

MASS TIMES-
Saturday: 4pm Reconciliation 5:30pm Mass at St. Francis
Sunday: 7:30am & 9am Mass at St. Francis
Sunday: 11am Mass at St. Philip of Benizi Mission in Darby
Tuesday: 12:10pm at St. Francis
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday : 9am Mass at St. Francis

Parish Events

Saturday, December 26
4pm Reconciliation
5:30 pm Mass at St. Francis

Sunday, December 27
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
7:30am & 9am Mass at St. Francis
11am Mass at St. Philip of Benizi (Darby)

Monday, December 28

NO Mass
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 29

NO Mass
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 30
8:30am Rosary in Chapel

9am Mass

5:30pm Accountability Group

Thursday, December 31

9am Mass at St. Francis
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, January 1st

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10am Mass at St. Francis

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, January 2

4pm Confession

5:30pm Mass at St. Francis

Sunday, January 3

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am & 9am Mass at St. Francis

NO Class - K-5th Faith Formation

11 am Mass at St. Philip of Benizi (Darby)

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The St. Francis Parish Office will be CLOSED through Tuesday, Dec 29th. The office will be open from 8am –12pm on Wednesday, Dec 30th.

The office will be CLOSED on Thursday, Dec 31 and Friday, Jan 1st 2021.

Open regular hours starting on Monday, January 4th.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis on

**Friday,
January 1, 2021
at 10 am.**



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat Dec 26	5:30pm Mass: For Fr. Dan Driscoll by Dave & Cathy Fahrenbruck
Sun Dec 27	7:30am Mass: For Community of the Parish 9am Mass: For James Vague by Roseanne Nolan
	11am Mass: For Families in Crisis
Tues Dec 29	NO Mass
Wed Dec 30	9am Mass: For Tom Ford by Ron & Susan Kullick
Thurs Dec 31	9am Mass: For Lynn Hellman by Ron & Susan Kullick
Fri Jan 1	10am Mass: Community of the Parish

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 12/26 Chay McWilliam, Kristie Heiland, Lakyn Fett, Jasmin Cruz
- 12/27 Emily Wildey, Victoria Stuart
- 12/28 Jim Santos
- 12/29 Rick Floch
- 12/30 Ron Madeen, Scott Weaver, Dave Gross
- 12/31 Barbara Ackerman, Tim Morin, Susan Lewis, John Pendleton, Dorothy Rivera, Aidan McGuire, Alana Smith
- 1/01 Sidney Mehlschmidt, Alizah Reyes

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 12/27 Dan & Laura Carrasco 22 yrs
- 12/28 Don & Joni Lodmell 57 yrs
- Jim & Ann Mildenberger 61 yrs

If you don't see your Birthday or Anniversary listed, please call or come to the parish office and fill out/update a registration form because we want to celebrate with you - we want to remember and give thanks!

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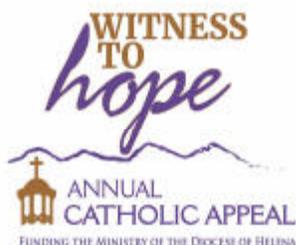
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The Annual Catholic Appeal 2020

We have 532 registered households. To date, 154 pledges have been made which is 29% of our parish families. We have received \$49,778 in pledges which puts us at 78% of our goal of \$63,500.00.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

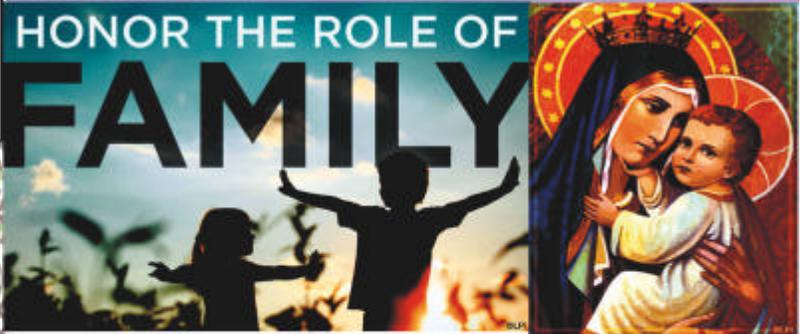


PARKING ANNOUNCEMENT

Parishioners are asked to utilize the parking spaces on our church property. If none are available, you are asked to use the angle parking that surrounds our property. Handicapped parking spaces are reserved for those parishioners with permits and physical challenges. The use of all parking spaces will be much more convenient when the new building project is completed.



HONOR THE ROLE OF FAMILY



Happy New Year

RETRouvaille

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

A virtual, online Retrouvaille marriage help program starts Thursday evening, January 14th.

The Retrouvaille Community of Montana has been invited to join with California's Northern Community in offering this online weekend. The virtual program begins Thursday & Friday evenings 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. Please know that no one is turned away because of the inability to pay. For additional information please contact us at 406-761-4830 or view the

Community Meals continue on Friday's at St. Francis

St. Francis parish will be hosting **FREE** Community Dinners on Friday evenings as part of a coalition of churches to feed those in need. Dinners will be served drive-thru style from 5:00 to 6:00pm. **NO meals served**

January 1st.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 27, 2020 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us! ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Rosaries as Decorations



Question: I've seen people hang rosaries over the rear-view mirrors in their cars and a few of them wear them around their necks. Is it OK to do that?

Answer: The practice of hanging a rosary or a religious medal off of the rearview mirror of one's car is a fairly popular custom across many cultures. While there is no particular rule approving or condemning this practice, we should also be mindful of the respect and reverence due to religious objects and devotional items (i.e. sacramentals).

An important point to consider would be the reason why one chooses to place a rosary or religious medal in our cars. Is it a reminder of the protection and intercession of Mary and the saints? Does it encourage us to be mindful of God's presence, even in such a mundane task as driving? Is it an outward expression of our more private devotions?

One advantage of having a rosary or religious medal in our cars is that it can also serve as a reminder to pray when we travel, asking for protection for ourselves and for other motorists or commuters. Certainly, invoking the protection and prayers of the saints is a wonderful practice for families, helping to reinforce our belief in the communion of saints and the care and concern we owe to one another. ©LPi

This has been an incredibly challenging year for everyone and especially during the holidays. The Bitterroot Salvation Army has special grant funding this year **and invites you to please come for help with rent, utilities, car repairs,**



replacement of appliances, etc (even if you do not usually have financial hardship.) The office is located at 316 N. Third, Suite 161 in Hamilton. Call for an appointment **(406) 363-6101.**

5 Tips to Adjust Your Expectations as a Caregiver

You can make life easier by accepting a more realistic version of your role. The demands of caregiving are ever evolving. Yet one thing remains the same: On any given day, much is required of you as a caregiver. It is no easy feat to handle the needs of your loved one, as well as those of other family members, while also juggling work, household chores or other responsibilities. Chances are you often feel overwhelmed. Despite this, do you tell yourself that you have to do it all? Do you burden yourself with unrealistic expectations? Do you feel pressured to meet what you believe to be the expectations of friends, family members or people you don't even know? If so, you can begin to ease up on yourself by accepting the situation and adjusting your expectations by adopting a more realistic view toward your caregiving role. Caregiving tasks and pressures can exact quite a toll. In fact, according to an AARP report, caregivers spend an average of 24.4 hours per week caring for family and friends. Furthermore, almost 1 in 4 caregivers spend over 41 hours per week providing care (Pinquart, M. & Sorensen, S. (2003) Differences between caregivers and non-caregivers in psychological health and physical health: A meta-analysis. Psychology and Aging, 18(2), 250-267). As a result, caregivers experience higher levels of stress compared to those individuals who do not provide care. About 16 percent of caregivers are emotionally strained while 26 percent state that taking care of their loved ones is emotionally challenging. They often feel frustrated, exhausted and guilty. Does this hit home with you? If so, you can begin now to adjust your expectations and accept a more realistic version of yourself as a caregiver. *To be continued....*



Sacraments

Baptism: By appt. Baptismal preparation sessions offered to parents and sponsors as announced. Parents must be registered with our parish.

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4pm in the Church or by appointment with the priest.

Marriage: Diocesan policy requires six months preparation. If you are planning a wedding, always check with the pastor before setting a date.

Confirmation: Preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation is integrated into High School Youth Program. Youth are expected to attend starting in the 9th grade. The sacrament is celebrated for 10th though 12th graders who have received a minimum of two years catechesis and other Confirmation Classes in addition to other requirements.

1st Penance & 1st Eucharist: For 2nd grade as scheduled in the year. The child must be enrolled in Religious Education Class & a registered family member of our parish.

Sacrament of the Sick: As needed in each sickness, call and let us know.

Prayer Chain: Judy Giggar 363-2784 or judy.giggar@gmail.com, Ginny Rose at 360-7779 or casadersas@msn.com, or Joyce Faucher at 361-8298 or daddsgirl913@yahoo.com



~ Parish Directory ~

Parish Office phone # 406-363-1385 fax # 406-363-1451

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Mailing address PO Box 593 (411 S 5th St) Hamilton MT 59840

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Pastor	Rev James A Connor	Pastoral Council	Vacant
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Business Manager	Katie McWilliam	K-5 RE Coordinator	Nancy Bevins (310) 694-6433
Office Manager	Terri Todd	6-8 RE Coordinators	George L. Lund (574) 360-3515
Parish Health &	Nancy DeZell	9-12 RE Coordinators	George J. Lund (574) 309-2751 Jessica Lund (406) 369-0904
Wellness Ministry	(703) 786-5990	RCIA Coordinator	Bonnie McKenna email her at mckennabjo@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8am-3pm; Friday 9am-12noon



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