# St. Pius X Parish

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



April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

# Welcome Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku!





# Our Door is Open, Our Table is Set -There is a Place for You Here!

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.

# Graduating Seniors!

Please mark
Sunday, May 7 for our
Baccalaureate Mass at 11:00am
followed by a reception for you, your
family and friends, and our parish
community. Invitations have been
sent. If you have not received one,
please call the parish office at
406.656.2522 so we can correct our
records. We go by birthdates, so we
may either a) not have a birth date
associated with your name or b) we
may have the wrong date. We want
to honor ALL of our graduating seniors on May 7th!

# **Children's Ministry**

Second Year Sacramental Families: Don't forget about our mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, April 26 at 6:30pm in the church. Your candidate will need to attend with a parent and/or sponsor. See you then!

# Bus Passes for Youth Appreciated!

The collection on Holy Thursday traditionally goes to the needy. This year your donations provided bus passes for at-risk youth served by Tumbleweed. Bus passes enable youth to get to school and jobs. Thank you, dynamic disciples, for your generous donation of \$933.00 for this purpose!



Above: Fr. John Houlihan and Deacon Tom Landry prepare the Sprinkling Rite for a packed church at the 8:30am Mass on Easter Sunday. Photo courtesy of Rob Anderson. Last week's cover photos were supplied by Rob Verdon. We apologize for omitting this information in last week's bulletin.

#### St. Michael's Circle

St. Michael's Circle will meet Friday, April 28, at 12:00pm in the St. Pius X Parish Center. Refreshments will be served. St. Michael's Circle welcomes guests! If you are curious about this Circle, please join them!

### Partners are a Blessing!

The St. Pius X Conference of St. Vincent de Paul sends blessings to all parishioners for your generous donation of hygiene products plus other items in the March hospitality collection. Thank you for partnering with us! People served by St. Vincent dePaul do not have a regular place to shower. Many use the SVdP restroom sinks to clean up as real showers are few and far between. SVdP conference members are grateful for all the things parishioners do to support them like collecting hygiene products, the Sack Lunch ministry, donating clothing for the Free Clothing Store, and St. Pius X's monthly tithe.

If you are interested in finding out more about our Conference here at St. Pius X, please join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the Parish Center or call Magdalen Wojtowicz at 406.256.0541 with any questions about this group.

### **Dynamic Disciples Encourage with Meals**

Seven children and two mothers felt the loving support of St. Pius X parishioners during our Family Promise Host Week, April 16-22. Delicious meals were created and delivered to the Family Promise Day Center by Cindy and Danny Zimmerman, Christy and Craig Rider, Carmelita Dominguez, Diane and Mike Boyett, Dolores Howerter, Joan Whelan, Kim Komar, and Mary Zeeck. Colleen Model fixed a communal grab-and-go basket with baked goodies and individual snacks.

Family Promise families work hard to overcome their barriers to homelessness. While the program has not yet returned to the church rotation as it was prior to the pandemic, families are still being served every day of the year with evening meals and groceries. Thank you, for your generosity! Please call Shelly at 406.281.8501 if interested in this meaningful ministry to families in the Billings community.

# Meet the Staff

# Bill Walker - Custodian

Time at St. Pius X? 29 years

Primary Responsibilities? Maintaining the interior of the campus buildings (church, Youth Center, and



Parish Center.) Maintaining boilers, heating and cooling systems. Maintaining sprinkler systems in the cemetery and on the grounds and snow removal. Maintaining the flower beds on campus and the parish house in Josephine Crossing for our resident priest.

**Favorite part of your job?** Interacting with the people of the St. Pius X community.

**Hobbies?** Spending time with three grandchildren, landscaping, gardening, and trail and street bicycling.

What is an unexpected blessing of working at St. Pius? Experiencing the fullness of the St. Pius X community through interactions and relationships.

What is a fun fact about you? When hiking I insist on bear bells!

What advice for the spiritual life have you received that made a difference in your life? A daily mantra, "God, let's do this."



### **Reaching Out in a Time of Distress**

"The parish community of Mary Queen of Peace expresses appreciation to St. Pius X for your generosity and thoughtful concern for us with regard to the January 2023 break-in, desecration, and vandalism of our church.

An investigation by the Billings Police Department and the U.S. Department of Justice is ongoing. A reinforced metal door has replaced a glass door. The obscene, derogatory writings about our Blessed Mother Mary has been scrubbed off the walls and fresh paint applied. We are locating replacement sacramental books, statues, crucifixes, portraits and pictures that were stolen or defaced. A security system is in place and increased outdoor lighting. Thank you, Body of Christ, for your kind gesture and donation of \$500 in this time of adversity." ~ Rev. Jose Marquez

# Laudatopalooza! for the Environment

Curious about how Catholicism and the parish community of St. Pius X can become more sustainable and environmentally responsible? Come find out at Laudatopalooza! A four-part series of reflection on Pope Francis' Laudato Si document, dialogue, creativity, and visioning for making our parish communities more sustainable and energetic in our Catholic stewardship of our planet and local community. Sign up by emailing Larry McEvoy at Larry.McEvoyMD@gmail.com. Sessions are Wednesdays weekly from May 10 – May 31, from 7:00 - 8:30pm in the St. Thomas parish center. If you are interested in how your parish can combine sustainability, Catholic teaching, and action, this series is for you (and all your friends). All are welcome!

Currently 208 St. Pius X parishioners have contributed to the Annual Catholic Appeal. The diocesan appeal is at about 80% of their financial goal. If you have contributed, thank you for supporting the ministries of the Diocese of Eastern Montana. If you would like to donate, please see "Giving is Safe, Simple & Secure" on the left column of the graphic, "We Are an Offering" below. Thank you!



# We Are an Offering

#### Ministry Spotlight: Catholic Cemetaries

While often the idea of planning for the death of ourselves or a loved one is not a comfortable topic, the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings does understand how helpful it is to have support and assistance in ensuring that after passing, we have Catholic cemetery options with Family Service Advisors for our Catholic family in Eastern Montana.

The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings has three Catholic cemeteries located in our diocese. Mount Olivet and Calvary in Great Falls and Holy Cross in Billings. Our Catholic cemeteries provide services which are consistent with Catholic teaching, working closely with families and local funeral homes. All burials are conducted professionally and with the utmost respect to the deceased and their family. Services provided include: full body burial, cremains burial, columbarium for cremains, and a grave locater service.

# **In and Around Our Parish Community**

### **Eucharistic Conference Promoted by Bishops**

The Cultivating Eucharistic Amazement Conference, featuring speakers Dr. Scott Hahn, Archbishop Alex Sample and Jamie Thietten is being held Friday evening May 5 from 7:00-9:00pm and all day Saturday, May 6 from 8:30am to 5:00pm at Central Catholic High School in Billings. Bishop Warfel and Bishop Fleming will be attending. This inspiring event is designed to celebrate the Eucharist as the summit and source of our faith. Speakers will explore what the Eucharist means, why Catholics adore Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and how we cultivate Eucharistic amazement in our day-to-day living. Saturday will conclude with a Eucharistic procession followed immediately by the Saturday vigil Mass at 5:00pm. To register for the event, go to the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings website: diocesegfb.org/revival.

### DéCÖLÖRÉS!

Fellow 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Longest Married Couple**

Each World Wide Marriage Encounter sponsors a contest to locate the longest married couple in the state and in the nation. Last year, WWME honored Orvel and Virginia Sherrill at Green Tree Assisted Living and Memory Care in Sand Springs, Oklahoma who had been married for 80 years...we've been blessed in our life beyond words." Bishop Warfel would like to submit the name of the couple in our diocese who has been married the longest. Send to sg@stpiusxblgs.org by June 1st.

**Saints Softball Team...**want to play Softball and represent St. Pius X? The season begins May 8-June 26. For more information or to sign up contact Alex at 406.794.1322. Go Saints!

### St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Council 9976

Brother Knights, due to some events occurring the next few weeks at church, we will not be able to host Bingo on April 28<sup>th</sup> or May 5<sup>th</sup>. Bingo will return on May 12<sup>th</sup>. When we start Bingo again, we will be using our new bingo system. We are excited about having modern equipment that will last for years!

We will be taking our barbeque to St. Vincent de Paul on Saturday, April 29 for their annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. We will gather about 10:00am to get the barbeque going. We should be finished around 2:00pm. Please contact our Deputy Grand Knight Phil Zeeck if you'd like to help with this project.

# Stewardship Report for April 16, 2023

Grand Total of Collection \$15,523.00
Weekly Average Needed \$21,346.00
Annual Parish Budget \$1,100,000.00
Contributions needed to date \$896,532.00
Contributions received to date \$891,112.07
Budget Income Shortfall (\$5,419.93)

Thank you!

#### **Area Events**

#### Saturday, April 29

Billings Golden K Kiwanis Annual Pancake Breakfast. Enjoy this delicious breakfast at the Masonic Center located at 11th and Broadwater. Served from 8:00-11:00am, delight your taste buds with sourdough pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee and juice. An adult meal is \$8.00 and kids age 12 and under eat for \$4.00 per meal. Proceeds used for Kiwanis-sponsored youth activities in the Billings area. Buy tickets at the door or from a Kiwanis member.

# St. Thomas Camp for Youth

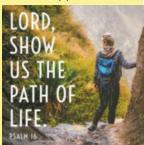
The following is the 2023 schedule for St. Thomas Camp in Monarch, Montana. All youth in the diocese are welcome!
June 18-23: High School Week # 1
June 25-30: High School Week # 2
July 9-14: 5th and 6th grade boys
July 16-21: Middle School Week # 1
July 23-28: 5th and 6th grade girls
July 30-August 4: Middle School
Week # 2

Visit the diocesan website at diocesegfb.org for more information on summer camp.

# Scholarship for a Senior Girl

The five vicariates of the Great Falls-Billings Diocesan Council of Catholic Women are awarding one \$500.00 scholarship to a high school graduating senior girl. Applications are available at the St. Pius X parish office or contact Toni Ziegler at 406.654.1187. Applications

must be received by May 20, 2023.



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

#### Sunday, April 23 at church

- Installation of Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku as the Pastor of our church at the 11:00am Mass. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall
- Liturgy of the Word with Children, 11:00am Mass

#### Monday, April 24

- NO daily Mass
- SEEL Discernment group, 11:00am, Parish Ctr. # 3

#### Tuesday, April 25

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- WoW prayer group, 1:00pm, Parish Center # 3
- St. Michael's Circle Sandwich making, 1:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- Finance Council, 4:30pm, Parish Center # 3
- Parish Choir, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
- Middle and High School Youth Ministry, 6:30pm, Youth Center

#### Wednesday, April 26

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- Children of Joy and Gladness (charismatic prayer),
   3:00pm, Day Chapel
- Youth Choir, 3:30pm, Sanctuary
- Young Proclaimers, 3:30pm, Music room
- Confirmation and First Eucharist rehearsal, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

#### Thursday, April 27

Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)

#### Friday, April 28

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- SEEL Challenge group, 10:00am, Parish Center # 4
- St. Michael's Circle, 11:45am, Parish Center # 3

#### Saturday, April 29

 Confirmation and First Eucharist celebration for sacramental preparation students, 1:00pm, reception following in the Fellowship Hall.

#### Sunday, April 30

- Children's Liturgy of the Word, 8:30am Mass
- Bag Building for Sandwich ministry, 9:45am, Fellowship Hall

# **Principal Needed in Great Falls**

Great Falls Central Catholic High School is seeking a High School Principal. The Job Description can be found on the Diocesan website. Or here is the direct link to the position: <a href="mailto:diocesegfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Principal-Job-Description-1.pdf">diocesegfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Principal-Job-Description-1.pdf</a>

# Scripture Reflection: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33 Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11 1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35

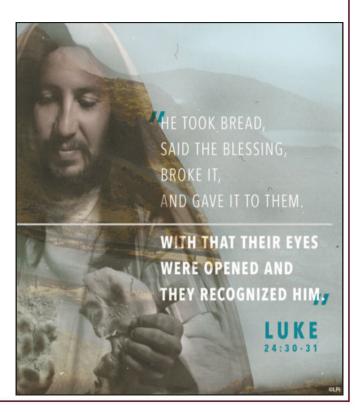
I always feel a little sad when someone begins to speak to me with the words, "Father, I know you're so busy, but ..." It happens a lot. And I get it. He or she is trying to be respectful of my time. But it saddens me because a priest makes Jesus present to people in a special way, and Jesus always has time for us. Don't we all feel at times that God just doesn't have time for us?

Nonsense. Just look at the stunning "Road to Emmaus" story we hear this week. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. And the Risen One appears in disguise to two disciples. He walks with them, chats with them, and eventually eats with them. It could have been hours he spends with them — two unnamed persons — in the middle of nowhere. On the day he rose from the dead!

My friends, please take this to heart: The Risen Jesus is not too busy to spend time with you! He doesn't have "better things to do." You and I are members of this crucified and risen Body. He therefore has all the time in the world to be with us. So, I challenge you this week to approach him confidently in prayer and conversation. After all, being with you and me is the reason he rose from the dead.

~ Father John Muir

**©LPi** 



# **Mass Intentions & Readings**

**Monday, April 24**, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen Acts 6:8-15, Ps. 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30, John 6:22-29

Tuesday, April 25, St. Mark

1 Peter 5:5-14, Ps. 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17, Mark 16:15-20

8:30am Mass: † Erick Krueger

Wednesday, April 26

Acts 8:1-8, Psalm 66:1-7, John 6:35-40 8:30am Mass: † Julia & Louis Fish

Thursday, April 27

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20, John 6:44-51

8:30am Mass: † Devin Michaelis

Friday, April 28, St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis Grignion

de Montfort

Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 117:1-2, John 6:52-59 8:30am Mass: † Charles & June Sangwin

**Saturday, April 29**,St. Catherine of Siena Acts 9:31-42, Psalm 116:12-17, John 6:60-69

5:00pm Mass: † John Monteleone

Sunday, April 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 36-41, Psalm 23:1-6, 1 Peter 2:20-25, John

10:1-10

8:30am Mass: † Monty and Luke Bruski 11:00am Mass: Int. of St. Pius X Parishioners



Benefitting Catholic Social Services of Montana

#### **Catholic Social Services of Montana**

will host its 24th Annual charity golf tournament on July 14th, 2023, at Bill Roberts Municipal Golf Course in Helena. All funds raised benefit CSSM's adoption and family support ministries across Montana. Teams of 4 can register before July 7th. The registration fee includes 9 or 18 holes of golf, lunch, player gifts, a small donation to CSSM, and a fun day at the course with opportunities to win great prizes! For more details, including online registration, visit https://cssm-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com.

Come have fun playing a round of golf and support a wonderful Catholic charity serving Montana!

# Ministry Schedule: April 29-30, 2023

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass

Greeter: Jackie Fears, Betty Warner

Usher: Dan Dooley, Richard King, Dan Miller, Keith

Schot

Lector: Mike Persha-1, Michelle Bertelson-2

Sacristan: Bob Holbrook Altar Minister: Phil Zeeck

Eucharistic Minister: Clare Dooley, Tricia McMorris,

Germaine Riesinger, Tyler Wiltgen

Cross: Cooper Papez, Server: Grady Martin

Nursery: Kylie Schott

Sunday, 8:30am Mass

Greeter: Shannon Behounek, Richard Wood

Usher: Steve Komar, Greg Luck, Andy Mikes, Need 1

Lector: Don Judice-1, Bob Keene-2

Sacristan: Jan Kirk

Altar Minister: Kathleen Bernhardt

Eucharistic Minister: Rick & Sharon McCann, Lor-

raine Walter, Ron Yates

Cross: Olivia Buller, Server: Victoria Willis

Nursery: Kelly Keller

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

**Greeter:** Markus Hulquist, Magdalen Wojtowicz **Usher:** Kyle Brehm, Steve & Nicole Geiger, Joe Lar-

imer

Lector: Tim Guenthner-1, Andrea Horrell-2

Sacristan: Janice Krueger Altar Minister: Lynn DeMeyer

Eucharistic Minister: Brittany Blood, Susan Johnson,

Sandi McGovern, David Mork

Cross: Evelee Dominguez, Server: Molly Boileau

Nursery: Brittany Linford

# **National Day of Prayer**

Thursday, May 4 beginning with the noon event from 12:00-1:00pm on the Courthouse Lawn. Later, the evening event from 7:00-8:30pm at Parkhill Assembly of God, 1707 Parkhill Drive. Also, Open Prayer from 1:00-5:00pm at Billings House of Prayer 2700 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. North.

Our nation faces crises of great magnitude, seemingly on every front, and we desperately need to be on our knees in prayer. The 2023 theme is "Pray Fervently in Righteousness and Avail Much." from *James 5:16*.

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### **Parish Staff**

Parish Center Hours: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday 406.656.2522 •www.stpiusxblgs.org•www.facebook.com/stpiusbillings Instagram @stpiusx blgs

Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku, Pastor, 406.281.8504, frmartin@stpiusxblgs.org Deacon Tom Landry, 406.860.7842, acnerds@bresnan.net Shannon Behounek, Administrative Assistant, shannonb@stpiusxblgs.org Shelly Greenfield, Bulletin, Christian Service, sg@stpiusxblgs.org Karyn Haider, Parish Administrator, khaider@stpiusxblgs.org Olivia Hanser, Interim Youth Minister, olivia@stpiusxblgs.org Jan Kirk, Accounting/Bookkeeping, jan@stpiusxblgs.org Matt Low, Director of Christian Initiation, mlow@stpiusxblgs.org Kathy McCleary, Communications & Volunteers, kmc@stpiusxblgs.org Mike Persha, Cemetery Manager, mpersha@stpiusxblgs.org Jessie Rohrer, Children's Ministry Coordinator, jr@stpiusxblgs.org Mary Stordahl, Liturgy Coordinator, marys@stpiusxblgs.org Bill Walker, Custodian, bwalker@stpiusxblgs.org Stacy Wegner, Children's Ministry Assistant, children@stpiusxblgs.org Joan Whelan, Music Ministry, joan@stpiusxblgs.org Council of Elders, elders@stpiusxblgs.org

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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St. Pius X Council 9976

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