



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans

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Diocese of Helena
MONTANA, STEVENSVILLE

new 2006

St. Mary Church

W-328

333 Charlos Street
Stevensville, Montana 59870
Phone 406-777-5574

Access: Some restrictions apply

History: St. Mary Church was a Salish Indian mission until 1891. Since then the church has had a few mixed-blood Indian parishioners.

Since ca. 1820s	The Northwest Fur Company employed lay Iroquois Catholics from Canada who intermarried and catechized among the Salish Indians
1831, 1834, 1837, and 1841	Four delegations of Salish, Iroquois, and Nez Perce Indians attempted to reach and request Jesuit missionaries the Bishop of St. Louis; only the first and fourth delegations reached St. Louis to made their requests whereas the others were killed in route by Indians from enemy tribes. Narcisse and Paul, two Salish Indians of first delegation, died in 1831 and were buried in the St. Louis cemetery.
1841-1850 (closed)	In response to the fourth request, Reverend Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J., visited the Northwest tribes in 1840-1841 and with other Jesuits (Turin, Province, Italy) established St. Mary's Mission and Academy (Salish)
1865-1866	Jesuits reopened and attended St. Mary's from St. Ignatius
1866-1888	Jesuits administered St. Mary's Mission and Academy
1891 (no longer Indian)	Chief Charlo and the Salish Indians moved to the Flathead/ Jocko Reservation
1891-present	Diocesan priests administered St. Mary's

Jesuits from St. Mary's attended St. Francis Borgia station (Kalispel), Flathead Lake, 1850-1853.

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1877-1937

Volume: Entries within several volumes

Description: Sacramental records for Indian parishioners of St. Mary Mission and St. Francis Borgia station.