

Holy Cross Parish

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Mass: Monday and Tuesday 9:00a

Adoration: Monday 9:30a

Weekend Schedule:

Confession: Sunday 3:30-4:15p or by appointment

Mass: Sunday Mass 4:30p

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30a to 12:00p

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Townsend, Montana 59644

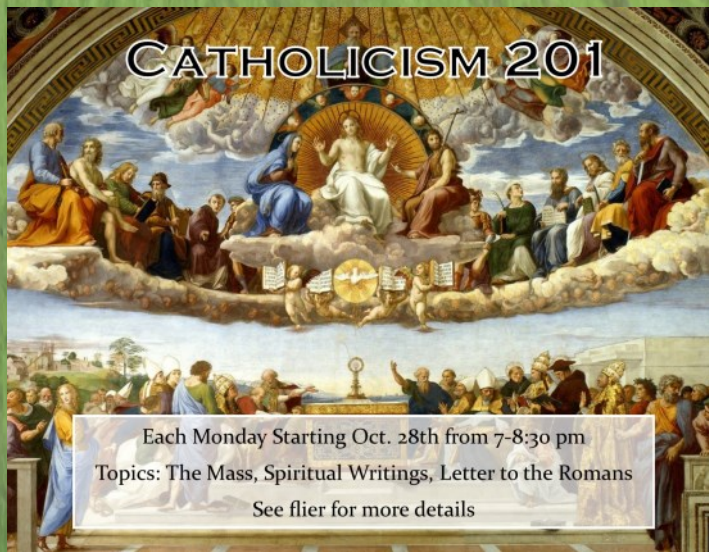


The Sacrament of Penance

Before we get into the complicated history and development of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I want to make some comments about its name. The earliest records of the Sacrament of Reconciliation come from the early church which called it penance. Penance was the punishment given by the bishop to the penitent, the person who committed the sin, as a remedy for the sin and a condition that must be fulfilled before entering communion with the church again. During the Middle Ages, the formal name of the Sacrament of Penance was adopted by the Church. This name isolates one part of the Sacrament namely the giving of a penance by the priest to the penitent. This name dominates the way the Sacrament was celebrated during the Middle Ages as a Sacrament that gives out punishments for sin. More on this later. As the Sacrament developed, the more common name of Confession became widely used. The name, again, implies a focus on the confessing of sins as the most vital or important part of the Sacrament. This term is still widely used today as the way most people understand and appreciate the Sacrament. Following the 2nd Vatican Council, the Sacrament was renamed to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The name change was intentional to draw attention to the most critical part of this Sacrament which is reconciliation with God and his Church. The newest translation for the rite came out in 2022. The new book is titled, *The Order of Penance* with the main rite called *The Order of Reconciling a Penitent*. I bring your attention to these titles to make a point. The Sacrament of Penance has undergone many changes throughout its history both from the common experience of the people as well as the way in which the Sacrament was celebrated by the church. All of these changes and names bring together the core elements of this Sacrament: the confessing of sins, reconciliation with God and the Church, a rite of the Church involving a priest, and the penance. For the sake of this series, I am going to use the title *The Sacrament of Reconciliation* since this title more accurately describes the role of the rite and the way the Church wants the theology of this Sacrament expressed.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the easiest of the seven Sacraments to find in the Bible. Jesus' mission, as explained in many Gospel passages, is to bring reconciliation between God and mankind. Additionally, the vast majority of Jesus' healing miracles involved also a freedom or forgiveness from sin. We should not be surprised that the Church understood one of the principal tasks of Jesus, and by extension the ministry of the Church, as the forgiveness of sins. The exact method through which the Church expresses Jesus' mission of bringing salvation and forgiveness of sins was greatly debated and developed slowly over the course of Church history. We can be sure of two things about the mission of the Church and its proclamation of the Gospel. 1. The Church exists to bring people into the fold, hence the main command of Jesus "Go and make disciples baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." 2. The Church's goal is an extension of Jesus' forgiveness. Thus, each of the Sacraments will express these two missions in a physical and spiritual way. Baptism brings both forgiveness and baptizes. Confirmation makes a person a disciple. The Eucharist brings healing and discipleship. Reconciliation brings forgiveness. Marriage and Holy Orders convey mission and discipleship. Anointing of the Sick confers forgiveness from sin. The seven Sacraments are direct extensions of the mission of Jesus.

Fr. Cody



CATHOLICISM 201

Each Monday Starting Oct. 28th from 7-8:30 pm
 Topics: The Mass, Spiritual Writings, Letter to the Romans
 See flier for more details

Catholicism 201 has begun! The sessions are on Mondays from 7-8:30 pm. You can also join a livestream version on Thursdays from 5-6:30. If you would like to join, send an email to Fr. Cody.

Parish potlucks

Every 4th Sunday of the month we have a parish potluck where anyone can bring a dish or come down and enjoy some good food. As part of the desire for the circles to be more active in the parish, I am assigning a circle to each potluck as the point group for the potluck. They're responsibility is to set-up, clean-up, and help make sure there is enough food. Anyone is welcome to bring food and help. The circle's responsibility is to facilitate the potluck. The rotation of the circles is as follows:

Sunday, Nov. 24th – Circle of Love

Sunday, Dec. 22nd – Circle of Compassion

Sunday, Jan. 26th – Circle of Understanding

Sunday, Feb. 23rd – Circle of Hope

We will cycle through the circles following the above schedule for the rest of the months of the year. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Fr. Cody.



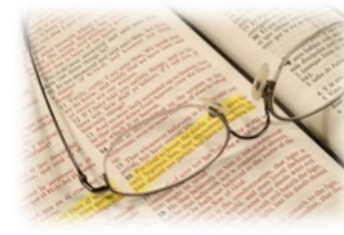
The Holy Cross Quilters would like to remind parishioners of the Baby Essentials that were collected, along with a large donation of diapers, wipes & rash creams from Catholic Social Services of Helena.

If you know of someone in the community who could use a gift basket of these items, please contact the Holy Cross office:

(406) 266-4811



Scripture Readings



Second Sunday of Advent

12-8-2024

Reading 1: Baruch 5:1-9
 Psalm: 126:1-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6
 Reading 2: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
 Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



The CHOSEN
 Movie Night
 2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
 7-8:30 PM
 FREE MOVIE, POPCORN AND SNACKS.
 ALL ARE WELCOME!
 SPONSORED BY: HOLY CROSS CHURCH
 101 S. WALNUT STREET

MASS	Schedule
Monday December 2	Mass 9a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 201 7p
Tuesday December 3	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday December 4	
Thursday December 5	
Friday December 6	
Saturday December 7	Mass 9:20a Adoration and Confessions 2p
Sunday December 8	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is bulletin@holycrossmt.org

HOLY CROSS WOMEN
St. NICHOLAS
 Feast Day
No Host Breakfast!

FRIDAY	DEC 6	@ 9:30 am
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The Mint 305 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644
 WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE
 \$10 LIMIT STOCKING STUFFER GIFT TYPE
 An All Women Event

CSSM
 CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES of Montana
 Mental Health Services
Catholic Mental Health Counseling

CSSM's counseling program has served clients from over 20 communities in Montana and is ready to serve you!

- Our counselors are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of any counseling session, although it does not have to be. They have experience with clients from many different backgrounds, cultures, and ages. We are here for everyone.
- We specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship/marriage, and perinatal concerns.
- You can meet with us from your computer, tablet, or cell phone from anywhere in Montana. If you're in Helena or Billings, you can meet in-person with a counselor.
- We want to be a good match, so the first session is free. If you choose to continue, we accept insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and private pay, with a sliding fee scale and other discounts available.

To get started, call (406)442-4130 and select option '2' or send us a message at www.cssmt.org.

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to

bulletin@holycrossmt.org

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a

TWO weeks in advance

Ministry Schedule

Sunday December 8, 2024 4:30pm

Greet: Pat and Debbie Miller
 Lector: Megan Bleile
 Gifts: Tom and Julie Lethert
 EM: Karen Simonich and Emmalin Fischer
 Money Counters: Juanita Bray and Karen Susag



The Annual Catholic Appeal has kicked off to raise money for the yearly expenses of the Diocese. Our parish goal for this year is \$21,900. Donation envelopes are available on the information table at the front of the church or you can donate online by going to diocesehelena.org.

The Mass for the Immaculate Conception, which is a Holy Day of Obligation, is on Mon. Dec. 9th at 6:30 pm



If anyone would like to donate towards the poinsettias we would greatly appreciate it. Please put poinsettias in the memo part of your check or write on the envelope that the donation is for poinsettias. There will also be envelopes for the flower donations at the back of the Narthex.

We are in need of volunteers to help with RE dinner. Dinners will feed all ages of the youth and their families, therefore, we should plan on feeding around 80 people every Sunday. Please consider either providing a full meal (planning, purchasing food & cooking) or simply preparing/cooking a meal with food that the parish purchases, either help would be greatly appreciated. We encourage you to partner up with another member/family of the parish to help ease the burden of feeding that many people.



DECEMBER 7, 2024
Cathedral of St. Helena
ADULT \$55
STUDENT \$35
Supported by Knights of Columbus Insurance

MONTANA CATHOLIC MEN'S Conference

KEYNOTE SPEAKER **MATT BIRK**

GUEST SPEAKER **FRANK CROWLEY**

Interactive Breakout Sessions:
• The Playbook for Single Catholic Men
• Ringleading the Family Circus
• The Power of Perspective, Prayer, & Perseverance

10:00AM-5PM 5:00 PM
SPEAKERS (LUNCH INCLUDED) MASS

SCAN TO REGISTER

The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena's "Faith in Action" grant program awarded the Montana Catholic Men's Conference a \$2,500 grant.

Faith Night
Sponsored by Holy Cross Church

FREE EVENT
DINNER PROVIDED

"Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the old, and fear your God. I am the Lord." - Leviticus 19:32

Dignity of Age

How do we respect each other?
How do we care for our elderly?
What is the value of age?

When: Monday, Dec. 16th
6:00-7:30 pm
Where: 101 S. Walnut

The altar server training and party is scheduled for Sat. Dec. 7th starting at 5 pm. Anyone who is interested in becoming an altar server or is already an altar server is welcome to attend.

Ministry Trainings:

- Laundry Team Meeting, Mon. Dec. 2nd at 2 pm
- Homebound Ministry Training Tues. Dec. 3rd at 10 am
- Lector Training after Mass on Sunday, Dec. 8th
- Prayers of the Faithful Team Meeting Tues. Dec. 10th at 1 pm

If you would like to join one of these ministries but cannot make the training or meeting time, please contact Fr. Cody.

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY
FOR THE POPE, CHURCH,
PRIEST, FAMILIES,
CHILDREN & FOR
THE WHOLE WORLD

"Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world." Our Lady of Fatima, 1917



SUNDAYS @ 4:00

- DEC. 8 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
- DEC. 15 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
- DEC. 22 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
- DEC. 29 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended November 24th

Total Weekly Budget Variance \$2902.00

Year to Date

Total Budget Variance

THANK YOU FOR your generosity

Christmas Day Mass
12/24 8 pm

If you would like to join our Christmas choir, please contact George Jenkins.

Do you know that we have Catholic Radio in Montana? KNEH, 97.3FM in Helena is an affiliate of Relevant Radio, which has 220 radio stations broadcasting across the US. You can listen LIVE to KNEH on the My Parish app by clicking on the Radio microphone icon or listen LIVE at www.kneh.org

Please consider a memorial for your loved ones to the Holy Cross Cemetery instead of flowers.

THANK YOU!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"I adore and venerate you as much as ever I can, though my love is so cold, my devotion so poor.

Thank you for the good gift of this your holy Body and Blood, which I desire to receive...."

- St. Anselm (Archbishop and Doctor of the Church)

Pray for our Seminarians

Lord Jesus, we ask your special blessing on those preparing for the priesthood in our seminaries. We pray that they will grow in faith, hope and love. Give them courage and perseverance and be their constant companion as they prepare to serve you and your people with the fire of your love. Make them holy as you are holy. Amen.

Dcn. Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, and Jake Smith.

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Prayer Chain

Beginning September 29 bulletin unless otherwise requested after one month prayer request names will be removed from the prayer chain

John Clark, Martin and Margy Clark, Bill and Marilyn Lane, Shanna Montonario, Kadence Saxton



Holy Cross recommends that the following be respected:

Christian Burial:

Notice should be made with the priest before arrangements are made with the funeral director.

Social Hall:

Our Social Hall and kitchen may be rented out for special events.

Please call the office for information for any of the above notices: 406-266-4811.

Pastoral Council:

- Jesse Swenson
- Mary Ellen Schnur
- Karee Eichinger
- Michael Fissette
- John Bleile

Finance Council:

- John Rauser
- Tim McAlpine
- Tacy Swanton
- Pat Miller
- Monica Benton