

# St. Pius X Parish

717 18th Street West | Billings, MT 59102  
ph 406.656.2522 | fax 406.656.2584  
[www.stpiusxblgs.org](http://www.stpiusxblgs.org)

# Bulletin

February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent

**Children's Ministry:** On February 13, our Sacramental Preparation Candidates celebrated their Rite of Enrollment on a chilly Saturday morning. We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for contributing new bibles to our 31 candidates. Here are some photos of this meaningful ritual.



PRAYER  
FASTING  
ALMSGIVING

## Welcome to St. Pius X

If you are from out of town and are joining us for worship or are new to our parish, we hope that you will find warmth and hospitality here! St. Pius X is a vibrant parish with many ways to be engaged. Thank you for choosing to worship with us today! If you would like more information on registration or activities or ministries that are offered for people of all ages, please contact the parish office at 656-2522. You may also visit our website at [www.stpiusxblgs.org](http://www.stpiusxblgs.org) or find us on Facebook at 'St. Pius X'.

## From the Bishop

On Friday, February 12, Governor Gianforte reversed the mandate to wear masks. The wearing of masks at Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, however, will continue to be required until such a time that a sufficient number of people have been vaccinated and cases of Covid 19 have diminished.

Also, please note that as of January 25, 2021, Bishop Michael Warfel continues to suspend the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days. The obligation to receive Holy Communion during the Easter season (Easter Duty) and to receive the Sacrament of Penance this year is dispensed. (There will be no communal Penance Service in Billings before Easter.) Parishioners are encouraged to make a good confession as soon as they judge it feasible. The basic requirement of the Church is for all Catholics to "confess...grave sins at least once a year." It is not essential that this take place during Lent or Easter. While the 'Easter duty' to receive the Eucharist should be done within the Easter season, the Code of Canon Law specifies that 'for a just cause' this obligation can be fulfilled at another time during the year.



Above: Another photo from the Rite of Enrollment.

## Children's Ministry

Sacramental preparation classes will resume this week on February 24. We will do Lesson 5 on "Jesus Gathers People Together." Our sacramental retreat is coming up on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:30am. Candidates should attend with a parent or sponsor. Masks will be required for the retreat.

Gospel Weekly families: If you were absent from the virtual safe environment training, you will receive a letter about how to complete the training at home. The next parent meeting is Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Zoom information to come!

## Weekday Lent Challenge via Flocknote

Sign up for the SPX Lent Challenge Flocknote group to receive notes each weekday during Lent, starting Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. These short messages will include scripture, short reflections, and optional challenges to help you be more intentional in your relationship with Jesus Christ. This is a great way for us to join together as a parish this Lent and share in a learning, prayerful opportunity as a family in faith. Sign up today! If you are not currently connected with Flocknote, simply text SPXBLG to 84576 and sign up for SPX Lent Challenge.

## Lenten Study Booklets Available

Lenten study booklets will be available for adults, teens and children in the Gathering Area of church or at the parish office. A \$1 donation will help cover the cost of these booklets.

## Reservations for Holy Week Liturgies

The reservation process used at Christmas proved to be very safe, comfortable, and successful. It will be used again for attendance in person for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday liturgies. The tickets for each liturgy will be available on our website on Sunday, March 7 at 1:00pm or by phone at the parish office starting Monday, March 8. The tickets are free. Look for more information in the weeks to come.

## Everyday Stewardship: Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

### The Unlikely Suspects

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikeliest suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



## Stations of the Cross

On each Friday of Lent, different groups will host Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to offer the simple soup and bread supper like we have had in the past. Deacon Tom will lead a Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 3:00pm utilizing our outdoor Stations in the Father Steve Memorial Garden.



## Lenten Alms Cups Done Differently

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) is again asking parishioners to save their loose change during Lent. But keeping all members and parishioners safe during the pandemic means a different kind of collection process. Rather than passing out Lenten Cups after Masses at the start of Lent, CCW asks that between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday weekends, individuals and families keep track of their loose change saved as part of their Lenten almsgiving and send a check for that amount, made out to **St. Pius X**

CCW, to the parish office after Easter. This annual fund raiser allows CCW to donate to "Water for Life", the Madonna Plan and locally, to LaVie. CCW thanks all for helping make this Lent one of prayerful giving to these worthwhile projects.

**Deadline to order daffodils: by 5:00pm on Tuesday, Feb. 23**

Hope Blooms in Our hearts  
DAFFODIL DAYS 2021

St. Parish X Parish Relay for Life Team

The "St. Pius X Parish" Relay for Life team is selling Daffodils as a fundraiser for our 2021 team. In order to keep everyone safe, order forms are available on our website, in the back of the church, or you may pick up a form in the hallway outside the doors of the Parish Center's main office. If you want to pay online the QR code is available on the order forms. Checks are made out to St. Pius X.

- For a \$10 donation, receive one bunch of daffodils.
- For a \$25 donation, you can support the Gift of Hope program which supports donation of flowers to local care providers & first responders.

Flowers arrive the week of March 25th. We will have pickup times and locations in the church parking lot, weather permitting. If not, we will distribute in the Parish Center. Specific details will be in the bulletin, on the website, Facebook and Instagram the closer we get to this date. If you have questions please call Kathy at the parish center, 656-2522.

Your support will be appreciated.

Mark your calendars: Relay for Life is Friday, July 9, 2021

 This year's Daffodils generously provided by Gainan's.

## In and Around Our Parish Community

### The St. Pius Community Needs You!

Each week we will be focusing on one or two liturgical ministries with which we need your support. Nick Coffman, our parish Director of Liturgy, has revised all of our parish liturgical ministries to comply with CDC guidelines for health and safety during this time of the pandemic. He is also creating a digital formation series to train new and continuing liturgical ministers to minimize in-person contact. In line with the parish's needs and goals, the 11:00am Mass is due to return in the future. However, this Mass was especially challenged by a lack of liturgical ministers even before the pandemic. Your help is especially needed for the 11:00am Mass time. However, your support at any service is welcome and much appreciated!

**Eucharistic Altar Minister/Eucharistic Minister** – celebrating the Mass, the Eucharist, is at the heart of our identity. Jesus takes, blesses, breaks, and gives himself to us. The ministers of holy communion are part of Jesus' giving action. If you delight in sharing the gifts of God with the people of God, then these ministries are calling your name. Please contact Nick at the parish office if you would like to learn more.

### Lenten Retreat Directed by Bishop Warfel

Each Thursday throughout Lent Bishop Michael Warfel will host a retreat at 7:00pm in Great Falls at the Poor Clares of Montana Monastery. All sessions will be available on the Friday following the presentation by accessing the Diocese on YouTube. The topics include:

- Feb. 25- The Lord Reprimands and Pardons Those He Loves
- March 4- The Lord Calls and Forms Us as Disciples
- March 11- The Lord Sends Us Forth as Missionary Disciples
- March 18- The Lord Chooses the Way of the Cross
- March 26- The Lord, Our Death and Resurrection

### Update from Billings Catholic Schools

Registration for the 2021-22 school year at Billings Catholic Schools opened on Ash Wednesday, February 17! Several grade levels will have waiting lists this year, so apply now! The application for grades PK-12 will be available on the home page of the BCS website [BILLINGSCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG](http://BILLINGSCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG). Email [bcs@billingscatholicschools.org](mailto:bcs@billingscatholicschools.org) for more information.

ELEVATE our schools! Donate now to the 2021 BCS Foundation Mayfair Special Project, an elevator for Billings Central Catholic High School! The 2021 Special Project has three phases, the installation of an elevator, the demolition of the aging Sacred Heart facility behind the school, and beautification and safety upgrades including new lighting for the BCCHS parking area. BCCHS is in dire need of these improvements that will improve the safety and well-being of everyone. For more information on the Mayfair 2021 Special Project, visit [billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org](http://billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org), click the Mayfair tab, and scroll to Mayfair 2021 Special Projects at the bottom of the page, or call (406) 252-0252.

## Area Events

### Diocesan Fundraising Raffle!

#### Summer Recreation!

Support the ministries and mission of the diocese of Great Falls -Billings by entering to win the **Grand prize** of a 2021 Keystone HideOut 24BHSWE camper or \$15,000 cash; winner's choice.

**Second prize:** 2021 Honda Pioneer 1000-5 Deluxe Utility Terrain Vehicle.

**Third prize:** (two awarded) Montana Ultimate Barbeque packages of a Traeger Pro Series 34 Pellet Grill, Yeti Cooler and BBQ Supplies & Accessories. Also included, a processed half-beef from Bishop Warfel's herd of cattle.

Drawings are held each month through February 2021 for **Early Bird cash prizes of \$500.**

**Drawing for prizes will be May 15, 2021.** Tickets are available for \$20 each at the St. Pius X parish office. Proceeds support Catholic parishes, schools and youth ministries throughout the diocese. All prizes purchased through an anonymous donor. Winners responsible for taxes. For complete rules and information go to [diocesegfb.org](http://diocesegfb.org) or call (406) 727-6683.

### Marriage Enrichment

"When a Dozen Roses Isn't Enough" on March 7 at 1:00pm. How to use forgiveness to strengthen your relationship. Registration is free but limited so sign-up today by emailing [Steve.Heidi.Prentup@wwme.org](mailto:Steve.Heidi.Prentup@wwme.org).



## Stewardship Report: February 14, 2021

Envelope Donation	\$13,495.00	Parishioner Envelopes & EFT	150
Loose Checks	\$1,760.00	<b>Annual Parish Budget</b>	<b>\$1,080,000.00</b>
Loose Cash	\$23.00	Contributions needed to-date	\$685,410.00
Electronic Fund Transfer	\$6,637.00	Contributions received to-date	\$685,786.66
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$21,885.00</b>	Budget Income (Overage)	\$376.66 <b>Thank You!!!</b>
Weekly Average Needed	\$20,770.00		

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

### Sat. Feb. 20 & Sun., Feb. 21 14 at church

- Saturday: Reconciliation, 3:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- Saturday: Mass, 5:00pm
- Sunday Mass: 10:00am (Live-streamed)

### Monday, February 22

- NO Mass

### Tuesday, February 23

- Mass, 8:30am, (Live-streamed)

### Wednesday, February 24

- Masses, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- Children's ministry classes

### Thursday, February 25

- Mass, 8:30am, (Live-streamed)

### Friday, February 26

- Mass, 8:30am, (Live-streamed)

### Sat. Feb. 27 & Sun., Feb. 28 14 at church

- Saturday: Reconciliation, 3:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- Saturday: Mass, 5:00pm
- Sunday Mass: 10:00am (Live-streamed)



## Youth Ministry

Amanda Michael, our Youth Minister, has formed several smaller groups for students in grades 6-12 utilizing social distancing. New members are welcome! Registration is open on the

St. Pius X website and each student can choose which group day/time works best for their schedule. Questions? Please call Amanda at 281-8508.

## Fr. Steve Memorial Scholarship

The Fr. Steve Tokarski Memorial Scholarship was created in the fall of 2011 following the death on October 4, 2011 of Fr. Steve, former pastor of this parish. Funds donated in his name are in an endowment from which monies are used to support St. Pius X children who want to attend St. Francis Catholic School.

Scholarship applicants must be parishioners of St. Pius X Parish and registered through the Billings Catholic School System to attend St. Francis Catholic School for the 2021-22 school year. **All scholarship applicants must sign, date and return the application, along with the indicated additional information, to the parish office by 4:30pm on April 16, 2021.** Applications may be picked up at the parish office or printed from the parish website: [www.stpiusxblgs.org/fr-steve-tokarski-scholarship-info](http://www.stpiusxblgs.org/fr-steve-tokarski-scholarship-info).

## Scripture Reflection:

### First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15  
Psalm 25:4-9  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:12-15

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does. ©LPi

## Mass Intentions & Readings

**Monday, February 22**, The Chair of St. Peter  
1 Peter 5:1-4, Psalm 23:1-6, Matthew 16:13-19  
**NO Mass**

**Tuesday, February 23**, St. Polycarp  
Isaiah 55:10-11, Psalm 34:4-7, 16-19, Matthew 6:7-15  
**8:30am Mass: † Donna Hein**

**Wednesday, February 24**  
Jonah 3:1-10, Ps. 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19, Luke 11:29-32  
**8:30am Mass: † Irene O'Brien**

**Thursday, February 25**  
Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25, Psalm 138:1-3, 7-8, Matthew 7:7-12  
**8:30am Mass: † Fran Sygulla**

**Friday, February 26**  
Ezekiel 18:21-28, Psalm 130:1-8, Matthew 5:20-26  
**8:30am Mass: † Kathryn Ries**

**Saturday, February 27**  
Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8,  
Matthew 5:43-48  
**5:00pm Mass: † Guy Glenn**

**Sunday, February 28**      **Second Sunday of Lent**  
Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Psalm 116:10, 15-19,  
Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10  
**10:00am Mass: Int. of St. Pius X Parishioners**

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### Do You Have a Pyx?

If you have borrowed a pyx from the church, either for home-bound ministry or for Gluten Free communion, please return it to the parish office as soon as possible. Our supply is running low, and we need you to return them. Please consider purchasing one for yourself for ongoing use. Fr. Greg would be happy to bless your pyx.



### Bishop Refutes Article

The Associated Press recently issued a report on dioceses who were beneficiaries of the Paycheck Protection Program. Bishop Michael Warfel responded to the reporter's accusations. You may find his letter on a table in the Gathering Area of church.

## Ministry Schedule: February 27-28, 2021

### Saturday, 5:00 PM

**Greeter:** Fawn Gongre, Betty Warner  
**Usher:** Jim Kaiser, Katharine McArty, Amanda Michael, Nancy Wandler  
**Sanitizers:** Diane Bertrand, Jackie Fears, Karen Hould, Judith Lampi

**Lector:** Jon Stepanek-1, Mike Persha-2  
**Sacristan:** Tim Morgan  
**Altar Minister:** Richard King  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Deacon Tom Landry

### Sunday, 10:00 AM and Live-streamed

**Greeter:** Ann Frazer, Carrie Mikes  
**Usher:** Roland Barnes, Steve & Nicole Geiger, David Mork

**Lector:** Tim Guenther-1, Patsy Guenther-2  
**Sacristan:** **1 Volunteer Needed**  
**Altar Minister:** Lynn DeMeyer  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Deacon Tom Landry

## Special Collection Today

On February 20-21, we will have the national collection for **Black and Indian Missions** (BIMC). Funds from this collection help diocesan communities like ours to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native people of God. Flyers and envelopes are available for this collection in the Gathering Area of church. Thank you for supporting this collection as the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings often receives funds from this national collection. To find out more visit [www.blackandindianmission.org](http://www.blackandindianmission.org).

## Parish Scholarship to Carroll College for New Student in 2021

Carroll College is pleased to again offer a Parish Scholarship to a prospective student from St. Pius X. This \$1,000 scholarship is funded by Carroll College, but St. Pius X chooses the recipient. The student must be a registered parishioner at St. Pius X. **The deadline to apply is March 1, 2021.** Application packets are available at the parish office or are downloadable at [www.carroll.edu/scholarships-aid/scholarships-new-students](http://www.carroll.edu/scholarships-aid/scholarships-new-students). Select the "Parish Scholarship Application".

## Volunteer at St. Vincent dePaul



St. Vincent de Paul now has limited volunteer possibilities. Currently the greatest need is help with the meals that SVdP provides our friends Monday through Sunday. If you or a group would like to help with this important ministry, please call

Billie at 831-5221.

## Parish Staff

Parish Center Hours: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday  
406.656.2522 • [www.stpiusxblgs.org](http://www.stpiusxblgs.org) • [www.facebook.com/stpiusbillings](http://www.facebook.com/stpiusbillings)

**Father Greg Staudinger**, Pastor, 406.489.6666, [frgreg@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:frgreg@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Deacon Tom Landry**, 406.860.7842, [acnerds@bresnan.net](mailto:acnerds@bresnan.net)  
**Rita Brehm**, Administrative Assistant, [rb@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:rb@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Nick Coffman**, Director of Liturgy, [ncoffman@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:ncoffman@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Shelly Greenfield**, Bulletin, Christian Service, [sg@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:sg@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Karyn Haider**, Parish Administrator, [khaider@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:khaider@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Jan Kirk**, Accounting/Bookkeeping, [jan@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:jan@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Matt Low**, Director of Christian Initiation, [mlo@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:mlo@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Kathy McCleary**, Communications & Volunteers, [kmc@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:kmc@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Amanda Michael**, Youth Ministry, [amichael@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:amichael@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Mike Persha**, Cemetery Manager, [mpersha@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:mpersha@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Jessie Rohrer**, Children's Ministry Coordinator, [jr@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:jr@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Bill Walker**, Custodian, [walker@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:walker@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Teresa Wehr**, Children's Min. Assist./Nursery, [children@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:children@stpiusxblgs.org)  
**Joan Whelan**, Music Ministry, [joan@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:joan@stpiusxblgs.org)

**Bulletin notices are due by 4:30pm on Monday.**

Please email [bulletin@stpiusxblgs.org](mailto:bulletin@stpiusxblgs.org) or fax to 656-2584.

## Mass Schedules

### Weekend

Saturday at 5:00 PM  
Sunday at 10:00 AM

### Weekdays

#### **Tuesday—Friday**

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

### LIVE Stream

Sunday, 10:00 AM and Daily Masses  
at 8:30 AM on our website at  
[www.stpiusxblgs.org](http://www.stpiusxblgs.org). Click Live-  
Stream on the homepage.

### Sacraments

**Reconciliation:** Sat. 3:30-4:30 PM  
with social distancing

**Baptism:** Call us for details

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**Anointing of the Sick:** Please call  
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**Prayer to St. Theresa**  
O Lord, who hast said: "Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech Thee, so to walk in the footsteps of thy blessed Virgin Theresa with a humble and single heart, that we may attain to everlasting rewards: who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.



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