

Saint Mary Catholic Community

October 4, 2026 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Are you interested in growing your faith? Do you know someone who is interested in Catholicism? Join this series in person or online.

@OLV Tuesdays from 6:30-8

@ Saint Mary Thursdays from 12:45-2 in the social center

Online <https://meet.google.com/feu-ahyo-kzy>

See our website for a list of classes and topics. Classes are stand alone, so come to one or all!

All are welcome!

Mass Schedule: Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m. | Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday & Thursday 12:10 p.m. (NO MASS Tuesdays)
Thursdays: Mass at Saint Mary's on the 1st and 2nd Thursdays at 12:10 pm
Masses at the nursing homes on the 3-5th Thursdays.

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

Pastoral Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday: closed temporarily

Office Address: 1700 Missoula Ave. Helena, MT 59601

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

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

Masses at Saint Mary

Sunday, October 4th— The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9;
Matthew 21:33-43*

9:00 AM Mass— for Ray DeChristopher†
rb: Hal and Carolyn Nelson

Monday, October 5th

Galatians 1:6-12; Luke 10:25-37

12:10 PM Mass—for Don MacIntyre†
rb: Bernie and Kathy Hubley

Tuesday, October 6th--No Mass

Galatians 1:13-24; Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday, October 7th—No Mass

Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Luke 11:1-4

Thursday, October 8th

Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:5-13

12:10 PM Mass—for Kathy Fuson†
rb: Bill and Charlotte Fleiner

Friday, October 9th--No Mass

Galatians 3:7-14; Luke 11:15-26

Saturday, October 10th

Galatians 3:22-29; Luke 11:27-28

2:30 PM– 3:30 PM Confessions

4:00 PM Vigil— for the intentions of
Charlotte Fuson
rb: Bill and Charlotte Fleiner

Upcoming Events

- **Monday, October 5th**
 - NO Grief Group
 - Daily Mass at 12:10 PM
- **Tuesday, October 6**
 - Catholicism 101 6:30-8 PM at OLV
- **Wednesday, October 7**
 - Prayer in Motion 12-1 PM
 - Elementary RE 3:45-5 PM
 - Youth Ministry at OLV 6:30-8 PM, *(starts with Confessions at 4:30, Mass at 6)*
- **Thursday, October 8**
 - Daily Mass at 12:10 PM
 - Catholicism 101 12:45-2 PM in the social center
- **Saturday, October 10**
 - 2:30-3:30 PM Confessions
 - after Mass Ministry Coordinator training
- **Sunday, October 11**
 - LOWC at the 9:00 AM Mass
 - Auction ends at 11:00 AM, items available for pick up from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Parish Staff at your service

General Office Number: (406) 442-5268

Father Cody Williams

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

Deacon Michael Seipp

email: mseipp@stmaryhelena.org

Allison Sever ~ Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

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

Mary O'Donnell ~ Director of Faith Formation/Pastoral Care

Phone ext. 107 ~ email: faithformation@stmaryhelena.org /
pastoralcare@stmaryhelena.org

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

Parish Councils at your service

Pastoral Council Members: Starla Blank, Jan Buyske, Mary Munger, 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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT – PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

The Diocese of Helena is firmly committed to the health, protection, and safety of our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. To report allegations of sexual abuse, contact the Diocese of Helena Victim's Advocate at (406)-459-0513 or VictimAssistant@diocesehelena.org.

To obtain information about the Diocese's implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People through our Safe Environment policies and programs, visit: <https://diocesehelena.org/safe-environment>

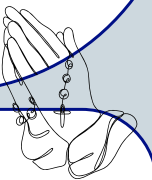
Prayer part 7

The Hail Mary

As I mentioned in the previous section, the first half of the Hail Mary is drawn from Scripture. We reflect on the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel came to meet Mary and announce the Messiah, and the Visitation, when Mary visited Elizabeth to hear the good news of her pregnancy. The second half of the prayer was a much later addition. We know that by the turn of the 12th century the Hail Mary was commonly prayed throughout Europe. But how and why? Two traditions coincide for this moment and the history is a little unclear. The Carmelites claim that the earliest Carmelite monks, while living on Mt. Carmel, received this prayer from Mary including the whole Rosary. The Dominicans claim that Mary gave them the Rosary around the beginning of the 13th century. Could both be true? Yes. Regardless of its origin, the Rosary became one of the most commonly prayed prayers throughout the Catholic Church by the end of the 13th century. Its simplicity and ease for both learning and praying it was captivating for the common peasant who made up the majority of the church. Since the vast majority of the faithful were uneducated, they couldn't read and couldn't pray the Breviary, or Liturgy of the Hours, like the monks and priests. Instead, the Rosary became a source of comfort, reflection on Scripture, and meditation on the life of Jesus available to all people.

The ending of the prayer was added to help orient and end the prayer. The first part of the ending is very obvious: "Holy Mary, Mother of God." The Council of Ephesus in 381 declared that Mary is the Mother of God. Mary, being the one who gave birth to Jesus who is both God and man, didn't just give birth to his humanity but to the whole person of Jesus, God and man. Therefore, this declaration was added to the prayer to emphasize the nature of Mary and her role in salvation. The final part of the prayer creates a necessary conclusion "pray for us sinners." The goal of the Hail Mary is not to pray to Mary nor to assume that she is God. Conversely, we are asking for Mary to pray for us. Too often we get challenged that we are praying to Mary. The prayer very clearly states that we are not praying to Mary but to God. Finally it concludes with: "now and at the hour of our death." The people of the Middle Ages were very afraid of dying. With plagues, wars, and many other hazards claiming lives early, they wanted assurance that Mary is praying for them; that they have an intercessor constantly watching out for them. Wouldn't we want the same thing? We are asking Mary to constantly intercede for us our entire lives. Thus the prayer concludes with the request the Mary continually pray for us giving us hope and comfort.

Fr. Cody



Pope's Intentions for October 2026

For mental health ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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 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.



Prayer Ministry Sacrifice

As praying stewards, we continue to adjust to our new daily Mass schedule of services on Mondays and the first and second Thursdays here at Saint Mary and the third, fourth and fifth Thursdays as our care centers.

As ministering stewards, we begin our preparation into the holiday season. We invite you to participate in the Buy a Basket to Give a Basket fundraiser. Proceeds from this auction help provide food we purchase to include in the 250-300+ Thanksgiving boxes we distribute in partnership with Helena Food Share.

As sacrificing stewards,

Stewardship Gifts/Ordinary Collections:
Total Donations (Two Weeks): 9/10/26 – 9/23/26 **\$25,474.00**

Monthly Income (August) **\$55,355**
Average Monthly Expenses (August) **\$51,217**

SMCC Solar Energy

As of Thursday, October 1st at 4:00 pm, SMCC solar panels have produced **229.83 MWh of energy worth \$26,418.74!**



Goal **\$89,600.00**

Collected **\$45,579.92**

51.04% of Goal

Mass Intentions

A good and commendable practice by the people of the Church is to offer a Mass for an intention. Often these intentions are for someone who is sick or someone who has died. The idea behind a Mass intention is that we offer the Sacrifice, Jesus, with this specific intention to the Father through the Mass. I am writing this note to you because of a small change in our policy. The Church requires us to offer at least one weekend (Sunday) Mass for the sake of the people of the local church. Our current practice is to schedule an intention whenever there is an available Mass. In consultation with the Liturgical Committee, we decided to schedule intentions for weekday Masses only. All the intentions that are currently scheduled will remain on the schedule unless they need to be rescheduled for other reasons. Any new intentions that we will schedule will only be allowed for weekday Masses including the care facility Masses. This might cause the intentions to be scheduled at a much later date but it is important that we offer Masses for the sake of our community.

Fr. Cody

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.



Ministry Trainings

We will be conducting trainings for new and returning ministers after the 4:00 pm Masses.

The following are the scheduled times:

Saturday, October 10th Ministry Coordinators

Saturday, October 17th Lectors

More sessions will be scheduled soon, so keep an ear and a look out for times! If you are unable to attend, please contact Allison at the office.

Faith Formation Opportunities

Elementary Religious Education Classes
have started, but there is still time to
register if you are interested!

Elementary RE: Wednesdays

3:45 PM to 5:00 PM

First Reconciliation class starts

October 4th from 10:15 AM-11:15: AM

Please contact Lori at the parish office (406-442-5268) if you have any questions!

Youth Ministry Updates

Help with Dinners Needed!

Please join our SignUp Genius to help provide meals for students who are running from busy days so they can eat before youth group.



Contact Mary O'Donnell with any questions!

Youth Group has begun!

Youth Group Schedule:

Wednesday evenings 7-8:30 at OLV

Optional: Confessions at 4:30, Mass at 6

Join us early for dinner at 6:30!

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came to the harvest meal last week. A big thanks to all our chefs!



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
(FULL, join waiting list) Elementary
Religious Education, Youth Ministry
and Sacramental Preparation



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Diocese of Helena

Junior High Rally 2026

A day of faith and fun for young people in grades 6-8 hosted by the CYC Board.
The day will move between prayer, talks, music, games, iturgy, and more.

Where: Missoula (St. Joe's), Cost: 560

Who: Grades 6-8 (Financial aid Available)

diocesehelena.org/juniorhighrally



The Parish Diversity Celebration Invites You

Servant of God Dorothy Day
Saving Those In Need

What does It Mean to Love Your Neighbor?

Blessing in the gathering space with a
Reflection by Mary O'Donnell,
12:45 PM Monday, October 19

Revolution of the Heart Documentary Film Showing
Discussion facilitators: Helen & Joe Beausoleil, Michael &
Glenda Seipp, Tuesday, Oct. 27
1:00 and 6:30 Social Center
Desserts and Beverages Provided



Buy a Basket to Fill a Basket 2026



AUCTION DATES & TIMES

Starts Saturday, October 3rd at 3:00 PM

Ends Sunday, October 11th at 11:00 AM

Saint Mary is an integral partner with Helena Food Share providing Thanksgiving food boxes to families in need. This year we are anticipating distributing 250+ food baskets. The "Buy a Basket to Fill a Basket" is a major fundraiser in this effort. With continued rising costs, your support is more important than ever!

How to Participate

The auction will be held as a hybrid again. Using 32auctions, the auction items can be viewed here: <https://www.32auctions.com/stmaryauktion2026> and the baskets will be on display in the gathering space from October 3rd-11th. If you have signed up for an account last year, you can use the same account. Don't have an account? You can visit the website

<https://www.32auctions.com/stmaryauktion2026> to register (you do not need an account to view the items). To bid on an item at church, you can use your phone to access the bid sheet through the QR code.

Need Help or Have Questions?

Contact Allison at 406-431-5226 or 406-442-5268 or allisever@gmail.com or Deb at 406-439-2319 or dkholiday2008@gmail.com.

See the Kiosk for more details on the following events:

- **Adopt-a-Highway**
 - **October 10, 2026 at 9:00 am--sign up on the kiosk**
- **White Mass at the Cathedral of St Helena**
 - **October 17, 2026 9:00 am Mass**
- **Harvest Gathering for the Helena Journey Community, a Italian meal in support of Good Samaritan**
 - **October 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm**
- **40 Days for Life fall campaign now through November 1, 2026**
- **CSSM Mental Health Talk, November 6, 2026 8:30 am-4:30 pm OLV**

Statues of Saints for All Saints Day

You are invited to participate in the Saint Mary Catholic Community All Saints Day and All Souls Day annual exhibit of saint statues and icons. Behind the baptismal font, stands will be set up to display statues of saints for the first three weeks in November. Please bring statues, marked with your name, to the parish office, Deb Kralicek, or Sandi Ashley no later than October 29.

This will create a visual display of the communion of saints, that surround us and support us with love every day of our lives. It is an opportunity to take the time to educate ourselves on our patron saints or another saint of interest, to pray with these saints, and to discover how their faith and their lives inspire and guide our own.

The blessing for the statues will be November 1st. Please pick up your statues by Thanksgiving.

Anointing of the Sick Mass

Our next Anointing of the Sick Mass is scheduled for **Saturday, October 17th, at 10 am.**

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a beautiful expression of Jesus' ministry to the sick. The combination of the community's support through prayer, the Laying on of Hands, and the Anointing of the Sick shows the desire of God to provide care for those who are sick. If you have not been to an Anointing of the Sick Mass or seen the Sacrament, I encourage you to come and experience the power of God through this Sacrament.

As we prepare for this Sacrament, I want to draw your attention to a couple elements of the rite. The Anointing of the Sick confers a forgiveness of sins. From the beginning of the rite through its principal actions, we are asking for God's mercy and encouraging God's grace in the lives of those who are sick. We often think of our spiritual and physical lives as separate. They are not. Spiritual ills can cause physical ailments and physical ailments can cause spiritual ills. Therefore, this Sacrament focuses on healing all parts of the human person. The first major movement of the rite is the Laying on of Hands. This ancient gesture of a priest laying his hands on a person's head gives the image of forgiveness, the power of the Spirit coming down upon a person, and conferring on them a task. What does this mean in this Sacrament? We are calling down the Spirit upon those who are sick and making them witness to the world of God's power working through their illness. The second principal part of the rite is the anointing with oil. We don't think about the importance of oil today but it is found in most health products such as lotions, creams, and many medicines. The same idea applies to the Sacraments. As oil covers the body and gives it health, so does anointing with oil confer the same healing idea. Although we may want to anoint the whole body to show this sign, that would be quite awkward. Instead we only anoint the head and the hands.

The biggest question that most people ask is, who can be anointed? The purpose of the Sacrament is to give those in serious medical issues the support of God's grace. Therefore, the Church restricts those who receive the anointing to those who are in danger of death, received a new diagnosis of a serious or chronic condition, a chronic or serious condition worsens, are burdened by the detrimental effects of old age, a psychological condition, serious spiritual conditions, surgeries, and other serious medical conditions. It is important for us to see the two aspects of this Sacrament come together. The people who are anointed give witness to the community of the love of God and his care for the sick. The people of the community stand witness to our care and concern for the sick. We need both those who will be anointed and the community to fully appreciate this Sacrament. The Church also expects the pastor to give those to be anointed sufficient time to go to confession before being anointed. The combination of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing brings even greater healing to body and soul.

If you have any questions or would like to know if you can receive the Anointing of the Sick, please let me know. As a reminder, the Sacrament is always available so that when serious medical conditions emerge, you can receive God's healing power.

Fr. Cody Williams

Fall Cleanup at Resurrection Cemetery Begins October 5, 2026

We kindly ask that all grave decorations be removed from graves before October 5, 2026.

Any decorations remaining after this date may be removed by cemetery staff as part of the cleanup process.

This annual cleanup allows our staff the time and space needed to properly care for the cemetery grounds, remove leaves and debris, trim and maintain the grounds, and prepare the cemetery for the coming winter months. Our goal is to keep Resurrection Cemetery a beautiful, peaceful, and dignified place for families to visit and remember their loved ones.

 Redecorating May Begin: October 30, 2026

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support of Resurrection Cemetery. Most importantly, thank you for helping us preserve the beauty, peace, and dignity of this special place where so many loved ones rest.

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Dr. Rob Simons
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Dr. Kyle Hayter

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Helena, MT 59601
Office 406-443-2121
Fax 406-443-4163
Email: frontcare@mteyecare.com
Website: www.mteyecare.com



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invites you to spend a
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how:

1. Signup for afree 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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Your mental health affects your spirituality, vocations,
relationships, and all parts of your life. Take care of it!

- ✓ Our therapists are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of your therapy, although it is not required.
- ✓ You can meet with a therapist in-person or online.
- ✓ Therapists specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, and marriage/family.
- ✓ Therapy is completely confidential. We'll walk with you on your journey to achieve your goals.
- ✓ Your consultation is free. Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, some EAP, and private pay (discounts are available) are accepted for additional sessions.



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 at 406-442-5268, ext. 104.
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