

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

**MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS**

**Sun Sept 8 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

11:00 am +Shirley Todd by Terri Todd

**Tues, Sept 10 Weekday**

6:00pm +Barbara Nelson by Dave & Cindy Tobin

**Thurs, Sept 12 Memorial of the Most Holy Name of  
Mary**

12:00pm Jim Brown by Lyn Daniels

**Fri Sept 13 Memorial of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop**

9:30am Holy Souls in Purgatory by Isabella Dunn

**Sun Sept 15 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

11:00 am +Patrick Cherry

*Mass times at St. Francis in Hamilton:*

*Saturday- 5pm, Sunday- 8:45am, Wed- 12:00pm*

**Rite of Reconciliation**

*Every First Sunday after Mass*

*Weekdays before Mass*

*(and by appointment)*

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Friday's following the 9:30am Mass at St. Mary

Holy Hour each Thursday at 6:30pm at St. Mary

Wednesday at 11am at St. Francis, Hamilton

**Holy Rosary**

Twenty Five minutes before Masses

*The Church is OPEN weekdays during regular  
office hours: 9am-4pm Tuesday-Friday for  
personal prayer time.*

**Parish Office (406) 777-3551**

*Open Tuesday through Friday*

*9:00am to 4:00pm*

**Email:** stmarystevi@gmail.com

**Website:** www.stmarystevi.com

**Facebook:** St. Mary's Parish

**Fr. David Severson, Pastor**

406-777-7214 (rectory)

406-202-8912 (cell)

email: frdavesview@icloud.com

**Terri Todd, Secretary**

**Katie McWilliam, DRE**

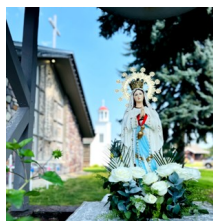
*Position open, Grounds/Maintenance*

**MT Bishops' Request:** "Our Montana Bishops are now inviting all the faithful to adopt some form of abstinence on Wednesdays...This optional observance will continue until voting in November."

# St. Mary Catholic Parish Bulletin

333 Charlos St, Stevensville, MT 59870

SERVING ST. JOSEPH MISSION, FLORENCE



**The Month of Our Lady of Sorrows (Mater Dolorosa)**

The Church dedicates the month of September to Our Lady of Sorrows, also known as Mater Dolorosa (Mother of Sorrows). This devotion recalls the Blessed Virgin Mary's spiritual martyrdom in virtue of her perfect union with the Passion of Christ. This was her role in salvation history, and what merited her place as the spiritual Mother of all Christians. This is symbolized by a single sword, or seven swords, piercing Mary's suffering heart, as foretold in Simeon's prophecy. Traditionally the Church meditates on the "Seven Sorrows" of our Blessed Mother: the prophecy of Simeon; the Holy Family's flight into Egypt; the loss of the Child Jesus for three days; the meeting of Mary and Jesus as he carried his cross; Jesus' crucifixion and death; Jesus' sacred body taken down from the cross; and Jesus' burial. The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

(Mater Dolorosa) is September 15th.

**How Christ Continues to Touch and Heal Us**

The Church is the Holy Church, despite all blemishes and wrinkles. She is the sanctified one, the "bride," that is, the chosen vessel of grace. She is the place where the holiness of God is enthroned presently and visibly. She is all this because in the sacraments, in the Sacrament, the Lord himself meets and touches us.... She is also all this, and in a way even more, because the visible, bodily appearance of Christ—the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared (Ti 3:4)—continues in the saints, indeed in the flesh, until the end of time. The Church herself is the "vine"...of the holiness of God dwelling on earth.... She is the "mother" of the saints in the strictest sense of the word, one might say in the biological sense, not just in the sense of one who rears a child. She "births" the saints into the world; they are nourished by her substance, bearing the features of God and hers as well. And she is not only the mother of those who are in the past, the historical ones, the already perfected saints, but also of the ones who are present, hidden, becoming; and she will, for as long as the world exists, in spite of all decay and corruption, all degeneration and catastrophe, always give birth to new, future saints....

She has already given birth to us; before any choice of our own, we are already marked with the indelible seal.... It is up to us to dare to talk to

God, that is, to dare true prayer. Up to us to fall back on the seal of strength given in confirmation, like how one raises a sunken treasure up from a well. Up to us to really nourish ourselves from the "bread of life," though that means to do so as one uses food—regularly, adequately, not as a rare, solemn, or "formal" exception. Up to us, again and again, when the accumulated and tenacious filth of incessant failure becomes for us like lumps of clay so heavy on our soles that it inhibits walking, that we seek an alleviating purification and impetus for a new start in the sacrament of forgiveness...[and] internalize into ourselves the limitless possibility of what God can do with man....

In the saints...as first-fruits and harbingers of the new creation (2 Cor 5:17), which outlasts death and decline, is embodied the meaning, the success, that which from the beginning is intended as the ultimate goal: the unity of the whole world with God who is distant and yet so near.

**Ida Friederike Görres**

*Ida Friederike Görres († 1971) was a German Catholic spiritual author. The eulogy at her funeral was given by the young Joseph Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI. Source: Sept 2024 Magnificat.*

## Weekend Collection– September 1, 2024

Regular Offertory	\$4179.00
Build. & Maint.	\$45.00
Assumption	\$40.00
Altar Society	\$135.60
Bazaar	\$75.00
Burial Plots	\$1200.00
Mass intentions	\$50.00
Votive Lights	\$17.00

**Total \$5,741.60**



Your good stewardship & support is essential to keeping our parish operating. If you are unable to attend Sunday Mass, *please continue to mail your donation or* get setup to **give Online** on our website **stmarystevi.com**

*Thank you!*

### Coffee Hour - This Sunday!

Hosted by the Altar Society. Head over to the family center and support our parish Altar Society, have some snacks and fellowship with your parish family & welcome visitors!! **Next Sunday**, the Knights of Columbus will host Coffee Hour!!



### Building Campaign Payments

Do not make your checks out to St. Mary for the Building Fund Campaign. Please Make your checks out to **Because He First Loved Us** and send them directly to the Diocese of Helena at PO Box 1729, Helena, Mt, 59624

Going forward, Please send all campaign payments directly to the Diocese. Please do not put them in the collection baskets. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Parish Ministries/Events

**Men's Breakfast:** 8am Every First Saturday of the month. Meet at the Family Center.

**Fatima Rosary Group:** meets at 9am on the 1st Saturday of every Month in the church. Contact Gerrie Blair

**Ladies Altar Society:** This group meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 11:00am at Kodiak Jax Restaurant in Stevi. Contact Mary Jane Rice

**K-8th Religious Ed:** Contact Katie McWilliam, DRE. Family Classes will resume on September 25th.

**High School Religious Ed:** Classes will resume on Sept. 25th. Contact Katie McWilliam at drestmarystevi@gmail.com

**Widow's Group** meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11am in the parish family center. Contact: Gerrie Blair

**Knights of Columbus:** meet the 2nd Wednesday each month. Officers meet at 6:30pm; Rosary and regular meeting at 7pm.

**Meal Train Ministry**– make and deliver meals to anyone who had a baby/surgery/death in family. Contact Amanda Junkel.

**Communion to the Homebound:** available for all homebound parishioners. Call the parish office 777-3551 to request a minister to bring communion to your home.

**Wednesday night Rosary in Florence:** meet at St. Joseph's at 6:30pm. Contact Tim Rausch.

**\*Attention Parents!** Religious Ed will be starting on Sept. 25th! There are registration forms at the back of church or on our parish website– stmarystevi.com. Please fill out the form and return it to the parish office.

Interested in volunteering to be a teacher, aide or substitute? Please let us know by emailing Katie McWilliam, our DRE (director of religious education) at **drest-**

**marystevi@gmail.com**

**\*\*Catechist Orientation meeting on Wed, Sept 11 at 6:30pm.**

### Marriage Troubles?

**Thinking about Separation or Divorce?** – Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless?

Retrouvaille is designed to help marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced.



Our next program begins **October 18, 2024**. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, contact registration team:

at **1-800-470-2230** or visit **www.HelpOurMarriage.com**  
Not counseling or group therapy.

**Cemetery News:** Now that Summer is coming to an end the mowing and trimming of the cemetery is slowing down as well. We would like to ask that everyone that has placed Spring and Summers florals or decorations at the cemetery to **remove them by September 10th**. On several graves the mowing company has been unable to trim properly due to florals and decorations placed on graves, they do not want to destroy the decorations. We would like to have the cemetery mowed and trimmed so that it looks nice over the winter months. Any florals and decorations left in the way of the mowing crew after September 10th, **will be removed** from the graves.

**Thank you for your cooperation.**



## SEPTEMBER Public Rosary Rally

The Public Rosary Rally will take place on **Saturday, SEPT 14** in Hamilton at Legion Park (across from the courthouse) at **1PM**. In his monumental work, *The Secret of the Rosary*, Saint Louis Marie de Montfort states: "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy," and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering.

**G.K. Chesterton Society** ministry is forming in Hamilton. Please call **Sarah** at **406-529-2128** for more information. The inaugural Bitterroot Chesterton Society meeting will be **September 20 at 6pm**. This Society is for those who are enthusiastic about GK Chesterton and who want to discuss anything & everything as Chesterton wrote about anything & everything with joy, faith, & common sense.

### PRAYER FOR OUR DEACON IN TRAINING

Men who are ordained to the permanent diaconate promise to live out the charism of service to God and the people of God through a life of ordained ministry. This commitment is characterized by service to the Word of God, the Sacraments of the Church, and a life of Heroic Charity. The role of the deacon is to be a helper of the bishops and priests, to proclaim by his life the Church's call to serve the needs of others, to proclaim the Gospel message, to live a life of fidelity to Christ and the Church and to lead the community in building a Kingdom of grace, faith, justice, and compassion. The deacon is to be a sign and living witness of the presence of Christ the Servant in the world. Intimately united to the ministry of the Bishop and the Priests they are called to serve the Church, giving their lives in service to their brothers and sisters, the People of God.

Please keep **Dave Tobin** and his wife **Cindy** in your prayers as they continue their diaconate training. We also pray for **Fr. Severson** and **Bishop Vetter** and **Deacon Shawn Carter** and his wife **Shannon**.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join us on **Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup>** at **6:00 p.m.** in the Family Center  
We need volunteers for the activities listed below:

Raffle  
Bake Sale  
Set up and Breakdown  
Sign Placement in the valley  
Poster Placement throughout the valley

We look forward to your help in making this holiday kickoff event a success that supports St. Mary's Parish Community.  
Questions, text/call **Phyllis Rogers Green** 916-296-3435

## Friday's:

**Eucharistic Adoration** follows the 9:30am Mass.

*Standing before God in adoration cleanses your heart and renews your strength.*



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

The 40 Days for Life Fall campaign is September 25th through November 3rd, 2024 in Missoula.

We're praying God stirs the hearts and minds of His people to stand up in peaceful, prayerful witness to the precious gift of life for all children. Visit [www.40daysforlife.com/missoula](http://www.40daysforlife.com/missoula)

Leader: **Diane Rotering** (406) 274-3639

## Come and See ~ What is RCIA?

A journey of faith that leads to full communion in the Catholic Church. **Who should participate in RCIA?**

**\*Anyone** over 8 years old who has not been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **\*Anyone** over 8 years old who has been baptized in a Christian faith and now seeks to learn about the Catholic Faith. **\*Catholics** who desire to deepen their understanding of what the Church believes and teaches. When and Where Starting September 19 at 6pm in the St. Mary Family Center. **Welcome!**

## Sacraments

### Infant Baptism

Parents must be registered and active members of our parish. If they are members of another parish, a letter of permission from their Pastor is required. We also require preparation for this Sacrament. Contact Fr. Severson before the infant's due date to arrange a date and time for the baptism. Baptisms are normally celebrated at Mass.

### Holy Matrimony

Couples discerning this Sacrament should contact Fr. Severson immediately after becoming engaged. A minimum of six months of preparation is required before the celebration of this Sacrament. Couples wishing to marry in the parish must be registered and active members of the parish. Couples from other parishes must obtain a letter of permission to marry outside their own parish.

### Anointing of the Sick

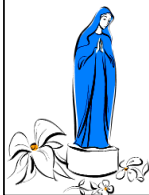
Anyone who has been diagnosed as terminally or gravely ill, is preparing for surgery, or has had their mental or physical health condition significantly change is encouraged to request this Sacrament of healing. Call the parish office to schedule the celebration of this Sacrament.

### Adult Confirmation, Adult Baptism (RCIA), and Adult Reception into Full Communion

If you, a family member, or a friend has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, or are interested in being baptized or received into full communion with the Church, please contact Fr. Severson. An appropriate preparation process will be discerned on an individual basis.

## Prayers

*You are welcome to write prayers in the Parish Book of Prayers at the entrance of the church. Please keep the family and friends of our parish family in your prayers*



### In Memoriam

Myron Alfred, Charles Anderson, Richard Ortiz II, Jeanne Ritchie, Kathleen Petersen, Fr. Matthew Huber, Roxanne Stout, Charles Stalker III, Pat Green, Allen Dekmar, Mary Meyer, Kelly Cannard, Patrick Cherry, Linda Pfau, Scott Thomas, Elaine Severson, Peggy McNulty, Bill Scholl, Margaret Green, Norma Le Duc, Judy Linhart, Cheryl Ralls, David Cellarius, Tina Hayward

### Pray for Vocations

**Our seminarians:** Deacon Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Riley Helgo, Kaleb Mitchell, Anthony Olmes, Brett Rotz, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, Matt Keck

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myParish app  
App Store • Google Play



Check out our parish App with New Prayers, news and videos currently available on the App.

To Download, text the word, App to 55321 and select St. Mary's Parish.

### St. Mary's Ministry Schedule

**Sunday, Sept 8** 11:00am

Lector: Jean Beaulieu

Ushers: Bill McNulty & Volunteers

**Sunday, Sept 15** 11:00am

Lector: Debbie Harper

Ushers: Bill McNulty & Volunteers

**Sunday, Sept 22** 11:00am

Lector: Dave Weber

Ushers: Bill McNulty & Volunteers

**Sunday, Sept 29** 11:00am

Lector: Terri Rose

Ushers: Bill McNulty & Volunteers

This is a fun event and a great way to build some strong relationships and friendships with kids and families in your ministries. It's \$10 per person, which includes lunch. Contact Katie McWilliam for more information.



**A Message From the Catholic Bishops of Montana Regarding  
Abortion Ballot Issue Constitutional Initiative (CI-128)**

Dear People of God,

On May 3rd of this year, we issued a pastoral call to reject Constitutional Initiative 128 (CI-128) and prevent it from appearing on the November ballot in Montana. Sadly, after large amounts of out-of-state funding, Planned Parenthood and its associates have succeeded. This grave threat to unborn children, mothers, and families will be on the ballot. As followers of Jesus and faith-filled citizens of Montana, we are compelled to speak boldly in defense of the infinite dignity of every human life.

We implore voters to scrutinize the full text of CI-128. Through the careful use of undefined terms, it nullifies Montana's current abortion regulations and safeguards while creating some of the most radical constitutional provisions for abortion in our Nation.

The ballot language, or voter's summary of CI-128, is grossly insufficient and misleading. Furthermore, the full text of the initiative, which voters will not see at the ballot box, clearly raises grave moral and ethical concerns. The full text of CI-128 will place expectant mothers at risk and enshrine extreme abortion procedures in our Montana Constitution.

In section one, the full text of CI-128 establishes abortion as a right that may not be "burdened" by the government if in any way this would interfere with a mother's "autonomous decision-making." It clearly follows that any regulation of abortion can be characterized as a burden that conflicts with autonomous decision-making.

Any of the following could easily present such a "burden":

- Limitations on late-term abortion of babies who feel pain
- Any restrictions on partial birth abortion
- Any parental notification requirements of abortion procedures on minors

Montana's Supreme Court has recently struck down a law requiring parental consent. CI-128 goes even further by eliminating Montana's current requirement that parents be notified of an abortion procedure on their minor child. This initiative isolates pregnant girls when they need their parents most.

CI-128 would create significant risk in Montana for underage pregnant mothers by:

- Imposing a culture of secrecy that would undermine families
- Exposing underage mothers to exploitation and coercion
- Providing cover for those who would victimize underage women by committing abuse, human trafficking, and other crimes

We believe that Montana's children have a fundamental right to life and to grow up safely in our State. We ask all Catholics to continue to pray, abstain from meat on Wednesdays, and share the disturbing truth about CI-128 with the people that God has placed in our lives. Again, we implore all people of good will to read the full text of CI-128 in your voter guide, search and form your conscience, stand with our children against CI-128, and vote **NO** on your ballot.

In Christ,



Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Fleming  
*Bishop of Great Falls-Billings*  
President



Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter  
*Bishop of Helena*  
Vice President



Most Rev. Michael W. Warfel  
*Bishop Emeritus of Great Falls-Billings*



# CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE 128 (CI-128) FACT SHEET

## Abortion is Already Legal in Montana

- Abortion is currently legal in Montana up to the point of fetal viability – generally at 24 weeks of pregnancy, with some exceptions for after viability.
- Doctors, physician assistants and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses can perform abortions.
- Before performing an abortion on an underage girl, abortionists are required to notify her parents, with some exceptions.
- Mifepristone, or the “abortion pill” is available in Montana through abortion providers in-person and via Telehealth.

## Who is Behind CI-128?

Montanans Securing Reproductive Rights (MSRR) is the coalition that drafted and is promoting CI-128. MSRR partners are:

- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana
- ACLU Montana
- Forward Montana
- The Fairness Project

## Who is Funding CI-128?

Top Donors as of June 25th are all out-of-state:

- Sixteen Thirty Fund (D.C.): \$650,000
- The Fairness Project (D.C.): \$500,000
- Think Big America-MT (D.C.): \$500,000
- Advocacy Action Fund (CA): \$250,000
- ACLU Foundation, Inc. (NY): \$250,000
- GISWF-Montana (VA): \$250,000
- Delaney Family Trust (CA): \$100,000
- Robert Stavis (NY): \$100,000
- Gwendolyn Sondheim (CA): \$100,000
- Elizabeth Simmons (CA): \$100,000

## Parental Notification is at Risk

In 2012, Montanans voted 70% to 30% to require parental notification 48 hours before an abortion for girls under 16—the only remaining law in Montana ensuring parents are informed. CI-128 would abolish this law, just as the Montana Supreme Court struck down a parental consent requirement this August.

## Undefined Terms Create Bad Laws

### ***"Fetal viability"***

What specific criteria determine "fetal viability"? How many weeks? What medical standards are applied? How do they affect the timing of when viability is determined?

### ***"Healthcare Professional"***

Who, in the many healthcare professions, has the legal authority to determine matters like fetal viability, medical necessity, and the protection of the pregnant patient's life or health?

### ***"Life or health of the pregnant patient"***

What is included in "health"? Is this limited to physical health? Does it include mental and emotional health?

### ***"Burdened" and "Burden"***

Does a burden include any inconvenience or delay? Does burden include any common-sense regulation to protect a pregnant girl or unborn baby?

### ***"Autonomous decision making"***

How is "autonomous decision making" understood, and what legal or medical standards support this autonomy?

### ***"Voluntary consent"***

What is the definition of "voluntary consent", especially in cases involving minors or vulnerable individuals?

### ***"Bona fide health risk"***

What is considered a "bona fide health risk," and what standards support the definition? Who has the authority to define bona fide health risk?