-16 FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

These are the available hours for donating items. **PLEASE, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

We are unable to accept large pieces of indoor exercise equipment (treadmills, stationary bikes, etc.), expired baby items like car seats and cribs, non-flat screen monitors or TVs.

SALE DATES ARE MAY 19-21: MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AND ALWAYS WELCOME!

No experience necessary. Help is needed from May 14-21, times are flexible.

Sign-up sheets are at the welcome circle in the gathering space or contact Emily Richards emily.dale87@gmail.com.

LifeClinic Community Resources

Great Hall Banquet and Convention Center in Midland
Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 – 9:00pm

Join LifeClinic Community Resources for our 2026 “For Such a Time as This” Gala – an inspiring evening celebrating how God is restoring hope, removing barriers, and empowering life-affirming choices across the Great Lakes Bay Region. Enjoy a meaningful meal, exciting ministry updates, and a powerful keynote message from Claire Culwell as we reflect on all God has done and look ahead to the work still to come. This is LifeClinic’s primary fundraising event of the year, helping us meet the growing needs of the women and men we serve. Doak Stolz has sponsored a table and has 10 seats available for this year’s event. If you would like to attend please contact the parish office or Kathy Russell.



FOOD TRUCK OUTREACH is scheduled for July 22, 2026

In cooperation with the Midland County Food Assistance Network

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.



This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Weekend Offerings

March 28/29, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$4,115
Online Giving (3/23–3/29)	\$1,886
Donations	\$0
Weekend Total	\$6,001
Weekly Goal	\$9,231
Overage/(Shortfall)	(\$3,230)

Month of March

Weekly Envelopes	\$21,965
Online Giving	\$11,475
Donations	\$11,400
Total	\$44,840
Weekly Goal	\$46,155
Overage/(Shortfall)	(\$1,315)

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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- Joe Paprocki

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