

Lent/Easter 2013

St. Pius X Parish WellSpring

Inside:

- From the Pastor's Desk
- Billings Catholic Schools
- RCIA
- Carry Easter Forward...

Paschal Triduum

The Triduum is one Liturgy, a single feast. It begins with Holy Thursday, reaches its high point with the Easter Vigil and closes officially with the Evening Prayer of Easter Sunday. Let's look at the "Three Days":

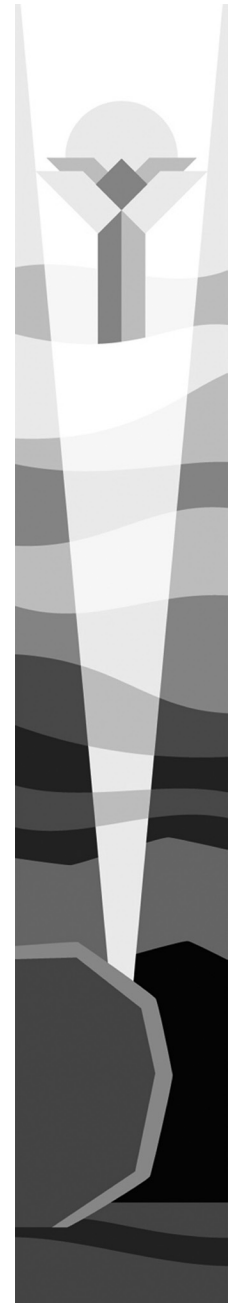
Holy Thursday: This is the night we memorialize the Last Supper; it is not a re-enactment but a commemoration of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection in the context of a ritual meal. The Mass of Holy Thursday does not end...rather the consecrated bread is taken out of the church and placed at the "altar of repose" where it remains, typically with 24-hour veneration by parishioners, until communion during the Good Friday service.

Good Friday: While the focus of this liturgy is the crucifixion, we still celebrate the entire paschal mystery. It is important to remember that we only commemorate the crucifixion. It is the resurrection that we celebrate. In the Communion Rite we are partaking in the consecrated bread from the Holy Thursday liturgy because after the mass on Holy Thursday the Liturgy of the Eucharist is not celebrated again until the Easter Vigil.

Holy Saturday: Today is a solemn day of preparation for Catechumens, a "retreat day" of sorts. The rest of the parish community might consider how to use this day to prepare for Easter as well.

The Easter Vigil is the most important and beautiful liturgy of the church year. The Vigil begins after nightfall with the lighting of the Easter fire.

Continued on page 2



“Have a Good Lent!”

Hopefully you have heard the phrase during this Lenten season. As we get closer to Celebrating the Joy of Easter, we bring to completion the different Lenten practices that we undertook on Ash Wednesday. Those practices have helped us prepare for the Easter Season. The basis for all we have done during Lent is Easter. We are remembering what Jesus did for us and how we can say thank you. We remember the story, and we celebrate the story of our Faith. We remember the promise made so long ago and how it was fulfilled in Jesus Christ and how we live the story in our lives today. Holy Week is the dramatic conclusion of what otherwise (without the Surprise Ending) would be a sad story. But we remember– the depth and the breath of God’s love for us as we prepare to say Alleluia! How can we not have a Good Lent?!



Fr. Wayne

Billings Catholic Schools – Living the Gospel

By Kathleen R. Harris
Director of Marketing

At this time of year, as parents contemplate the educational choices they will make for their children in the upcoming school year, several questions are often asked. What sets Billings Catholic Schools apart from any other school? Why would I pay for my child to go school, when they can go to a perfectly good school for free? What are students getting at Billings Catholic Schools that they can’t get somewhere else? There are many



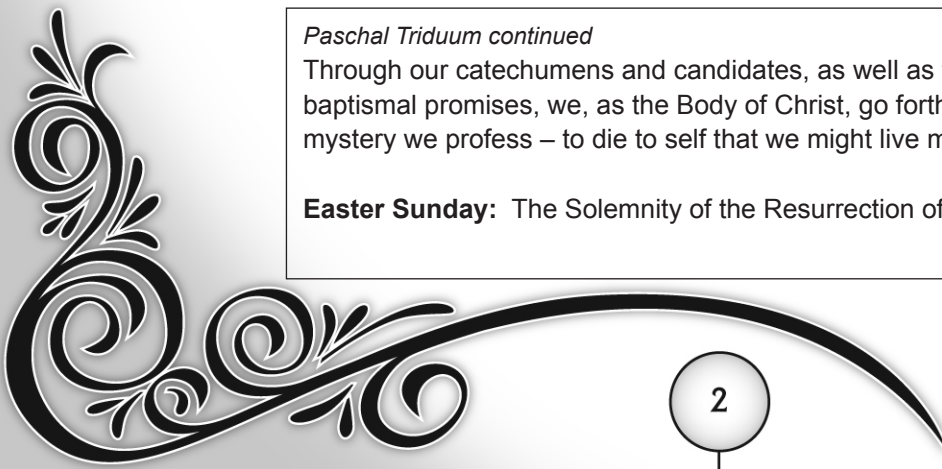
elements of a Catholic education that can’t be found in any other school. At Billings Catholic Schools, we are called to serve.

Living the Gospel and serving our community and others manifests itself in any number of ways. It isn’t a flip that is switched on at birth, it’s a quality that is instilled in a child and that grows with them as they hear God’s word and witness the actions of their teachers, parents and others.. Once that quality catches hold, though, it stays with a child for life. It becomes who they are. For some, like recent Central graduate,
Continued on page 3

Paschal Triduum continued

Through our catechumens and candidates, as well as through our own renewal of our baptismal promises, we, as the Body of Christ, go forth with renewed commitment to the mystery we profess – to die to self that we might live more fully in Christ.

Easter Sunday: The Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord. Christ has risen! Alleluia!



Billings Catholic Schools continued...

Jackson Barthel, living the Gospel also means serving one's country. It means not only loving your neighbor as yourself, but taking on great personal risk to keep your neighbor safe.



For others, like parishioners Morgan Smith and Ashton Statelen, being called to serve involves school service projects, like helping the



Knights of Columbus unload Christmas trees each year. "It feels good to help," explained Morgan. "I know it's for a good cause, but it's fun, too – it makes me feel good and like a part of the church, too." Riley Nichols said that community service

is so much a part of the education at Central that it becomes a part of you. "I know most of us will help whenever we're needed even after we graduate – it's just what you do." The work ethic of Central students is influenced by their teachers, such as Jane Ray, Shel Hanser and Michele Mattix, all St. Pius parishioners, who work alongside the students anytime a service project comes along.

Grant Kelly, currently a seminarian at Holy Trinity College at the University of Dallas, made the ultimate commitment to serve and live the Gospel in his decision to become a priest. For many of Grant's friends and teachers, that decision came as no surprise. "Grant has always been such a nice guy – kind, honest – someone who tries to help anytime someone needs it," said underclassman Libby Harris. One of Grant's teachers at Central agreed, saying, "When Grant announced that he was going to become a priest I saw it as a perfect extension to the young man we had already seen him become – a friend who always had time to listen and help his friends, and a kid whose insight and faith was a benefit to all of us at Central."



RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA process is a faith journey for men, women and children over the age of 7, who are seeking full membership in the Catholic Church. It is a spiritual journey that happens over time. The process allows an individual the time and resources to grow and mature in faith. It is a time of conversion, a turning to meet God in a whole new way.

The process begins with the Inquiry stage. This is a time of welcome, of getting comfortable with a faith community, and of learning how God has been at work in all our lives. It is a time to ask questions and to realize that the questions are sometimes more valuable than the answers. The Inquiry stage is flexible and requires no commitments.

The Catechumenate is the next phase of the spiritual journey. The unbaptized inquirer enters the church as a Catechumen through the Rite of Acceptance. Christians, already baptized, who feel called to live out their baptismal commitments as Catholics, are welcomed as Candidates for Full Communion in the Catholic Church. Both Catechumens and Candidates pray, study, reflect, serve and worship together within the larger community, allowing the Holy Spirit to draw them deeper into the mystery of God.

Those who feel ready to incorporate this mystery into their lives as Catholics are called by the Church to celebrate the Sacraments of—Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Their lives, born anew in Christ, bear eloquent witness to who we are as the people of God.

Please pray for the Elect as they continue toward the Easter Sacraments. Please join us on Holy Saturday at 8:30pm for the most beautiful Liturgy of the year, the Easter Vigil.

Triduum & Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday	7pm Mass
Friday	3pm Stations of the Cross 7pm Service
Holy Saturday	8:30 Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	9am & 11am Masses



Candidates and catechumens with their sponsors and Bishop Michael Warfel at the Rite of Election

Candidates who have celebrated baptism in this or another Christian tradition who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil:

Candidates

Teresa Apodaca
 Brenda Buen
 Jimmy Casas
 Sam Lind
 Gail Mack
 Reuben Magers
 Kim Mirabelli
 Megan Olszewski
 Mavis Thompson
 Tasha Williams
 Rachelle Woods
 Katie Zimmerman
 Matt Meeker
 Malysa Meeker

Sponsors

Mary Karls
 Leslie Modrow
 Jay Lemelin
 Brad Olszewski
 Mary Ellen Hitron
 Dan Sloan
 Jessie Lemieux
 Chante Lind
 Becky Williams
 Heather Hitt
 Kim Komar
 Tanja Sloan
 Jeff Steiner
 Cyndy Steiner

Participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and preparing for full initiation at the Easter Vigil:

Catechumens

Steve Komar
 Jeff Love
 Travis Tabbert
 Tyson Williams

Sponsors

Phil Zeeck
 Dan Carter
 Brad Hedges
 Derek Hitt

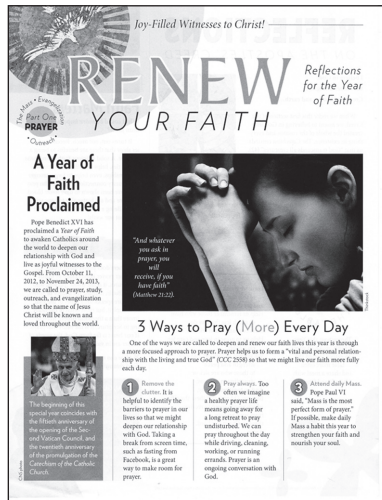
RCIA Team

Dale Hogenson
 Neal Sorensen
 Jan Kirk
 Lynne Gillig
 Bob Fannon

Joyce Stoppel
 Jennifer Nieva
 Karyn Haider,
 Director of Christian
 Initiation & Pastoral
 Ministry

Reflections for the Year of Faith

As starting points for our prayer and study during the Year of Faith, we have received a pamphlet that introduced us to the Year of Faith and a series of four bulletin inserts. These handouts educate us about the Year of Faith, help us better understand the Apostles' Creed, and give us ideas on how to strengthen our faith. Take time to review the inserts, which focus on prayer and the Mass. Future inserts will discuss outreach and evangelization.



A Time to Rediscover

Year of Faith: Oct. 11, 2012 - Nov. 24, 2013

October 11, 2012 was the 50th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

- November 24, 2013 is the Feast of Christ the King. Christ's kingship is one of humility and service.
- The Year of Faith encourages each of us to stand in the tradition of our religion through prayer and study.
- The Church, our diocese and parish offer resources. Some resources are listed on this page.

Plan to Attend! Make

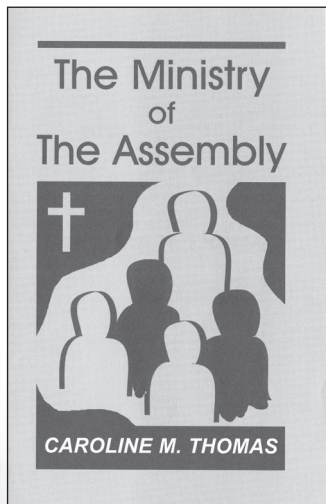
Social Justice Seminar May 10-11: Sister Mary Catherine Schmitt, CSJ, who share connections between their work and faith, will lead this parish seminar. Sister Mary Catherine is known for her spirituality, work in environmental ethics and her book, *Dead Man Walking*. Sister Helen Prejean is known for her work in Cheyenne in Montana. Sister Helen is known for her work in Cheyenne and is the author of *Dead Man Walking* and *Deeds of Mercy*.

Parish Mission - Tom Zanzig, adult spirituality and mission at St. Pius this fall. Tom is currently working on a formation program and whole community catechesis. Those who are in your faith journey, should plan to attend.

More Year of Faith Encouragements

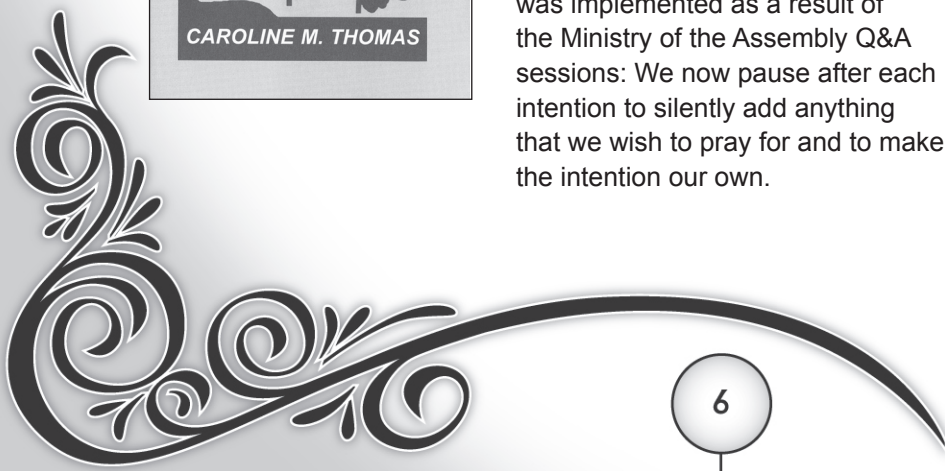
- Our diocese is offering a series of noontime webinars on stewardship. The webinars will be available on a regular broadcast date, and are also archived on www.diocesecatholic.org.
- Read, reflect and pray with the scriptures.
- Make serving others part of your daily life.
- Review the Catechism of the Catholic Church online.

Ministry of the Assembly



Among the things we are called to do during the Year of Faith is to "Worship wholeheartedly at Mass." This little blue book, which our parish distributed in January, explains the liturgy step by step. It discusses our role in the liturgy, the ways we can prepare for prayer and how we minister to each other during Mass.

A change in the way we say the Prayer of the Faithful at St. Pius was implemented as a result of the Ministry of the Assembly Q&A sessions: We now pause after each intention to silently add anything that we wish to pray for and to make the intention our own.



Cover Your Faith

2012 - Nov. 24, 2013

Vatican Council II's opening and the 20th anniversary of the Catholic Church.

the King. On this Sunday we remember that Jesus was crucified.

grow spiritually and develop a better understanding of the faith.

resources to help us in our personal faith journey.

Mark your calendars!

Sister Marya Grathwohl, OSF, and Sister Helen Prejean, OSF, will speak for justice to the earth and justice to the poor. Sister Marya is known for her teachings on creation and her experiences with the Crow and Northern Plains. Sister Helen is known for her tireless work against the death penalty, and her work with the Innocents.

and faith formation consultant, will lead a workshop with our parish to develop an adult faith formation program. Anyone seeking renewal, wherever you are, is invited.

Opportunities and

webinars on topics such as discipleship and prayer. The Fellowship Hall on the original broadcast of the webinar is available at dioceseofgb.org. Watch bulletin for details.

and Vatican II documents, all available

The Year of Faith Logo

The Year of Faith logo symbolizes our faith journey and reminds us to enrich our lives by rediscovering Christ. The sailing ship represents our Church, the ship's mast is a cross, and the sails form Christ's monogram (IHS.) The sun in the background represents the Eucharist.



Why Pray the Nicene Creed?

The Nicene Creed is our Profession of Faith. It is the prayer for the Year of Faith and it succinctly expresses what we believe as Catholics. This prayer has been professed since the year 325.

One Minute Meditation

The Year of Faith encourages us to renew our commitment to daily prayer. If you struggle with finding large chunks of time for prayer try praying for just one minute a few times each day. A minute is time enough to reduce stress, focus, and start understanding how to pray. Spend one minute praying, several times each day, and you will begin to develop a closer relationship with God.

Increase our Faith

Luke 17:5

Holy God, we thank you for the generous gift of faith. With the apostles before us, we ask that you open our hearts to the power of your word and increase our faith that we may be bold followers and joyful witnesses to the message and mission of your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

A Christmas Angel Story

by Amy Aguirre, Angela's Piazza

Yesterday we had some food here at Angela's Piazza, available to our families in need. One of the families, a grandmother who took in her son and grandsons, stopped in. She asked me if we had received her Christmas card over the holidays and I assured her we did, and thanked her for thinking of us. I asked how her Christmas was and she told me it was the best Christmas in a long time! She hadn't received gifts from us in the past; so, she didn't know what was com-

ing in for her family (or maybe didn't really believe that the things she had signed up for were really coming in). When the gifts arrived, she hadn't even put up her tree, thinking there wouldn't be much of a Christmas celebration. But boy, when they got their gifts and took them home (saving a few for Christmas Day for the boys) she said her whole house came alive! They pulled out the tree and set it up, decorating it and the house and everyone just couldn't have been happier, feeling so blessed. She took the gift cards she had received for a grocery store and went out and bought some cookies and milk for the kids to put out for Santa, in addition to some much-needed food

for the family. She was so very grateful for all of this!



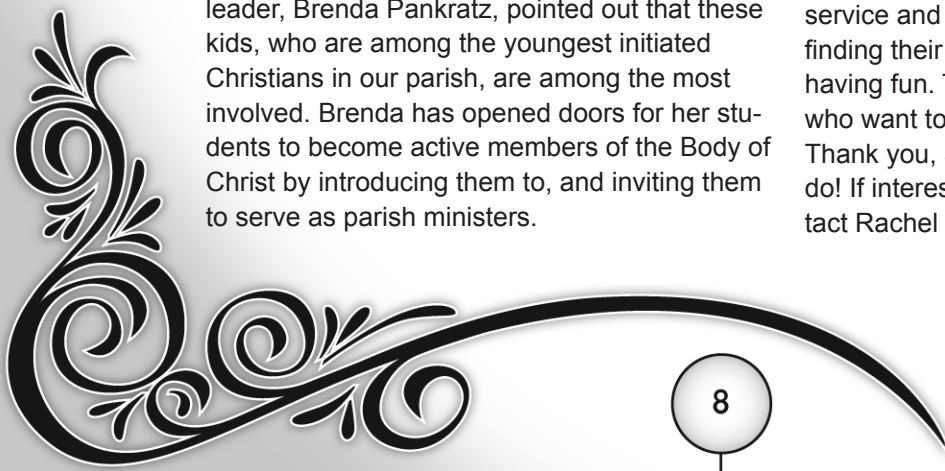
Brandon and Sarah sort gifts at St. Pius X

St. Pius 5th & 6th Grade Students Learn Through Service

The 10- to 12-year old members of St. Pius' Youth Group are learning that they are integral parts of our St. Pius Community by getting involved. The 5th and 6th Grade Youth Group leader, Brenda Pankratz, pointed out that these kids, who are among the youngest initiated Christians in our parish, are among the most involved. Brenda has opened doors for her students to become active members of the Body of Christ by introducing them to, and inviting them to serve as parish ministers.

Guest speakers visited youth group sessions to discuss what ministers do and explain how to get started in ministry. As a result, there are several new 5th and 6th grade altar servers and greeters at Sunday Masses. The Youth Group has hosted coffee and rolls, collected school supply donations in their backpacks, helped with the Christmas Angel Project, served Soup and Bread and led Stations of the Cross. Youth Group also created the festive decorations for the parish Mardi Gras Dance.

Youth Group members are learning that service helps others and helps themselves. Through service and ministry, these young people are finding their home in our church community and having fun. They are an inspiration for adults who want to make stronger parish connections. Thank you, 5th & 6th graders, for all that you do! If interested in learning more, please contact Rachel at St. Pius, 656-2522.



Alleviate Hunger

By Shelly Greenfield

Ginny Mermel, the Backpack Meals and Teen Pantry Program Coordinator for School District 2, was invited to speak at the February Christian Service meeting by Richard King. Richard, moved by a recent Billings Gazette article on the Program, wondered if St. Pius X could help with this project that lessens hunger among students.

Ginny's presentation began with insights on the correlation between hunger and learning. The program began in the fall of 2009 and supports children in SD 2 through meals tucked into students' backpacks on Fridays. The meals provide es-

sential nutrition over the weekend. Shortly after initiating this program, teachers and staff noticed significantly improved student performance on Fridays and Mondays, indicating that the Backpack Meal Program supports learning.

The cost of each meal is approximately \$4, which comes from the Montana Food Bank Network. The meals contain single-serving food items such as fruit cups, chili, cereal, etc. The meals are boxed at the warehouse in Billings, delivered to the schools on Friday and distributed to students at Title 1 schools who have been identified by counselors as individuals in need. A Title 1 school has 50% or more students living at or below the poverty level, which is a family of four living on \$22,000 or less per year. About 100 meals are taken to Orchard Elementary alone. A volunteer

discreetly tucks the meals in student backpacks while the child is at lunch recess. This year, 225 meals were requested at the beginning of the year. To date, 292 meals are given weekly.

In addition to the Backpack Meal Program, a Teen Pantry became necessary at Middle and High schools to serve emancipated teens or teens without family support. St. Pius X would like to try stocking a Teen Pantry at Billings West or Senior High School. On Holy Thursday, we will ask parishioners to bring donated items to the church for this purpose. There are approximately 200 students who utilize these Teen Pantries. Please watch the bulletin for a list of specific items needed. Food items to stock a Teen Pantry will need to be single serve. Small size toiletries and hygiene products are also needed.

Tootsie Roll Drive

St. Pius X Council 9976 Knights of Columbus conducted their 24th annual Tootsie Roll Giveaway Drive on Palm Sunday weekend. This Knights of Columbus (KC) community activity program has been a national KC fundraiser for over 40 years and for the past 36 years in Montana, resulting in tens of thousands of dollars going to local organizations that serve those with special needs in communities across America. Over the past 23 years, St. Pius X Council 9976 has collected and donated almost \$70,000.00 to assist developmentally disabled groups in Billings and Montana. The KCs solicit financial aid from local businesses, which covers the cost. Twenty percent of the donated net proceeds is



Tootsie Roll workers outside church

contributed to the State KC Council to provide aid to smaller communities in Montana that may not have a KC Council. The remaining 80% is distributed on a local level. Council 9976 will distribute checks to local special organizations: Yellowstone Association of Retarded Citizens, Special 'K' Ranch, local Special Olympics and St. Francis

Middle School Special Ed Learning Lab. The Special Bowlers of the YABC will also be recognized at the KC's annual Awards BBQ in July.

Council 9976 is sincerely grateful for the stores that allow them visibility each year as well to all who contribute to the success of the drive. Hundreds of St. Pius X KCs, Central High Students, Columbian Squires and family members have given candy away at local businesses and churches to make the annual drive a success.

Ten (10) Easy Ways to Carry Easter Forward

On the First Friday of Lent we read from Isaiah 58:6-9

Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke? Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: "Here I am!"

How can you continue the commitment to the lessons learned while fasting as found in Isaiah after Easter? Following are ten easy ways you can answer "Here I am!" in our parish community:

1. Clean out your closets and take gently used clothing to either St. Vincent de Paul 252-1855, or Dress for Success 256-7304.
2. Interfaith Hospitality Network – our parish hosts homeless families as our guests 4 times a year. There are a number of ways to help that can take as little as an hour or as long as an overnight. Call Shelly Greenfield at the parish offices if you'd like to help, 656-2522.
3. Daily Readings – our weekly bulletin lists the readings and has a weekly reflection. You may also want to go to our parish website www.stpiusxblgs.org and click on the Daily Reflections found on our homepage.
4. St. Vincent de Paul has ongoing volunteer opportunities and ways to donate, 252-1855.
5. Teen Pantry Program (watch for details in parish bulletin) – our Christian Service Commission will be sharing ways our parish can help this all important program to help hungry teens in our community.
6. Christian Service Commission – if you feel called to learn more about Catholic Social Teaching and serve our parish in this way, please contact Shelly Greenfield in the parish office at 656-2522.
7. Consider becoming a sponsor for someone interested in becoming Catholic, call Karyn Haider at the parish office, 656-2522, for more information.
8. Cum Christo. Cum Christo emerged from the Catholic Cursillo and brings adults together for a 3-day "workshop in Christian living." Participants are urged to grow as disciples of Jesus by gathering weekly in small "Group Reunions" to share their relationship with Jesus, their Christian study and Christian action. Prayer support for each other and accountability also are part of these Group Reunions. For more information check their website: <http://www.bigskycumchristo.org/Billings.htm>
9. Participate in Coffee & Rolls after Mass on Sunday and sit at a table with someone you've never met before. Help make our parish a welcoming place to find Christ.
10. Write your local legislator about issues facing the poor in our community.

"Sometimes when we hear the call to serve, we fear that it is something we don't want to do, and forget that God is good." — Jennifer Mack, St. Pius Interim Coordinator of Christian Formation



Mardi Gras photos: left Fr. Wayne & friends, below Vic and Loretta Frank



Youth Group members and friends at their Drive-In Movie Social. The kids designed cardboard box cars, dressed in costumes and came to the Youth Center for a night of movies, popcorn and fun. To join the 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group, please contact Rachel at the parish office.





717 18th Street West
Billings, MT 59102
ph 406.656.2522
fax 406.656.2584
www.stpiusxblgs.org

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Billings, MT
Permit No. 932

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| March 28 – 29: | Parish Offices Closed Thursday & Friday
Holy Thursday Mass 7pm |
| March 29: | Good Friday Stations of the Cross 3pm
Good Friday Service 7pm |
| March 30: | Holy Saturday Easter Vigil @ 8:30pm |
| March 31: | Easter Sunday Masses 9am & 11am |
| April 1: | Young Adults Series on Eucharist 7pm (April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29) |
| April 7: | 2pm – Anointing Mass in Sanctuary |
| April 8: | Webinar in Fellowship Hall “Eucharistic Miracles” 12pm – 1pm |
| April 20: | Confirmation Retreat |
| April 28: | Bread of Life Mass @ 11am |
| May 5: | 1st Eucharist & Confirmation |
| May 10-11: | Year of Faith Social Justice Seminar w/ Sister Marya Grathwohl, OSF,
and Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ |
| May 12: | Mother’s Day |
| May 26: | Bread of Life Mass @ 11am |
| June 16: | Father’s Day |

