

Next week's theme: **NEW LIFE**



And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2:9

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:

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Office: 406-656-5800

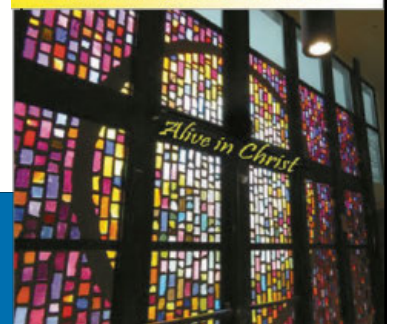
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January 2, 2022: *The Epiphany of the Lord*

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Thank you so much for your birthday and Christmas greetings, the gifts, prayers and good

wishes! It is a blessing to serve as your pastor. May you be blessed this Christmas season and into the New Year!



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



Collection 12/19/21

Total Collection..... \$48,136

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

YTD Total Collection\$702,072

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Thank you for supporting your parish!



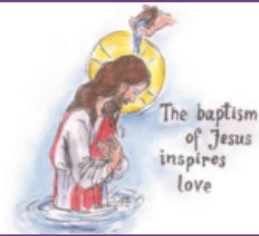
The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings is holding the 2nd annual charity raffle from now until May 20, 2022. This

raffle benefits both the diocese and the parish and ticket sales end May 6th. The drawing for the 5 major prizes will take place at a Moving Mountains Benefit event on May 20th in Great Falls (need not be present to win). The next **Early Bird cash drawing for \$1,000** will take place at the Diocese Chancery on **January 19th**. **Raffle tickets are \$20 each and may be purchased at the church office by cash or check.** As a bonus, anyone purchasing two books of 10 tickets will automatically receive one entry ticket to the Moving Mountains Benefit event (normally \$50 each).

We offer our
Time – Talent – Treasure



Next Week's Readings - January 9, 2022
The Baptism of the Lord
 Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (21C)
 Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



Liturgical Ministers		January 8-9	Sacristy Linens January: Erin Zimmer Sac/Holy Water Jan 7: Don & Margie Seader
	Sat 5:00 pm	Sun 8:30 am	Sun 10:30 am
Asst Collect		M Rath	
Collection		E Goetz	
Altar Serv Bk	NEEDED	T Wallace	V Murillo
Altar Serv Cr	NEEDED	J Wallace	A Massey
Altar Serv Ch	C Hope	W Wallace	G Heggem
Plate 2	Fr Pat Zabrocki	Fr Pat Zabrocki	Fr Pat Zabrocki
Plate 3	Deacon Nate Haney	Deacon Tim Birkle	W Waite
Plate 4	N Nielsen	L Ehresman	D Armstrong
Greeter SG	A Anderson	T Ball	C/B Brinkel
CC	K Hooley	Rath Family	NEEDED
Proclaimer 1	B Steffan	W Wallace	J Hollowell
Proclaimer 2	A McEvoy	M Johnson	F Hollowell
Sacristan	NEEDED	M Fitzpatrick	N Bengé
Usher Lead	B Goetz	B Duray	K Bengé
Usher Altar	S Bracy	D Ehresman	Z Arroyo
Usher Ambo	T Miller	NEEDED	B Gibson



Breakfast Sandwich Ministry
January 4

Assembly & Delivery:

Mary Karen & Denny Marek
January 2—January 7

Bring Ingredients:

English muffins: **Cathy Lynch**

Canadian bacon: **Nancy Wernke**

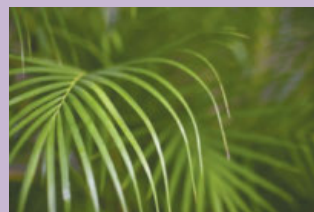
American cheese: **Janet Glennon**

5 dozen eggs: **Marjie Kelly**



Soup Ministry
January 3

Lynn Ehresman



Plant Care
January 6

Jina Arroyo
Joani Guzman



Next week's MASS INTENTIONS:

Tuesday, 1/4, 9:00 am	† Sally Jo Page Haynie by Mitch & Rita Gallagher
Tuesday, 1/4, 9:00 am	† Son & Walt Thorn by Mitch & Rita Gallagher
Wednesday, 1/5, 9:00 am	† Charles Lusky, Sr by the Dutton Family
Wednesday, 1/5, 9:00 am	† Pat Byorth by Sharon Kennedy & Family
Thursday, 1/6, 9:00 am	† Rose, Edward & Teddy Farrington by the Murray Family
Thursday, 1/6, 9:00 am	† Danny Burnosky by Frank & Joyce Hollowell
Friday, 1/7, 9:00 am	† Ronnie Grosulak by the Grosulak Family
Friday, 1/7, 9:00 am	† Nettie Grosulak by the Grosulak Family
Saturday, 1/8, 5:00 pm	† Liesle Parks by Tom Parks
Saturday, 1/8, 5:00 pm	† Vern Boyer by KC Council #13050
Sunday, 1/9, 8:30 am	† Lorraine Hummel by Jim & Kathy Lombardozzi
Sunday, 1/9, 8:30 am	† Dan Mueller by Hank & Alicia McFarlin
Sunday, 1/9, 10:30 am	Intentions of the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Family
Sunday, 1/9, 10:30 am	† Ralph Begger by Frank & Joyce Hollowell

The Rosary is prayed prior to daily Mass on weekdays.

Word of Life

Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception, and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!



Address of Pope St John Paul II to the Bishops And Apostolic Administrators of Albania on their "ad Limina" visit, February 3, 2001



Prayers needed:

Bill Belinski, Judy Clouse, Jamie Cross-Lake, Deacon Bill Daem, Vernice Doughten, Colleen Eisenman, Jeff Flaten, Reid Hagen, Mick Johnson, Ron Jones, Daryl Ann Jorgensen, Katie Lien, Ed & Audrey Parks, Linda Rodgers, Autumn Rumph, Robin Rumph, Janice Smith, Judy Smith, Tristan Voller, Jerry Wagner, Bob Weber and Kathy Wilson.



2021 Christmas Food Boxes Outreach



A heartfelt thank you to the St. Thomas parish family from the 150 families with 469 children who were the recipients of the food baskets and gifts. Your generosity provided these families not only with everything needed for a Christmas dinner, but also with groceries to help them get through the two-week break from school. EVERY ACT OF CARE COUNTS. Caring for

others is the most important thing you can do. Each and every can or box of food, each ham that you contributed was needed. These families are shocked that we do this for strangers.

The contribution of gifts and the care taken to purchase them is amazing. For many of the children, this is the only time they receive something brand new. A new shirt certainly improves their self-esteem.

Much appreciated are the 39 St. Thomas families who sponsored 53 families! WOW!



Many thanks to the faithful volunteers who donated their time and efforts to bring this ministry to fulfillment. From the ladies of St. Rose of Lima Circle who cut out the ornaments, the knitters who made hats for the children, to the men who sorted and boxed the food, to the ladies who wrote out the ornaments and sorted the gifts, and to all those who delivered on Sunday — well done! May God bless you always.

Happy Christmas Season!

Let's meet Don & Lisa Miller.



Please tell us a bit about yourself.

Lisa: I was born in Crow Agency, MT and my family moved to Billings when I was 18 months old. I moved to Great Falls in August of 1998 to go to school. I started in the Nursing program at Eastern and changed my major to Occupational Therapy Assistant. I worked as a therapist there for 20 years and then retired. I moved back to Billings from Great Falls, and joined St. Thomas in June of 2015. I didn't like retirement as much as I thought I would, so after a couple of years, I went back to working on-call for the nursing home in Laurel and Aspen Meadows here in Billings. I have one son and 6 grandchildren ranging in age from 3.5 to 12 years old. The four

grandchildren living in Billings attend St. Francis.

I married Don November 13, 2018. I met Don through nursing home visits with a Kati Miller at Aspen Meadows. I visited Kati for 2 years and met Don at her 100th birthday party. She passed 6 weeks later and that's when Don and I started a friendship and here we are - married 3 years now.

Don: I was born in Fromberg, MT and grew up under the old Latin Mass. I have great memories of being an altar boy then, and to this day I still say the sign of the cross in Latin and hold my hands in prayer the same way as when I was trained as an altar boy so long ago. I have one son, David, who is a lawyer in Spokane, WA, and one daughter, Susan in Minnesota. I've been employed by two organizations: the MT Fish & Game while in school — I joined the army for a stint during the Vietnam era -- and then I worked for Conoco for 31 years as their personnel coordinator. I conducted Plant tours, wrote their newsletter, handled contract negotiations and administration, etc. I was ready to retire when I did! I have a beautiful wife, Lisa, who brought me to St. Thomas three years ago. We've enjoyed some truly wonderful trips together overseas prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two highlights were seeing where the Blessed Mother lived in modern-day Turkey and then standing within 50 feet of the pope! When we returned from the last overseas trip, we made it as far as Panama City, FL before the airports were shut down. We have just started to do a bit of travel again and recently returned from Branson, MO, where we were in awe of the Jesus Story. It was one of the best shows about Jesus I've ever seen.

Please tell us which Mass you greet at and what brought you to this ministry initially. Do you volunteer in any other ministries?

Lisa: We attend the 10:30 am Mass normally, but I travel a lot and go to the Saturday evening Mass at times. I've been a Greeter for 3 years. I help with the Children's Ministry on Sunday once a month, and I assist Religious Education classes on Wednesday evenings. I'm also on the St. Thomas Welcoming Committee.

Don: I have been a Greeter for 2 years. Lisa encouraged me to get involved this way at St. Thomas. I like it because most everyone is new to me, so it's great to put a face and name together!

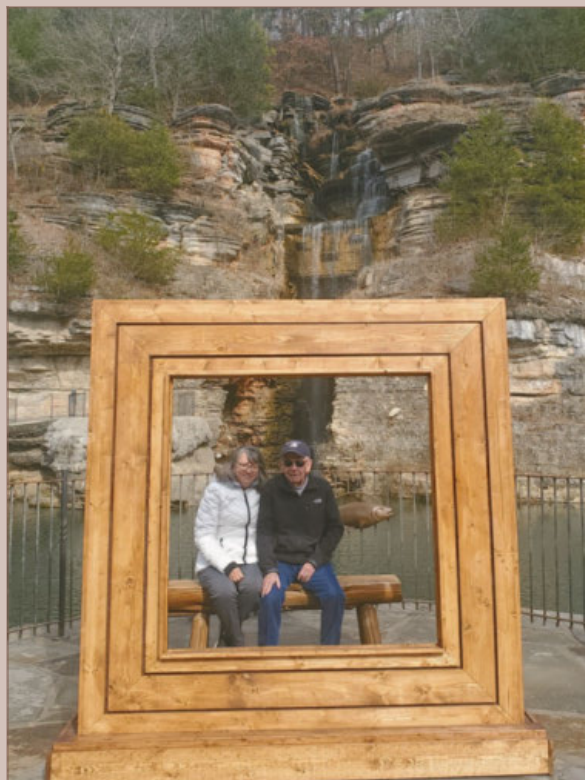
What changes have you seen in your ministry over the years, particularly since the pandemic restrictions?

Lisa: As a medical worker, but retired when Corona hit, I saw how hard the healthcare workers were working and what they were going through. I've been in the medical field for 42 years. I started as a nurse assistant, then surgical technician, and now therapy, so I knew how hard it was for them. I feel we need to continue to pray for our healthcare workers. People may think it's a job that one would be thankful for, but the things they've gone through lately have been tough. I don't think you can pray too much for an end to this pandemic and the pain it has caused.

As we find our new normal, what message do you have to share with your parish family?

Lisa: I believe in the shots and being careful, but try not to leave your loved ones alone. It might seem that you're protecting them, but loneliness can be unbearable. If you're careful, you can see them and maybe even hug them. We all need that. I like to feel a part of the church I belong to, and I always try to do what I can. I love my family at St. Thomas, and have enjoyed working with them. I love greeting and I love the children.

Don: Merry Christmas everyone! Stay healthy in the coming year.

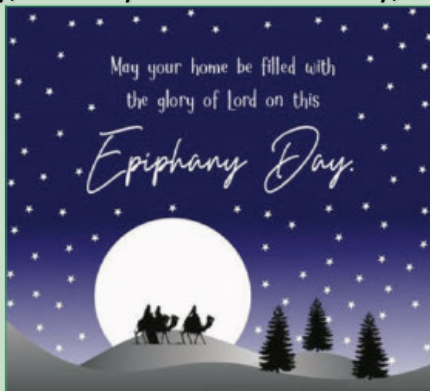


Religious Education

Religious education classes resume this week on Tuesday, January 4th & Wednesday, January 5th at the regular times.

"They opened their treasures and offered him gifts."

Matthew 2:11



As we begin a new year, don't discount the treasure you have to offer the Christ Child. Offer the Lord the gold of your talents and gifts, the frankincense of your prayer and worship, and the myrrh of your sufferings and heartaches. As you do, your heart will change. You will become a gift to those you encounter and you will change their lives by how you are living yours.

Lord, let this coming year be my gift to you. Take everything I have, and use it to build your kingdom. Amen.



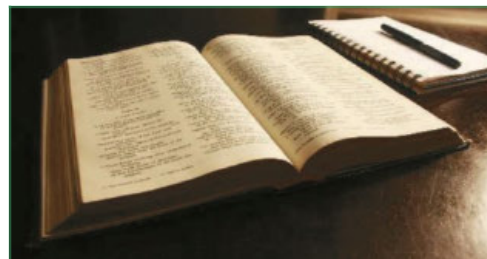
RCIA for CHILDREN meets next Sunday, January 9th at 8:30 am in St. Catherine of Siena Room.

Joyce

Youth Ministry

Happy New Year! Start your year off with intentional kindness. Who can you be the light for today?

Tiffany



"Wisdom is seeing with God's eyes."

Pope Francis

All are welcome to register!

Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. To help us learn to gather and live with greater wisdom - **beginning January 5th, Wednesday evening (7:00 pm) or January 11th, Tuesday morning (9:45am) Bible Study groups will study "Wisdom: God's Vision for Life" for eight weeks.**

If you want to order a workbook, the cost is \$25 for the book and one-year online video access. Please call Mary Gillespie at 631-988-9750 by TOMORROW (January 3rd).

To register for Wednesday sessions, call Paul at 406-656-5800, ext 302.

To register for Tuesday sessions, call Mary at 631-988-9750.

What's happening?

Monday, January 3, 2022

Church offices closed

Tuesday, January 4

No Adult Choir

Wednesday, January 5

Bible Study, "Wisdom" begins,
7:00 pm in St. Sebastian Room

No Youth Ministry



In preparation for January 9:

NEW LIFE

“We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life..”

(Romans 6:4*)

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

* on our baptismal font

DISCIPLESHIP

SUNDAY GOSPEL
REFLECTIONS

Adults -

1. We are baptized into Jesus Christ and we are called to live our lives in him. How do you do this?
2. What day were you baptized? If you're a godparent, when was the last time you spoke to your godchild?
3. John points the people away from himself. Are you able to check your ego in service to God's plan for you?
4. What is the one thing Jesus is saying to us in this Sunday's gospel about how a disciple should speak or act? And what do you need to do or change to be a better disciple?
5. Where do you see the characteristics of a dynamic disciple expressed in the gospel?

Obstacles of living out the Gospel: Ex - selfishness, false pride, lack of confidence, etc.



Children -

1. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in a form like a dove and a voice from heaven said, “You are my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.” When you were baptized, you also became a beloved son/daughter of God. How does this make you feel? Does it make you think it calls you to act or behave in a certain way? Give some examples.
2. When you bless yourself with Holy Water as you enter the church, what do you think the significance is? Do you think about your own Baptism?
3. Who are your godparents? Give them a call and ask them what they remember of your baptismal day.

Obstacles of living out the Gospel:

1. Not realizing the significance of our Baptisms or that we are part of a larger family, the family of God

Teens -

1. Why is Baptism a gift?
2. Do you know who your godparents are? What role do they play in your life?
3. In the gospel, after Jesus is baptized, you hear a voice declare: “you are my beloved son.” How would your life change if you thought more often of how you are the beloved of God?

Obstacles of living out the Gospel:

Not living out our baptismal promises due to pressures of society, fear, etc.

Community Needs

Period Pals is a non-profit service which distributes feminine hygiene products to women below the poverty line or homeless in Billings. Neither SNAP nor WIC allow purchase of these basic necessities. YOU CAN HELP. Donations of maxi pads, overnight pads, pantliners, tampons, etc. can be placed in the special pink bins at the church office or in the church gathering area. Contact Magdalen at 406-256-0541 for more information.

St. Vincent de Paul thanks you for continued support of their Mission and the many programs they offered throughout the past year. They wish you and all those you love a very blessed Christmas season and a joyous New Year.

Around the region—

Attention all couples that have made a Marriage Encounter weekend - Mary Queen of Peace invites you to their lower hall TODAY, January 2nd at 2:00 pm for cookies and cocoa. Bring a friend/couple that might want to register for the upcoming Billings weekend or who has questions about the weekend. Bring some cookies to share, if you like. To RSVP or for more information, call Jim Sutton, 406-850-3174 or Daphne, 406-794-1582. Thank you!

Begin the year with a bang in your relationship! Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers weekend experiences to enhance your communication within your marriage. Join millions of couples, priests and religious who revitalize their commitment and keep the excitement in their marriage. Upcoming dates in 2022: Billings, Feb 4-6; Gillette, WY Feb 18-21; Elk Mountain Apr 22-24. For more information/dates and to apply, visit www.wwme.org, or contact Dan & Clare Dooley: 406-697-3275 or email montana.dooleys@gmail.com.

The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. Retrouvaille teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This program has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels of marital distress from disillusionment to deep misery. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. The next program begins Feb. 25, 2022. For more info, contact the registration team at 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com. Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in strictest confidence.

The annual fundraiser for LaVie will take place 3-17-22, with special guest Tim Tebow. Ticket sales reopened on November 1st, 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.

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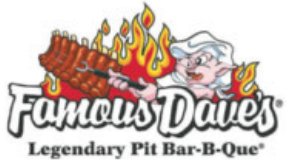
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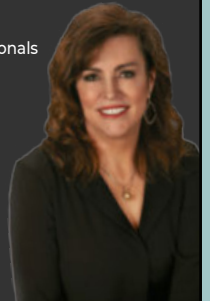


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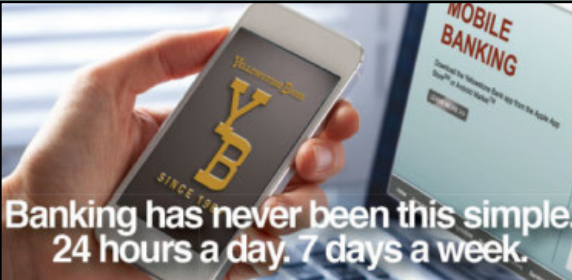
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