



# Holy Spirit

*Catholic Parish and School*

**March 18, 2018**

**Worship Centers:** Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 201 44th St. South      Holy Family Chapel, 2800 Central Ave.  
**Parish Offices:** 201 44th St. South Great Falls, MT 59405      Phone: (406)452-6491  
**Parish Office hours:** Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. – Noon  
Fax: 452-6495      Email: [hsparish@holyspiritgf.org](mailto:hsparish@holyspiritgf.org)      Website: [www.holyspiritgf.org](http://www.holyspiritgf.org)

**School:** 2820 Central Avenue      Phone: 761-5775  
Email: [jwichman@holyspiritgf.org](mailto:jwichman@holyspiritgf.org)      web: [www.holyspiritgfschool.org](http://www.holyspiritgfschool.org)

**Check out FORMED.org Our parish code is PGMYYZ**

*WE, the people of Holy Spirit Catholic Parish of Great Falls, Montana, created by God, centered in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, are sharing our journey of faith,*

*WE are committed to upholding our faith, strengthening our families, and being a joyful people of prayer.*

*WE strive to be the Lord's presence on earth by welcoming and ministering to all people with compassion and hope.      Rev. March 1999*

*"Virtues are formed by prayer, Prayer preserves temperance. Prayer suppresses anger. Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit, and raises us to heaven." ~ St. Ephrem of Syria*



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**March 25, Palm Sunday: Masses 4:30 pm Saturday, 8:30 & 11:00 am Sunday**

**Lady of Snows Bake sale after all Masses, Knights of Columbus breakfast on Sunday**

**March 28, Wednesday: Confessions 5:30-6:30.**

**March 29, Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper; 7:00 pm**

**March 30, Good Friday: the Passion of the Lord; 3:00 pm; Stations of the Cross; 6:00 pm**

**March 31, Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil; 9:00 pm**

**April 1, Easter Day: Masses 8:30 and 11:00 am**

**NO soup & bread Friday 3/23**

**Stations of the Cross**

**5:30 pm (due to a Vigil)**



**The Care and Share  
annual appeal**

is in full swing! If you  
have yet to make a

donation or pledge, please prayerfully  
consider your 2018 donation. Thank you!

Thank you to Kate Triplett, Chris Christiaens, and Sandy Robinson for the 3 part poverty educational piece they presented at 3 Thursday soup and bread nights. Thanks also goes to Kay Walters for the chicken bisque soup, Helen Vacek for the potato soup, and Chris Neu for the Chicken Enchilada Soup, and Kathy Remington for the Chili. Thank you to our hospitality "The Aprons of Service": Martin Triplett, Holly & Lynn Ingeman, and Jean Schultz. We have wonderful music ministry at Holy Spirit. Kody Diekhans invited the musicians to come and open our evenings of prayer with inspirational music. THANK YOU! It takes everyone to make the time spent with each other a time well spent.

# The Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 18, 2018

## Holy Spirit Parish Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## Daily Mass Schedule

### Holy Spirit Day Chapel:

Tuesdays 5:15 p.m., Wednesdays & Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

**Park Place** (3200 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. S) **2nd** Wednesday each month 2:30

**Highgate** (3000 11th Ave S) **3rd** Wednesday each month 1:30

**Holy Family Chapel** (2800 Central Avenue) Fridays 8:30 a.m.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays - 2-4 pm, Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 pm  
or by appointment with a priest.



### Holy Spirit Chapel is open for prayer before the

**Blessed Sacrament:** Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 pm  
Friday 8:30 - 12.

## Mass Intentions:

Mon., 3/19 - 8:30 am - +Theresa Theisen	r/b K Walters
Tues., 3/20- 5:15 p.m. - +Bob Trunkle	r/b A Trunkle
Wed., 3/21- 8:30 a.m., - +Sharon Good	r/b J & R Murphy
Highgate - 1:30 - Phil Maronick (sp int)	r/b Maronicks
Thu., 3/22- 8:30 a.m - +Sophia Kubis	r/b M Fauque
Fri., 3/23- 8:30 a.m., HF - +Kay Walters (sp int)	r/b J & A Trunkle
Sat., 3/24- 4:30 p.m.- +Annie Habel	r/b M Bailly
Sun., 3/25 - 8:30 a.m.- +Robert James Fouhy	r/b J Held
- 11:00 a.m.- +Bill, Irene and Bill	r/b I Dixon

## Readings for next week: Palm Sunday, year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

## Coffee & Rolls Schedule

**Mar 18:** Holy Spirit Catholic School

**Mar 25:** Palm Sunday Breakfast, Knights of Columbus

## Bus Schedule:



Mar 24: Dave Stukey and Jan Olson

Mar 25: Logan and Alec Good

## What's Happening This Week...

<b><u>Sunday:</u></b>	Elem. Formation - 9:45 am	Sts. P&P
	Bible Timeline study - 1:00 pm	hall
	Youth Group - 5:00 pm	church
<b><u>Tuesday:</u></b>	Christian Service Comm mtg - 6:30 pm	Sts. P&P
	Worship Comm. mtg. - 7:00 pm	con. rm.
<b><u>Wednesday:</u></b>	Chrism Mass - 6:00 pm	St. Anns
	Elem. Formation - 6:30 pm	St P&P
<b><u>Thursday:</u></b>	RCIA - 7 pm	Sts. P&P
<b><u>Friday:</u></b>	Stations of the Cross - 5:30 pm	church
<b><u>Saturday:</u></b>	Fellowship Dinner - 5:30 pm	hall
	Palm Sunday Bake Sale - 5:30 pm	hall
<b><u>Sunday:</u></b>	Palm Sunday Bake Sale - 8:30 am	hall
	Palm Sunday Breakfast, Knights of Columbus- 8 am	
	Elem formation - 9:45 am	Sts. P&P
	Bible Timeline Study - 1:00 pm	hall
	Living Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm	church



## Join us for Stations:


3/23 5:30 pm

3/30 6:00 pm

## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Douglas Krings	Pastor
Dcn. Bill Medved	Deacon
Dcn. Pete Woelkers	Deacon, Adult Formation
Mark Meyer	Parish Administrator
Mary Dupuis	Worship, RCIA (Becoming Catholic)
Aubrey Rearden	DRE/Youth Minister
Cindy Eultgen	Christian Service/Elementary Formation
Mary Wingerter	Administrative Assistant
Chuck Osterman	Maintenance

## Liturgical Ministers for March 24, 25

	4:30 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
 <b>Holy Spirit</b> Catholic Parish	★ Sub requested ~ log in to Web Terminal and accept the sub		
<b>Bread Baker</b>	E. Becker J. Jones		
<b>Holy Wash</b>		C. Fuhrman	
<b>Sacristan</b>	S. Mohler	Monique Nickol	G. Miller B. Rasmussen
<b>Greeter</b>	S Dunston / P Paul J Edgar / VPedro	J & J Christiaens D & J Schwanke	Team Nicholson
<b>Usher</b>	D. Hogan J. Tarnowski	P. Bahnmler D. Erickson	C. Rostad N. St. Claire Mike Stimac
<b>Cross</b>	A. Fowell	B. Lorenz	M. Goulet- Barlow
<b>Altar Servers</b>	C. Hallahan E Shepherd	A. Harris N. McKelvey	J. Stimac Noah Stimac
<b>CLW</b>		C Lyerly	J. Bishop
<b>Reader</b>	C. Tucker M. Kostelnik	S. Robinson M. Nardinger	J. Guter A. Krattiger
<b>Gifts</b>	Polacek Family	Dean Family	Harrington Family
<b>NOTE:</b> <b>Euch Min:</b> <i>During this time of Flu, with the cup being withheld, the first 5 ministers to check in will be assigned as ministers. Pray that this ends soon.</i>	T. Ewalt L. Ewalt K. Frazier-Harris C. Grau T. Grau T. Hilgendorf P. Hilgendorf B. Hogan D. Maronick R. Maronick R. McDunn B. Medved M. Miner M. Ouellette Chuck Paul	S. Bahnmler T. Cowhick R. Erickson H. Fauque Janice Fauque Jeff Fauque T. Jones I. Kelley E. Kelley S. Kohut C. McKelvey Caleb Mee S. O'Rourke K. Prinzing P. Woelkers	K. Baker H. Boysun G. Boysun A. Bulger L. Ginnaty J. Ginnaty C. Good K. Jones K. Krattiger M. Matelich T. Paul Carol Paul R. Seilstad M. Taylor P. Woelkers

## Care for Creation by Recycling

THANK YOU Volunteers for taking the items to either Steel Etc. or Pacific Steel.



## Schedule:

<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Cardboard</u>
<b>3rd (March 16– 22)</b>	<b>G. Kushnak</b>	<b>R. Shipley</b>
<b>4th (March 23-29)</b>	<b>D &amp; P Birkenbuel</b>	<b>C. Nowak</b>

The weekend starts on Friday (shifts are Friday to Thursday).

**School Newspapers:** Greg Bonilla

**Call Parish Office for information on RCIA,  
Adult Formation or Marriage Preparation**

**RCIA (Becoming Catholic)** Weekly Thursday sessions, for unbaptized and those baptized in another faith tradition, every **Thursday, 7:00PM, at the Sts. Peter and Paul Center.** Enter from the parking lot, thru the door marked RCIA. For initial contact Mary Dupuis at the parish offices 452-6491, ext 206.

**RCIA Adapted for Children:** for children age 7 or older who are not baptized, or baptized in another faith tradition: contact Mary Dupuis at the parish offices 452-6491.

**Young Adult Ministry**

Aubrey Rearden 452-6491 ext. 207 aubrey@holyspiritgf.org  
Cell Phone: 868-6713 (call or text)

**Hops & Hope**

We're back in action!!! Looking for a casual opportunity to connect with other Catholic young adults? Hops & Hope is a great option to do just that. Our next gathering will be Thursday March 29th we will begin with Holy Thursday Mass @ Holy Spirit Church 7pm and then we will head to Boston's around 8:30pm.

**Youth Ministry**

Aubrey Rearden 452-6491 ext. 207 aubrey@holyspiritgf.org  
Cell Phone: 868-6713

**Youth Group Sunday Nights 6:30-8:15pm**




**Youth Group this Sunday March 18, 2018.**

**Middle School 6th—8th Grade:** Stations of the Cross Prep


**High School Life Teen:** Stations of the Cross Prep

**Class of 2018: Mark Your Calendars...**  
**Graduation Mass & Luncheon**  
**Sunday May 20, 2018 @ 11am**  
**Mass followed by a luncheon**

 High School Bible Study meets each Wednesday @ Schulte's Coffeehouse from 6:45-7:30am, everyone is welcome!

**Sacramental Preparation**


Paige Nicholson 870-0706 pdnicholson1@charter.net

 Please contact Paige Nicholson to visit about preparation for Completion of Initiation (1st Sacraments). Sacramental Prep. forms are available in the book rack in the entrance of church.

**Elementary Faith Formation**

Cindy Eultgen 452-6491 ext. 208 cindy@holyspiritgf.org

**Classes this week: Sun3/18 & Wed 3/21**  
**Next week: Sun 3/25 & Wed 3/28**

 Thank you for helping us collect supplies for this summer VBS. We now have enough plastic containers. Thank you! Also, can you help by bringing in paper grocery bags?

**Holy Spirit School**

Jim Wichman - Principal Melissa Hallahan, Vice-Principal  
Judy Flint & Robin Verzuh, Administrative Assistants  
Colette Longin, Development Director, clongin@holyspiritgf.org  
761-5775 www.holyspiritgf.org

Are you wondering about a new school experience for your child? HSCS could be the ticket! We have so many opportunities for students including competitive sports programs, Science Club, Junior Toastmasters, and field trips for all ages! We enjoy weekly Mass, community service projects, praying together and playing together! Our students head into high school with the foundations of faith, knowledge, and service from their well-rounded education at HSCS. And with smaller class sizes, our teachers really get to know their students! We have an amazing village of parents, staff, students and alumni, and we invite your child, and you, to come be part of it! Schedule a tour today by calling 761-5775! For more information please visit our website: holyspiritgfschool.org.

**Come be a part of our team!** Holy Spirit Catholic School is seeking applicants for the following positions: 1) Elementary Teacher and 2) Administrative Assistant. Please contact the school at 761-5775 or email Pricpal Wichman at jwichman@holyspiritgf.org

Interested in making HSCS a beneficiary of your charitable donations? There are many ways to make that happen! Through the HSCS Endowment Trust, Scholarships, Dare to Dream, and more, you can make a difference in a child's life! Visit us online to donate, or for more information, call Colette at the school.

**Christian Service**

Cindy Eultgen 452-6491 ext. 208 cindy@holyspiritgf.org



**Week 5: we encounter Alefa in Ma-lawi**, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God's creation this lent?



**Fellowship Dinner** Next Saturday, March 24 after the 4:30 pm Mass. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus 9395. Please bring dessert to share with this delicious Pork Loin meal. All are welcome, free will offering.

**Become a Volunteer for Benefis Peace Hospice** Training and orientation Tuesday and Thursday evening for three weeks from 6-9 pm on April 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, and 19.

Training sessions will be held at Benefis Health System in Great Falls and will also be available through REACH Montana Telehealth Network in Choteau and Fort Benton.



Volunteers are needed to serve thorough-out Cascade, Choteau, and more counties of Montana. Hours and schedules are flexible with opportunities for: patient & family care, respite and socialization, office assistance and front desk support, companionship and bereavement support, and more!

If you are thinking about volunteering **talk to someone to see if this is the right fit for you! Call 455-3040 to discuss opportunities** or visit [www.benefis.org/peace-hospice-volunteer](http://www.benefis.org/peace-hospice-volunteer). **March 23 is the deadline to register.**

**Parish Relief Yellow Envelopes** for February's total was \$ 1110. Thank you for your generosity to this fund as all contributions go directly to helping those in need, right here in Great Falls.





## Stewardship



"But if Christ is in you,...the spirit is alive..." As we move through the Lenten season, tending to the various works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving we are living in our daily lives, let us remember the gift of God's Holy Spirit who generously gave us the Church, a place to find the Lord, experience His presence, and come to know Him through one another.

Thank you for your generous response to our Monsignor House needs. Nancy and John Dutchak, Vince and Patty Kolar, and Maryanne Haigh. You are part of the testimony to what it means to be community in our parish. Please watch the bulletin for more announcements about upcoming trainings, needed donations, and future hostings.

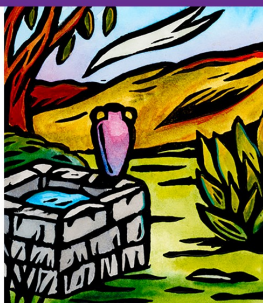
If you would like to talk about Family Promise, visit the Monsignor House, or drop off donations, please call Kathie at 781-5033. *"I will be their God and they shall be my people." - Jeremiah 31:33*

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our neighbors and the world, just as God cares for us.

## Worship

Mary Dupuis 452-6491 ex. 206 [mdupuis@holyspiritgf.org](mailto:mdupuis@holyspiritgf.org)

### Q What are the scrutinies and exorcisms in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and what is their purpose?



**A** The scrutinies, celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, invite the elect, along with the assembly, into prayerful contemplation and repentance. The scrutinies help "uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good." The rituals help purify the heart and mind. They protect the elect from the power of sin, strengthen them against temptations, and orient them toward the saving waters of Baptism (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 141). Each scrutiny concludes with a prayer of exorcism over the elect, through which they "are freed from the effects of sin" and the influence of evil (RCIA, 144). Unlike exorcisms depicted in popular films, these are beautiful prayers that speak of Christ's saving power over sin and death.

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**Musicians Rehearsals Wednesdays at 7:00pm.** You are invited to join the music ministry ~ All voices and most instruments are welcome to help lead the music. For more info, contact Kody Diekhans at (406) 799-2626.

You are invited to the **Mass of Chrism** at St. Ann's Cathedral Thursday March 22nd at 6:00 pm. The Oils used in the celebration of sacraments during the year will be blessed during this special Eucharist. Representatives from the parish will carry the Blessed Oils back to the parish where they will be presented to the parish community at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

## Courtesy Announcements

Big Sky Cum Christo is accepting application for Team Members and Candidates for upcoming Weekends, being held at the Heisey Center in Great Falls. Men's weekend is April 12-15 and Women's is April 19-22. Applications are online at [www.bigskycumchristo.org](http://www.bigskycumchristo.org) and deadline is March 1. Call Chris Christiaens 590-4406 or Monica Woelkers 750-1668 for more information.



**We need your help!** As **Great Falls Central Catholic High School** plans for its major fundraiser "**Celebration 18**" scheduled for April 14, 2018 at the Mansfield Center, the planning committee is seeking donated items such as jewelry, services, game tickets, use of vacation cabins, and other unique items to add to our live and silent auctions. We are also seeking the donation of airline miles to complete travel packages to Denver and Seattle. All donations are tax deductible!

Corporate/Sponsored tables are also available for this fun event. Contact Hugh Smith at 216-3344 or at [hsmith@greatfallscentral.org](mailto:hsmith@greatfallscentral.org) if you can help out!

**Enrollment is open** for the GFCCHS Mustangs for the 2018-19 school year! Please go to <https://www.greatfallscentral.org/admissions/> for the application. If you would like more information about financial aid, course offerings, athletics and activities, please call 216-3344. If you know anyone interested in Central, please contact us, so we can personally reach out to them.

Come join us for the Spring Fling Breakfast, April 15, 8:00-1:00, at Corpus Christi Parish. Menu: Pancakes, French toast, Ham, Sausage links, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits and Gravy, Hash Brown Casserole, and coffee & Juice. Freewill Offering~

### 2018 Her Pondering Heart

Calling All Women! Her Pondering Heart (formerly Sisters in Faith) is a dynamic, engaging Women's Conference sponsored by Billings Catholic Radio, KJCR. This one day conference held on May 5, 2018 will feature Gloria Purvis, Cornell graduate and host of EWTN'S Morning Glory. We are also honored to welcome our own Fr. Garrett Nelson, Director of Vocations for the Great Falls-Billings Diocese. Please join us for this enriching day of sisterhood, Saturday May 5, 2018 at 8:00am at St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 226 Wicks Ln. in the Heights. You will not want to miss this wonderful conference!

**Due to the flu season being so bad in Great Falls, we will not distribute the cup of Precious Blood until the flu abates. Thank you for your understanding.**

**Saint Michael Radio ~ \*FM 97.1**  
**"Sharing the Splendor of Truth"**



# Holy Spirit

*Catholic Parish*

A letter to the parishioners:

The Triduum is fast approaching as we re-enter into the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Triduum consist of three liturgies, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. There is one change I would like to incorporate as the parish celebrates the Triduum, on Holy Thursday, with the washing of the feet.

The Thursday of the Lord's Supper has two primary themes, the Institution of the Eucharist and the institution of the priesthood. The Institution of the Eucharist should be clear to most Catholics as this beautiful Liturgy unfolds. And as we believe as Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. The institution of the priesthood may be less clear. When Jesus, during the Last Supper, washes the Disciples feet, it is understood by the Church, that He is also instituting the priesthood. Accordingly, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the priest, washes the feet of a representative population of the parish. This celebration therefore, is not meant to include all to be allowed to wash one another's feet. While this is a beautiful symbol of humility and of being a servant to one another, it may cloud the intent of this liturgy and should, I feel, be done at some other liturgy or parish event. Remember that the washing of one's feet is a symbol, the reality of the event is the living of one's Baptismal calling, a calling "to a life of faith, hope and charity" (CCC 1547).

I want to thank you for your understanding of this matter and I look forward to the opportunity to serve all the people of this parish, fulfilling my responsibility as an ordained minister of the Catholic Church.

God Bless, Fr Doug

*Fr Doug Kemp*

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**Please enter my name** in the drawing for the Foot-washing at the Holy Thursday Mass on March 29. I understand that if I am one of the 12 names drawn, I am to arrive at church by 6:30 for instructions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Drop in the collection basket or return to parish office.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.*

# We Are A Mission

We need your help!

The Emilie Center and St. Jude Conference, located at 1920 10<sup>th</sup> Ave So. is in NEED of volunteers, donations and your financial help.

We are a mission that provides clothing, household items and furniture at NO CHARGE to those with a documented need. We also provide monetary assistance with utilities, rent and/or groceries.

Our volunteers work in the store receiving and sorting donated items. Our current needed items are dishes, pots and pans, towels, silverware, furniture, bedding, sleeping bags, children and baby clothes.

To raise funds for our mission we have two Taco Feeds and Two Garage Sales a year. Our next garage sale will be Friday April 6, from 3 to 7 p.m. Our next Taco Feed will be Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 6 p.m., with silent auction 11 to 5p.m.

Anyone who wants to volunteer or donate can call the Emilie Center from 9 am to noon or 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays at 406-771-6695 or contact St. Jude Conference at 406-788-2291.

Thank you to all of you who have been so generous and helpful in the past.

The Youth Group at Holy Spirit Parish invites you to enter Holy Week by joining us in prayer.

**Sunday March 25, 2018**

**7:30pm**

Holy Spirit Parish  
201 44th St. S.

Join us as our 7th—12th grade youth present the Stations as you have never prayed it before.

# **Living Stations of the Cross**



# **Big Sky Cum Christo**

Many of you have probably been wondering what exactly is a Cum Christo. You have probably heard others talk about it and have probably heard various explanations. Cum Christo can't really be explained, because it's different for each person and what they get out of the weekend. A Cum Christo has to be experienced to be understood. It is a very personal experience that isn't the same for any two people and each Cum Christo weekend is its own unique happening because each has a different group of people that are unique to that particular Cum Christo weekend.

Participants come to the weekend in a searching or thirsting for God. Within the community atmosphere provided, participants in the Cum Christo weekend are able to discover God's presence in their lives and others. The enjoyment and adventure of grace shared with others and it is increased by the influence of holiness of each participant present.

The Cum Christo originated as the Cursillo in Christianity. In Spanish the word "Cursillo" means a short course, a concentrated course in Christianity. A Cum Christo is the beginning in studying and solving all the problems we encounter. We all want to find happiness and our Lord wants us to be happy. If we take advantage of the opportunity to be apart of the Cum Christo we are going to find the means to real happiness.

Each Cum Christo is experienced with men on the first weekend and the women on the second weekend. The Cum Christo starts on a Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday night. Participants will live and work together, listening to talks given by priests and laypeople. During the weekend we go to mass, pray the rosary and visit the Blessed Sacrament daily. You can expect good food, rest, companionship, and time with our Lord, Jesus, each day.

**Mens Weekend:** April 12-15, 2018 Contact: Chris Christiaens 590-4406

**Womens Weekend:** April 19-22, 2018 Contact: Monica Woelkers 750-1668

Contact: Carmen Thorsen 761-1805

Please contact one of the above for an application.





*Catholic Church of Eastern Montana*  
**DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS**

*Founded 1904*

*Live the Gospel. Bring Light to the World*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Darren Eultgen, Chancellor**  
**Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, MT**  
**406-727-6683**  
**[chancellor@diocesegfb.org](mailto:chancellor@diocesegfb.org)**

**Diocese of Great Falls-Billings files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Dismissal**

**March 14, 2018**

On March 13, 2018, the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings filed a motion to dismiss its Chapter 11 Bankruptcy case pending before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Montana.

The Diocese filed for a Chapter 11 reorganization almost twelve months ago, on March 31, 2017. It did so then to fulfill a pre-bankruptcy understanding with the attorneys for the then-known abuse survivors and with the Diocese's liability insurance carrier. The Diocese had already provided complete and up-to-date financial records to the attorneys for the abuse claimants. The expected goal of the bankruptcy process was to allow other unknown victims of sexual abuse to come forward with claims, after which the parties could resume their mediation efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement under a consensual plan of reorganization that could be approved under the Bankruptcy Court process. Unfortunately, it now appears there is little likelihood of obtaining a global resolution that would allow for a fair and just settlement with all of the abuse victims, while at the same time insuring the ongoing viability of the Catholic Church in Eastern Montana.

As stated by Bishop Warfel, "My responsibility in this matter has always been twofold. The first is attending to the legitimate grievances of long-term harm inflicted upon the victims of abuse by ministers serving on behalf of the Diocese. The second is providing pastoral support and spiritual guidance to the present and future generations of the Diocese. Unfortunately, under the present circumstances, including the positions now being advocated by the Unsecured Creditors Committee (UCC) in the bankruptcy proceedings, I find myself to be in a position of having to consider settlement demands that would severely or even permanently cripple the Diocese. This simply cannot form the basis of any resolution in the Bankruptcy Court proceeding, leaving the Diocese with no choice but to pursue other avenues that will hopefully lead to a just and equitable global mediated settlement."

As the result of a motion filed by the UCC, the Diocese is now faced with having to proceed to a trial in state district court covering two of the 86 claimants. Having to do so at some point in the next months will put the Diocese in the same position in which it found itself just before the bankruptcy was filed one year ago. Inexplicably, while the UCC insists that these two trials go forward, its attorneys do not want the results of those trials to be binding on either the Diocese or their clients, including both the two claimants whose cases will be heard by a jury and the other 84 claimants.

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Moreover, the UCC is now pushing ahead with three separate lawsuits in the bankruptcy court that likewise may take several more months to resolve. One of these lawsuits is seeking to make the parish churches and the real property on which those churches are built as available to fund monetary settlements which the UCC is seeking for the claimants. Another seeks to obtain the funds of each individual parish in the Diocese. Of course, those funds have come almost exclusively from donations of the Catholic faithful in those parishes and are being used exclusively by the parishioners to maintain, repair and replace these facilities and pursue their own missions.

The parishes have now been forced to retain and pay for their own separate counsel to defend against these new lawsuits. The Diocese has to pay its own attorneys to defend against them too. Worse, given the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code, the Diocese will be required to pay the attorneys for the UCC for their own time and expenses spent in pursuing these claims against the Diocese and parishes. There is no reason not to believe that the final bill for such legal expenses will run into the millions of dollars.

While confident of our legal position and the position of the parishes and parishioners, the cost to the Diocese and parishes, even if successful, will severely impact and impair our financial ability to settle claims through the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy process. At this point, that process seems guaranteed to achieve one result with certainty – that of leaving fewer funds for the abuse victims while jeopardizing the ability of the Diocese to carry on its mission. In other words, the bankruptcy proceedings appear headed in a direction 180 degrees opposite from the goal which Bishop Warfel had in mind when he authorized the filing of a petition for a Chapter 11 reorganization in March, 2017.

By seeking a dismissal of the bankruptcy, the Diocese is most assuredly not attempting to discount the past and current pain and suffering that the victims of abuse have suffered. Bishop Warfel continues to express his profound sorrow and sincere apologies to anyone who was abused by a priest, a sister or a lay Church worker. He stands ready and willing to meet with every abuse claimant. However, the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy process has only fostered the expenditure of significant time and resources which otherwise could be used to resolve these claims in a just and fair manner while still allowing the Diocese to plan for the future ministry of the Catholic faithful throughout Eastern Montana.

The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings will continue with its efforts to resolve all claims of abuse and is currently exploring other alternatives that will allow this to take place.



# Connections



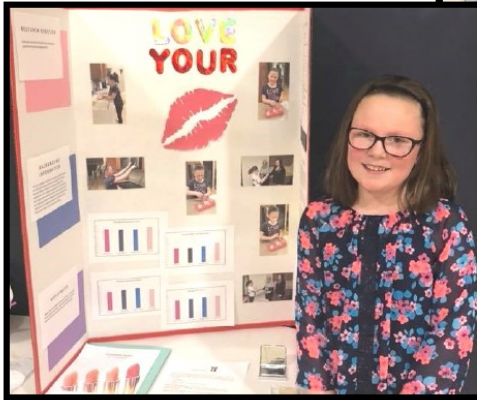
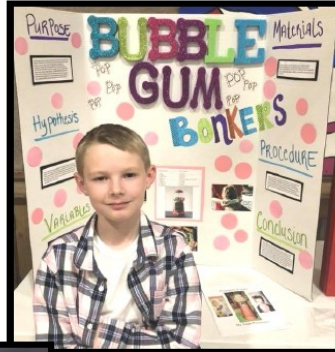
linking Holy Spirit Parish & School

MARCH 2018

side by side

heart to heart

hand in hand



This month both our 5th Graders and Middle Schoolers had Science Fair! Here are a few of our 5th Graders; Middle School winners announced next month!

Our Middle School also enjoyed a choir festival with students from Power, Dutton-Brady, Simms, Choteau and Fairfield! They made music all day together, then performed that evening for parents.

Thank you to our music teacher, Karlene Schraner, for making these opportunities possible. Students walked in the parade this weekend for Saint Patrick's Day, and enjoyed a breakfast cooked by the Hibernians! Our 7th and 8th Grade Boys & Girls Basketball teams are doing well in their league! Go Mustangs!

Their tournament will be the beginning of April in Fairfield!





## Holy Spirit Catholic School

2820 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, MT. 59401  
406-761-5775

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

[www.holyspiritgfschool.org](http://www.holyspiritgfschool.org)

or keep up to date with us here:



Please check the website for  
up-to-date hours &  
information!

It's always the right time to be  
part of the Holy Spirit Catholic  
School family! Give your child  
the gift of an excellent  
education, enhanced with a  
foundation of faith.

Schedule a tour today! We'd  
love to show you around!

We also offer prospective  
students the opportunity to  
attend class for a day.

### DATES

We invite to join us for Mass on Friday  
mornings when we worship as a  
school family! \*\*8:30am, unless  
otherwise noted.

3/18 HSCS hosts coffee & rolls  
at Parish

3/23 1st grade liturgy

3/29 Grandfriend's Day

4/6 Faculty liturgy

4/13 8th grade liturgy

4/20 7th grade liturgy

4/27 6th grade liturgy



We're hiring for 2 positions:  
Elementary Teacher and  
Administrative Assistant!  
Please call the school at  
761-577 or email Principal

Wichman ([jwichman@holyspiritgf.org](mailto:jwichman@holyspiritgf.org)) for an application  
or more information! Help us spread the word!

## NOW REGISTERING FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!

*Our enrollment is booming...come find out why!*  
Maybe you've heard about our exceptional academics and  
small class sizes, and are curious if we might be a good fit  
for your child? Give us a call today to set up a tour or a Class  
visit for your child!

## Looking ahead...

Spring Break: March 30-April 3

Spirit Walk May 11

CowPie Moolah May 20

HSCS Graduation May 24

CCHS Graduation May 27

Last Day: June 1

Our students are  
competing in 7th &  
8th Grade Basketball  
right now! Track  
season is right  
around the  
corner!



amazon.com  
Smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

You can designate HSCS as a  
charitable beneficiary of all your  
spending on Amazon!



Save your boxtops for us and bring to the  
school or parish office, marked for the  
school! This program provides extra fund-  
ing for teachers to supplement materials  
in their classrooms!

## Teacher wish list

Like new or new books for the library, craft items, acrylic paint,  
personal laminator, dorm sized fridge, markers, dry erase markers,  
colored pencils, instax or polaroid camera, gym equipment,  
lunch tables, bulletin boards.