

Saint Mary Catholic Community

Pastoral Office Hours

Monday—Thursday:

9am to 4pm

Friday

9am to 12noon

Fr. Tim's Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday:

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Office Address:

1700 Missoula Ave.

Helena, MT 59601

Phone and Fax:

Ph: 406-442-5268 | F: 406-449-0860

Website:

www.stmaryhelena.org

E-mail:

smcc@stmaryhelena.org

Flocknote (to receive news and updates from us): [Signup here](#)

Livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQR7D-gy6Z3TmeXSQ5Sk45w/featured>

[Click here to become a parishioner](#)

Adoration: Tuesday following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Wednesday:

4:00—5:00 p.m.

Saturday:

3:00—4:00 p.m.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass:

4:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Tues, Wed & Thurs 12:10 p.m.

Friday Care Center Masses

September 6— Mount Ascension

September 13— Touchmark

September 20— Cooney

September 1, 2024

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”

Mark 7:15

September 8, 2024

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“They were exceedingly astonished and they said, “He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.””

Mark 7:37



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Saint Mary Catholic Community is to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service and community, taking seriously Jesus' command to “Do This in Memory of Me.”

MASSES AT SAINT MARY

Sunday, September 1st—Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

8:00 AM Mass—for the people of the Parish

10:30 AM Mass—In honor of Fr. Tom O'Donnell's 90th Birthday
rb: Gail Lannan

Monday, September 2nd—No Mass/Office Closed

1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday, September 3rd

1 Corinthians 2:10b-16; Luke 4:31-37

12:10 PM Mass—for the intentions of youth, young adults, and teachers
rb: Fr. Tim Moriarty

Wednesday, September 4th

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-44

12:10 PM Mass—For Fr. Joseph L. Byrne †
rb: Gail Lannan

4:00-5:00pm Confessions

Thursday, September 5th

1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Luke 5:1-11

12:10 PM Mass—for the guidance and protection for students starting a new school year
rb: Michael and Mary Foot

Friday, September 6th

1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 5:33-39

10:30 AM Mass at Mount Ascension for the intentions of the People at Mount Ascension

Saturday, September 7th

1 Corinthians 4:6b-15; Luke 6:1-5

3:00 PM—4:00 PM Confessions

4:30 PM Vigil—for Kathleen Gallagher †

Sunday, September 8th—Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

8:00 AM Mass—for Loraine Tucker †
rb: Jim Tucker

10:30 AM Mass—for Richard Montecucco †
r.b: Joann Christnacht

Monday, September 9th—No Mass

1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday September 10th

1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Luke 6:12-19

12:10 PM Mass—for the people of the Parish

Wednesday, September 11th

1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26

12:10 PM Mass—in Thanksgiving for 10 years of marriage for Judy and Herb Hazen
rb: Herb and Judy Hazen

4:00 PM—5:00 PM Confessions

Thursday, September 12th

1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13; Luke 6:27-38

8:00 AM Mass—for Bill Bisom †
rb: Bisom Children

Friday, September 13th

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27; Luke 6:39-42

11:00AM Mass at Touchmark for the intentions of the people at Touchmark

Saturday, September 14th

Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

3:00 PM—4:00 PM Confessions

4:30 PM Mass—for the intentions of Caroline and Terry Holm
rb: Judy and Herb Hazen



Prayer Ministry Sacrifice

As praying stewards: We prayed for people who were hospitalized, had surgeries or received cancer diagnoses, in addition to praying for those who had deaths in their families.

As ministering stewards: We set up a meal train for a parishioner recovering from surgery; we also gathered as a community for our annual parish picnic.

As sacrificing stewards:

Stewardship Gifts/Ordinary Income

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Received: 7/1/24 – 7/31/24: \$38,211

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget: 7/1/24 – 7/31/24: \$39,320

Difference: (Received – Budget): \$-1,109

Maintenance & Repair Needs and Gifts (Fiscal Year 2024-25 (7/1/24 – 6/30/25))

Church Sky Light Repair (Estimate): \$ 7,000

Regular Maintenance & Repair (i.e. cleaning, painting, etc.): \$18,720

Current Need: \$25,720

Maintenance & Repair Gifts Received: \$ 999

Difference: (Received– Need): \$-24,721

Note: Maintenance & Repair gifts can be made using the stewardship envelopes identified as Maintenance & Repair; or by indicating in the memo field of your check "M&R". All gifts can also be made online through our website,

www.stmaryhelena.org. Thank you!

Praise God and Thank You for your prayers, your share in ministry, and your sacrificial giving!



Parish Staff and Parish Councils at your service

Father Tim Moriarty

Phone ext. 106 ~ email: tmoriarty@stmaryhelena.org

Deacon Michael Seipp

email: mseipp@stmaryhelena.org

Dawn Brannman ~ Faith Formation Director/Youth Minister

Phone ext. 107 ~ email: dbrannman@stmaryhelena.org

Caitlin Wagoner ~ Pastoral Care, Parish Life Director

Phone ext. 103 ~ email: cwagoner@stmaryhelena.org

Lori Mleko ~ Elementary RE Coordinator

Phone ext. 102 ~ email: lorimleko@stmaryhelena.org

Joanna Haddon ~ Finance Director

Phone ext. 104 ~ email: jhaddon@stmaryhelena.org

Dr. Wendy Yuen ~ Director of Music and Liturgy

Phone ext. 105 ~ email: wYuen@stmaryhelena.org

Brandon Bloom ~ Maintenance Director

Phone ext. 112 ~ email: bbloom@stmaryhelena.org

Keaton Pettis ~ Communications Coordinator

Phone ext. 101 ~ email: kpettis@stmaryhelena.org

Pastoral Council Members: Mary Lou Abbott, Jan Buyske, Rick Duane, Andy Galen, Ed Glowienka, John Larson, Casey Molloy, Cari Schwen and Jim Tucker, Sr.

Finance Council Members: Dave Brown, Jerry LaChere, Anna Miller, Lori Murphy-Moulet, and Maureen Stohl.

From Father Tim

2 Thessalonians 3:6 states: “We instruct you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to shun any brother who walks in a disorderly way and not according to the tradition they received from us . . .”

St. Augustine’s feast day was August 28th. He was born in Tagaste, North Africa. As a young man, he lived a wayward life for years. His mother, St. Monica (whose feast day was August 27th) prayed and fasted for years for her son’s conversion to the faith. An atheist and a wanderer, Augustine’s life changed as he read the Book of Romans. One portion of the book hit him in the heart: “Abandon licentiousness and follow Christ.” At age 33, Augustine was baptized by St. Ambrose, a rhetorical genius who was devoted to the truth, and who had a huge influence on both Augustine and his mother Monica.

After Monica died, Augustine returned to Africa, where he founded the Augustinians in his hometown of Tagaste. He was ordained a priest and later became the Bishop of Hippo in 395, a position he held for 34 years. He is considered a founder of western Monasticism in the West, and regarded as one of the four great doctors of the Church (along with Ambrose, Gregory, and Jerome).

Augustine’s heart was on fire as he followed Christ profoundly the rest of his life. His famous book, “Confessions”, is the most widely-read book in Christian Antiquity. His “City of God” was a response to the fall of the Roman Empire to the pagans in 410, and offers a deep contrast between the city of God and the city of the world in which we currently live. Over 500 of Augustine’s homilies are still available to read, and he wrote some 3,000 letters and homilies. One of his most profound statements is “Therefore, it is against pride, the mother of envying, that our whole Christian discipline chiefly wars.”

St. Monica is a great example to all of us of the love of family and the power of prayer and perseverance in seeking the highest good for our families.

St. Augustine is a great example of the power of conversion in one’s life, and that whatever our pasts may have been, we are all called to be saints. May we grow in a deeper love of our Lord everyday of our lives.

God bless all of you!

Fr. Tim

Pope’s Intentions for September 2024

For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

**A Message From the Catholic Bishops of Montana Regarding
Abortion Ballot Issue Constitutional Initiative (CI-128)**

Dear People of God,

On May 3rd of this year, we issued a pastoral call to reject Constitutional Initiative 128 (CI-128) and prevent it from appearing on the November ballot in Montana. Sadly, after large amounts of out-of-state funding, Planned Parenthood and its associates have succeeded. This grave threat to unborn children, mothers, and families will be on the ballot. As followers of Jesus and faith-filled citizens of Montana, we are compelled to speak boldly in defense of the infinite dignity of every human life.

We implore voters to scrutinize the full text of CI-128. Through the careful use of undefined terms, it nullifies Montana's current abortion regulations and safeguards while creating some of the most radical constitutional provisions for abortion in our Nation.

The ballot language, or voter's summary of CI-128, is grossly insufficient and misleading. Furthermore, the full text of the initiative, which voters will not see at the ballot box, clearly raises grave moral and ethical concerns. The full text of CI-128 will place expectant mothers at risk and enshrine extreme abortion procedures in our Montana Constitution.

In section one, the full text of CI-128 establishes abortion as a right that may not be "burdened" by the government if in any way this would interfere with a mother's "autonomous decision-making." It clearly follows that any regulation of abortion can be characterized as a burden that conflicts with autonomous decision-making.

Any of the following could easily present such a "burden":

- Limitations on late-term abortion of babies who feel pain
- Any restrictions on partial birth abortion
- Any parental notification requirements of abortion procedures on minors

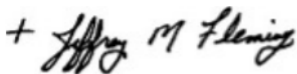
Montana's Supreme Court has recently struck down a law requiring parental consent. CI-128 goes even further by eliminating Montana's current requirement that parents be notified of an abortion procedure on their minor child. This initiative isolates pregnant girls when they need their parents most.


CI-128 would create significant risk in Montana for underage pregnant mothers by:

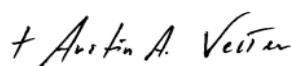
- Imposing a culture of secrecy that would undermine families
- Exposing underage mothers to exploitation and coercion
- Providing cover for those who would victimize underage women by committing abuse, human trafficking, and other crimes


We believe that Montana's children have a fundamental right to life and to grow up safely in our State. We ask all Catholics to continue to pray, abstain from meat on Wednesdays, and share the disturbing truth about CI-128 with the people that God has placed in our lives. Again, we implore all people of good will to read the full text of CI-128 in your voter guide, search and form your conscience, stand with our children against CI-128, and vote NO on your ballot.

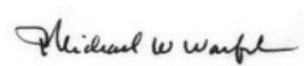
In Christ,




 Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Fleming
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings
President



 Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter
Bishop of Helena
Vice President



 Most Rev. Michael W. Warfel
Bishop Emeritus of Great Falls-
Billings

Liturgical Life

Touch the Earth Lightly

Dr. Wendy Yuen

Sandi Ashley extended an invitation to me to include a hymn in the Mass this September to align with the Season of Creation 2024. I believe the hymn "Touch the Earth Lightly" by Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020) beautifully captures the various themes of Season of Creation 2024.

Murray was a distinguished hymn writer. Born in Invercargill, New Zealand, in 1931, she began her professional life as a teacher and journalist. Her hymn-writing journey began when her husband, a Presbyterian pastor, sought hymns with lyrics that matched his sermons. This sparked Murray's passion for creating hymns. Her works are known for their poetic language, theological depth, and commitment to social justice, peace, and care for creation.

Murray's hymns cover a broad range of themes, including human rights, environmental stewardship, reconciliation, and the role of women in the church. She often drew inspiration from the social and political issues of her time, crafting texts that spoke to the struggles and hopes of contemporary Christian life. Her hymns have been included in hymnals and sung in churches across different denominations worldwide.

Murray's talent as a hymn writer is evident in her use of evocative language and poetic imagery. In "Touch the Earth Lightly," each verse carries a profound message. The first verse calls for environmental stewardship and responsible living, with the word "lightly" emphasizing the need to engage with the Earth with care and respect. The second verse reflects on humanity's negative impact on the planet and serves as a plea for God's intervention and forgiveness, urging awareness and accountability for our actions. The third verse presents a hopeful vision for the renewal and healing of the Earth, emphasizing the interconnectedness of nature, humanity, and God's grace. The fourth verse is a prayer to God, acknowledging God as the source of all life and asking for guidance to foster a harmonious relationship with the Earth and each other.

As we prepare to include this hymn in our Mass, let us be inspired to embrace its messages fully. In singing these verses, we are invited to reflect on our actions, seek forgiveness, and commit to a renewed relationship with the Earth and all its inhabitants. Let us allow the words of "Touch the Earth Lightly" to resonate within us, guiding us towards a deeper appreciation for God's creation and a stronger commitment to preserving it for future generations.

Join the Children's Choir! We are excited to announce the start of our new Children's Choir this Fall from 5-5:30 pm on Wednesday (exact dates to be confirmed). This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn about music, make new friends, and participate in worship through songs. Rehearsals will be fun and engaging, and no prior experience is required! We invite all parents to enroll their children and let their voices shine. More information is coming up. Come and be a part of this joyful experience!



Saint Mary Catholic Community Finances

Thank you, Saint Mary Catholic Community (SMCC) for your generous financial giving, as demonstrated by the following examples:

Annual Generosity related to Thanksgiving baskets through auction contributions and purchases, and the selecting and giving of gifts to those in need from the SMCC giving tree.

Special Needs Generosity providing funding for a new boiler system in the pastoral office.

Continual Generosity in your giving to SMCC week after week, and month after month, with this past Fiscal Year 2024 having an increase of \$17,000 in financial giving over Fiscal Year 2023.

Yet despite your Continual Financial Generosity, SMCC has been operating at a deficit where fiscal year ordinary income is less than parish expenses since 2020, the year of the covid pandemic. The parish has been managing its finances over this time, because of a number of onetime extraordinary gifts in the tens of thousands of dollars and even in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There has been an ongoing effort by Father Tim, the SMCC staff, and the Finance Council not to depend on onetime extraordinary gifts for the parish's operation. In this endeavor there have been changes with the intent of reducing parish expenses. Some of those are:

- Eliminated a staff position.
- Four staff working 32 hours a week instead of 40 hours.
- Switch from a bulletin every week to every two weeks.
- Cut in half the parish contributions to other charities.
- Look at every expense account to keep them to a minimum.

With this effort and your continuing generosity, it appears ordinary operating expenses can be met, but not major Maintenance and Repair.

SMCC is blessed with a Maintenance Director and a volunteer Maintenance and Repair Crew, the latter of which saves SMCC thousands and even tens of thousands of dollars. What can't be addressed by these individuals, and by the current weekly and monthly contributions, are Maintenance and Repair projects costing around \$5,000 and higher. This is why these major Maintenance and Repair needs will be listed in the Stewardship Section of this bulletin, with the hope there will be additional gifts to pay for these projects.

Please look at the bulletin's Stewardship Section to become aware of the current major Maintenance and Repair project and for future projects, and to see how the gifts received are meeting these needs.

There is another change within the Stewardship Section. The Stewardship Gifts/Ordinary Income subsection now compares the parish's budgetary need to gifts received. This comparison will be for the current fiscal year, and will be updated after each month.

God bless you for your generosity in Prayer, Ministry, and Sacrificial giving!

Saint Mary Catholic Community

Fiscal Year End June 30, 2024

INCOME STATEMENT

<u>OPERATING REVENUE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Stewardship	\$488,808	\$480,000
Loose Collections	\$34,960	\$21,000
Special Collections/Holy Days	\$28,680	\$28,800
Maintenance & Repair	\$20,813	\$21,000
Designated Donations	\$13,237	\$9,000
Stipends & Stole Fees	\$11,481	\$8,000
Social Concerns	\$23,747	\$28,500
Bulletin Sponsorships	\$8,010	\$6,400
Christian Formation/Tuition	\$6,573	\$5,100
Memorials & Bequests	\$137,333	\$7,500
New Charitable Trust Income	\$16,644	\$16,400
Investment Income	\$23,387	\$21,000
Grants & Rebates	\$5,000	\$5,000
Rental Income	\$3,285	\$4,500
Other Income	<u>\$25,272</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$847,230</u>	<u>\$666,200</u>

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Clergy Salary & Benefits	\$56,194	\$52,950
Lay Personnel Salaries & Benefits	\$371,540	\$349,255
Payroll Taxes	\$24,814	\$24,307
Work Comp		\$4,500
Liturgy & Music	\$11,825	\$8,500
Aid to Needy, Scholarships, etc.	\$18,284	\$19,850
Insurance	\$31,311	\$31,311
Printing & Postage	\$7,251	\$13,500
Supplies/Office Expense	\$22,971	\$18,000
Diocesan Assessment	\$71,350	\$64,800
Utilities	\$35,165	\$32,400
Buildings, Grounds, Maintenance	\$28,271	\$18,000
Property Taxes	\$18,875	\$19,820
Rental Expense (equip/space)	\$12,829	\$2,000
Travel, Airfare, Meals	\$5,116	\$2,200
Contracted Services	\$55,600	\$13,000
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Retreats/Workshops	\$2,454	\$1,000
Misc./Other	<u>\$38,188</u>	<u>\$36,571</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>\$812,038</u>	<u>\$711,964</u>

NET INCOME(LOSS) **\$35,192 (-\$45,764)**

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking Accounts	\$18,298
Regular Savings	\$117,112
Savings - Maintenance & Repair	\$70,887
Other Savings - CD	\$10,616
Saint Mary Endowed Account (held at DoH Foundation)	\$71,793
Fixed Assets - Property & Equipment	\$2,261,716
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-\$1,627,435</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$922,987</u>

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$58,632
(includes remainder monies to finish boiler project)	
Other Current Liab. - Special Collections	\$2,785
Payroll Liabilities	\$4,741

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$66,158**

NET EQUITY **\$856,829**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$922,987**



I have loved you with an everlasting love!
Jeremiah 31:3

Faith Formation

A Journey for Life

From Dawn

Catechists and Volunteers Needed for Religious Education Program

Is God calling you to something new? Do you have a desire to serve God and your church community? Do you want the children of our parish to know how much God loves them? If you answered yes to any of these question, then please consider how you might answer the call to be a disciple of Jesus by sharing your faith with our parish children.

We will provide training and support for you! Classes will begin October 2nd. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5pm. We try to have 2 catechists with every grade.

Please contact Lori or Dawn at the parish office (442-5268) if you are interested!



Are you interested in becoming Catholic?

OCIA classes will begin soon for adults who are interested in becoming Catholic and adults who are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

What is OCIA? It is the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults---a process for welcoming adult newcomers into the Roman Catholic Church. The main purpose of the process is assisting prospective Catholics in their journey to become active members of the church community.

Our OCIA group will meet weekly on Monday evenings starting September 30th. Contact Dawn at the Parish Office for more information.

Registration is Open for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Grades K-5th and First Reconciliation/ First Communion

Online registration is available [HERE](#).

Cost for Religious Education is \$70(\$95 if preparing for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist.) Financial Assistance is available!

RE Classes meet on Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5pm. Our First Class will be on October 2nd

First Reconciliation Classes begin Sunday, October 6th from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Social Center

CGS will meet on Mondays from 3:30 to 5pm and Tuesdays from 9:30am to 11am.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Contact Lori or Dawn if you have any questions!

Catechetical Sunday

On Sunday, September 15th we celebrate Catechetical Sunday. On Catechetical Sunday, we acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and we honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists. We will bless all of our Catechists at the 10:30am Mass. We will have lunch and a retreat following Mass. The theme for this year's Catechetical Sunday is **"Lord, when did we see you hungry?"**
We thank all of the amazing people who share in this ministry of Catechesis!

Important Dates for Youth Group

Wednesday, September 25th: Family Fun Event: Discovery Dash

Wednesday, October 2nd: MS and HS Youth Groups meet from 6:30 to 7:30pm

Wednesday, October 9th: MS and HS Youth Groups meet from 6:30 to 7:30pm

Registration Open for Youth Group

Grades 6-12th

Registration is now open for youth group and for Confirmation for the 2023-2024 school year! Online registration is available on the parish website or [HERE!](#)

Cost per student is \$70. The cost is \$95 for youth preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Youth in grades 6 through 12 are able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.** Financial Assistance is available, contact Dawn for more information.

This year we will combine the time that the Middle School and High School Youth Groups meet. Both groups will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the Social Center.

Contact Dawn if you have any questions!

Prayers to Begin a School Year

**God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our
being,
for mind, body and spirit.**

**Be with our youth as they begin
a new school year.**

**Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give them strength and grace to face
challenges,**

**Give them wisdom and knowledge as they
search for understanding;
and give peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

**Help needed in the Jubilee Garden on
Wednesday, September 11th from 5:30
to 6:30pm!**

Contact Dawn for more information!

Pastoral Care and the Good Life

As a recently married woman, I can't tell you how many cards we received that featured, in part or in whole, verses four through seven of 1 Corinthians 13: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." According to St Paul, charity has "all the other virtues in her train" and love is the virtue that "unites us most intimately with God." So, that's what I'd like to write about today: the Love of God.

Advancing in the love of God is an extraordinary grace (so says St Teresa of Avila), and I want to share with you the five means for acquiring this treasure of God, according to St. Alphonsus Liguori. The first means is to have an ardent desire for this perfect love. Having the desire will be rewarded by God who "distributes His graces in abundance to those only who hunger and thirst for them" and puts us in the same company as the Blessed Virgin who said in her hymn of praise, "He hath filled the hungry with good things" (Luke 1:53). When our efforts are fueled by an ardent desire, all trouble is light and sweet because Our Lord calls those blessed who have not merely a desire, but a hunger – a great desire - for holiness: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after justice" (Matthew 5:6).

A heart empty of self and free from earthly inclinations is able to fully receive the love of God, who desires to possess our hearts alone and tolerates no rival; therefore the second means of obtaining perfect love of God consists in renouncing all love that does not refer to God. As St. Francis de Sales once said, "If I knew that in my heart there was a single fiber that was not from God, in God, and for God, I would immediately tear it out."

The third means is self-denial: "It is necessary to deny oneself by gladly embracing what is opposed to self-love and refusing oneself what self-love demands" which means denying ourselves this or that pleasure because it is agreeable to us, helping an ungrateful person because they are ungrateful, or taking bitter medicine because it is bitter (Warren, 92). Lean into unpleasantness for love of God.

The fourth means of growing love is frequent meditation on the sufferings of Jesus Christ (in His betrayal, His agony, His scourging, His crowning, and His crucifixion - just to name a handful). The fifth means of growing in love is by engaging in an act of love itself: prayer.

But let's, for a moment, simply look at nature. Nature, in and of itself, bids us to love God. "All creatures tell me Thou hast created them for love of me," said St Augustine (who was celebrated in a special way by the Church this past week!). The simple truth is that God called all things into being: the stars and the heavens, the birds and the flowers, the seas and all matter of creature and critter, for love of you – and me.

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever.

Pastoral Care Announcements:

- Please join us for Adoration after the 12:10 Mass on Tuesday, September 3rd and Tuesday, September 10th!
- Copies of Magnificat are now available in the Gathering Space. We have 25 copies of both standard and large print September issues. We are hoping to process a bulk order later in September for those of you who are interested!
- Please submit baby photos, sonograms, and things of that nature to cwagoner@stmaryhelena.org so we can begin building a Respect Life bulletin board for the Gathering Space!

SAINT FRANCIS PEACE THROUGH JUSTICE MINISTRY

Prayer, Politics – Petition, Presence

As a nation we are in the throes leading up to another presidential election, one that is perhaps watershed and defining. We are not oblivious to divisiveness in our country and to the hyperbolic rhetoric in which we are immersed. Television is inundated with advertisements to sway us one way or another, if by any unlikely chance, we have yet to make up our minds. For the most part, the ads simply pile justifications, one on top of another, for our intellectual biases and for our gut emotions – anger, fear, anxiety, distrust – and sadly in some cases, hatred.



As Catholic Christians we are called to sort out all of this and decide who we will support and how we will cast our vote. Surely, this causes people angst and worry. And, again, as Christians, often our response to such a mental and emotional state is – in one word – **prayer**. ***But what in the world do we do with “prayer?”*** Do we ask God with Our Fathers and Hail Mary’s to insure that our candidate wins? Do we storm heaven with petitionary prayers or do we throw up our hands and go back to our routine, praying for our aunt who has cancer or a good school year for our kids?

There is perhaps another way of looking at this difficult problem. It presents a challenge in a transformational way, presenting a path forward toward the peace that Jesus has promised: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:27

Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr, founder of the “Center For Action and Contemplation” and author of numerous books has for a long time taught that **non-dual thinking is the foundation for true spiritual growth and the primary way to free ourselves from judgmentalism, discontent, fear and anger.** What is non-dualistic thinking? Essentially it requires grounding ourselves in the present. Fr. Rohr states: “Nondual consciousness is a much more holistic knowing, where your mind, heart, soul, and senses are open and receptive to the moment just as it is, which allows you to love things in themselves and as themselves.” (Fr. Rohr, Daily Meditations, 5/16/24) ***This doesn’t come naturally to those of us in our culture where our worth is often defined by what and how much we do.*** Our minds, always busy, keep us from slowing to our center. And this is where Fr. Rohr and other spiritual thinkers present the challenge of contemplation, of contemplative prayer.

In a religious context, the practice of contemplation seeks a direct awareness of God. It goes beyond our intellect, similar to meditation – but different – because our “partner” is God. We open up to the Christ within ourselves and in the present moment.

How does this tie in to “prayer, politics, petition, presence?” As we wrestle with our response to politics in our divided country, perhaps our prayers of petition can take a different trajectory. Rather than praying for our candidate to win, perhaps we can pray:

- Let us see Christ’s image and presence in all people (even those on the “other side.”)
- Let us resist smugness and self-righteousness.
- Let us be a presence for peace in all circumstances going forward.
 - Let us have discernment in our actions, words, choices.



And we can arrive at the doorstep of this selflessness by deliberately choosing to set aside time – 10 minutes, 15 – to still our minds, opening ourselves to Present Moment, the moment of God-With-Us. Then, perhaps, the wounds of our fractured lives and world can begin to heal.

St. Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry

SAINT MARY CARE FOR CREATION MINISTRY



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

“Our theme this year emphasizes that Creation is not an object that has been created for human use, but rather a subject that we are called to relate to and collaborate with as fellow creatures. By capitalizing Creation, we refer to both the created order and the mystery of God’s continuing act of creation. We acknowledge the whole created order, or the whole cosmos, including all living and non-living parts of God’s Creation, showing our theological respect, reverence, accountability and interdependence with the natural world... To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles.” (2024 Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

“**The Season of Creation** is a **time** to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.” (Season of Creation Website)

In 1989, 1 September was proclaimed as a day of prayer for creation in the Orthodox church. It is the first day of their church year which begins with a commemoration of how God created the world. Subsequently the World Council of Churches was instrumental in extending this sacred time from a day into a season. It begins the World Day of Prayer for Creation on 1 September and ends on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on 4 October. Various Christian denominations around the world have embraced this season as part of their calendar. In 2015, Pope Francis honored the Catholic Church’s growing desire to celebrate and protect creation by making the Season of Creation an official part of the Catholic Church calendar.

Saint Mary Catholic Community is celebrating the Season of Creation with intercessory prayer during weekend masses, creation themed music, bulletin articles, Season of Creation 2024 prayer cards, the annual Saint Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry/Jubilee Garden/Care for Creation Ministry annual potluck, a Blessing of the Animals for the Feast of Saint Francis. Heartfelt thanks to Deacon Michael, Father Tim, Wendy, and all members of parish staff and parish ministries contributing to this celebration.

Please join us for the annual

**Saint Francis Peace Through Justice/Jubilee Garden/Care for Creation/Parish Diversity Celebration
Potluck**

Saturday September 14, 2024

in the Social Center after the 4:30 Mass

Valerie Helleman of Helena's Hands On Global will share her personal experience working in war zones and refugee camps around the globe and in refugee resettlement. She will discuss the threats that cause people to migrate, the journey to asylum, the obstacles and challenges of adjusting to a new life in an unfamiliar country, and the refugee resettlement work happening in the Helena area.

Back by popular demand: a **cooking challenge** to see who can create the best dish using food from the harvest. Join the fun and enter the contest whether you bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share.

Tasteful decorations and samples of fresh herbs will be provided by the Saint Mary Jubilee Garden along with an update on the 2024 harvest and donations to Helena Food Share.

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

~Pope Francis Monthly Intention June 2024

Fall Session Begins September 23rd, 2024

1:00PM in Social Center, Saint Mary's 1700 Missoula

Inviting all those who have lost a loved one to share faith and hope with others who are experiencing grief.

A grief support group helps in understanding the process of grief. We come together as *companions in healing*. Grief support provides a *safe* place to talk about your loss, share your story and express your grief.

"I benefited from sharing and receiving support from the other Grief Group Members, and knowing I was not alone in my grief." (Member of past support group)

+ + +

Facilitator: Helen Beausoleil, LCSW

Call Saint Mary's Parish Office or Helen 459-0948 to register

"We can't take your pain away but we can share it."

**Ongoing Grief Sessions for those who have been in prior grief support groups will begin
September 16th at 1pm. Theme this year: Grateful Hope**

Parish Diversity Celebration

*We are many parts. We are all one body.
Romans 12:4-8*

CABRINI

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Saint Frances
Xavier Cabrini

Patron Saint of Immigrants

**Final Film Showing Thursday September 5 at 6:30 in
the Social Center**

Desserts and Beverages Provided

All are cordially invited. Please RSVP to the Parish
Office 406 442-5268

We are all from somewhere.



Buy A Basket to Fill A Basket

Our annual auction will begin on October 5th - October 13th. If you would like to make a donation either in the form of a check as a "Sponsor" or would like to donate a new or gently used item, please contact Allison Sever (406-431-5226) or Deb Kralicek (406-439-2319). We are available to pick up if needed.

Deadline for all material donations is September 27th.

Funds received from the auction will go to buy food for the Thanksgiving food boxes. With the increase in food costs your support is more important than ever this year.

Family- to- Family Thanksgiving Food Boxes

If you are interested in doing a Family -to-Family Thanksgiving food Box for a family of 6 or more, please sign up here: <https://saintmarycatholiccommuni.flocknote.com/signup/178305>

OR on the kiosk in the gathering space OR call the Parish Office 406-442-5268.

Here is a suggested list of items (but not limited to):

Flour, sugar, stuffing, potatoes, peanut butter, canned pumpkin or pumpkin pie mix, canned vegetables canned fruit Jell-O, rolls, olives, pudding, margarine/butter, juice, healthy cereal and soup.

Turkeys can also be a part of the boxes, but are optional. If you will include a turkey, please let us know.

Food boxes should feed a minimum of 6 family members.

Thank you!

Thank you for all of your prayers!

~Rita Krushensky

Knights of Columbus #844

The Helena Council #844 of the Knights of Columbus meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM at the KofC hall. Catholic Men, if you're not a member but have interest, please checkout KofC.org to learn more. You can sign up online and you'd be very welcome in our Council.

We are beginning our collection non-perishable food items for our Thanksgiving Food Boxes.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

Food items suggested for Food Drive:

Soup, canned frosting, cake mixes canned pumpkin, or pumpkin pie mix, olives, Jello, muffin mix, tuna, spaghetti sauce, pasta, meal in a box.

Please leave food items in the gathering space.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness

Blessing Box



Thank you so very much for your response to our parish's Blessing Box (previously called Homeless Pantry).

Through your generosity, we were able to keep the pantry stocked through the winter!

The Blessing Box continues to be a huge success with lots of individuals in need using it.

Now summer is here! We will still accept donations of food and toiletries, but we also need bug spray, visors, baseball caps, bottles of water and sunscreen.



Thank you for your generosity!





Thank you to all the folks who helped out with the parish picnic!

Thank you to everyone who helped set up, brought food, played games, and cleaned up. Jan, Sandy, Joe, Larry, Jim, Lori, Dawn, Rick, just to name a few!

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Wish List

Altar cloths to fit our model altar in the atrium

2 7x7 area rugs in neutral colors

Small Treasure box that can fit in your hand

Small end table with shelf

2 foot cabinet with doors and 3 shelves

small (1-2 ft) baptismal Font (similar to ours if possible)

4 6 in t stands
4 12 inch t stands

2 foot ambo similar to ours if possible




Contact Dawn in the Parish Office if you are able to donate any of these items.

Help Others Discover Christ

Together we have raised
\$499,265
60% of our \$838,000

Embracing anew the Great Commission of Jesus to "go and make disciples" **Because He First Loved Us** will provide \$4.5 million to create an endowment fund to provide ongoing support for our shared work of evangelization, so that we can more effectively reach out to all of God's people.

The number of active Catholics in the Diocese has dropped from 66,000 in 2000 to just 46,000 in 2022. Knowing this, how will we help others encounter Christ? Every disciple is baptized into the mission of evangelization.

We must learn to the the love through involvement, training, mentoring, and ongoing formation.



Please scan the QR code to learn more at the **Because He First Loved Us** website

COMMON ROOTS, CONFLICT, HOPE Achieving Peace in the Middle East

Jeanette Fregulia, Ph.D.

Jeanette Fregulia, a long-standing member of Saint Mary Catholic Community, and is the Department Chair of History at Carroll College. Her Masters Degree is in Middle East Area Studies from the University of London. She has extensive experience traveling, living and conducting research in this complex region. Her expertise includes history, culture, politics, philosophy and religion. She applies her excellent culinary skill to cooking Middle Eastern food which she will generously share with us. She is a dynamic, informative, energetic, and objective presenter. Some of what we learn may help us as we seek to live in solidarity as people of peace in our own country.

The presentation is a series of 4 talks on Sunday mornings between the masses in the social center. All the presentations will be recorded and available on the parish website.

Sunday September 22 9:15-10:15 - Early Religious History
Sunday October 13 9:15-10:15 - Imperial/Colonial History
Sunday November 17 9:15-10:15 - 1914-1989
Sunday December 8 9:15-10:15 - 1967-present

Sponsored by Saint Mary Catholic Community Adult Education and Faith Formation supported by Saint Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry

SEMINARIANS

FOR THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

2023-2024

Dillon Armstrong	John Cooney
Kaleb Mitchell	Riley Helgoe
Brett Rotz	Anthony Olmes
James Semling	Jamie Severson
Carter Anderson	Shae Bills
Lane Buus	Matt Keck

- Please continue to pray for our Seminarians -

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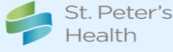
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If you would like to sponsor the bulletin, please contact Joanna Haddon at 406-442-5268, ext. 104. Thank you to all our sponsors, we appreciate your sponsorship!