



St. Mary's Catholic Church



17th Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." - Lk 11:9

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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July 27, 2025

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Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor
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deacontom@saintmarysmalta.org

Mass Schedule and Intentions

7-27: Malta - 10:30 A.M: For all Parishioners

Saco— 8:30 A.M. : Repose of Sister Mickael Emond /b Myrtle LaFond

Dodson— 12:30 P.M. : Sherri Legare BDay r/b Brenda & Dave Rummel

7-28: Malta— 8:30 A. M. : Gina Mader BDay r/b Brenda & Dave Rummel

7-29: Malta - 8:30 A.M. : Repose of Dick Morrow r/b Julie & Gary Howell

7-30: Malta— 8:30 A.M. : My Family /b Lana Fortin

7-31: Malta - 8:30 A.M.: Larry Legare BDay r/b Brenda & Dave Rummel

8-01: Malta: - 8:30 A.M.: The ill r/b Lana Fortin

8-02: Malta -5:00 P.M.: Repose of Fred Allery r/b L Flom

Confession Schedule

Fr. Felix will be in the Confessional at St. Mary's Church **Friday's 9:00-10:00, Saturday from 11:00 A.M.—Noon;** and by appointment.

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

Every Friday from 9 to 10 AM after Daily Mass.



Contact Fr. Felix for Home Visits, Distribution of the Sacraments, Home Blessings and Counseling of any type.

Knights of Columbus
Council 2124

Parish Council of Catholic
Women

Meets **First Tuesday** of the month

Meets **Second Sunday** of the month

Daily Scripture Readings

7-27: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Genesis 18:20-32; Psalms 138:1-3, 6-8; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

7-28: Monday in the 17th week in Ordinary Time; Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Psalms 106:19-23; Matthew 13:31-38

7-29: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus; Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5-9, 28; Psalms 103:6-13; John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42

7-30: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Exodus 34:29-35; Psalms 99:5-7, 9; Matthew 13:44-46

7-31: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest; Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Psalms 84:3-6 and 8, 11; Matthew 13:47-53

8-01: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37; Psalms 81:3-6, 10-11; Matthew 13:54-58

8-02: St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest; Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Matthew 14:1-12

8-03: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Psalms 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

Saturday Evening - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday—Dodson—8:30 a.m.

Malta - 10:30 a.m.

Saco— 12:30 p.m.



New to the Parish?

Welcome! We're glad you will be joining us. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket. You may bring it by the parish office or send it to us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

You may also use this form for a change of address. Thanks!

Sacraments

Confessions: See page 2 of this week's bulletin for schedule or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact Fr. Felix as soon as possible for anointing.

Baptism: Normally celebrated at weekend Masses. Parental sessions are required.

Marriages: Six month couple preparation period required. Please meet with Fr. Felix before scheduling marriage date.

Please Pray For

Lee Jones, Adalyn McCollom, Ramona Kienenberger, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, Kristi Shettle Peterson, Emily Robinson, Ramona Kienenberger, Brian Shevlin, Dianne Salsbery, Ann Enya, Darlene Kolczak, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson, those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens, Marie Phillips, Anita Green, Helen Mears, the poor souls in purgatory and for the comfort and peace for their families.

Anyone who needs to have prayers said for someone can call Dianne Salsbery 654-4675. Names will be listed in the bulletin for one month unless specified.

Announcements for July 27 , 2025

- Fr. Felix will be on vacation starting August 4th and will return by September 5th.
- Brenda Koss is holding on Educational Committee meeting August 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. She hopes that all volunteer teachers can attend.
- A new fundraiser for St. Mary's has begun. It's a Monday Night Football Fundraiser. Winners can receive \$50.00 depending on the final score of the game. Books sell for \$20.00. Proceeds are for a new Fire Proof Safe for the church records and the left over money will go towards new speakers for the church. Contact Lance Hould, Jeff Van Heel, or Brenda Rummel for Books. Check out the back page of the bulletin.
- Please pay attention to the finance statement insert in the bulletin. This includes all three parishes.

UPCOMING 2025 EVENTS – St. Mary's

DATE	Event/Details	Contact
August 4th— September 5th	Fr. Felix on Vacation, Contact Brenda Rummel or Deacon Tom for Funerals or Baptisms. They can be arraigned.	Brenda Rummel
August 6th	Education Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. All YM's need to attend.	Brenda Koss
September 14th	Patron Saints Day Event	

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Fr. Felix

XVII Sunday (C): Gen 18:20–32, Col 2:12–14, Lk 11:1–13

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, The theme of today's liturgy is: "God invites us to approach Him with bold, trusting prayer, confident in His mercy, because through Christ we have been forgiven and made alive in Him".

We begin today with the remarkable exchange between Abraham and God over the fate of Sodom. What we witness here is not merely negotiation, this is intercessory prayer at its boldest. Abraham stands in the breach, pleading for mercy not on behalf of the righteous alone, but for the sake of the whole city. Notice how Abraham appeals to God's justice and mercy: "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" He dares to ask repeatedly, lowering the number each time. And each time, God listens.

What does this teach us? First, that prayer, especially prayer for others, matters profoundly. Second, that God's mercy is beyond measure. He listens to our persistent pleas, not because He must, but because His heart is moved by love. We are reminded that God desires not destruction but redemption, and that He invites us to participate in that redemptive work through intercession.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, shows us the fulfillment of that divine mercy in Christ. Paul speaks not of gradual transformation alone, but of a radical rebirth. Through baptism, we participate in Christ's death and resurrection, not symbolically, but spiritually, substantially.

As a result, the record of our sins, what Paul calls "the bond against us," is nailed to the Cross. Think of that! The very charges that stood against us, the spiritual debt we could never repay, have been taken up by Christ and canceled through His sacrifice. We are no longer slaves to guilt, nor condemned by our past. The mercy Abraham pleaded for is fully realized in the crucified and risen Christ. And so, when we approach God in prayer, we do so not in fear, but in freedom, as beloved children who have been reconciled.

In today's Gospel, we come to the heart of prayer itself. The disciples ask, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus doesn't respond with theory. He gives them "the prayer: "Father, hallowed be your name..." This prayer, so familiar, is revolutionary. It begins not with our needs, but with our relationship: Father. Not a distant deity, but a

close and caring parent. And the rest of the prayer flows from that intimacy: we seek His kingdom, His will, His provision, His forgiveness, and His protection. But Jesus doesn't stop there. He tells a parable about persistence, a friend knocking at midnight, and teaches, "Ask... seek... knock." This is not desperation. It is confidence. Because our Father knows what we need. And as Jesus says, "If you, who are evil, know how to give good gifts... how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

That's the ultimate gift, the Holy Spirit

Himself, dwelling in us, guiding us in love and truth. So, let us return to the lessons of the day: From Abraham, we learn to pray with boldness and compassion. From Paul, we learn that we pray as those who have been set free by Christ's victory. And from Jesus, we learn to pray as children who trust in the goodness of their Father.

Let us then ask, and keep asking, to open our hearts to His will. Let us knock, not in anxiety, but in trust. And let us seek, knowing we will find the One who has already found us. Amen.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sat 7/19 to Sun 7/20

Honor a beloved priest today with the St. John Vianney Priest Tribute!

As Catholics, we know how important priests are in our lives. They are our shepherds and make countless sacrifices to be able to offer us the Sacraments and their pastoral care. Good priests are truly one of God's greatest gifts!

If your life has been touched by one of our many good shepherds, past or present, we invite you to thank him with a gift in his honor (or memory) through the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana's St. John Vianney Tribute on Thursday, August 4. St. John Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests!

There's more, on August 4, St. John Vianney's feast day, our Bishop, Most Reverend Jeffrey Fleming, will offer a special Mass for all the priests of our diocese, especially those whom you and others have honored in this way.

The Foundation needs to receive your gift and the name of the priest you wish to honor by July 31. Please donate online by visiting www.catholicfoundationmt.org/priest-tribute or give the Foundation a call at 406-315-1765.



Endowing the Future of Our Faith



Vacation Bible School

Ten of St. Mary's youth enjoyed spending time with the Malta Lutheran youth at Vacation Bible School this past week. They spent time learning bible stories, music, crafts and games with their peers. We also had Mariah Hould who was a middle school aide and adults from St. Mary's who volunteered to help out during the week. The week ended with a performance and examples from the youth of what they learned during the week. The youth lead family and friends in songs during the performance. It was followed up by cake and ice cream before they parted ways.



Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of having Masses celebrated for those we offer up in prayer. The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, and each Mass is celebrated for an intention. We ask \$10.00 per mass intention.

Please consider having Masses celebrated

for family and friends on special occasions and anniversaries, as well as those who are in need of prayers. Masses are also encouraged in memory of those loved ones who have died, especially on the anniversaries of their deaths. Please contact Fr. Felix for more information.

Offering

Sacrificial Giving for 7-20-2025

Malta \$1,930.00

Dodson \$365.00

Saco \$375.00

Finance Council

Deb Sjostrom 406-654-1451, sjostrom@itstriangle.com.

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh_99@hotmail.com

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Scott King 406-654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com

Shyla Sunford 406-399-1484, shylasunford@gmail.com (Saco)

Bonnie Lankford 406-390-2276, Bonnie4339@hotmail.com (Dodson)

Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested in serving please contact a member of the finance council.

Please send bulletin announcements to brenda@SaintMarysMalta.org by Wednesday evening. Thanks!

(Practicing) Catholic

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Mini reflection: Whatever is interrupting communication between your heart and the One who crafted it, it can be overcome. There is no door thick enough, no night dark enough, no sleep strong enough.

Ask and You Shall Receive

It's easy to look at today's Gospel reading and come away with a view of God as disinterested and irritated, reluctant to give us what we need unless we bang down his door, hound him to the furthest reaches of heaven, wrench him from his reverie and force him to answer just so we'll finally go away.

Well, that's not what Jesus means by the parable of the friend at midnight — but it's also not surprising that we would think that it is. The whole point of this Gospel is that communication between God and man has been broken. It's not as easy as it once was, as it should be, as it could be.

In this parable, there exists many barriers between the supplicant and his friend. The time of day is not ideal. The door is locked. Their dispositions are opposite — one is in the middle of a REM cycle and the other is deeply agitated. They ap-

pear to be two people who are not primed to communicate well. Everything is working against them.

The same could well be said of God and the human race. Here we are in a fallen world, surrounded by sin and pain and sickness and death to the extent that it infiltrates not just our bodies but our souls, our minds, our attitudes.

We are the friend caught unprepared in the dead of night. We don't always know how to talk to God (*That door is thick! Will he hear us if we knock?*). *We don't always know if we should (It's all my fault that I ran out of loaves, after all). We don't even know if we want to (It's nighttime! He might be angry!).*

Everything is working against us.

It doesn't matter, Jesus tells us. Whatever is interrupting communication between your heart and the One who crafted it, the One who desires its full and irrevocable attention, it can be overcome. There is no door thick enough, no night dark enough, no sleep strong enough.

So knock.

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Parish Council

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Jeff Van Heel—406-266-1133

Joy DePuydt—674-5560, joyful@itstriangle.com (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459, leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)

Everyday Stewardship

When I Called, You Answered

Some of us have that friend about whom we are constantly discovering new things. Maybe we've known this person for ten or even twenty years, and one day at lunch we'll find out they're a direct descendant of a dead president or they once met a major celebrity.

"You never asked," they'll say with a shrug.

As annoying as this can be, it makes perfect sense, doesn't it? We never asked. There is something strangely sacred about the act of asking for something. It requires humility. It requires grace. It requires us to be awake, to be aware, to be vulnerable.

Too often we fall into a pattern of entitlement, even when it comes to information. We go through life thinking that a great cosmic conveyor belt of what we want is going to roll on past us, and we'll barely even have to extend our arms. We read our Bible and we hear all these amazing promises from the Father who

loves us, and we get sort of complacent. He's got this, we think, and we shut our eyes to take a snooze on the road trip of life, confident that someone else is going to look out for stop signs and wrong turns.

It's true: God's got this. He is going to take care of us. But He wants us to be in relationship with Him. He wants us to be an active, receptive participant in our own salvation. See his patience with Abraham's entreaties on behalf of the righteous of Sodom: He wants to answer, not simply to tell.

He wants us to stay awake for the drive.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

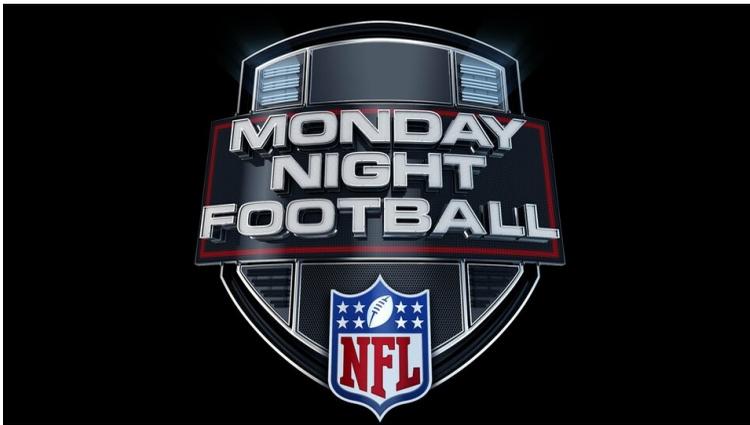
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THIS CARD CERTIFIES THE HOLDER HAS DONATED

\$20.00
TO
St. Mary's Parish
Malta, MT

Proceeds for a larger fireproof safe & speakers for the church

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

\$50. PAID #38
TO THE WINNER OF THE FINAL SCORE

Name _____

Address _____

#38 _____

Phone _____

21 Monday Night Football Games

21 Chances to Win

\$50.00 Cash!

2 Separate Games
being played.

100 books per game
being sold.

Don't worry, we'll keep track of your number and the scores. You don't even have to watch the games.

For books, contact Brenda Rumel, Lance Hould, or Jeff Van Heel.

The First Game is September 8th.

Minnesota @ Chicago