

Saint Mary Catholic Community



April 26th, 2026 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

“So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate.””

John 10:7

May 3rd, 2026 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.””

John 14:12

Mass Schedule: Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 PM | Sunday Mass 9:00 AM

Weekday Masses: Tuesday & Thursday 12:10 PM

Upcoming Care Center Masses: May 1st at Mount Ascension, May 8th at Touchmark

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

Reconciliation: Tuesday 3:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m. and Saturday 2:30 p.m.— 3:30 p.m.

[Click here to signup for Flocknote \(to receive news and updates from us\)](#)

[Click here to watch our livestreams](#)

[Click here to become a parishioner](#)



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.”

Masses at Saint Mary

Sunday, April 26th—The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10

9:00 AM Mass— for James Klostrman†
rb: Hal & Carolyn Nelson

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**Monday, April 27th—No Mass**  
*Acts 11q:1-18; John 10:11-18*

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Tuesday, April 28th
Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30

12:10 PM Mass— for the intentions of Connor McGree Family
rb: Bill and Charlotte Fleiner

3:30 PM—5:00 PM Confessions

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**Wednesday, April 29th—No Mass**  
*Acts 12:24-13:5a; John 12:44-50*

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Thursday, April 30th—No Mass
Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20

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**Friday, May 1st**

*Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6*

**10:30 AM Mass** at Mount Ascension  
for the intentions of the people at Mount Ascension

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Saturday, May 2nd

Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14

2:30 PM— 3:30 PM Confessions

4:00 PM Vigil— for Stewart and Tracy Schopp†
rb: Nancy Coleman

Sunday, May 3rd—The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

9:00 AM Mass— for the intentions of Katie Koytinksi
rb: Sandi and Janelle

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**Monday, May 4th—No Mass**  
*Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26*

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Tuesday, May 5th
Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a

12:10 PM Mass— for the intentions of the Stulz and Schroeder Families

rb: Mary Schroeder

3:30 PM—5:00 PM Confessions

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**Wednesday, May 6th—No Mass**  
*Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8*

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Thursday, May 7th

Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11

12:10 PM Mass— for Chris Carlin†
rb: Bill and Charlotte Fleiner

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**Friday, May 8th**

*Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17*

**11:00 AM Mass** at Touchmark  
for the intentions of the people at Touchmark

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Saturday, May 9th

Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21

2:30 PM— 3:30 PM Confessions

4:00 PM Vigil— for Ryan Manion†
rb: Bill and Charlotte Fleiner

Mark Your Calendars!

- ◆ **Sunday April 26th:** 9:00 am Mass, Children's Liturgy of the Word; CGS Training in Social Center
- ◆ **Monday April 27th:** No Mass; 9:30 am Prayer Group
- ◆ **Tuesday April 28th:** 12:10 pm Mass; 1:00 pm Church History; 3:30 pm— 5:00 pm Confessions; 5:30 pm SFPTJ Human Trafficking Event
- ◆ **Wednesday April 29th:** No Mass; 3:30 pm RE; 6:30 pm Youth Group
- ◆ **Thursday April 30th: No Mass;** 10:00 AM Funeral Mass for Jack Giacoma at OLV
- ◆ **Friday May 1st:** 10:30 am Mass at Mount Ascension; 12:00 pm Prayer in Motion
- ◆ **Saturday May 2nd:** 9:30 am First Communion Rehearsal in church; 2:30 pm— 3:30 pm Confessions; 4:00 pm Mass, First Communion; Hospitality
- ◆ **Sunday May 3rd:** 9:00 am Mass; Hospitality; 3:00 pm Confirmation at Cathedral
- ◆ **Monday May 4th:** No Mass; 9:30 am Prayer Group
- ◆ **Tuesday May 5th:** 12:10 pm Mass; 12:45 pm Blessing of Mary Statues; 1:00 pm Church History
- ◆ **Wednesday May 6th:** No Mass; 3:30 pm RE May Crowning; 6:00 pm Youth Group
- ◆ **Thursday May 7th:** 10:00 am-3:00 pm Quilters; 12:10 pm Mass
- ◆ **Friday May 8th:** 11:00 am Mass at Touchmark; 12:00 pm Prayer in Motion in St. Ann's
- ◆ **Saturday May 9th:** 2:30 pm— 3:30 pm Confessions; 4:00 pm Mass



Parish Staff 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

Pastoral Care Director: Vacant

Lori Mleko ~ Elementary RE Coordinator

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

Danita Murray ~ Parish Bookkeeper

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

Director of Music and Liturgy: VACANT

Brandon Bloom ~ Maintenance Director

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

Keaton Pettis ~ Communications Coordinator

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

Parish Councils at your service

Pastoral Council Members: Starla Blank, Jan Buyske, Ed Glowienka, John Larson, Mary Munger, Casey Molloy, Jeff Tobin, Tyson Schulte, Marelee Cloninger, Leah Butkay, Lacey Galen, Kristi Irwin, and Alissa Voeller
Finance Council Members: Bruce Baumgart, Jana Gruber, Julie Johnson, Anna Miller, Lori Murphy-Moulet, Rick Duane, and Nancy Coleman

Pastoral Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. | Tuesday: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM | Friday: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Fr. Tim's Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Office Address: 1700 Missoula Ave. Helena, MT 59601

Phone: 406-442-5268 | **Website:** www.stmaryhelena.org | **E-mail:** smcc@stmaryhelena.org

From Father Tim

Happy Easter everyone! May the peace of the risen Lord be with you and all of your families. We celebrate the greatest Feast of all-time, as Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Death has no power over Him or over us who follow the Lord with all of our hearts!

During this Lenten season, we have been preparing for this wonderful moment through fasting and reflecting on the Lord's love and mercy, just as Christ went into the desert to prepare for His public ministry, to fast for forty days and be tempted by the devil. Later, Christ is Transfigured before Peter, James, and John to illustrate the beauty of heaven that awaits them~ as long as the Apostles~ and all of us~ are willing to take up our crosses on this earthly journey.

The parable of the fig tree illustrates God's patience, but also the urgency of conversion or turning back to the Lord, because we do not know the time nor the hour when the Lord will call us from this life. The Lord also emphasizes that we HAVE to love one another, because love comes from God. That love is instilled in all of our hearts, and LOVE NEVER FAILS. Christ tells us that true freedom comes from Him, and not from the law. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law and the prophets, because He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and the one and only way to salvation.

Then we celebrated Palm Sunday: the Passion of our Lord, as Christ enters Jerusalem to a hero's welcome, only to be brutally beaten and die on the Cross a few days later for not denying He was God.

And now we have celebrated Easter Sunday: the holy of holies, and the greatest day in the history of the world! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the world is changed forever. He told His disciples about His upcoming resurrection, but they did not understand~ and we would not have understood either. But in 2026, WE KNOW AND WE BELIEVE, because the Apostles were firsthand witnesses to His miracles, His preaching, and His death and resurrection. And they proclaimed this message to the whole world~ that JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!!

This is THE DAY that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad! May the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ transform our hearts and lead us to everlasting life!

God bless all of you!

Fr. Tim

Pope's Intentions for April 2026

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



**Prayer
Ministry
Sacrifice**

As praying stewards, we gathered together as community to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. We welcomed Tom Johns into our faith. We look forward to celebrating with the children of our parish who will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 2nd.

As ministering stewards, We give thanks to our Hospitality team, who always provide a welcoming atmosphere to all. We invite you to help in preparing the Jubilee Garden on Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. Our parishioners also gathered for a nice lunch after the Anointing Mass.

As sacrificing stewards,

Stewardship Gifts/Ordinary Collections:

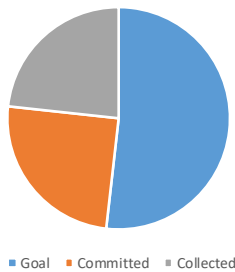
Fiscal Year 2025-26 Received:	7/1/25 – 3/31/26	\$409,762.49
Fiscal Year 2025-25 Budgeted:	7/1/25 – 3/31/26	<u>407,521.00</u>
(Difference: Received – Budget):		\$2,241.49

Upcoming Collection: May 2026

During the month of May, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work for their communities need. Your support for this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Envelopes can be found in the Gathering Space, or you can donate online on your personal giving portal.



HABEMUS PAPAM, ACA 2025-26
80 Households with Commitments



Goal	\$ 89,600.00
Committed	\$ 43,119.92
Collected	\$ 40,269.92

45.10% of Goal

SENIOR STATUS PRIESTS RECEIVE CARE

Your generous gift to the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal assists to provide our senior priests with a secure retirement, including adequate health insurance, prescriptions, dental and vision care. Additionally, our contributions help assure that all the priests who serve in faith, with hope and through love will be appropriately cared for as they move into their senior status years (retirement).

Give in gratitude for our senior priests who have been chosen to live a life of ordained service.

2026 Soup and Bread

Donations cheerfully given at our Soup and Bread gatherings totaled \$1,054.00. Last Fall the elementary RE kids held a Guatemala craft sale and sold \$341.06 in crafts. Both of these amounts are for the benefit of our Guatemala Mission School and have been remitted to the Diocese of Helena. Thank you for your generosity!!

Parish Administrator Update

At this time we will not be filling the Parish Administrator position due to a rotation of pastors effective July 1, 2026.

SMCC Food Share Donations

During the month of April, SMCC has donated 293 lbs of food to Helena Food Share!
Thank you for your generosity!

SMCC Solar Energy

As of Thursday, April 23rd at 9:00 am SMCC solar panels have produced 209.41 MWh of energy worth \$24,081.95!

Parish Prayer Chain

Prayer is a powerful way we practice loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call the Parish Office to have your prayer request put on the email prayer chain. Your request can include the person's name or be anonymous. To join the prayer chain, please call the Parish Office (406) 442-5268. If you'd like to be a part of the parish prayer chain and don't have access to email, please call Keaton at the parish office to sign up with your telephone number. As prayers are received at the parish, you will receive a phone call, making it possible for you to participate in this important prayer ministry.

Hospital Communion Ministry

With concern for your privacy, should you be admitted to St. Peter's Health, you will be invited to disclose your religious affiliation and your interest in having a member of Saint Mary Catholic Community contact you during your hospital stay. If you'd like to receive Communion from a Pastoral Care Minister or Father Tim Moriarty, it is important that you answer the questions that enable the hospital Chaplain to contact Saint Mary for you. The nurse completing your intake will ask if you'd like to visit with the Chaplain, Kim Pepper (a member of Our Lady of the Valley Parish), or disclose your religious affiliation and will then inquire if you'd like someone from your faith community to visit you. The Pastoral Care Ministry of Saint Mary Catholic Community would love to provide you with comfort during your hospital stay.

Please let the hospital staff know if a visit would be helpful for you.





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

Faith Formation

A Journey for Life

Standing or Kneeling During the Eucharistic Prayer: Why Both Postures Are Good

The question has been asked, why does our community stand during the Eucharistic Prayer. I think it is an important question to answer. The most important thing to know is this: **both standing and kneeling are allowed by the Church, and both are postures of deep reverence.** Neither one is “more holy” or “more correct.” Understanding how these practices developed can help us appreciate the richness of our tradition.

In the earliest centuries of Christianity, **everyone stood** during the Eucharistic Prayer. Standing was considered the posture of the *risen and redeemed* — a sign of Easter joy, freedom from sin, and participation in Christ’s victory. Kneeling, by contrast, was used only for **penitential** moments such as fasting or sorrow. In fact, the **Council of Nicaea (325 AD)** explicitly forbade kneeling on Sundays and throughout the fifty days of Easter.

Kneeling during the consecration does not appear until around the **12th century**, and only within the **Latin Rite**. The Eastern Catholic Churches — fully Catholic and in communion with Rome — continued the ancient practice of standing, and most still do today. Why the shift in the West? Under Charlemagne, **Latin became the universal liturgical language**, even as spoken Latin evolved into local languages. As people understood the prayers less, they began receiving the Eucharist less frequently. Devotion shifted toward **adoration** rather than reception. Kneeling mirrored the **feudal custom** of kneeling before a king or lord. Mass became more of a private devotion of the Eucharist for the people.

The Second Vatican Council (1962–65) sought to restore the Mass as a **communal liturgical action**, not a private devotion observed from a distance. The Council called the faithful to **full, conscious, and active participation**. Standing was recognized as a posture that expresses: unity with the priest in the sacred action, dignity as baptized members of Christ’s Body, the ancient Christian understanding of resurrection faith. The Church also remembered that standing was the original posture of the Eucharistic Prayer for centuries.

In many parts of the world — even within the Latin Rite — the faithful **stand** throughout the Eucharistic Prayer, sometimes kneeling only at the moment of consecration. In the United States, however, the bishops made a different pastoral decision. In 1969, they voted to **retain the pre-Vatican II custom of kneeling** they believed American Catholics, who had long associated kneeling with reverence, might be confused or unsettled by a sudden shift to standing.

At the same time, permission was granted for communities who wished to stand to do so. Our parish is one of those communities, and this has been our tradition for more than 40 years. Both postures are beautiful ways to honor Jesus in the Eucharist. I personally like to follow the traditions of the community I am in. If they stand, I stand and if they kneel, I kneel.

What matters most is not the posture of our bodies, but the posture of our hearts.

Let us take care not to let differences in posture divide us. Let us give grace to one another. Let us remember that **we all love the Lord, and we all come to the Eucharist seeking Him.**

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

First Communion Celebration

First Communion will take place on Saturday, May 2nd at the 4:00 pm Mass. Please pray for all who will be receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the 1st time on May 2nd!



The Church History Group will meet on April 28th and May 5th at 1:00 pm in the Social Center! All are welcome to join us!

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be offered this weekend on April 26th at the 9:00 am Mass. It will **not** be offered next Sunday, May 3rd.

"Be peacemakers at home, at school, in sports, everywhere. Never be violent, neither with words nor with gestures. Never!" Pope Leo XIV

Youth Group Dates

April 29th: MS and HS Youth Group from 6:30 pm to 7:30pm

May 6th: Final Youth Group until next Fall. We will meet from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm!

Dinner will be provided!



Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates!

Confirmation will take place on May 3rd at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Helena.

Come Holy Spirit!!!!





Hospice Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are an essential part of hospice care.
No matter what your abilities and interests are,
there are volunteer opportunities for you!

Volunteers Can Help In Many Different Ways:

- Providing companionship and emotional support
- Helping to write letters or record life stories
- Reading aloud
- Staying with hospice patients while caregivers take a break
- Household chores and yard work
- Bedside music and art projects
- Assisting with hospice office tasks
- Phone calls and visits to bereaved families

All volunteers receive background checks and hospice-specific training.

**Please call us
for more information:**

406-916-4500

2030 11th Ave, Ste. 1
Helena, MT 59601



VBS 2026

August 3-7 from 1:00-5:00 pm

Children entering Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Register here: <https://forms.gle/2seaQnGAgF4mapC97> or scan the QR code



Comfort Food Challenge

The Comfort Food Challenge was a success! It was held in the Student Center at Carroll College. There were a variety of silent auction items and vendors. Saint Mary Catholic Community served chicken white bean chili. While not getting the most votes for best food, we did win Best Dressed (a new category for sure)! Thank you's go to: M.C. Pancich, Mary Munger, Sandi Ashley, and Marc Buyske for helping prepare the chili and to JoAnne Thun, Leah Butkay, and Marc Buyske for working the event!



Easter Flowers 2026 Honorariums-Memorials

From	In Honor of	In Memory of
Lynda Camburn		Bruce Camburn
		Helen Akeroyd
		Sherri
		Diane
Michael & Mary Foot		Rev. & Mrs. Loren Foot
		Mr & Mrs. E. J. Olson
Mary Lou Abbott		Douglas O. Abbott
Nancy Coleman		Robert & Violet Coleman
Sandra & Thomas Perry		'Bing' & Mary Claire Bruce
		Glenn & Hilda Perry
		Eileen & Glen Perry
		Robert C. Bruce
Jim Tucker	Jim Tucker	Lorraine Tucker
Tim & Audrey Kelly		Patrick Thomas Walsh Kelly
		Ryan Daniel Goroski
Mark Maki		Lynn Maki
Mr & Mrs Dean Egeland		Tom & Jeanette Kelly
		Patrick Kelly
		Monte & Mary Egeland
Anna Miller & Lyle Manley		Peter Miller
		June Miller
	Margaret Miller	
Mr & Mrs Jim Martinez		Cathi Hocevar
Mary Matule		John Pupich
Mr & Mrs Dennis Prody		Dennis Michael Prody
		Gwendolyn Carroll
		William Carroll
		LaVonne Prody
Stephen McCue		Mary Kelly McCue
Mr & Mrs Robert Swartout		Maria Lee
Pete & Cathy Surdock		
Mr & Mrs Frank McCall		
Lloyd Dopp		
Mr & Mrs Gerald Lundin		
Reid & Karen Miller		
Sue Nyland		
Jill & Tom Larson		

Prayer in Motion



Prayer in Motion Classes will resume on Friday, April 24. Class begins at 12 noon in the Social Center and lasts about 45 minutes. Please join us for gentle, prayerful movement. No experience necessary. Standing and seated options are available.



Volunteer Opportunity



The Saint Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry will be assembling “Kid Food Packs” at Helena Food Share on Tuesday, April 28th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Parishioners are invited to help make approximately 1,000 food packs. The work involves walking but does not require heavy lifting.

If you would like to help, please contact Keaton at the Parish Office or sign up at the kiosk in the church. Please provide your email address and phone number. Thank you!



St. Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry Invites You

Human Trafficking in the Helena Area

presented by

Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton

6: 30 pm on Tuesday, April 29 in the Social Center



Learn about human trafficking and how to identify it, how to educate young people, and how to intervene effectively.

Keep the young people in our community safer.



Statues of Saint Mary for Her May Celebration

In the Catholic church, the month of May is dedicated to Mary, Our Blessed Mother. Mary is our inspirational model of faith, humility, love and obedience. Her “yes” to God’s will changes our lives and the lives of all the world. In times of trouble, she is our perpetual help. Her feast days in May are the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13 and the Feast of the Visitation on May 31. Mother’s Day is May 10.

The Crowning of Mary by the RE students will be May 6, 2026.

As part of the Saint Mary Catholic Community celebration honoring Mary, an array of statues and pictures of Mary will be set up around the back of the baptismal font throughout the month of May.

If you have a statue or picture you would like to lend to the display, please bring it, marked with your name, to the parish office, or

contact Deb Kralicek or Sandi Ashley by April 30, 2026.

Blessing of the Statues 12:45 pm Tuesday May 5, 2026



Mother’s Day Cards



Honor your mother in prayer on Mother’s Day! Our Masses on May 10th, 2026 will be offered for the intention of all mothers, living and deceased. Mother’s Day prayer intention cards are now available in the Gathering Space and at the Parish Office!



Synopsis of April Pastoral Council Meeting

Pastoral Council met April 14, 2026. Father Tim told the Council his last weekend would be July 4th/5th; the music coordinator starts June 8th; roughly 1/3 of the parish has participated in the stewardship drive; the Pastoral Care position is open and hopes to have someone in place before Fr. Cody comes.

Rick Duane spoke about the new sign to be placed out front to replace the one that blew down. Knights of Columbus are funding the project. Rick has done a lot of work coordinating this project. He hopes to have it up by the end of May. Anna Miller gave a financial report. There was a lengthy discussion about social media and presenting information about upcoming events on our Facebook page. Lacey Galen is going to find out who is putting information on it at this time. The plan is to have one person inputting the information. The two student representatives may need to be replaced. One is graduating and the other will potentially be on another committee. We are checking with Dawn for possible replacements. A discussion was held concerning altar servers. There was another discussion concerning QR codes and where to place them. It is going under old business for the May meeting since Fr. Cody will be at that meeting. The new handicap parking sign was discussed and two members offered to buy two more. These will be placed on the three spots between the church and the office during Mass times. The Council will meet with Fr. Cody on Tuesday, May 12th.



Family Promise Thank You

The volunteer coordinators for Family Promise want to thank the Saint Mary Catholic Community volunteers that helped us host at First Christian Church during the week of April 19-26. We certainly rely on each of you to help us carry out this ministry.

A special thank you to Jan Buyske and her volunteers that prepared and served a white bean chicken chili entrée at the Comfort Food Challenge on April 19th. The annual Fundraiser for Family Promise was well attended and thank you also to the many parishioners that bought tickets and enjoyed the delicious fare!

We appreciate your support of the mission of Family Promise to help families attain sustainable independence.

Thank You,
Volunteer Coordinators



Good Sam Thank You

Thank you to all who participated in the Good Sam volunteer day on Saturday, April 11th. It was a great turn out with 15 participants!



Life Covenant Church Preschool

Life Covenant Church Preschool is accepting enrollment in their 3 year old class for the 2026-27 school year. Registration and tuition rates can be found at lifecchelena.org/preschool. You may also call (406) 442-6813 or e-mail preschool@lifecchelena.org for more information or to schedule a classroom tour with the teacher, Harmony.



Declaration of Dependence – A Providential Call for America

In honor of America's 250th year, Billings Catholic Radio and the Fulton Sheen Institute invite you to a dynamic live event on the life and message of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen. Through engaging storytelling and rich insight, Dr. Peter Howard—one of the world's leading Sheen scholars—will show how Sheen's

timeless witness can help us renew our "declaration of dependence" on Christ. Register by May 15 and save! BILLINGSCATHOLICRADIO.COM



SMCC Care for Creation Ministry
Actions to Care for Creation and Save Money at Saint Mary's
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (in that order)

- < Brandon and other staff are setting thermostats at reasonable settings for each season.
- < Sanctuary lighting is turned down on sunny days.
- < Andy Sever fixed the solar panel monitor in the gathering space. Check it out and watch the bulletin where Keaton is posting our savings.
- < With Danita's assistance, energy bills and energy saving ideas are being reviewed to discover additional ways to reduce our carbon footprint and save money.
- < A recycling bin for paper has been placed in or just outside the gathering space.
- < Dave and Nina are implementing a simple, cost-free way to collect and transport biomass from the Jubilee Garden to the transfer station space where it will be composted and either used by the city or sold.
- < Jan is brainstorming ways to compost, to purchase environmentally friendly cups, plates and eating utensils, and to reduce the use of plastics in the kitchen. All left-over food is donated, generally to God's Love.
- < Consider bringing a reusable cup or water bottle to parish events. The youth are good role models for this!
- < Contact Keaton at the parish office and sign up to receive the bulletin online.

Please help by thinking about the 3 Rs when you make choices about the things you purchase and the ways you use and dispose of them. Contact Sandi Ashley if you have additional ideas for the parish. Thank you all!

Saint Francis Peace Through Justice

What Is the "Just War" Theory*

Is war ever justified, and if so, when and why? In Christian theology the "Just War" concept was developed by St. Augustine (4th-5th century) who believed that war could be morally justified to protect the innocent. St. Thomas Aquinas (13th century) formalized the foundations. These have been developed in international law and norms such as the Geneva Convention.

JUSTICE of WAR - 5 criteria, all of which need to be met to justify going to war.

Just Cause – To protect innocent lives from being attacked; it is always and only defensive, *never pre-emptive*.

Right Intentions – Goal must be to correct suffered wrong or achieve peace, never for territorial gain or revenge.

Legitimate Authority – Must be declared by a legitimate authority or government.

Last Resort – *All peaceful alternatives must be tried and exhausted.*

Probability of Success – Reasonable hope that the violence will defend the innocent and undo the injustice.

JUSTICE in WAR - Rules of Conduct in War

Discrimination – Non-combatant immunity; soldiers must distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Proportionality – Only the minimal and appropriate amount of violence must be used.

With today's weapons it is near impossible to justify any war.

May we pray to end ALL wars and that all leaders and governments abide by these principles.

***Notes from talk by Dr. Eric Meyer, PhD, Carroll College. SMCC & OLV Lenten series (3/9/2026)**

St. Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry



Thank YOU!!

Your church raised

\$1801.41

Together, we are Offering Hope & Building Families.

Options clinic
Change for Life



optionshelena.org

For the Security of Our Parish

The signs on the church have been removed, but the church doors will still be locked 10 minutes after all weekend Masses due to recent safety concerns, so get here early!

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, and 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.

Blessing Box


Thank you all for your continued support for Saint Mary's Blessing Box. With winter having arrived, we are in need for gloves/mittens, hats, scarves, and small blankets. And, of course, we still need food items that can be consumed without utensils as well as hygiene items.

Please, do not put canned goods in the Blessing Box; canned goods should be given to Food Share.


Blessings to you all in 2026!

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.


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)


SEMINARIANS

FOR THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

2025-2026

Shae Bills	Carter Anderson
Riley Helgoe	Matt Keck
Carson Gorton	Anthony Olmes
Jake Smith	James Semling
Jamie Severson	Kaleb Mitchell
Liam Aippersbach	Brett Rotz
Ryan Frampton	Mason Yochum

-Please Continue to pray for our Seminarians-

Prayers for the Deceased

Alice Gustafson

*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 and let us know.

We Pray for all those serving in the Military

David Beatty	Eli Kirwan
Matthew Callahan	Daniel Mattingly
Christopher Casne	Andrew McGuffey
Stephen Ceo	Nathan Mill
Jack Cotter	Nicholas T Nelson
Tristan Anne Driessen	Marcus Peter
Dillan Edgar	Lucas Robson
Tyler Eierdam	Colby Smith
Ed Eve, Jr	Natasha Walker
Cody Gleich	Andrew Welch
David Griffinberg	

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.

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3. Make changes or find a substitute at the same website.
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To get started:
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