



**Catholic Heart Workcamp**  
**Mission Trip**  
**Information Sheet 2025**



**Destination:** Billings, MT    **Mission Trip Dates:** June 22-29, 2025    **Cost:** \$900 per participant\*

**Group Leaders:** Michelle Boris, Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries

We will be partnering with other Minnesota parishes including St. Bridget of Sweden in Lindstrom, St. Gregory the Great in North Branch (sharing a bus with these two), and St. Michael's in Prior Lake. Chaperones are all E3 certified and background checked through Catholic Heart Workcamp.

**Participant Ages:** Current (2024-2025) high school students in grades 9-12 and young adults ages 18-20. All 18+ students are required to have gone through E3 requirements and have an up-to-date background check.

**What will we be doing:** St. Mary's is attending Catholic Heart Workcamp in Billings, MT. CHWC offers youth-friendly, Catholic short term mission trips all over the world. Each Workcamp is equipped with a summer staff, director, manager, musician, nurse and priests. See below for the basic description of each day. CHWC partners with several local agencies to provide home repairs, and maintenance, painting, cleaning and general fix-up for the elderly and low-income in the city of Billings and surrounding areas.

**Itinerary:**

**June 22:** Travel Day – Attend 9 AM Mass at SMOL; overnight about halfway in Dickinson, ND or similar

**June 23:** Arrive in Billings around 2:00 PM/CHWC Orientation & Opening Program

**July 24-28:** Service Days (Tuesday-Friday)

**Basic Schedule Details**

**6:15 AM** - Wake Up, Breakfast, Daily Mass

**9 AM – Worksites:** You will be divided into small work groups of 5-7 youth and 1-2 adult chaperones. Each participant will be working with a team of people who are not from their own church group. This may be uncomfortable for some at first, but team members quickly form friendships. For many this becomes a highlight of the week. This arrangement also provides many different experiences for your group to share when they return home. You may or may not be at the same location for the whole week; it depends on the project, weather conditions and duration of work. While at your worksite, you will break for lunch each day and have a Prayer/Share time where you will go over discussion questions, explore the Catholic faith, and get to know your team on a deeper level.

**3 PM – Return to school building/Free time**

**~5:15 Dinner & After Dinner Program:** Evening programs will inspire you to continue serving the next day and renew your commitment to God. The first half of each evening program will include fun games and upbeat music, and then we will transition into a more prayerful time with skits, videos, talks, praise and worship, and other opportunities to deepen one's faith and reflect on the days' activities.

**June 28:** Fun Day at location attraction; begin drive home and stop along way overnight

**July 29:** Travel Day / Attend Mass then travel home; arrive in White Bear Lake in afternoon or evening

**Transportation:** We will be sharing a coach bus with St. Bridget's and St. Gregory's. Vetted drivers or buses will transport groups to and from work sites during the week.

**Where are we staying:** Lockwood School, 1932 US Highway 87, E. Billings, MT 59101

**Shower Facilities:** Generally, there are separate facilities for teen males, teen females, adult males and adult females. Everyone must wear a swimsuit while showering.

**Sleeping Facilities:** The sleeping areas are air conditioned. Females and males sleep in classrooms on separate floors. Adults and teens sometimes sleep in the same classrooms. All adults 18+ are background checked through CHWC in addition to their parish's criteria.

**Program Area:** It is in a gym which is air conditioned.

**Meals:** In the cafeteria which is air conditioned.

**COVID Policies:** We will follow all local, state, and federal guidelines dependent on our specific location during the trip. All current Archdiocesan and St. Mary's COVID protocols will be followed.

**Other Commitments:** All participants and a parent/guardian will be required to attend 1-2 preparation meetings prior to the trip and are expected to help with fundraising. Participants will need to complete a code of conduct, permission slip, photo release, and health insurance form. All participants and chaperones are required to have health insurance per CHWC policy.

\*Fundraising opportunities will also be available, and participation in some is expected. Please contact Michelle if cost is an issue and we will work with you.

**Registration Deadline:** Dec. 30, 2024. A \$100 deposit is due within one week of registration.

**More Information and Registration Link:** [www.stmarys-wbl.org](http://www.stmarys-wbl.org) – Click Mission, then FUSED High School or scan the QR Code below

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