



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# FAITH

THE SIZE OF A  
MUSTARD SEED.

— LUKE 17:6 —

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

INCLUDING THE PARISHES OF SACRED HEART/DODSON, ST. FRANCIS/SACO

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

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## Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of offering Masses for those we hold in prayer. The Mass is the highest form of prayer, and most often, each one is celebrated for a special intention.

A suggested offering of \$10.00 is asked for each Mass intention. Please consider requesting a Mass for family and friends on special occasions, anniversaries, or in times of need. Masses may also be offered in memory of loved ones who have passed away, especially on the anniversary of their death.

To schedule a Mass intention, please check the back of the church for special Intention Envelopes or contact Fr. Felix.

Saturday 10.04.25 5:00pm	Poor souls in Purgatory f/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 10.05.25 10:30 Malta 8:30am Saco Dodson	Special Intention r/b Lana Fortin Jade Walker r/b Indigo Walker Special Intention r/b Lana Fortin
Monday 10.6.25	Special Intention r/b Lana Fortin
Tuesday 10.7.25	My family r/b Lana Fortin
Wednesday 10.8.25	My family r/b Lana Fortin
Thursday 10.9.25	Repose of Ed Svien r/b Mary and Maynard Lafond
Friday 10.10.25	All who are ill r/b Lana Fortin
Saturday 10.11.25	All who are ill r/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 10.12.25	For Ella on her 18 <sup>th</sup> bday/rb Grandma, Grandpa and Kris



**PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR AMERICA!**

**Please Join Us - October 11, 2025**

**12:00 Noon, Veterans Memorial Park**

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

St. Mary's parish is looking to fill a position for Administrative Assistant and/or Religious Education Director. Please pick up an application at the back of the church and return the application to Father Felix if you are interested or have questions.



If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days. Please keep these intentions in your prayers.

Please pray for – Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Lorena James, Adalyn McCollom, Ramona Kienenberger, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, Brian Shevlin, Kristi Shettel Peterson, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of – Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families, that they find comfort and peace.

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### CONTACT US:

**Fr. Felix Nayak, Pastor**

Cell 406.946.2195 or Rectory 406.654.1446

**Deacon Tom DePuydt**

[deacontom@saintmarysmalta.org](mailto:deacontom@saintmarysmalta.org) or 406.674.7060

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**Confession** – Friday's 9-10am, Saturday's 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

**Adoration** – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

### MASS SCHEDULES:

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:30pm

Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta  
10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

## **Homily by Fr. Felix:**

XXVII Sunday (C): Hb 1:2-3, 2:2-4; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; 17:5-10

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's readings confront us with the mystery of faith amid struggles. Each passage, from Habakkuk, to Paul's letter to Timothy, to the Gospel of Luke, shows us the tension between human weakness and God's unshakable call to trust, persevere, and serve.

In the First Reading, we begin with the prophet Habakkuk, who cries out in anguish: "How long, O Lord? I cry for help, but you do not listen! Violence! But you do not intervene."

These words could have been written today. They echo the hearts of all who suffer under war, injustice, poverty, or personal trials. Habakkuk gives voice to the human experience of waiting, of questioning God in moments when He seems silent. Yet, the Lord answers: "The vision still has its time... the just one, because of his faith, shall live." God's timing is not ours. The answer to suffering is not immediate relief, but persevering faith. Faith becomes the anchor that steadies us when everything else is shaking.

In the Second Reading, Paul, writing to Timothy, picks up the same theme. He urges: "Stir into flame the gift of God that you have." Faith is not something passive; it must be nurtured, rekindled, exercised. Paul reminds Timothy that God did not give us "a spirit of cowardice but of power and love and self-control." Like Habakkuk, Paul sees that trials and hardships are real. Timothy is tempted to fear, to shrink back. But Paul tells him and us not to be ashamed of the Gospel, but to rely on the power of God.

In other words, faith is not only trust in God's promises; it is also courage to live boldly, even when the world opposes us. It is about holding firm to the "sound words" handed down to us, guarding the treasure of faith through the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

Then comes the Gospel, where the apostles plead with Jesus: "Increase our faith!" They sense how fragile their faith is, how easily it wavers before difficulty. Jesus responds with a striking image: "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Notice Jesus does not give them "more faith" as they request. Instead, He teaches that even the smallest authentic faith, if it is alive, has tremendous power. The problem is not the quantity of faith but its quality, faith that trusts completely in God's power rather than our own.

My brothers and sisters, how often do we echo Habakkuk: "How long, O Lord?" We see injustice in the world, conflicts in our families, sickness in our bodies, doubts in our hearts. And yet, God asks us to live by faith. This faith is a radical trust in God's fidelity. And Jesus calls us to put that faith into action, not by waiting for great signs, but by serving faithfully in the little things, loving our families, forgiving our enemies, caring for the poor, being honest in our work, staying faithful in prayer. Faith, then, is not just believing but living, not just asking but serving. It is patient like Habakkuk, courageous like Paul, humble like the servant in the Gospel.

Let us, then, join the apostles in praying: "Lord, increase our faith." Not so that we can boast, or command miracles, but so that we may persevere in hope, live with courage, and serve with humility.

Even faith as small as a mustard seed, entrusted to God, can transform our lives and the world.

Amen.



***Sending special thanks to our Religious Education teachers:***

Alora Jesson & Alanna Mahon – grades 1&2

Diane Liebel & Macie Hould -grades 3,4&5

Deb Sjostrom & Crystal Mears – grades 6,7&8

Brenda Koss & Tala Cole – High School

**Readings for the week of October 5, 2025**

Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/2  
Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

Monday: Jon 1:1-2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk  
10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8/Lk  
10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10/Lk  
11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk  
11:5-13

Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-  
9/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk  
11:27-28

Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4  
(see 2b)/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19

**PCCW Raffle Tickets Available  
\$5 per ticket**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – ½ Beef (includes processing)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – ½ Beef (includes processing)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$500 Albertson's gift card

4<sup>th</sup> Prize – King Size Quilt made by the church quilters!

Drawing will be November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Contact Cheryl Moore or any church PCCW  
lady for tickets.

Special thanks for our wonderful donors.

**"What do you call a gourd's family?"**



**"Pump-kin."**



Not only is October the month of the Rosary, but it's also Respect Life Month, a great time to share love, support, and prayers for those in your family and beyond.

You can read the bulletin online via our website. Check it out at <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/>

We also try to post photos and other updates from the parishes – it's a great way to save printing paper for the bulleting too!!

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### How Much Is Enough?

During a conversation about good stewardship of money and time, my daughter shared that sometimes doing the best thing was so hard for her to do. It wasn't always a matter of right and wrong, black and white, but a matter of better and best. I began to reflect on the truth of her statement. When confronted with a decision, we can sometimes be given a choice of good, better, and best. We fool ourselves into believing that the good choice is not a bad one, so it must be enough. However, we have essentially placed a limit on our generosity or commitment with our false sense of good stewardship.

Jesus calls us in different ways every day. Sometimes the cost to us is clear. Yet sometimes there is no clear metric. When called to love, how much love is enough? When someone needs our time, how many hours is enough? When a small gift will bring about a positive outcome, what could a larger gift accomplish?

Don't be fooled by Jesus' teaching of the mustard seed. He was speaking to those who were caught up in concerns of status, uncertainty of heart, and lack of true faith. Jesus taught with parables and then demonstrated true faith and generosity by his crucifixion. Perhaps the mustard seed of faith allows us to move mountains and trees so that we may see through to the horizon of the cross. In the cross, we find the real metric of love and generosity that is for all who follow Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver

### Special Announcement from the Diocese:

Father Robert Grosch passed away and his vigil mass will be Sunday, October 5 at 6:00p.m. at Dahl's funeral home in Billings. His Funeral Mass will be Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 at St Thomas the Apostle Church in Billings.

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October falls during the liturgical season known as *Tempus per Annum* or **Ordinary Time** (formerly *Time After Pentecost*), which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green is a symbol of hope, as it is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The liturgical color green is worn during the praying of Offices and celebration of Masses of Ordinary Time.

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### **The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of October 2025**

**For collaboration between different religious traditions:** Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity. (See also <http://www.popesprayerusa.net/>)

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Thank you to all who helped with the celebration last month in honor of our Patron Saint Mary. It was a wonderful day with our youth ministers, program and delicious meal following.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The rash one has no integrity;  
but the just one, because of his faith, shall live. (Hb 2:4)

### Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

### Second Reading:

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice  
but rather of power and love and self-control. (2 Tm 1:7)

### Gospel:

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,  
you would say to this mulberry tree,  
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,'  
and it would obey you." (Lk 17:6)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Apostles beg Jesus for increased faith, but they don't really want faith. They want a magical feeling of certainty that requires no effort. Real faith must grow and sprout roots in fertile soil. Real faith requires attention and work. Are we willing to work?

## Observances for the week of October 5, 2025

- Sunday:** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Respect Life Sunday
- Monday:** St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher,  
Virgin
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of the Rosary
- Thursday:** St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs;  
St. John Leonardi, Priest
- Saturday:** St. John XXIII, Pope
- Next Sunday:** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Devotions, *Explained!*

This popular phrase is an affirmation of God's faithfulness amidst the trials of life, a theme that is presented again and again in Scripture: come what may, God will be with us.

## Prayer to Respect Life

Dear God,  
Help us to hear Your voice,  
especially when You speak on  
behalf of the voiceless,  
the overlooked, and the forgotten.  
Keep our ears attuned, and work  
through us in a way that loves,  
blesses, assures, supports, and  
strengthens LIFE.  
Amen.