



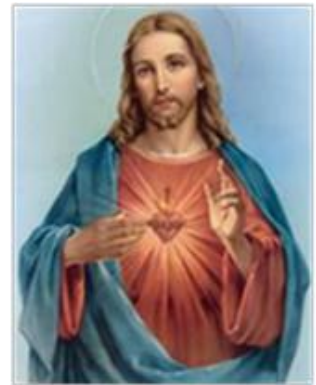
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Harlowton, Montana
Missions:
Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut
Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

Father Cody Williams, Pastor

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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8, 2026

The Prophet Isaiah speaks to people steeped in anguish - those "in the darkness," stuck in "the gloom." "Bestow your bread on the hungry," he says, and "satisfy the afflicted." In other words, no matter how bleak your present state, "you are the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." By tending the wounds of others, our wound "shall quickly be healed" and our "light shall break forth like the dawn." When we make our own Saint Paul's resolve "to know nothing except Jesus Christ crucified," we "shall never be moved." Our hearts will be firm, full of trust in the Lord.

Your light shall break forth like the dawn.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10 ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, Here I am. "If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, ¹⁰if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

Psalms 112:4-9 **R/ The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.**

⁴Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the LORD is gracious, merciful, and righteous. ⁵It is well with the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. ⁶For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered for ever. ⁷He is not afraid of evil tidings; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. ⁸His heart is steady, he will not be afraid, until he sees his desire on his adversaries. ⁹He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever; his horn is exalted in honor.

I have announced to you the mystery of Christ crucified.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ¹When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Alleluia, Alleluia I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. **Alleluia, Alleluia**
You are the light of the world.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16 ¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Each year the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) publishes the Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. This calendar lists each day's celebration, rank, liturgical color, citations for the Lectionary for Mass, and Psalter cycle for the Liturgy of the Hours. It is primarily used by authors of ordines and other liturgical aids published to foster the celebration of the liturgy in our country, but may also be used by anyone who downloads a copy.

The calendar is based upon the General Roman Calendar, promulgated by Pope Saint Paul VI on February 14, 1969, subsequently amended by the Holy See, and the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America, approved by the USCCB and confirmed in 2010 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. The Liturgical Calendar can be found at [2026cal.pdf](#)

Readings for this bulletin are from EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) which uses the RSV-CE Bible Translation.

12:00 noon Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.

Daily Mass on Thursdays at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.

*****Confessions before Sunday Mass beginning at 11:30 am or by appointment. Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.**

Sunday Mass at 9 am at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs & 4:30pm at Holy Cross, Townsend.

*****Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays – join us anytime between 12:30–3:30 pm.**

Youth Group meets each Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Please join us for our monthly parish potlucks on the 4th Sunday after Mass - 2/22/26; 3/22/26; 4/26/26

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe
Bret Rotz
Carter Anderson
James Semling
Ryan Frampton

Jake Smith
Anthony Olmes
Shae Bills
Carson Gorton
Mason Yochum

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell
Jamie Severson
Matt Keck
Liam Aippersbach,

Congratulations to Fr. Dillon Armstrong on his ordination to the priesthood! Please keep him in your prayers.

Mark Your Calendars:

The Church Fathers series continues each Thursday from 5-6:30. A livestream version is available. Contact Fr. Cody if you would like to join. *No Church Fathers series on Thurs, Feb. 12th.**

Youth Group continues each Thursdays at 7pm. Youth Group for Thursday, Feb. 12th is at the Harlowton Theater for the Chosen Movie night.

On Tuesday, Feb. 17th we will host our annual Pancake Supper starting at 5 pm.

The next Chosen Movie night is on Thursday, Feb 12th at 7 pm at the Harlowton Theater. Please invite people to come

Ash Wednesday Mass is on Wed. Feb. 18th at 7am.

As the winter season approaches, just a quick reminder. If you would like to receive texts or emails about Mass cancellations due to weather, please send your phone number or email address to stjosephmt@gmail.com.

Our next parish potluck is scheduled for Sunday, February 22nd after Mass. Please join us for some great food & fellowship.

A list of the various building and cleaning projects for our parish is posted on the bulletin board at the front of the church. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Father Cody's Corner: Basics of Catholicism Part 122: Marriage as a Sacrament

What do we mean by "marriage as a Sacrament"? This question is critical for understanding the Church's teaching on marriage. As I outlined in the previous parts of this series on marriage, marriage is not simply a social contract. Marriage is something more, something rooted in God's relationship with us, something that binds us to God and shows his love for the world. Therefore, we should assume that God intends more from marriage than a deal.

What is a Sacrament? A Sacrament is a visible expression of the invisible realities of God. Each Sacrament has a visible form that helps us to relate to it and experience it. Yet, every Sacrament has an invisible reality that the visible signs point to. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, the visible sign is the couple and their exchange of rings. The couple is the greatest sign since it shows the love shared between two people. The invisible sign of the couple is the incredible love that God has for his people. God binds himself to us like a couple exchanging vows to love each other for as long as they both shall live. Obviously the sign of the couple is limited by time whereas God's love is eternal. Thus the invisible reality: God so loved the world that he gave himself entirely to us. The invisible reality behind the visible sign of the couple is God's everlasting love for us. As the couple exchanges rings as a symbol of their love and commitment, God gives us signs and covenants. The sign of Jesus' death and Resurrection is a constant reminder of the covenant that God established with all people through his blood as a sign of his love. Thus marriage is a Sacrament: a visible expression of something of the nature of God.

If we are not careful with the above description of a sacrament, we can easily expand it to include far more than the 7 Sacraments of the church. For instance, why are religious and consecrated single people not considered a Sacrament? Are they not signs of God's love and devotion? People who devote themselves to God in this way show their commitment to God but not in the same way as marriage. Marriage and Holy Orders are both Sacraments because they share in the life and ministry of Jesus. As Jesus became high priest so that he could offer himself and the world to the Father, so do we have priests to imitate the self-offering of Jesus. As Jesus gave himself entirely to his Church, took her as his bride, and desires an eternal commitment to her, so too we have marriage as a Sacrament to imitate the love Jesus has for his Church. Marriage as a Sacrament teaches us about the nature of God in ways that other

forms of callings or commitments do not. Marriage is the sign of God's love and fruitfulness. He gives his life to the Church who brings forth spiritual children in the form of the baptized. Jesus gives himself to the Church to make her holy and draws her into the mystery of his life.

Too often today we think of marriage in very human terms. The two become one and share a household or marriage is about love. Marriage is not about love. Marriage is about commitment and to give our lives for the sake of another. The Sacrament of Marriage calls the couple to sacrifice for each other as Jesus gave himself for the Church. Marriage is a constant reminder of the everlasting love of God through which he gave his life for the salvation of the world. ~ Fr. Cody

Light Breaking Forth: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Listen Here: Light Breaking Forth: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Isaiah 58:7–10; Psalm 112:4–9; 1 Corinthians 2:1–5; Matthew 5:13–16

Jesus came among us as light to scatter the darkness of a fallen world.

As His disciples, we too are called to be “the light of the world,” He tells us in the Gospel this Sunday (see John 1:4–4, 9; 8:12; 9:5).

All three images that Jesus uses to describe the Church are associated with the identity and vocation of Israel.

God forever aligned His kingdom with the kingdom of David and his sons by a “covenant of salt,” salt being a sign of permanence and purity (see 2 Chronicles 13:5, 8; Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24).

Jerusalem was to be a city set on a hill, high above all others, drawing all nations toward the glorious light streaming from her Temple (see Isaiah 2:2; 60:1–3).

And Israel was given the mission of being a light to the nations, that God's salvation would reach to the ends of the earth (see Isaiah 42:6; 49:6).

The liturgy shows us this week that the Church, and every Christian, is called to fulfill Israel's mission.

By our faith and good works we are to make the light of God's life break forth in the darkness, as we sing in this week's Psalm.

This week's readings remind us that our faith can never be a private affair, something we can hide as if under a basket.

We are to pour ourselves out for the afflicted, as Isaiah tells us in the First Reading. Our light must shine as a ray of God's mercy for all who are poor, hungry, naked, and enslaved.

There must be a transparent quality to our lives. Our friends and family, our neighbors and fellow citizens, should see reflected in us the light of Christ and through us be attracted to the saving truths of the Gospel.

So let us pray that we, like St. Paul in the Epistle, might proclaim with our whole lives “Christ, and him crucified.” ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 115 February Magnificat

(Each local community should compose its own Universal Prayer but may find inspiration in the texts proposed here.)

We glorify our heavenly Father, who enlightens the hearts and minds of his faithful children. Let us ask that he hear the prayers we now present with confidence:

For the Church: that her members may win many souls for Christ by proclaiming the saving truths of the Gospel.

That all government leaders and legislators be guided by wisdom and prudence, and for an end to all violent conflict.

For those who are sick, especially as we observe World Day of the Sick later this week: that the Lord will comfort them and ease their sufferings of mind and body.

That the light of Christ may become more evident in the world through an increase in vocations to the priesthood and to consecrated life.

For all who have strayed from the faith and live under the burden of sin: that they turn to the Lord Jesus and experience his transforming love.

For the grace this week to respond generously to the needs of others, especially the sick and the suffering in our community.

Loving Father, we humbly present these prayers to you and ask that they may be answered according to your holy will.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions page 118 February Magnificat

You have made us in your own image, to bear your light to those around us. With knowledge of our own responsibility, we pray:

R/ May the light of Christ shine through us!

For children and all who look up to us,

– that we might model for them authentic Christian virtue: R/

For those whose faith has been damaged by the sins of Christians,

– that we might serve as a living example of his faithful love in our fallen world: R/

For all who do not know Christ,

– that our words and actions may help to open their eyes to his presence: R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

Father of lights, who have descended to grant to all of us a sharing in your divine life, make us worthy of the task you have entrusted to us, that we might effectively bear the light of your truth to all the world. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY The Light That Glorifies God page 123-124 February Magnificat

We have to examine the intention of the human heart, where it is aimed at, what it has in mind. If anybody wants his good works to be seen by other people because he is parading his glory and his indispensability before their eyes, and seeking recognition of them from other people,

then...his light has not so shone before men, that they should see his good works for the purpose of glorifying the Father in heaven. It's himself that he wanted glorified, not God; and it was his own profit he was looking for, not the will of the Lord he was choosing. Of such people the apostle says, They are all looking after their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ (Phil 2:21)....
 Jesus said, So let your light shine before men that they may see your good works; but he immediately added why this was to be done: that they may glorify, he said, your Father in heaven. So when a person is seen by people to do good, his conscience should be prompted by the intention to do good, but not by any intention of getting well known for it, except for the praise of God and the advantage of those who get to know about it. The benefit they get from [another's good works] is being delighted with God who has enabled a person to do such things; and so not giving up hope if they want such a capacity for doing good to be granted to them as well!...
 So if anybody wishes his works to be seen by the public in such a way that God is glorified, from whom he has received the things that are seen in him, and so that the very people who see them are challenged... to imitate his good works - then his light really does shine before the world, because it is the brightness of charity that he radiates. ~ Saint Augustine Saint Augustine († 430), called the Doctor of Grace, is one of the most important theologians in the history of the Church.

Intercessions page 126 February Magnificat

We were offered many graces at Mass this day, a true sharing in God's light and life. May we carry those graces forward to those we will see this week:

R/ Sun of justice, light our way!

With those people in our lives who annoy and frustrate us,

– may we be generous and patient: R/

For those we know who are lonely,

– may we bring them kindness and human comfort: R/

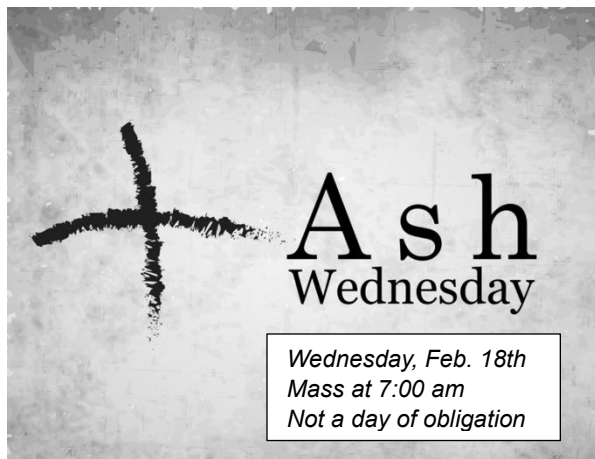
For those in need whom we have no opportunity to help physically,

– may our prayers for them bear great fruit: R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

O God, lead us in joy by the light of your glory, with your mercy and justice for company! Amen. (cf. Bar 5:9)

Marian Antiphon





You can make a difference!

- Grab a baby bottle.
- Fill it with cash, check, or change.
- Return it to church.

Learn more or give online!






Options Clinic
Change for Life

BECOMING A MAN OF PRAYER



Men's

SKI RETREAT

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

Join Fr. Cody Williams and other men for a weekend of prayer, skiing/snowboarding, and fraternal time. For more information go to holycrossmt.org/skiretreat

\$50

(covers food & lodging; lift ticket not included)

INFO & SIGN UP



World Youth Day 2027

Seoul, South Korea

Montana WYD Pilgrims



It's time to discern whether you are being called to be a Pilgrim to the next World Youth Day!

And time to prepare our hearts, get ready and do some fundraising for August 1-10, 2027!



Take courage! I have overcome the world. (1st Jn 5:3)

Contact your Parish Youth Leader to find out more by reaching out to Father Cody Williams or Mandy Bell to get your name on the list!

Contact: Father Cody Williams or Mandy Bell
FrCWilliams@HolyCrossMT.org MT.WorldYouthDay@gmail.com