

# *The Heart Beat*

*Serving the Roman Catholics of Custer and Powder River Counties*

Volume 17 Issue 1

Sacred Heart Parish + Miles City, Montana

Summer 2025

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"IN THE MORNING, LORD,  
YOU HEAR MY VOICE;  
IN THE MORNING I LAY MY  
REQUESTS BEFORE YOU  
AND WAIT EXPECTANTLY."

*Palm 5:3*



## Stepping into the closet

So much of our daily life paralyses us. We are often faced with a to-do list but the thought of what lies beneath and beyond leaves us terrified. Letting lying dogs lie does not work because the nagging feeling of an unaccomplished task never leaves you. Let's take cupboards, closets and drawers for example.

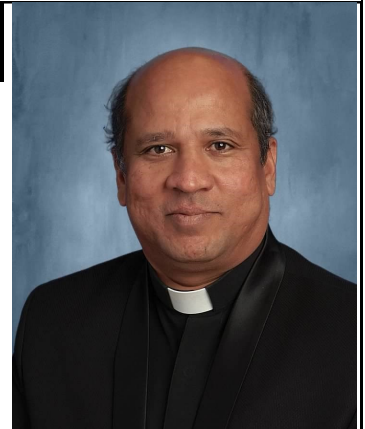
Many play hide and seek with their closets. Ironically, it's a one-sided game for it is not hiding that is the issue, that comes easy! If you care little about arranging your freshly washed laundry, then you find yourself chucking everything in the drawer or closet and all you must do is walk away; it is now hidden. It's the seeking that gets vexing especially when you must pull it all out for that one white shirt that you know is whiter than the others.

Then there are those like me. We color code and arrange our washed laundry and separate the Sunday from the weekday wear. Towels have

their place and so does the bed linen; if that's not enough, we have separate sections for single bed sheets and doubles and don't forget the Christmas sets. No, we are not neurotic we are simply organized!

Yet there comes a moment when no matter how you choose to live your life; that closet, that cupboard, and that drawer must be cleaned out and arranged. I am convinced that clearing and cleaning out closets is a universally disliked activity. It is as if the 'boodaman' (an imaginary Indian ghost) is hidden somewhere beneath the bed linen and the curtains. It's a place you don't want to go to, and FOMO does not apply here.

Procrastination does not help. The reality of daily opening the closet confronts you that the job is not done. How easy it would have been if the closet did not have to be opened daily and yet it must. Why are closets like so many other areas in our life,



so hard to deal with?

Today was 'closet day' for me and guess what? It was not all that difficult! Fear had paralyzed me into thinking it was insurmountable. Procrastinating what was just a regular chore had made me sentenced to self-inflicted house arrest. So much of our lives are like our closets. The task at hand may seem like climbing a mountain but it's a pleasant walk up a hillock. So here is what I have learned. Get the bull by its horns. I am sure you won't find the 'boodaman' hidden inside, rather like me, you will have a clean closet. Oh, by the way I also found some cash.

Fr. Jolly Pathiyamoola

## Meet Sister Jezzy Chirayath Devassy SJ

"For the Mighty one has done great things for me, Holy is His name...."[Lk 1:49] As I begin to introduce myself to you, I am overwhelmed to be here in Sacred heart Family, Miles City. Quite often I have heard about the land beyond the Seven Seas. It is awesome to find myself here. I hail from *Poonkunnamm* a commercial neighborhood in the city of Thrissur, Kerala, India, as the fourth child of Mr. Devassy and Mary. I lost my beloved father when I was a teenager. My mother has been the stronghold of my life ever since. I was loved as a student for my classical dancing and friendly charm among young and old. Having graduated with a Bachelor of commerce I was all set to soar higher. The initial spark of my vocation was ignited in the ambience of a loving family.



Amidst the noise I could hear the gentle voice of Jesus. I left and distanced from my beloved mother, brothers and sisters on July 4th, 1984, for the first time and joined the congregation of 'Sisters of Jesus' for I was convinced the good Lord had a special plan for me. Far away from my hometown this land of mission is in the heart of India, 'SAGAR' a land where 75% of its people are rural. The new faces, food culture and religious customs brought my world to a standstill. In a few weeks my life took another path. On Sundays I visited the villages on bicycles or walked. The poor folks were poor in every way. In the convent the schedule was reserved, from a naughty teenager I have must come down giving up all pranks to acquire the art of silence. I could talk volumes, but silence was to me an ornament. I did my first profession on 1st October 1987. Soon after that I started my ministry as a teacher. I got my master's degree in Sociology from Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar and bachelor's in education from Madurai Kamraj University, Chennai. Now it's almost more than three decades. A major part of my mission was in School. All through these years as an educator I served in the schools of Sagar diocese. I walked with the young to build up their future with confidence. One of the best achievements of my life was to have guided many to excel in their life. My leisure was spent relishing multitalented works. I loved to work with nature, grow vegetables, cook food to see the happy smiles of delight, I sew and made beautiful altar clothes. Thus spend my life for the good of others. I believe I am a part of a shared task- to make this world a little more human."Jesus came that we have life, life in abundance". Jn:10/10.

by Sr. Jezzy Chirayath Devassy SJ



## Drawing Us Deeper

“New Testament scholar Joseph Fitzmyer tells us that ‘There is no evidence in the literature of pre-Christian or first-century Palestinian Judaism that ‘ABBA’ was used in any sense as a personal address for God by an individual.’

Jews did address God as “Father” but they used the Hebrew word אָבִינוּ (Abinu), which means father of an individual, or God as father of his people. However, the slightly different Aramaic word אַבְבָּא (abba) belonged, in Jesus’ time, to a familiar or colloquial register of language, as distinct from more formal and ceremonious language. It was a term used both by adults and children when addressing their father.

The word אַבְבָּא (abba) is intimate but reverent and could be translated into English as something like ‘My own dear father.’ Why, then, was the word אַבְבָּא (abba) not used as a way of addressing God in the Jewish tradition? Perhaps because it would have seemed too familiar, even disrespectful, to address God in such an intimate way.

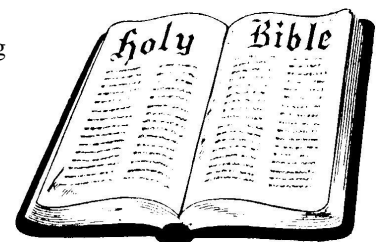
New Testament scholar John Meier tells us that ‘One is justified in claiming that Jesus’ striking use of Abba did express his intimate experience of God as his own father and that this usage did make a lasting impression on his disciples.’ So, the prayer begins by drawing the disciples into the intimacy of Jesus’ own relationship with God.”

The 4 paragraphs above from Father Geoffrey Plant’s “Sunday Homilies” presentation are just a small snippet of what is studied and discussed each Thursday at 7pm in the Riley Center in our “Sunday’s Readings, Study, & Discussion”.

During these meetings we are drawn more deeply into God’s revelation of Himself and how He is calling us to a greater, and a more intimate relationship with Him. We are provided with information on the historical settings, attitudes, and cultures during the times and locations the various Sunday readings take place. And, as we are drawn into the times and places of the readings, they are brought forward to us in our time, showing us where we fit in and moving forward in understanding and stronger faith.

Please join us Thursdays at 7 pm in the Riley Center – join us in the Church where we start with prayer – to learn, discern, and discuss the richness of God in His Word in in our lives.

Deacon Bill



## St. David's in Broadus, MT.



Heavenly Father, grant that this child grows in grace and love. May they learn to follow Jesus through the influence of the Holy Spirit. They are a true child of yours, and we pray they serve you faithfully all their days. We pray guidance and strength for the parents and family of this child. May their example, wise counsel and loving lead them to live a life of strength, righteousness, faith, love, joy and peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Travis & Skylar Kubacher's new baby boy Luke William Kubacher joined the St. David's Parish family in Broadus at his baptism June 29th.

### THE HEART BEAT

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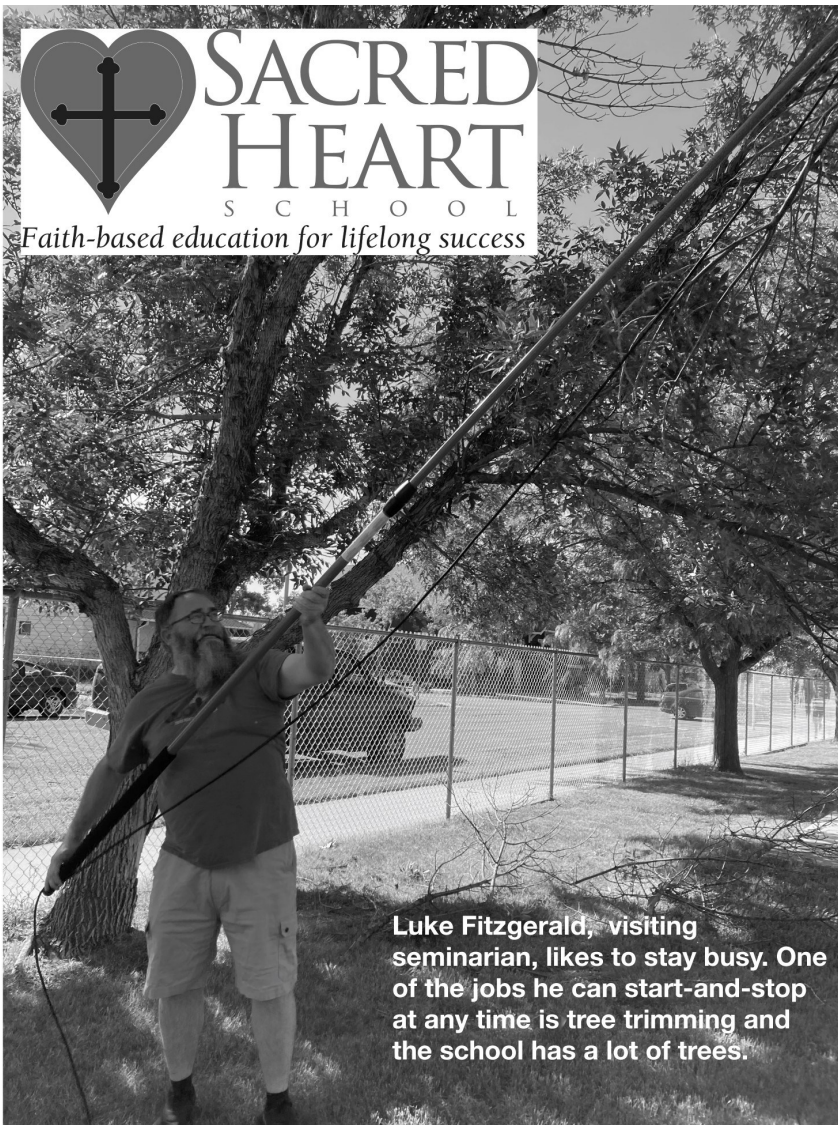
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Thank you to all who wrote articles, took photographs, or participated in any manner in the production and distribution of this issue. *The Heart Beat* is published four times a year. We invite your input, photos, and comments. The next issue is scheduled for January 9, 2025 and the deadline is .





Luke Fitzgerald, visiting seminarian, likes to stay busy. One of the jobs he can start-and-stop at any time is tree trimming and the school has a lot of trees.

## Summer work - both inside and out - get Sacred Heart School ready for 2025-2026



Cecelia Freese is discovering when it comes to painting, some classrooms are mostly trim and not much wall

### ***Scholarships awarded for next fall***

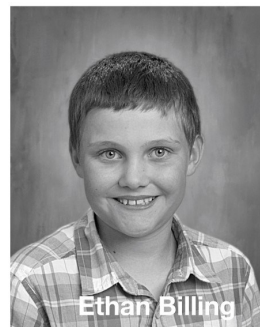
Anderson receives Dworshak, McPherson and Billing top Cremer list, and Herz first to receive the new John David Friend Memorial scholarship



Moriah Anderson



Sydni McPherson



Ethan Billing



Teegan Herz

Moriah Anderson, 7th grade, is the recipient of the Dworshak Memorial Scholarship in memory of longtime Sacred Heart grade school teacher Beatrice Dworshak. The Robert and Agnes Cremer Family Scholarship has been awarded to 7th graders Sydni McPherson and Ethan Billing. The Cremer Scholarship is awarded to a junior high boy and girl who represent many of the traits Mr. and Mrs. Cremer promoted including good citizenship and integrity. Teegan Herz is the first recipient of the newly established John David Friend Memorial Scholarship. Teegan will be in the 8th grade this fall. It is an honor for each of these students to be selected. The school appreciates the commitment that family and friends have made to establish these scholarships.

# Take it Lightly

It is oh so easy in life to become anxious, afraid and worried in our modern world. We seem to have so many things coming at us at once that it is hard to focus on any one of them. Jesus asks us in the Gospel of Mathew, “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”

There is an old Italian proverb that may put things into perspective. It simply states, “Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back into the same box.”

If we keep this end in focus during our lives it minimizes the small stuff: and to be honest most of our worries are small stuff and will cease to be significant at all in the end.

Catholic monks had a disturbing (and awesome) tradition: to keep death in mind, they’d place a human skull on the desk where they worked and studied. “Memento Mori—remember your death,” they’d say, because doing so keeps you focused on what matters most in life and helps you not to stress over what doesn’t.

While it may seem a little intense to investigate the holes where someone’s eyes once were, “looking” back at you... reminding you that my time here is brief and that all successes, failures, joys, and pains on this side of the veil pass in the blink of an eye. Some people might find that depressing, but I find it liberating. It makes the seemingly “heavy” stuff of life a bit “lighter” ...

Keep your eyes on eternal things, the ones you’ll care about forever. As for the rest, take it lightly.

Blessings,

Deacon Tony



## **BIG SKY CUM CHRISTO—MILES CITY, MONTANA**

*By Carole Dighans*

The June 2025 Cum Christo weekends for men and women were once again filled with faith, friendship, and spiritual renewal. Nine men and nine women took part, each experiencing the love of Christ and the strong sense of community that makes Cum Christo so special.

These new Cursillistas are now living out their faith by building Christian friendships and sharing the joy they found with others. Each one had a meaningful experience of God’s grace and personal growth.

Cum Christo isn’t just a weekend—it’s the beginning of a lifelong journey. The support and tools you receive help you grow in your walk with Christ.

Could June 2026 be your time to experience it? It’s a wonderful way to begin your summer—renewed in faith and love for Christ.

**For more information, contact:**

Clint Worman: 406-554-3007 or 406-209-1802

Kim Helmts: 406-853-4235





# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations may be over and the sound of booming fireworks have died down. But the Knights of Columbus are recognizing Brother Jim Altenhofen for his 25 years of service as the Chairman of their fireworks stand. Every year the Knights have sold their wares at the corner of Leighton and Montana. And the funds raised are used for the many charitable projects they do. Thank you, Jim, for your years of service!

The Knights also had a busy spring with other Church activities. Monthly breakfasts were held with proceeds going to the Calvary Cemetery lighting project, Council projects, and the Outreach Clinic. Dr. Alan Loendorf chairs those breakfasts with a special Mother's Day breakfast being provided.

Members Don Hartman, Grant Beagles, Jim Altenhofen and Gene Bankey represented Council 1518 at the annual Convention of the Montana Knights of Columbus held in April in Helena.



About 100 family members were served at the First Communion Breakfast in May with head "Chef" Joe Hegel assisting with the special event.

Dustin Strong headed up the Annual Pacht/Raisler Parish Picnic in June on the Feast St. John the Baptist. Special thanks to Dustin and his crew for putting together this celebration and for each of you parishioners who joined us.

Our Council invites new membership, and I encourage you to think about joining us. Call Gene Bankey, Membership Chair, for details 406 853-2702.

Picture of Jim Altenhofen  
and Jaylene Chegus



# parish council of catholic women

By Vikki Taylor

It can feel like summer ends right after the Fourth of July. Cooler weather is on the way, fall is coming, and it's time to start planning for the Harvest Dinner. That also means PCCW will begin holding monthly meetings again. Our first meeting will be on **September 3rd at 10:30 AM in Room 9 of the Parish Center.**

**Congratulations to Rebecca Aye**, this year's PCCW scholarship winner! We wish her all the best in her future.

**St. Therese Circle** hosted another great spring retreat in May. As always, it was a wonderful evening with good food, speakers, decorations, and time to visit with each other.

Please continue to pray for unborn babies. Pray that they are born into loving homes where they will be cared for and cherished.

It's time for a **baby shower** to support the Outreach Clinic. They are especially in need of **baby boy clothes (sizes 6 months**

**to 2 years)** and **sleepers in any size.** All baby supplies are helpful, including:

- Bottles
- Baby lotion and wipes
- Diapers (newborn and up)
- Soft towels and washcloths
- Fitted crib sheets and mattress protectors
- Baby soap or body wash
- Diaper rash cream
- Baby wraps (muslin or cotton)
- Thermometers (forehead or ear)
- Pacifiers, socks, mittens, hats
- Burp cloths, bodysuits, sleep sacks
- Nail clippers or round-tip scissors
- Nightlights



We also invite all women of the parish to join one of our circles: **St. Bernadette, St. Gerard, or St. Therese.** We welcome new faces and fresh ideas!

The **Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW)** helps with funeral lunches, serves at the Harvest Dinner, gives out a yearly scholarship to a young woman from Miles City or Broadus, and hosts soup and prayer suppers during Lent.

We'd love to have you join us!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay safe.



## Cum Christo Renewal Weekend Retreat Set for September

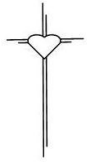
The Diocesan Cum Christo Board recently gathered in Miles City for their spring meeting, with representatives from all five Vicariates present. During the meeting, they announced the upcoming **Cum Christo Renewal Weekend Retreat**, to be held **September 26–28, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church in Glendive.** All men and women who have previously attended a Cum Christo, Cursillo, or Journey weekend are warmly invited to join. The retreat begins on **Friday at 4:00 p.m.** and ends around **2:00 p.m. on Sunday.**

Come renew your Fourth Day journey and deepen your relationship with Christ in a Holy Spirit-

filled weekend. The retreat will include **Mass, inspiring talks, music, Reconciliation, meals, fellowship,** and more. **Accommodation is available** for out-of-town guests. For more details, contact **Ron Hrubes at (406) 707-0659.** Applications will be available soon—mark your calendars! By Gayle Muggli







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## NEW OCIA CLASS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Whether you're already Catholic, thinking about becoming Catholic, or simply curious, you're welcome to join our upcoming OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) class. The class begins **Wednesday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m.** and will meet weekly until **April 8**. Those who choose to join the Church will be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the **Easter Vigil**. It's important to begin attending in September. For more information, please speak with **Deacon Tony Sandau** or contact **Elaine Forman** at **(406) 951-1840**.

In the picture: From the left, Ed Weidenbach, Deacon Tony Sandau, Story Pawlowski, Marvin Iwu, Brayson Gonzales, Austin Roberts and Elaine Forman after this year's Easter Vigil. They all received their first Communion and Confirmation. Ed was baptized.

