St. Pius X Parish

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



May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

A Glimpse of the Sacramental Celebration



On a beautiful Saturday in April, 34 children celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist with Bishop Jeff Fleming. More photos to follow next week.

Photos courtesy of Amber Tabbert.







Life with Christ is a Wonderful Adventure!

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.

Blood Drive May 16

Are you ready to become a hero? Are you willing to take an hour or less out of your day to save a life, or three? St. Pius X Church and the Knights of Columbus are hosting a parish blood drive on Tuesday, May 16 from 12:30-5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up online at kofc9976.org. If you have any questions, please contact unclebug111@gmail.com (Bob Holbrook) or call 406.671.5694. Set aside any fears and help us help our community!

Bringing Eucharist and **Prayer**

Is a loved one homebound and would like Eucharist? Please leave a message for Janice at the parish office, 406.656.2522, if you or someone in your family is homebound or enters a care facility. Due to confidentiality and security laws at care facilities, we may not know if the resident wants to have visitors from the parish unless we are notified. Disciples for Homebound Ministry are trained and prepared to visit with communion and prayers.

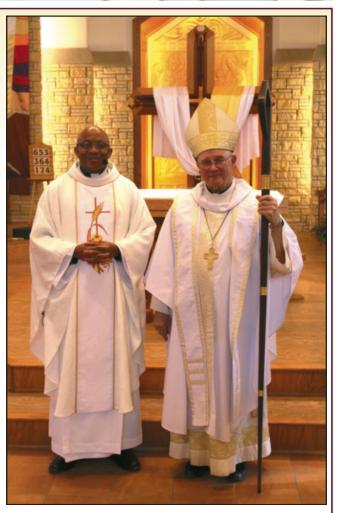
Flocknote Connects!

Please use this QR code to receive communica-

receive communications from our church twice a month. View parish news, sign ups, polls and program offerings, plus more!



Last week's beautiful bulletin cover featured photos from Fr. Martin's first weekend with us and photo credit was given to Rob Verdon. We do thank Rob for his faithful photography, but due to my error when loading photos into folders, the photos used were actually taken by Peter Riedel! Thank you, Peter! My apologies to both of these wonderful disciples who gave of their time and talent to capture special moments for our parish and for Fr. Martin! This photo of Fr. Martin and Bishop Warfel is courtesy of Rob Verdon. ~ Kathy McCleary.



Help Us Share God's Infinite Goodness

Our goal is to generate and multiply the number of holy moments in our parish community. Matthew Kelly, the author of *Holy Moments—a Handbook for the Rest of Your Life*—states, "Every Holy Moment increases the goodness and the goodwill in the world." "A Holy Moment is a grace-filled, prayer-directed action."

With this understanding we've set out to "collaborate with God" and create more holy moments in our community by inviting you, our parishioners, to drop off new greeting cards in the Gathering Area of church. Once we've collected 300 cards, we will drop them off at the Montana State Women's Prison located in downtown Billings. The prison will accept our donated cards for the inmates to utilize. Your participation will ensure that the seeds of happiness are being spread, planted, and growing.

Please consider the following types of greeting cards: Thank you cards, blank cards, get-well cards, birthday cards, Mother's Day cards,

friendship cards, religious-themed cards (avoid Christmas cards; they already have plenty). Please avoid donating cards that have any sort of added attachments on them, including glitter. Throughout the year, the women will write these cards to their loved ones. May divine blessings continue to proclaim God's plan for salvation and ignite within us generosity, compassion, and heartfelt action.



Meet the Staff

Karyn Haider -Parish Administrator

Time at St. Pius X? I've worked at St. Pius X for about 15 years, cumulatively. From 1988 – 1990, I served as the Director of Religious Education. I



left and then returned in 2006. I served as the Director of Christian Initiation until 2014. I left for a brief time and then returned to St. Pius X in 2018 to serve as the Business Administrator when Bob Bender retired.

Primary Responsibilities? Currently, my primary responsibilities include the management of all St. Pius X facilities and the overall budget for the parish.

Favorite part of your job? Having the opportunity to work in conjunction with our wonderful staff members and parishioners.

Hobbies? My favorite hobbies are working in the kitchen (baking and cooking) and in the yard.

What is a fun fact about you? I am a rabid Seattle Seahawks fan. Many may know that I have had/currently have dogs named after Seahawk players.

What is the scariest invitation God has extended to you and how did you respond? The scariest invitation from God was when I came here to be the Director of Religious Education in 1988. It was a radical change in career path. I went from being a regional bank officer to catechizing children in the Catholic faith.

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.

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!

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 you name to your recipe!

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 mlow@stpiusxblgs.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

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!



St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Council 9976

Brother Knights, please come join us on Thursday, May 11 for our monthly Officer's Meeting. Every Knight is invited to participate in this meeting and we would love to hear your input.

Friday, May 12 is a big day for our Council. We will be introducing our brand new Bingo system. We are excited to have this new way to offer Bingo to our parishioners and anyone else who wants to join us. We are still in need of volunteers to help us. If you'd like to join a Bingo team, please contact Ron Bough at 406.894.0792.

On Saturday, May 13 we will take our K.C. barbeque to St. Vincent dePaul to cook hamburgers and hot dogs for the homeless population they serve. Watch for a Flocknote about this event so you can RSVP to let us know you'd like to help.

Are you receiving our Knights of Columbus Flocknotes? If not, email Bob Holbrook with your name, phone number (cell phone preferred) and your email. Bob's email is *unclebug111@gmail.com*.

Finally, on Mother's Day weekend (May 13-14) we will be handing out Finger Rosaries to honor mothers for as long as supplies last. Knights wanting to help distribute these rosaries, please join us outside the church after each Mass.

Stewardship Report for April 30, 2023

Grand Total of Collection \$14,923.00
Weekly Average Needed \$21,346.00
Annual Parish Budget \$1,100,000.00
Contributions needed to date \$939,224.00
Contributions received to date \$924,216.07
Budget Income Shortfall \$15,007.93

Thank you!

Area Events

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.

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.

St. Thomas Camp for

Youth...Visit the diocesan website at <u>diocesegfb.org</u> for more information on Catholic summer camp in Monarch, Montana.



Catholic Content on

Demand...'Sent by the Spirit'. 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!

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

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

- Food Collection for Billings Food Bank, food bin
- Sign up for Parish Blood Drive, Gathering Area
- Vacation Bible School information table
- Sunday: Baccalaureate for Graduating Seniors, 11:00am Mass, reception following.
- Sunday: Con Spirito Concert, 3:00pm, Sanctuary

Monday, May 8

- NO daily Mass
- SEEL Discernment group, 11:00am, Parish Ctr. # 3
- CCW Board, 1:00pm, Parish Center # 1

Tuesday, May 9

- 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 10

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- Children of Joy and Gladness (charismatic prayer),
 3:00pm, Day Chapel
- Parish Life Commission, 4:00pm, Parish Center # 1
- Worship Commission, 6:30pm, Parish Center # 3
- Emmaus Singers, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, May 11

- Mass, 8:30am (Live-streamed)
- K. of C. Officers, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 12

- SEEL Challenge group, 10:00am, Parish Ctr. # 3
- Funeral Mass for Charles Hauptman, 11:00am
- K. of C. Adult Public Bingo, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Sat., May 13 & Sun., May 14 in the Gathering Area

- Sign up for the Parish Blood Drive
- Vacation Bible School information table
- Lenten Soup Recipe collection basket

In thanksgiving for the lives of Bill Warner and Jan Kirk.
Please keep their families in your prayers.

Scripture Reflection: 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

If you had to summarize the essential core of the Christian life, what would it be? Mercy, truth, or love, perhaps? The readings today suggest another word which may surprise you. That word is *priesthood*.

St. Peter says to us, "You are a 'chosen race, a royal priesthood..." To be part of a priesthood is to offer a particular sacrifice in order for the community to survive and thrive. Jesus is the great high priest because he offers the one perfect sacrifice which heals and perfects the entire human race. Peter the Apostle wants us to know that all the baptized share in this priestly ministry. The whole of our lives, including every detail, is meant to become our acceptable offering to God.

The baptized exercise this priesthood in many ways, I'll mention three. At Sunday Mass, in private prayer, and in daily work. At Mass, we offer the sacrifice of our lives with that of the priest, who symbolizes Christ the Priest. In our prayer, a "morning offering" prayer is a great way to offer up all the joys and sufferings of the day to come. In our daily work, we sacrifice our time, comfort, money, and energy to do good for others. All this gives the deepest possible meaning to our lives: we share in the priesthood which saves the world. That's at the core of our faith.

~ Father John Muir

©LPi

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!

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Mass Intentions & Readings

Monday, May 8

Acts 14:5-18, Psalm 115:1-4, 15-16, John 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 9

Acts 14:19-28, Psalm 145:10-13, 21, John 14:27-31

8:30am Mass: Int. of Kipp Carroll

Wednesday, May 10, St. John of Avila, St. Damien de

Veuster

Acts 15:1-6, Psalm 122:1-5, John 15:1-8

8:30am Mass: Int. of Fr. Greg

Thursday, May 11

Acts 15:7-21, Psalm 96:1-3, 10, John 15:9-11

8:30am Mass: † Karla Sokoloski

Friday, May 12, Sts. Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras Acts 15:22-31, Psalm 57:8-10, 12, John 15:12-17 11:00am Funeral Mass: † Charles Hauptman

Saturday, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima

Acts 16:1-10, Psalm 100:1-3, 5, John 15:18-21 **5:00pm Mass: Int. of St. Pius X Parishioners**

Sunday, May 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20, 1 Peter 3:15-

18, John 14:15-21

8:30am Mass: † Elizabeth Loboda 11:00am Mass: † David Larimer

LaVie's Baby Bottle Campaign

Change for Hope will run from May 14 through June 18. This is one of their largest fundraising events. Proceeds keep LaVie's doors open as they strive to empower individuals to embrace hope by providing loving, compassionate care for early pregnancies. Funds

raised during Change For Hope are used to fund the programs offered by LaVie which assist women facing unplanned pregnancies with education, services, and information promoting life-affirming options, along with medical services.

Please visit fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/?e=25099 to donate to LaVie and help support this life-saving organization in Billings. If you'd prefer to donate physically, we have LaVie's Change For Hope display in the Gathering Area of church. Please use one of the giving envelopes provided for you. If you're interested in learning more about the services LaVie offers, please visit laviebillings.com

Ministry Schedule: May 13-14, 2023

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass

Greeter: Steve Lattimer, Lynne Weber

Usher: Richard King, Mike Persha, Bob Riesinger,

Kevin Walte

Lector: Connie Marman-1, Gary Marman-2

Sacristan: Phil Zeeck

Altar Minister: Nancy Wandler

Eucharistic Minister: Erin Augustine, Mary Brown,

Judy Lampi, Tyler Wiltgen

Cross: Need 1, Server: Jennilyn Wilson

Nursery: Celeste Appel

Sunday, 8:30am Mass

Greeter: Carrie Mikes, Need 1

Usher: Ming & Digna Cabrera, Greg Luck, Richard

Wood

Lector: Rod Hart-1, Alan Gransberg-2

Sacristan: Don Judice Altar Minister: Rick McCann

Eucharistic Minister: Dan & Tanja Sloan, Mary Tay-

lor, Lisa Wood

Cross: Need 1, Server: Need 1

Nursery: Pam Pruitt

Sunday, 11:00am Mass

Greeter: Mike, Kathy, Molly Boileau

Usher: Roland Barnes, Kyle Brehm, Steve & Nicole

Geiger

Lector: Tim Guenthner-1, Kyle Melugin-2

Sacristan: Janice Krueger **Altar Minister:** Lynn DeMeyer

Eucharistic Minister: Kathy Boileau, Sandi McGov-

ern, Mary Rah, Denise Smith

Cross: Jacob Schiermeister, Server: Casey Rah

Nursery: 1 Trained Attendant Needed

Ministry Spotlight: Office of the Bishops

The Office of the Bishops is a ministry funded through your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your support ensures that our Bishops have the ability and support to perform their ministry and lead the Catholic Church of Eastern Montana. Our Bishops are responsible for teaching doctrine, governing Catholics in their jurisdiction and representing the Church to all people within their jurisdiction. This includes celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation, joining in parish celebrations and milestones, and parish and school visits.

More specifically, funding for the Office of the Bishops supports our



Bishops' salaries, office equipment and supplies, travel expenses (auto, gas, tires, repair, etc.), and costs associated with representing the Church of Eastern Montana worldwide, etc. Our Bishops love to come meet, pray, and visit with you in your local communities and the ACA allows them to do exactly that.





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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