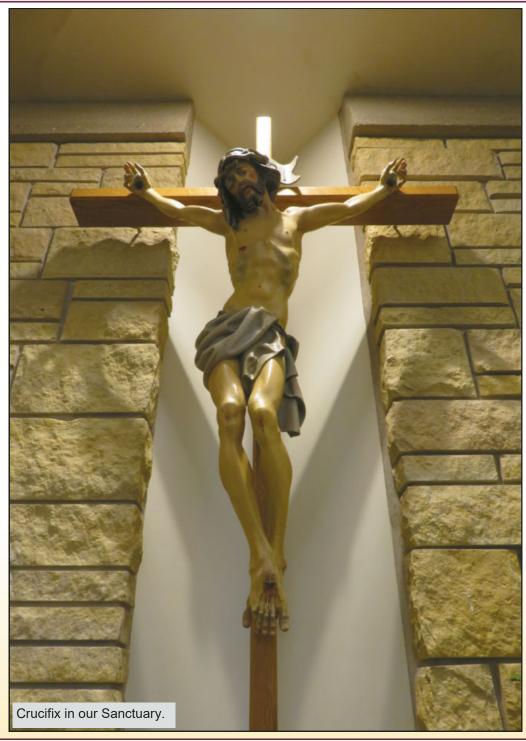
St. Pius X Parish

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



April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



Holy Week and the Sacred Pascal Triduum:

- Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 6 at 7:00pm. An opportunity to participate in the foot washing is extended to all (live-streamed).
- Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, April 7 at 7:00pm (live-streamed). Also, Deacon Tom Landry will lead the Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm in the outdoor Father Tokarski Memorial Garden.
- Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8 at 8:30pm.
- Easter Sunday Masses, April 9 at 8:30am and 11:00am (livestreamed).



Intentionally Celebrate Holy Week with Us!

Welcome! Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you will find warmth and hospitality here. St. Pius X is a vibrant parish with many ways to be engaged. If you would like more information on registration, activities, or ministries that are offered for people of all ages, please contact the parish office at 406.656.2522. You may also visit our website at stpiusxblgs.org, find us on Facebook at 'St. Pius X,' or on Instagram @stpiusx_blgs.

Individual Confession

No confessions on Saturday, April 8 due to the Easter Vigil.

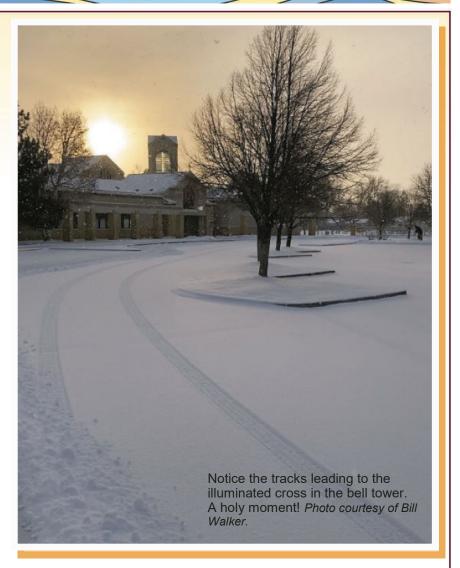
Good Friday is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence for Catholics

- Fasting is for those age 18-59.
 Eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals together that are not equal to a full meal. We do this to join in solidarity with those suffering throughout our world.
- Abstinence is for those age 14 and older. Avoid meat (beast or fowl) or rich food on Fridays. This practice is an invitation to grow in discipleship by deepening our personal awareness of dependence on God.
- What in my life gets in the way of my relationship with Jesus?
 Can I plan to fast from this thing/ activity and replace it with prayer or good deeds?

Children's Ministry

We will not have class during Holy Week (April 4/5) so that families can attend the Triduum services. Our last class will be April 11/12.

Second-year sacramental preparation classes, we have a mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, April 26 at 6:30pm in the church. See you then!



Saints Softball Team!

Softball players wanted to play on the St. Pius X Saints Softball Team! The season begins May 8 and runs through June 26 on Monday evenings. For more information or to sign up to play, please contact Alex at 406.794.1322.

Flocknote Connects Us!

Please use this QR code to receive communications from our church twice a month. View parish news, sign ups, polls and program offerings, plus more!



Why Register at St. Pius X?

Because we can stay in touch and take advantage of opportunities to grow in the love of Christ together! If you regularly attend Mass at St. Pius X Parish, please have your name added to our parish records. Adult members of your family who are no longer living at home and are self-sufficient may register separately. If you will be moving or are no longer attending Mass, please call to update your information. To register for the first time or to update your records, please contact Shannon at the parish office, 406.656.2522 or register on our website stpiusxblgs.org. Thank you!

Meet the Staff

Joan Whelan -Director of Music

Time at St. Pius X? I've been part of the music ministry here at St. Pius for over 20 years. Father Wayne hired me as Director of Music on Ash Wednesday, 2014.



Primary Responsibilities? All things music. I schedule the choirs, ensembles and cantors; create the music plans; coordinate rehearsal schedules; direct the parish choir, ensemble, Souled Out, and Young Proclaimers; and ensure that St. Pius is in compliance with all music licensing requirements.

Favorite part of your job? Honestly, it is easier to identify the least favorite part of my job...licensing compliance...it is tedious and never ending! UGH!! As for the favorite part...MUSIC! St. Augustine said "To sing is to pray twice." I am so grateful that we have such dedicated musicians and an assembly here at St. Pius who share that belief. Music elevates whatever tone the scripture reveals. On Palm Sunday, we begin with joyous music to celebrate Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, only to mournfully intone, "My God, why have you abandoned me" and "Were you there when they crucified my Lord" later in that same Mass. I'll share a memory. Several years ago, I was standing to direct the choir at the beginning of the Triduum on Holy Thursday. We intentionally do not sing any prelude music on Holy Thursday, so the cantor announced our Gathering Song and Mary Landry began to play. Shivers went down my spine as the assembly joyously, almost raucously, sang out "Come to the feast of heaven on earth, come to the table of plenty." I was stunned by the volume in the church. I looked at Mary afterward, smiled and mouthed "WOW." It was a holy moment of shared faith!

Hobbies? I love theater...especially musical theater. I love to bake. I love the challenge of planning and cooking for special occasions. I count myself among the best of sports fans when the children of family or friends are participating!

What is an unexpected blessing of working at St. Pius X? Long before I joined the staff, Rosalie gave Mary and I permission to start the Youth Choir. I smile when I think back to a six-year-old Sarah Pankratz standing on the pew imitating my hand gestures to direct all of the people in the rows behind her. Now, as I'm looking at the Young Proclaimers and members of the Youth Choir who have stepped up to help lead the assembly, I'm filled with joy and gratitude that I'm allowed to share the gift of music with all these young disciples.

What advice for the spiritual life have you received that made a difference in your life? God invites us to look at our life as a generosity contest. ~ From a Matthew Kelly podcast many years ago.



Catholic Content on Demand

Check out "Holy Week" and "The Last Supper" with Dr. Brant Pitre. Interested? Go to <u>formed.org</u>, select "Sign Up As A Parishioner," find *St. Pius X* by parish name, address, or zip code and enter your email address. Now you are connected! And it's free!

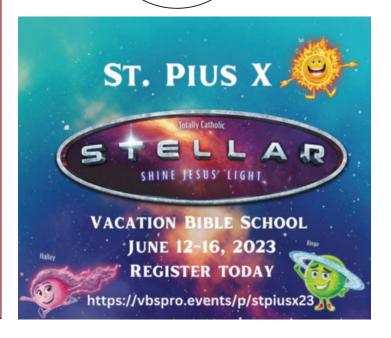
Holy Thursday's Collection

The collection on April 6 will be donated to Tumbleweed for the purpose of much needed bus passes for unhoused youth so they can access school and work.

Fr. Steve Tokarski Memorial Scholarship for Catholic School Youth

The Father Steve Memorial Scholarship is available to children who want to attend St. Francis Catholic School anytime between Kindergarten through grade 8 for the upcoming school year. It honors a former pastor of our parish. Scholarship applicants must be registered parishioners of St. Pius X, registered through the Billings Catholic School System and plan to attend St. Francis Catholic School for the 2023-2024 school year. High school students are not eligible for this scholarship. Applications are available at the parish office or on our website at stpiusxblgs.org. The application deadline is 4:30pm on Friday, April 21, 2023. Please direct any questions to Karyn Haider at khaider@stpiusxblgs.org.

In thanksgiving for the life of **Joe Cahill**. Please keep his family in your prayers.



In and Around Our Parish Community

DéCÖLÖRÉS!

Fellow 4th Dayers: We are filled with anticipation for the upcoming Cum Christo weekends at Billings Central High School. Stay close to our Lord in the months ahead and be His hands and feet as you reach out to share the amazing gift that you received on your Cum Christo weekend. Christ is Counting on You! The Men's Weekend will be June 8-11 and the Women's Weekend will be June 15-18. Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Jesus. For more information contact: Lucy Melugin at 406.208.2340 or email *lucile53@gmail.com*. Deadline to apply is May 9. Applications available online at: bigskycumchristo.org/billings-laurel.



Eucharistic Revival 2023! Join Dr. Scott Hahn, Archbishop Alexander Sample and musical

guest Jaime Thietten on May 5 and 6 at Billings Central Catholic High School as we gather to cultivate Eucharistic amazement! Sponsored by the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, we'll unite to help restore understanding and devotion to the great mystery of The Most Holy Eucharist. As we deeply reflect on the source and summit of our faith, this promises to be a weekend to remember! To learn more, visit diocesegfb.org/revival



St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Council 9976

Brother Knights, may we all be blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ as we enter into Holy Week and the most sacred Easter Triduum. I want to remind you there will be no Bingo on Easter Sunday.

On Friday, April 14, we will return to our weekly Friday Bingo games. We are still in great need of Knights to help us host this fundraising event. Currently, there are Knights who have to help every week in order to keep the game going. We can't sustain that kind of effort in the long run. Please consider helping out one Friday night a month. Contact Ron Bough for further information. He can be reached at: 406.670.1664.

Area Events

Good Friday, April 7

7th annual Good Friday Cross Walk sponsored by Yellowstone Valley Christians for Life. This is a pro-life meditation on the Passion of Christ. Meet at 12:30pm in the St. Pius X parking lot (new location this year.) Walk behind a wooden cross, stopping 14 times along the way, reading, praying, and meditating each time on a Gospel passage from the Passion narratives. Questions? Call Amy at 406.855.3737.

Saturday, April 15

Helena Catholic Women's Conference "Come To Me" at the
Helena Civic Center. Hear Sister Deirdre Byrne, Danielle
Bean and Gia Chacón on the
topic of Courageous Women.
Register at helenacwc.com.

Thursday, April 20

 Join LaVie for a family-friendly FUNdraiser with special guest 321 Improv at 6:30pm at Faith Chapel. Call 406.652.4868 for tickets. 321 Improv creates a unique, interactive comedy experience unlike any you've been part of before. Support LaVie's mission of Offering Hope. Empowering Women.

April 21-23

 Marriage Encounter in Elk Mountain, WY. To register go to their website: wwme.org or call 307.298.0617. Or contact Tom and Mary Frances Burke at tommfburke@gmail.com

St. Thomas Camp for

Youth...Visit the diocesan website at <u>diocesegfb.org</u> for more information on summer camp.

The Stewardship Report for March 26, 2023 was unavailable at time of print.

This Week's Meetings on the Campus of St. Pius X

Sat., April 1 & Sun., April 2 at church Palm Sunday

Collection of hospitality items for St. Vincent dePaul.

Monday, April 3

NO daily Mass

Tuesday, April 4

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- NO Children's Ministry classes
- Middle and High School Youth Ministry, 6:30pm, Youth Center
- Parish Choir, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 5

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- Sandwich ministry, 9:00am, Fellowship Hall
- Young Proclaimers, 3:30pm, Music room
- NO Children's Ministry classes
- Emmaus Singers, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, April 6

Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday Mass, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

- Pro-Life Cross Walk, 12:30pm, parking lot
- Stations of the Cross, 3:00pm, Father Steve Memorial Garden. If inclement weather, in the church.
- Good Friday service, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Saturday, April 8

Easter Vigil

 Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30pm, Sanctuary. Reception following in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday

8:30am Mass and 11:00am Mass (Live-streamed)

Ministry Schedule: Holy Thurs., April 6

Greeter: Ryan & Maggie Thomson

Usher: R. Barnes, Jim Kaiser, Dan Miller, David Mork

Lector: Bob Reid-1, Renee O'Dea-2

Sacristan: Tim Morgan Altar Minister: Don Judice

Eucharistic Minister: Clare Dooley, Clarinda Kremer,

Connie Marman, Kathleen Olsen

Cross: Halle Anderson, Server: Marilyn McKenzie

Ministry Schedule: Good Friday, April 7

Greeter: Jackie Fears, Magdalen Wojtowicz **Usher:** Mike Persha, Bob Riesinger, **Need 2 Lector:** Mark Sevier-1, John Koppelman-2

Sacristan: Joyce Stoppel Altar Minister: Kim Komar

Eucharistic Minister: Kathleen Bernhardt, Clare

Dooley, Judy Lampi, Mary Taylor

Cross: Casey Rah, Server: Lizzie Rah

Scripture Reflection:Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-7 Ps. 22;8-9, 17-20, 23-24 Philippians 2:6-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66

Writing a reflection for Palm Sunday is intimidating because the Scriptures are so rich and complete that reflection could (and should) go on for hours, days or even weeks. In fact, the Church generally gives us the content of these texts in smaller bites throughout the year just so we can begin to absorb the fullness of this series of events and the meaning of God's plan for all humans embedded within these texts.

Intimidated or not, the invitation of the Liturgical day pulls us to a "geography of faith" from mountaintop to gorge and back to hilltop and finally into the garden of creation embedded in the City of Peace (*Jeru-shalem*) – all in the perfectly complete symbol of seven days.

Just a short time ago I returned from a pilgrimage where we went from one mountaintop in northern Spain following the pilgrimage of Saint Ignatius Loyola – across a broad plain to another mountaintop of transformation and then on to the City of Rome where Ignatius lived out the fullness of his pilgrimage of discovery of himself and of God's will for him. This geography of faith is remarkably similar to that which Jesus walked in the week between Palm Sunday and Easter.

The first Gospel of Palm Sunday – this year from Matthew – begins outside the worship space where a crowd gathers to welcome him with palm branches and hosannas of praise. This short text begins with the statement "Jesus and the disciples...came to the Mount of Olives near the village of Bethphage." Like the people of the village and Jerusalem itself, the Church recognizes its Lord at this first mountaintop, but will not recognize God's plan for him and for us to descend to the valley, celebrate the Passover meal, and ascend the Mount of Golgotha to be crucified unto death toward the end of the week.

The rest of the story moves to the humility of true humanity: as glorious as the human is in creation, the human is not God and even fails to be fully human much of the time. This knowledge comes from suffering – most of all suffering the rejection by other humans that one is created to be in union with. The knowledge also comes from acknowledging our collaboration with causing that suffering for others and for our own self destruction.

Why do we humans despise the one who loves and saves us? Because we are so arrogant that we do not want to NEED to be loved and saved. We hate the one who rescues us because we don't want to need rescuing. We project the fear and hate we feel for our fragility and limitedness on the one who will

Continued on page 6 lower left column...

Mass Intentions & Readings

Monday, April 3

Isaiah 42:1-7, Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14, John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 4

Isaiah 49:1-6, Ps. 71:1-6, 15-17, John 13:21-33, 36-38

8:30am Mass: † David Bernardy

Wednesday, April 5

Isaiah 50:4-9, Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 33-34, Matthew

26:14-25

8:30am Mass: † Dianne Eis

Thursday, April 6 Holy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18, 1 Co-

rinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15 **7:00pm Mass: † Charles Boykin**

Friday, April 7 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25,

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42 **7:00pm service (no Mass Intention)**

Saturday, April 8 Easter Vigil

Genesis 1:1-2:2, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18, Romans 6:3-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23,

Matthew 28:1-10

8:30pm Mass: † Mary Olson

Sunday, April 9 The Resurrection of the Lord Acts 10:34, 37-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23, Colos-

sians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9

8:30am Mass: Int. of St. Pius X Parishioners

11:00am Mass: † Irvin Weathermon

Scripture reflection continued from page 5.... redeem us from such limitedness and join us to Divine life. This, then, is what Jesus endures for us in the valley between the mountains – the truth of our createdness. We are not the masters of our fate, the creators of our own future. We are subordinate to the will and desire of the Creator – and we hate even the fact that that will and desire is for us to be fully alive and happy – but on God's terms not our own.

At the end of the second week of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius we pray for the gift of true humility – that is for the truth of ourselves to be known and loved. Then, in this process of spiritual awakening, we enter the Third Week where our prayer is answered in-so-far as we align ourselves with Jesus, who accomplished perfect humility. "Though he was in the form of God he did not deem equality with God something to be stolen (grasped at)" Saint Paul tells us in the New Testament reading before the Gospel of the Passion is read. Here at the center of the word we are handed the key to the whole week ahead of us. If we would be faithful to our baptismal promises and live in the Body of Christ we must embrace this humility of God's own Son.

The Church then leads us through the passion account according to Matthew. There is much to

Ministry Schedule: April 9, 2023

Saturday, April 8 schedule unavailable at time of print.

Sunday, 8:30am Mass

Greeter: Joan Keefer, Donna Meyers

Usher: Ming & Digna Cabrera, Steve Komar, Greg

Luck

Lector: Shannon Behounek-1, Tanja Sloan-2

Sacristan: Need 1

Altar Minister: Andy Mikes

Eucharistic Minister: Judy Lampi, Rick & Sharon

McCann, Lorraine Walter

Cross: Olivia Buller, Server: Laila Bakkedahl

Nursery: Closed on Easter Sunday

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Greeter: Markus Hulquist, Joe Larimer

Usher: Steve & Nicole Geiger, David Mork, Bob Rie-

singer

Lector: Vicki Marquis-1, Andrea Horrell-2

Sacristan: Germaine Riesinger **Altar Minister:** Lynn DeMeyer

Eucharistic Minister: Craig & Sheila Barthel, Susan

Johnson, Jessie Rohrer

Cross: Skyler Sanchez, Server: Landon Boelman

Nursery: Closed on Easter Sunday

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Scripture reflection from left column continued... meditate on in this long and descriptive text, but my prayer led me to the verses about Peter's denial that he even knew Jesus. Here is the point of our times, perhaps writ large. We want to deny that we have anything to do with Jesus. He who loves us so much that he gives everything of himself to give us full humanity and his own Divine life – asks us to stand with him in his suffering. Like Peter I often say "no." I pray that each one of us who fails to love, see Jesus's gaze and feel the grief at our failure that Peter felt.

May this Holy Week bring you (and me) from mountaintop to mountaintop – from truth to truth or humility to deeper humility – and then to the Garden of New Creation where Jesus dwells.

"The centurion . . . said. . . 'truly this was the Son of God'" ~ by Eileen Burke-Sullivan

"Daily Reflection" of Creighton University's **Online Ministries** website: http://www.creighton.edu/ CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with permission.

Parish Staff

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Bulletin notices are due by 4:30pm on Monday. Please email submissions to bulletin@stpiusxblgs.org.

Mass Schedules

Weekend

Saturday at 5:00 PM Sunday at 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Weekdays

Tuesday—Friday

Mass at 8:30 AM—Sanctuary Rosary - 8:00 AM, before daily Mass

LIVE-Stream

Sunday, 11:00 AM and Daily Masses at 8:30 AM on our website at www.stpiusxblgs.org. Click Live-Stream on the homepage.

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Sat. 3:30-4:30 PM Baptism: Call us for details Marriage: Six-month preparation

required

Anointing of the Sick: Please call to arrange for an individual anointing.

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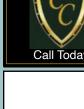
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