

Holy Cross Parish

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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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Email: office@holycrossmt.org

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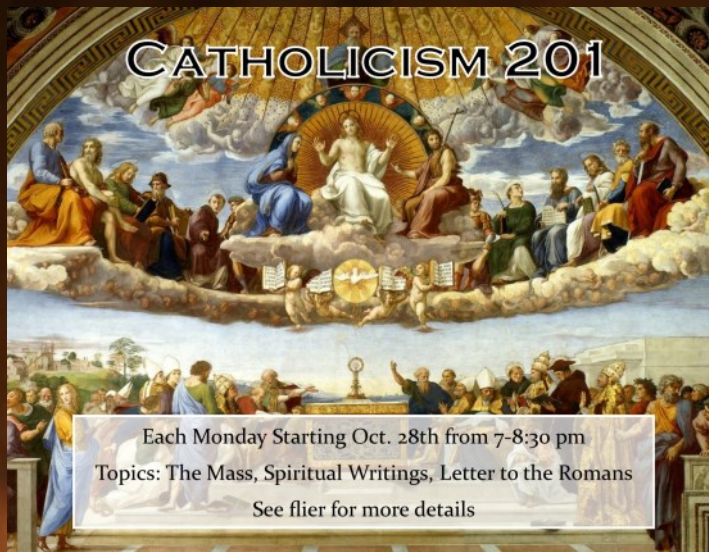
Townsend, Montana 59644



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The early Church understood that Jesus' main mission was to bring us salvation through the forgiveness of sins. The idea that we could forgive each other through words and actions didn't match the ministry and life of Jesus. Some sins were so grave they required the church. Thus the Rite of Penance came out of the necessity to forgive grave and public sins. For the first two centuries of the Christian era, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was limited to the bishop and serious, public sins. The church understood the role of the bishop as the vicar of Christ and the successor of the Apostles. Since the Apostles were given the authority to forgive sins on earth like Jesus did, only their successors, the bishops, have the authority to forgive sins. The Church understood that most minor sins were forgiven through the process of celebrating Mass, asking for forgiveness, and through prayer (read the Desert Fathers and Mothers). Yet, some sins were too grave for these simple requests for forgiveness. The following sins were reserved to the bishop for the Sacrament of Reconciliation: apostasy, heresy, murder, fornication and adultery, military service, defecting from the faith, desecration of the Sacraments, and idolatry. In order for the need for reconciliation by the bishop, the sin also needed to be public. If a person was publicly convicted of a sin or the person brought a sin to the bishop, the bishop would then celebrate the Rite of Penance. The person would publicly confess their sins in the church to the gathered assembly, the bishop would assign the person a penance, and the person would not be allowed to join for the Sacraments or enter a church until the penance was completed. Often these penances ranged from a couple of months of fasting to giving a huge chunk of your wealth to years of prayer and fasting. Some of the penances lasted up to 20 to 30 years. People of the early church were very cautious about committing these serious sins. For the first 50 years, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was allowed to be celebrated once in a person's life. If they committed a serious sin, were reconciled, then committed another serious sin, they would be excommunicated indefinitely.

The restriction on the number of times a person can be reconciled with the Church became more relaxed over the centuries. By the 3rd century, a person could receive the Sacrament multiple times in one's lifetime. Yet, there's a catch. If you are completing a penance that lasted 5-10 years, a person can only complete so many of those penances before the person dies. Some people realized this challenge and preferred to remain in the penitential state until near death. If a person was in danger of dying, the penance would be fulfilled and the person reconciled. If the person recovered after being reconciled, they were required to complete their penance before returning to full admission into the Church. These harsh penances and rules kept many people away from the Church. Both the public humiliation and the fear of a lengthy penance led many people to prefer to be baptized on their deathbed. Yet the practice persisted for over eight centuries before any changes were made.



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.

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.



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, 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.



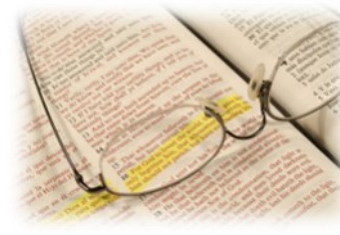
The Holy Cross Quilters would like to remind parishioners of the Baby Essentials that were collected, along with a large donation of diapers, wipes & rash creams from Catholic Social Services of Helena.

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



Third Sunday of Advent

12-15-2024

Reading 1: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
 Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcd, 5-6
 Reading 2: Philippians 4:4-7
 Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

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 9	Adoration 9a Mass for the Immaculate Conception 6:30p No Catholicism 201
Tuesday December 10	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday December 11	
Thursday December 12	
Friday December 13	
Saturday December 14	Chosen Movie Night 7p
Sunday December 15	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

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

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

Dignity of Age

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

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 15, 2024

4:30pm

Greet:

Tacy Swanton

Lector:

Charles Ringenberg

Gifts:

John and Missy Rauser

EM:

John Bleile and Lucas Bleile

Money Counters:

Tom and Julie Lethert



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.



Christmas Day Mass
12/24 8 pm



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.

Ministry Trainings:

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.

St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs: 12/24 at 4:30p

St. Joseph, Harlowton: 12/25 at 10a



Montana State **MARCH for LIFE**
Friday, January 3, 2025
11:30am—1pm

Save the Date

This Year's National March for Life Theme:
"LIFE" - It's Why We March!

Montana's *March for Life* will be held in the Capitol Rotunda starting at 11:30am where we will celebrate, honor and recognize the many state and local individuals, churches and organizations who chose to defend life and oppose CI-128.

We will conclude this Celebration at 12:30pm with a Prayerful March around the Capitol in **Celebration of Life!**

For more information go to Prolife Montana's website at:
Prolifemontana.com
Or contact Cheryl Wilson at:
cheryl@prolifemontana.com

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

Holy Cross Parish
Finances

Week ended December 1st

Total Weekly	\$2,003.70
Budget	\$2900.00
Variance	-\$896.30

Year to Date

Total	\$58,933.00
Budget	\$63,800.00
Variance	-\$4,867.00

THANK YOU FOR
your generosity

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

"Mary lived in the divine Eucharist, the center of her love. All her thoughts, words, and actions sprang from It like the rays from the sun. The Eucharist was the oracle which she consulted, the grace which she followed.

"But Jesus Christ in His Sacrament lives the same life of love which consumed Him in His mortal days. In His sacramental state He continues to adore His Father by His depthless self-abasement. He is still the Mediator and Interceder with divine goodness for the salvation of men,"

- St. Peter Julian Eymard

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 Fiset
- John Bleile

Finance Council:

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