

**Saint William Catholic Church-Shelby**  
**Saint Thomas Aquinas Mission-Sunburst**  
 December 13, 2020  
 Third Sunday of Advent



Fr. Tim Moriarty, Pastor Cell: 406-594-1468  
 Fr. Peter Mikwabe, Parochial Vicar Cell: 406-475-1274  
 Mailing Address: 531 Main Street, Shelby, MT 59474 Parish Phone: 406-434-2988  
 E-mail: saintwm@3rivers.net Parish website: stwilliamshelbymt.org

**MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS**

Monday, December 14, 5:30pm, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank  
 Tuesday, December 15, 12:10pm, Mass at St. William († Teresa Dumas by the Dumas family)  
 5:30pm, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank  
 Wednesday, December 16, NO Adoration at St. William  
 12:10pm, Mass at St. William († Greg Taylor by JoEve Aikins)  
 5:30pm, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank  
 Thursday, December 17, 12:10pm, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank  
 5:45pm, Mass at St. Francis in Valier  
 Friday, December 18, 10:30am, Mass at St. William († Joseph Campros by the Rapkoch family)  
 Saturday, December 19, 5:30pm, Mass at St. William († David McDonough by Marvin & Mary Christianson)  
 Sunday, December 20, 8:30am, Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas († Mary Martin by Mary Stevens)  
 8:30am, Mass at St. Francis in Valier  
 10:30am, Mass at St. William († David McDonough by Jim and Virginia Kalbfleisch)  
 10:30am, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank



**Church decorating after Mass next Sunday.**  
**Please join us.**



**The 5:00pm Mass is already full for Christmas Eve, let Emily know if you would like to attend the 7:00pm, as there are many spots open for that Mass, and the Christmas Day Mass. Please text or call Emily McDermott at 406-450-3470 to sign up.**

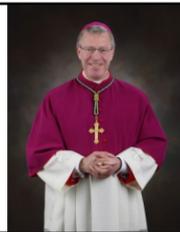


Please pray for the seminarians God has blessed our Diocese with: Matthew Christiaens, Tyler Frohlich, Kyle Tannehill, Dillon Armstrong, Kaleb Mitchell, John Cooney, Riley Helgoe, and Brett Rotz. ∞∞∞∞ Help support them through the Annual Catholic Appeal∞∞∞∞

Please visit the Diocese website to see the latest news and information from Bishop Vetter and the Chancery staff.

If you are unable to attend Mass, please remember:

Bishop Vetter celebrates livestreamed Masses: on the Diocesan website, [www.diocesehelena.org](http://www.diocesehelena.org) or go to the Diocesan Youtube channel.



**Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation for Adult Preparation or Anointing of the Sick:**

call the Parish office 434-2988 Office Hours: 9am to noon Tuesday and Thursday

**Marriage:** Call Fr. Tim Moriarty at 434-2988 at least 6 months before desired date.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** St. William on Sunday before Mass and St. Thomas Aquinas by appointment

**Ministry to the Sick and Shut-Ins:** Call Marlene Howery 434-2273.

**Parish Needs and Information or for an emergency:** Call or text Parish Secretary Diane Abrahamson 406-450-0683.



In the first reading of Wednesday of the second week of Advent, the prophet Isaiah tells the Israelites – and all of us some 2,700 years later, “To whom can you liken me as an equal? Says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things...” Grace builds on nature, and the beauty of nature, which is God’s creation is all around us. I think to myself many times that this is such a beautiful area when the wind is not blowing 40 miles an hour. But wind is also a gift from God; so may we bless the Lord for the wind, and may the wind bless the Lord as well. But the sunrises and sunsets in this region are spectacular, as well as the beauty of the wheat fields and being able to see for miles. These are all great gifts from the Lord; signs and wonders of the omnipotence of God to all of us. But there is no equal to God. He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He is the architect of nature, and we are His most important creation, because we are created in the image and likeness of God.

It also says in this reading from Isaiah: “The Lord is the eternal God, Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, and His knowledge is beyond scrutiny. He gives strength to the fainting; for the weak he makes vigor abound...” We continue through this Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Advent is a time of reflection and repentance; a time to evaluate our lives in relationship with the Lord. May this season be a time of prayer and reflection; knowing that God is with us; that God loves us, and His mercy is there for us constantly. But 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us with COVID-19, civil unrest in many cities in our nation and the ‘constant noise’ of the election. Many times during these days I’ve felt faint and weary, as I’m sure all of you have felt the same way on many occasions. And this time of year with very little natural light during the day, it can bring an extra challenge to all of us.

As we know, the Lord is our strength; He is our hope, and He is our refuge. In those times when we feel weary or anxious about the current events of our country, or anxious about preparations for Christmas, may we turn to the Lord with all of our hearts. Many people have lights and decorations in and around their homes in anticipation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. These are also signs and wonders to all of us that in the times of ‘natural darkness,’ the light of Christ abounds for all. Christ is the eternal light that no darkness can ever extinguish. And may we pray that the light of Christ truly shines in our hearts and to those around us this Advent season, and everyday of our lives! God bless all of you! Fr. Tim.

**CCW Minutes** Marlene called the meeting to order. CCW money has been moved from Wells Fargo to First State Bank and put into three accounts, checking, savings, and Legendary Lodge Scholarship Funds. The cookie sale was cancelled but hopefully we can reschedule at Valentine’s Day or later. We have ordered two vacuums from Shelby Paint and Hardware for the Parish Hall. We will send a \$100 donation to Echoz for their important work. National CCW dues have been paid, Diocesan and Deanery dues will be paid this month. Our month to supply lunch for the Red Cross Blood Drawing has changed to February. We are preparing for May Day Baskets by ordering more pots and preordering of the flowers which will be done in February. We need cloth ribbon with around an inch or so in width which is used to tie around the top of the bags. If you have any you would like to donate please contact Marlene. Confirmation will be January 25<sup>th</sup> this year. We will purchase Bibles for the confirmands. Our meetings are always held the first Monday of each month at 7pm at the Parish Hall and all women of the Parish are members. Join us at any time.

**Testifying to the Light**—In the reflection of *regnum Christi*, God gifts exceed anything we could expect or imagine on our own. God has come to us, is among us, and is in us. What more could we possibly ask? Like anyone who has found a great gift, we must share it. If we walk in the light, we will necessarily spread it to those around us. We ought to become like John the Baptist and proclaim this hope and joy not just with our lips, but with our lives. We need to live like people who believe in the Incarnation and its consequences. We cannot remain attached to the things of this world; we cannot lose hope even in the face of the greatest difficulties. Christmas is not a legend we celebrate once a year; it is an event that touches our lives. It must be light that illuminates our actions every day. Fr. Peter



**Parish Events**

**The giving tree tags are on the tree at the back of the church. Please take a tag and sign your name on the sign-up sheet. Unwrapped gifts should be turned into the Smile Shop on Main St. by December 20. Anyone wanting to help wrap the presents, please come to Clarks Restaurant on Dec 21 at 6pm, pizza will be provided for volunteers.**