



Holy Spirit

Catholic Parish and School

May 27, 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 Website: www.holyspiritgf.org

School: 2820 Central Avenue Phone: 761-5775
Email: jwichman@holyspiritgf.org web: www.holyspiritgfschool.org

Check out FORMED.org Our parish code is PGMYJZ

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

"Christian families exist to form a communion of persons in love. As such, the Church and the family are each, in its own way, living representations in human history of the eternal loving communion of the Three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity." ~Pop St. John Paul II

Memorial Day Mass, celebrated
on Monday, May 28, at 12:00
Noon, in the **Mount Olivet
(McLaughlin) Chapel** by
Father Jay Peterson.
Come not only to pray for loved
ones who have died, but also to
appreciate the seldom-seen
stained glass windows by Sister
Trinitas.



Baptism Preparation Sessions

If you are expecting a baby or recently
had a baby and want that baby bap-
tized at Holy Spirit, you must attend
both of the Baptism Preparation Classes.

Our next classes are:

Sunday June 3 1:00 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul
Sunday June 10 1:00 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul

Pastoral Council Nominations

We are now seeking nominations to replace three people on the Council. If you or someone you know has the spiritual and leadership qualities to continue to guide our parish into the future, please fill out the nominating form below. Council members meet monthly September through June and serve on one of the several parish commissions and councils: Worship, Formation, Christian Service, Stewardship/Development, and Building.

I would like to submit the name of _____ for consideration as a member of the Pastoral Council. I have talked to this person who has agreed to be nominated.

Signed: _____

Please clip and return to the parish office by June 4th.

The Most Holy Trinity, May 20, 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 15th 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., 5/28- 8:30 am - No Mass
Tues., 5/29- 5:15 p.m. - +Harriet Biedscheid r/b S Edwin
Wed., 5/30- 8:30 a.m., - +Mary Phillips r/b P Coolidge
Thu., 5/31- 8:30 am - +Derald Guilbert r/b D McCallum
Fri., 6/1- 8:30 a.m., HF - +Greg Deffe r/b J Deffe
Sat., 6/2- 4:30 p.m. - +Steve Pedro r/b H & D Wilkins
Sun., 6/3- 8:30 a.m. - +Derald Guilbert r/b K Walters
- 11:00 a.m.- Parishioners

Readings for next week: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

1st Reading: Exodus 24:3-8

2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

Gospel: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Coffee & Rolls Schedule

May 27: Holy Spirit Catholic School.

June 3: 8:30 ~Ford, Bonilla & Moberley; 11:00 Van Spyk & gang



Bus Schedule:

June 2: Andre and Michelle Jezewski

June 3: Logan and Alec Good

What's Happening This Week...

Monday: Memorial Day Mass - 12:00 pm Mount Olivet
Office Closed

Thursday: RCIA - 7:00 pm Sts. P&P

Saturday: Fair Trade Coffee Sales - 5:30 pm hall

Sunday: Fair Trade Coffee Sales - 8:30 am hall


*As a **Stewardship Parish** we are grateful to have parishioners give generously from their heart. This allows us to have **no fee** with **all our** sacramental and formation programming for our parishioners. It is through your generous **weekly** giving that we are able to offer quality religious formation opportunities to everyone from womb to tomb.*

Please join us to pray the Rosary at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday at Holy Spirit, 8 a.m. Thursday and Sunday at Holy Spirit, 8 a.m. Fridays at Holy Family and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday at Holy Spirit. The Knights of Columbus Council #9395 will lead the Rosary before the 11:00 Mass on the 5th Sundays of the month

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Doug 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 Ministry
Cindy Eultgen	Christian service/ Elem. Formation
Mary Moore-Wingerter	Administrative Assistant
Chuck Osterman	Maintenance

Liturgical Ministers for June 2, 3

	4:30 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
 Holy Spirit Catholic Parish	★ Sub requested ~ log in to Web Terminal and accept the sub		
Bread Baker	P. Kolar N. Rooney		
Holy Wash		T. Dimke	
Sacristan	S. Mayernik	G. Matsko	N. Luth
Greeter	P. Cahill / R Olmstead P. Reagor / J Edgar	J & Jim Christiaens V. & G. Drake	Team Nicholson
Usher	D. Hogan M. Thompson	J. Collins Michael Nickol	C. Rostad N. St. Claire Mike Stimac
Cross	Everett Shepherd	G. Thomas	M. G-Barlow
Altar Servers	L Moog E Shepherd	C. Collins A. Harris	B. Mignery M Mignery
CLW		D. McGuire	V. Evans
Reader	D. Maronick M. Leach	F. Fitterer J. Wingerter	K. N-Wendt A. Mignery
Gifts	M. Lacher B. Thelen E. White	H. Fauque E. Gort J. Gort	Stivers Family
Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Hans Fehres T. Grau C. Grau T. Griffith B. Hogan A. Klundt Abigail Leggett K. Leggett R. Maronick B. Medved M. Ouellette F. Polacek Tracy Rigor J. Shepherd D. Stukey	G. Drake J. Durocher L. Durocher L. Fitterer J. Gort R. Hellyer A. Heppner M. M-Wingerter Monique Nickol D. Schwanke J. Schwanke V. Smith H. Smith J. Thomas P. Woelkers	T. Balyeat N. Donisthorpe S. Donisthorpe C. Good D. Hudson K. Krattiger S. McAllister D. Nicholson Carol Paul N. Polk B. Rasmussen Reagan Ryan Rachel Ryan R. Seilstad P. Woelkers

Care for Creation by Recycling

Sheds for Newspapers, Cardboard, and Aluminum are in the Sts. Peter & Paul Center parking lot, near the dumpsters.

UPDATED Schedule:

Weekend	Newspaper	Cardboard
4th (May 25-31)	D & P Birkenbuel	C. Nowak
1st (June 1-7)	K of C 9395	C. Jernigan

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

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 May 31 @ 6:30pm @ Boston's — hope to see you there!

Youth Ministry

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

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



Watch this space for Summer Youth Ministry Opportunities.



Congratulations to the Class of 2018. May God Bless you and keep you safe in all of your life's adventures!



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

Vacation Bible School

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



VBS "Shipwrecked"
for children going into K-6.
June 18-22 8:30-12 noon.

Registration is open online for participants and volunteers! See us after Mass—all weekends in June, in the Parish Hall or visit online: www.holyspiritgf.org

Thank you for helping us with supplies. There are still several thing we need. See us in the Parish Hall to pick up one or more color-coded pieces of paper (coordinated by activity station). Shop and return item(s) to the Parish Hall or provide a donation towards our needs.

Thank you for your support in preparing for this amazing week!

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

Purchase a \$20 raffle ticket for a chance to win \$10,000! Contact the school to purchase. CowPie Moolah happens on Sunday, May 20th at GF Central High School from 3pm-6pm, with a carnival and BBQ happening from 3-5pm and the cow going on the field at 5:30pm! Bring the family out for a fun time at this annual event...now moved to Sunday to encourage community involvement! We hope you'll stop by!

Come tour your parish school! We offer an excellent educational experience...our graduates are top-notch, not just in education, but in character, as well. Here, students have the chance to integrate learning with spirituality...attending Mass weekly, praying daily, and with regular opportunities to serve their community through service projects and volunteering! Perhaps we are just what your child, and family, needs. We have competitive sports programs, Junior Toastmasters and field trips for all ages! 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! The value of an education from a Catholic School is...priceless. We're likely more affordable than you might think! We offer a military discount, and a reduced tuition for our Parish members, too. Schedule a tour today by calling 761-5775! For more information on the school, please visit our website: www.holyspiritgfschool.org.

Christian Service

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



Fair Trade Coffee Sales—in the Parish Hall next weekend, June 1 & 2 after all Masses

Yes, you can make a difference!

Why Purchase Fair Trade Products?

When we become aware of unfair, painful, unjust conditions that exist for our favorite foods and products; soon we want to make choices guided on strong Catholic Principals:

- Access to the common good that all can work & grow in *fair working conditions*
- Supports just practices keeps solidarity with our human family
- Rights are respected

www.equalexchange.coop/community



June Senior Fellowship Lunch—will be on the second Tuesday, June 12 see you then @ noon! All are welcome!



If you haven't already, please pick up a baby bottle for Echoz



Pregnancy Care Center. Fill it with your loving donations and return by Father's Day. See them online www.echoz.org, make an appointment, also, call/text (406) 727-1850 or stop by 1323 9th Ave. S. for confidential & free services.

Stewardship



Thank you to all of you who came to spring clean the Monsignor house. Because of the rainy weather we did not clean outside. Whatever cleaning we do at the Monsignor House improves the living environment. Thank you for your willingness to care for our Holy Spirit home. Our next hosting will be in August.

Pope Francis on page 161 of The Joy of the Gospel says: "Jesus, the evangelizer par excellence and the Gospel in person, identifies especially with the little ones (cf. Mt 25:40). This reminds us Christians that we are called to care for the vulnerable of the earth." We have many opportunities in our parish to care for the "little ones" and volunteering with Family Promise is just one of the ways available for us.

For any questions, please feel free to call Kathie and leave a message ~ 781-5033.

"The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..." - ROMANS 8:16-17

If we are heirs to the kingdom of God, shouldn't we work to build up His kingdom? Shouldn't we be good stewards of our inheritance, using our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and or treasure to care for the Church that God has left to us? Our Church is a treasured heirloom from God. Do we treat it that way?

Worship

Mary Dupuis 452-6491 ex. 206 mdupuis@holyspiritgf.org

Special request: A parishioner, residing at Highgate, would like to attend 8:30 Mass. Would you enjoy the company of a gentleman, who would greatly appreciate it? Call Mary W at the parish office to connect with this parishioner.

Back again! Drivers for the Saturday bus are needed, as well as assistants for both Sat. and Sun. Once every schedule avoids burnout! Call Mary at the parish offices.

Worship Commission needs new members:

Would you like to have a hand in helping directing the worship and prayer experiences at Holy Spirit? Do you have a strong liturgical faith and belief in Catholic worship? Are you curious about worship practices at Holy Spirit? Worship commission meet once a month, from Sept through May. The mission of the Worship Commission is to learn and grow personally, and to advise the pastor, through the Parish Council, on liturgical matters, and guide the communal prayer life of the parish. Submit your interest, and direct questions, to Mary Dupuis at the parish office. All are welcome to find out about the commission and its work.



Funeral for Paul Kaiser: Come celebrate the life of our long time parishioner, reader, Director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, and *Harvest* column writer at Mass on Monday May 28th at 10:00 am.

Parish Council of Catholic Women

The 5 vicariates of the Great Falls-Billings Diocesan Council of Catholic Women are awarding one \$500 scholarship to a high school graduating senior woman. Applications are available by contacting your Vicariate president Alice Klundt, alicekludt@msn.com or contact Toni Ziegler at 406-654-1187.

Milestones

Congratulations to Luke Michael and Samuel Paul Thorsen, sons of Patrick and Erin, who were baptized this weekend. Welcome! Holy Spirit Parish also welcomes these families who registered in our parish in May: Randy and Deb Linn; Mike and Laurell Hodges with their children Grace and Andrew; John and Janet Ulias; and Craig and Alexandra Brown with their son Jackson; Welcome!

Courtesy Announcements

The Emile Center would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make our Taco Feed a great success! With the beautiful day, we had a wonderful turn-out.

Now we are again asking for your help. We are in great need of the following: Towels and hand towels, silverware, size 5 diapers, newborn onsies and PJs, 0-3 months and 6-9 months clothing (especially girls).

If you are spring cleaning, having a garage or yard sale; please think of donating what you don't sell or want, as long as it is clean and in good shape. We appreciate it!! Thank you again and God bless you all!



Mount Olivet Cemetery is in need of volunteers to work in the cemetery office assisting with filing and research.

Also, any Boy Scout in need of an Eagle Project is welcome to level headstones at Mount Olivet. This is an approved Eagle Project and would be a tremendous help to the cemetery.

For more information please call Family Service Advisor, Eric Spragg, at 453-8251 or stop by his office in the cemetery located at 2101 26th St. So. Thank you.

Join us after Masses on June 10 for our **planting party!** We'll prepare the pots for the walkway in our parish garden. Plants, soil and pots provided. We just need your skill and enthusiasm to finish the project. Call the parish office for more information.

Please help us with the **St. Vincent de Paul Diaper Drive!** This drive runs through July 1. Please deliver your donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store or bring them to the church to deposit in the barrel. Thank you!



The next Loaves + Fishes webcast is Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at noon

Companion Ministries: Transforming Pain into Purpose

Presented by Lorene Duquin, Writer, Author, and Lecturer

In every parish there are people who fall through the cracks. Too often, it's because our parish staff is already stretched to the limit. Companion Ministries may be the answer. It is a simple way of organizing people in the pews, who have been through tough situations, to help others. Companions can address pastoral needs such as bereavement, divorce or separation, annulments, coping with cancer, dealing with stress, caring for someone who is dying, coming back to the church, dealing with job loss, adjusting to retirement, and much more. In this webcast, we will offer step-by-step instructions on how you can start Companion Ministries in your parish. The link to join this webcast is on our parish website: holyspiritgf.org.

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

June 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30 a.m. Mass HF	2 2:00 Confession, 4:30 Mass Fair Trade Coffee Sales
3 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses Fair Trade Coffee Sales Baptism Prep, 1:00 pm, Sts. P&P	4	5 5:15 p.m. Mass HS Diocesan Steward- ship presentation; 7 pm Pastoral Council, 7:00 pm, conf. rm.	6 8:30 a.m. Mass HS Confession, 5:30 pm	7 8:30 a.m. Mass HS RCIA 7 p.m. Sts. P&P	8 8:30 a.m. Mass HF	9 2:00 Confession 4:30 Mass
10 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses Baptism Prep, 1:00 pm, Sts. P&P	11	12 5:15 p.m. Mass, HS Fellowship Lunch, noon, hall	13 8:30 am Mass HS 2:30 p.m. Mass Park Place KCs, 6:30 pm; 2810 Central	14 8:30 a.m. Mass HS RCIA 7 p.m. Sts. P&P	15 8:30 a.m. Mass HF	16 2:00 Confession 4:30 Mass
17 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses Fathers Day!	18	19 5:15 p.m. Mass, HS Christian Service Comm., 6:30 pm Sts. P&P	20 8:30 am Mass, HS Confessions, 5:30 pm 1:30 p.m. Mass Highgate	21 8:30 a.m. Mass HS RCIA 7 p.m. Sts. P&P	22 8:30 a.m. Mass HF	23 2:00 Confession 4:30 Mass
Vacation Bible School, 8:30 am; Sts. Peter and Paul Center						
24 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses	25	26 5:15 p.m. Mass, HS Bereavement Sup- port Group, 7 pm, Sts P&P	27 8:30 am Mass, HS Confessions, 5:30 pm	28 8:30 a.m. Mass HS RCIA 7 p.m. Sts. P&P	29 8:30 a.m. Mass HF	30 2:00 Confession 4:30 Mass Fellowship Dinner, 5:30 pm, hall

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH

April 30, 2018 MONTHLY FINANCIAL RECAP

OPERATING FUND

	April-18	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET TO DATE	BUDGET VARIANCE OVER (UNDER)
SUNDAY OFFERING - (ENVELOPES & CASH)	\$ 90,867	\$ 783,116	\$ 800,000	\$ (16,884)
SPECIAL DONATIONS-(WILLS, ESTATES, GIFTS, ETC.)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PCCW CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
* OTHER INCOME - (RELIG. ED., INTEREST, USER FEES, ETC.)	\$ -	\$ 1,672	\$ 1,833	\$ (161)
DIOCESE CURRENT OPERATING FUND ASSMT.-DONATION THRU C&S	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 90,867	\$ 784,788	\$ 801,833	\$ (17,045)
OPERATING EXPENSES				
HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL SUBSIDY (29% OF SUNDAY OFFERINGS)	\$ 23,042	\$ 230,418	\$ 230,417	\$ 1
CHURCH & CENTER (MAINT. UTILITIES, INSURANCE, TAXES)	\$ 6,075	\$ 87,695	\$ 90,118	\$ (2,422)
BUSINESS OFFICE (SUPPLIES, POSTAGE, EQUIP. & MAINT.)	\$ 4,284	\$ 38,491	\$ 42,750	\$ (4,259)
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (BOOKS, SUPPLIES, TRAINING, RESOURCES)	\$ (3,954)	\$ 15,087	\$ 14,417	\$ 670
WORSHIP (ALTAR SUPPLIES, TRAINING, MUSIC)	\$ 1,868	\$ 21,251	\$ 15,875	\$ 5,376
CHRISTIAN SERVICE (TRAINING & SUPPLIES)	\$ 200	\$ 1,908	\$ 4,917	\$ (3,009)
EMPLOYEE SALARIES & BENEFITS (INS. RETIREMENT, WORKERS COMP)	\$ 30,460	\$ 320,769	\$ 328,343	\$ (7,575)
DIOCESAN CURRENT OPERATING FUND ASSESSMENT	\$ 3,814	\$ 44,953	\$ 51,333	\$ (6,381)
OTHER EXPENSES (HOSPITALITY, COUNCIL, PARISH VAN)	\$ 2,966	\$ 21,300	\$ 16,767	\$ 4,533
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (BEFORE DEBT SERVICE)	\$ 68,755	\$ 781,871	\$ 794,936	\$ (13,065)
NET INCREASE OR (DECREASE) IN OPERATING FUNDS	\$ 22,112	\$ 2,917	\$ 6,898	\$ (3,981)
BUILDING INCOME/ EXPENSES				
BUILDING PLEDGES & GIFTS	\$ 5,187	\$ 78,058		
* INTEREST INCOME	\$ -	\$ 14,961		
INTEREST EXPENSE	\$ (5,933)	\$ (40,591)		
PRINCIPAL PAYMENT	\$ (6,149)	\$ (76,997)		
NET INCREASE OR (DECREASE) IN BUILDING FUNDS	\$ (6,895)	\$ (24,570)		
NET INCREASE OR (DECREASE) IN TOTAL FUNDS (BUILDING AND OPERATING)	\$ 15,217	\$ (21,653)		

THE VISION	
PLEDGES	\$ 1,281,145
COLLECTED	\$ (1,077,911)
BALANCE	\$ 203,234

BUILDING CASH RESERVE and LOAN STATUS

BEGINNING LOAN BALANCES: 7/01/2017			\$	1,930,707
BUILDING RESERVE LOAN (HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL ENDOWMENT)			\$	400,000
SUBTOTAL			\$	2,330,707
BEGINNING BUILDING RESERVE CASH BALANCE	April-18	YEAR TO DATE		
		\$	528,974	
PLEDGES & GIFTS	\$	5,187	\$	78,058
WILLS & ESTATES	\$	-	\$	-
VISION CAPITAL CHAMPAIGN	\$	2,315	\$	57,168
INTEREST INCOME	\$	-	\$	14,961
OTHER INCOME Power/Artz	\$	-	\$	242,472
TOTAL INCOME	\$	7,502	\$	392,659
INTEREST EXPENSE	\$	(5,933)	\$	(40,591)
PRINCIPAL PAYMENT ON BUILDING LOAN	\$	(6,149)	\$	(76,997)
ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL PAYMENT ON BUILDING LOAN	\$	-	\$	(380,000)
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	(12,082)	\$	(497,588)
NET INCREASE OR (DECREASE) IN BUILDING RESERVE FUND	\$	(4,580)	\$	(104,929)
END OF CURRENT MONTH BUILDING RESERVE CASH BALANCE		\$	424,045	
LOAN BALANCES AT THE END OF CURRENT MONTH			\$	1,873,710
BUILDING LOAN (DIOCESAN SAVINGS & LOAN)			\$	1,473,710
BUILDING RESERVE LOAN (HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL ENDOWMENT)			\$	400,000
			\$	1,873,710



Catholic Church of Eastern Montana

DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

Founded 1904

Live the Gospel. Bring Light to the World

May 20, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There is a song by John Michael Talbot commonly sung in churches:

We are one body, one body in Christ,
And we do not stand alone.
We are one body, one body in Christ,
And he came that we might have life.

The refrain provides a strong reminder of what it means to be a member of the Church. Membership involves much more than being a part of an institutional entity defined by civil and canonical statutes. It involves discipleship and an identity as a constituent part of the body of Christ. It is no wonder that St. Paul used the image of a human body to describe the Christian community at Corinth: "The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body: and so it is with Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12). St. Paul goes on to describe how the various parts of the body are connected to each other, each having its own importance. He concludes: "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy. You then, are the body of Christ" (1 Cor. 12:26-27).

As the song refrain proclaims, "We are one body, one body in Christ." Similarly, there are certain elements that provide structure for a diocese (i.e., the local Church), but at its deepest reality, local churches are not simple legal entities or federations of parishes. They are a family of believers, a people of God sharing an intimate communion with each other which is celebrated and expressed in the Eucharist.

On the weekend of April 28-29, 2018, I asked all pastors to provide a copy of a statement regarding the law suits filed against the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. The suits contained eighty-six claims by individuals who asserted that they were sexually abused as minors by priests, religious and a lay person serving on behalf of the Diocese. My statement announced a tentative settlement by which a total of \$20 million dollars would be paid to these 86 claimants. This would also include several non-monetary elements. To be sure, the settlement is yet tentative and filled with challenges, but now a pathway has been cleared to fully resolve the suits and begin to move forward as a diocese. Claimants attorneys, diocesan attorneys and diocesan staff have been working to reach a final agreement. A recent hearing with Federal Bankruptcy Judge Papas included representation of those involved.

During the six plus years since the first suit was filed, I have asserted two basic responsibilities as bishop of the Diocese. The first is to be accountable to those who suffered sexual abuse when they were minors by a person serving on behalf of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. That a priest, a religious or a lay minister would sexually abuse a child is inexcusable and a crime. I express deep regret and sorrow to anyone who was abused by a representative of the Diocese and ask for forgiveness. I have listened to many individuals and have found their accounts of abuse compelling. No child should ever be harmed in such a way and especially by a figure serving on behalf of the Church. Sexual abuse of a minor is a horrendous sin. Though events may have occurred many years ago, the pain and hurt from abuse lingers on for years. The settlement provides a degree of accountability to those who were victimized.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

121 23rd Street South 406-727-6683
P. O. Box 1399 800-332-9998
Great Falls, MT 59403-1399 406-454-3480 (fax)
www.diocesegfb.org

The second responsibility is to the present and future generations of the Diocese and its parishes. In my judgment, it would be unfair and unjust to present and future generations to totally deplete the resources of both the Diocese and its parishes and be unable to function as the Catholic Church of Eastern Montana. The amount established by the tentative settlement already will seriously hamper my ability as bishop as well as my Chancery to provide pastoral and administrative services. There are not sufficient funds from financial assets solely held by the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Great Falls to meet the settlement amount. Savings of strictly diocesan financial assets essentially will be used, but these assets cannot cover the total amount required to meet the settlement. As bishop, I have committed all diocesan savings toward funding the settlement as well as all diocesan excess property of value which is not currently being used for ministry. Claimants attorneys had asserted that almost \$100 million in parish property (assessed value) and parish cash savings should be at risk and used to compensate victims. The Diocese has disagreed with this assertion. In any case, all parish property and parish savings are protected as well as parish financial assets located in the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana.

At the same time, and in some form, parishes are being asked to contribute to the settlement. There have been numerous meetings with pastors and various diocesan councils to determine how to accomplish this. Our diocesan insurance carrier will contribute a substantial amount to the settlement. There are also several additional funding sources who have agreed to contribute to the settlement. Because of the immediate need to provide cash to finalize the settlement, some diocesan real properties have been left in abeyance.

What is clear is that remaining within Chapter 11 Bankruptcy status, with many years ahead of litigating issues such as parish assets or facing several decades of trials, would result in a much higher cost to the Diocese and its parishes. It would also provide little in the way of accountability to those who deserve it.

As I mentioned, there will be a non-monetary element to the settlement. Most of the requirements for this have been in place in the Diocese for over a decade and a half. The Safe Environment Program will continue to be maintained vigilantly. As has been the case for decades, any allegation is addressed quickly and according to the Child Protection Policy that has been in place for these years. Those serving on behalf of the Diocese and of any of its parishes or schools, must submit to a criminal background check, undergo Safe Environment Training and agree to follow the Code of Conduct. These practices will be reviewed to assure compliance.

I envision the finalization of the settlement to be accomplished by August. Currently, a final hearing is set for August 14, 2018. Once there is a final resolution, the Diocese and its parishes will be able to move forward, restoring financial resources but most importantly rebuilding trust.

There is a good deal of work yet to do and all is not complete. I offer thanks to the various parties who through their time and efforts have helped to resolve the suits. There have understandably been occasions that involved a good deal of tension, but there has also been a general desire by all to reach a solution.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael W. Warfel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings

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July 22-27 - Middle School #1
(youth entering grades 6-9)

July 29-Aug. 3 - 5th & 6th Grade Boys
(boys entering grades 5-6)

Aug. 5-10 - Middle School #2
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is an international Catholic speaker, writer, and engagement coach. He is the author of *Everyday Stewardship: Reflections for the Journey*. After two decades in parish ministry, he is currently the Director of Parish Community and Engagement for Liturgical Publications and has theology degrees from DeSales University and Duke Divinity School.



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