

St. Pius X Parish

717 18th Street West | Billings, MT 59102
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www.stpiusxblgs.org

Bulletin

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

First Sunday of Advent

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

*Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths,
guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior,
And for you I wait all the day.*

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

*Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.*

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

*All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those
who keep his covenant and his decrees.
The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him, and his covenant,
for their instruction.*

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

First Sunday of Advent



Worship with Us!

Welcome! 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 or find us on Facebook at 'St. Pius X.'

Mass Schedule for Christmas Week

Christmas Eve Masses on Friday, December 24 will be at 4:30pm and 7:00pm (live-streamed).

Mass on Christmas day, Saturday, December 25 takes place at 10:00am. Please note, there will not be a 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Day.

On Sunday, December 26, we will celebrate our usual 8:30am and 11:00am Masses.

There will be no daily Mass Tuesday-Friday, Dec. 28-31.

Christmas Choir

The St. Pius X Youth Choir invites all students pre-school through 8th grade to join the Christmas Youth Choir. Rehearsals are on these Wednesdays in December: 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd from 5:30 – 6:30pm in the church. The Christmas Youth Choir will sing at the 4:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Students should plan to attend all four rehearsals.

Catholic Daughters Bake Sale

It's back! The annual Catholic Daughter's Christmas bake sale will be held December 11-12 in the Fellowship Hall of church.

Watch for delicious pies, cakes, breads, pastries and candies, made by wonderful cooks. Let the Catholic Daughters do your baking this holiday season!



Left: Mary Rah leads the children forth for Liturgy of the Word with children. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Jessie at the parish office.

Children's Ministry

To celebrate the season of Advent, families are invited to an afternoon of Advent Family Fun on December 12 from 3:00-4:30pm at the school. Please RSVP in the Flocknote sign-up or email Jessie at jr@stpiusxblgs.org by December 8 to help us plan for this event! See page 3 for more details.

Food Collection Next Weekend

Our December 4-5 food collection will go to *Family Service, Inc.* All shelf stable foods are welcome but the following items are needed now:

- Canned vegetables & fruit
- Soup or chili
- Canned beans
- Spaghetti sauce
- Rice or pasta noodles
- Peanut butter

If you prefer to make a donation, checks may be written directly to "Family Service, Inc." and placed in the collection box by the food bin in the Gathering Area of church.

Thank you to everyone who contributes food for the needy in our community. You are participating in a Corporal Work of Mercy!



Christmas Angel Gift Instructions Date Gift Due Back: **December 12**

If you chose a Christmas Angel gift request, thank you! Please purchase the item on the label of the angel. If the gift request is for clothing or shoes, please put the gift receipt in with the clothing when wrapping. Firmly attach the Angel to your wrapped gift and return to the church when coming to a weekend Mass, or to the Parish Center M-F from 8:30am-4:30pm by **Dec. 12**.

If a gift card is requested you may wrap it in something or place in an envelope with the Angel firmly attached to the outside and return to the church or Parish Center.

Questions or concerns? Please call Shelly at (406) 281-8501.

Thank you for being disciples of Jesus by bringing joyful hope to low income families associated with Angela's Piazza: Women's Drop-in Center, AIDSpirit and parish families in our community! Bless you and yours this Advent season.

Advent Family Fun

3:00-4:30 PM

Sunday, December 12

St. Francis Early Childhood
Education Center



Learn about the season of Advent in a fun afternoon of gathering with your parish community. There will also be a **special guest** visiting. Please RSVP in the Flocknote sign-up.



In and Around Our Parish Community

Catholic Daughters Craft Bazaar Today!

Come support Catholic Daughters Court St. Cecelia at their Craft Bazaar—Open House on December 4 & 5 from 10:00am to 4:00pm each day at 3509 54th Street W. Bring a friend, do some Christmas shopping, enjoy a little Christmas cookie, a glass of wine or hot chocolate. Please contact Darcie at (406) 671-3082 if questions.

Catholic Young Adults December Events

Billings Catholic Young Adults (ages 18+) will be holding a Christmas Party at the Columbia Club. Join them for food, games and fellowship. There will also be a cash bar and a white elephant exchange. To participate, please bring a wrapped gift under \$20. Join them on December 11 at 6:30pm! You are also welcome to attend Mass with us at St. Thomas the Apostle, before the Christmas Party, at 5:00pm.

Youth Ministry!

Junior High students, join us on Tuesday. High School students on Wednesday evenings. Both groups meet from 6:30-8:00pm in the St. Pius X Youth Center. Contact Amanda at amichael@stpiusxblgs.org or call (406) 281-8508 for more information.

St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Council 9976

Brother Knights, a great big 'Thank You' to all who stepped up to donate blood at our last Blood Drive. You are literally saving lives in our community!

Our Christmas Tree Sales are in full swing. This is our only major fundraiser for the year. We need your help in order to make this a success. As a reminder, you don't have to be a Knight to work on the lot. Spouses, friends, parishioners, and youth are welcome to join us. So, if you can sign up for one, or even several two-hour shifts, it would be appreciated. Stop by our trailer on the tree lot to get signed up.

Congratulations to Steve Geiger for being named the **Knight of the Month**. Steve has championed a project to provide headstones at Holy Cross Cemetery for several infants who were in unmarked graves.

Also, congratulations to Jessie and Zach Rohrer who were named **Family of the Month** for their work on the Halloween Trunk or Treat Project. The event was a huge success! A perfect example of how to build community.



Make a donation to our parish via this QR code for Venmo or PayPal. Access is also available on our website. Look for these icons at the top of the homepage at www.stpiusxblgs.org. Thank you for your support!



Area Events.

Raffle Supports Ministries of Our Diocese

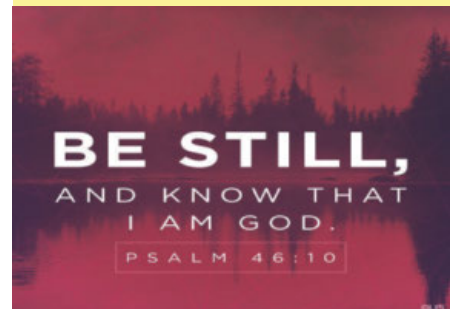
Tickets are available until May 20, 2022 for the Diocesan Raffle Fundraiser for \$20 each at the St. Pius X parish office. Get your tickets soon to be eligible for the two remaining early bird cash drawings! Amazing variety of exciting prizes!

Thank You!

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to Give" under "Resources." Flyers are still available in the Gathering Area of church as well.

Free Covid-19 Support

Everyone is impacted by the effects of COVID-19. If you are experiencing emotions such as anxiety, depression, stress, sadness, or fear, you are not alone. Call (877) 503-0833 or visit montanacrisisrecovery.com for confidential emotional support.



Stewardship Report: November 14, 2021

Envelope Donation	\$8,425.00	Number of Contributors	214
Loose Checks	\$3,883.00	Annual Parish Budget	\$1,080,000.00
Loose Cash	\$643.00	Contributions needed to-date	\$415,400.00
Electronic Fund Transfer	\$6,597.00	Contributions received to-date	\$350,227.80
Total Collection	\$19,573.00	Budget Income (Shortfall)	(\$65,172.20)
Weekly Average Needed	\$20,770.00		

The Stewardship Report for November 21, 2021 was unavailable at time of print.

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

Sat., Nov. 27 & Sun., Nov. 28 at church

- Christmas Angel gift requests available before and after Mass as long as they last, Fellowship Hall
- K. of C. Christmas Tree Lot open
- Sunday: Sandwich Ministry Bag Building, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday: RCIA, 9:45am, Parish Center # 3
- Sunday: NO Children's Ministry classes

Monday, November 29

- NO Mass
- Bible Study, 8:30am, Day Chapel

Tuesday, November 30

- Mass, 8:30am, (Live-streamed)
- Junior High Youth Ministry, 6:30pm, Youth Center
- Parish Choir rehearsal, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 1

- Mass, 8:30am, (Live-streamed)
- Sandwich Ministry, 9:00am, Fellowship Hall
- Children's Ministry classes, 4:30pm, school building
- Children's Choir, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
- High School Youth Ministry, 6:30pm, Youth Center

Thursday, December 2

- Mass, 8:30am, (Live-streamed)
- Christian Service Comm., ZOOM, 6:30pm

Friday, December 3

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

Saturday, December 4

- First Reconciliation for children in Sacramental Preparation, 10:00am, church

Sat., Dec. 4 & Sun., Dec. 5 at church

- Collecting Christmas Angel wrapped gifts, GA
- Food Collection for Family Service, Inc., GA
- K. of C. Tree Lot open
- Sunday, Sunday: RCIA, 9:45am, Youth Center
- Sunday: NO Children's Ministry classes

Liturgy of the Word with Children

December 12
at 11:00am

Thank you for supporting the charities of the Knights of Columbus by purchasing a tree or wreath from the St. Pius X tree lot.



Scripture Reflection:

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Our whole being needs to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love. ©LPi

Mass Intentions & Readings

Monday, November 29

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122:1-9, Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, November 30, St. Andrew

Romans 10:9-18, Psalm 19:8-11, Matthew 4:18-22

8:30am Mass: † Donna Hein

Wednesday, December 1

Isaiah 25:6-10, Psalm 23:1-6, Matthew 15:29-37

8:30am Mass: † Rita France

Thursday, December 2

Isaiah 26:1-6, Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27, Matthew 7:21, 24-27

8:30am Mass: † Henry Stevens

Friday, December 3, St. Francis Xavier

Isaiah 29:17-24, Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14, Matthew 9:27-31

8:30am Mass: † Bruce Glenn

Saturday, December 4, St. John Damascene

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Psalm 147:1-6, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5, 6-8

5:00pm Mass: † Judy Walker

Sunday, December 5 **Second Sunday of Advent**

Baruch 5:1-9, Psalm 126:1-6, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6

8:30am Mass: † Wanda Ebel

11:00am Mass: Int. of St. Pius X Parishioners

New At Home with the Word

Books Available

This reflection book is designed to help you prepare and reflect on the Sunday and Holy Day scriptures proclaimed at Mass. It begins with the first Sunday of Advent on November 28, 2021. Books are available for \$9.00 each at the parish office.

Fiona's Hope, a Project of LaVie

According to the National Abortion Federation and the Guttmacher Institute, economic hardship is consistently rated one of the top two reasons women choose to terminate pregnancy. Would you consider helping a pregnant mother with diapers, groceries, gas cards, or a one-time car repair? Please contact Evan Lebsock directly at (406) 672-9905 or email evan.n.jones@gmail.com if you would like to help with Fiona's Hope, a project of LaVie

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Ministry Schedule: December 4-5, 2021

Saturday, 5:00 PM

Greeter: Betty Warner, Lynne Weber

Usher: Jim Kaiser, Dan Miller, Mike Persha, Paul Rausch

Lector: Bob Reid-1, Bree Peterson-2

Sacristan: Joyce Stoppel

Altar Minister: Heather Kaiser

Eucharistic Minister: Clare Dooley, Deacon Tom Landry, Mark Sevier, Tyler Wiltgen

Cross: Anna Lusin, **Server:** Josie Lusin

Nursery: TBA

Sunday, 8:30 AM

Greeter: Carrie Mikes, Lani Wallace

Usher: Steve Komar, Chuck Legerski, Greg Luck, Andy Mikes

Lector: Shannon Behounek-1, Don Judice-2

Sacristan: Clarinda Kremer

Altar Minister: Kim Komar

Eucharistic Minister: Ashley Buller, Deacon Tom Landry, Dan & Tanja Sloan,

Cross: Olivia Buller, **Server:** Skyler Sanchez

Nursery: TBA

Sunday, 11:00 AM (Live-streamed)

Greeter: Fawn Gongre, Marge Larimer

Usher: Steve & Nicole Geiger, Joe Larimer, David Mork

Lector: Kathy McCleary-1, Vicki Marquis-2

Sacristan: Annette Coffman

Altar Minister: Sandi McGovern

Eucharistic Minister: Brittany Blood, Lynn DeMeyer, Deacon Tom Landry, Jessica Rohrer

Cross: Emma Rohrer, **Server:** Howie Martin

Nursery: TBA

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Mike Persha, Cemetery Manager, mpersha@stpiusxblgs.org
Jessie Rohrer, Children's Ministry Coordinator, jr@stpiusxblgs.org
Bill Walker, Custodian, walker@stpiusxblgs.org
Teresa Wehr, Children's Min. Assist./Nursery, children@stpiusxblgs.org
Joan Whelan, Music Ministry, joan@stpiusxblgs.org

Bulletin notices are due by 4:30pm on Monday.
Please email bulletin@stpiusxblgs.org or fax to 656-2584.

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

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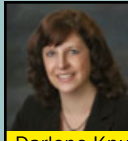
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Prayer to St. Theresa
O Lord, who hast said: "Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech Thee, so to walk in the footsteps of thy blessed Virgin Theresa with a humble and single heart,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



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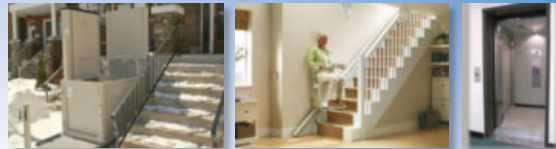
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