

Saint Mary Catholic Community



July 19th, 2026 The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Then the righteous will shine
like the sun in the kingdom of
their Father. Whoever has ears
ought to hear.”

Matthew 13:43

July 26th, 2026 The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The kingdom of heaven is like a
treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides
again, and out of joy goes and
sells all that he has and buys that
field.”

Matthew 13:44

Mass Schedule: Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m. | Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Tuesday & Thursday 12:10 p.m.

Upcoming Care Center Masses: July 24th at Edgewood, August 7th at Mount Ascension

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, July 19th—The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

9:00 AM Mass— for Winnie and Ed Kelly†
rb: Rita Costello

Monday, July 20th—No Mass

Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; Matthew 12:46-50

Tuesday, July 21st

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; John 14:23

12:10 PM Mass— for the intentions of Stultz & Schroeder Families
rb: Mary Schroeder
No Confessions

Wednesday, July 22nd—No Mass

Song of Songs 3:1-4b; John 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday, July 23rd

Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Matthew 13:10-17

12:10 PM Mass— for Larry Boyd†
rb: The Boyd Family

Friday, July 24th

Jeremiah 3:14-17; Matthew 13:18-23

11:00 AM Mass at Edgewood for the intentions of the people at Edgewood

Saturday, July 25th

2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28

2:30 PM– 3:30 PM Confessions

4:00 PM Vigil— for Burton Boyd†
rb: The Boyd Family

Sunday, July 26th— The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

9:00 AM Mass— for Tim Schroeder†
rb: Mary Schroeder

Monday, July 27th—No Mass

Jeremiah 13:1-11; Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday, July 28th

Jeremiah 14:17-22; Matthew 13:36-43

12:10 PM Mass— for Doug Boyd†
rb: The Boyd Family

3:30 PM—5:00 PM Confessions

Wednesday, July 29th—No Mass

Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21; John 11:19-27

Thursday, July 30th—No Mass

Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matthew 13:47-53

Friday, July 31st—No Mass

Jeremiah 26:1-9; Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday, August 1st

Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24; Matthew 14:1-12

2:30 PM– 3:30 PM Confessions

4:00 PM Vigil— for the intentions of Burt Lahn Family
rb: The Boyd Family

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Sunday July 19th:** 9:00 am Mass
- **Monday July 20th:** No Mass; 9:30 am Prayer Group
- **Tuesday July 21st:** 12:10 pm Mass; **No Confessions**
- **Wednesday July 22nd:** No Mass; 5:30 pm Rosary
- **Thursday July 23rd:** 12:10 pm am Mass
- **Friday July 24th:** 11:00 am Mass at Edgewood; 12:00 pm Prayer in Motion
- **Saturday July 25th:** 2:30 pm– 3:30 pm Confessions; 4:00 pm Mass; Farewell Reception for Keaton following Mass
- **Sunday July 26th:** 9:00 am Mass
- **Monday July 27th:** No Mass; 9:30 am Prayer Group
- **Tuesday July 28th:** 12:10 pm Mass; 3:30 pm– 5:00 pm Confessions
- **Wednesday July 29th:** No Mass
- **Thursday July 30th:** No Mass
- **Friday July 31st:** No Mass; 12:00 pm Prayer in Motion
- **Saturday August 1st:** 2:30 pm– 3:30 pm Confessions; 4:00 pm Mass

Parish Staff at your service

Father Cody Williams

Phone ext. 106 ~ email: frwilliams@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

Nicole Graefe ~ Director of Music and Liturgy

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

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, 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. Cody'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 Cody

Greetings to all of you. It's a joy to finally get to meet you all, see the good that is happening in this parish, and to be your pastor. I hope I get the opportunity to meet each of you and hear more about you and your lives. For the last several years, I wrote a column for the bulletin to help parishioners appreciate our faith, advance in understanding of the faith, or to encourage parishioners to a deeper relationship with God. If you have ideas of what topics you would like me to write about, please let me know. For the first series, I have chosen to write on prayer.

When I ask the question – “what is prayer?” – the most common response I get from people is – “talking to God.” This answer has some truth. Yes, prayer can be talking to God. Yet, we have to ask the question, are we talking to God or talking at God? Most people who accept prayer as talking to God limit their understanding of prayer to a one-way conversation. Prayer is far more than simply talking to God. At its core, prayer is the ascent of the mind and heart to God. Prayer is recognizing we are in the presence of God. Prayer is the encounter with the true and living God.

Take for instance the life of Jesus. Jesus spent considerable amounts of time in prayer. Often he would leave his disciples, go up a mountain, and then spend the entire night in prayer. Unfortunately for us, we have no idea what he said or what happened during these nights of prayer. Yet, we can surmise a few things. Jesus loves his Father and his Father loves him. When we love someone, we want to spend time with them. If we really love them, then we want to spend time alone with just that person. Jesus was no different. He wanted time with just him and his Father. Did he talk during this time? Absolutely. He wanted to express his thoughts and feelings. Did he listen to his Father? Absolutely. He wanted to know that they were in a relationship and to hear his Father's thoughts and feelings. But, part of his prayer did not involve talking but simply being there.

The example of Jesus' prayer time with his Father is a good context for us to begin this topic on prayer. Prayer is a dialogue. We want to express our desires, the issues of our lives, and to be able to talk to God.

On the other side, we also should want to hear God speak to us. What does God want? What is on his heart? What might he want to say to me? Yet, we cannot limit prayer to simply talking. If we truly love God, then our greatest desire is simply to be with him: to let us be loved by him and for us to love him in return. This is prayer: the loving exchange between our hearts seeking the good of God's heart.

Fr. Cody

Pope's Intentions for July 2026

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

As praying stewards and ministering stewards, we are beginning our seasonal movement into the warm, slow days of summer, with its time of refreshment and renewal. As many of our parish ministries have concluded for the summer, so, too, will our observations about parish life for the summer. That does not mean our prayer and ministering efforts conclude; they do continue on through the summer, just in a different time and manner. We will be back with parish observations in August, 2026. Enjoy your summer!

As sacrificing stewards,

Stewardship Gifts/Ordinary Collections:

Total Donations (Two Weeks): 7/03/26 – 7/15/26 \$19,863.00

Monthly Income (June) \$54,648

Average Monthly Expenses (June) \$48,556



LET'S FINISH STRONG!

Goal	\$89,600.00
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Committed	\$44,154.92
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Collected	\$42,729.92
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47.85% of Goal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year's Annual Catholic Appeal is off to a great start. We are a little over halfway through and close to our financial goal. But in this campaign, I am hoping for something different. I am asking everyone to join our mission to increase parishioner participation rates. Even if you can only give the cost of a fancy coffee, your effort to support the good works within our Diocese will bear much fruit. Please consider joining us in stewarding the Kingdom of God in our local Church.

Know of my continued prayers for you, and please pray for me!

In Christ, I am

+ Austin A. Vetter

Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter
Bishop of the Diocese of Helena



SMCC Solar Energy

As of Thursday, July 16th at 9:00 am, SMCC solar panels have produced 220.10 MWh of energy worth \$25,311.70!

Administrative Assistant/Communications Coordinator

Saint Mary Catholic Community is seeking a qualified administrative/communications professional to support the operations of Saint Mary Catholic Community. This position reports to the Pastor and is responsible for providing an intermediate level of administrative support for the parish, including overall office management, reception and clerical support, service to the general public, and communications efforts of the parish. Candidates should have an associate's degree and at least two years of administrative experience, or the equivalent education and experience.

Strong organizational and communications skills are essential. This is a 32 hour per week position, with benefits. The hourly pay range will be \$17.50- \$19.00 per hour depending on experience. For a complete job description and list of qualifications for the position, please see our website at <https://www.stmaryhelena.org/> Apply by sending your cover letter, resume and three professional references to finance@stmaryhelena.org.

This position will remain open until filled.

Director of Pastoral Care

Saint Mary Catholic Community is seeking a qualified Director of Pastoral Care to support the operations of Saint Mary Catholic Community. This position reports to the Pastor and serves the parish by overseeing and coordinating ministries that provide spiritual, emotional, and physical care to individuals and families. Rooted in Catholic teachings and the mission of the Church, the Director ensures that all programs reflect compassion, mercy and the dignity of every person. Candidates should have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent education/experience in Theology, Pastoral Ministry, Social Work, Nursing or a related field. Strong organizational and communication skills are essential. This is a salaried position, working 32 hours per week, with benefits. Annual salary will depend on experience. For a complete job description and list of qualifications for the position, please see our website at www.stmaryhelena.org. Apply by sending your cover letter, resume and three professional references to finance@stmaryhelena.org. This position will remain open until filled.

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 Cody Williams, 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.



St. Peter's Health

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Catechists and Volunteers Needed for Religious Education Program

Is God calling you to something new? Do you have a desire to serve God and your church community? Do you want the children of our parish to know how much God loves them? If you answered yes to any of these question, then please consider how you might answer the call to be a disciple of Jesus by sharing your faith with our parish children.

We will provide training and support for you! Classes will begin in September 30th. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:45 pm to 5:00 pm. We try to have 2 catechists with every grade.

WE ALSO NEED CATECHISTS FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD 9:00 AM MASS!!!!

Please contact Lori or Dawn at the Parish Office (406)442-5268 if you are interested!

"At times we would like to be 'left in peace': for no-one to disturb us, for others not to exist anymore. This is not God's peace. The peace Jesus brings is like a fire, and it asks a lot of us. It asks us, first of all, to take a stand. Faced with injustice, inequality, where human dignity is trampled underfoot, where the fragile are silenced: take a stand. To hope is to take a stand."

Pope Leo XIV

CYC Board

The Catholic Youth Coalition Board is a group of high school student leaders for the diocese of Helena. The CYC Board plans the junior high rally and the CYC Convention. The Board meets 5 times during the year to plan these events.

Please take some time to pray and discern if you might be called to serve on the CYC Board. It is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith and make lasting friendships with youth all over the diocese of Helena! Contact Dawn for more information!

**Please pray for all of our youth at Legendary Lodge this week and next!
May God bless them abundantly while they are at the Lodge!!!**



Liturgy and Music

As I was choosing the music for the Sixteenth Sunday in ordinary time, I noticed a recurring theme of God searching or listening to our hearts. The first reading begins by saying "there is no god besides you who have the care of all" (Wisdom 12:13). The psalm asks "Hearken, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my pleading" (Psalm 86). The second reading talks about God as "the one who searches hearts" (Romans 8:27) and all this leads to the gospel where Jesus tells a parable about a good sower separating weeds from good harvest. In each of the readings we hear of a God who wants to hear us, know us, and encourage us in our journey towards him.

I have always loved the song "O God, You Search Me" by Bernadette Farrell and it fit perfectly with these readings. The words come almost directly from Psalm 139 and the first verse goes:



O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.



These readings and this song are a beautiful reminder of the way God longs to know us. He longs for us to allow him to look into our hearts and to help us discern the good harvest from the weeds. I encourage you to read through all of the words to this song, or go listen to a recording of it and pray through God's intimate care for all that goes on in your life.

Blessings,
Nicole Graefe



BLESSED TO BE YOUR DIOCESAN COLLEGE

News from the Hilltop

INTRODUCTION FROM OUR BISHOP

It has been an honor to serve as Co-President of Carroll College this past year. While I have been closely connected to Carroll since becoming Bishop, this opportunity allowed me to engage with the college in an entirely new and special way. Over the past year, I have had the joy of getting to know more of our students, faculty, staff, and administrators and to witness firsthand the incredible work taking place across campus. I leave this role even more convinced of the strength of Carroll's mission and the extraordinary people who carry it forward each day. I am also incredibly confident about Carroll's future. Dr. Jennifer Glowienka has demonstrated exceptional leadership, deep commitment to our mission, and a genuine love for this institution and its people. As she becomes Carroll's 20th president, I truly believe the college is in very good hands. Her vision, wisdom, and dedication will serve Carroll well in the years ahead. Though the Co-Presidency is coming to an end, my commitment to Carroll remains unchanged. I will continue serving as Chancellor, a member of the Board of Trustees, and a partner in advancing the college's mission and Catholic identity. Thank you for your support, your friendship, and your prayers throughout this year. Please know that you remain in mine!

In Christ, I am

Bishop Austin Vetter



Bishop Austin Vetter

OUR 2027 APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN!

We've made it easier than ever to apply. We've simplified and accelerated our process to make applying and receiving financial aid faster, clearer, and more accessible.

We welcome students who are ready to grow, explore, and lead. Guided by our Catholic mission, we are creating new pathways to a Carroll education while maintaining the academic rigor and personal attention that define who we are.



APPLY AT:

carroll.edu/apply

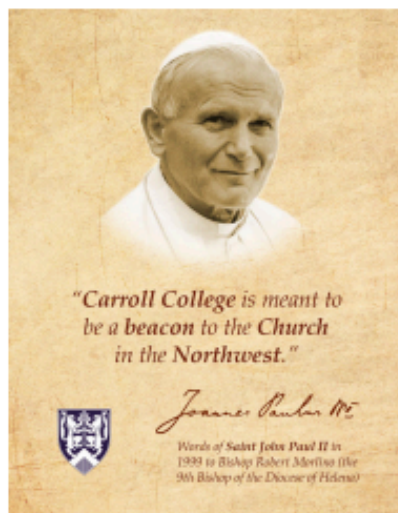


FREE MACBOOK NEO LAPTOP FOR FIRST-YEAR UNDERGRADS

Carroll College has received a transformative philanthropic commitment from Helena's Shelly Goldberg and Ryan McCauley that will provide every incoming full-time, first-year undergraduate student with a free MacBook Neo laptop, beginning with the Fall 2026 class. The *Saints Smart Start Initiative* is intended to support future incoming classes in the years ahead. Learn more at carroll.edu/neo.



In Other News...



ROME PILGRIMAGE

In May, 34 Carroll students and staff, led by Fr. Tyler Frohlich and Fr. Marc Lenneman, embarked on a two-week pilgrimage through Rome and Assisi in the footsteps of the Saints. The group found faith, growth, connection, and lifelong memories throughout their journey.

MEDICINE IN MEXICO

In January, Carroll faculty, healthcare providers, and students returned safely from another successful Medicine in Mexico outreach trip. The group was hosted at Santa María del Mexicano in Colón, Querétaro, Mexico, and provided comprehensive medical wellness exams, including optical and dental screenings, for students, faculty, staff, and religious members of the mission. carroll.edu/mim

CARITAS SERVICE TRIPS

During spring break, Carroll Campus Ministry led students on annual Caritas service immersion trips to Browning, MT, and Chicago. Students served in schools, food pantries, after-school programs, and community outreach ministries while building relationships and growing in faith. A long-standing Carroll tradition, the trips offer meaningful opportunities for service, reflection, and solidarity. carroll.edu/caritas26



STUDENT RESEARCH FESTIVAL

On April 24, Carroll held its annual Student Research Festival (SRF). This is an incredible academic event celebrating the new knowledge Carroll students are contributing to the world through student-faculty collaborative research. Learn more at carroll.edu/srf.

CARROLL THEATRE: A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

In April, Carroll's theatre department invited the Helena community to its Spring 2026 Theatre for Young Audiences production, A Year with Frog and Toad. School-age children from around the area packed our sold-out FLEX Theatre to enjoy a whimsical show following two great friends – the cheerful, popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad – through four fun-filled seasons. The show concluded a successful 2025-26 year – learn more at carroll.edu/theatre.



Parish Picnic Planning Committee

The Parish Picnic will be on Saturday, August 29th following the 4:00 PM Mass and we need your help coordinating! There will be a planning meeting in the Pastoral Office at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, July 21st.

Thank you!



Building a Better World

Saint Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry

Summer is busy for most of us as we enjoy the fleeting season with gardening, camping, hiking, fishing or whatever else takes us outside to enjoy this beautiful place we call home. **Though “busy” may distract us, we are still called to act on our beliefs as followers of Christ.** We are still called to help build a better world by working for the common good, caring for those less fortunate, accepting with love those marginalized or those with whom we disagree. And the list goes on!

Two Catholic voices, among many, have stated our responsibility in building a better world. **Sr. Joan Chittister OSB**, in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, says we are in a transition time where what has been before is no longer present and the future is hazy. “Whatever we want to have happen we need to press for, not in an angry way but in an obvious and open and loving way.” **And as we dedicate ourselves to building the future, it is, she says, hard, hard work.** Franciscan **Fr. Richard Rohr** states “we have to take our part in the work... We are agents within the system and can have causal effects on other parts of the system.” *

What can we do?? Anything at all?? Is a better world possible in these truly troubled times? Lest we feel helpless or just overwhelmed - may we remember **that little actions, one at a time can change lives and make a difference.** Perhaps we can take a lesson from a lowly cricket as poet **Mary Oliver** writes in

“Song of the Builders.”

**On a summer morning I sat down on a hillside
to think about God – a worthy pastime.**

**Near me, I saw a single cricket;
it was moving the grains of the hillside
this way and that way.**

**How great was its energy,
how humble its effort.**

**Let us hope it will always be like this,
Each of us going on in our inexplicable ways
building the universe.**



* Our Work in Co-Creating, CAC Meditation, 2/23/2018.

Farewell Receptions

Saint Mary Catholic Community is losing two beloved staff members.

Keaton Pettis is leaving to go to grad school at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Her last day is August 7th. There will be a farewell party for Keaton on Saturday, July 25th after the 4 pm mass.

Dawn Brannman is moving to Kansas to work as the Executive Director of Communal Life for the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Her last day is August 15th. There will be a farewell party for Dawn on August 9th after the 9 am mass.

We would like to honor both of them with a gift. If you would like to donate for a gift, please leave money or a check with Danita at the office.

They will both definitely be missed. Please join us in wishing them many blessings on their new journeys.

Parish Diversity Celebration

Congregations of Sisters Caring for God's Creation

For many centuries, orders and congregations of sisters were started by women who heard what Pope Francis calls in his encyclical *Laudato Si* On Care for Our Common Home, "the cry of the poor". They gave away their fortunes and dedicated their lives to prayerfully providing spiritual formation, education, healthcare, shelter, and medical care to those in need. They built hospitals, clinics, orphanages and schools. Many of us are old enough to remember being taught by sisters in Catholic school. In the United States in the middle of the 20th century, Catholic schools began to close, and the sisters could be found working in parish ministries, making a significant impact on the richness of parish life.

In recent years, particularly since Pope Francis released *Laudato Si* in 2015, orders and congregations of sisters are also hearing what Pope Francis calls "the cry of the earth". Pollution, floods, drought and wildfires, made more severe and more frequent by the climate crisis, threaten, damage and even destroy all forms of life on our planet home. They contribute to loss of livelihood, migration, starvation, disease and violence. The climate crisis is the biggest threat there is to our culture of life.

Inspired by their love of God and neighbor, human and nonhuman alike, sisters everywhere pray for ecological conversion and ecological spirituality for all peoples – those who are the major contributors to the climate crisis and those who suffer the most from it. They pray fervently for those working to create a livable climate.

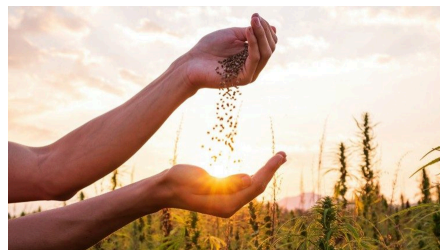
They also take action. Around our nation and around the world, sisters are reducing their carbon footprint, e.g. by installing solar panels, investing in energy conservation upgrades to their buildings, and purchasing electric or hybrid vehicles. They are using earth friendly methods in their gardens and caring for the lands they own. They are rejecting consumerism and adopting lifestyles of "living simply so others can simply live." They are divesting their portfolios of companies that engage in practices that pollute the earth and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Many, like the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, have publicly committed to becoming a *Laudato Si* Action Platform community and becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The

SCLs focus on holistic, practical approaches that create lasting change.

The sisters, like Libby Osgood, CND, write books and others host events to educate others on how to love and care for the earth and all of its inhabitants now and in future generations. Some, like those working for the Network Lobby, advocate for legislation and policies that nurture and protect the wondrous gift of God's creation.

The sisters are vital part of the Catholic church as they devote themselves to the common good with sacrificial love. They are truly a blessing and an inspiration for us all!

The blessing for this celebration will be in the gathering space on Tuesday July 28 at 12:45 after the daily Mass.



Parish Picnic Sign Ups

We need your help with the following: set-up (tents, tables, chairs, etc.), clean-up, games, food (such as salads, sandwiches, desserts), and cakes for the cakewalk. Sign up [HERE](#) or on the kiosk in the Gathering Space! The Parish Planning Committee will be in touch regarding arrival time, where and when to drop off items, etc. Thank you!



Bingo Prizes

We are collecting Bingo prizes for both adults and children for the Parish Picnic!

If you are interested in donating items (new or used but in good condition), please bring them to the Parish Office during office hours by Wednesday, August 26th. Thank you!



Our Lady of the Valley Updated Summer Mass Times



Saturday:

· No Mass

Sunday:

· 11:00 AM

· 6:00 PM



Pastoral Council members!

What is the Pastoral Council? The Pastoral Council is a consultative, representative body of the parish who helps the Pastor in making decisions for the parish. The council is meant to represent the parish in its various aspects. As a consultative body, the pastoral council provides advice to the pastor on issues regarding parish life, events, challenges, and more. Ultimately, the Pastor makes the final decision. The Pastoral Council is a confidential council.

This confidentiality allows the pastor to hear ideas and take time to make a decision without the concern of information being spread too soon.

Selecting members for the council: I am inaugurating a new system for choosing members so that the council represents the parish. From now until mid August, I will be taking nominations for new council members. Anyone can be nominated. Nominees are not guaranteed to be on the council neither are nominations votes. Once the nomination process is complete, each nominee will be called and asked whether he/she would like to accept their nomination. From those who accept their nomination, they will choose amongst themselves who will fill the vacant spots on the council. Those who have already expressed interest through the sign-up sheet will be automatically entered as nominees. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Fr. Cody.



Ministry Fair

Join us September 12th and 13th for our upcoming Ministry Fair following the 4:00 PM and 9:00 AM Masses!

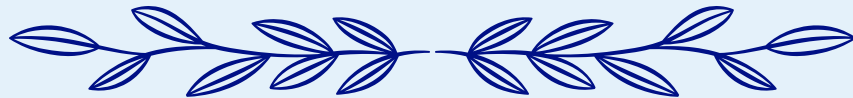
Prayer in Motion

Prayer in Motion continues on Fridays at 12 noon in the Social Center. This is a slow, meditative exercise in a contemplative, prayer-based setting. No experience is necessary. Both seated and standing options are available.

Classes are 30-45 minutes. Hope to see you there!

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!



Thank You

Dear Beloved Family of Saint Mary Catholic Community,

There are moments in life when words feel wholly inadequate — and this is one of them. We will take this opportunity to offer our humble gratitude to you all.

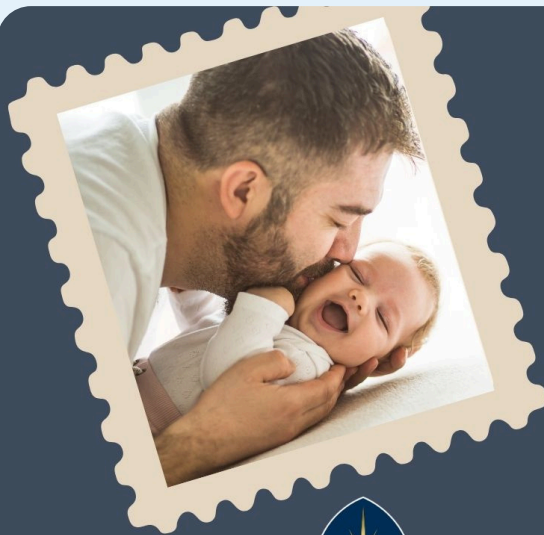
Since our house fire, we have found ourselves navigating loss, uncertainty, and the overwhelming complexity of rebuilding a life from the ground up. What we did not expect — though perhaps we should have, knowing this community — was the extraordinary outpouring of love that met us in the middle of it all.

Your virtual shower was more than an event. It was a reminder that we are not alone. The financial gifts, gift cards, and in-kind donations we received have provided our family with a foundation of stability and dignity during one of the most difficult seasons we have ever walked through. Each gift, regardless of size, carried with it something far more valuable than its monetary worth — it carried the message that our community sees us, stands with us, and believes in our ability to rebuild.

We are moved beyond measure by the generosity of this parish. We know that many of you gave sacrificially, and we do not take that lightly. We hold each of you in our hearts and in our prayers with deep and abiding gratitude. Our Catholic faith has always taught us that the Body of Christ is made visible in the way we care for one another. You have been the hands and feet of Christ to our family in the most tangible and beautiful way. We will carry this with us always — not just as a memory of kindness received, but as a model of how we hope to love others when they are in need.

To every person who organized, donated, shared, or holds us in prayer — thank you. You have given our family more than gifts. You have given us hope.

With overflowing humble gratitude and love in Christ,
Patrick & Kelly Kander & Family



A Love Letter that Lasts

Join us this National Make-A-Will Month to protect your loved ones and make a lasting mark on the parishes and ministries close to your heart.

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**Oct. 23-25, 2026
in Missoula, MT**

Blessing Box

Thank you all for your continued support for Saint Mary's Blessing Box.

We are in need of food: granola bars, trail mix, nuts, individually-wrapped jerky, 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!

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.

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 FoodShare: (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)

Travel to Our

Guatemala Mission

Fall 2026
October 1-8

The Diocese of Helena invites adults (30+) to participate on a journey to the Mission, Clinic, and La Asunción School in Guatemala. The cost is \$2,500 and includes airfare, lodging, meals, and in-country transportation. Sign Up Now! Limited slots available.

?

Contact
 Maggie Phelan:
 406.389.7053
mphelel@dohmt.org

Information and Signup:
diocesehelena.org/guatemala

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-

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 TNelson
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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invites you to spend a
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how:

1. Signup for a free account at:
Helena.WeAdoreHim.com
2. Choose the hours you would like to pray at Trinity
Chapel on the Carroll College campus from 5AM to
10PM.
3. Make changes or find a substitute at the same website.
4. Need **two adorers scheduled per hour** so that Jesus is
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To get started:
Call us at (406)442-4130 or
Message us at cssmt.org.

If you would like to sponsor the bulletin, please contact Danita Murray at 406-442-5268, ext. 104.
Thank you to all our sponsors, we appreciate your sponsorship!