

ST. BARTHOLOMEW

APRIL 6, 2025

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



FATHER CODY'S NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next Chosen Movie night will be on Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30pm at Stageline. Everyone is welcome to come. Free Pizza!! Invite your friends, family, neighbors, anyone to come join us! This is the 2nd to last one of the series.
- **Easter Mass will be at our normal Sunday time of 9 am, 4/20/25.**
- RE for all ages is back on track! K through 5th grade will begin meeting again starting this Wednesday, April 9th at 4pm. Youth Group for high school and middle school continues at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays.
- If you or someone you know is interested in our pilgrimage to Lourdes, Fatima, and Barcelona, we still have spots available. Pick up a flyer on the information table for more information or contact Fr. Cody.
- If you have any blessed objects that you would like to properly dispose of, i.e. broken rosaries or statues, palms, images, please bring them to the church and put them in the box labeled "for the disposal of blessed objects."
- Bishop Vetter has promulgated the indulgences and Holy Doors for the Jubilee Year of Hope. You can go to the Diocesan website at <https://diocesehelena.org/jubilee2025/> or see the letter on the bulletin board.
- Please see the center page for information on a special Mass of Healing for Survivors of Abuse and Trauma offered by Bishop Vetter this week.
- Catholic Relief Services is in great need of extra funding this year. If you are willing to give some money to their organization to help those in need throughout the world, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you have anything to add to the announcements or bulletin please reach out to Father Cody.



VOCATIONS PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we ask your special blessing on those preparing for the priesthood in our seminaries. We pray that they will grow in faith, hope and love. Give them courage and perseverance and be their constant companion as they prepare to serve you and your people with the fire of your love. Make them holy as you are holy. Amen.

Seminarians

Dcn. Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, and Jake

St. Bartholomew Calendar	
	5th Sunday of Lent
Sun. 4/6/25	The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00 am
Mon. 4/7/25	
Tues. 4/8/25	
Wed. 4/9/25	Daily Mass: 11:00am Catholicism 201: 11:30-1:00pm RE: 4:00pm Youth Group: 6:30pm
Thurs. 4/10/25	
Fri. 4/11/25	
Sat. 4/12/25	
	Palm Sunday
Sun. 4/13/25	The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00am

Basics of Catholicism part 82—Satisfaction

The last part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is satisfaction. By the very nature of this word I imagine that you are a little confused. Satisfaction has two parts to it. The part that the Church emphasizes is the penance given by the priest. The second part of satisfaction is the feeling of being freed from sin.

The penance: however much this word is used in a negative context in modern society, it is not meant to have negative connotations in the Church. A penance is an act of devotion given to God for the sake of healing or to subdue the passions so that we can more faithfully follow God's will. Often people think of penances like the actions seen in movies from the Middle Ages where a man whips himself bloody or they go for long periods of time fasting on bread and water. The Church teaches that all penances are meant to be done in moderation so that the person doesn't lose sight of the purpose of the penance which is to grow closer to God. The penance given during the Sacrament of Reconciliation is supposed to promote healing and a greater closeness to God. Basically, you do the action so that you are participating in the healing you want to receive from God resulting from the damage done by sin. These penances are supposed to be small and easily accomplished. If the penance is too long or harsh, then we think that we are saving ourselves. The penitent is required under pain of mortal sin to complete their penance as assigned by the priest.

A few notes on the penance given by the priest and its required completion by the penitent. The priest has limitations on the type of penance he can assign to a penitent. The priest cannot give a penance which requires the person to relay, convey, or relate any information from their confession. For instance if a person confessed that he murdered someone, I cannot give the penance for the person to turn himself in. The confession is sealed and by requiring the person to convey that information to the authorities, I would be breaking the Seal of the Confessional. The person, on their own accord, could choose to turn themselves in but I cannot force or require them to. Similarly, the penance needs to be something possible and helpful. If I required the person to give \$10,000 to the Church, this might leave the person destitute or in a dire financial situation. Therefore, the priest needs to be careful that the penance given helps the person grow closer to God, is completable and clear, as well as doesn't require the person to convey information that was part of their confession. On a final note, the priest is allowed to give no penance as the penance. Technically it's a loophole. The penance is no penance. The Church doesn't encourage it neither does she forbade it. Think about this type of penance. Too often we assume that we are the principal actors in our spiritual lives. I need to make time for God, I need to do these exercises and penances to grow in faith, my spiritual life depends on me. Receiving a "no penance" as a penance is a reminder of God's action in bringing us healing and forgiveness. This type of penance requires us to recognize God's mercy and be grateful for this free gift. In the event that the priest assigns a penance that would break the seal or cause undue harm to the person, the penitent is not required to complete the penance. More on this next time.

Fr. Cody

Basics of Catholicism part 82—The Penance Service

One of the more common experiences of the Rite of Penance is the Penance Service. Actually, this form of the Rite of Penance is the fullest expression of this Sacrament and completes all the expected parts for a Sacrament. Let's walk through it.

Penance Services begin with a Liturgy of the Word. Often we dismiss or ignore this part of the Sacrament especially when a priest hears individual confessions. The Church recognized the connection between the proclamation of the Word of God and Sacramental actions in the life of Jesus. Before Jesus performed a miracle, he always preached the Word of God to them. The same applies during a Penance Service. The proclamation of the Word of God is a transformative experience which teaches us about the nature of God, the actions God did to secure our salvation and save us from our sins, and the ways we failed him and need mercy and forgiveness. Even in the celebration of individual confessions, the Church strongly recommends some connection to Scripture whether by a small recitation of a passage at the beginning or by using Scriptural passages as part of the advice that the priest can give.

The second part of the Penance Service is the examination of conscience and the communal Act of Contrition. An important part of the Penance Service is the opportunity for each person to examine their conscience and prepare for the individual confessions. Usually the priest, or another minister, leads the people through the basic sins and a reflection based on these categories of sins. The goal of this moment is for us to reflect more deeply on the nature of sin, the different types of sins, and possibly recognize some sins we didn't realize we were committing. Normally people focus on specific sins that they know are sins without taking time to pray and reflect on the movement of their consciences. Following the examination of conscience, the people say the Act of Contrition together. Since it was said communally, it doesn't need to be said during the individual confessions.

The third part is the individual confessions. The Church expects each person to go to a priest during this time and confess their sins. The Penance Service itself doesn't forgive sins. The priest, using the Prayer of Absolution, grants the forgiveness of sins to those who come for individual confessions. Reminder: the Church requires each member to confess their sins once a year to a priest. We are not required to attend a penance service.

The final part, and the one that is least used, is a final prayer and blessing at the end of the Penance Service. Most people bolt as soon as they have confessed their sins to a priest. But, the Penance Service anticipates that the people stay until everyone is done to show the communal nature of this service and the need to support each other in our fight against sin. The ending is very short: a prayer and a blessing. Yet, it emphasizes that the individual confessions are part of the Penance Service and that we are here to support one another.

Fr. Cody

PARISH INFORMATION

Pastor: Fr. Cody Williams

Email: stbartholomew@gmail.com

Website: stbartholomewmt.org

Phone Number: 406-547-3737

Father Cody's Cell: 406-465-7895

Baptism: Contact Parish Office

Weddings: Contact Parish Office **at least 6 month advance notice is needed to complete marriage preparation.**

Scripture Readings

5th Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025

Reading 1: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm: 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Reading 2: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11: 1-45

MASS SCHEDULE

Confessions on Sunday from 8:30—8:50 am
or by appointment

Sunday Rosary: 8:30 am

Sunday Mass: 9 am

Wednesday Mass: 11 am

This year we approved a budget that requires a much higher amount of income than we have budgeted for many years. This increase in income was due largely to the increasing costs of basic needs like insurance premiums and the costs of running a parish. Each week I will include in the bulletin the amount of money we brought in through the offertory as well as the amount we are above or below our goal for that point in the year. The annual goal is \$51,000 with a weekly average need of \$1000.

Weekly Collection totals:

3/9/25—\$940.00

3/16/25—\$1065.00

3/23/25—\$458.00

Thank you for your generous support of
St. Bartholomew!