



# Holy Spirit

*Catholic Parish and School*

**November 4, 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 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.

*"If you are healthy and rich, alleviate the need of the one who is sick and poor; if you have not fallen, help the one who has fallen and lives in suffering; if you are happy, console the one who is sad; if you are fortunate, help the one who has been bitten by misfortune."* ~

St. Gregory of Nazianzus



***Holy Spirit Parish's Annual Harvest Dinner!!***

**November 4th, noon-4 pm**



Come enjoy a delicious dinner of Baron of beef, cabbage rolls, salad bar,  
and home-made pies

Adults \$10, 6-12 \$5, 5-under free

# Thirty first Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 4th, 2018

## Holy Spirit Parish Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday – 8:30, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

## Daily Mass Schedule

### Holy Spirit Day Chapel:

Mondays 8:30 a.m., 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. 11/5 - 8:30 am- special intention

Tue., 11/6- 5:15 p.m.- Sr. Judith Crosby (sp. in)

r/b C Eultgen

Wed., 11/7- 8:30 am - +Andrew LaRance

r/b M LaRance

Thu., 11/8- 8:30 am (HF)- +Marin Ferrell

r/b M Lacher

Fri., 11/9- 8:30 am, HS - +Margaret Mahoney

r/b B Rehor

Sat., 11/10- 8:00 am, Poor Clares - Parishioners

4:30 p.m.- +Earl Britton

r/b Hogans

Sun., 11/11- 8:30 am.- +Fr. Thomas Schmill

r/b Drakes

- 11:00 a.m. - +Don Lacher

r/b M Lacher

- 6:00 p.m.- +Paul Coolidge

r/b P Coolidge

## Readings for next week: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16

2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

## Coffee & Rolls Schedule

Nov 4: Harvest dinner, no coffee and rolls!

Nov 11: Boy Scout Veterans' Day Breakfast, no coffee & rolls

## Bus Schedule:



Nov 10: Cecelia Fuhrman, Therese Griffith

Nov 11: Roger and Kathleen Seilstad

## What's Happening This Week...

**Saturday:** Fair trade coffee sales

hall

**Sunday:** Fair trade coffee sales

hall

Elem Formation - 9:45 am

Sts. P&P

Harvest Dinner - noon

Sts. P&P

Youth Group - 7 pm

Sts. P&P

Adoration - 7 pm

chapel

**Tuesday:** Senior lunch - noon

hall

Pastoral Council - 7 pm

con. rm.

**Wednesday:** Elem. Formation - 6:15 pm

Sts. P&P

**Thursday:** RCIA - 7 pm

Sts. P&P

**Sunday:** Holy Spirit School at Mass- 8:30 am

Boy Scouts Veterans' Day breakfast

Parish Nurses - 9:45 am

con. rm.

Elementary Formation - 9:45 am

Sts. P&P

Remembrance Service - 11 am

Bible Timeline Study - 1 pm

hall

Youth Ministry - 7 pm

Sts P&P

Adoration - 7 pm

chapel

## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Doug Krings

Pastor

Dcn. Bill Medved

Deacon

Dcn. Pete Woelkers

Deacon

Mark Meyer

Parish Administrator

Aubrey Rearden

Worship, DRE/ Youth Ministry

Cindy Eultgen

Christian Service

Nick Wingerter

RCIA, Adult Ministry

Kody Diekhans

Elem. Formation, Music

Mary Moore-Wingerter

Administrative Assistant

Chuck Osterman

Maintenance

## Liturgical Ministers for November 10, 11

	4:30 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
★ Sub requested ~ log in to Web Terminal and accept the sub			
<b>Bread Baker</b>	J Jones E Becker		
<b>Holy Wash</b>		S Mohler	
<b>Sacristan</b>	A Klundt	J Gort	K Krattiger
<b>Greeter</b>	D Medvec, H Vacek, S Dunston, D Dickman	S & D Barros G & V Drake	Stimac family
<b>Usher</b>	F Handwerk J Tarnowski	J Collins D Erickson	C Christiaens L & M Francis
<b>Cross</b>	R Frazier-Harris		E Boland
<b>Altar Servers</b>	R Moog L Moog		M Kambic A Kasayka
<b>Reader</b>	B Medvec G Caniparoli		D McFadden C Paul
<b>Gifts</b>	Frazier-Harris family		Boland family
<b>Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	B Medved K Frazier-Harris M Ouellette R McDunn S Mayernik B Polacek T Gilligan B Thelen T Hilgendorf P Hilgendorf J Fitzpatrick K Leggett R Maronick D Maronick B Hogan	P. Woelkers T O'Neill M O'Neill K O'Neill K Lakner L O'Neill C Ingman J Bomgardner F Olszewski M Schulte J Schulte H Pitstick R Pitstick S McAllister T Cowhick	P. Woelkers R Seilstad M Kasayka R Ryan R Ryan H Fehres S Fehres W Fehres H Boysun G Boysun K Jones ★ P Byrne J Byrne T Balyeat B Williamson

## Care for Creation by Recycling

Thank you for being a steward of the Earth!



Weekend	Newspaper	Cardboard
<b>1st (Nov. 2-8)</b>	<b>K of C 9395</b>	<b>C. Jernigan</b>
2nd (Nov. 9-15)	K. Weinheimer	K. Sanders
3rd (Nov. 16-22)	G. Kushnak	R. Shipley
4th (Nov. 23-29)	D & P Birkenbuel	C. Nowak
School Paper: Greg Bonilla		
Week starts on Friday		

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

**For all who seek to become Christian believers**

Call Nick 868-4770 or come Thurs. at 7 pm in the RCIA room (Sts. Peter and Paul Center) all year round. 11/8: Ed & Irene Kelley & Jay Stenzel.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CATHOLICISM?**

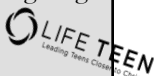
Come support the RCIA program and grow your faith as well. Open to all parishioners at 7 pm Thursdays meet every week in the RCIA room for prayer and discussion with others who are also curious about our faith.

**RCIA Adapted for Children: Looking for a volunteer to lead this awesome faith formation process!** For children age 7 or older who are not baptized, or baptized in another faith tradition. Call Nick at 868-4770.

**Youth Ministry**

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

**Youth Group Sunday Nights:**  
**Mass 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00-8:30 pm**



**REGISTRATION IS UNDER WAY FOR...**

**"Live the Adventure" CYC 2018**

**November 17-18, 2018**

**With Paul J. Kim: Keynote Speaker/Musician**

Pray, worship, and dance with 200 of your closest friends from all over Montana at this fun, faith-filled event. All High School students in grades 9-12 are invited to participate. Registration forms were emailed will be handed out this Sunday and are available in the book rack in the entrance of the church. Cost is \$70 if registered by November 7 (\$30 late fee for registrations after November 7). Lodging, meals, & an awesome time covered in registration. Scholarships are available, contact Aubrey Rearden for more information.



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



**Elementary Faith Formation**

Kody Diekhans 452-6491 pianokody@holyspiritgf.org  
Elementary Formation (Pre-K - 6th Grade)  
& Sacramental Prep (2nd Grade)  
**Sunday 9:45-10:45am or Wednesday 6:15-7:15pm**

**Elementary Formation classes this week:**

Wednesday November 7

Sunday November 11

**Young Adult Ministry**

Nickolas Wingerter ext. 205 nickw@holyspiritgf.org  
406-868-4770

**INSPIRE!**

Cat Griz game 2018 is right around the corner! Come gather for food, fun, fellowship, and, of course, football at Howard's Wine Mill on Saturday, November 17! Child care will be available at Sts. Peter and Paul. Please RSVP to Nick (see above) by **November 10.**

**Holy Spirit School**

Jim Wichman - Principal Melissa Hallahan, Vice-Principal  
Jackie Wike, Administrative Assistant  
Colette Longin, Development Director, clongin@holyspiritgf.org  
761-5775 www.holyspiritgf.org

Holy Spirit Catholic School still has room for this school year! If you've wondered about a Private, Catholic school education for your child, you should check us out! Our students are noticeably prepared when they leave HSCS, with a well rounded education rooted in principles of faith, knowledge and service. We worship together at weekly Mass, take part in community service projects and offer a competitive sports program allowing opportunities to compete in basketball, cross-country, football, volleyball and track! With smaller class sizes, our teachers really get to know their students, and our families find a community here...with a supportive staff and fellow parents that share their family values! These days, it truly does take a village, and we invite you to come be part of it. For more information on the school, please visit our website holyspiritgfschool.org or to schedule a tour, please call us or email Colette Longin at clongin@holyspiritgf.org. Follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date with us!

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

This Weekend: Fair Trade  
Chocolate, Tea, and Coffee Sales  
in the Parish Hall



**Fellowship Lunch—For all!**

Tuesday, November 6, at noon in the Parish Hall.



Either before or after you vote,  
stop by for warm soup, bread,  
dessert & friendly conversation!  
Free will offering.



**Parish Nurses**

Are men & women parishioners in the medical field. We meet the second Sunday of the month with the mission:  
*To promote health and education within our faith community by focusing on prevention and health promotions.*  
Stop in and see what we are all about  
November 11 from 9:45—10:45 am.

**Two Times Offered! Grief Support Group**—for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. *It doesn't matter how long it has been,* all are welcome. **Tuesday, November 27 at 4 pm in the Conference Room AND 7 pm in the RCIA room at Sts. Peter & Paul.** Anyone seeking conversation and support is welcome the 4th Tuesday of every month.





## Stewardship

The Monsignor House will be open on Wednesday Nov. 7 from 8:30-10:30. Please feel free to drop off any donations during those times. Kathie Malby will be there to receive them. The Central Ave. entrance will be open.



This Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4, we will have sign-ups for our next hosting of Family Promise at the Monsignor House. Please stop by the table in the back of the church and talk with Kathey Hodges about where you feel you would like to help. There is something for everyone.

“Ending childhood homelessness...one family at a time.” - Family Promise Mission. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” - Jesus. It seems these two messages get at the heart of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

For any information about Family Promise in our parish please stop by the Monsignor House when it is open or call Kathie Malby and leave a message at 781-5033. She will return your call as soon as she can.

## Worship

Aubrey 452-6491 ex. 207 [aubrey@holyspiritgf.org](mailto:aubrey@holyspiritgf.org)

### Liturgical Ministry Training Schedule

Please take a look at the schedule below and add the trainings for the ministries you signed up for to your calendar! You only need to attend one session for each ministry, same information just different times for your convenience.

#### Eucharistic Ministers:

If you missed the training opportunities please call or email Aubrey Rearden in the parish office.

#### Readers:

November 10th 5:30-6:30pm

November 11th 12-1:00pm

November 13th 7:00-8:00pm

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

In order to offer Children's Liturgy of the Word at one or both of the morning masses we need more help. Currently we have one person signed up to lead CLW @ 8:30 Mass. We need at least 4 people willing to lead (once a month) and 4 people willing to serve as assistants (once a month) before we can schedule CLW. Please call Aubrey 452-6491 ASAP if you are willing to help.

## Music

Kody 452-6491 ex. 206 [pianokody@holyspiritgf.org](mailto:pianokody@holyspiritgf.org)

**Choir practice** is Wednesday night at 7:30 in the church, feel free to join us anytime!!

Starting in Advent, we will be switching to new mass parts (Alleluia, Holy, Save Us, Amen, Lamb of God) called the “Mass In The Desert” by: Tom Booth. Be looking in your pews this weekend for the congregation music! During November before masses, we will go over the new mass parts. Therefore, when Advent begins, they will be more familiar!!

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

## Parish Council of Catholic Women

The PCCW hosted another successful fall Card Party last month. The results follow: Pinochle 1st place~ Doris Nygard; 2nd place~ Irene Buck; Bridge 1st place~ Barb Fontana; 2nd place ~ Barb Hoven. Thank you to everyone who joined us. Watch for news about the spring card party!

## Milestones

Welcome to Michaela Kris-Mary Noumou-Kouassi, daughter of Gerard and Kokoh, who was baptized this weekend. Also welcome to Barbara Sisco and Max & Jill Van Heel who joined Holy Spirit Parish this week. Welcome!

## Courtesy Announcements



Please join us at **Great Falls Central Catholic High School** on November 6 for Discovery Day. We warmly welcome the Great Falls Central class of 2023 to sample all that Central has to offer our future Mustangs! Breakfast & lunch are included.

You are invited to Great Falls Central to celebrate a special Veterans Day Mass in honor of all military personnel - active, reserves, retired, and deceased. Join us in a blessing for your service in keeping our country safe at 8:30 am Monday November 12th, 2800 18th Ave S. Reception to follow.

The Great Falls central Catholic Mustangs Speech and Debate team is hosting an invitational speech and debate tournament on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019 at the University of Providence and Central. We are in need of judges. If you can help, please call Coach Jason Holden at 406-231-6680 or email him at [mustangsspeechanddebate2020@gmail.com](mailto:mustangsspeechanddebate2020@gmail.com).

Please save your leftover candy from Halloween.

Dismas jail ministry gives a little candy each week to inmates in the Cascade County Detention Center. You might also consider buying candy for us the day after Halloween when it is on sale. Thank you so much for your support.



Catholics for Life monthly meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month at Corpus Christi. 6:30 pm Rosary, 7:00 pm Rosary Free childcare! Contact [greatfallscatholicsforlife@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallscatholicsforlife@gmail.com) or Meagan Kimmel 406-671-4088 or Angie Nurre 406-788-8306.

Calling all Legion of Mary members, auxiliary and everyone who loves the Rosary...join us at Corpus Christi Church at 1:30 pm Tues. Nov. 6th for a short social time together. For information please call Marie Gray at 454-1695.

The Great Falls Rescue Mission has several job openings: Administration office - Receptionist; Cameron Family Center - Evening Supervisor; Thrift Store - Driver; and Youth Department - Youth Supervisor. Anyone interested in these positions may pick up an application at the Administration office, 408 2nd Ave S, or you can download the application at [www.gfrm.org](http://www.gfrm.org).

**Lost hearing aid** at the card party. Please contact Doris at 452-0720 if you have any information or have found it.

### St. Vincent de Paul Indian Taco dinner & Silent Auction

Christmas fund-raiser will be held Saturday Nov. 17 from 11:00 am-4:00 pm with a silent auction ending at 3:00; Knights of Columbus Hall, 900 Central Ave West. \$7.00 per dinner, (\$8 with water/soda), \$25 for family of four.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

November 2018

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Gertrude the Great

Born in 1256 in Germany, St. Gertrude was raised and educated by the Benedictine nuns. Eventually, St. Gertrude became a nun herself. When she was about twenty-six, she began having visions of Christ, which continued until her death. She recorded them in a book called the *Herald of Divine Love* for her fellow nuns. She was known for her personal holiness, her kindness to the rich and poor, and her prayers for the souls in Purgatory.

### Roomful of friends

Learning about the saints is like walking into a room full of strangers. You scan the faces looking for a friendly one who beckons you over. Scan the saintly faces until you find one with whom you would like to become friends.

"Only the one who can see hope in death can also lead a life of hope."

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), *Images of Hope: Meditations on Major Feasts*



## Stewardship is about love, not money

When you hear "stewardship," do you think, "fundraising?"

In fact, real stewardship is about love. When we practice good stewardship, we become more fulfilled, have a greater sense of purpose, and live happier lives. And while it's not just about money, good stewards have all the money they need.

Good stewards are motivated by love. Strong families come together and are formed in love. Loving family stewards put the needs of members first before spending time or money on anything else, especially themselves.

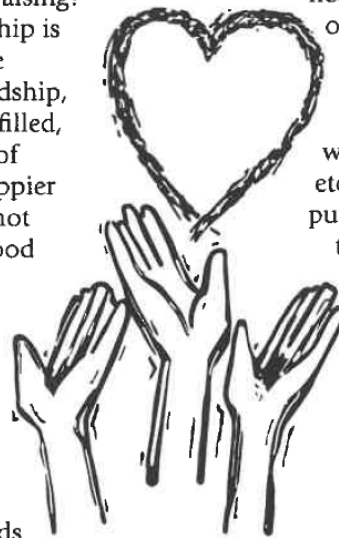
In God's family, we also come together in his love to care for each other. As stewards, we find ways to use

our time and gifts to meet the needs of God's family through our parish.

Good stewards lend their strength. Take stock of the gifts you have: faith, wisdom, prosperity, energy, etc. Then ask where you can put your talents and resources to work for your parish so you can take your place at God's table. When you do, you will make God's family stronger and healthier.

Good stewards show gratitude. Practicing good stewardship means understanding that God has generously given us gifts

which we, in turn, use for his purpose. Everything we have and everything we are comes from God. He deserves the best we have to give. What God wants most is our love.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics attend Mass on holy days of obligation?

Just as many families gather to celebrate major life events, so does the Catholic Church when she requires Catholics to celebrate certain feast days by attending Mass together. These feasts include: Christmas, Mary's Immaculate Conception, Easter, and Christ's Ascension



and the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. All Sundays—in honor of Easter Sunday—are also holy days of obligation for the same reasons. The other holy days are listed on the website of the US

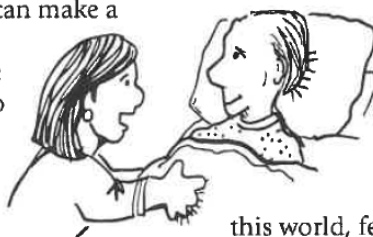
Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org>.

## "Be not afraid"

When someone we love is dying, we may want to help but don't know what to do. We can feel powerless. Yet when they are transitioning from this life to the next, we can make a significant difference to our loved ones.

**Bring love.** Jesus never turned away from the sick and dying. He always had a loving hand to comfort them and their families. Sometimes just holding a hand says more than words.

**Bring attention.** Ask him stories about his life. Let him know he has inspired you. You'll treasure these moments after he is gone.



**Bring comfort.** Remind her how much God loves her and is waiting to welcome her. Encourage her to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

**Bring peace.** Although someone may lose his ability to speak, he can still hear. Pray out loud, read from scripture or a favorite book.

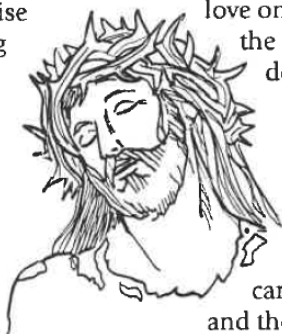
**Bring strength.** When someone is leaving this world, fear can be overwhelming. Remind her of Jesus' words, "Be not afraid."

## from Scripture

### John 18:33b-37, Christ, the real King

Throughout the years of slavery and oppression, God's promise of a triumphant Israelite king kept hope alive. Many clung to the image of an avenging savior who would destroy their enemies and make Israel a nation to be feared.

Jesus, bound, beaten and seemingly powerless before Pilate, the powerful Roman governor, was not what they had in mind. They didn't want a king who talked of love, suffering, and service; they wanted one who would wipe their enemies off the face of the earth. They wanted Jesus to come down



off the Cross. Yet it was his sacrifice of love on the Cross that conquered the real enemies of sin and death.

Jesus is King and he has a Kingdom, but as he teaches Pilate and us, his power is not of this world. His kingdom is about peace, justice and care for the poor, the needy and the marginalized in society.

Do our lives and actions reflect that awareness? As Christians we are challenged to become more "Christ-like" in our lives, and that means more like Jesus the King.

## Q & A

### Who are the Church Fathers?

The Church Fathers were the early Christian writers and teachers of the faith who lived after the Apostles and preserved and handed on their



teachings. At the Last Supper, Jesus told his Apostles, "[The Holy Spirit] will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you"

(John 14:26). This collection of teachings—called Tradition—was handed on by the Apostles to their followers, the Church Fathers.

The Church Fathers include bishops, writers, thinkers, and martyrs. The most important thing the Fathers did, and why we still look to them today, is that they preserved "the written proof" of what the Apostles taught and handed on. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, on essential points of doctrine, the Fathers agreed with each other and with the Apostles on principles such as Jesus' divinity and humanity, Mary's sinlessness, and the Eucharist as the Body of Christ. Thanks to the Church Fathers, we can know what the Church believed—and still believes to this day.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**Nov. 1 – All Saints Day.** A Holy Day of Obligation when Catholics are required to attend Mass, we commemorate people of extraordinary virtue who have gone before us to live eternally in the presence of God.

**Nov. 2 – All Souls Day.** This day we pray for the dead, especially our loved ones and the souls in Purgatory. Our prayers and sacrifices can help them get to Heaven faster.

**Nov. 10 – Leo the Great (461).** A native of Rome, St. Leo was elected pope while on a mission in Gaul. As

pope, he defended the faith from heresy and worked for the unity of the Church. He also protected Rome from being destroyed by Attila the Hun and later by the barbarians.

**Nov. 12 – St. Josaphat (1623).** Born in Lithuania, St. Josaphat, the Ruthenian Archbishop of Pototsk, made the unpopular choice to bring his diocese into communion with the Catholic Church. He suffered persecution by a schismatic party and was eventually martyred by an angry mob.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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*Catholic Church of Eastern Montana*

## DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

*Founded 1904*

*Live the Gospel. Bring Light to the World*

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November 1, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Incidences of the sexual abuse of minors and the manner by which it has been addressed by the Church's leadership, often times poorly, has caused many Catholics to become distrustful of bishops and the Church in general. In response, I am declaring a *Year of Prayer, Penance and Reparation* because of sins committed against children and youth by clergy and religious who served in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. This year will begin the First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018 with a Solemn Evening Prayer presided by myself within a Holy Hour and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Ann's Cathedral on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm. I invite all parishes to do likewise.

Faced with the sinful actions of members of the clergy and religious from previous decades who served in Eastern Montana, clergy and laity alike feel anger, shame and sorrow. The children and youth who were victimized have hurts that linger. Prayers for healing for those so harmed are needed. Similarly, there is need for vicarious penance on behalf of those who caused harm and prayers for mercy on their behalf. Pope Francis once said, "The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God's People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion."

I invite all priests of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings to join me in prayer, penance and reparation for the healing of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings and the Church universal. I also invite all Catholics to join me in this initiative and to participate in the activities of the *Year of Prayer, Penance and Reparation*.

Prior to the beginning of this year, the U.S. bishops are joining together in a commitment of prayer and reparation leading up to the bishop's general assembly, where we will be making critical decisions in response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis. With my brother bishops across the nation, I will be dedicating myself to seven days of intensified prayer and fasting, from Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. As with the *Year of Prayer, Penance and Reparation*, if so called, you are welcome to join me in prayer, specifically:

- *For the healing and support of all victims of clergy sexual abuse;*
- *For the conversion and just punishment of the perpetrators and concealers of sexual abuse;*
- *For the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading our sheep from all harm.*

Prayer is central to the *Year of Prayer, Penance and Reparation*. The primary focus of the prayer is for healing for those harmed as well as healing for many of the faithful who feel discouraged and betrayed. For the diocesan *Year of Prayer, Penance and*

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**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

121 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South      406-727-6683  
P. O. Box 1399      800-332-9998  
Great Falls, MT 59403-1399      406-454-3480 (fax)  
[www.diocesegfb.org](http://www.diocesegfb.org)



*Reparation*, I ask; (1) all parishes to pray the rosary weekly as a parish for the healing of the Diocese and the Church universal; (2) I ask all parishes to provide a special time and opportunity for Adoration and/or Exposition before the Blessed Sacrament; (3) I invite all families and households to pray the rosary daily as a family for the healing of the Church; (4) I invite all families to have at least one meal a week as a family or household at which the importance of mercy and healing is discussed and to which their parish priest is invited. Prayer cards and discussion questions will be provided; (5) I invite all parishioners to attend Mass during the week to pray for healing; (6) I urge all parishioners to intensify efforts at performing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

In light of the scandal of child sexual abuse, I will be taking all Fridays throughout the year as days for fasting and abstinence from meat. I invite all priests to do likewise. I also invite all Catholics to embrace some form of penance. Unknown to many Catholics, the requirement to do some form of penance on Fridays throughout the year is still a requirement. A primary purpose of fasting and penance is to remind us of our dependence on God.

Reparation is the third element which may be accomplished through vicarious suffering. Vicarious suffering is the act of embracing suffering for the sake of others. We can do likewise by offering a penance on behalf of someone else. The best-known example is that of Christ suffering on the cross for the sake of others. He did so not for himself, but for the salvation of others. The intention of prayer and vicarious penance is healing for those who were victimized, healing for the Church and mercy and forgiveness for those who committed grievous offenses.

The *Year of Prayer, Repentance and Reparation* will close on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, November 25, 2019 with the celebration of Mass at St. Ann's Cathedral, Great Falls. It is my hope that the *Year of Prayer, Penance and Reparation* will foster healing in our Diocese. In our day and age, there is often a great reluctance to submit to such spiritual activities, but I firmly believe that embracing these three practices will do much to provide healing.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael W. Warfel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael W. Warfel  
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings