

## Weekly Prayer

### Sunday's Readings

**First Reading:**  
The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

**Psalm:**  
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

**Second Reading:**  
For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

**Gospel:**  
At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

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### Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

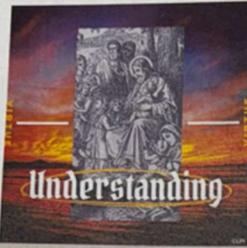
Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus' interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: "Get away, Satan."

### Observances for the week of February 22, 2026

**Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent  
**Monday:** St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr  
**Friday:** St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church  
**Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Lent

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



### Virtues, Explained!

Understanding is the "food" of faith. "I believe, in order to understand," said St. Augustine. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit for greater and more profound understanding, for though understanding proceeds from faith, it in turn nourishes that faith.

### Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.

## SAINT WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

SHELBY

## SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS MISSION

SUNBURST

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Fr. Peter Mikwabe, ALCP/OSS, Administrator  
PO Box 1010, 531 Main Street, Shelby, MT 59474

Parish Phone: 406-434-2988

E-mail: [saintwm@3rivers.net](mailto:saintwm@3rivers.net)

Parish Secretary: Elaine Mitchell

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-3:00

Facebook: [Saint-Williams-Catholic-Church](https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Williams-Catholic-Church)

Parish website: [stwilliamshelbymt.org](http://stwilliamshelbymt.org)

### MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 24, 5:30 pm Mass at St. Margaret in Cut Bank  
Wednesday, February 25, 5:30 pm Mass at St. William († Nanna Flesch by James & Sandy Dickinson)  
Thursday, February 26, 5:00 pm Adoration at St. Francis in Valier  
5:45 pm Mass at St. Francis in Valier  
Friday, February 27, 10:30 am Mass at the Hospital Chapel († Joseph Camros by John & Diane Abrahamson)  
Saturday, February 28, 4:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas († Diana Hoffa by Tim & Billiette Coolidge)  
Sunday, March 1, 8:30 am Mass at St. Francis in Valier  
10:30 am Mass at St. William († Joseph Conway by Pat & Jeanne McDonough & family)

ST. WILLIAM  
COLLECTION REPORT

Monthly Goal: \$6,000.00  
February to Date: \$ 8012.79  
Surplus: 2012.79

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS  
COLLECTION REPORT

Monthly Goal: \$2,400.00  
February to Date: \$1629.00  
Month to Date Needed: \$ 771.00

### CATHOLIC RADIO

89.7 FM CONRAD, 97.1 FM GREAT FALLS, 107.9 FM BELT, 105.5 FM LEWISTOWN, 105.9 FM KALISPELL, 97.5 FM & 1240 AM & 100.9 FM BILLINGS, 101.9 FM MISSOULA.



**Save the Date:** The Knights of Columbus are going to have a fish fry on Friday, March 20, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at St. William Church hall. All are welcome!

St. William's choir is always looking for pianists and guitarists, as well as singers, to join them. If you are interested in participating in this important ministry and you would like more information, call Rhonda Wiegand at 1-406-339-2561 or reach out to any of our members. Thank you!

### Sacrament preparation and Anointing of the Sick:

Call the Parish office at 406-434-2988 or Fr. Peter at 406-475-1274.

**Marriage:** Call Fr. Peter Mikwabe at least 6 months before desired date.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St. William before Sunday Mass and St. Thomas Aquinas by appointment

**Ministry to the Sick and Shut-Ins:** Call Marlene Howery at 406-434-2273.

**Religious Education:** Call Tressa Keller at 406-460-0932 or Brooke Rogers at 406-409-9248.



### THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Jesus was tempted like us, and he overcame not by his own human strength but by the grace and strength which his Father gave to him. He had to renounce his will for the will of his Father. He succeeded because he wanted to please his Father and he trusted that his Father would give him the strength to overcome the obstacles that stood in the way. Luke says that Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit" (Luke 4:1). When tempted by the devil Jesus did not try fight his adversary on his own human strength. He relied on the power which the Spirit gave him. Jesus came to overthrow the evil one who held us captive to sin and fear of death (Hebrews 2:14). His obedience to his Father's will and his willingness to embrace the cross reversed the curse of Adam's disobedience. His victory over sin and death won for us not only pardon for our sins but adoption as sons and daughters of God.

How can we overcome sin and oppression in our personal lives? The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit to be our strength, guide and consoler in temptation and testing. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to pour out his Spirit upon us that we may have the strength and courage to resist sin and to reject the lies and deceptions of our enemy Satan. God wants us to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Tim. 6:12) with the power and strength which comes from the Holy Spirit. May God give us the Holy Spirit as we walk with him through out this holy season of lent. I wish you a graceful lent season. Fr. Peter

### 2026 Eucharistic Congress Announcement for February 21-22 Masses

This year's Eucharistic Congress will be the largest gathering of its kind our diocese has hosted — a defining moment set apart for worship, encounter. Even for those who have attended before, it will offer something new—and for those who have never gone, this is the one you won't want to miss.

The Congress will include a keynote and Mass celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, along with inspiring breakout sessions for men and women, including a women's session led by Mother Mary Clare of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus. Saturday evening will include Adoration, and the Congress will conclude with a Eucharistic procession led by Bishop Vetter.

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. We invite you to step away, to come and see, and to allow the Lord to work. **Details and registration are available on the diocesan website. Register early to save.**

|                    |             |                 |                        |                 |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| St. William Sunday | Usher       | Lector          | Eucharistic Ministers  | Church Cleaners |
| 3/01/26            | Mike Bashor | John Abrahamson | Wally & Marlene Howery | Katsy Arves     |