

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 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

406-697-1912

OR paduapriest@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev Dave Odermann

Call the office to contact.

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:

317 W 7th St, Laurel, MT 59044

Online:

www.saintanthonycatholicchurch.org
[facebook.com/saintanthonycatholicchurchmontanalaurel](https://www.facebook.com/saintanthonycatholicchurchmontanalaurel)

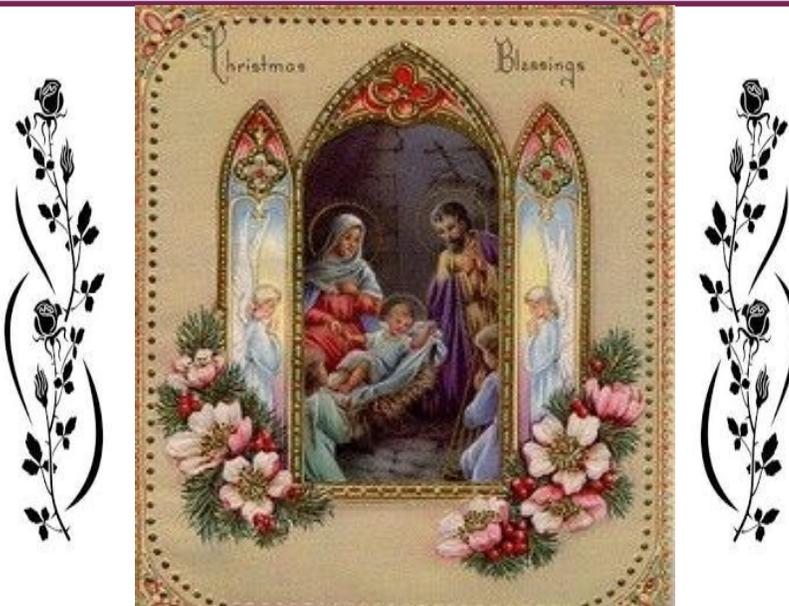
Secretary: Michelle Lopez

Bookkeeper: Kathy Manders

Religious Ed: Rita Baeten

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Impending Nativity of Our Lord

A Prayer of Praise to the Blessed Virgin Mary by St. Ephrem

**O pure and immaculate and likewise blessed Virgin,
 who art the sinless Mother of thy Son,
 the mighty Lord of the universe,
 thou who art inviolate and altogether holy,
 the hope of the hopeless and sinful,
 we sing thy praises.**

**We bless thee, as full of every grace,
 thou who didst bear the God-Man:
 we all bow low before thee;
 we invoke thee and implore thine aid.**

**Rescue us, O holy and inviolate Virgin,
 from every necessity that presses upon us and
 from all the temptations of the devil.**

**Be our intercessor and advocate
 at the hour of death and judgement;
 deliver us from the fire that is not extinguished
 and from the outer darkness;
 make us worthy of the glory of thy Son,
 O dearest and most clement Virgin Mother.**

**Thou indeed art our only hope,
 most sure and sacred in God's sight,
 to whom be honor and glory, majesty and dominion,
 for ever and ever, world without end. Amen**

*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi!**"How we pray forms what we believe, which forms the way we live."***The Three Masses of Christmas**

In addition to the Vigil Mass which is celebrated on Christmas Eve, the Church gives us three Masses to celebrate on Christmas Day; three different times and ways to celebrate our Lord's Nativity!

The first is the **Midnight Mass** which really should start at Midnight. Why? Because we have good reason to believe, as many of the Fathers of the Church did, that He was born at midnight. The angels appeared to the shepherds during the night watch. And there is a passage from the **Book of Wisdom** that says, "For when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift course was half-spent, Your all-powerful word from heaven's royal throne bounded, a fierce warrior, into the doomed land.... He still reached to heaven, while He stood upon the earth." The Fathers of the Church understood this is a reference to our Lord's birth. It is at this Mass that we hear the Gospel account of our Lord's birth in Bethlehem: Jesus is born of the Virgin Mary, born in the flesh.

In the **Mass at Dawn**, which really should be celebrated at dawn, we hear the Gospel account of the shepherds coming to see the Divine Child in the manger: Jesus is born by grace in the hearts of the shepherds.

In the **Mass During the Day**, sometime after dawn and before evening, we hear from John's Gospel, chapter one: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God..." This is about our Lord's eternal birth of God the Father, as we say in the Creed, "Eternally begotten of the Father." And later on in that passage from John, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Also in that same passage, "But to those who did accept Him, He gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born not by natural generation, nor by human choice nor by a man's decision, but of God."

Taken together and in order, these three Masses teach us that the child born in Bethlehem is the One who desires to be born in our hearts through grace; and through the incarnation of the eternally begotten Son of God, we can become true children of God—born of God!

The celebration of our Lord's birth is also the celebration of our new birth which we receive through baptism and faith. Let us celebrate His birth with joy and gladness; and celebrate our own in Him by striving to become more and more like Him. He became like us, so that we might become like Him.

*Pax.**Fr Bart***Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana**

Thank you! As 2019 comes to a close, the Board and Staff wish to express our gratitude to all of you for making the **Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana** an ever-increasing important asset for the Catholic Church in our diocese.



2019 ushered in our **New** Grant Program, something we prayed would be possible one day. Thanks to the generosity of donors, we were able to grant \$45,000 to 12 different parishes, 2 Catholic schools, and one Catholic organization in our diocese. We hope to do more next year as our endowments grow because of your continued support.

There is still time to make a difference for the Church through a gift to your Catholic Foundation in 2019. Donations are tax-deductible; some may also qualify for the **40% Montana Charitable Endowment Tax Credit!** Mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 31st in order to count for the 2019 tax year. You may also give online before midnight, December 31st, at www.catholicfoundationmt.org. To make a gift of appreciated stock or for any other question, please call Judy Held, President, at 406-315-1765 or email judy@catholicfoundationmt.org. Together, we are making a huge difference for the future of the Catholic Church in our diocese!

**FEAST DAY OF ST JOHN, APOSTLE
DECEMBER 27**

Fr Bart will be doing the traditional blessing of wine for the **Feast of St. John** following the **9:00 AM Mass on Friday, December 27th**. If you would like to have your wine blessed for this feast, bring a bottle or two (or as many as you wish) to Mass, and Father will let you know what to do with the bottles to have them blessed.

Wine is blessed on this day because according to legend, St. John was served poisoned wine, but survived because he blessed the wine before he put it to his lips; the poison rose from the chalice in the shape of a serpent. In his happy memory, Catholics bring wine to church, which the priest blesses, turning it into a sacramental called the "Love of St. John." Catholics use this sacramental wine for special occasions throughout the year and to give to the sick.

The wine is also a symbol of the great love of Christ that filled St. John's heart with loyalty, courage and enthusiasm for his Master. He alone of all the apostles was not afraid to stay close to Jesus during the Passion and Crucifixion and he was the only Apostle not martyred.

At least some of the wine blessed on the feast should be enjoyed on the day of the feast itself. When it is drunk on his Feast Day, we drink it before dinner as a toast to St. John. The Father of the house lifts his glass toward Mother and says, "I drink you the love of St. John." The Mother replies "I thank you for the Love of St. John" and then turns to the oldest child, lifts her glass, and says, "I drink you the love of St. John..."—and on it goes down the line until each has been toasted. The wine may be drunk as is, out of the bottle, or may be prepared as in this recipe:

St. John's Love (serves 8)

- 1 quart red wine
- 3 whole cloves
- 1/16 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 2 two-inch cinnamon sticks
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup sugar



Pour the wine into a large saucepan. Add the remaining ingredients. Boil for 5 minutes (this pretty much evaporates all of the alcohol).
Serve hot.

Exciting News from the Seminary!

You are invited to join Bishop Michael Warfel, Seminarian John Pankratz, and the diocese of Great Falls-Billings on a 10-day pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi **for the occasion of John's diaconate ordination** in St. Peter's Basilica!! In addition to the classic Italian Pilgrimage, you will be invited to the ordination festivities including the ordination Mass, a reception at the North American Pontifical College, and John's first Mass assisting as a deacon! Please consider joining us for this special week and please keep John and his classmates in your prayers!!

Trip Dates: September 25th – October 4th, 2020

Cost: \$3,548.00 - All Inclusive (airfare, hotels, meals excluding lunch, guides/tours)

More Information/sign-up: <https://www.catholicpilgrimoffice.com/pankratzt>

Questions? Contact: Mary Pankratz, mtpankratz1@gmail.com

Knight of Columbus will be serving their wonderful 5th Sunday Breakfast from 10—11:30 am, on December 29th. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, and sausages.

Knights of Columbus Free throw contest will be held at the Laurel High-school gym on Sunday, January 12th at 11 am. The contest is open to all boys and girls, ages 9—14. No pre-registration required—just come and participate!



As many of you have seen on the news, St Mary Catholic Church on the Rocky Boy Reservation was destroyed by fire on December 14th, and considered a complete loss. Bishop Warfel is asking parishioners across the diocese for donations to begin a rebuilding fund while they await the completion of the insurance investigation. If you can contribute pick up a donation envelope in the Narthex and mark it for this special collection.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alma Hedges, whose funeral Mass was held Dec 18th, and for her family and friends.

Come and join us! Saint Anthony Parish will be celebrating an **Epiphany Dinner** after the 11:00 am Mass on **Sunday, January 5th**. For all who plan to join us, feel free to contribute a potluck dish, especially if you would like to bring your own family's favorite Christmas dish! We will have King's cakes and prizes. **Everyone please come!** Even if you don't bring a dish we want to celebrate the season with our parish family!

The Choice Wine

The Choice Wine: 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage moves well beyond divorce-proofing your marriage to place a happier, healthier, and wealthier future within your grasp.

Join us, Friday evenings, February 14th - April 17th.

Dinner and babysitting provided.

Details and registration are in the Narthex and online at <https://paradisusdei.org/the-choice-wine/>

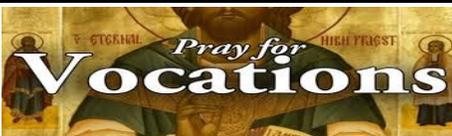
To reserve your spot, register now!



Beautiful Christmas flowers have been ordered to decorate the church for the holy season. If you would like to contribute there are donation envelopes in the Narthex.

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 2019, please note: Date of donation checks—and the postmark date—must be before midnight on December 31. Contributions given online are deductible in 2019 as long as you make the gift online before midnight on December 31.



Merry Christmas!
No Religious Education Dec 25 or Jan 1. Classes will resume January 8th.

Saint Anthony Stewardship Report

Fiscal Year-to-Date Income	\$ 96,077.71
Fiscal Budget	\$ 103,750.00
	(\$ 7,672.29)
Income week of Dec 15	\$ 4,403.00
Weekly Budget	4,150.00
	\$ 253.00

Thank you for supporting your Saint Anthony parish!

Care & Share

2019 Assessment	\$ 35,059.07
Collections & Pledges (thru March 1, 2020)	35,059.07
Balance	PAID IN FULL

Prefer online donation?
Secure online giving is available on our website!
Go to: www.saintanthonicatholicchurch.org

Will you be traveling? Check out: www.masstimes.org for a listing of churches and Mass times around the world. If you want to stay connected with happenings at Saint Anthony you can find our most recent bulletins posted on the website.



Parish Council of Catholic Women

President Tracey Chechet 426-8526

January	Altar Cleaning	St Bridget
December 22	No Coffee	
December 29	5th Sunday	Knights
January 5	Coffee & Rolls	St Joan
January 12	Coffee & Rolls	St Bridget

PCCW Monthly Meeting, 2nd Monday, January 13, at 6:00 pm.

All Women of the Parish—make sure you are signed up for our Women's Retreat!

Knights of Columbus - Fr Shevlin Council #6455

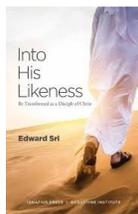


Grand Knight - Michael Temporal
Knight of the Month - Kelly Smarsh
Knight Family of the Month- Roman & Lila Wuertz

Monthly meeting, 3rd Monday, January 20, at 7:00 pm.

Diocesan Victim Assistance: Confidential Line 406-750-2373
Email victimassistancecoord@gmail.com

The women's book club will begin a new title, **Into His Likeness: Be Transformed As a Disciple of Christ** by Edward Sri, on January 8th. If you would like to order your copy with the group let Sherry know by December 23rd at giesergal@yahoo.com.



Lector Schedule

Saturday, December 21st

5:30 pm Rita Baeten

Sunday, December 22nd

8:45 am Jack Auzqui
11:00 am Tracey Chechet

Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 pm Tracey Chechet
Midnight Jack Auzqui

Christmas Day

10:00 am Rita Baeten



These last days of Advent are ushered in by the great *O Antiphons* — seven antiphons, or short chants, that are sung at the beginning of the *Magnificat* each evening at Vespers (Evening Prayer) from December 17 through December 23.

The *O Antiphons* have been chanted in the Church since at least the 8th century. There are many levels to the symbolism and foreshadowing of the antiphons. Individually, they each speak on their own, addressing our Lord by a different title or name given to him in Old Testament prophecies, imploring him to come and save his people. These antiphons are called the “*O Antiphons*” because each chant begins with great cry, “*O ...*”:

- O Sapientia* — O Wisdom**
- O Adonai* — O Lord**
- O Radix Jesse* — O Root of Jesse**
- O Clavis David* — O Key of David**
- O Oriens* — O Dayspring**
- O Rex Gentium* — O King of the Nations**
- O Emmanuel* — O God with Us**

Collectively, they speak too. Looking at the titles, we find an acrostic. Taking the first letter of each antiphon, working in reverse, we see the Latin words *ERO CRAS*. Literally, these words translate to, “Tomorrow I will be,” or perhaps more appropriately for Advent and the impending Nativity, “Tomorrow I will come.”

The text of each antiphon is scriptural and prophetic—the words of the chant are all based on passages from Isaiah that introduce us to the coming Christ-child. It seems every Christian knows the hymn setting of the *O Antiphons*: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” These remaining days of Advent should—with the help of these beautiful and ancient chants—draw our minds and hearts to the King of Kings as we explore our Catholic tradition and prophecy from of old, joyfully awaiting the coming of our Savior.



Christmas Holy Days Mass Schedule

- 12/24 Christmas Eve Vigil Mass — 5 pm
- 12/25 Christmas Midnight Mass — Midnight
- 12/25 Christmas Day— 10 am
- 12/31 Solemnity of Mary Vigil—6 pm
- 1/1 Solemnity of Mary—9 am



Parish office will be closed for the holiday, December 23—Jan 2.

Our first year’s subscription to Augustine Institute’s **Formed** programming is nearing the end. We have heard from many parishioner’s that they have greatly enjoyed the many features in this gift. If you, too, have enjoyed and found value in **FORMED** programming, please consider financially contributing to the renewal of Saint Anthony’s Parish subscription for 2020. The online donation process which we employed successfully in 2019 is not available in the new version of **FORMED**. Please pick up an envelope marked **Formed** in the Narthex and make your donation directly to the office before January 15th, 2020.



~ANNUAL WOMEN’S RETREAT~
ALL WOMEN

“Humility of Heart”

January 25, 2020

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

With Fr. Samuel Spiering
& Fr. Bart Stevens

RSVP:
saintanthonycatholicchurch.org
or call 406.628.7182

Weekly Mass Schedule

We gather to pray the Holy Rosary 1/2 hour before every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Tuesday is excepted: we pray the Perpetual Help Devotion 15 minutes before Mass and follow Tuesday’s Low Latin Mass with Vespers (Evening Prayer), Saint Monica Perpetual Novena and pray the holy rosary together. Please join us! We need to pray for our Priests, our Pope, and our loved ones!

Date	Time	Auxiliary		Intention	Offered By
Monday, December 23rd	9:00 am	Liturgy of the Hours			
		CHRISTMAS MASSES			
Tuesday, December 24th	5:00 pm	Vigil Mass		Elizabeth Rehbein	
Wednesday, December 25th	12:00 am	Midnight Mass: Sung Latin Mass		Pro Populo	
Wednesday, December 25th	10:00 am	Christmas Mass			
Thursday, December 26th	9:00 am	Daily Mass		Luke Gitzen	
Friday, December 27th	9:00 am	Daily Mass		Michael DiMonte	
	6:00 pm	Benediction		Eucharistic Adoration	Sign up now!
Saturday, December 28th	9:00 am	Low Latin Mass	✠	Charley & Bev Blom	Stevens Family
	5:30 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass		Earl Ray Rowley, Jr	Mike & Kathy Manders
Sunday, December 29th	8:45 am	Solemn Mass	✠	Pro Populo	
	11:00 am	Sunday Mass		Dan Blom & Leona Blom	Dale & Connie Blom