We are Gifted and We Are Called

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

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““This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” - Mt 11:10-11
---PRAYER LINE----PRAYER LINE----

Would you like prayers for a special person, a need, an intention, or an illness? Your parish community is here to help and to support you with prayer. Our parish community has a network of prayer ministers who remember each day in their prayers the intentions/needs of those who request. “Ask and you shall receive.” To activate our prayer line, please call Marion Walton: 259-5784.

PRAYER PETITIONS: Pope’s December Intention: The future of the Very Young. That every country determines to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR FRIENDS
Saturday, December 21, 10am-12pm,
St. Vincent de Paul Charity Office

Vincentians led by Sisters of Charity and Associates are serving a Christmas Dinner for friends who are poor and friends who are homeless. Please consider donating to make this a memorable event to brighten the day of the poor and homeless. FINANCIAL DONATIONS: Any amount is appreciated. MAN-POWER: Set-up for the meal will be from 9-10 am. 2-4 Greeters are needed to welcome friends. The meal will be served from 10am -12pm. 20+ servers are needed, any age. Clean-up will begin at 12pm. Many hands make light work. GIFTS: Socks, hats, gloves…1 each…Wrapped together and marked male or female…at least 100 needed. MENU: any food may be donated ahead of time and prepared by a volunteer OR brought to the Charity Office ready to eat by 10 am. Ham…100 pounds…donated through Billings Food Bank. Scalloped Potatoes…8 pans (boxes per pan). Frog Eye Salads…4 salads that serve 25 people. Rolls…10 dozen. Butter…1 case pats (Costco). Pumpkin Pies…10 large pies (Costco). Whipped Cream…5 cans. Lemonade…Large canister. Coffee…Large canister. DEADLINE to donate or volunteer…Tuesday, December 17. Need more information? Please email acn@jensman.net. THANK YOU.
MERRY CHRISTMAS! Deacon Tom and Mary Landry

Christmas Poinsettia Envelopes
Remember your loved ones with a Christmas Poinsettia offering. Envelopes are in the pews. Your loved ones will be remembered "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" with a special bulletin insert on December 22, 2019.

Marriage Encounter Weekend: It has been said that the greatest gift you can give your children is two parents very much in love with each other. This season of giving is the perfect time to polish up this gift and put a bow on it at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. You deserve the best and your children need to see you reaching for it. Upcoming date: Billings, MT Jan 24-26, 2020. For more information and to apply visit www.wwme.org or call Paul and Tracy 307-689-2820.

Cookie Jamboree
MQP ladies would like to thank those who baked and helped put cookie trays together and also a special thank you to all who purchased these trays. These efforts contributed to the Church operations in the amount of $635.00. Again thanks to everyone.

MQP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Mondays 5-6:45pm Pre-K to 3rd Good Shepherd Program
Wednesdays 5-6:45pm Pre-K to 6th Good Shepherd Program
Wednesdays 5-6:45pm RCIA (for children<18 years)
Thursdays 5-6:45pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
Youth Group contact Valerie Johnson 259-3389
Registration forms at entrance of church and on the website. Contact Bill Kuzma for more info: 294-7607, mqp.dre@gmail.com
Fees for the year: $20 per family, $15 Bible

Children’s Christmas Choir
Mary Queen of Peace will be hosting a children's choir at the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass and the 9:30am Christmas Day Mass. Please call Celest Kessler or Bill Kuzma know at the Parish office, 294-7605, if you are interested. Sign-up sheets are in the entrance of Church.

Basketball Free Throw Contest
The Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual Basketball Free Throw Contest December 15. This year it is at the St. Francis Gym, 2202 Colton Blvd., at 1:00 P.M. All youth from 9 to 14 are welcome at no charge. There will be prizes for the first 3 place winners for each boy and girl at each age. For more information, contact Andy Mikes at 406-652-5594.

EcoAngela
EcoAngela is a group hosted by Angela's Piazza, which fosters community, creativity, wellness, and joy through study and reflection of ways to care for our Earth. EcoAngela hosts monthly discussions of the "10 Spiritual Disciplines of Laudato Si," an encyclical by Pope Francis on care of creation. The purpose of these studies is to help guests understand climate change and the positive personal and community actions recommended by Pope Francis. Each month includes art, ritual, a short presentation, sharing, and discussion. All are welcome! Angela's Piazza, 420 Grand, 7-8:30pm. These meetings will continue on the last Thursday of each month. The next date: December 19: Acknowledge Anthropocentrism as the Deeper Root of the Crisis.

Prayer for Seminarians
Heavenly Father in every generation you provide ministers for the Church. We come now, asking that you call forth more men to serve our Diocese in the priesthood. Give us priests who will lead and guide your people gathered by Word and Sacrament. Bless us with priestly vocations so that we can continue to be a Eucharistic Church. Raise up, we pray men who are generous in their service, willing to offer their lives and all their gifts for your greater glory and for the good of your people. We pray in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Daily Devotional for Advent
Do you think of God as taking delight in you with gladness? Why or why not? What would it be like to hear God sing a joyful song over you?
December 15, 2019

Billings Penance Services
December 18 – St. Bernard - 7:00 pm
December 19 – St. Pius X (West End) 7:00 pm

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection
“‘Thank you’ hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us,” says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week’s second collection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Offered by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>+ Anthony Rieli</td>
<td>Daphne Sutton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>+ Richard Deis</td>
<td>Richard Deis Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>+ Lillian Haider</td>
<td>Fran &amp; Norm Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>+ Alberta Irons &amp; her family</td>
<td>Alberta Irons</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>4:00PM</td>
<td>+ Richard Deis</td>
<td>Richard Deis Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/22</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>+ Elena Mota</td>
<td>John Mota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/22</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Parishioners MQP</td>
</tr>
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Calendar of Weekly Events:
12-16 NO Marian Charismatic Prayer Group
12-18 NO 9:00AM MASS
12-18 Advent Penance Service—St. Bernard’s @7:00PM
12-18 MQP Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm Perkin’s 765 S. 20th St. West
12-18 “Light is on for You” 4:30 – 5:30 PM Confessions, 5:30 PM Mass, 6:00 - 7:00 PM Confessions
12-19 Advent Penance Service—St. Pius @7:00PM
12-19 Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm MQP

If you or a family member are homebound, in the hospital or scheduled for surgery and would like the Sacrament of the Sick, please call Father José at the office @259-7611 #06.

Funerals: Initial funeral planning:
Contact Fr. Jose Marquez, 294-7606

St Vincent de Paul
St Vincent de Paul thanks all you for your past donations. At this time, we are in need of paper plates, napkins, plastic eating utensils, coffee cups, sugar, and powdered coffee creamer. If you can help, please contact our office at 252-1855 or drop them off at our location of 3005 1st Ave South. Your assistance is appreciated and is critical to the continuation of our mission.

And on this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are encouraged to rejoice. Gaudete Sunday derives its name from the opening prayer of the Mass for this day, where we pray, “Gaudete in Domino semper” ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). So in the midst of Advent fasting and devotions, we rejoice because the time we have been preparing for is almost at hand. We pause in this season of anticipation to remember that, in truth, our hopes have already been fulfilled. He is among us, saving us even now!

Ministers Needed for Mary Queen of Peace
Mary Queen of Peace Parish is seeking additional ministers in the following areas: Altar Servers, Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Lectors, Ministers to the Homebound, and Sacristans. If you are called or you know good candidates contact Fr. Jose.

Holy Cross Cemetery Coat Drive
December 9th thru December 19th
Sponsored by: Holy Cross Cemetery - 1601 Mullowney Lane Billings MT 59101
This year Holy Cross Cemetery wants to give back to the community that has blessed us. We will be collecting coats, hats, scarves, gloves and, clothes. We will be donating these items to St. Vincent DePaul. Anything donated will be greatly appreciated.

“Your toil is not in vain when it is done in the Lord”
“God has blessed us in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. Thanks to everyone who has already supported Care and Share this appeal year. I am inspired by your generosity. So far, 98 households have given gifts and pledges. If you have not already supported the appeal, I ask that you that you prayerfully consider a gift. Bishop Warfel extends his gratitude. He thanks you, as do I, for helping to make the 2019 Care and Share Annual Catholic Appeal a success for our diocese.

Mary Queen of Peace Parish
2019 Care and Share Report
Care and Share March 2019 thru February 2020

| Assessment 2019 | 41,045 |
| Less Cash Contributions B-28-2019 | 27,715 |
| 2019 Care and Share Balance | 13,330 |

Mary Queen of Peace Parish
Stewardship Report
Fiscal Year: July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020
Weekend of December 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Income:</th>
<th>MQP</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envelope donations</td>
<td>2,871</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose cash/checks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Weekly Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,826</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Expense Budget</td>
<td>7,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Over (Short)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(3,039)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Year-to-date Income Total: | 155,734 |
| Year-to-date Total Expenses Budget: | 173,028 |
| **Over (Short)** | **(17,294)** |