

Saint Mary Catholic Community



November 30, 2025
The First Sunday in
Advent

“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Matthew 24:44

December, 7 2025
The Second Sunday in
Advent

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Matthew 3:12

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

Weekday Masses: Tuesday & Thursday 12:10 PM

Upcoming Friday Care Center Masses: December 5 at Mount Ascension, December 12 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, November 30th—First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

9:00 AM Mass— for JoAnn Anderson†
rb: Hal and Carolyn Nelson

Monday, December 1st—No Mass

Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 2nd

Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

12:10 PM Mass— for the intentions of John Boyd
rb: John Boyd Family

3:30 PM—5:00 PM Confessions

5:30 PM— Advent Reconciliation Services

Wednesday, December 3rd

10:30 AM Funeral for Shirly Reinig

Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 4th

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

12:10 PM Mass— for Lorna Johns†
rb: Mary Matule

Friday, December 5th

Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

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

Saturday, December 6th

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 51, 6-8

2:30 PM— 3:30 PM Confessions

4:00 PM Vigil— for the intentions of Bob and Violet Coleman
rb: Nancy Coleman

Sunday, December 7th— Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

9:00 AM Mass— Special Intention
rb: Jill Larson

Monday, December 8th

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

5:30 PM Mass— for Joe Munzenrider†
rb: Catherine Ortwein

Tuesday December 9th

Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14

12:10 PM Mass— for the intentions of Brian Smole
rb: Boyd Family

3:30 PM—5:00 PM Confessions

Wednesday, December 10th—No Mass

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 11th

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15

8:00 AM Mass— for the grandchildren of
Michael and Mary Foot
rb: Michael and Mary Foot

Friday, December 12th

Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelations 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Luke
1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

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

Saturday, December 13th

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

2:30 PM— 3:30 PM Confessions

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

Mark Your Calendars!

- ◆ **Sunday November 30th:** 9:00 am Mass
- ◆ **Monday December 1st:** No Mass; 9:30 am Prayer Group; 1:00 pm Grief Group
- ◆ **Tuesday December 2nd:** 6:45 am Men's Prayer Group; 12:10 pm Mass; 1:00 pm Chosen Group; 3:30 pm– 5:00 pm Confessions; 5:30 pm Advent Reconciliation Services
- ◆ **Wednesday December 3rd:** 10:30 am funeral for Shirley Reinig; 3:30 pm RE; 6:30 pm Youth Group
- ◆ **Thursday December 4th:** 12:10 pm Mass
- ◆ **Friday December 5th:** 10:30 am Mass at Mount Ascension
- ◆ **Saturday December 6th:** 9:00 am-12:00 pm Mrs. Santa's Kitchen; 2:30 pm– 3:30 pm Confessions; 4:00 pm Mass, Hospitality weekend
- ◆ **Sunday December 7th:** 9:00 am Mass, 9:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word, Hospitality weekend; 4:00 pm Living Nativity
- ◆ **Monday December 8th:** 9:30 am Prayer Group; No Grief Group; 5:30 pm Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- ◆ **Tuesday December 9th:** 6:45 am Men's Prayer Group; 12:10 pm Mass; 1:00 pm Chosen Group; 3:30 pm– 5:00 pm Confessions
- ◆ **Wednesday December 10th:** No Mass; 3:30 pm RE; 6:30 pm Youth Group
- ◆ **Thursday December 11th:** 8:00 am Mass
- ◆ **Friday December 12th:** 11:00 am Mass at Touchmark
- ◆ **Saturday December 13th:** 2:30 pm– 3:30 pm Confessions; 4:00 pm Mass; 5:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner



Parish Staff at your service

Father Tim Moriarty

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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

Joanna Haddon ~ Finance Director

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Director of Music and Liturgy: VACANT

Brandon Bloom ~ Maintenance Director

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

Keaton Pettis ~ Communications Coordinator

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Parish Councils at your service

Pastoral Council Members: Starla Blank, Jan Buyske, Ed Glowienka, John Larson, Mary Munger, Casey Molloy, Jeff Tobin, Tyson Schulte, and Marelee Cloninger

Finance Council Members: Bruce Baumgart, Jana Gruber, Julie Johnson, Anna Miller, Lori Murphy-Moulet, Rick Duane, and Nancy Coleman

Pastoral Office Hours: Mon, 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

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From Father Tim

Based on the date, my reflection is pre-Thanksgiving. But by the time you read this, it will be after Thanksgiving. I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends, to be thankful for all of the gifts and blessings we have received. We are so blessed to gather together and celebrate the Eucharist in freedom. We pray for members of our military, law enforcement, and those in public service who protect our country, both home and abroad, and we simply say THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

We have come to the end of the Church Year 2025, and the end of the Jubilee Year. I hope all of you received wonderful blessings throughout the Jubilee Year, mindful of the Lord's love and mercy to all of us. Now we begin the season of Advent as the Church worldwide and all of us prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas: a wonderful season of prayer, reconciliation, and beginning anew. May all of us have a wonderful Advent season filled with the peace of Christ!

During the month of November, we have honored those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. May they have eternal peace, and one day soon may all of us be gathered at the eternal banquet feast of heaven, to give our Lord glory and praise for all eternity. In the Liturgy of the Hours, there is a section titled "The Office for the Dead". We pray for those who have died, and in particular one who had died recently—or pray for a group of people who have gone before us.

The following is a reflection of those who have gone before us by Saint Braulio, Bishop: "Lazarus our friend is sleeping. In saying this, Christ who is the hope of all believers, refers to the departed as those who are asleep. By no means does he regard them as dead. Paul the apostle does not want us to grieve about those who have fallen asleep. Our faith tells us that all who believe in Christ will never die; indeed faith assures us that Christ is not dead, nor shall we die.

The Lord himself will come down from heaven and there will be the command of the archangel's voice and the sound of the trumpet; then those who were united with Christ will rise.

Let the hope of resurrection encourage us, because we shall see again those whom we lose here below. Of course, we must continue to obey His commandments. His power is so great that it is easier for him to raise the dead to life than it is for us to arouse those who are sleeping. As we are saying all these things, some unknown feeling causes us to burst into tears; some hidden feeling discourages the mind which tries to trust and to hope. Such is the sad human condition; without Christ, all of life is utter emptiness.

O death! You separate those who are joined to each other in marriage. You harshly and cruelly divide those whom friendship unites. But your power is broken. Your heinous yoke has been destroyed by the One who sternly threatened you when Hosea cried out : O Death! I shall be your death. And with the words of the Apostle we, too, deride you: O death! Where is your victory? O death! Where is your sting!"

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. And may the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace!

God bless all of you!

Fr. Tim

Pope's Intentions for December 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.





**Prayer
Ministry
Sacrifice**

As praying stewards, we gathered to pray for the loss of our loved ones during this past year at our annual Mass of Remembrance and Hope; we continue to keep in prayer all those who have gone before us, friends, family and the forgotten, as we pray for their souls in purgatory this month. May they come to know the joy and peace of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

As ministering stewards, we gathered to host a Thanksgiving Dinner for our well-seasoned members of the parish; a good time was had by all! We continue in our efforts to be aware of, and help, our neighbors whose names we may not know, in the gathering of mittens, hats, and gloves for families in need; preparing Thanksgiving boxes for the hungry in our community; and in preparing for our Giving Tree efforts during the upcoming Advent season. May your generous hearts be filled with thanksgiving and wonder at all Our Lord provides and gives!

As sacrificing stewards

Stewardship Gifts/Ordinary Collections:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fiscal Year 2025-26 Received: | 7/1/25 – 10/31/25 | \$152,428 |
| Fiscal year 2025-26 Budgeted: | 7/1/25 – 10/31/25 | <u>\$160,042</u> |
| (Difference: Received – Budget): | | (\$ 7,614) |

Maintenance Repair Needs and Gifts (FY 2025-26: 7/1/25 – 10/31/25)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Gutter Replacement/Office: | \$ 3,000 |
| Regular Maintenance & Repair: | <u>\$17,512</u> |
| Current Need: | \$20,512 |
| Maintenance & Repair Gifts received: | <u>\$10,479</u> |
| Difference: (Received – Need): | (\$10,033) |

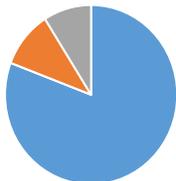
Thank you for your generosity to the World Mission Sunday collection. A total of \$930 was sacrificed, for the Holy Father's mission in propagating the faith worldwide. Thank you!!

Welcome!!!

Please join Saint Mary Catholic Community Staff in welcoming our new bookkeeper, Danita Murray! As many of you know, Danita has been a member of our Catholic community for many, many years. She has been active in ministry here and loves the people and ministries provided by our community. Danita will start the first week of December, as Joanna prepares to retire. Please extend a warm welcome to Danita when you see her at Mass this weekend.

Welcome Danita!

HABEMUS PAPAM, ACA 2025-26
32 Households with Commitments



■ Goal ■ Committed ■ Collected

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Goal | \$ 89,600.00 |
| Committed | \$ 11,349.00 |
| Collected | \$ 9,974.00 |

12.72% of Goal



SUPPORT CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION

Through the Annual Catholic Appeal 2025, the Diocese of Helena will continue to spread the Good News of our Faith. The Diocesan Newsletter will continue to reach all parish affiliated families while diocesan websites, www.diocesehelena.org, www.dohyouth.org, and www.legendarylodge.org will continue to provide connections to the ministries of the diocese. National Catholic radio programming extends our ability to communicate, both within and beyond our diocese.

INTRODUCTION FROM BISHOP VETTER

Greetings to you! In the past days and months, I have heard from many of you from across the Diocese of Helena questions regarding immigration and the stance of the Church. I am happy to share with you our Special Pastoral Message on Immigration by the Bishops of the United States in unity with one another and with our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, issued on November 12, 2025, at our Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore. I stand behind this message 100%.

In Christ, I am



Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter
Bishop of Helena



STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS ON IMMIGRATION

From the Plenary Assembly in Baltimore - November 12, 2025



As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (*Genesis 1:27*). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (*Zechariah 7:10*). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (*2 Corinthians 8:9*), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (*Luke 10:30-37*), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (*Matthew 25*). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (*John 13:34*).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (*cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26*). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

As disciples of the Lord, we remain men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint! (cf. Romans 5:5)

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.



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

Faith Formation

A Journey for Life



Please Join us For the
Posada and Drive-Through Living Nativity

December 7th

Between 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm

What is a Posada?

Posada is a Spanish word for “inn” or “shelter.” In a Posada, pilgrims reenact the journey of Joseph and Mary searching for lodging before the birth of Jesus.

In our Drive-Thru Posada, we will drive to various shelters, asking for lodging by the inn keepers.

Although each pilgrim will be unable to find lodging, they will be given a gift and eventually be led to the Living Nativity!

We encourage you to really beg for help!

Driving Instructions:

Begin with the Posada

You will enter the back parking lot by turning on Billings Ave from Lamborn. Once you enter the parking lot, someone will be there to direct you. You will follow the stars to the various shelters and ask for lodging. You will exit the parking lot the same way you came in. You will then turn right onto Lamborn.

Living Nativity

Approach from the east (Lamborn) and turn right onto Missoula Avenue. You will be greeted with a gift and you will see the Living Nativity!

This is a Drive-thru Posada and Nativity, but you may also park in the neighborhood and walk! No parking will be available in the street spaces in front of the Pastoral Center lawn.

Mitten Tree

RE Families, it is time once again for our Mitten Tree. Please bring hats, gloves and mittens to RE on Wednesdays for our mitten tree. All donations will help families in need this winter!

Thank you for your generosity!

The Chosen Group will meet Tuesday, December 2nd and December 9th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Social Center.

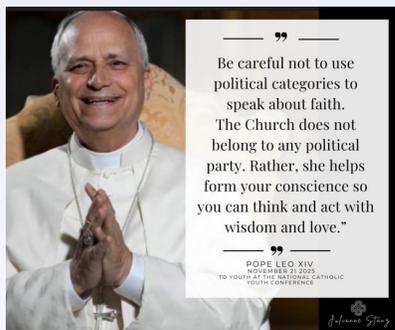
During Advent
let's treasure
Christ
and share
His blessings.

Youth Ministry

NCYC 2025: I Am/Yo Soy

From Mike and Catie: The Lord is shining through these youth! NCYC was such a powerful, moving experience. Seeing these kids live out their faith, engage with other Catholic youth and over 300 clergy is truly amazing. These 5 young people are humble, kind, generous and represent Saint Mary Catholic Community with Christ-filled hearts. Thank you for your support of all of us as we journeyed together to refuel the fire within our hearts and be reminded how much Jesus loves us. We are excited to bring back this excitement and share with our wonderful parish family. Thank you again for your generosity and support, all who made this possible, thank you!

From Marelee: I really loved going with this group of people, we had so much fun! I also really enjoyed seeing the Pope and getting the chance to listen to him and learn from his wisdom. We got the chance to meet so many different people from different places like Hawaii, South Carolina, Kentucky, New York, and so much more. Also the opportunity to be able to have adoration and participate in mass with 16,000 other youth was amazing. Thank you to all the people who helped us get to NCYC this year and I am excited for future kids to be able to experience this as well!



From Charlotte: I loved being able to see and meet people from around America and see that many Catholic youth in one area, we had the chance to meet people from New Jersey, Massachusetts, and South Carolina and got a picture with them. We were also able to spend time with some other people in our diocese and have fun with them. The experience of adoration and mass with 16000 people in a stadium was so moving and beautiful, I can't thank our parish enough for allowing us to have the opportunity to experience this amazing trip!!

From Tyson: I loved the opportunity to be able to interact with people my age from all around the country, as well as the opportunity to deepen my relationship with God. Getting to see and listen to the Pope was incredible and I learned so much from that experience. Thank you so much to the people in our parish that made going to NCYC possible, you've helped make a difference in all of our lives.

From Madelyn: Getting to go to NCYC has been one of the best experiences! We met so many amazing people from around the country, and had lots of quality time with others in the diocese. We had the opportunity to get to see the Pope as he zoomed into us at Lucas Oil Stadium. We also had adoration and mass at Lucas Oil Stadium that was so powerful and sacred. Thank you so much to all the people that supported us through our journey to NCYC, so excited for many other kids to be able to participate in this in the future!



From Molly: NCYC was an unbelievable experience, being surrounded by tens of thousands of teens who you can all relate to along with the opportunity to strengthen your relationship with God. Each of the speakers presented us with information that we could apply to our personal lives, and we were also fortunate enough to meet so many amazing new people. It's truly a blessing that we have a parish who supports us like you do, we are all forever thankful!

Saint Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry

St Joseph and the Power of Love

According to the canonical Gospels, Joseph was a 1st-century Jewish man of Nazareth who was married to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and was the legal father of Jesus. They point out that Joseph was of the royal house of David and in all other instances refer to him as Christ's father and at all the significant stages of Christ's early life. An angel appeared to Joseph at certain vital moments, first to reassure him that it was right to receive Mary, as his wife, as her baby was the child of the Holy Spirit. Second to urge Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to avoid Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents. Third after Herod's death, to return to Galilee. Joseph is the model of the caring father and an exceptional example of a man putting the interests of his wife and child before his own. Repeatedly in the gospel narrative it is clear that God chooses the humble and lowly as instruments. "Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was," wrote Leo XIII in 1889 in Quamquam pluries, an encyclical letter on devotion to St. Joseph. "He guarded from death the Child threatened by a monarch's jealousy, and found for Him a refuge."

In the modern era, St. Joseph is seen as a model for navigating contemporary challenges, serving as the patron of the universal Church, workers, immigrants, and a happy death. His image and role have been re-emphasized through recent papal initiatives, including Pope Francis's Year of St. Joseph in 2021, to address issues like social justice, the dignity of labor, and family life amidst modern cultural shifts.

St. Joseph is also considered a powerful mentor because he provides a model for spiritual leadership, demonstrating virtues like humility, obedience, hard work, and prayer. As a spiritual father figure, he teaches how to be a provider, protector, and guide, with many people turning to him for intercession in difficult and challenging times. St. Joseph, as a person, puts the needs of others first. He has a God given inner strength which makes him an ideal model for both spiritual and practical mentorship. He was obedient and followed God's will even when faced with complex and difficult situations, offering a model for trusting in divine guidance. St. Joseph offers a model for listening for God's guidance through quiet, focused prayer. As the patron saint of workers, St. Joseph is a model for the value of hard work, providing for one's family, and glorifying God through daily labor. St. Joseph is seen as having taught Jesus virtues like patience, honesty, and good judgment, which are crucial for character development. He led as a loving husband, a protective figure, and a provider, demonstrating leadership through sacrificial love and commitment. He is a powerful intercessor for those facing uncertainty, difficult family matters, or times of crisis. St. Joseph is a patron for those concerned with providing for their families, their children's health, and navigating difficult life changes. He serves as a model for modern fathers and others in leadership roles, helping them to be better mentors, protectors, and providers. In contrast to the current secular model of the "Love of Power", Joseph lived and demonstrated the "Power of Love" – the love Jesus tells us to fulfill in the second of the greatest commandments "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22: 39). Love is central to human connection and the strong bonds we form with family, friends, and partners. The "power of love" in relationships is often defined by mutual influence and a balanced power dynamic, where both partners feel valued and supported. True love is the opposite of control, which can manifest as manipulation, possessiveness, or a need to dictate another person's behavior. The power of love is characterized by freedom and mutual respect, while the "power of control" is based on insecurity and fear. St. Joseph as, husband, father, guardian, administrator, defender, provider, carpenter, lived his life listening with the ears of heart; parenting and teaching with power of love; and mentoring many as they journeyed through their lives.

Care for Creation

Advent is a Time to Open our Hearts and Minds

“Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more.” Psalm 72:7

This weekend we light the first candle of Advent, a symbol reminding us to open our hearts and minds to the light of Christ. Our parish and our homes become a place to restructure our lives and our habits to aid in the healing of our world.

During this Advent season “I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my **life choices impact creation** and **the poor and vulnerable.**”



What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?

How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?

How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?” *Ecological Examen, Laudato Si’ Movement Prayer Book*

Caring for all of Creation during Advent:

Gift Experiences – Instead of physical gifts this year try gifting experiences. Helena has many opportunities: from dining to theatre, concerts, outdoor activities, crafting to special outdoor times together and on and on. These experiences bring lots of smiles and little waste.

Shop Locally – We all know it is important to support our local businesses and our community of Helena. This helps reduce the heavy carbon footprint that comes with air and overseas transportation. Online advocates recommend that consumers avoid next-day shipping, encourage eco-friendly packaging and think before they click to avoid unnecessary or impulse purchases. In the U.S. an estimated 6 billion pounds of landfill waste is generated by online returns because it is cheaper to discard than restock. Free returns come at a huge cost to our environment.

Holiday Foods – Holidays bring forth images of delicious foods. Look for creative ways to avoid food waste: mindful purchasing, a fun family bake-off with foods in the house, chop and freeze fresh herbs, prepare hearty soups with refrigerator treasures, enjoy the ease of leftovers, gather others at your table etc. Make a commitment to use what you purchase and avoid adding to the 160 billion pounds of food that is thrown away in the U.S. each year, which unfortunately is responsible for 4% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions-

See the Wonder and See God Everywhere – Take the time to walk in the beauty of our winter world and **see our earth as a sacred space:** one we need to treat with respect, with love, with understanding and with care during this Advent season and always. Share your joy of nature with others.

A beautiful opportunity – this Advent, commit to simplicity. In the spirit of Laudato Si’ (Care for Our Common Home) this online Advent calendar (Ignatian Solidarity Network) helps us to prepare for the coming of Jesus and to work toward the restoration of the earth. Consider signing up using this link –

[Advent Simplicity Challenge.](#)



'TIS THE SEASON TO SIMPLIFY

TAKE THE CHALLENGE:
ignatiansolidarity.com

Lord, during this Advent season let us choose less instead of more. Let us cherish, protect, enjoy and give thanks and praise to you for your beautiful creation, in Jesus' name we pray.

Written by SMCC Care for Creation Ministry

JOIN US FOR
**Mrs. Santa's
Kitchen**

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY SOCIAL
CENTER**

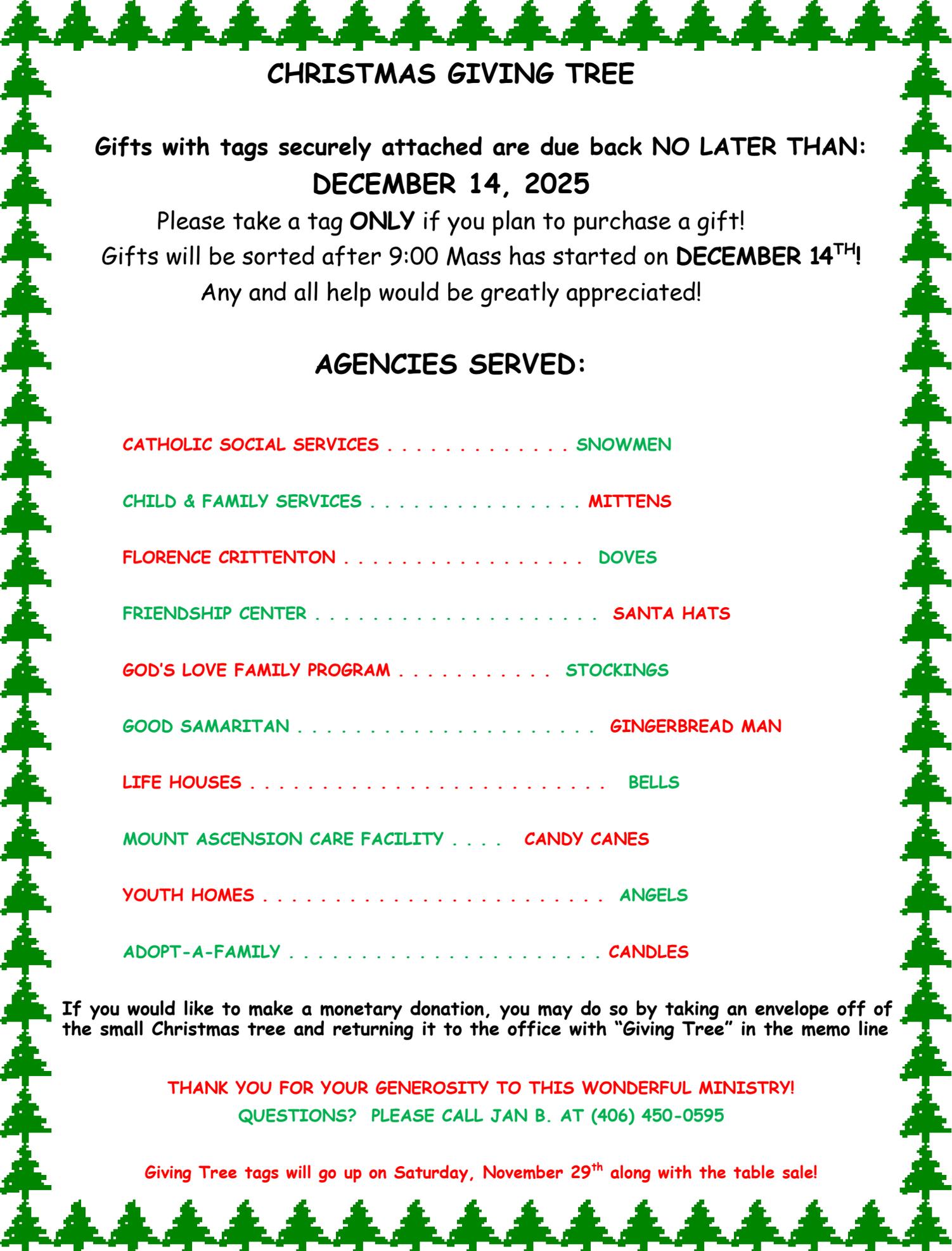
Children's
Room - frost
your own
cookie and play
games!

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6TH
9:00 AM - NOON**

Buy your favorite Christmas cookies.
\$5 a dozen - you pick your own.

Coffee corner - visit and have cookies!

Mrs. Santa
will visit!
10:00 am to
Noon



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Gifts with tags securely attached are due back **NO LATER THAN:**
DECEMBER 14, 2025

Please take a tag **ONLY** if you plan to purchase a gift!
Gifts will be sorted after 9:00 Mass has started on **DECEMBER 14TH!**
Any and all help would be greatly appreciated!

AGENCIES SERVED:

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES **SNOWMEN**

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES **MITTENS**

FLORENCE CRITTENTON **DOVES**

FRIENDSHIP CENTER **SANTA HATS**

GOD'S LOVE FAMILY PROGRAM **STOCKINGS**

GOOD SAMARITAN **GINGERBREAD MAN**

LIFE HOUSES **BELLS**

MOUNT ASCENSION CARE FACILITY **CANDY CANES**

YOUTH HOMES **ANGELS**

ADOPT-A-FAMILY **CANDLES**

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may do so by taking an envelope off of the small Christmas tree and returning it to the office with "Giving Tree" in the memo line

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY!
QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL JAN B. AT (406) 450-0595

Giving Tree tags will go up on Saturday, November 29th along with the table sale!



Advent Reconciliation



Join us on Tuesday, December 2nd at 5:30 PM for Advent Reconciliation Services!



Workers Needed for Mrs. Santa's Kitchen



Workers are needed for Mrs. Santa's Kitchen. Decorating will be on Friday, December 5th at 4:00 pm and workers needed for the sale Saturday, December 6th at 8:30 am. The signup is on the kiosk.



Living Nativity Dinner



There will be a dinner for the Live Nativity participants and their families following the Live Nativity on December 7th. A signup sheet is on the kiosk for food needed for the dinner.



Immaculate Conception Mass



Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be at 5:30 PM on December 8th. *This is a holy day of obligation.*



Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner



Join us on Saturday, December 13th following the 4:00 PM Mass. RSVP [HERE](#), on the church kiosk, or call the Parish Office! \$8 per plate or \$25 per family. Please pay at the door.



Advent Evening Prayer



Join the parish for advent evening prayer on Sunday, December 14th and Sunday, December 21st at 5:30 pm.



Christmas Mass Schedule



December 24: 4:30 PM Vigil and 9:00 PM Vigil
December 25: 9:00 AM Mass



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



The Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God will be December 31st at 5:30 PM.
This is a holy day of obligation.



God's Love



God's Love is in need of blankets and pillows. These do not need to be new, but lightly used. There is a box in the Gathering Space for donations. Please, no heavy comforters.

Warm Hearts Drive

Warm Hearts January drive for new blankets and towels to gift the poor on Valentine's Day will begin soon! This drive will collect new blankets (bedding) and new towels (washcloths, hand towels, and bath towels).
More information to come!



Lightly Used Sewing Materials Needed



The Margaret Stuart Youth Home is looking for two or three gently used sewing machines. If you have a machine you are looking to get rid of, please call Jan Buyske at (406) 450-0595. Thank you!

Parish Administrator

Saint Mary Catholic Community is seeking a qualified Parish Administrator to provide support for the day-to-day general operation and management of the parish. The Parish Administrator will direct ministries of worship, education and formation, human and social justice concerns, finance and budget, human resources and administration. The Parish Administrator works in collaboration with and under the supervision of the Pastor, and in cooperation with other parish leadership to motivate, enable, and affirm the parish community in its efforts. The Parish Administrator supports the vision and mission of Saint Mary Catholic Community.

Candidates must be an active participant in the work of the Catholic Church, a baptized and confirmed Catholic, and be able to partake in the sacramental life of the Church. An advanced degree (Bachelor's or Master's) in Business Administration/Management or equivalent education/experience is requested. A degree in Pastoral Ministry is preferred. Three years' experience in administration of an organization or program is desired. This is a fulltime, salaried position, with benefits. Annual salary range is \$60,000 - \$63,500, depending 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 jhaddon@stmaryhelena.org. This position will remain open until filled.



Christmas Masses in Helena

OLV:

Immaculate Conception: December 8th at 12:10 pm

Advent Reconciliation with extra priests: December 18th at 5:15 pm until 6:45 pm

Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass: 9:00 am

Mary, Mother of God: January 1st at 9:00 am

SS. Cyril & Methodius:

Immaculate Conception: December 8th at 12:00 pm and 5:30 pm

Advent Confessions with additional priests: December 10th at 5:30 pm- 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass: 9:00 am

Mary, Mother of God: December 31st at 4:30 pm and January 1st at 10:15 am

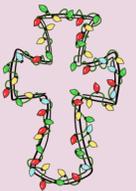
Cathedral of St. Helena:

Immaculate Conception: December 8th at 7:00 am and 5:30 pm; Candlelight Rosary following 5:30 pm Mass
Our Lady of Guadalupe: December 12th at 7:00 am and 5:00 pm (5:00 pm is in Spanish and will be followed by a meal in the Parish Office)

Christmas Eve Masses: 5:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 12:00 am midnight

Christmas Day Mass: 10:00 am

Mary, Mother of God: January 1st at 10:00 am



Blessing Box

We are in need of food: granola bars, trail mix, nuts, individually-wrapped jerky. Anything that can be eaten without utensils. Also, small bottles of water are welcome. Thank you so much for your continuing support of the Blessing Box.

Hospital Communion Ministry

Please call the parish office if you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from a Communion Minister or Father Tim. 406-442-5268.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES — THANK YOU!

Our 2025 Thanksgiving Food Boxes Project was a success! Thanks to your generosity, we prepared more than 270 boxes of food and received 35 family-to-family boxes, helping ensure that families in need enjoyed a bountiful Thanksgiving. Proceeds from the Buy a Basket to Fill a Basket auction helped fund the purchase of food, while food donations from the food drive guaranteed that the boxes were well stocked.

We extend thanks to the Knights of Columbus, WinCo Foods, Helena Food Share, Salvation Army, and Home Depot for their generous support. Thank you as well to everyone who prepared family-to-family boxes and donated food during the food drive.

A special thank you goes to the herd of volunteers who pitched in -- from loading and unloading the food truck to sorting food, providing hats and coats, assembling and filling boxes, hauling boxes upstairs, and distributing food boxes, turkeys, coats, and hats. Your help made everything possible.

Thanksgiving Food Boxes Committee

Deb Larson, Deb Kralicek, Gary Grzebielski, Lois Menzies, Maria Foot

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES LITTLE ESSENTIALS BABY BOUTIQUE

Catholic Social Services of Montana is a ministry serving the needs of all Montanans in both dioceses. One means the agency serves is through operation of the Little Essentials Baby Boutique, located in Cathedral of St. Helena Center, Room 108. Because this boutique is located in Helena, we are seeking more volunteers and donated supplies from all our area parishes to serve pregnant women and parenting families facing difficult circumstances by welcoming and providing for some of the needs of their young children. The boutique provides diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, and many other essential items to families in need, all free of charge.

Our needs include volunteers to assist with:

- Staffing the store (currently open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm); this involves interfacing with customers, logging purchases, and distributing diapers and wipes
- Assisting with inventorying, sorting, and storing donations and with re-stocking the store during store hours
- Packaging diapers for distribution

Several tens of families visit the boutique each Tuesday and Thursday, so high-demand items go fast! Beyond volunteer opportunities, the following donated items are most needed:

- Diapers, sizes newborn, 1, 2, 3, and 6
- Pull Ups, sizes 2T/3T, 3T/4T, and 4T/5T
- Baby toiletry items, such as Desitin™ diaper cream and baby wash
- New or lightly used clothing in toddler sizes 2T through 5T
- Baby formula
- Stuffed animals and toys for young children

Donations can be left outside the Baby Boutique door at the Cathedral Center Monday through Friday 9am-2pm or dropped off in the store during operating hours.

If you are interested in volunteering with this ministry, please contact GG Grotbo at (406) 459-4327 or Linda Michaletz at (406) 202-5556. We encourage all our parish families to help with this important ministry and to help those who are in need and support life in Helena.

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)

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



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-

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!



We Pray for all those serving in the Military

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

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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 2nd Thursday Each Month
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The Helena We Adore Him Team invites you to spend a Holy Hour with Jesus each week! Here's how:

1. Sign up 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 protected and never left alone, so **SPREAD THE WORD!!!**

Jesus wants to spend more time with you...
SIGN UP TODAY!!!

CSSM CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES of Montana Mental Health Services
Catholic Mental Health Counseling

- CSSM's counseling program has served clients from over 20 communities in Montana and is ready to serve you!
- Our counselors are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of any counseling session, although it does not have to be. They have experience with clients from many different backgrounds, cultures, and ages. We are here for everyone.
 - We specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship/marriage, and perinatal concerns.
 - You can meet with us from your computer, tablet, or cell phone from anywhere in Montana. If you're in Helena or Billings, you can meet in-person with a counselor.
 - We want to be a good match, so the first session is free. If you choose to continue, we accept insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and private pay, with a sliding fee scale and other discounts available.

To get started, call (406)442-4130 and select option '2' or send us a message at www.cssmt.org.

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

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