

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15:13*

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

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

May 24, 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](mailto:Assumption@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,

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

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)



#### **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.



[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



*"[Jesus taught them, saying:] 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'" Matthew 5:14-16*

Today, Pentecost Sunday, begins the **Year of the Holy Spirit** throughout the Diocese of Saginaw. In his letter of proclamation, Bishop Gruss stated, "This Year of the Holy Spirit is intended to deepen our diocesan mission of becoming 'One Heart and Mind' in carrying forward the Church's solitary goal: to carry forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit."

In last week's column, I proposed that we prepare for the dawn of the Year of the Holy Spirit by reflecting on the Vatican II document *The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* (also known by its Latin title *Lumen Gentium*). To reflect on the meaning of what it means to be Church is appropriate on Pentecost. As Pope St. John Paul II stated in one of his teachings, "On Pentecost the Holy Spirit descends and the Church is born. The Church is the community of those who are begotten from above, by water and the Spirit, as we read in John's Gospel (John 3:3, 5). The Christian community is not primarily the result of the free decision of believers; at its origin there is first and foremost the gratuitous initiative of the Love of God, who offers the gift of the Holy Spirit. The assent of faith to this gift of love is a response to grace and is itself motivated by grace. Therefore, between the Holy Spirit and the Church there exists a deep and indissoluble bond."

Vatican II's *Constitution on the Church* is an incredibly rich document, and volumes upon volumes of commentary have been written about it. I would like to highlight just a few things for us to consider, each of us personally and for us as a parish community, as we contemplate what it means to be Church this Pentecost at the onset of this Year of the Holy Spirit.

First is the Latin title itself, *Lumen Gentium*. This title translates to "the light of humanity." Many church teachings about the nature of the Church at that time emphasized the aspect of the Church as "the mystical Body of Christ," taking inspiration from St. Paul's wonderful analogy of the Church as a body in his First Letter to the Corinthians. (1 Cor. 12:12-27) However, as I alluded to in last week's column, Vatican II was very concerned with how the Church relates to all modern people and their problems, as distinct from the narrower perspective of its internal self-governance—although that was also addressed by the Council. Vatican II used this image of the Church as a beacon of light shining outward to guide all humanity as a key concept of what it means to

be Church in our times. The Church, and therefore every parish and every disciple, is meant to reflect the Light of Christ, the Prince of Peace, in our wounded and hurting world.

Another emphasis in the *Constitution on the Church* is that **the Church is the People of God**. In a world that seems divided between the sociological concepts of isolated individualism that tends toward selfishness or of state-enforced collectivism which often does not respect people's human rights, the Church is a model of human solidarity for God has chosen to save us "not as individuals with out any bond or link . . . but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge him and serve him in holiness." (no. 9) The Church is not just a building where we all meet, but the church building is a sign of the people God has formed from living stones, with Christ as our cornerstone. (1 Peter 2:4-10) **We are the Church, fashioned into unity by the Love of God**. Every other human organization that I can think of is formed or dissolved by the will of its members. We tend to congregate with those like us. But as the novelist James Joyce wrote, to be Catholic means "here comes everyone" because God is the initiator of the communion of the Church, and invitation for all people. (John 1:12-13, Matthew 28:19-20) Thus, "the Church is seen to be a people brought into unity from the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." (no. 4)

Another emphasis of Vatican II's *Constitution on the Church* is the centrality of the **Universal Call to Holiness**. To live a life of holiness means to live in communion and love with God and with all people. This is not just for priests, nuns, and other "professional" religious people for "all Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love, and by this holiness a more human manner of life is fostered also in earthly society." (no. 40) The challenges of our modern world cannot be met by only a few religious people. **Our world needs saints!** A Church comprised of Catholics who attend Mass occasionally, throw a few dollars in the collection basket, and live their lives indistinguishably from those who do not believe will not be the beacon of light and hope needed in our world. Film director Francis Ford Coppola once commented about the pre-Vatican II Catholicism in which he grew up as "to do one thing and believe another seemed very Catholic to me." He famously dramatized this point in the baptism scene in his film *The God-*

*father*. Only Christians who are rooted in the eternal life given to them in Baptism and the other Sacraments, responding to this Grace by lives of compassion, justice, charity, and service can transform our society and world.

The Constitution on the Church concludes by pointing us in the direction of the one who perfectly models for us what it means to be Church, our parish patroness the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since she carried the Body of Christ and gave birth to him into the world, she is the **Mother of the Church**, the mystical Body of Christ in our place and time, the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May her example of receiving the Word of the Lord, letting the presence of God fill her completely, and her sharing of Christ with the world be our model of holiness: listening to and heeding the Word, receiving the gifts of God as grateful and generous stewards, and sharing the Good News of salvation with all people. On the Monday after Pentecost, we celebrate liturgically the memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church. May we place our discipleship, both personally and as a community of faith, under her mantle for our healing and the healing of our world.

This week, I would propose that we continue to reflect on the question "Who are we as a Church?" by reading the Vatican II document *The Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People*. It's also known by its Latin title *Apostolicam actuositatem*. It can be found on the Vatican website by doing an internet search for either title.

*John*

## Pentecost Sunday



**"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." 1 Corinthians 4-7**

God has given each of us unique gifts and talents. No one person's time, talent or treasure is exact to anyone else's, but whatever we have, we are called to share. That is stewardship.

Worship Schedule	
ASSUMPTION	
<b>MON, May 25</b> Gen 3:9-15, 20 Jn 19:25-34	_____
<b>TUES, May 26</b> 1 Pt 1:10-16 Mk 10:28-31	<b>8:00a Mass</b> 8:30a Rosary <i>Followed by Meditation</i>
<b>WED, May 27</b> 1 Pt 1:18-25 Mk 10:32-45	<b>6:30p Mass</b> <i>Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation</i>
<b>THUR, May 28</b> 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12 Mk 10:46-52	<b>8:00a Mass</b> 8:30a Rosary
<b>FRI, May 29</b> 1 Pt 4:7-13 Mk 11:11-26	<b>8:00a Mass</b> 8:30a Rosary
<b>SAT, May 30</b> Jude 17, 20b-25 Mk 11:27-33	<b>4:30p Mass</b> <i>Barb Boulton</i>
<b>SUN, May 31</b> Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9 2 Cor 13:11-13 Jn 3:16-18	<b>MOST HOLY TRINITY</b> <b>9:30a Mass</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>



### V is for Vocation: Archdiocese for the Military Services

As we remember those who died in service to our country on Memorial Day, we give thanks for those who provide “the Catholic Church’s full range of pastoral ministries & spiritual services to those in the United States Armed Forces.” We pray for those who serve as chaplains in active-duty service as well as in Veterans Administration hospitals. “Approximately 1.8 million Catholic men and women are served by the Archdiocese for the Military Services,” which was created by Pope Saint John Paul II, with records going back to 1845 of the first Catholic chaplains in the United States Army.

Learn more: <https://www.milarch.org/vocations/>

*Almighty God and Father, look with love upon our men and women in uniform and protect them in their time of need. Give them health and stability and allow them to return to their loved ones whole and unshaken. Be with their families and sustain them in these uncertain times. Grant strength and peace of mind to the Veterans who have given their best for the country they love. Support them in infirmity and in the fragility of old age. Bless and multiply the priests who minister to the faithful of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Reward their generosity and keep them faithful. Hear us as we present our prayers to You through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio)*



### Welcome Our Newest Members

We were overjoyed to celebrate the baptism of Madison Girvan along with her parents Jonathon and Samantha last Saturday (photos on the right). And two weeks ago, the baptism of Ania Marie Curtis along with her parents Garett and ATea Curtis (photos below).




Congratulations!

### ~ This Week ~

**Sunday, May 24**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
9:30 am Mass  
**Migrant Worker Collection**

**Monday, May 25**  
**HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY**  
8:30 am Mass at New Calvary  
Parish Office Closed

**Tuesday, May 26**  
8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary  
3:15 pm Monicas

**Wednesday, May 27**  
6:30 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Reconciliation

**Thursday, May 28**  
8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary  
7:00 pm Choir

**Friday, May 29**  
8:00 am Mass  
8:30 am Rosary

**Saturday, May 30**  
4:30 pm Mass  
**Migrant Worker Collection**

**Sunday, May 31**  
**HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY**  
9:30 am Mass  
**GRADUATION MASS**  
**Migrant Worker Collection**



Congratulations, Graduates!

### 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 & get connected, scan the QR code or visit [www.AssumptionMary.org/welcome](http://www.AssumptionMary.org/welcome).

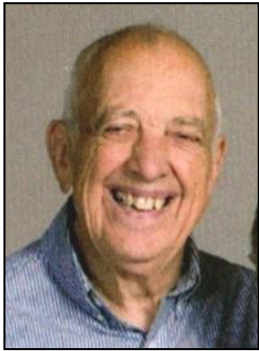
### Thank You!

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

## Happy 89th Birthday Dave Huschke

May 21, 2026



### Pentecost Sunday See the Holy Spirit

In the readings on Pentecost Sunday, the Spirit is described as a driving wind and tongues of fire. Knowing that the Holy Spirit is a Person of the Trinity, we seem to be able to picture the Spirit only in terms of what the Spirit does. In our second reading, Paul tries to explain just that.

First, Paul says that we cannot know Jesus as Lord without the Spirit. The Spirit is the way Jesus is present today, so anyone who truly believes in Jesus is guided by the Spirit. Second, he acknowledges that the Spirit works in many ways. As examples, Paul mentions there are many different gifts and services in the church. He emphasizes that all these differences come from one and the same God.

When we think of the strength of the Church, we usually think of its unity, i.e., one baptism, one faith, one Lord. But we also draw strength from the diversity of gifts and services that people offer to God. So look at the gifts of those around you, and you may be able to see the Holy Spirit more clearly.

*Tom Schmidt*



## Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

### CHILDREN

June 15-18 Vacation Bible School—  
being held at Blessed Sacrament



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.

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

May 31 **Graduation Mass**  
June 16-19 **Acts (989)**



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

# [ ACTS (989) ]

## SERVICE RETREAT

### SERVE THE CITY ENCOUNTER THE SAVIOR

JUNE 16TH-19TH, 2026  
NOUVEL HIGH SCHOOL, SAGINAW  
OPEN TO YOUTH ACROSS THE DIOCESE  
ENTERING 9TH GRADE TO GRADUATING SENIORS



ACTS (989) is the new service retreat for the Diocese of Saginaw that is open to youth across the diocese (entering 9th grade to graduating seniors). During the day, students will serve throughout Saginaw, and in the evening will experience a high-powered retreat with fun, speakers, Adoration, worship, and more.

**Date: June 16-19, 2026**

**Cost: \$50**

**Location: Nouvel Catholic High School, Saginaw**

**Registration deadline:**

Friday, May 29, 2026

**Register by scanning the QR Code**



Thank you to those who gave to the  
**Mothers' Day Baby Shower  
 Collection**

For Life Clinic



We collected  
 many great  
 items and  
 collected \$669.



**You are invited to join this  
 year's excursion to the  
 Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)**

sponsored by

**Our Lady of Grace Parish**

This will be an inspiring look into the history of European art and its influence on Catholicism **OR** the influence Catholicism has had on the arts over the centuries. The fun ride on Mitchell Motorcoach, Ltd. **leaves no later than 10:00 on June 17, 2026. From Our Lady of Grace Parish parking lot in Sanford.**

We will return to the Our Lady of Grace Parish parking lot where we started, at approximately 6:00 PM. **Cost: \$40 (includes bus fare and entry fee to DIA)**

Questions? Contact Tom Plachta  
 989 450 1718 or email [tom-plachta31@gmail.com](mailto:tom-plachta31@gmail.com)

**"Young adults and families welcome!"**

Intentional Disciples Saginaw  
 presents

*Disciples Night*

**Thursday June 4**



**Mass: 6pm**

*Featuring the I.D. Choir!*

**Dinner: 7pm**

*Please bring a dish to pass*

**Social to follow!**

St. Brigid Catholic Church  
 207 Ashman St., Midland

*Now Hiring:*

**Coordinator of Middle School Youth  
 Ministry at Blessed Sacrament**

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church is seeking a Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry to join our Faith Formation Team!

*This is a Full-Time position. A background check and VIRTUS training are required.*

Ideal candidates will:

- Be an active, practicing Catholic with a heart for ministry
- Hold a degree or certification in Education or Religious Studies/Theology (or equivalent experience)
- Have experience leading faith formation, ideally with students

*For the complete job description and application details, please visit Blessed Sacrament's website: <https://www.blessed-midland.org/parish-news/hiring-middle-school-youth-minister/>*

Please send your resume to [hello@blessed-midland.org](mailto:hello@blessed-midland.org).

**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](http://www.KofC2141.org).



# June 15-18, 9am-noon

at Blessed  
Sacrament Church

## Registration:

\$30: 1 child  
\$50: 2 siblings in  
the same family  
\$70: 3+ siblings in  
the same family

**\*Includes 1 CD or  
digital download code**



**We need  
volunteers too!**  
use the registration link

<https://www.blessed-midland.org/events/vacation-bible-school>



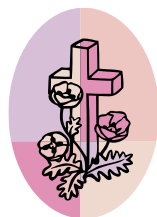
### Join Holy Spirit Parish as they celebrate and dedicate their new organ

A concert will take place in the church  
1035 N. River Rd., Saginaw, 48609  
**from 3:00 - 4:00 PM  
on Sunday, May 31**

Organists from the Diocese of Saginaw  
will be featured. The concert will be fol-  
lowed by light refreshments.

## Memorial Day Mass

### Mark your calendars!



The annual  
Memorial Day  
Mass in honor  
of our veter-  
ans will take  
place at New  
Calvary Cath-  
olic Cemetery on **Monday,  
May 25 at 8:30 a.m.**

Fr. Rick will be presiding  
at the Mass. The Mass will  
take place in the Chapel  
outdoor parking area. Due  
to very limited seating  
attendees are requested  
to bring their own lawn  
chairs.

## ABVM

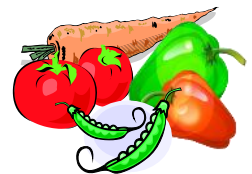
### Parish Garden

When St. Isidore toiled in the fields,  
angels assisted him with his labors.  
If you would be interested in being  
an angel for the ABVM community  
garden, we meet:

**Tuesdays and Saturdays  
at 9:00 a.m.**

*All help on any day (or days)  
is appreciated.*

If you can pull  
a weed, pick a  
bean, or other-  
wise be a pair of  
helping hands



for your neighbor, please join the  
ABVM garden group.

*Any questions?*

*Please call Bernie or Michele  
at 989-689-5228.*

## Diocese of Saginaw Migrant Collection

Migrant workers are a big part of all  
those that do the essential work needed  
to help feed our nation. Some migrant  
workers have nothing but each other,  
some clothes, and their faith in God, and  
yet, are filled with gratitude. The Diocese  
of Saginaw's Migrant Ministry programs  
are not possible without help from people  
like you.

You may drop off food, clothing items,  
and monetary donations **beginning May  
16/17 and concluding May 31st**. This will  
take the place of our monthly food pantry  
collection. (*\* high demand items*)

### MOST REQUESTED ITEMS

White Flour\*  
Shortening\*  
Baking Powder\*  
Cooking Oil  
Corn  
Pinto Beans  
Rice  
Cereal  
Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Salt & Black Pepper  
Toiletries  
Cleaning Supplies  
Baby Diapers

*All sizes children's clothing*

Men's and Women's clothing suitable for  
field work: long sleeve shirts, jeans/  
workpants, shoes, socks.



# Catholic Discipleship

## Small Group Series

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**Mondays at 6:30 PM • June 1-August 31**

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish  
3516 E. Monroe Rd, Midland, MI**



**Grow in discipleship during the  
Year of the Holy Spirit through  
a summer small group!**

Each session will offer time for **fellowship, prayer, Scripture reflection, and discussion** of a weekly theme, from personal encounter to missionary discipleship.

***Preregistration is not required  
All are welcome!***

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**Questions?** Contact John Graveline: [john@assumptionmidland.org](mailto:john@assumptionmidland.org)



# MIDLAND AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

*DIVE IN* and make your way out to Dow Diamond on Sunday, July 12th to watch the Great Lakes Loons battle the Dayton Dragons. Enjoy the ball game and listen to our very own MACC Choir sing the National Anthem.

**Sunday, July 12th**  
TIME @ 1:05 PM

## TICKET PRICES

Group Reserved  
Box Tickets in  
Section 103  
Discounted to  
\$12.50 each



You can buy your tickets online this year at  
<https://www.gofevo.com/event/maccchoir>  
or scan the QR code.

You may also order tickets from Travis Webb at the Loons  
ticket office at 989-837-6173 or email [twebb@loons.com](mailto:twebb@loons.com).

For any questions, please contact your parish office.

Assumption 989-631-4447  
St. Brigid 989-835-7121

Blessed Sacrament 989-835-6777  
Our Lady of Grace 989-687-5657



989.837.6173

LOONS.COM



# Year of the Holy Spirit

One Heart - One Mind

2026 - PENTECOST - 2027

## The Announcement of the Year of the Holy Spirit

*“Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

The culmination of the Easter season now leads us to celebrate this great solemnity of Pentecost in which the promised Holy Spirit was sent into the world. The Holy Spirit was given for three important reasons.

- It is the final part of God’s plan of love, as God completed his work of salvation and Christ’s Paschal Mystery was brought to completion. The sending of the Holy Spirit allows this love affair between God and each of us to continue;
- So that Christ may continue to be present in the sacramental life of the Church;
- So that the mission of Jesus, ever present in his Church be continued through her members – each one of you. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you....Receive the Holy Spirit” (Jn 20:21-22).

In the Sacred Scriptures, especially in the Gospels, we clearly see how Christ’s whole work is in fact a joint mission with the Holy Spirit. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

*The entire mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of time, is contained in this: that the Son is the one anointed by the Father’s Spirit since his Incarnation — Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah.<sup>1</sup> Though he alluded to the Spirit little by little in his earthly life through his teaching, Jesus does not reveal the Holy Spirit fully until he himself has been glorified through his death and resurrection.*

*“In effect, Jesus’ whole mission was aimed at giving the Spirit of God to [us] and baptizing [his disciples] in the ‘bath’ of regeneration. This was realized through his glorification, that is, through his death and resurrection. Then the Spirit of God was poured out in a super-abundant way, like a waterfall able to purify every heart, to extinguish the flames of evil and ignite the fire of divine love in the world.”<sup>2</sup>*

This happened on the day of Pentecost when the divine person of the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the human heart, within human history. This Holy Spirit, the love that unites the Father and the Son, came to each of us in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in order to do the work of Christ. But, is the Spirit alive in us? Do you know the Holy Spirit personally?

We need to reclaim the power of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our own lives. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the voice that guides us in the mission of Jesus, through good times and bad times. The Spirit brings clarity out of confusion; unity where there is division; love where there is hate; healing where there is sickness; strength where there is weakness; light where there is darkness; hope where there is despair, and I could go on.

For this reason, I proclaim a *Year of the Holy Spirit* in the Diocese of Saginaw beginning today on the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 24, 2026 and concluding on the Solemnity of Pentecost 2027.

<sup>1</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, #727

<sup>2</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, in his *Regina Caeli* address on the Solemnity of Pentecost (11 May 2008)

Dear brothers and sisters, as we become a diocese on mission – one heart and mind – I have often thought of how the Lord Jesus desires to reawaken the Holy Spirit in us, individually and communally; to fan into flame the gifts given in our Baptism and Confirmation – sources of grace always present; to renew this love affair between the Lord and each of us in an intentional way.

The *Year of the Holy Spirit* invites each of us into a deeper experience of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Holy Trinity, who has sent us on mission, one heart and mind, “carrying forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not to be served.”<sup>3</sup> Without the Holy Spirit, the Church is merely a human institution. With the Holy Spirit, she is the living Body of Christ.

In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Leo: “*The surprise of Pentecost is repeated when we do not presume to control God’s timing, but place our trust in the Holy Spirit, who “is present, even today, as in the time of Jesus and the Apostles: is present and at work, arriving before us, working harder than us and better than us; it is not for us to sow or awaken him, but first and foremost to recognize him, welcome him, go along with him, make way for him, and follow him. He is present and has never lost heart regarding our times; on the contrary, he smiles, dances, penetrates, engulfs, envelops, and reaches even where we would never have imagined.”*<sup>4</sup>

Throughout this Year, there will be numerous events in the Diocese celebrating the *Year of the Holy Spirit*. I encourage all pastors and directors of parish life to let the Holy Spirit be creative in your own parishes through your own prayer and discernment. The Diocese will provide resources on our Year of the Holy Spirit website page at [saginaw.org](http://saginaw.org).

The Holy Spirit is the power, breath, and fire of the Church. The Spirit is the One who makes Christ present, breaks the chains of sin, heals wounds of the heart, restores hope, strengthens virtue, ignites courage, and awakens holiness.

The Spirit does not merely improve us—He recreates us. He forms Christ within us until we can say with St. Paul: “*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*”<sup>5</sup> To rediscover the Holy Spirit is to rediscover the heart of Christian life.

As we begin this Year of the Holy Spirit, may the Church in the Diocese of Saginaw—and each of us—pray with renewed longing:

*“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
Kindle in us the fire to proclaim the living gospel.*

*Lord, send forth your spirit,  
so that you may lead your people  
to salvation through your healing, love, and mercy.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, renew the hearts and minds  
of the people of the Diocese of Saginaw.” Amen.*

Proclaimed on May 24, the Solemnity of Pentecost, in the year of our Lord 2026, in the Diocese of Saginaw.

*+ Robert D. Gruss*

✠ Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Saginaw

<sup>3</sup> Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, #3

<sup>4</sup> Pope Leo XIV, Chrism Mass 2026

<sup>5</sup> Galatians 2:20



An Opportunity To Serve  
**FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION**  
**Wednesday, July 22, 2026**

We are still in need of more volunteers to unload and distribute the food to those in need. The more volunteers we have the lighter the work and the more fun we will have together!

Help is needed from 8 am – 12:00 pm, with lunch provided for the event. Everyone's safety will be a priority.

You can sign-up to volunteer by calling the parish office at 989-631-4447.



Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

**Weekend Offerings**

**May 16/17, 2026**

Weekly Envelopes ..... \$2,672  
 Online Giving (5/11–5/17) ..... \$1,842  
 Donations ..... \$0  
 Weekend Total ..... \$4,514  
 Weekly Goal ..... \$9,231  
 Overage/(Shortfall) ..... (\$4,717)

**May 1-17, 2026**

Weekly Envelopes ..... \$13,681  
 Online Giving ..... \$8,911  
 Donations ..... \$8,000  
 Total ..... \$30,592  
 Goal ..... \$27,693  
 Overage/(Shortfall) ..... \$2,899

**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.



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