



**October 31 and November 7, 2021**  
**Thirty First and Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
1400 Gerald Avenue, Missoula, MT 59801  
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**Mass Times:** Saturday 5:15 PM • Sunday 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM  
Wednesday & Friday 8:30 AM followed by Adoration • Tuesday & Thursday 12:15 PM  
**Reconciliation Times:** Saturday 4 PM to 5 PM • Thursday during **Adoration** 7 PM to 8 PM

## High School Youth Group

Our High School Youth Group Minister, Shai LaFluer was recently honored with an article in the Catholic Home Missions Newsletter. The article was written by Beth Griffin. Below is a portion on the article.



High School Youth Group making Pizza for the annual Super Bowl Pizza fund raiser.



Any teen can tell you that critical mass is necessary for a fun youth group experience. After all, why would you

want to go to yet another activity with the same few kids you see every day at school or sports?

But parishes in mission dioceses are often challenged by demographics and distance to reach the magic number that allows youth participants to find enough variety to be comfortable. The Missoula Youth Ministry Collaborative in Montana is a clever and thoughtful response to the conundrum. Four diverse parishes within

a 10-mile radius in the Diocese of Helena developed the Collaborative to support their youth ministry and evangelization efforts. The Collaborative uses local funds and a portion of a Catholic Home Missions grant to the diocese.



**Great Work, Shai!!!**

*Continued on page 2.*

*Continued from page 1.*

Shai LaFleur is the dynamic coordinator of the Collaborative. She arrived in Missoula in 2017 to be the youth minister at St. Anthony Parish. Brian Johnson, now her supervisor and the director of faith formation at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Missoula, says, “Shai’s significant skills and commitment to high school youth ministry were evident, and local pastors began to talk about how to retain her and grow her gifts.”

While serving at St. Anthony, Shai completed a master’s degree in theology from Notre Dame University with help from Catholic Extension. Shai worked with the diocesan director of youth and young adult ministry along with four pastors to develop the multi-parish Collaborative. The former part-time director of youth ministry at one of the parishes stepped aside to facilitate the new approach. He and his teenage children are now among the biggest supporters of the Collaborative.

“We’ve had a positive response to the Collaborative, and it’s easy to understand why,” says Shai. “Before this, a parish youth group might have had three or four kids, and you might interact with people from only one other family. Now teens from different schools and parishes can connect.”

There is also the element of fun. Shai organizes activities around things participants like to do together outside youth ministry. “We use resources in the community like pumpkin-carving and Easter-egg coloring,” she says.

“But we’re not just playing laser tag. We reflect on how these activities glorify God or where we find God in them. It takes a little spiritual muscle work on their part.”

“I’m here to help the teens see how God is in every part of their lives, to ask, ‘How is God in this with you? How can you bring God to others?’” Shai says.

Shai recruits participants with her presence. She shows up at sporting events. She staffs a weekly morning coffee cart at three local public schools and regularly pops into the Catholic high school, often attending Mass or eating lunch with students. She speaks in the parishes. She also instructs the Confirmation candidates from the parishes in the Collaborative.

“There are so many kids in Missoula who aren’t at the table,” she explains. “We’re open to any kids who want to come, but we’re mostly focused on rooting Catholics in their faith.”

She is not recruiting from the ranks of other groups, but she does reach out to teens who are not in any group at all. “If our group is not a good fit, we urge them to try others,” she says. “The Missoula Youth Ministry Collaborative gives kids a place to connect, regardless of their parish, school, or other activities. It gives Catholic Missoula a place to connect: the public school quarterback and the homeschooled teen might not meet in another context,” Shai says.

“The Collaborative helps build the Catholic community in Missoula. It’s a sustainable system that is not dependent on a single priest, parish, or family,” she says. “A lot of kids come here not knowing they have a community that loves them and a God who loves them,”



For the entire  
article about  
Shai...  
check out our  
Flocknote Top 5.

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To the number 84576

**Advertiser of the Week**  
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**& Baskett**

**This sponsor helps  
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Thank you!**



**Saturday, October 30**

5:15PM-In Memory of those listed  
in the Book of Remembrance

**Sunday, October 31**

10AM-In Memory of Daniel Biehl  
7PM In Memory of Theresa  
House

**Saturday, November 6**

5:15PM-In Memory of  
Florence and Jim Reilly

**Sunday, October 17**

10AM-In Memory of those Listed  
in the Book of Remembrance  
7PM-In Memory of Enrique  
Morera

**Offertory Update:**

10/17/21      \$10,149.00  
Weekly needs: \$6,705.88  
YTD Budget:    \$155.18



Thank you for  
remembering your  
faith family!



Martha's Ministry meets every Tuesday morning  
from 9 to noon in the lower center of Ctk. This is a  
wonderful outreach group that has many crafting  
projects going on. Come check them out.

FAITH. FRIENDS. FUN.



Option 1:  
October 30 at  
St. Andrew's School (Helena)

Grades  
6-8

Option 2:  
November 6 at  
St. Matthew's School (Kalispell)

**JUNIOR HIGH  
RALLY**



Register at: <https://www.dohyouth.org/rally/>

**Infant Baptism Classes**  
**Nov. 4 & 11, 6PM**

**Registration required:**  
**[pcassidy@ctkmsla.org](mailto:pcassidy@ctkmsla.org)**

*Baptism*

