

**Saint William Catholic Church-Shelby
Saint Thomas Aquinas Mission-Sunburst**

**February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent**

Fr. Tim Moriarty, Pastor Cell: 406-594-1468

Fr. Peter Mikwabe, Parochial Vicar Cell: 406-475-1274

531 Main Street, Shelby, MT 59474 Parish Phone: 406-434-2988 Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9-noon

E-mail: saintwm@3rivers.net Parish website: stwilliamshelbymt.org

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Monday, February 22, 5:30pm, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank

Tuesday, February 23, 12:10pm, Mass at St. William († Teresa Dumas by the Dumas family)

5:30pm, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank

Wednesday, February 24, 4:15pm Adoration at St. William

5:30pm, Mass at St. William († Alan Schlepp by James & Virginia Kalbfleisch)

5:30pm, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank

Thursday, February 25, 12:10pm, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank

5:45pm, Mass at St. Francis in Valier

Friday, February 26, 10:30am, Mass at St. William († Harvey Hawbaker by Veanne Hawbaker)

Saturday, February 27, 5:30pm, Mass at St. William († Jeff Bomar by Wally and Marlene Howery)

Sunday, February 28, 8:30am, Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas (St. Thomas parishioners living and deceased)

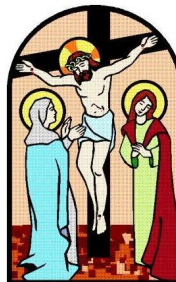
8:30am, Mass at St. Francis in Valier

10:30am, Mass at St. William (St. William parishioners living and deceased)

10:30am, Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank

LENT, A TIME FOR COMING CLOSER TO GOD—In his reflection Fr. Francis Fernandez explains, during this time of Lent we stimulate our souls a deep and effective desire to go back once again. To return like the prodigal son, to be closer to God. Lent is the best time for us to bring about our conversion. If we stay close to Christ, we will always find the cure for our lack of ardor and re-charge ourselves with the strength to overcome by ourselves. It is time for each one of us to recognize that he or she is being urged on by Jesus Christ. Those of us who sometimes feel inclined to put off this decision should know that, now, the moment has come. Those who think that there is no remedy for our defects should know that the moment has arrived. Lent has started. Let us look on it as a time of change and hope. Fr. Peter

Stations of the Cross are each Friday during Lent at 12:10pm at St. William. Please join us in this uniquely Catholic tradition of honoring the Passion of Jesus Christ.



In the reading of the book of Genesis for Monday of the 6th week of the year, (Gn 4, 1-15, 25), the story pertains to Cain and Abel. Cain and Abel were born to Adam and Eve, and Abel became the keeper of the flocks and Cain was the tiller of the soil. In due time, God rewarded Abel for his work with the flocks while Cain was not rewarded. Cain became very jealous and angry towards Abel because he was awarded and Cain was not. God's reasoning for Abel's being rewarded is not known.

Cain entices Abel to go out into the field and Cain kills his brother due to his jealousy, anger and rage towards Abel. The Lord asks Cain where his brother is (knowing fully the answer) and Cain lies to the Lord: "Am I my brother's keeper?" Then the Lord chastises Cain, telling him that "your brother's blood cries out from the soil!" The Lord tells Cain that he will receive his just punishment; that the soil will no longer produce for him, and that he shall be a wanderer on the earth.

Cain is very upset about the sin that he has committed against God, what he has done to his brother and he fears for his life, because "anyone may kill me at sight..." The Lord promises Cain that no one will do harm to him, and if someone does, "Cain shall be avenged sevenfold..." So Cain is forgiven by the Lord for the murder of his brother, and is given a second chance to do what is right and just, and to live honorably with and for the Lord.

Anger, jealousy and rage are highly-destructive emotions that we need to guard against with all of our hearts. God warns Cain in this reading to be very careful about his anger towards his brother, because "sin is a demon lurking at the door..." But Cain's anger towards his brother got the best of him as he went on to murder his brother. We all have moments of anger and frustration in our lives. Even Jesus was very angry towards the merchants as they were selling their goods in and around the temple area, as He went and flipped over the tables of the merchants. This was a moment of righteous anger for Jesus, because it was not right that the merchants were selling their goods in the temple. We too have justifiable moments of righteous anger, when we get angry about something that we know is not right, such as the taking of millions of innocent human lives through abortion in this country and throughout the world. But we need to temper our righteous anger through prayer, peaceful protests, civic involvement and voting for candidates who will fight to protect the lives of the unborn and the elderly.

We are sinners and we are human. We all have moments of anger and maybe even some moments of jealousy in our lives. But we are also people of faith and reason; called to bring the light of Christ to the world. Cain was forgiven by the Lord for the murder of his brother. And we have experienced the love and mercy of God time and again in our lives. So may we embrace and be so thankful for the love and mercy of God towards us, and put on the armor of light (Jesus Christ), and make no provisions for the desires of the flesh. God bless all of you! Fr. Tim.

This year our parishes are collecting funds for the Echoz Pregnancy Care Center. The Center is an organization reaching out to pregnant women in need of testing, ultrasound, mentoring, support and much more. Please grab one of the plastic baby bottles in the back of the church to start donating to this worthy cause today.



If you are unable to attend the Masses in our area, the Cathedral of Helena is livestreaming at 11:00am each Sunday.

go to the Diocesan website, www.diocesehelena.org or the Diocesan Youtube channel. Bishop Vetter has many online messages available for us, from teaching on the Sacraments to story time for children. Also special messages to keep abreast of information as things develop. Don't miss out on the many ways our Bishop ministers to us.



Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick: call the Parish office 434-2988

Marriage: Call Fr. Tim Moriarty 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.

A Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others and returns them with increase to the Lord.

Stewardship, A Disciple's Response



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

CATHOLIC RADIO
97.5 CONRAD, 97.1 GREAT FALLS
107.9 BELT, 105.5 LEWISTOWN

40 Days For Life Sign Up Starts Now! Sign up to participate in the largest Lenten 40 Days for Life campaign--and one of the largest mobilizations of pro-lifers--in history by visiting: 40daysforlife.com/location Could you commit to a weekly prayer shift in front of your local abortion business in Great Falls?