

ST. BARTHOLOMEW

MARCH 8, 2026



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

FATHER CODY'S NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next Ask a Priest night is on 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 quickly approaching. The congress is on Friday, **March 20th** through Sunday, **March 22nd**. More information on the Diocesan website.

St. Bartholomew Calendar	
Sun. 3/8/26	Third Sunday of Lent The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00am Coffee Hour after Mass
Mon. 3/9/26	
Tues. 3/10/26	
Wed. 3/11/26	Daily Mass: 11:00am Church Father's Series: 11:30am RE: 4:00pm
Thurs. 3/12/26	
Fri. 3/13/26	
Sat. 3/14/26	
Sun. 3/15/26	Fourth Sunday of Lent 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.

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



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Scripture Readings

3rd Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

Reading 1: Exodus 17:3-7

Resp. 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:

1/11/26—\$1018.00

1/18/26—\$1204.00

1/25/26—\$447.00

2/1/26—\$910.00

2/8/26—\$1802.00

Thank you for your generous support of
St. Bartholomew!

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

MARCH 20-22, 2026

CARROLL COLLEGE | HELENA, MT



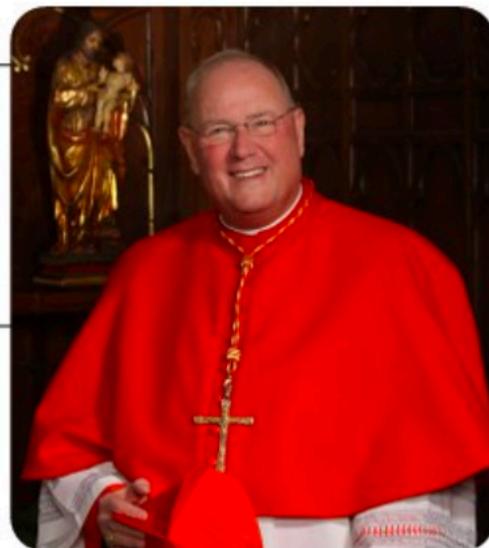
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
Diocese of Helena

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

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

Basics of Catholicism Part 126—What are annulments?

Jesus' words about marriage are quite harsh to our modern ears. Marriage is an unbreakable bond formed by God that unites the couple together. This definition doesn't allow for much wiggle room especially with really troubling or challenging marriages. Moses gave the option for divorce for the Israelites knowing the problems that can occur in marriages. But Jesus doesn't give this allowance. So what do we do when a marriage breaks down? How do we help people when two people shouldn't stay together for good reasons? Is there any clause in Jesus' words that allow us to take a more merciful approach to marriages?

Jesus does give one exception, "If the marriage is unlawful." But, what does this mean? What is an unlawful marriage? From a Jewish context this would be a marriage that didn't follow Jewish laws, was between two people who are too closely related, the marriage between a married person and another person, or marriage by force. Unfortunately for us, these laws don't seem to apply to our modern day marriage situations. Today we struggle with situations like infidelity, loss of love, confusion about the nature of the person, lack of maturity, and false understanding about the nature of marriage. In the midst of situations like these, what is the Church supposed to do to help people to live the joy of marriage well and be able to participate in the life of the Church?

The answer is an annulment. Annulments are juridical declarations by a Church judge who makes a statement concerning the validity of the marriage. Many people think that annulments are the breaking of the bond of marriage or ending a marriage contract. This is not entirely true. The vast majority of annulments are judicial acts that declare that the marriage has been deemed invalid, or that it didn't take place. Some annulments, although rare, do break the bond of marriage but in very specific cases.

The purpose of the annulment is to examine the marriage including the moment of consent and the intentions of the person to determine whether the person entering into the covenant of marriage made those vows. Notice the details of this statement. The process of declaring a marriage invalid involves examining the intentions of the person at the moment the vows were taken to indicate whether the couple willfully and consciously entered the fullness of the contract of marriage. We go back to the moment the vows were taken to examine the validity of the marriage. Most people like to assume that conditions following the marriage are important, but they are not. Only the moment the vows were taken. More on this process next time.

Fr. Cody