

St. Pius X Parish

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

Bulletin

April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scenes from Fr. Martin's First Weekend at St. Pius X!

Photos courtesy of parishioner Rob Verdon.



A Loving Community Rooted in Christ

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 stpiusxbgls.org, find us on Facebook at 'St. Pius X,' or on Instagram @stpiusx_bgls.

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!

Calvary Cemetery

If you tend a grave at Calvary Cemetery, as a gentle reminder, we will be removing any leftover holiday decorations and faded flowers in preparation for Memorial Day. If you would like to keep your decorations, we ask that you remove them by May 7, otherwise, the cemetery clean up crew will remove them.

Please be sure to place flowers, figurines, whirligigs, etc. on the **base** of the grave. Anything that is placed in the grass will be permanently removed so that lawn maintenance may be done each Wednesday. The cemetery crew will store items they find in the grass for ten days only. If you have questions about this policy, please call 406.656.2522 and ask for Mike. Thank you for your cooperation!

Children Complete Sacraments of Initiation

Congratulations to the 34 candidates who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist on Saturday, April 29! A special thank you to catechists, parents, and sponsors for preparing and supporting these young disciples. Please join in congratulating and praying for the newly initiated members of the church:

Ethan Barnick
Avery Barrow
Jace Budell
Henry Buyske
Haden Childree
Charles Dettart
Jolee Duray
Bentley Duyck
Benjamin Glossip
Oliver Hatfield
Piper Hatfield
Jennika Hoff
Mila Korth
Jaxon Kreiter
Xandria Kreiter
Elora Linfood
Xander Love

Owen McMillan
Gabriel McPherson
Greyson Moses
Lilliauna O'Dea
Emma Onik
Jaxson Podoll
Wesley Reed
Isaac Rohrer
Travis Smith
Relkey Strecker
Emma Swanson
Treux Tabbert
Sivale Tusi
Carter Weidman
Henry Wilson
Avery Wollschlager
Bennett Wulf

Lenten Soup Recipe Search

During the Lenten Season, many were able to partake in some wonderful meatless soups during our Friday Stations of the Cross and Soup suppers. Several people are requesting recipes for those delicious soups! If you are willing to share yours, please place a copy of your recipe in the basket marked "recipes" in the Gathering Area of church by May 21. Carolyn Gransberg will be collecting them for a future display. Don't forget to add your name to your recipe!

Collection for Billings Food Bank

The Billings Food Bank will receive our food donations from the May 6-7 collection. The items most needed are: canned vegetables and fruit, macaroni and cheese, cereal, tomatoes and sauce, pasta, one-can meals, rice, beans, peanut butter, canned meats, hamburger helper, single serve snacks & sandwich bags that seal. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make your check out to 'Billings Food Bank' and place it in the box next to the food collection bin. Thank you for helping to alleviate hunger in our community!

Prayer for Vocations on Vocation Sunday

Lord of the Harvest, bless young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things. Inspire all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. Instill those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you. Unite us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

Meet the Staff

Kathy McCleary - Communications & Volunteers

Time at St. Pius X? I've been a member of the parish on and off since 1977, but moved back to Billings and St. Pius permanently in 1997. I've been on staff for 15 years.



Primary Responsibilities? I am responsible for the many and varied communication elements of our parish: website, social media (Facebook and Instagram), press for and with both Catholic and secular mediums, and assisting the other members of our pastoral team with any communication needs they may have from brochures to promotional pieces for their ministry. I am blessed to provide support to those in our parish whose loved ones died through grief ministry. This ministry also encompasses our homebound and prayer shawl ministries which involve many dedicated disciples with whom I coordinate. I am also the staff liaison for our Parish Life Commission. This group of amazing disciples are responsible for, well, our parish's social life: Welcome Back Weekend, Name Tag Weekend, hospitality after weekend Masses, receptions like the one last weekend for our new pastor, Parish Catalyst activities like the 5 Weeks of Thanksgiving, passing out chocolate hearts for Valentine's Day, and anything that brings joy and spirit to our parish community. I am also very involved in our live-stream ministry! I continue to be grateful for Fr. Wayne Pittard's vision of providing livestream for our homebound parishioners. When the pandemic hit and we had to close our doors, our parish was already setup with the cameras, broadcast software and the other technology needed. You can typically find me "behind the curtain" at most 11am Masses and many Daily Masses. I love this unique way to provide what Bishop Fleming says is now called "The New Window to our Church." The only downside to this ministry is that I am no longer an active Lector or Hospitality Greeter, and I dearly love those ministries.

Favorite part of your job? Daily I am reminded that all of us really, truly are the hands and feet of Christ and the people of St. Pius regularly take me to my knees by their embracing of this Eucharistic Mission.

Hobbies? Loving upon my nieces and nephews and now grandnieces and nephews and those "borrowed" as well! (And I like wine! 😊)

What is an unexpected blessing of working at St. Pius? Being introduced to Ignatian Spirituality!

Continued in top of next column...

Kathy McCleary continued...

What is a fun fact about you? Way back in my early broadcast days, I had a sporadic radio show called "Off the Wall with Kathy" on KGHL, here in Billings.

What advice for the spiritual life have you received that made a difference in your life? Begin the day with silence. I quit the habitual years of morning TV news programs and enjoy complete silence from early morning until close to 8am when I'll say "Hey Google..." and I then typically listen to John Michael Talbot. Silence totally transformed my prayer life.

What is the scariest invitation God has extended to you and how did you respond? Without question it was in 2008 when I left my broadcast management and sales career and accepted Fr. Steve Tokarski's offer of a lay ministry position here. At first, I wasn't sure I could breathe. I have never looked back.

OCIA: Welcome to our Parish's Spring Inquiry Session

We have an OCIA Inquiry Session scheduled for interested individuals on Sunday, May 21, between the two Sunday Masses—9:45 to 10:45am—in the church Fellowship Hall.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in becoming Catholic or completing sacraments? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), was formally referred to as the RCIA. We will offer the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist to those who have yet to receive them.

This formation process becomes a spiritual journey where the participant enters into a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Here at St. Pius X Parish we will walk you through every stage of this process. In a nutshell, the first steps will mean an initial discernment, an Inquiry stage, and then periods of religious engagement.

So, what are some typical questions? Examples can vary: My children are not baptized and have not received religious instruction; what do you suggest? I have a child who is getting older and has not been baptized; do you provide sacramental instruction? I am a middle-aged man, not Catholic, but I've been attending Sunday Mass with my wife for years; is it too late to enter the Catholic faith?

Please know that our parish community offers opportunities in small group settings to learn about the Catholic faith and to become fully initiated members through the church's sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist. Also know that our parish offers separate sessions for children and teenagers.

Everyone is welcome to become a disciple of Jesus. We are all on a spiritual journey—learning more, loving more, and encountering the Risen Jesus. Please feel free to contact Matt Low at 406.281.8506 or email him at m_low@stpiusxbllgs.org. Let him know your story and how God is continually working in your life.

See you at our next Inquiry Session. Peace and God's continued blessings. ~ Matt Low.

In and Around Our Parish Community



Con Spirito in Concert *Journey of the Hearts*

**Sunday
May 7 at
3:00pm**

**St. Pius X
Catholic
Church**

Memorial Day Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery

A Memorial Day Mass, on Monday, May 29 will be celebrated at St. Ann's Chapel at 10:30am in Holy Cross Cemetery. Bishop Jeffrey Fleming will be the celebrant with Fr. Leo McDowell concelebrating.

Can you help place U.S. flags on the graves of Veterans on Saturday, May 27, 8:30am, at Holy Cross Cemetery? Please call Angela Norris at 406.839.8387, and let her know if you, or your group, are willing to help. Thank you!

Always Our Children Support Group

Always Our Children is a faith-based support group for parents, family and friends of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. The last meeting until October is Thursday, May 4 at 7:00pm in the St. Pius X Parish Center, room 1. Prayer, sharing and refreshments are part of the evening. For more information, contact Shelly at 406.281.8501.

St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Council 9976

Brother Knights, mark your calendar to gather on Wednesday evening, May 10 in the Fellowship Hall to prepare sack lunches for St. Vincent DePaul. Sandwich makers to arrive at 6:00pm and the rest of the crew please arrive by 6:20pm.

We have our Officers' Meeting on Thursday, May 11 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Also, coming up is our St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 16 from 12:30 to 5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who donates at any Vitalant location during the month of May, including at our St. Pius X blood drive, will be eligible to win one of three gift cards; each with a value of \$5,000. Also, watch your email for a Flocknote as I am looking for some help over the next two weekends, May 6-7 and May 13-14 to help watch the sign up table at church for the blood drive. Anyone who wants to help out, or who wants to donate blood, can also contact me directly. ~ Bob Holbrook, 406.671.5694.

Stewardship Report for April 23, 2023

Grand Total of Collection	\$18,181.00
Weekly Average Needed	\$21,346.00
Annual Parish Budget	\$1,100,000.00
Contributions needed to date	\$917,878.00
Contributions received to date	\$909,293.07
Budget Income Shortfall	(\$8,584.93)

Thank you!

Area Events

Saturday, May 6

- Annual Ladies Tea in the Mary Queen of Peace Parish Center Gym (120 S. 34th St.). Cost is \$8 for an adult, \$5 for age 10 and under. Tea, finger food and a dessert buffet. Theme is "Images of Mary." Reserve seating only by calling 406.294.7605. Fr. Jose will bless any sacramental objects you bring to the event.

Vacation Bible School at St. Pius X

St. Pius X 'Stellar' Vacation Bible School, June 12-16. Register today at vbspro.events/p/stpiusx23

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.

DéCÔLÖRÉS!

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.

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

Sunday, April 30

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

Monday, May 1

- NO daily Mass
- Education Commission, 7:00pm, Parish Center # 3

Tuesday, May 2

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- WoW prayer group, 1:00pm, Parish Center # 3
- Parish Choir, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
- Middle and High School Youth Ministry, 6:30pm, Youth Center

Wednesday, May 3

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- Sandwich ministry, 9:00am, Fellowship Hall
- Children of Joy and Gladness (charismatic prayer), 3:00pm, Day Chapel
- Youth Choir, 3:30pm, Sanctuary
- Young Proclaimers, 3:30pm, Music room
- Emmaus Singers, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
- Elder Council and Pastoral Council, 7:00pm, Parish Center # 3

Thursday, May 4

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- Christian Service Comm., 6:30pm, Parish Ctr. # 3
- Always Our Children support group, 7:00pm, Parish Center # 1
- Eucharistic Minister Training, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Friday, May 5

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- SEEL Director's, 9:00am, Parish Center # 3
- SEEL Challenge group, 10:00am, Parish Center # 4

Sat., May 6 & Sun., May 7 at church

- Food Collection for Billings Food Bank, food bin
- Sign up for Parish Blood Drive, Gathering Area
- Sunday: Baccalaureate for Graduating Seniors, 11:00am Mass, reception following in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday: Con Spirito Concert, 3:00pm, Sanctuary

Scripture Reflection: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 36-41
Psalm 23:1-6
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10

I recently rescued a dog. She's a terrier and rather adorable. And she's crazy about me. She could spend all day with me. But I'm a pastor at a parish and sometimes I leave her at the front desk of the church office. She constantly amazes me by her ability to distinguish between my voice and that of everyone else. If I say one word, even if I'm hidden around a corner, she'll sprint toward me and jump up into my arms.

This week the readings focus our attention to the voice of the risen Jesus Christ. Comparing his disciples to sheep and himself to a shepherd, he says, **"They recognize his voice."** He speaks to us and wants us to respond. When we hear his voice, we follow. Throughout this coming week, we will experience many interior promptings to receive God's love, and to love Him in return. That's his voice. Follow it into the safe and tender arms of Christ.

By contrast, some voices we will hear do not convey God's concern and love for us, but rather produce fear, despair, and other harmful mischief. Jesus calls these voices those of robbers. Does an idea or thought make it harder for you to love God? If so, run away. Let it go. It is most likely not the voice of the Risen Lord. Keep waiting for him to speak. You will recognize his voice. Then run to him as fast as you can. ~ *Father John Muir* ©LPi



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! Visit diocesegfb.org/revival to register.

Laudatopalooza! for the Environment

Curious about how Catholicism and our community 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 community more sustainable in our Catholic stewardship of our planet. 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. Interested in sustainability, Catholic teaching, and action? This series is for you (and all your friends). All are welcome!

Mass Intentions & Readings

Monday, May 1, St. Joseph the Worker
Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4, John 10:11-18

Tuesday, May 2, St. Athanasius
Acts 11:19-26, Psalm 87:1-7, John 10:22-30
8:30am Mass: † Imogene Theis

Wednesday, May 3, Sts. Philip and James
1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Psalm 19:2-5, John 14:6-14
8:30am Mass: † Richard Wenger

Thursday, May 4
Acts 13:13-25, Ps. 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27, John 13:16-20
8:30am Mass: Int. of Jan Bridger

Friday, May 5
Acts 13:26-33, Psalm 2:6-11, John 14:1-6
8:30am Mass: † Dianne Eis

Saturday, May 6
Acts 13:44-52, Psalm 98:1-4, John 14:7-14
5:00pm Mass: † Gerald Fonner

Sunday, May 7 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 6:1-7, Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12
8:30am Mass: † Kay & Ralph Zabrocki
11:00am Mass: Int. of St. Pius X Parishioners

In thanksgiving
for the lives of
Anette Job
and **Charles "Pat"**
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Ministry Schedule: May 6-7, 2023

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass

Greeter: Ryan & Maggie Thomson

Usher: Bob Holbrook, Jim Kaiser, Richard King, Dan Miller

Lector: Dar Aldrich-1, Jim Aldrich-2

Sacristan: **Need 1**

Altar Minister: Heather Kaiser

Eucharistic Minister: Clare Dooley, Judy Lampi, Nancy Wandler, Bonnie Wutzke

Cross: Halle Anderson, **Server:** Skyler Sanchez

Nursery: Julie Wilson

Sunday, 8:30am Mass

Greeter: Donna Berkner, Sheila McClintock

Usher: Don Judice, Dan Sloan, Doug Slotsve, **Need 1**

Lector: Kim Komar-1, Jennifer Mack-2

Sacristan: Clarinda Kremer

Altar Minister: Steve Komar

Eucharistic Minister: Jan Kirk, Andy Mikes, Christy Rider, Lisa Wood

Cross: Victoria Willis, **Server:** Laila Bakkedahl

Nursery: Karian West

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Greeter: 2 youth

Usher: Roland Barnes, Markus Hulquist, Joe Larimer, Michael Riedel

Lector: 2 youth

Sacristan: David Mork

Altar Minister: Magdalen Wojtowicz

Eucharistic Minister: Germaine Riesinger, 3 youth

Cross: Casey Rah, **Server:** Lizzie Rah

Nursery: Stephanie Mehling

Ministry Spotlight: FORMED Subscriptions

Beginning in March 2022, the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings launched a one-year subscription to FORMED for every Catholic in Eastern Montana. After the positive feedback, this was extended through 2023.

FORMED is a digital gateway to Catholic content, available on demand by the user. It is a one stop location for all of the best Catholic media - where the user can watch, listen, or read at any time. This provides an opportunity for the user to explore their faith anywhere they have an internet connection. Additionally, FORMED has age-appropriate content for children through adults, on a wide variety of topics. Topics include: Personal Devotion, Scripture, Adult Faith Formation, Teen Faith Formation, Marriage, Sacramental Prep, and many more. These are all found through books, movies, Bible studies, parish programs, audio dramas, and more delivered in multiple languages from your mobile device or computer.



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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, walker@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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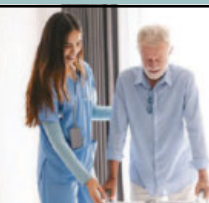
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