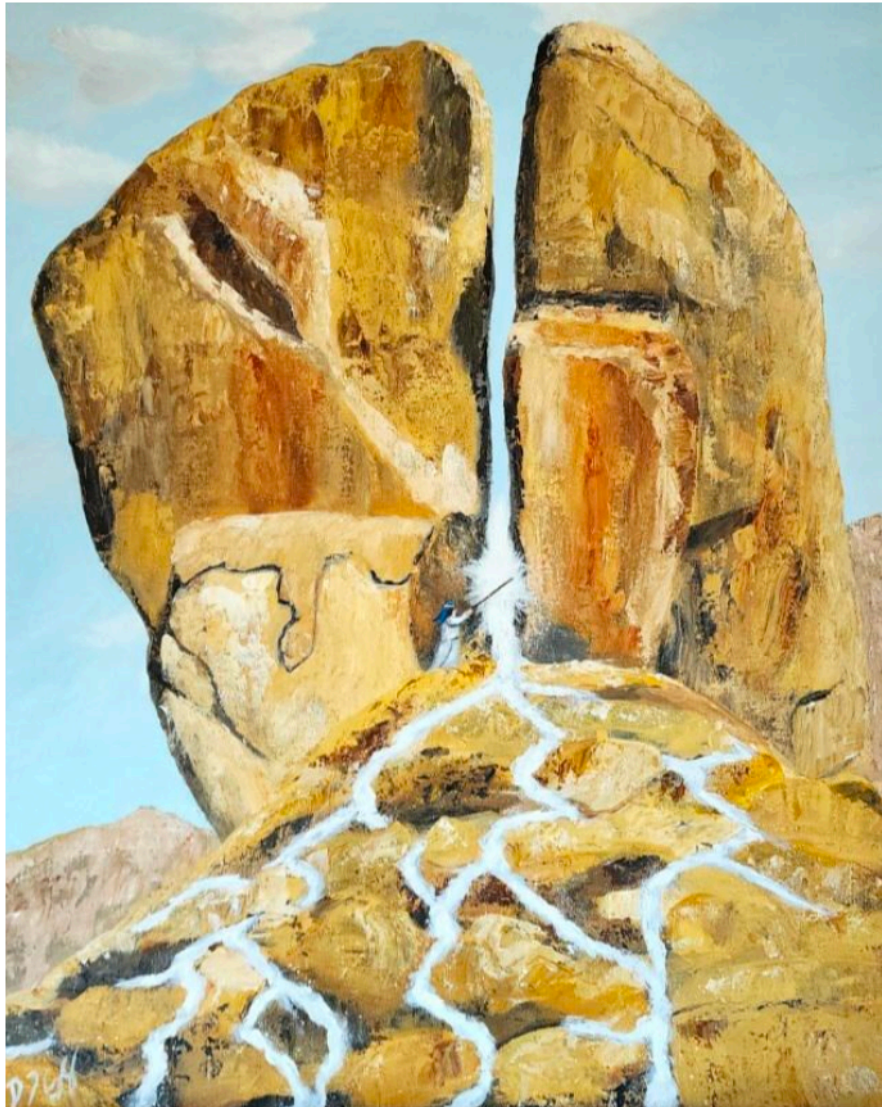


**ST. BARTHOLOMEW**

**MARCH 23, 2025**

**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**



## FATHER CODY'S NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next Chosen Movie night will be on Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30pm at Stageline. Please invite your friends and family!
- The Solemnity of the Annunciation is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Due to this, we will not have a Mass on that day.
- Youth Group for high school and middle school begins again this week at 6:30 pm on March 26th.
- **Easter Mass will be at our normal Sunday time of 9 am.**
- 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 next month.
- The Eucharistic Congress is quickly approaching. The main events are the Keynote speaker along with the break out session on Saturday and the concluding Mass on Sunday. Please consider attending.
  - ◇ See the previous page in the bulletin for more information.
- 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

<b>St. Bartholomew Calendar</b>	
	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>
Sun. 3/23/25	The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00 am
Mon. 3/24/25	
Tues. 3/25/25	
Wed. 3/26/25	Daily Mass: 11:00am Catholicism 201: 11:30-1:00pm RE: 4:00pm
Thurs. 3/27/25	
Fri. 3/28/25	
Sat. 3/29/25	
	<b>4th Sunday of Lent—Laetare Sunday</b>
Sun. 3/30/25	The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00am

# EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

IN A JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

MARCH 21-23, 2025 | CARROLL COLLEGE, HELENA

— AN ALL-AGES EVENT —

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CYC CONVENTION



## Scripture Readings

**3rd Sunday of Lent**  
March , 2025

Reading 1: Exodus 17:3-7  
Responsorial Psalm: 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
Reading 2: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8  
Gospel: John 4:5-42

## 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:**

2/15/25—\$959.00

2/23/25—\$851.00

3/2/25—\$1,953.55

Thank you for your generous support of  
St. Bartholomew!

## Basics of Catholicism part 81—General Absolution

The Rite of Penance gives two options for absolving penitents of their sins: individual confessions and general absolution. The most common form, and the one expected by the Church, is individual confessions. Individual confessions are when a person comes to a priest, confesses their sins, receives absolution, and then continues on with their lives. This is the most common form of experiencing this Sacrament. The Church allows for one more option with very specific restrictions around it: general absolution.

General Absolution is when a priest says the Prayer of Absolution with a group of people present. Those who are present do not confess their sins out loud, there could be a communal Act of Contrition, and the priest doesn't provide council, advice, or a penance. For a few decades, this form of the Rite of Penance was widely used during Penance Services as a quicker way of celebrating the Sacrament. The Rite of Penance states that this form can be used if there is a large number of penitents and the amount of time needed to hear their confessions causes an undue hardship on the people or they are in danger of death.

We need to remember that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is not magic. Let's use an example to illustrate my point. Imagine that I am on a plane. The pilot announces that we are going to crash. This situation represents an example where the people are in danger of death. I, a priest, can use the Rite of General Absolution at this moment to help free people from their sins and hopefully save some people from damnation. Yet, this isn't magic. Each person, although I have said the Prayer of Absolution, still has a choice to make. Will they accept this grace? Do they want to be free from their sins? Will they accept God into their lives? The choice of accepting this gift of forgiveness from God is still a choice. Some people will not accept it and even General Absolution is not useful.

This example illustrates one of the major problems with General Absolution used during a Penance Service. Although the people come, hopefully, with contrite hearts, we cannot be assured of their desire to be forgiven. Some people come with the intention of an easy way out of going to Confession and are not really sorry for their sins. Some assume that they don't need to confess their sins and are therefore deprived of the opportunity to be real with the sins in their lives. General Absolution is meant to be used in very isolated circumstances for this reason. The act of confessing sins is the major part of our conversion, understating our own issues, and responding to God's grace.

Fr. Cody

### PARISH INFORMATION

*Pastor:* Fr. Cody Williams

**Email:** [stbartholomew@gmail.com](mailto:stbartholomew@gmail.com)

**Website:** [stbartholomewmt.org](http://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.\**

# Mass of Healing

for Survivors of Abuse and Trauma

THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH, 5:30PM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. HELENA



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
Diocese of Helena

◇ On **Thursday, April 10th, at 5:30 PM** at the Cathedral of St. Helena, Bishop Vetter will offer a Mass of Healing for Survivors of Abuse and Trauma.

- \* This special Mass is an opportunity for prayer, healing, and hope for all who have experienced abuse or trauma in any form, as well as for their families and loved ones. It is open to the public, and the entire community is invited to intercede for those in need of healing and peace.

Together, we will pray for all survivors, for those who work to protect children and the vulnerable, and for the Holy Spirit to guide efforts toward justice. This Mass is also a meaningful opportunity to renew our shared commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable and fostering a culture of care, accountability, and restoration.

- \* Following the Mass, Bishop Vetter will be available for prayers and individual blessings of those who desire it.