

THE BASILICA of SAINT MARY

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 23, 2025

Clergy & Staff

Very Rev. Aaron M. Williams *Rector*

Regina Mardis Parish Administrative Assistant

Mary Flowers Accounting

Ruth Powers Program Coordinator

Jacob Ali *Youth Director*

Matthew J. Buller Organist & Choirmaster

Darren Cowart *Director of Facilities*

Frank Serio *Rector's Assistant*

Office Hours

Mon & Fri · 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Tue-Thu · 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM



Schedule of Services

	Masses:	Sat · 8:00 AM (Mass of the Day) Sat · 5:00 PM (Anticipated Mass) Sun · 10:00 AM (Solemn Mass) Mon · 7:00 AM Tue-Fri · 12:05 PM
	Confessions:	Tue-Fri · 11:30-11:55 AM Sat · 4:15-4:55 PM First Saturday of the Month · 7:30-7:55 AM
		Tue · 12:30-5:30 PM Tue · 5:20 PM

The Basilica of Saint Mary | 105 South Union Street, Natchez, MS 39120 | Church Office @ Family Life Center | 613 Main Street, Natchez, MS 39120

stmarybasilica.org 601-445-5616



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT **MARCH 23, 2025**

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor. -Ps 25: 15-16

	Lectors:	Mary Lees Wilson, Bernita Dunbar		
Anticipated Mass	Eucharistic Ministers:	Beth Richard, Allen Richard		
March 29, 2025	Greeters:	Allen Richard, Beth Richard		
5:00 p.m. Saturday	Ushers:	Philip Zuccaro, Kot Morris, Charles Garrity, Susan Nielsen		
St. Mary Basilica	Altar Servers:	Ryan Wingfield, John Zachary Wingfield		
	Sacristan:	Charles Garrity		
	Lectors:	Chandler Brantley, Joey Gunning		
Solemn Mass	Eucharistic Ministers:	Joey Gunning, Betty Lou Hicks		
March 30, 2025	Greeters:	Betty Lou Hicks, Mary Ann Foggo-Eidt		
10:00 a.m. Sunday	Ushers:	Christopher Martin, Gabe Cassagne, Walt Brown, Peter Burns		
St. Mary Basilica	Altar Servers:	To be assigned by Father Aaron		
	Sacristan:	Joey Gunning		

PASTOR'S CORNER by Father Aaron William

I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who sent me cards, greetings, or gifts for my birthday this past weekend. I appreciate your prayers and support and the continual welcome vou show me here in Natchez.

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR /BRUNCH AT ASSUMPTION This Sunday

Assumption of the BVM Catholic Church will hold its St. Joseph Altar in Tuite Hall this Sunday, March 23, *immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass*. There will also be a brunch at that time in celebration of the Altar. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in this event to honor St. Joseph.



ALTAR WORKERS March 28: Carol Jones

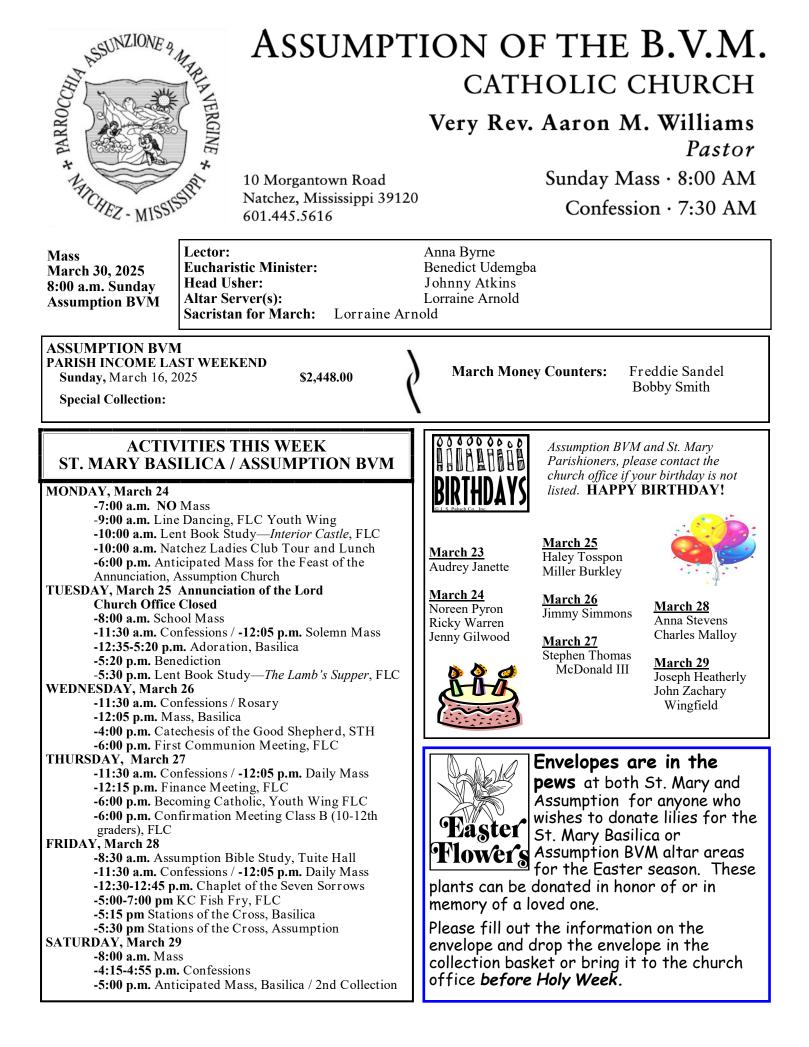
ALTAR FLOWERS March 29: Lent (No Flowers on Altar)

ST. MARY BASILICA PARISH INCOME March 15/16, 2025 Weekly amount anticipated to meet budget Weekly Envelopes: **Loose Contributions:**

\$14,521.83 \$423.08

Amount received last weekend \$9,541.00 (116) \$700.00

SPECIAL COLLECTION:





J.W. Seibert Barron Black Cole Doughty Phillip Mardis Edna Rose Bellan Ben Sandel Midge Billingsley Stan Burkley Deanie Swain Janet and Ricky Warren Charlene Rushing Dennis McDaniel Paisley Mardis Kenneth Langston Nathan Gaudé Colby Verucchi Fr. David O'Connor Jim Willard Bernita Dunbar Judy Williams Jacque Stahlman Rose Godfrey Noreen O'Beirne Bozeman Becky Burns Bryant Wilson Glenn Middleton Gail Rushing Roseminette Gaude Priester Byrne Mike Myers Lillie Bertelsen Pete Cantu Pat Williams Linden Cotton Tommy Biglane Boo Mims Cayden Kaiser Bently Carruth Eugene Ashcraft Jennifer Walker Angie Tenner Nicole Cutler **Butch Pitchford** Justin Gregg ******** Dennis Christian Delphine Prestridge Mary Eidt Jolene Ortego David Burns Dot Bright Joy Greer Gwen McCalip Will Hutchinson

names added to the prayer list. Names will be removed after several weeks. Laura Sims Weems Louis Dallalio Dylan Pressgrove Margaret Guido Stacy Walters Mickey and Donna Finn David Smith Ann Hollowell Stephen Hicks Mickey Rodriguez Cindy Christian Thomas Ricks Jennifer Hicks Dean Lazarus Emma Whitehead Eoin Maier Johnny Hicks **Bailey Rose** Graning Vicki Barlow Levi Anderson Taunton Diane Golden Harry and Betty Smith Ami Scott Georgine Robertson Jack Aubic **Robyn Smith** Mike Depta ******** Jack and Doris Kerwin Brian Warren Mary Gunning Sonny Vance Sissy E. Browning Walter Maier Ron Gaude Freddie Baker Jim Eidt Eileen Maher Llovd McDaniel Michael Piazza Bobbye Dollar Janie Bertelsen **Richard Baroni** Cathy Roberts Judy Uzzetta Beulah Dallalio Janette Webb Brian LeBlanc Mary Ann Foggo-Eidt

Margaret Wilson

Audrey Odenwald Marvin Littleton Fr. Mike O'Brien Bill Saxon ***** Suellen Barnett Mary Ruth Maier John Barnett Johnnie and David Galer Ken Beesley, Sr. Margaret Cooley Gayle Anders George and Anita Souderes Charles Garrity Clint and Elizabeth Smith Carolyn Krueger Chip McIntyre Rose Borum Frankie Case Dane Mallette Davin Burns Clark Jackson Lanny Brasher **Reynolds** Atkins Maureen Irby Mark Glunz Jean Smith Father Leopold Keffler Justin May David Holloway John Kennon Donald Shupe Robert Paradise Donna Misita Mike Chapman Linda Brown Cynthia Dollar

The following friends and members of

St. Mary and Assumption parishes

need our pravers. Please add these

names to your prayer list. Contact the

church office at 601-445-5616 to have

Please contact the church office if a name is listed that no longer needs to be listed. Thanks!



Exposition / Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is

held immediately following the 12:05 p.m. Mass every Tuesday at St. Mary Basilica. A doration concludes at 5:20 p.m. with

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Come to a quiet place and spend an hour with Jesus.

During Eucharistic Adoration hours, someone must be in the church at all times. The Blessed Sacrament can never be left unattended!

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE



We pray for those men and women who serve in the military or law enforcement or who serve as firefighters, especially those listed below at this time. Contact the church office to have names removed or added.

Tyler Wheeler Andrell Hardy Delayne Bush Lee Best Lance Adams Josh Jackson Carey Jackson Casev Snvder Ben Long Martin Latimer Fr. Anthony Okwum Brandan Bordelon Christopher Shaidnagle Marcus Estes Aaron Moore Andrew Geoghegan

Matthew Henderson Matthew Voss Xander Miller Nathan Latimer Mark Stein Mike Chapman Travis Patten Josh Gamberi Conner Burns Luke Eidt Brian Hughes Albert J. Hughes, Sr. Frank Smith Priester Byrne Hunter Boyte

Buddy Frank John Hudson **Tiffany Ratcliff** Michael Ratcliff Slick Frank Amanda Richardson Shelby Case Shawn Parker Steve Waldrop Andrew Kellogg Russ Williams Mark Verucchi Shane McDonald J D Frasier

TAI CHI CLASS *QiGONG / TAI-CHI CAO for seniors or anyone will be offered every Tuesday from <u>9:30-10:30 a.m</u>. in the O'Connor Family Life Center Youth Wing. NO Tai Chi on March 25, 2025 due to the church office being closed on this date.

LINE DANCING AT ST. MARY FLC



Line dancing is offered in the Youth Wing at the Family Life Center from 9:00-10:00 a.m. every Monday.

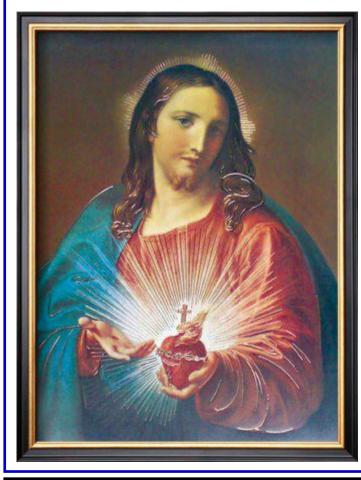
Please enter through the door by the green space. Join the fun and get a little exercise. too. Newcomers are always welcome!

JOIN US AT CITY HALL TO HONOR CAPTAIN JACK!

Captain Jack [John] Kerwin will be honored by Natchez Mayor Dan Gibson on the steps of City Hall at 11:000 a.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

A lunch will follow at Soda Pops at the Natchez Mall at 12:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend the award ceremony and the lunch to honor Captain Jack.





ICON OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS COMING TO ST. MARY BASILICA March 22-23, 2025

Through the Pilgrim Icon Program, Knights of Columbus councils have organized a Sacred Heart Holy Hour featuring an icon depicting the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesu in Rome. The reproduction bears the blessing of Pope Francis, through the Papal Almoner, and is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world, from council to council, for veneration and use in prayer services.

This weekend, the icon will be on display in St. Mary Basilica at the 5:00 p.m. Anticipated Mass, with a short prayer service following this Mass. The icon will also be on display at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at the Basilica.

Spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and pray for Our Lord to make his heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what he sees and loves in us.

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL We are deeply grateful for the generous support our parishioners have shown to the Catholic Service Appeal. Your contributions have a direct impact on Youth Ministry, fostering connections among our young people and helping them grow in their relationship with God. This weekend, we are especially proud that your support is helping our youth attend the Youth Conference in Vicksburg. Thank you for making this possible!

As of March 17, St. Mary Basilica has surpassed its \$42,000.00 goal with pledges totaling \$46,855.34. Assumption has raised \$2,077.00 of its \$5,380.00 goal. We invite you to consider making a gift to the Appeal.



Join Us! Sunday at 8:15 a.m. FLC Youth Wing

<u>Program:</u> Bible Timeline with Jeff Cavins

Facilitators: Karen Verucchi, Ruth Powers, Justin Johnson

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD MARCH 25

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord is a Church celebration that commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This feast day is celebrated on March 25, nine months before Christmas, and is one of the principal feasts of the Church. It is not a holy day of obligation.

Mass Schedule for the Annunciation:

Monday, March 24, 2025: Anticipated Mass at Assumption BVM—6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2025: School Mass at Basilica—8:00 a.m. Solemn Mass at Basilica—12:05 p.m.

Closing Of Church Office on March 25

In observance of the Feast of the Annunciation, the church office will be closed on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The office will reopen at its usual time on Wednesday morning. Father Aaron and the staff wish everyone a very happy feast day.

NO 7:00 a.m. MASS THIS MONDAY, March 24

There will be no 7:00 a.m. Mass this Monday, March 24, 2025, due to the fact that Father Aaron will celebrate a Mass at Assumption Catholic Church on this Monday at 6:00 p.m. in observance of the Annunciation of the Lord.

Announcing a special opportunity for young men in high school ages 16-18!

Fr. Tristan Stovall, Assistant Vocation Director, is leading a trip to St. Joseph's Seminary April 11-13. This is a fantastic way for young men to learn more about the priesthood, begin discerning their vocation, and connect with other teens who love their faith.

Visit jacksonvocations.com/e to learn more and register. *Deadline April 3*.

REMINDER—**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

The Catholic Church has always demonstrated a concern for children. The Diocese of Jackson is committed to ensuring that children served by the church are not at risk of sexual abuse by the Church personnel. Diocesan policies and procedures currently in place seek to protect, enhance and, in some cases, restore the trust that our faith calls for between agents of the Church and the children and adolescents entrusted to our care.

In accordance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People passed by the U.S. bishops in Dallas, the Diocese of Jackson wishes to encourage any victim of sexual abuse by a member of the Catholic Clergy to come forward and begin the healing process. When an allegation is found to be credible, counseling will be offered, so that the healing process can begin in accord with our present diocesan policy. We encourage any victim to contact **Ms. Erika Rojas, Victim Assistance Coordinator at 601-326-3736.**







Catholic Relief Services Collection March 29-30, 2025

Our parishes are taking up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) the weekend of **March 29-30**, **2025**. Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here at home and abroad. Envelopes are in your monthly contribution packets and will be in the pews. We ask that you please give generously.

CONFIRMATION AT ST. MARY



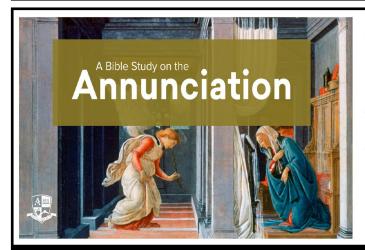
Preparations are underway for the 2025 Confirmation class at St. Mary Basilica. <u>Confirmation will be celebrated May</u> <u>5 at 6:00 pm at St. Mary Basilica.</u>

Class A is for 8th-9th grade candidates. Class B is for 10th-12th graders. All

classes meet from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on their assigned dates in the Main Room of the FLC.

Class Instruction Schedule:

*Class B (Grades 10-12): Thursday, March 27, 2025 *Class A (Grades 8-9): Thursday, April 3, 2025



Save the Date: Friday. May 2. 2025 For The Cathedral Catholic School's Crawfish Countdown!



More Information to follow.

First Holy Communion



There will be a First Communion Student Session <u>Wednesday, March 26</u>, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center for all children who plan to receive these this sacrament. Facilitator is Katherine Callon.

First Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers: *Barrett Brown, Mollie Best, Colette Costa, Landry Gaude, Emma Williams, Tatum Johnson, Linley Biglane, Adalynn Vegas, Frances Martin, Emeri Geoghegan, Whitney Christian, Sophia Nguyen, Destin Nguyen, Caroline Roberts, Frederick Ragan III, Reynolds Leon Atkins IV, Evan Milliken, John Cooper Willard, Sydney Morris.*

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A Bible Study on the Annunciation

In this video, Dr. Ben Akers leads us through a brief study of Luke 1:26–38, highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by Gabriel's words. The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's Yes in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.

Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish Scan the QR code to download the Formed app to your phone.



Abstinence: Catholics abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2025), Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent. Abstinence binds all Catholic age 14 years and older.



Fast: Catholics fast (eating only one full meal) on Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2025) and Good Friday (April 18, 2025). Catholics 18-59 years old are bound by this obligation.

Everyone outside the obligatory ages for Fasting and Abstinence is still encouraged to join in on the fun of fasting and abstaining from meat throughout the Lenten season.



The Stations of the Cross is a prayer service consisting of a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers.

During Lent, St. Mary Basilica will pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 5:15 p.m. Assumption will pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

LENTEN RICE BOWLS



Join our parish community—and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life changing Lenten journey with Catholic Relief Services *Rice Bowl*. Drop all

extra change/money in your *Rice Bowl* throughout Lent and return the filled container to the church during Holy Week. Remember, your Lenten sacrifice changes lives.

Pick up your family's *Rice Bowl* from the tables by all three doors of the Basilica or in Assumption Church. We have a limited supply, so get your Rice Bowl before they are all gone. This is a great Lenten family activity. Please participate.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK FOR LENT

A few of the reflection booklets for Lent, referred to as the Little Black Books, are still available at the doors of St. Mary Basilica or in Assumption BVM Church. This book provides a guide for those who like a format to lead their thoughts and reflections for Lent.

There is no cost (donations accepted—drop in black shrine in vestibule of Basilica or in the basket at Assumption). Please be sure to get your copy before they are gone.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FRIDAY FISH FRY

The Knights of Columbus is holding its annual Lenten Fish Fry each Friday of Lent from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. NOTE: NO fish fry on Good Friday.

You may eat in or take your meal to go if you prefer. Drive thru is available.

The menu consists of delicious: Catfish dinners Shrimp dinners \$12 \$12

Combo dinners \$14

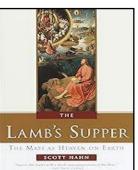
Dinners include: Fries, Hush Puppies and Coleslaw. A dessert table is available also.

For Grilled Catfish, please call 30 minutes ahead: Darren 601-597-2890 Joe 601-431-7744



Sorry No Children's Plates

Two Book Studies This Lent At St. Mary Basilica

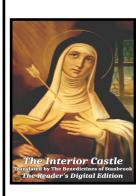


The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth by Scott Hahn

Family Life Center Tuesdays of Lent 5:30-6:30 p.m. (after Benediction) to continue our parish focus on the Eucharist.

Facilitator: Ruth Powers

Books are available online and in Kindle.



An Introduction to the Interior Castle by St. Theresa of Avila Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Family Life Center Mondays of Lent at 10:00 a.m.

Facilitator: Dr. Beth Boggess

ADVERTISING IN THE CHURCH BULLETIN



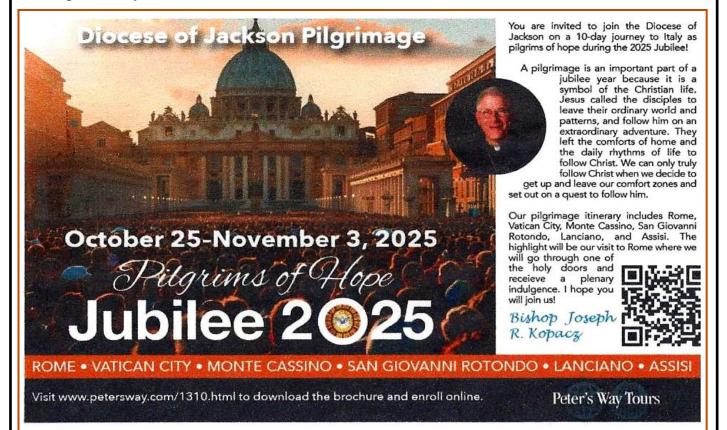
Attention all current bulletin advertisers: It is now time to renew your weekly advertisement that is published every weekend in the St. Mary Basilica/Assumption Church bulletin. Please call Mary or Regina in the church office this week and let them know if you wish to renew your ad. The ads will remain at the current business card size for <u>\$420 per year (52 weeks of advertising) per spot</u>. The full ad payment is due at time of renewal. We cannot accept monthly or partial payments for advertising. Renewal deadline is this Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

If you do not currently advertise in our church bulletin but would like to do so, please call the church office ASAP (601-445-5616). Spaces are limited. Thank you.

Your ad reaches a large audience - 300+ paper bulletins are distributed each week as well as the bulletin's appearing online on the Basilica website (www.stmarybasilica.org). It is also sent out to all parishioners of both parishes weekly by FlockNote.

Diocese of Jackson - Jubilee Rome Pilgrimage

Bishop Joseph Kopacz is leading a 10-day journey to Italy during the 2025 Jubilee from Oct. 25 through Nov. 3, 2025. Registration deadline: March 31, 2025. For more information visit: <u>petersway.com/1310.htm</u>.



HOPE RISING

Youth Ministry

We fortify the faith of our youth by providing opportunities to connect with other young Catholics. Through a variety of programs, including the Search Retreat, the Middle School Fall Retreat, and our Youth Conference, DCYC, youth explore their faith and build a loving, enduring relationship with God.

These programs are critical because Catholics make up only 3% of the people within the boundaries of our diocese. Together, with your gift to the Catholic Service Appeal, our Catholic Faith is bolstered through supporting Youth Ministry programs, ensuring a vibrant future for our Church.



SOPE RIS

Please give today!



" I went into the Search retreat already searching because I was going through Confirmation at the time, and Search gave me the space to listen to God and let him and the Search staff pour their love into me. Search was an amazing experience, and I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested!" -Maddie-Claire Spence, St. Francis, Madison

SCAN TO GIVE



WELCOME HOME: Becoming Catholic

(Formerly RCIA) A study of Catholic beliefs and practices including the Church Creed, sacraments, worship, prayer, morality, commandments. No charge.

Every Thursday, Family Life Center Youth Wing 6:00-6:30 p.m. Light Supper, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Presentation / Discussion

BABYSITTING: Available each Thursday evening; please let us know if you need this service. **FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact Ruth Powers in the parish office: call 601 445-5616 or email parishprograms@stmarybasilica.org

UPCOMING SCHEDUL

March 27The Power of the Tongue (8th Commandment)April 3Purity of Heart (9-10th Commandments)

PRAY THE ROSARY

- The rosary is prayed every Wednesday morning at 11:30 in the Basilica before the 12:05 p.m. daily Mass.
- The rosary is also prayed each Sunday morning at 7:30 at Assumption Church before the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Masses for	INTENTION	DONOR	INTENTION	DONOR
	12:05 p.m. Daily Mass Tuesday-Friday			
March Monday, 24	7:00 a.m. Daily Mass NO MASS		6:00 p.m. Anticipated Mass Assumption Church People of the Parish	
Tuesday, 25 Annunciation	People of the Parish			
Wednesday, 26	Camille Loomis (D)	Family		
Thursday, 27	Loveta Byrne (D)	Pat Jonaitis		
Friday, 28	Inez Pitchford (D)	Family		
Saturday, 29	8:00 a.m. Daily Mass Patsy S. Joseph (D)	Molly Cooper	5:00 p.m. Anticipated Mass Marie D'Antoni Gross (D)	D'Antoni, Gaudet, Sandel Families
Sunday, 30	8:00 a.m. Mass Assumption People of the Parish		10:00 a.m. Solemn Mass People of the Parish	



