We GATHER

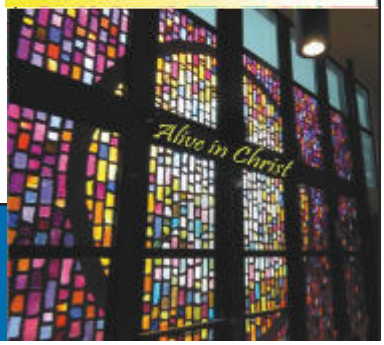
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Pastor:
Rev. Steve Zabrocki
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays - 3:30 pm or by appt
Weekend Mass Schedule:
Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 8:30 am, 10:30 am
Daily Mass Schedule:
Tuesday - Friday - 9:00 am

Church:
2055 Woody Dr.
Billings, MT 59102
Office: 406-656-5800
Rectory: 406-656-5578
Online:
www.stthomasbillings.org
Facebook.com/SaintThomasBillings
church@stthomasbillings.org

St. Thomas
The Apostle
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



January 3, 2021: *The Epiphany of The Lord*

STEWARDSHIP

Parish Support

Collection 12/20

Total Collection $56,092

Year-to-date Collection (**start: July 1, 2020**)

YTD Total Collection $584,052

Prefer online giving? Go to GiveCentral.org and choose a "way to support" St. Thomas the Apostle Church - Billings.

Bishop Warfel has called for a Diocesan Synod on the Domestic Church as a means of planning for the future of our diocesan family.

He has asked each parish to have representation, either by appointment or election. Bishop believes the structure of a diocesan synod will provide a way to establish direction for the diocese in his remaining years as our bishop, as well as will provide for a smoother transition for whoever will eventually become his successor. A vision is crucial for any organization, and a 5-year plan that addresses specific concerns of our diocese is the goal.

Watch for his article in the upcoming Harvest.

You are welcome to contact our staff.

Office Hours:
Mon -Thurs: 8:00 am - noon; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Steve Zabrocki
Deacon: Deacon Nate Haney
Retired Deacon: Deacon Tim Birkle
Liturgy Asst: Jina Arroyo
Administrative Asst: Theresa Ball
Custodian: Brian Etchart
RCIA/Adult Education: Mary Gillespie
Youth Ministry: Tiffany Glennon
Religious Ed: Joyce Hollowell
Outreach: Kathy Lombardozzi
Finance Mgr: Paul Miron
Liturgical Music: Carolyn Peters

We LOVE

CHARITY FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

Support the ministries & mission of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings by entering to win prizes purchased through an anonymous donor. (Winners responsible for taxes.) **Tickets are $20 each. Get your tickets in by Thursday, January 7th for the next Early Bird cash prize of $500 drawn January 15th. Main grand prize drawing is May 15, 2021.** See flyers at the bulletin boards to see Grand, Second and Third prizes!

Tickets can be purchased at the parish office. Only 60,000 available! Call 406-727-6683 for more information.

Needing prayers

Brother Bede Baldry, Vern Boyer, Deacon Bill Daem, Carol Gritten, Mick Johnson, Ron Jones, Donna Kimmery, Ed Parks, Joe Robinson, Judy Smith, Helen Strekall, and Joyce Viviano.

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We BELIEVE

Next Week's Readings - January 10, 2021
The Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 55:1-11 (21B)
1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1:7-11

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, 1/5, 9:00 am	**Intentions of Pat & Mary Kay Byorth** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Wednesday, 1/6, 9:00 am	**† Jerry Sawicki** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Thursday, 1/7, 9:00 am	**† Bob Begger** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Friday, 1/8, 9:00 am	**† Chris Evans** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Saturday, 1/9, 5:00 pm	**† Rev. Charlie Gorman** by Ashlea DiFronzo
Sunday, 1/10, 8:30 am	**† Lorraine Hummel** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Sunday, 1/10, 10:30 am	**Intentions of the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Families**

Bishop Warfel has continued the dispensation of the obligation for people of our diocese to attend Sunday Masses and Holy Days until further notice. If your health is compromised or if you are a part of the vulnerable population, we continue to have the weekend recorded Mass on our parish website.

Liturgical Ministers

Jan 9-10

	Sat 5:00 pm	Sun 8:30 am	Sun 10:30 am
Asst Collect		R Hall	
Collection		L Ray	
Plate 1	**D Lambrecht**	**Deacon Nate**	**M Hensley**
Plate 2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Plate 3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greeter SG	NEEDED	B/J Pedersen	J Jordan
CC	K/V Petermann	T Ball	N Schuman
Proclaimer 1	J Pierce	W Wallace	J Smith
Proclaimer 2	B Mattix	B Lynch	M Bucholz
Sacristan	NEEDED	T Ball	N Benge

Sacristy Linens January: Lisa Wetzler
Sac/Holy Water January 8: Dixine Stockton

1/9-10	Sat 5:00 pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am
Usher Lead	NEEDED	E O'Neill	Z Arroyo
Usher Altar	NEEDED	L Pauley	K Benge
Usher Ambo	NEEDED	J Beckers	J Mellor

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

We GROW

Religious Education

FAMILY CATECHESIS PACKET PICK UP:

Tuesday, January 5th
- 11:30 am – 1pm
- 4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, January 6th
- 5 pm – 6 pm.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES resume at the regular times.
Tuesdays: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm
Wednesdays: 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm

A heartfelt thank you to the St. Thomas parish family from the 170 families with 526 children who were the recipients of the food baskets and gifts. It was your generosity that provided these families not only with everything needed for a Christmas diner, but also with groceries to help them get through the two-week break from school. Each and every can or box of food, each ham that you contributed was needed.

The contribution of gifts and the care taken to purchase them and wrap them is amazing. For many of the children, this is the only time they receive something brand new.

Much-appreciated are the 39 St. Thomas families who adopted 57 families. WOW! Many thanks to the many faithful volunteers who donated their time and effort to bring this ministry to fulfillment. Well done!

May God bless you always.

Youth Ministry

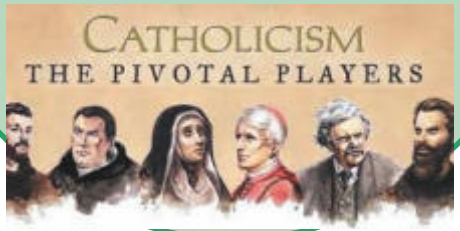
Watch the Disney movie, Tangled and pay close attention to the role of light in the movie. How is this similar to the role of light in today's Gospel, and in your own life?

Tiffany

The next Pivotal Players study will be 1/12 on Fulton J. Sheen. Plan on attending Tuesdays after the daily Mass - at 9:45 am until 11:45 am. All are welcome with social distancing and masks.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 656-5800, ext 303 or mary@stthomasbillings.org.

Mary



Jan & Bill Pedersen

We can still be connected and get to know each other during the pandemic limitations. Let's meet one of our 8:30 am greeters: ***Bill & Jan Pedersen!***

Will you tell us a bit about yourself?
We have been married 48 years and have been members of St. Thomas Parish for about 7 years, after many years at Holy Rosary Parish. We have two sons and four grandchildren. Jan and the boys are all products of the Billings Catholic Schools. Bill worked for the Exxon Refinery for 30+ years, retiring in 2002, and now enjoys time on the golf course. Jan was a stay-at-home mom for many years and then worked for an accountant.

Please tell us which Mass you usher at, how long you've been ushering, and what brought you to this ministry initially. Why do you choose to continue serving?
We have greeted for several years at the 8:30 am Mass on Sundays. We were led to the ministry though long-time parishioner Lee Lemke, who died back in 2016. We are so glad we decided to accept the invitation!

What changes have you seen in your ministry over the years, particularly since the pandemic restrictions? Why do you choose to continue serving? Are you serving your parish as a volunteer in another capacity? Can you quickly share about that?
We feel blessed to be able to continue with this ministry, albeit with the pandemic restrictions. When we came to St. Thomas, we were warmly welcomed and we feel the need to extend that to others.

Bill is a member of the St. Thomas Men's Group and is looking forward to the time they will resume their activities. Jan is a member of St. Elizabeth's Circle of the Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW), helps with the funeral luncheons, and we both help prepare breakfast sandwiches for St. Vincent de Paul.

As the threat of the pandemic continues into the winter, what message or story of hope do you have to share with your parish family?
We are thankful that the vaccine is now being administered, but we still need to continue to be patient and prayerful that things will start to return to pre-pandemic conditions. We must remain strong in our faith.

We LEAD

Community Needs

St. Vincent de Paul thanks you for your prayers and donations. 2020 has been a challenging year. The Lord's blessing to the Israelites is a blessing to all of us, too. "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"
(Numbers 6:24-26) A blessed New Year to everyone.

Around the region—

The Fiesta Committee of Mary Queen of Peach Church has created a wonderful keepsake calendar that will take you all the way into 2022. See your family, friends, neighbors and yourself in yesteryear Fiestas and current Fiestas. They are please to report that everyone has aged younger! The cost is just $10; get yours now while supplies last. It's fun; it's funny; it's fabulous! Call MQP 259-7611 to get yours.

The Retrouvaille Community of Montana has been invited to join with California's Northern Community in offering this online weekend. **A virtual, online Retrouvaille marriage help program begins Thursday and Friday evening, and a full day on Saturday and Sunday, January 14-17, 2021.** The weekend will be followed by a series of virtual Post-Weekend Sessions. There is a $500 registration fee per couple, but no one is turned away due to inability to pay. Contact them at 406-761-4830 or www.helpourmarriage.org.

Carroll College is offering a $1,000 Parish Scholarship to a student active in the parish in memory of the deceased priests of the diocese. This $1,000 scholarship is applicable toward full-time tuition at Carroll College for the upcoming academic year. **Only one *newly* accepted student per parish may receive the scholarship. Application deadline to be considered as our parish applicant is March 1st t to the church office.** A completed application will include the application form with a completed essay and 2 letters of recommendation (one personal and one scholastic). The student must be full-time (taking 12 semester hours) to maintain this scholarship. Applications are in the church front office or you can get one from Tiffany Glennon, our youth minister.

Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him… Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"*The Gospel of Life*: A Brief Summary"

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