



St. Mary's Catholic Church



21st Sunday

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

[Jesus] answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." - Lk 13:24

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

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August 24, 2025

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Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor
Deacon Tom DePuydt (406) 674-7060
deacontom@saintmarysmalta.org

Mass Schedule and Intentions

8-24: Malta - 10:30 A.M: For all Parishioners

Saco— 12:30 P.M. : Repose of Paul Morrow r/b Julie & Gary Howell

Dodson— 8:30 A.M. : Repose of Derek Davis r/b Darlene & Bruce Cummings

8-25: Malta— 8:30 A. M. : No Mass

8-26: Malta - 8:30 A.M. : No Mass

8-27: Malta— 8:30 A.M. : No Mass

8-28: Malta - 8:30 A.M.: No Mass

8-29: Malta: - 8:30 A.M.: No Mass

8-30: Malta -5:00 P.M.: Darcy Thibault r/b Julie & Gary Howell

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

8-24: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time; Isaiah 66:18-21; Psalms 117:1, 2; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30

8-25: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8-10; Psalms 149:1-6 and 9; Matthew 23:13-22

8-26: Tuesday in the 21st week in Ordinary Time; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalms 139:1-6; Matthew 23:23-26

8-27: St. Monica; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalms 139:1-6; Matthew 23:23-26

8-28: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Psalms 128:1-2, 4-5; Matthew 24:42-51

8-29: The Passion of St. John the Baptist; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 10-12; Mark 6:17-29

8-30: Saturday in the 21st week in Ordinary Time; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Psalms 98:1, 7-9; Matthew 25:14-30

8-31: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Psalms 15:2-5; Hebrew 12:18-19, 22-24; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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.

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

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

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, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson, those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, 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 August 24 , 2025

- **Fr. Felix will return by September 5th.**
- **Next weekend Fr. Wayne will be here for Mass. All Masses will be at the regular times.**
- **The first game for the Monday Night Football Fundraiser is September 8th. Contact Lance Hould, Jeff Van Heel, Books. There are not a lot of books left. The money raised will be used to purchase a new larger fireproof safe for the record books and the left over money will go towards a new sound system.**
- **The first evening of Religious Education will be Wednesday September 3rd. Registration forms, schedules, and letters have been mailed. There will also be some in the back of the church if you didn't receive one. .**
- **September 3rd Religious Education will start with a pizza dinner for all the youth at 6:00 p.m. Classes will be dismissed at 7:30 p.m. that evening**
- **The Celebration of our Patron Saint, The Blessed Virgin will be on Sunday September 14th after Sunday Mass. This will be a youth Mass, with a youth presentation to follow Mass and a potluck.**

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 arranged.	Brenda Rummel
September 3rd Wednesday	1s Religious Ed Class, Pizza and fun starting at 6:00 P.M.	Brenda Rummel
September 14th Sunday	Patron Saints Day Event, Mass, Youth presentation and potluck	

This Week on Formed

Week of August 24, 2025



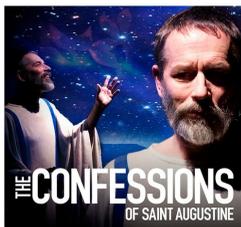
The Confessions of St. Augustine | Littlest Saints

A child, a sinner, a saint. Join us as we share the story of St. Augustine, tailored to our children, as he wrestles with God and comes to the faith.



Feast of Saint Monica | Catholic Saints

Throughout her life, St. Monica constantly prayed for the conversion of Augustine, her beloved son. In a moment of desperation, she even asked for the bishop's help. In response, he said, "the son of those tears surely will not perish." Truly, as this bishop remarked, Monica's tearful prayers helped build her son into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, join Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn as they discuss this great Saint.



The Confessions of Saint Augustine

Actor Leonardo Defilippis captures the poetry and passion of Saint Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430) in a performance that is accessible and deeply moving. The play is astonishingly relevant for our own times. Augustine struggled with promiscuity, fathered a child out-of-wedlock and dabbled in a "new age" style cult. Be inspired by his relentless pursuit of Truth and encouraged by the prayerful perseverance of his faithful mother, Saint Monica.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



Endowing the Future of Our Faith

Back to school time is a great reminder of the importance of forming young disciples. Endowments at the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana help fund Catholic education, youth ministry, and faith formation—now and forever. Help ensure our youth always have opportunities to grow in faith by supporting a Catholic school or youth ministry endowment. Call (406) 315-1765 to learn more or visit www.catholicfoundationmt.org.

Catholic Q & A

Basilica Versus Cathedral

Question:

What is the difference between a basilica and a cathedral?

Answer:

Basilicas are churches that are so titled because of their antiquity, dignity, historical importance, or significance as centers of wor-

ship. A cathedral is the principal church of a diocese, which contains the chair of the bishop, or “cathedra” in Latin. The chair is the symbol of the bishop’s teaching authority.

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21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Gospel Meditation

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 13:22-30

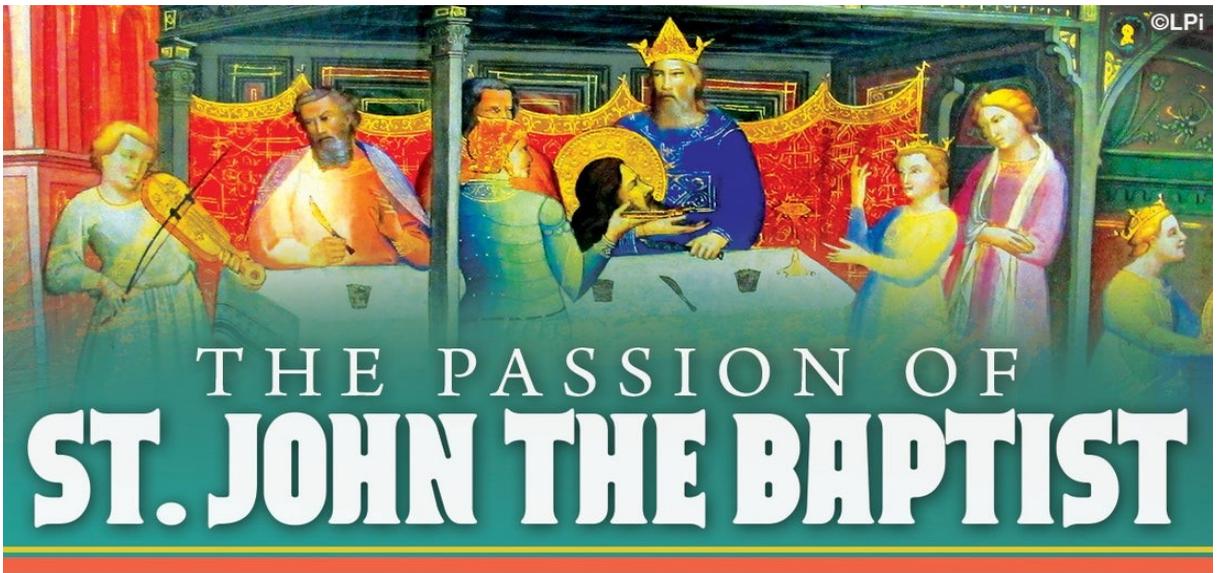
I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or

me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; hypomone in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

Father John Muir



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 8-17-2025

Malta \$3,188.00

Dodson \$N/A

Saco \$283.00

Finance Council

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

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

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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: Jesus' whole thing was that you can sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like."

Heaven and Regina George

There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. "You can't sit with us!" is one of those phrases.

It's from the movie *Mean Girls*, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: "You can't sit with us."

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives "Mean Girls" vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as

God locks the door against them, saying, "I do not know where you are from."

Very "you-can't-sit-with-us."

But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today's Gospel aren't people who wanted a seat at God's lunch table — at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George'd their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus' whole thing was that you can sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like." It's not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options.

We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice.

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Parish Council

Alora Snider— 399-1675, alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com

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Nancy Ereaux—658-2613 (H),

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

Chancing the Narrow Gate

From doctors to counselors, anthropologists to schoolteachers, it seems like everyone has their own parenting style to peddle, guaranteeing it will result in a happy and well-adjusted kid.

You've got "gentle parenting," predicated on respect for the child's feelings and needs. You've got "attachment parenting," based on the belief that kids need time to adjust to being outside of the womb. You've got "free-range parenting," where self-sufficiency reigns supreme.

But of all the parenting approaches I've come across, I've never encountered a philosophy that rejects discipline altogether. There are lots of conflicting opinions on how best to administer that discipline, but I've never heard any parent or parenting "expert" worth their salt say that a mother or father should completely ignore misbehavior that threatens the well-being of the child himself.

Discipline is in our human DNA. Consider for a moment what the world would look like if it came to be filled with people who had never been taught to reflect on their life challenges. People

who bristled at the suggestion of personal growth.

And yet we become this way with God. Even the most "devout" among us shy away from occasions of divine constructive criticism. We avoid confession and forego daily examinations of conscience. We keep things superficial in our prayer life, avoiding depth of heart and real intimacy with God, afraid of what He will speak to us.

But when we do this, we rob ourselves of an opportunity to rely on God's fatherly strength, to rest in His mercy, to fill ourselves up with His goodness. We're putting up our hands, saying: "No thanks, Father, I'm good. You can keep your discipline. You can keep your grace."

When we do this, we are making a beeline for the "narrow gate," sure of our own strength and ability to pass through it. All I can say is this, proceed at your own peril. Are you so sure of yourself?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

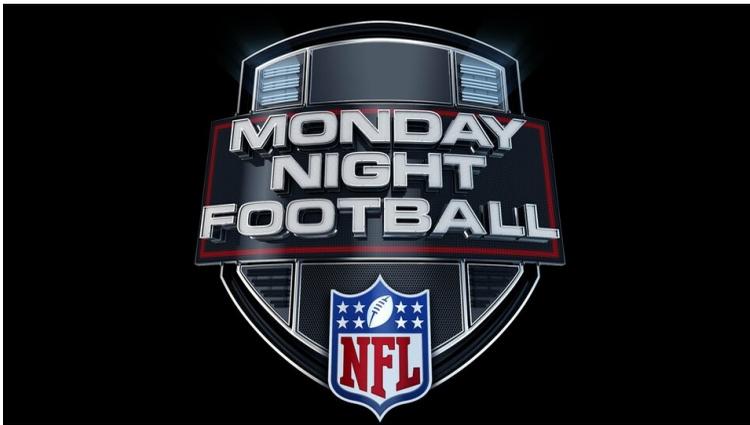
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THIS CARD CERTIFIES THE HOLDER HAS DONATED

\$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 Rummel, Lance Hould, or Jeff Van Heel.

The First Game is September 8th.

Minnesota @ Chicago