

Saint Anthony Catholic Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Great Falls—Billings



Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 8:45 am, 11:00 am

Daily Low Latin Mass Schedule:

Tuesday 5:30 pm
Wed – Sat 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 7:45 – 8:30 am
Tues & Sat 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Before & After Daily Mass

OR By Appointment

Pastor: Rev Bart Stevens

406-633-4550

OR ecclesiasubterra@protonmail.com

Deacon: Rev Dave Odermann

Contact through the office.

Contact Us

Main Office @ 628-7182

OR paduaoffice@gmail.com

Religious Education @ 628-7484

OR paduareoffice@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Tues, Thurs, Fri 10 am – 2 pm
Wed 10 am – 5 pm

Mailing Address:

PO Box 32, Laurel, MT 59044

Online:

www.saintanthonicatholicchurch.org

[facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/saintanthonicatholicchurchmontanalaurel)

Saintanthonicatholicchurchmontanalaurel

FORMED: www.formed.org (sign up under our parish name)

Secretary: Michelle Lopez

Bookkeeper: Kathy Manders

Religious Ed: Rita Baeten

Custodial: Rita Baeten / Michelle Lopez

Please remember to contact Fr. Bart if you or someone in your family is hospitalized or enters a care facility.

Third Sunday of Advent



Gaudete Sunday

*Holy Mother of God,
in silence and peace
you have carried and given birth to
He who bears all:
be our guide
on the path to Nativity,
so in celebrating
the birth of your son,
Jesus Christ our Savior,
our hearts will be
transported with joy and hope.
Amen*

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi!*"How we pray forms what we believe, which forms the way we live."***Ember Days**

From the 2nd Century to 1966, Catholics observed what eventually came to be called Ember Days. Four times a year the Church called all Catholics, clergy and laity alike, to fast and pray on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: in the week between the third and fourth Sunday of Advent; the first full week of Lent; the week between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday; and the third week of September.

And what was the purpose of these fast days? To pray for holy vocations to the priesthood and for the well-being (especially spiritual health) of the clergy. It also became the four times of the year when ordinations took place—after Catholics had prayed and fasted. Here the Church was following the example of the Apostles, as we read in Acts 13, ***"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off."***

Pope Paul VI removed the Ember Days from the liturgical calendar in 1966. This formal neglect of regular fasting and prayer for the clergy and vocations is certainly one of the reasons vocations have plummeted in the past 50 years. Though we are no longer required, let's bring back the tradition of observing these days of fasting and prayer! How?

On the Wednesday and Saturday of Ember Weeks, eat only one full meal (which can include meat) and two other meatless snacks. On Fridays of Ember Weeks, eat only one full meal (no meat) and two meatless snacks. Then combine your fasting with prayer of any kind for priests and new vocations: the Rosary, in part or in full; prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; prayers/litanies to the Sacred Heart; vocation prayers, etc. The upcoming Ember Days are December 20, 22 and 23.

The health and well-being of the Church has always depended on healthy and holy priests. Let us use these Ember Weeks to fast; and to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to raise up holy priests, and to heal and strengthen our current priests.

*Pax,**Fr Bart*

The remaining Rorate Candlelight Masses are scheduled to be offered at 7 am on **December 20, December 21, December 22, and December 23. Remember—Candlelight only!**



Dear Parishioners,

About six years ago a small group of ladies met at the request of Mrs. Becky Stevens with the explicit purpose of helping our parish community to acknowledge, honor, and reconnect with some of the beautiful Catholic traditions that often have been abandoned in today's society.

Today we continue this venture as the St. Anthony Liturgical Committee. We plan and host parties, processions, and special events based on the Liturgical Calendar. This undertaking requires much effort and input from a dedicated few. We have 12 official members of our Committee and would like to invite other interested parishioners to consider joining our group!

I will be hosting a fun Epiphany Party planning meeting in Laurel this Friday, Dec 15, at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in learning more about us and our mission, we'd love for you to attend! Please contact me by cell or email for details.

Thank you,

Meredith J Bergin

meredithjbergin@proton.me or 406.855.2430



St Anthony parishioners are invited to participate in the December baby shower for Jesus collection for LaVie. Bring your gifts of new unwrapped baby items which will be added to the PCCW collection. Let's shower women in need with love!

Ladies! Save the date and invite your friends to the PCCW Annual Women's Retreat and luncheon to be held January 27, 2024. Featuring Fr Bart, speaking to the ladies in the morning, and North American Lourdes Volunteers presenting a *VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE* to Lourdes, France, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, **Saturday, January 27th** at 1:00 PM. The Pilgrimage presentation is open to all. Please RSVP to each of them on the website.

St Anthony is still collecting diapers in all sizes and wipes for the Catholic Social Services of Montana Baby Boutique, located at Riverstone Health, 123 South 27th Street, next to the WIC Office. They will be open from 11AM to 1PM on Mondays and Thursdays. Other donations of pull-ups sizes 2T-3T or 4T-5T, toiletries, undamaged cribs, unexpired car seats, strollers, new children's clothing sizes infant through 5T, etc. are accepted. Items are being collected in the Narthex or can be dropped off to them during open hours. Call Coreen Glen at 406-248-6535 to let her know how you can help. Volunteers are always welcome!



PCCW officers:

President — Stephanie Swecker, 855-8416

Coffee & Rolls schedule:

December 17 Coffee & Rolls Homeschool
 December 24 Christmas Break
 December 31 Knights 5th Sunday Breakfast
 January 7 Epiphany Celebration

December Altar Cleaning St Bridget

PCCW Annual Christmas Celebration,
 Monday, December 11, 6:00 pm,
 Gifts for LaVie

Knights of Columbus -

Fr Shevlin Council #6455



Grand Knight, Dale Blom

Knight of the Month - Joe Bradley

KC Family of the Month -

Dale & Connie Blom

Knights Council Meeting, 7 pm, Dec 26th

PARISH MINISTRY CONTACTS

Men's Holy League—Contact Joseph
 Kalinowski at montana_skis@yahoo.com

Men's Book Club—Sundays-Contact Chris
 White at 406-445-9106

Women's Book Club—Wednesdays-Contact
 Chris Lohrenz at 406-581-4125

Seven Sisters Apostolate—Contact Brooke
 Speidel, Seven Sisters Anchoress, at
speidelbunch@gmail.com or call/text 307-
 575-2547

Parish Meal Train—Contact Briana Leslie,
brianacollins04@gmail.com; 847-340-2742

Homeschool Co-Op—Contact Jamille
 Winrow at jamille.winrow@gmail.com.

St Anthony Art Guild—Wednesdays—
 Contact Meredith Bergin at 406-855-2430
 by text or at meredithbergin@proton.me

St Anthony Homeopathy Study Guild—3rd
 Sundays—Contact Michelle Lopez at the
 office.

Prayer Shawl—if you would like to gift a
 hand-knit shawl to someone in need,
 please contact the office staff.

More ministry details on our website.

Will you be traveling?

Look up **Reverent Catholic Mass** at <https://reverentcatholicmass.com> to find parishes
 listed and shown on a map of the US. To stay
 informed about parish events follow the St
 Anthony website.

Diocesan Victim Assistance:

Confidential Line 406-750-2373

Email victimassistancecoord@gmail.com

The Women's Book Club will not meet during the
 holidays and will pick up on January 10th, at 10 am,
 with a new book, "Guadalupe and the Flower World
 Prophecy". If you would like to order a copy with
 the club let Sherry Gieser (giesergal@yahoo.com)
 know by Dec 22nd. All ladies are welcome to join
 the Wednesday morning group.

ADVENT ON FORMED

offers an opportunity to
 experience the joy and true
 meaning of Christmas.

Formed includes a daily Advent
 Reflection, Spiritual pilgrimages, movies, children's
 shows, devotionals and prayerful traditions, several
 different programs, movies, documentaries and
 audios for all ages; there is something for everyone!



What offers you great rates,
 secures your future income, and
 grows the faith? A Charitable Gift
 Annuity with the Catholic Founda-
 tion of Eastern Montana! By
 locking in a payout rate and receiving tax benefits today,
 you will be securing more than just your income—you
 will be securing the future of our parish. Contact the
 Foundation to discuss this option: forever@catholicfoundationmt.org or 406-315-1765.

A Friendly Reminder—Year End Charitable Giving

Charitable contributions are tax deductible (for
 those who itemize) in the year the gift is made. For
 your charitable gifts to be credited in 2023, please
 note: Donation check's date—and the postmark
 date—must be before midnight on December 31.
 Contributions given online are deductible in 2023 as
 long as you make the gift online before midnight on
 December 31.

Stewardship at St Anthony

Saint Anthony Stewardship Report

Fiscal Year-to-Date Income (Week 23)

Offertory—taxable	\$ 128,094.86
Other taxable income	\$ 4,074.45
Designated donations—nontaxable	\$ 17,021.00
Total Income	\$ 149,190.31
Budget YTD	\$ 148,800.00

Income Week of December 3	\$ 8,007.25
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,200.00

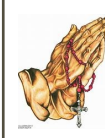
Prefer online donation?

Online donations for The Immaculate Conception
 and Christmas are now available.

Go to: www.saintanthonycatholicchurch.org

Thank you for your continued support!

LAST CHANCE! The PCCW ladies have provid-
 ed some really wonderful items for the
 annual Christmas raffle. Take a moment to
 look at the fabulous display in the
 Narthex and purchase your tickets
 NOW for a chance to win your
 favorite! The drawing will be held
 today, December 17th.

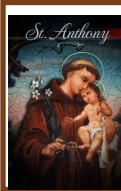


We are looking for members of the
 parish who are interested in being
 part of a dedicated special inten-
 tion prayer group, to pray for one
 hour per week for a full year. For
 details email catho-lic.standish@gmail.com.

The Men's Holy League will meet Dec
 19th. For questions, contact Joseph
 Kalinowski via email
 at montana_skis@yahoo.com



Save the date for the An-
 nual Roast Beef Dinner
 which happens on the last
 Sunday of February each
 year, which is Feb 25th in 2024. Ladies,
 pull out your favorite pie recipe to bake
 and contribute!



**Religious Education will con-
 tinue regular classes on De-
 cember 20. There will be no
 RE classes for the Christmas
 holidays, December 27—
 January 3.**

Billings Catholic Young Adults Invitation:

Upcoming events posted in the Narthex
 and on Facebook or Instagram@billingscya,
 or website www.billingscya.com. Ques-
 tions? Call or text Sabrina, 406-
 694-3180, or Valerie, 406-208-
 3642.



Community Hope is very much in need
 of groceries for the upcoming holiday
 food boxes. Non-perishable items such
 as cans of vegetables, tomato sauce
 and paste, fruits, fish and meats, soups,
 stew or chili, boxed side dishes, stuff-
 ing mixes, pastas, rice-a-roni, hot or
 cold cereals.

Let's bring extra donations for the next
 few weeks to help fill their pantry for
 those in need.

The seasonal cold and snow
 has returned to our area. St.
 Vincent de Paul will experi-
 ence a greater demand for
 socks, winter coats, scarves,
 hats, and gloves of all sizes for men,
 women, and children. These items are
 especially necessary during the cold
 winter months. They may be dropped off
 at the parish Hall or drop off at St. Vin-
 cent de Paul at 3005 1st Ave South.

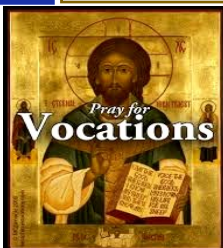


Billings Catholic Radio

This Advent,
 reclaim the peace of Christ with
 Billings Catholic Radio!

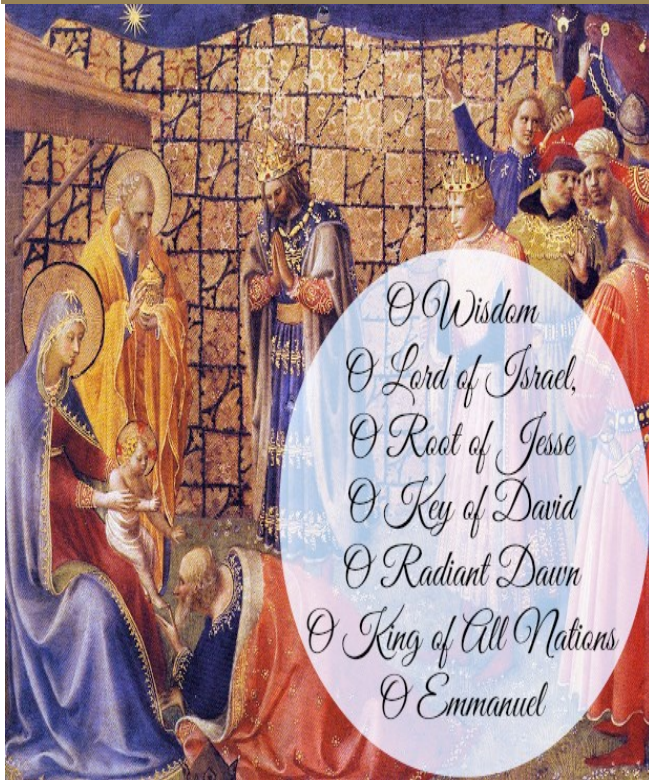
prepare

1240AM 97.5FM 100.9FM

Weekly Giving
St. Anthony Offertory

SCAN TO GIVE

Thank
you!



THE "O" ANTIPHONS

The O Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are prayed immediately before the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours (or the Divine Office). Each antiphon begins with the exclamation "O", thus earning their popular name of the "O Antiphons." They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, from Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Vespers of the Christmas Vigil.

THE PROPHETIC TITLES OF JESUS

The O Antiphons are special because each one emphasizes a different prophetic title of the soon-to-be-born King of Kings as foreshadowed in the Old Testament by the prophet Isaiah: *Wisdom, Lord of Israel, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of All Nations, and Emmanuel.*

Additionally, the ancient monks who first assembled the O Antiphons were very creative with the order in which they are prayed. If one takes the first letter of each antiphon (in the Latin) starting from the last to the first, the word ERO CRAS is formed which translates, "Tomorrow I will come."

Let this encourage you to begin a new tradition this year of praying these antiphons on the eight nights before Christmas to help you welcome the newborn King.



Bring Baby Jesus to Mass! The weekend of December 23-24 Fr Bart will bless the Holy Infant for your manger scene.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Please Note: Low-Gluten hosts are available—please let Fr Bart know your need prior to Mass. The Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (5:15 pm), is prayed on Tuesdays and the Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Thursdays and Fridays. The Church is open from 7 am—7 pm daily, allowing parishioners opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Fr Bart will hear confessions according to the posted confession schedule or by appointment.

Date	Time	Auxiliary		Intention	Offered By
Monday, December 18	9:00 am	Rosary & Liturgy			
Tuesday, December 19	9:00 am	Rosary & Liturgy			
	5:30 pm	Daily Mass	✝	James White	Chris & Jahna White
Wednesday, Dec 20	7:00 am	Rorate Mass	✝	Steve TSEU	Dean & Margo Bruschwein
Thursday, December 21	7:00 am	Rorate Mass	✝	Edward White	
	8:00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	5:00 pm	Benediction	All visitors welcome!
Friday, December 22	7:00 am	Rorate Mass	✝	Patricia Brausam	
	8:00 am	Eucharistic Adoration	5:00 pm	Benediction	All visitors welcome!
Saturday, December 23	7:00 am	Rorate Mass	✝	Mike Saxbury	Bob & Betty Saxbury
	5:30 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass	✝	Delbert & Alice Manders	Manders Family
Sunday, December 24	8:45 am	Solemn Mass		Pro Populo	
Fourth Sunday Advent	11:00 am	Sunday Mass		Stevens Children	Stevens Family
	5:00 pm	Vigil of Christmas Mass		Bishop Jeffrey Fleming	St Anthony Parish
Monday, December 25	12:00 am	Midnight Christmas Mass	✝	Fr Thomas Tobin	St Anthony Parish
	10:00 am	Mass of Christmas Day	✝	Thomas Howard	