

Saint Mary Catholic Community



Pastoral Office Hours

Monday—Friday:

8:30 AM—4:30 PM

Fr. Tim's Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday:

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Office Address:

1700 Missoula Ave.

Helena, MT 59601

Phone and Fax:

Ph: 406-442-5268 | F: 406-449-0860

Website:

www.stmaryhelena.org

E-mail:

smcc@stmaryhelena.org

Flocknote (to receive news and updates from us): **Signup here**

Livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQR7D-gy6Z3TmeXSQ5Sk45w/featured>

Click here to become a parishioner

Adoration: Tuesday following
12:10 p.m. Mass until 2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Wednesday:

4:00—5:00 p.m.

Saturday:

3:00—4:00 p.m.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass:

4:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Tues, Wed & Thurs 12:10 p.m.

Friday Care Center Masses

March 22—11:00 AM Hunter's Pointe

April 5—10:30 AM Mount Ascension

April 12—11:00 AM Touchmark

April 19—10:30 AM Cooney

Fifth Sunday of Lent March 17th, 2024

**"Jesus told her,
"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will
never die. (...)"**

John 11:3-7; 17; 20-27; 33-45

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord March 24th, 2024

**"The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from
top to bottom. When the centurion who stood
facing him saw how he breathed his last he said,
"Truly this man was the Son of God!"**

Mark 15:1-39



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Saint Mary Catholic Community is to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service and community, taking seriously Jesus' command to "Do This in Memory of Me."

To ensure a safe environment, parents must accompany children to and from the rest rooms at all times. Thank you.

MASSSES AT SAINT MARY

Sunday, March 17th—Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

8:00 AM Mass—for the People of the Parish
10:30 AM Mass—for the deceased members of the Dowdall family
 rb: Michael & Mary Foot

Monday, March 18th—No Mass

Daniel 13:41-62; John 8:1-11

Tuesday, March 19th

2 Samuel 7:4-5; 12-14; 16; Romans 4:13; 16-18; 22; Luke 2:41-51

12:10 PM Mass—for the intentions of Betty Lahn
 rb: Diana Kulow

Wednesday, March 20th

Daniel 3:14-20; 9:1-92; 95; John 8:31-42

12:10 PM Mass—for Clif Caughron
 rb: Catherine Ortwein

3:30 PM—5:00 PM—Confessions

Thursday, March 21st

Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59

12:10 PM Mass—for Clif Caughron
 rb: Saint Francis Peace Through Justice ministry

Friday, March 22nd

Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42

11:00 AM Mass at Hunter's Pointe—for Gary Fuson
 rb: Bill & Charlotte Fleiner

Saturday, March 23rd

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 15:1-39

3:00 PM—4:00 PM Confessions

4:30 PM Vigil—for Darren Fleiner
 rb: Bill & Charlotte Fleiner & the Fleiner family

Sunday, March 24th—Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 15:1-39

8:00 AM Mass—for Jackie Fisher
 rb: Sandi Ashley

10:30 AM Mass—for the People of the Parish

Monday, March 25th—No Mass

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26th

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33; 36-38

12:10 PM Mass—for Tomas Lopez
 rb: Diana Kulow

Wednesday, March 27th

Isaiah 50:4-9; Matthew 26:14-25

12:10 PM Mass—for the intentions of Nick Warner
 rb: Nick Warner

3:30 PM—5:00 PM Confessions

Holy Thursday, March 28th

Exodus 12:1-8; 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

7:00 PM Mass

Good Friday, March 29th—Parish Office closed

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

12:10 PM Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM Mass

Holy Saturday, March 30th—No Confessions

Genesis 1:1; 26-31; Genesis 22:1-2; 9; 10-13; 15-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15; 32-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17; 18-28

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
8:30 PM Easter Vigil



**Prayer
 Ministry
 Sacrifice**

As praying stewards: Parishioners gathered for prayer, reflection and healing at our Covid Remembrance: We Remember & We Celebrate Them event.

As ministering stewards: Our parishioners gathered to listen to the talk on loneliness by Dr. Dave Krainacker, and learned how our parish community can come together to help those around us who are experiencing loneliness.

As sacrificing stewards: 02/18/24 & 02/25/24 & 03/03/24 & 03/10/24

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Pew/Mail: | \$4,064 | \$3,238 | \$5,752 | \$5,361 |
| Direct: | \$1,505 | \$ 160 | \$1,463 | \$ 610 |
| Online: | \$2,789 | \$1,372 | \$2,424 | \$2,619 |
| Total | \$8,358 | \$4,770 | \$9,639 | \$8,590 |

Stewardship Income

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| FY 23-4 | 7/1/23 – 02/29/24 | \$350,260 |
| FY 22-3 | 7/1/22 – 02/28/23 | \$324,518 |
| Difference | | \$ 25,742 |

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30

Total Monthly Income (February) \$56,371

Average Monthly Expenses \$60,000

Praise God and Thank You for your prayers, your share in ministry, and your sacrificial giving!



Parish Staff and Parish Councils at your service

Father Tim Moriarty

Phone ext. 106 ~ email: tmoriarty@stmaryhelena.org

Deacon Michael Seipp

email: mseipp@stmaryhelena.org

Dawn Brannman ~ Faith Formation Director/Youth Minister

Phone ext. 107 ~ email: dbrannman@stmaryhelena.org

Deb Kralicek ~ Pastoral Care Director

Phone ext. 103 ~ email: dkralicek@stmaryhelena.org

Lori Mleko ~ Elementary RE Coordinator

Phone ext. 102 ~ email: lorimleko@stmaryhelena.org

Joanna Haddon ~ Finance Director

Phone ext. 104 ~ email: jhaddon@stmaryhelena.org

Dr. Wendy Yuen ~ Director of Liturgical Music

Phone ext. 105 ~ email: wyuen@stmaryhelena.org

Brandon Bloom ~ Maintenance Director

Phone ext. 112 ~ email: bbloom@stmaryhelena.org

Kavida Boone ~ Pastoral Office Coordinator

Phone ext. 101 ~ email: kboone@stmaryhelena.org

Pastoral Council Members: Mary Lou Abbott, Jan Buyske, Rick Duane, Andy Galen, Ed Glowienka, John Larson, Casey Molloy, Cari Schwen and Jim Tucker, Sr.

Finance Council Members: Ann Bauchman, Dave Brown, Jerry LaChere, Lois Menzies, Anna Miller, Lori Murphy-Moullet, Sam Prestipino, and Maureen Stohl.

From Father Tim

The Spiritual Offering of Prayer

From the treatise On Prayer by Tertullian, priest: Cap. 28-29: CCL 1, 273-274). Thursday in the Third Week of Lent, Office of Readings from The Liturgy of the Hours, according to the Roman Rite, II Lenten Season & Easter Season, English Translation Prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, Catholic Book Publishing Corp., New York, 1976.

“Prayer is the offering in spirit that has done away with the sacrifices of old. What good do I receive from the multiplicity of your sacrifices? asks God. I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams, and I do not want the fat of lambs and the blood of bulls and goats. Who has asked for these from your hands?

What God has asked for we learn from the Gospel. The hour will come, he says, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. God is a spirit, and so he looks for worshipers who are like himself.

We are true worshipers and true priests. We pray in spirit, and so offer in spirit the sacrifice of prayer. Prayer is an offering that belongs to God and is acceptable to him: it is the offering he has asked for, the offering he planned as his own.

We must dedicate this offering with our whole heart, we must fatten it on faith, tend it by truth, keep it unblemished through innocence and clean through chastity, and crown it with love. We must escort it to the altar of God in a procession of good works to the sound of psalms and hymns. Then it will gain for us all that we ask of God.

Since God asks for prayer offered in spirit and in truth, how can he deny anything to this king of prayer? How great is the evidence of its power, as we read and hear and believe.

Of old, prayer was able to rescue from fire and beasts and hunger, even before it received its perfection from Christ. How much greater then is the power of Christian prayer. No longer does prayer bring an angel or comfort to the heart of a fiery furnace, or close up the mouths of lions, or transport to the hungry food from the fields. No longer does it remove all sense of pain by the grace it wins for others. But it gives the armor of patience to those who suffer, who feel pain, who are distressed. It strengthens the power of grace, so that faith may know what it is gaining from the Lord, and understand what it is suffering from the name of God.

In the past prayer was able to bring down punishment, rout armies, withhold the blessing of rain. Now, however, the prayer of the just turns aside the whole anger of God, keeps vigil for its enemies, pleads for persecutors. Is it any wonder that it can call down water from heaven when it could obtain fire from heaven as well? Prayer is the one thing that can conquer God. But Christ has willed that it should work no evil, and has given it all power over good.

Its only art is to call back the souls of the dead from the very journey into death, to give strength to the weak, to heal the sick, to exorcise the possessed, to open prison cells, to free the innocent from their chains. Prayer cleanses from sin, drives away temptations, stamps out persecutions, comforts the fainthearted, gives new strength to the courageous, brings travelers safely home, calms the waves, confounds robbers, feeds the poor, overrules the rich, lifts up the fallen, supports those who are falling, sustains those who stand firm.

All the angels pray. Every creature prays. Cattle and wild beasts pray and bend the knee. As they come from their barns and caves they look up to heaven and call out, lifting up their spirit in their own fashion. The birds too rise and lift themselves up to heaven: they open out their wings, instead of hands, in the form of a cross, and give voice to what seems to be a prayer.

What more need to be said on the duty of prayer? Even the Lord himself prayed. To him be honor and power for ever and ever. Amen.”

Pope’s Intentions for March 2024

For the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



I have loved you with an
everlasting love!
Jeremiah 31:3

Faith Formation

A Journey for Life

From Dawn

Opportunity for Prayer

This weekend, after each Mass, the names of all of our youth and adults receiving Sacraments during the Easter Season will be available.

Please choose 1 or 2 names to pray for during the Easter Season!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children who are preschool to approximately 3rd or 4th grade are welcome to participate in

Children's Liturgy of the Word
at the 10:30am Mass on Sundays!

Note: We will **not** have Children's Liturgy of the Word on **March 24th** because of Spring Break and **March 31st** because of Easter!

Sign Up for Vacation Bible School

VBS will be **July 8th-12th**
from **1pm to 5pm** each day!

who: All youth entering
kindergarten this fall
through 5th Grade!

Register [HERE](#)

Theme:

SCUBA: Diving Into Friendship With God!

We are in need of crew leaders! If you are in the 6th-12th grade, let Dawn or Lori know if you want to be a Crew Leader!



"The Chosen"

The Chosen Viewing and Discussion

**Group will meet on
Thursday, March 21st
at 1pm in the Social Center!**

***We will meet on not on
March 28th or April 4th!***

**Please join us for a Parish Meeting on
Wednesday, April 3rd at 6pm
in the Social Center!**

We will be meeting with Catholic Extension concerning a grant for Faith Formation to implement Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for 3 to 6 year old children.

***More information can be found in this
bulletin or call Dawn at the Parish Office!***

YOUTH MINISTRY AT SAINT MARY

From Dawn

Important Dates for Youth Group

Wednesday, March 20th: MS & HS Youth Group from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

NO YOUTH GROUP MEETING ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 27th

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation Classes will meet this Sunday, **March 17th from 9:15am to 10:15am in the Social Center.**

Candidates are asked to bring their sponsor or another adult with them to class.

Please contact Dawn at the Parish Office if you have any questions!

CYC CONVENTION AND EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The CYC Convention will be Friday, March 22-24th. This will be held in conjunction with the Eucharistic Congress, which is open to all ages. Here is a link with all of the information about the event: <https://diocesehelena.org/eucharisticcongress/>

The cost is \$100 for High School Youth and \$50 for Middle School Youth, but we can have assist with that cost for anyone who is interested in attending. **Note that high school students can register to come with our youth group, but parents/guardians would also need to attend the Eucharistic Congress for all other age groups.**

Theme of Convention:

ENCOUNTER THE LORD—PREPARE FOR HOLY WEEK—PROCLAIM HIS LOVE

“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.”
—St. Gregory Nazianzen



2024 SUMMER SEASON CAMPS SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| JUNE 16-JUNE 21 | JUNIOR HIGH #1 | JUNE 23-JUNE 28 | HIGH SCHOOL #1 |
| JULY 7-JULY 12 | 5TH/6TH GRADE BOYS | JULY 14-JULY 19 | HIGH SCHOOL #2 |
| JULY 21-JULY 26 | JUNIOR HIGH #2 | JULY 28-AUGUST 2 | 5TH/6TH GRADE GIRLS |

Registration for camp opens January 1, 2024

Early Bird Pricing: Save \$20/camper when you register by January 31st!

Legendary Lodge Scholarship fund!

If you would like to donate to the Legendary Lodge Scholarship fund, please contact Dawn! Every year, 25-30 youth from our parish attend Legendary Lodge Camps and many of them are only able to do that because of the financial assistance we are able to provide!

Thank you so much for the generosity you always provide!



**Catechesis of the
Good Shepherd
Parish Meeting on
Wednesday April
3rd at 6pm in the
Social Center.**

**All members of our
parish are
encouraged to come
to this gathering!**

WHAT IS CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD?

CGS is a Montessori-based Catholic faith formation program where children can grow in their relationship with God through a deep engagement in Scripture and liturgy. CGS is based on the belief that God and the child are already in relationship. Our work as adults is to provide a place for the child and God to come together and grow.

HISTORY

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children, beginning at the age of three. It seeks to create and facilitate a sacred, “hands-on” space for children called an atrium, in which both the children and their catechists can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Catholic faith as revealed in the Scriptures and the Liturgy. Originally developed in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi fifty years ago, the Catechesis continues to spread world-wide.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) AT ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

We applied for a grant from Catholic Extension in order to start CGS at St. Mary. The grant will be up to \$15,000. Part of the requirement of the grant is that there will be a meeting with a representative from Catholic Extension on Wednesday, April 3rd at 6pm in the Social Center. Catholic Extension wants to hear from parishioners of all ages and see how much support the parish will give this catechesis.

In CGS, the children meet in the atrium, which is a specially prepared room where children can come to know Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The atrium is prepared with materials that children work with as a way of meditating upon the essentials of our faith found in Scripture and in liturgy. We will need help with making materials for the atrium!

Please join us at the meeting to find out more information about CGS! This will be life giving for our children and our whole parish!

Contact Dawn at the Parish Office if you have more questions!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

8:00am & 10:30am Masses

Holy Thursday

7:00pm Mass

Good Friday

12:10pm Stations of the Cross

5:30pm Mass

Holy Saturday

9:00am Morning Prayer

8:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

8:00am & 10:30am Masses

Parish Office & Church closed on April 1st & 2nd for Easter Break.

DIOCESE OF HELENA EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



MARCH 22-24, 2024
CARROLL COLLEGE | HELENA, MT

ENCOUNTER THE LORD | ENTER INTO HOLY WEEK |
PROCLAIM HIS LOVE

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE

DR. JOHN BERGSMA | CHIKA ANYANWU | CHRIS MUELLER |
SR. FAUSTINA MARIA PIA, SV | SR. ANTONIANA MARIA, SV

LEARN MORE &
REGISTER AT: diocesehelena.org/eucharisticcongress

Helena Catholic Women's CONFERENCE

"COME TO ME" MATTHEW 11:28



*Sr. Deirdre
Byrne*



*Mother
Mary Paul*



*Kendra
Von Esb*

Mary Our Mother

Friday, April 12, 2024 ~ Cathedral of St. Helena
5:30 pm Mass & Rosary offered for families
All are welcome

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Women's Conference, Adoration,
Confessions, Vendors, Fellowship
Helena Civic Center



visit Helenacwc.com



Jerusalem, My Destiny

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736) composed Stabat Mater, a profoundly moving exploration of the Virgin Mary's grief at the foot of the cross. Composed in the final years of his tragically short life, Pergolesi's work invites listeners into a contemplative journey, as they immerse themselves in the emotional depths of Mary's experience.

In Stabat Mater, the image of the Virgin Mary fixing her eyes on Jesus on the Cross becomes vivid and compelling. In this moment of intimacy between mother and son, listeners are encouraged to pause, reflect, and pray. The music transforms the listeners as they enter into Mary's sorrow and devotion, and to unite their own personal suffering with hers.

Each movement of the Stabat Mater offers a different facet of Mary's emotional journey. From the lament of the opening movement to the fervent affirmation of the closing Amen, Pergolesi captures the essence of Mary's faith and sorrow. Through soaring melodies, harmonies, and text painting, he leads listeners on a journey of the soul, inviting them to contemplate the mysteries of redemption and grace.

Amidst the Lenten season, Rory Cooney's Jerusalem, My Destiny serves as a companion to Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, echoing its themes of journey and redemption. As we sing this meditative song in Mass, we are reminded of our journey of faith, as we walk alongside Jesus toward Jerusalem. Just as Mary fixed her eyes on Jesus on the cross, so too are we called to fix our gaze on Jesus, embracing our own destiny with unwavering trust in God's redemption. As we fix our eyes on Jesus on the cross, we find in Cooney's music a source of renewal and hope, reminding us of the promise of new life found in Christ's resurrection.

As we sing and contemplate Jerusalem, My Destiny, may our hearts be filled with renewed faith and joy on our journey toward Jerusalem, our ultimate destiny in Christ.

Thoughts
from Deb

Pastoral Care

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the most significant week in Catholicism. **Spanning from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday**, it marks the final stretch before Easter Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

We recognize four special days that lead up to Easter. The events of Christ's Passion from His entrance into Jerusalem, when palm branches were placed in His path, through His arrest on Holy Thursday and Crucifixion on Good Friday, to Holy Saturday, the day that Christ's body lay in the tomb. The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil. The liturgical services that take place during the Triduum are:

* *Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 p.m.*

* *Good Friday of the Lord's Passion:
Stations of the Cross 12:10 p.m.*

Mass 5:30 p.m.

* *Holy Saturday:*

Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.

Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Vigil) 8:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil Reception

We will have a reception in the Gathering Space following the Easter Vigil. If you would like to bring an item, please check the signup on the kiosk. Help with set-up is also needed.

***For questions, call Deb
in the parish office.***

Thank you

To everyone who has attended our Soup & Bread dinners, brought soup and helped with cleanup.

Would also like to thank those who donated to the "Freewill Offering" for the "Street Outreach Ministry."

We have collected \$1,010.00 and have one more Soup & Bread Dinner!

CRS RICE BOWLS

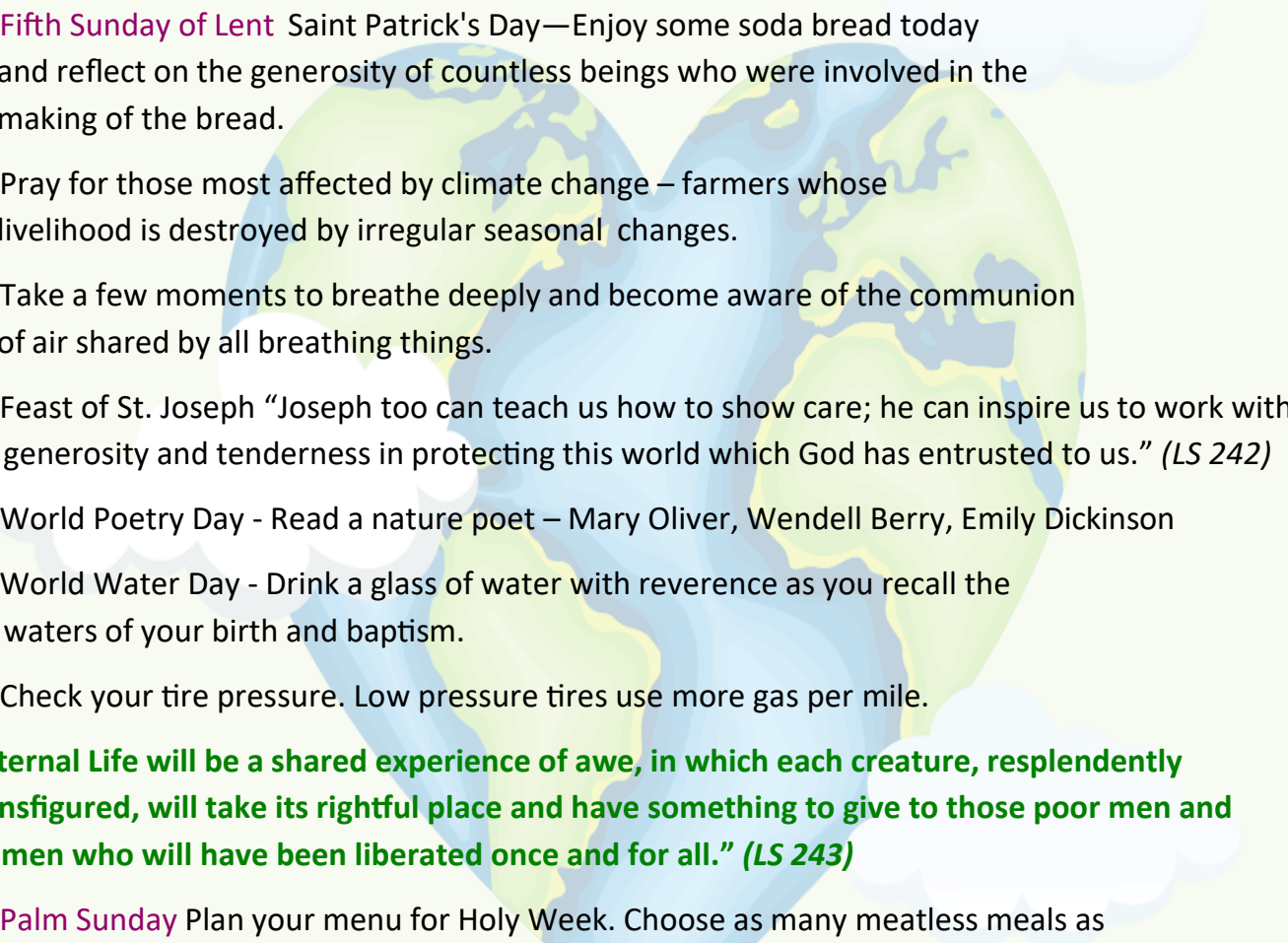
Still available for pick up
in the gathering space.

CRS Rice Bowls are due on Holy Thursday.

*"Some people come in our life
as blessings. Some come in your life
as lessons." ~ Mother Teresa*

SAINT MARY CARE FOR CREATION MINISTRY

Living a Laudato Si' Lent - The World can Change a lot in 40 Days

- 
- 17 **Fifth Sunday of Lent** Saint Patrick's Day—Enjoy some soda bread today and reflect on the generosity of countless beings who were involved in the making of the bread.
- 18 Pray for those most affected by climate change – farmers whose livelihood is destroyed by irregular seasonal changes.
- 19 Take a few moments to breathe deeply and become aware of the communion of air shared by all breathing things.
- 20 Feast of St. Joseph “Joseph too can teach us how to show care; he can inspire us to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us.” (LS 242)
- 21 World Poetry Day - Read a nature poet – Mary Oliver, Wendell Berry, Emily Dickinson
- 22 World Water Day - Drink a glass of water with reverence as you recall the waters of your birth and baptism.
- 23 Check your tire pressure. Low pressure tires use more gas per mile.
- “Eternal Life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give to those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all.” (LS 243)**
- 24 **Palm Sunday** Plan your menu for Holy Week. Choose as many meatless meals as you can; eat as many organic, locally produced foods as possible.
- 25 Feast of the Annunciation “In Mary's glorified body, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty hence we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.” (LS241)
- 26 Talk to a friend or family member about what it has meant to you to live Lent with Laudato Si'.
- 27 Spy Wednesday – Reflect on how we humans have betrayed our fellow creatures by our selfish consumption. *Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rot, and Recycle*
- 28 Holy Thursday - Be conscious as you eat today that every meal is a holy communion.
- 29 Good Friday - “Jesus entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross.” (LS 99)
- 30 Holy Saturday - Light a candle and renew your commitment to the vision of Laudato Si'. Reflect on all you have achieved during Lent and what you will carry forward on your journey to a sustainable life.

SAINT FRANCIS PEACE THROUGH JUSTICE MINISTRY

“If you Want Peace, Work for Justice.” — Pope Paul VI

Palm Sunday – A Meditation

As Palm Sunday approaches and is suddenly upon us, with the anticipation of Lent being in the rearview mirror, we can envision Jesus astride a donkey, a “beast of burden,” on a dusty road, people thronging around. Who are the players in that scene? And where are we in that picture?

Are we among the enthusiastic but deeply fickle bystanders, wildly waving palm fronds? Are we standing near the rear, mildly pleased but slightly skeptical? Are we among the onlookers from a distance wondering about the ruckus? Each of these stances presents a challenge: The wildly enthusiastic turn against Jesus in just a few short days. Are we like them, like the seed that falls on rocky ground, sprouts joyfully and then withers? What about the mildly pleased but skeptical ones? Perhaps they are like seeds that fell on more fertile ground. But as we know, even fertile ground needs tending. Our commitment to Jesus also needs tending. What about the seeds, choked out by the weeds? Are we like those onlookers who take in the “ruckus” but soon turn to worldly worries and pursuits?

Lastly, what about other players? As we know, ***St. Francis taught that all God’s creatures were of value, have a place.*** What about the donkey? Can we learn from him? Are there lessons we can take forward in our own lives?

The Poet Thinks About the Donkey*

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
the donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
he stood and waited.
*How horses, turned out into the meadow,
leap with delight!*
*How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight!*
But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.
Then he let the stranger mount.
Never had he seen such crowds!
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.
Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.
I hope, finally, he felt brave.
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him,
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.

*Mary Oliver, *Devotions*, c. 2017

May we, in whatever stance we find ourselves, be brave enough to follow Jesus, no matter how dusty the path, no matter how challenging our circumstances.

Let us remember the donkey and let us pray.

Amen



Care for Our Retired Priests

The priests of our Diocese have given their lives in service to God-and us. Today, we have 26 retired priests receiving retirement benefits. More than a dozen priests currently with assignments are within ten years of retirement. We will soon have more retired priests than active ones. Through this campaign, we seek to grow the trust to meet the anticipated need of our aging priests.

Because He First Loved Us will raise \$4 million to provide greater security to the retirement needs of our priests who have served us so well.

After a lifetime of sacrifice and service, no priest should face retirement with financial uncertainty.



Please scan the QR code to learn more at the **Because He First Loved Us** website
www.fdoh.org/because-he-first-loved-us

Together we have raised
\$193,500
 23% of our \$838,000 goal

Our Lady of the Valley will be having their Reconciliation on March 19 from 5:00-6:30 pm.

Helena Catholic Journey Gathering

Please join the Helena Catholic Journey Community for our Gathering on **Monday, March 18, 2024, at 7pm** in the Social Center at Saint Mary Catholic Community, *(entrance doors on back side of church).*

Tom Kaiserski will present the story of Fr. DeSmet and History of Catholicism in Montana.
All are welcome.

Bingo is back!

Please join Bingo lovers in the social center on Sunday, April 7th from 2:00pm-4:00pm. A monetary donation will be accepted to buy wipes and diapers for Catholic Social Services Baby Boutique. We guarantee treats, fun and prizes! Come any time between 2:00pm and 4:00pm and bring the family!

Come and join us at the Jubilee Garden at Saint Mary Catholic Community!

Are you new to gardening or do not have enough space at home? Are you looking for a sunny space to grow vegetables? Come and garden with us at Jubilee Garden this year.

We have some small raised plots (4 feet by 10 feet) and a few large plots (10 feet by 20 feet) available for the season. The small plots are great if you do not want to bend over to garden.

Small plots are \$30 and large plots are \$50 for the season—water, drip lines, and timers are provided to the gardeners. The garden is also stocked with tools. Just bring yourself, some seeds or transplants, and enjoy the sun. **Scholarships are available if needed.**

Please contact Joe Beausoleil at 406-431-3158 or jbeausoleil@mt.net.

Boiler Update

I want to provide you with an update on our boiler project so many of you were generous to support – thank you!

The work on replacing the boiler started later than initially planned last summer because the plumbing contractor, Montana City Plumbing & Heating, had to finish another job.

The boilers were installed in October, but not connected to the base-hot-water heat system in the parish office. The explanation given was that the plumbing contractor did not want to dismantle the old system until the new system was fully installed and all kinks worked out of the new system. They were concerned that if there was a kink in the new system, the parish office could be left without heat for several days or weeks, during the cold winter months. So, the old system clanked its way through our coldest winter months.

Parish staff have reached out many, many times to Montana City Heating & Plumbing to once again get work started to finish this project. To date, there has been no response from Montana City Plumbing. The Diocese has been contacted for help in trying to get a response from Montana City Plumbing.

Sub-contractors, such as electricians and others, cannot do their work until such time as Montana City calls them in to do their portion of the work. As that hasn't happened yet, our electrician can't officially begin the work that needs to be done to parish thermostats in order to help complete the project. Please do not place any blame for the stall in this project on our electrician. It is not his fault.

We will continue to work diligently towards getting a response out of Montana City Plumbing and Heating. If a satisfactory response from them is not received in the near future, we will move toward a different solution in resolving our heating system for the parish office. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to Joanna Haddon, Finance Director, at our parish. Thank you.

Fish Fry



Friday Feb. 23rd; March 8th & 22nd 2024
5pm-7pm

KC Hall - 1867 N. Washington St - Behind Pomp's Tire



\$15 a plate for fresh fish (Cod), coleslaw and potatoes

Homemade Clam Chowder \$6 - Mac & Cheese \$4
Bring a non-perishable food item for Helena Food Share

Coffee, Soda, Beer, Wine & Mixed Drinks available

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

"Kindness Makes Miracles"

Faith & Reason Lecture March 21

Join us for the annual
Carroll College Faith &
Reason Lecture on
Thursday, March 21 at
7:00 p.m. in the Lower
Campus Center
(1601 N. Benton Ave,
Helena).

Dr. Todd Salzman of
Creighton University
will present

"Pope Francis,
Conscience, and
Magisterial Teaching:
Retrieving Tradition."

Pilgrimage to Ireland with Fr. Joe Paddock May 27 through June 5, 2024



Join Fr. Joe Paddock on a 10-day, once-in-a-lifetime trip to Ireland!

Cost: \$4,799.00

Includes all necessary flights, airport taxes, security fees and fuel surcharges
Also includes transportation by luxury bus, and
all breakfasts and dinners, guided tours and tour fees

We will celebrate Mass together daily and plan to visit many towns and historical sites. Highlights include visits to St. Patrick's Cathedral, the largest church in Ireland, the monastic site of St. Kevin in Glendalough, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the ruins of Glencolmille named after St. Columba, one of Ireland's three patron saints, and much, much more! You will also have opportunities to enjoy traditional Irish music and dance, shopping in the famous Grafton street area, the rugged coastal scenery of Giant's Causeway, a visit to the Bloody Sunday Memorial, the Slieve League on the Atlantic Coast, Silver Strand Beach, the Cliffs of Moher, Our Lady of Knock, and much more!

For a full itinerary and to register, go to:

https://www.proximotravel.com/trip-store/?action=view_trip&triptemplateid=1105

or scan the QR code to the right →





SEMINARIANS

FOR THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

2023-2024

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Dillon Armstrong | John Cooney |
| Kaleb Mitchell | Riley Helgoe |
| Brett Rotz | Anthony Olmes |
| James Semling | Jamie Severson |
| Carter Anderson | Shae Bills |
| Lane Buus | Matt Keck |

- Please continue to pray for our Seminarians -

We Pray for all those serving in the Military

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Natasha Walker | Nathan Mill |
| Marcus Peter | Christopher Casne |
| Andrew Welch | Tyler Eierdam |
| Ed Eve, Jr | Colby Smith |
| Jack Cotter | Cody Gleich |
| David Beatty | Andrew McGuffey |
| Jackson Haddon | Nicholas T Nelson |
| Stephen Ceo | Tristan Anne Driessen |
| Lucas Robson | |

By the grace of God may peace reside in every human heart and in all the world. If you would like to add or remove a name, please call the Parish Office on 406-442-5268.

Prayers for the Deceased

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Please remember in your prayers those who have recently died.*

When a member of your family dies and the funeral is somewhere other than Saint Mary, please call the Pastoral Office so that we may remember them in the Prayer of the Faithful.



HOMELESS PANTRY

Thank you so very much for your response to our parish's Homeless Pantry.

Through your generosity, we were able to keep the pantry stocked through the summer! The Homeless Pantry continues to be a huge success with lots of individuals in need using it.

Now winter is here! We will still accept donations of food and toiletries, but we also need scarves, warm hats, bottles of water, gloves, socks.

Thank you for your generosity!



Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, **March 31**, Knights of Columbus and Ancient Order of Hibernians will be sponsoring an Easter egg hunt. There will be two categories: boys and girls 6 years old and under, and boys and girls 7 years old and older.

The event will begin at **1:00pm** sharp at **Memorial Park**. Eggs will contain exciting prizes. Hope to see you there.

Our parish is a supporter of a number of outreach organizations in town, including:



Catholic Social Services : 406-442-4130

Guided by a commitment to respect for life, CSSM serves the varied needs of mothers, babies and children by building and strengthening families in Montana.



De La Salle Blackfeet School: 406-338-5290

Provides a quality, innovative and faith-based education to students on Blackfeet Reservation, that they may become successful learners and able participants in the shaping of their community.



Family Promise: 406-465-9467

Helps homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through an interfaith network of hospitality.



Friendship Center: 406-442-6800

Supports victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse with a broad range of support at no charge.



God's Love: 406-442-7000

Supports homeless in our community and helps provide food and shelter.



Good Samaritan Ministries: 406-442-0780

Supports family life in our community and enhance human dignity with services to meet the physical health, social, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families.



Guatemala Mission: Established in 1964, our diocesan mission at Santo Tomás la Unión, Guatemala is comprised of a school, a clinic, and the mission headquarters. The mission provides essential services to poor people in the coastal highlands of the country.



Habitat for Humanity: 406-449-4663

Self-described "Christian housing ministry" is devoted to building simple, decent, affordable housing in the Helena area. (www.helenahabitat.org)



Helena Community Gardens: 406-529-1364

Makes gardening accessible to low-income families, people with disabilities and the elderly, increasing access to healthy locally grown food. Our Jubilee Garden, which donates fresh organic produce to Helena Food Share, is a member of the Helena Community Gardens family. (www.helenagardens.org)



Helena Food Share: 406-443-3663

Creates a hunger free community with emergency food boxes monthly and weekly produce and breads.



Options Clinic: 406-422-1011

Guided by a commitment to respect for life, Options offers a wide range of health care services to men and women free of charge. (www.optionsfriends.org)

If the good work of any of these organizations resonates with your desire to serve, please feel free to contact them—and please mention that you are from Saint Mary Catholic Community.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Church's social teaching shows us how to build a just society and live lives of holiness in the 21st century.

Each person is **SACRED**, made in God's image, equal in dignity.

Each person is **SOCIAL**, called to participate in family and community.

All people have **RIGHTS** and **RESPONSIBILITIES**. The right to life and its necessities, the responsibility to respect the rights of others and work for the common good.

We care for people who are **POOR** and vulnerable, before all else.

Workers have rights. **WORK** has dignity. We are partners with God in creation.

SOLIDARITY is our call. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

We are for **CREATION**. We live in interdependence with all God has made.

Mark Your Calendars!

- ♦ Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 12:10 PM Mass
- ♦ Fridays: Mass *at rotating sites in local care centers*.
Coming up: March 22 11:00 AM at Hunter's Pointe; April 5 10:30 AM at Mount Ascension; April 12 11:00 AM at Touchmark
- ♦ Wednesdays: Confessions 4:00 PM—5:00 PM
- ♦ Tuesdays: Eucharistic Adoration after the 12:10 PM Mass until 2:00 PM
- ♦ Saturdays: 3:00—4:00 PM Confessions; 4:30 PM Vigil
- ♦ Sundays: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Masses
Livestream Masses available [here](#)
- ♦ Sunday March 17: 9:15 AM—10:15 AM Confirmation class in St. Ann's; 10:30 AM Third Scrutiny; 10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in social center
- ♦ Monday March 18: 9:45 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group in Worship Space; 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Journey Gathering meeting in social center
- ♦ Tuesday March 19: 1:00 PM Ongoing Grief Group in St. Ann's
- ♦ Wednesday March 20: 3:45 PM—5:00 PM RE in social center; 3:30 PM—5:00 PM Confessions; 6:30 PM—7:30 PM Youth Group in social center
- ♦ Thursday March 21: 10:00 AM—3:00 PM Quilters in St. Ann's; 1:00 PM The Chosen Discussion Group in social center
- ♦ Friday March 22: 11:00 AM Mass at Hunter's Pointe
- ♦ Saturday March 23: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM Confessions
- ♦ Sunday March 24: **No Children's Liturgy of the Word**
- ♦ Monday March 25: 9:45 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group in St. Ann's; 1:00 PM New Grief Group in St. Ann's; **No OCIA**
- ♦ Tuesday March 26: 1:00 PM New Grief Group in St. Ann's
- ♦ Wednesday March 27: 3:30 PM—5:00 PM Confessions; **No RE; No Youth Group**
- ♦ Friday March 29: **Parish Office Closed**
- ♦ Saturday March 30: **No Confessions**

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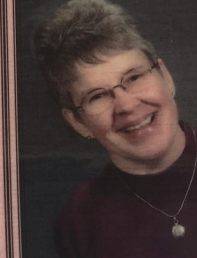
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