Next week's theme: **MARRIAGE**

For whoever is not against us is for us.

Mark 9:40

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

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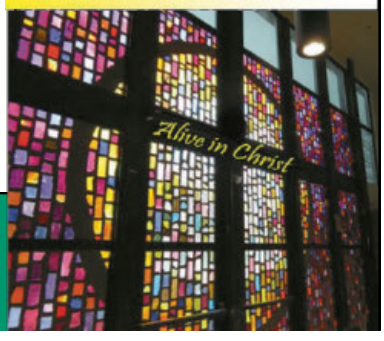

September 26, 2021: *26th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

STEWARDSHIP

Parish Support

Collection 9/19

Total Collection $28,239

Year-to-date Collection (**start: July 1, 2021**)

YTD Total Collection $313,963

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

Thank you for supporting your parish!

Feast of the Archangels — St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Rafael — September 29th

Needing prayers

Judy Clouse, Jamie Cross-Lake, Deacon Bill Daem, Dode Donnelly, Vernice Doughten, Reid Hagen, Mick Johnson, Ron Jones, Katie Lien, Jack Padon, Ed & Audrey Parks, Joe Robinson, Linda Rodgers, Janice Smith, Judy Smith, Helen Strekall and Kathy Wilson.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life is a peaceful prayer vigil in front of Planned Parenthood. **Although we know there are many people who support life, each year it is a struggle to get the prayer time slots filled. It is meaningful and life-saving to spend one hour a week for 6 weeks praying to end abortion.**

St. Thomas parishioners are filling one-hour time slots on Thursdays from September 24 through October 29. You can still be a part of this public witness. Please contact parishioner Diane Zimdars at 307-299-4476 (cell) or email dianezimdars@gmail.com.

Thank you for praying to end abortion.

The diocesan **special collection** for the month of September is for the **Catholic University of America.** Envelopes can be found at the church entrances. Thank you for considering a generous gift to help continue faith-rooted education.

You are welcome to contact our staff.

Office Hours:
Mon -Thurs: 8:00 am - noon; 1:00 - 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

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Next Week's Readings - October 3, 2021
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 2:18-24 (140B)
Hebrews 2:9-11 Mark 10:2-16

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, 9/28, 9:00 am	**†** **Patricia Sullivan** by Bill & Jan Pedersen
Tuesday, 9/28, 9:00 am	**†** **Paul Winhofer** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Wednesday, 9/29, 9:00 am	**†** **Vince Hummel** by Kathy & Jim Lombardozzi
Wednesday, 9/29, 9:00 am	**†** **Jim Trythall** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Thursday, 9/30, 9:00 am	**†** **Jim Trythall** Ed & Anita Saunders
Thursday, 9/30, 9:00 am	**Intentions of Ed & Audrey Parks** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Friday, 10/1, 9:00 am	**†** **Delores Etchart** by the Zimdars Family
Friday, 10/1, 9:00 am	**†** **Ruben Day** by Kathy Lombardozzi
Saturday, 10/2, 5:00 pm	**†** **Ruth Ebsen** by Alix & Tom Abel
Saturday, 10/2, 5:00 pm	**†** **Ruben Day** by Chet & Claire Birkeland
Sunday, 10/3, 8:30 am	**Intentions of the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Family**
Sunday, 10/3, 8:30 am	**†** **Jim Trythall** by Gladys Orlando
Sunday, 10/3, 10:30 am	**†** **Ruben Day** by Roy Brown of KJCR
Sunday, 10/3, 10:30 am	**†** **Jim Trythall** by Catherine McCullough

Liturgical Ministers — October 2-3

	Sat 5:00 pm	Sun 8:30 am	Sun 10:30 am
Asst Collect		K Lavachek	
Collection		J Buller	
Altar Serv Bk	T Hope	J Wallace	V Murillo
Altar Serv Cr	G Brown	T Wallace	A Massey
Altar Serv Ch	C Hope	W Wallace	NEEDED
Plate 2	**Fr. Pat Zabrocki**	**Fr. Pat Zabrocki**	**Fr. Pat Zabrocki**
Plate 3	Deacon Tim	Deacon Nate	B Gibson
Plate 4	D Lambrecht	D Dibble	F Lawler
Greeter SG	K/V Petermann	S/B Long	C Kaiser
CC	A Anderson	A McFarlin	C/B Brinkel
Proclaimer 1	M Fishbaugh	W Wallace	J Smith
Proclaimer 2	J Pierce	B Warn	J Kaiser
Sacristan	NEEDED	A McFarlin	E Mellor
Usher Lead	B Goetz	C Hasiak	D Chandler
Usher Altar	T Miller	L Pauley	Z Arroyo
Usher Ambo	D Fishbaugh	E O'Neill	T Scott

Sacristy Linens October: Alicia McFarlin
Sac/Holy Water October 1: D/M Seader

...For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
Mark 10:7-8a

Youth Ministry

All teens, 6th - 12th grade: You are invited to our **annual youth group kickball kickoff Tuesday, 9/28 for junior high** or **Wednesday, 9/29 for high school at Veterans Park from 7 - 8:30 pm.** What to bring: Last name starts with

A - K….. Pre-packaged drinks

L - Z…… Pre-packaged snacks

Tiffany

The Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) wants to thank everyone who was saving their rummage AND all those who were willing to help with our annual rummage sale. *We hope to continue next year.*

The PCCW Board made some calls and found several organizations who were accepting donations (St. Vincent de Paul - call first; Gratitude in Action - furniture, housewares and décor and gently-used clothing; Family Services; and the Montana Rescue Mission.

Again, we want to thank the parish for their great support.

Susan King for the St. Thomas PCCW

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Did you know? Vitalant is the sole provider of blood products to more than 30 hospitals in Montana and northern Wyoming. Yet, only 3% of eligible donors in the U.S. actually donate blood!

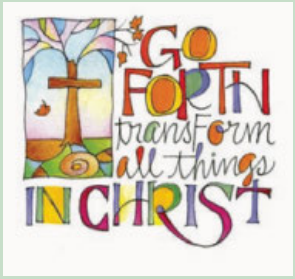
St. Thomas is sponsoring a virtual blood drive THIS WEEK, Sept. 26 to Oct. 2 at 1444 Grand Ave. PLEASE make your lifesaving appointment today by calling Kevin Mitchell at 406-652-3472 or call Vitalant at 877-258-4825 to schedule your donation sometime THIS week. You can save a life!

Religious Education

Religious Education Classes will begin this week:

Tuesdays: 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

Wednesdays: 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm



Sacramental Preparation Parent Meeting

Tuesday, September 28th, 7:00 pm

Community Center - St. Benedict Room

Joyce

The aim of the Diocesan Synod is to assist me in writing a pastoral letter to the entire diocese, encouraging families particularly in their spiritual lives. "The Domestic Church in Eastern Montana" has been divided into 4 main sections. The third section is "The Triple Duties of Baptism: Holiness, Knowledge, Authority."

Reflect on how the members in the family are called to help each other reach holiness, whether spouse to spouse, parent to child, child to parent, or sibling to sibling, grandparent to grandchild, etc.; reflect on how we are called to share the faith with each other in the family, and the primary role parents have in the education of their children; reflect on how parents have the primary authority of their children, and how the government, schools, etc. can or should assist them.

Please pray for the success of our Synod, and if you have any suggestions or comments on the questions, please reach out to your Vicar Forane, Father Steve Zabrocki.

Let's stay connected and meet a volunteer in the Proclaimer ministry.

Let's meet **Bernadette Hagen Steffan.**

Bernadette Hagen Steffan

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

I grew up in Billings and attended both Kate Fratt Grade School and graduated from Billings Central Catholic High School in 1980. From there, I attended the College of Saint Catherine in Saint Paul, MN and graduated with a BS in Sociology. I've been married for 31 years and have three incredible daughters - Megan, Kelsey and Callie. I also have two sons-in-law, Ben and Clay and the most amazing grandson, Henry Wallace. Did I mention that both daughters were married during COVID-19 nine months apart and that my grandson was also born during this time? I always like to keep things interesting. I am graced to have my 92-year-old father living with me so that he is around the people he loves and is cared for by his family. I have been the Executive Director of The First Tee for the last eight years and our program teaches life and golf skills to under-privileged children. I am so blessed to combine my love for golf and desire to make the world a better place for our youth.

Please tell us which Mass you proclaim at and how long you've been a Proclaimer. What brought you to this ministry initially?

I have been a Proclaimer for close to 40 years. Monsignor Zarek at Saint Patrick's Co-Cathedral installed 4 of my classmates and myself to be Eucharistic Ministers and then Proclaimers, or Lectors as they were referred to back then. I was the only female and Monsignor had quite a few rules that were special for me to follow. So much has changed since 1979. I love proclaiming at the 5:00 pm and 10:30 am Masses. With my booming voice, I am positive that the families in the way-back can hear me. There has always been something in my heart that kept me active in this ministry. God gives all of us incredible talents and it is up to us to cultivate them.

What changes have you seen in your ministry over the years, particularly since the pandemic restrictions? Why have you chosen to continue serving? Have you volunteered in other capacities?

I have witnessed so many changes in the ministry over the years. When I first started, we sat adjacent to the pulpit and never processed in. I view the changes in a positive light as it connects the Proclaimers with the parish family and not someone that is distant. Unfortunately, the pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways. So many people have stayed away from Mass, and this is heartbreaking. I am so grateful that through all of this we can come back together and praise God. I am also a Eucharistic Minister and when my daughters were in high school, I worked with Cathy Day on Wednesday night.

As hope rises for an end to the pandemic, what message do you have to share with your parish family?

My prayer for all of us is that we can stop the spread of this insidious virus. Some things have been positive as families were forced to be together and support one another, but then some families have gone through the heart-wrenching loss of a loved one. If we have learned anything in the last year and a half, it's be kind, be respectful and be loving.

Community Needs

September 27th is the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul. They ask you to join them in praying for his intercessions as they continue to carry on their mission of serving the needy in our community. *St. Vincent, patron of all charitable associations and father of those who are in misery, come to our assistance. Obtain from Our Lord help for the poor, relief for the infirm, consolation for the afflicted, protection for the abandoned, a spirit of generosity for the rich, grace of conversion for sinners, zeal for priests, peace for the Church, tranquility and order for all nations, and salvation for them all. May we be united in the life to come, by your intercession, and experience joy, gladness, and everlasting happiness. Amen.*

Around the region—

Young Adults, men and women in their 20s and 30s: October 4th - Fall Book Study at Mazevo on Central Ave, 7:00—8:00 pm: "The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity" by Matthew Kelly. Book can be found on Amazon for $7.

You Can Help Your Marriage - Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry at each other? Do you argue … or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) has helped couples through difficult times in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on October 14-17, call 702-812-8873 or email RetrouvailleLasVegas@gmail.com or visit the website at HelpOurMarriage.org.

Catholic Social Services of MT invite you to join them at DUELING PIANOS: A GALA BENEFITING MONTANA CHILDREN Friday, October 15 at the Big Horn Resort in Billings. Silent auction items and sponsors are still needed for this event. Call Michelle Perlick with CSSM at 406-252-3399 for event and sponsorship information.

Attention all Crafters: St. Agnes Parish in Red Lodge is holding their Craft Fair on Saturday, October 23 in the Church Hall at 1 North Ward Ave. Space/tables may be reserved by calling Betty at 446-2465. You may leave her a message with your number on her voicemail. By mail, send to 50 Aspen Place Red Lodge, MT 59068 or email betty at stagnescraftfair@gmail.com. Deadline to reserve your space is October 16.

The annual fundraiser for LaVie will take place 3-17-22, with special guest Tim Tebow. Ticket sales will reopen on November 1st, 2021, but if you already purchased tickets, they are still reserved. They are also announcing a new program in the community that has evolved from the needs of the families seeking LaVie's support: Fiona's Hope. Contact parishioner, Evan Lebsock at 406-672-9905 or evan.n.jones@gmail.com for more information about this new sponsorship program.

Suicidal individuals - with or without a terminal illness - typically do not want to die… The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, "Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"Every Suicide is Tragic"

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