

Advent 2012

# St. Pius X Parish WellSpring

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- BCCHS Student Musician Matt Grosso...



Waiting for Christmas... through the eyes of a child...our parish's own Keira

Many of us are in an ideal place to begin Advent, but we don't know it

It can be tempting to think that, because we are struggling these days, we can't enter into Advent without a big change in our mood or without distancing ourselves from our real experience. Nothing could be further from the truth. Advent is about letting God come to us. We do the letting and God does the coming. And, the whole mystery of our faith is that God is not reluctant to come into an unusual relationship (like Mary and Joseph's) or to be born in the poverty of a makeshift stable. We are tempted to prepare for Advent by cleaning everything up first – by, in effect, saving ourselves first. Our opening to Advent is to realize we need saving and to accept the saving love of our God.

*This reflection is printed with thanks to Creighton University's online ministries <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>*

# From the Pastor's Desk

WELLSPRING: "Source" of information, "inspiration" and "life-giving."

"...but [I] came to realize there are other ways to live life that have deep roots in the spiritual wellsprings most people do not even know exist."

The above quote is from the homily Fr. Steve gave at his brother's funeral exactly two weeks before his own funeral here at St. Pius X. It seems appropriate that our new "newsletter" be called WELLSPRING, since our friend and pastor Fr. Steve was an inspiration, life giving and was in many ways a source of information. I knew Fr. Steve's brother Tom and even though they were very close in age they were as different as night and day in many ways! In the homily Steve was sharing the ways they

were different but also how his brother helped shape him into the man and priest he became. "I came to realize there are other ways to live life that have deep roots in the spiritual wellsprings most people do not even know exist." As I look back over the almost 30 years I have been a priest and the almost 37 years I knew Steve, I believe I can echo the sentiment of the lines Steve spoke about people not being aware of how God moves in their lives, touching them, and pulling their roots deep into a spiritual wellspring.

As a community and as friends we are at a different place than we all were one year ago. I believe it is that deep wellspring of our shared spirituality that has helped us heal, grieve and grow. As we look to the future and this "Year of Faith," it is a great time for us to be nourished by



the spiritual wellspring we share as we explore and live and share our faith with one another. I look forward to celebrating this year of faith with St. Pius X parish and dipping into the spiritual wellspring that is our shared faith.

Blessings, Fr. Wayne

## WellSpring: New Name, New Look

The Parish Life Commission looks at the various communication mediums of our parish and over the past two years we've created a new

website and a Facebook page for our on-line presence. You've seen wonderful changes in our bulletin. Now you hold our latest upgrade, our parish newsletter, which was previously called "The Prism." We solicited the assistance of Heins Creative to give us a new look and a new name. Here's what Joe Heins said: I am suggesting a new name for the newsletter: WELLSPRING. It suggests a "source" of information,

"inspiration" and "life-giving." It also suggests a flowing visual, similar to the flowing elements in the church's stained glass.

The format of WellSpring allows for larger photos and fonts to help with readability. Our plan for the coming year is to offer more photos and features that tell the stories of our ministries and our parish's life. We're excited about this new publication and we hope you'll enjoy this issue and look forward to the next.



# Billings Catholic Schools: St. Pius X Parish Student Profile

by Kathy Harris, BCS Marketing  
Director

St. Pius Parish... meet Matthew Grosso. Matt is son to Lorinda and Steve, and older brother to Megan. He is in his senior year at Billings Central Catholic High School, and has been a participating member of St. Pius for many years. With Matt Grosso, however, what you see is not necessarily what you get – or at least it's not all that you get. Parishioners who know Matt might recognize him as an altar boy, or know him as a participant in St. Pius youth group. He could be described as quiet, polite, well mannered, respectful – an intelligent but reserved young man – and all of that is true. But that is only the half the story.



Matt, like many students at BCCHS, is a creative force, a talented voice and a unique representation of 'today's teenager.' For Matt, fellowship with other students, as well as the opportunity to be involved in multiple activities, has been the highlight of high school. For a student who participates in cross-country, speech and drama, pep band, school musicals, band and choir, and who was recently invited to sing at Carnegie Hall, there just aren't enough hours in the day. Matt doesn't do much at half speed – taking on major roles in school musicals, placing at state in speech

and drama, and singing and playing with audition-only honor choirs and bands. When extra time does come his way, however, Matt doesn't just sit idle. Instead, he packs in one of his multiple hobbies, skiing or snowboarding, a love of dragons, geocaching, hiking... and writing and composing music.

Matt's Catholic school education has had a profound impact on the person he has become. Matt says, "To be able to go to school and talk to my teachers about religion, to ask questions and have those questions answered – this interaction has caused me to grow morally and in spirit, it's basically developed how I treat other people. You just can't get that kind of direction in public school." Matt notes that church has also had a great impact on him throughout the years. "I always listen to sermons with great interest," he explained. "Priests are great role models, and in sermons so many great truths are presented."

With graduation just seven short months away, Matt is already looking to the future. He hopes to study at McNally Smith School of Music or Berklee College of Music, and to major in music production, with a minor in video game scoring. "Within five years of college I hope to be



*Billings Central Catholic High School Senior  
Matt Grosso*

an independent producer for other musicians, as well as for my own band." Billings Central will greatly miss Matt and his fellow classmates when May rolls around. But recently he performed a duo with little sister Megan singing 'Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better,' so there may be another St. Pius parishioner who will soon be ready to fill his shoes!

# Begin Again with Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is the church's New Year's Day: it is the beginning of the new liturgical year. The church sets aside the four weeks before Christmas as a time for renewal, hope and spiritual preparation. Advent gives each of us an opportunity to begin again, to get ourselves back on track, and to prepare for Jesus' coming. Have you noticed how parents anticipating their child's birth carefully get things in order to prepare for their baby's arrival? In a similar way, we have this season to evaluate our priorities and prepare ourselves for the incredible gift of the Baby Jesus.

This year choose to replace some of the Christmas hustle and bussle with time for reflection, togetherness and good works. If we live in anticipation of Jesus' coming, we will wake up on Christmas morning filled with excitement, hope and peace.



## HOW CAN WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR CHRISTMAS?

- Live the Eucharist in all that we do.
- Give God a special gift: Make a sacrifice or forgive someone.
- Give service: Do something personal and meaningful for someone.
- Spread goodwill: Make someone happy with kind words.
- Eliminate some of the commercial aspects of Christmas.
- Establish Advent traditions.

## FAMILY ADVENT TRADITIONS

During Advent, choose to do something with your family that causes you to slow down your normal activities and focus on the reason we are celebrating. Here are some ideas:

- Read the Christmas story together.
- Involve your entire family in good works.
- Light the candles on your advent wreath and pray together.
- Talk about St. Nicholas on December 6.
- Start a collection of holiday books and read together.
- Set up a nativity scene. Place the figures in the corners of your home and move them closer to the manger as Advent progresses. Add Baby Jesus on Christmas morning.

## FAVORITE FAMILY CUSTOMS

"Our family prepares a comfortable bed for Baby Jesus during Advent. Each time someone does a good deed they get to put a piece of straw or yarn into the empty stable. On Christmas morning, we lay Jesus in a manger softened by all our good deeds."



"Our family works on making a birthday present for Jesus throughout advent. We wrap an empty box, cut a slit in the top, and add a bow and tag that says "Happy Birthday Jesus." Each day we write down things we did that would make Jesus happy and put the slips of paper in the gift box. By Christmas morning, the box is full of Jesus' favorite things."

From our library:

*Simplify Your Christmas*, by Elaine St. James. Check out this book from our parish library if

you are looking for ways to eliminate holiday stress. The author offers more than 100 ideas to make Christmas a joyous season with time for quiet reflection, togetherness and heart-felt giving; just a few could make your Christmas more meaningful.

## Advent Brunch Reminds Us to Rejoice in His Birth

The annual Advent Brunch is many different things to many people. For some, it is a holiday tradition shared with a group of friends or family members. For others, it is a fun morning with great food and time to reflect on the season of preparation, to be inspired by a speaker who challenges us to reflect. And the brunch always includes entertainment in the form of a music or style show.

Since the first event in 1977, the Advent Brunch has been a fixture of parish life at St. Pius X. It will take place this year on Saturday, December 8, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Originally called the Ladies Brunch, the Council of Catholic Women has hosted the event which is open to all women. The brunch served roughly 80 people in its early years; ticket sales swelled to nearly 350 in the early 1990s. This year, CCW will need to limit tickets sold to 125 guests. The Knights of Columbus Hall is the perfect venue for this number; they have been very gracious in working with CCW to host a beautiful event the last several years.

This year's theme is Rejoice in His Birth – a simple reminder of the reason for our holiday celebrations. As in past years, the morning will include a guest speaker, plus a style show presented by Christopher & Banks.

## Advent Penance Schedule

December 5	Mary, Queen of Peace (at Holy Rosary)	11 am
December 12	St. Bernard's	7 pm
December 13	St. Pius X	7 pm
December 18	St. Patrick's	7 pm

## Christmas Mass Times

December 24	Christmas Eve.	5pm, 7pm & 9pm
December 25	Christmas Day	10am
January 1	New Year's Day	10 am

Adding a sense of fun to the show are models who are members of St. Pius X. The meal will be catered by the Wine Market and Deli.

The community has supported the brunch each year with donations of door prizes, everything from gift baskets to holiday centerpieces.

So what if you have never been to a brunch before? This is your year to start. If you would like to attend but are unsure about attending alone, the board of CCW wants to assure you that all feel welcome. Please call the number below and let us

know that you are attending alone or for the first time. A hostess will be on hand to meet you and help you find a seat, no doubt with a lively group to share the morning!

Saturday, December 8, 10:30 am  
at Knights of Columbus Hall – 2216  
Grand Avenue

Tickets are \$11 and will be on sale following Mass the weekend of Nov. 24-25 and Dec. 1-2. A free-will offering will be taken at the door to benefit Catholic Social Services. For questions or reservations, please call 656-2869.



# Annual Budget Information

- A. Offerings for weddings, baptisms, funerals and Mass Intentions.
- B. Fees for baptism / marriage preparation, fellowship hall rental and interest income.
- C. We currently have 21 full and part time employees on our parish staff.
- D. Our parish assessment for the Billings Catholic Schools.
- E. Utilities, maintenance, supplies, taxes and insurance for our church, the parish center and the youth center.
- F. Support for Peru Mission, assistance to needy families, local appeals and other charitable causes.
- G. If the Diocesan Care & Share assessment is not met by donations from the parishioners, the shortfall must come out of the parish operations budget.
- H. The diocese has a tax on parish income for diocesan operations.
- I. The diocese has implemented a parish assessment which funds the retirement plan for all priests of the diocese. The current rate is 1.65% of parish income.
- J. RCIA, baptism / marriage preparation and parish life activities.
- K. Thanks to your generosity, we ended the fiscal year with over \$37,190 in surplus collections over the projected budget. We also saved \$49,585 in expenses due in large part to salary and program savings.
- L. The \$18,000 net excess shown in the 2012 – 2013 budget is the annual amount designated to replenish our Capital Improvement Fund from Parish Operations for the purchase of the new parish house.
- M. After our debt for the church was paid off, we converted the blue Building Fund envelope to the Capital Improvement envelope. This fund is now a special savings account for future large expenditures the parish will be faced with. We received over \$26,000 in donations from our blue envelopes during the year and our finance council also decided to transfer some funds from our regular church diocesan savings account to increase our balance to \$256,629. Our new parish house was paid for out of this fund which leaves a balance of \$57,654. Our church operating fund will reimburse the Capital Improvement Fund with regular monthly payments and transfers from savings reserve to recover the amount taken out to pay for the parish house. We try to maintain three months of operating expenses in our regular diocesan savings account for emergency needs. Our regular diocesan savings account balance at the end of June, 2012, was \$223,303.

## St. Pius' Parish House

As most everyone knows, St. Pius now has a "Parish House" for Fr. Wayne. It was strongly suggested by the Diocese that we acquire a Parish House for St. Pius X. After some searching and a tremendous offer by the McCall family we have now completed the acquisition of this home. We are very thankful for the generosity the McCall family has

shown the Parish through this entire process. We are also very fortunate to be in a position to pay for the house from funds saved in our "Capital Improvement Fund." Because this fund is earmarked for future major repairs, maintenance and special projects we intend to pay the amount "borrowed" back to the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$18,000 per year from our general fund. In addition,

amounts donated specifically for the Parish House, by using your envelopes and designating such, will go to speed up this payback. We anticipate this payback to take somewhere between 7 and 10 years. The Parish now has a Parish House that we will be able to use for many years to come. The Finance Council would like to thank the Parish for its generosity now and over the past many years. It is this generosity that makes it a pleasure to work on the Parish Finance Council.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Sommers,  
Finance Council Chair

# St. Pius X Catholic Church

## Operations Budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 with budgeted amounts for the 2012/2013 fiscal year

	2011/2012	2011/2012	2012/2013
Revenue:	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Parish Collections	\$1,095,560	\$1,132,259	\$1,127,389
Stipends & Stole Fees (A)	\$6,000	\$5,799	\$6,000
Other (B)	<u>\$9,700</u>	<u>\$10,392</u>	<u>\$5,200</u>
Total Revenue:	\$1,111,260	\$1,148,450	\$1,138,589
Expenses:			
Salaries & Benefits (C)	\$535,837	\$506,223	\$534,858
School Support (D)	\$198,318	\$198,243	\$205,562
Occupancy (E)	\$160,300	\$160,687	\$157,100
Tithing (F)	\$53,200	\$43,137	\$55,600
Care and Share Shortfall (G)	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Diocesan Tax (H)	\$52,708	\$52,708	\$54,146
Priest Retirement Fund (I)	\$17,947	\$17,947	\$18,473
Youth Formation Ministries	\$32,300	\$27,263	\$32,300
Liturgy and Music	\$38,350	\$42,264	\$41,500
Other (J)	<u>\$17,300</u>	<u>\$13,203</u>	<u>\$16,050</u>
Total Expenses:	<u>\$1,111,260</u>	<u>\$1,061,675</u>	<u>\$1,120,589</u>
Excess Revenue over Expenses (K)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$86,775</u>	\$18,000
Reimburse Cap Imp Fund for Parish House (L)			<u>\$18,000</u>
Net Projected Cash Flow for 2012/2013 Fiscal Year			<u>\$0</u>
<b>Capital Improvement account balance as of 6-30-2012 (M)</b>		<b>\$57,654</b>	
<b>Cemetery Endowment account balance as of 6-30-2012</b>		<b>\$245,726</b>	
<b>Ministry Endowment account balance as of 6-30-2012</b>		<b><u>\$146,933</u></b>	
<b>Total Endowed Funds as of 6-30-2012</b>		<b>\$392,659</b>	

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

By Shelly Greenfield, IHN Host Coordinator, St. Pius X Parish

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is nearing its eighth birthday in November. I remember St. Pius' first host experience in 2004. As volunteers readied the Youth Center and anxiously awaited our guests the IHN van pulled into the parking lot. Three families began to walk down the long sidewalk to the place they would spend the next 7 nights. One little child among them noticed

the playground equipment. As I swung the Youth Center door open in welcome this little one rushed in, took a quick look around and asked me, "Can I play outside on that stuff?" I responded by telling her to ask her mother first if it was OK. She rushed to her mom and pleaded to go outside. Her mom, trying to become acquainted with her new surroundings quickly said, "Ask someone to keep an eye on you."

Little Mia rushed back to the door where I still stood, swung it open and put one foot out the door. She hesitated, looked up at me with a 4 year olds gleam in her eye and said, "Will you keep an eye on me?"

That was a moment of epiphany for me. In one little question, the Holy Spirit gifted me with a powerful insight! I did play with Mia outside. But I must say I've lost track of her over the years. I pray that she is well, whole and strong. The spirit of her request is alive and well in IHN. Keeping an eye on those in poverty is something Catholics are asked to do, something I'm personally asked to do. Our Social Justice Teachings, particularly the "Option for the Poor and Vulnerable" remind us that the most basic moral test (of our society) is how our most vulnerable members are faring.

## Christmas Angels

Our parish has a rich and loving tradition of "Christmas Angels." Each year, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, the Christian Service Commission (CSC) spends the morning placing hundreds of golden foil angels on the kiosks found in our Gathering Area. The entrance to our church home is filled with the glimmer of angel wings and the kiosks are

surrounded by eager parishioners seeking the angel that will give them joy in fulfilling. How does this happen and where do these Angel Gifts go?



Beginning in October, staff member and liaison to CSC, Shelly Greenfield, visits with staff members, parishioners and our minister partners at AIDSpirit, Angela's Piazza, Interfaith Hospitality Network and St. Francis Intermediate School to determine what needs individuals or families with whom they associate may have at Christmas time. People are identified and contacted, lists are

made, and by that Saturday in November, the angels are ready. Members of the CSC deliver the gifts in early December.

Our parish generously ensures that anywhere from 600-700 Christmas gifts each year bring warmth to bodies, joy to children's hearts, and necessities to families. Blessings upon each of you!

## Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;  
Body of Christ, save me;  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;  
O good Jesus hear me;  
Within your wounds hide me;  
Separated from you, let me never be;  
From the evil one protect me;  
At the hour of my death, call me;  
And close to you bid me; That with your saints,  
I may praise you forever and ever.  
Amen.



# Spiritual Transformation: The Heart of Adult Faith Formation

In 2009, a task force was formed to look at the Children's Faith Formation program at St. Pius X. Over the course of the next couple of years, adjustments were made to bring the program more in line with the culture of our parish.

The group continued to meet and discuss the larger issue of Adult Faith Formation and how we could begin to encourage strengthening this part of St. Pius X. With the passing of Father Steve, many things were put on hold as we waited for new direction and leadership.

This summer, we were introduced to a man who seemed to know exactly what we needed to hear. Tom Zanzig spent much of his career in publishing and developing Faith Formation curriculum. His passion is to help develop a culture that encourages a growing and relevant

church while maintaining respect for traditions and sacraments.

The beginning of November, Tom spoke to fifty members of staff, councils and the education task force during a conference. Smaller groups met with him during the following two days to develop a strategy and plan for what could be done to keep St. Pius X relevant and thriving.

After many hours of discussion and prayer, the education task force, with the support of the staff, has created a plan. The next year will involve a parish-wide process called Appreciative Inquiry. The idea is to meet with a cross-section of the entire congregation to understand what St. Pius X does really well. It is a mindset shift from looking at problems and how we can fix them to appreciating what we do well and building that up.

After that information is collected and disseminated, the long-range plan will be revisited to make sure it is in line with the information the Appreciative Inquiry process produced. Throughout the entire process, the task force is prayerfully considering where the Holy Spirit is leading this process. Your prayers for St. Pius X and the work being done by the education task force would be welcomed.

Philippians 4:8-9

*Concerning the rest, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is chaste, whatever is just, whatever is holy, whatever is worthy to be loved, whatever is of good repute, if there is any virtue, if there is any praiseworthy discipline: meditate on these.*

## Introducing a New Spiritual Program for Our Parish: Living the Eucharist

Living the Eucharist is a new parish program that will run through the next three Lenten seasons. Its purpose is to help revitalize parish life and increase spirituality by helping us connect Sunday Mass to our daily lives.

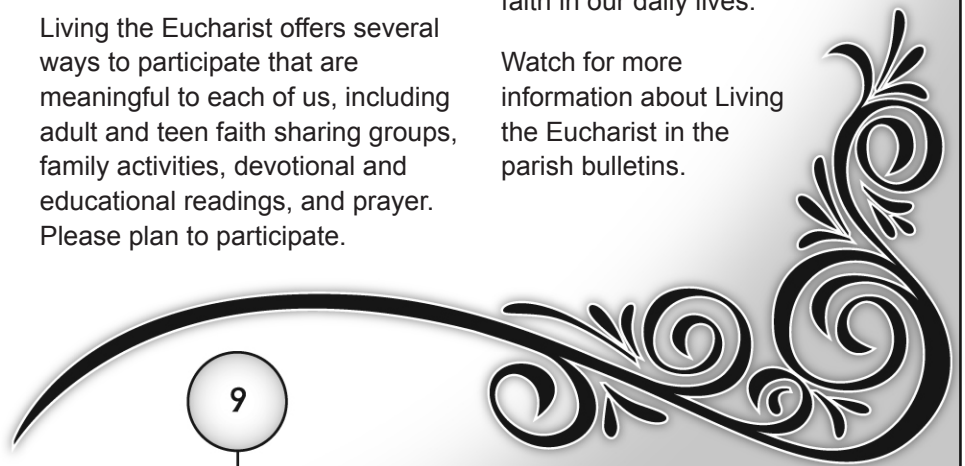
Living the Eucharist will help us

understand how the Eucharist shapes our daily lives. The program was designed in response to Pope Benedict XVI's call for Catholics to believe, celebrate and live our faith. Parishes nationwide are participating.

Living the Eucharist offers several ways to participate that are meaningful to each of us, including adult and teen faith sharing groups, family activities, devotional and educational readings, and prayer. Please plan to participate.

Living our Faith is inspirational, hopeful and encouraging. Our parish community will be strengthened with faith-sharing, friendship and prayer. Each of us will grow in our understanding of the Eucharist and learn to celebrate our faith in our daily lives.

Watch for more information about Living the Eucharist in the parish bulletins.



# Wrapped With Care

By Jeremy Vannatta

Fires, car accidents and other tragedies don't take the holidays off and neither does a group of dedicated women within the St. Pius parish community. Unforeseen events can leave people vulnerable, caught in the midst of distressing situations; so, for the past few years, the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) has worked to help those people by providing fleece blankets. Each hand-tied blanket is blessed with holy water before being given to local emergency responders, who carry the blankets in their vehicles and distribute them to people in need.

This November, the CCW and other parishioners tied over 40 fleece blankets and donated them to the Billings Police Department "It's a great way to bring our faith outside of our church and into our community," said St. Pius parishioner and CCW member Katie Walsh. "It signifies that we care about everyone in the community, even on their worst days," says project organizer, Jean Eakin. She and the CCW

group started the blanket project five years ago, after seeing a front-page photo in the Billings Gazette that showed a parishioner, whose family had



*Fleece Project 2011  
Photo by Peter Reidel*

lost everything in a fire in the dead of winter, wrapped in the comfort of a fleece blanket.

The CCW purchases some of the fleece for the blankets while other materials are donated. The number of blankets crafted is determined by the quantity of materials donated and the amount of time that volunteers have to give. "I really feel called to do this," Jean says, "and I believe it's all part of God's plan."

## Youth Ministry

By Jessie Rohrer, Director of Youth Ministry

A person can realize how fortunate they are simply by turning on the news any night of the week. Between the destruction of Hurricane Sandy or seeing the violent turmoil in the Middle East, I am thankful for all of the blessings God has given me including providing me the opportunity to coordinate Youth Ministry here at St. Pius! Our year is off to an exciting start with a focus on what it means "to know, love, and serve God."

To know God more



fully, the high school students took time to examine their relationships with God through the prayer form of lectio divina. This time of listening to scripture and each other is very powerful because it is clear that God is working through these teens in some amazing ways!

Loving God is easy to do when His love can be seen through other people, doing activities that we love, and His beautiful creation! We looked at this concept more thoroughly with the junior high students in determining our God-given gifts. This youth group night focused on thinking about different



gifts that we have been given and how to show love to God by using these gifts.

Finally, students involved in Youth Ministry continue to have many opportunities to serve the church and the Billings community. On a cold October night, we participated in Cardboard Box City. This event

forever changed those who participated because of their realization for the simple things that we often take for granted, like a warm bed and food to come home to each night.

Even though the holiday of Thanksgiving has come to an end, I would encourage us all to have a spirit of thanksgiving every day of the year and continue to find what it means to "know, love, and serve God."





*Knights of Columbus Tree Lot is open now!*



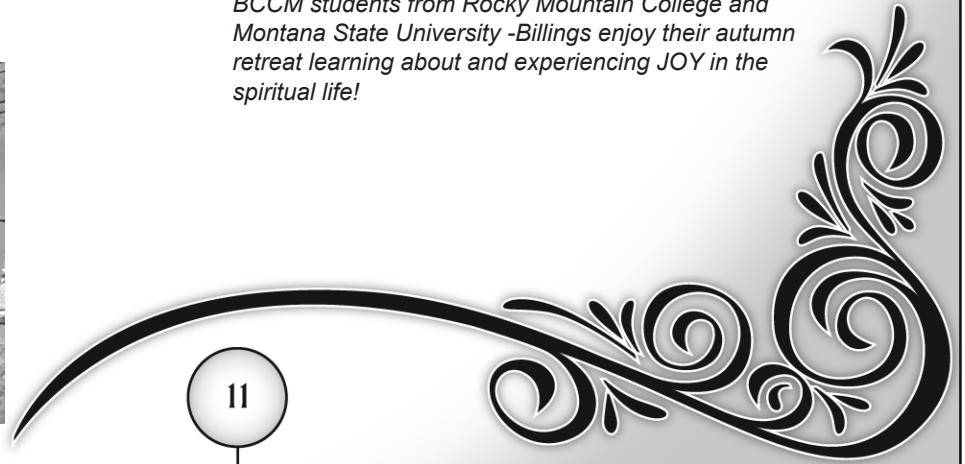
*YM's Fall scavenger hunt was a hit*



*BCCM students from Rocky Mountain College and Montana State University -Billings enjoy their autumn retreat learning about and experiencing JOY in the spiritual life!*



*Fr. Steve's Way of the Cross*





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## St. Pius X Calendar of Events

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Dec. 1         | Christmas Tree Lot Open – Knights of Columbus   |
| Dec. 1&2       | “Food Bank Sunday” Food barrels in Gathering Area                                     |
| Dec. 13        | Advent Penance Service at St. Pius X – 7:00 pm  |
| Dec. 15        | Young Adults Christmas Caroling at Billings Health & Rehab Center                     |
| Dec. 24-Jan.2  | No Christian Formation Classes – Merry Christmas!                                     |
| Dec. 30-Jan. 6 | Interfaith Hospitality Network – St. Pius X Host Week                                 |
| Jan. 5&6       | “Food Bank Sunday” Food barrels in Gathering Area                                     |
| Jan. 7         | Christian Formation Classes Resume  |
| Feb 2&3        | “Food Bank Sunday” Food barrels in Gathering Area                                     |
| Feb. 9         | “Fat Saturday!” Mardi Gras Party & Dance for the ENTIRE parish hosted by Young Adults |
| Feb. 13        | Ash Wednesday   |

