

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW**

**MARCH 15, 2026**



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

## FATHER CODY'S NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next Ask a Priest night is this Wednesday, **March 18th at 6:00pm**. The topic is "Do Catholics Worship Mary and the Saints?"
- The Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for Thursday, **March 19th at 6:30pm**.
- The Eucharistic Congress is coming soon. Friday, **March 20** through Sunday, **March 22**. Register online at <http://diocesehelen.org/eucharisticcongress/>

<b>St. Bartholomew Calendar</b>	
Sun. 3/15/26	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00am
Mon. 3/16/26	
Tues. 3/17/26	
Wed. 3/18/26	Daily Mass: 11:00am Church Father's Series: 11:30am RE: 4:00pm Ask a Priest: 6:00pm
Thurs. 3/19/26	
Fri. 3/20/26	
Sat. 3/21/26	
Sun. 3/22/26	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00am

## **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. Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Liam Aippersbach, Ryan Frampton, and Mason Yochum.

# He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.  
Rejoice in the resurrection of

*Jesus Christ.*



Easter Sunday Mass – Sun. April 6th at 9 am

## 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.\**

## Scripture Readings

### 4th Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Resp. Psalm: 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Reading 2: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

## 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

# EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

MARCH 20-22, 2026

CARROLL COLLEGE | HELENA, MT



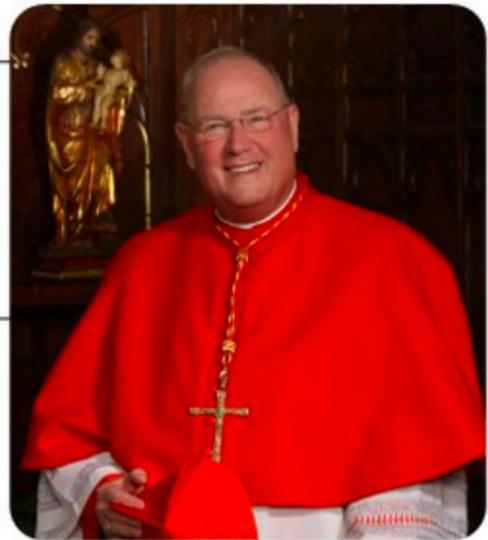
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
Diocese of Helena

## A Weekend for Worship, Encounter, and Renewal

This year's Eucharistic Congress will be the largest gathering of its kind our diocese has hosted – an event for all ages featuring incredible speakers, dynamic breakouts, and prayer experiences, all centered around the Eucharist and the life of our Catholic faith.

### WITH A KEYNOTE & MASS CELEBRATED BY: CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN

Archbishop Emeritus of New York



### OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Bishop  
Austin A. Vetter



Mother  
Mary Clare, ACJ



EVENT EMCEE  
Fr. Marc Lenneman

More information and registration at:

[www.diocesehelena.org/eucharisticcongress](http://www.diocesehelena.org/eucharisticcongress)

## SPEAKERS & BREAKOUTS

This year we are blessed to welcome **Cardinal Timothy Dolan**, who will be our speaker on Saturday morning and will celebrate Mass on Friday night.

Other incredible speakers for the weekend include a general keynote with **Bishop Austin Vetter**, a women's session led by **Mother Mary Clare** of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus, several high school youth keynotes, and a dynamic assortment of speakers who will host breakout sessions on Saturday afternoon.

## AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES

With affordable childcare, dedicated junior high and high school tracks, and opportunities for every age and stage, this weekend is designed for the whole diocesan family.

## SUNDAY MASS AND PROCESSION

The weekend culminates in a celebration of Mass at the Cathedral of St. Helena on Sunday at 11:00am, followed by a Eucharistic procession through downtown Helena from the Cathedral to All Saints Chapel at Carroll College to conclude the Congress.

**PLUS ADORATION, OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFESSION, A HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT, AND MORE!**



## TICKET PRICING

*Register early and save!*

	Standard Registration Feb 15 - Mar 10	Late Registration Mar 11 - Mar 20
Adults & High School Youth	\$100	\$120
College Students & CYC Board	\$50	\$70
Grades K-8	\$50	\$50

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We are committed to ensuring that no one will be denied access to the event because of finances. **The maximum cost for any family to attend Eucharistic Congress is \$250.** Additional financial assistance is available for both individuals and families. Please visit our Congress webpage for details.



Scan the QR code  
to register now

or go to [diocesehelena.org/eucharisticcongress](https://diocesehelena.org/eucharisticcongress)

## **Basics of Catholicism Part 127—The Annulment Process**

The process of declaring a marriage valid or invalid is quite simple. It starts with a person approaching an advocate, usually their pastor, requesting to begin the annulment process. Then the advocate, the person who will work with the person and testify to the invalidity of the marriage, has the person fill out forms and answer questions about the marriage. The process can be challenging for some people as this part of the process can bring up a lot of hurt and pain. Yet, by reflecting on the challenges they faced in their marriage and being able to express it in words can bring a lot of healing.

After the paperwork is complete, the advocate will write a letter on behalf of the person and send in the paperwork to the Tribunal. The Tribunal is the office of the Diocese which oversees any cases related to Church law. Each Tribunal has a judge which oversees cases of Church law with the Bishop as the ultimate judge. In addition to the judge of the Tribunal, the Tribunal also has several canon lawyers who act in various roles. In the case of annulments and marriage laws, many of these lawyers act as defenders of the bond, reviewers of the case, or advocates. All of these people make their petition. The role of the advocate is to defend the desire of the person seeking the annulment and make the case for the invalidity of the marriage. The defender of the bond has two roles. The first role is to make their case that the marriage is valid. The second role of the defender of the bond is to ensure that the proper processes were followed including obtaining proper testimonies, filing the right paperwork, advocating for the correct type of annulment, and proper juridical processes. Once all of these testimonies and statements are collected, the judge reviews the case and makes his decision. The judge will decide whether the marriage is considered valid or invalid. A valid marriage cannot be annulled and therefore the person is not free to marry. An invalid marriage means that the marriage vows were not properly exchanged and therefore the marriage never took place allowing the person to be free to marry. The Tribunal rarely declares a marriage valid because that would end all possibilities of future annulments. Instead, the judge declares that the case lacks sufficient evidence to prove invalidity.

Once the judge has made his decision, the petitioner, the person who requested the annulment, can appeal the decision of the judge. When the decision to appeal has been made, then the case goes before the next higher court of the Church, for us this is the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Portland. At this level, the judge of the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Portland has the final say and the case is concluded. This process may seem rather legalistic to some. Why are there processes and procedures? The answer is simple, to protect the sanctity of marriage. If we annulled every case that came to the Diocese, we are saying that marriages are easy to break and carry little weight. If we don't allow any annulments, we are not responding to the real needs of people and the challenges we face. This process holds in proper tension the sanctity of marriage and the real situations of people allowing both justice and mercy.

Fr. Cody