

Stewardship

11/19-20/2022

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Weekly Income

Envelopes	\$3,425.00
Loose	\$35.00
Reimbursement	\$550.61
Total	\$4,010.61

Holy Cross Monthly Expenses-October

City of Townsend	\$173.41
Flocknote	\$36.00
Spectrum	\$134.97
Edith Mtn. Sprinklers and Irrigation	\$120.00
Door Systems of MT	\$192.25
NorthWestern Energy	\$326.59

Cemetery

Cemetery Weekly Income

Short Term	\$600.00
Long Term	
Grave Sites	
Total	\$600.00

Cemetery Expenses-October

NorthWestern Energy	\$31.12
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Please consider a memorial for your loved ones to the Holy Cross Cemetery instead of flowers.

THANK YOU!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"King of Kings yet born of Mary
As our Lord on earth He stood
Lord of Lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to the faithful
His own self for heavenly food."

- from "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" (French Carol)

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.

Dillon Armstrong, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney, Jamie Severson, Alex Olmes, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, Matt Keck, Jack Reed and Dcn. Kyle Tannehill.

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Prayer Chain



Unless requested otherwise after one month prayer request names will be removed from the prayer chain:

Joanie Pritchard, Elaine Graveley, Marie Hoeffner, Chris and Fran Wright, Ed and Jean Boucher, Mary Alice Upton, Jackie Kynett, Shanna Montonario, Martin and Margy Clark, Clara Boster, Mary Pat Sullivan, Gene Determan, LaReissa Swenson, Jenny Schaubert, Connie Rezendes, William Hart, Marj Kohn, Kim Schaubert, Paul Friend, Amy Ghorsen, Frank and Sally Majszak, John Clark, Margaret's prayer request, Don Larsen, Joann Shindoll, Carl Lorentzen, Laura Obert, Coralee Horne, Dan and Marie Stover, Roy, Mary McWhorter, Bob Masolo, Dave Welch, John Woodring, Julie Whitman, Nancy Martin, Nicki Ito

Did You Know ?

The period of Advent was originally a season of fasting like Lent. This time was set apart from the year so that we could focus on the coming of Christ and the virtue of hope. The first half of the season of Advent focuses on the hope for the coming of a Messiah or his second coming while the second half focuses on Jesus' first coming on Christmas Day. This year we will celebrate the longest possible Advent Season and the shortest Christmas Season because Christmas falls on Sunday. Next year will be the opposite with the shortest Advent season and the longest Christmas Season.

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.



First Sunday of Advent

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Mass: Wednesday and Thursday 9:00a

Adoration: Wednesday 9:30a

Weekend Schedule:

Confession: Saturday 4:00-4:45p

Sunday 7:30-7:45a or by appointment

Mass: Saturday Mass 5:00p Sunday Mass 8:00a

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

Holy Cross Parish

November 27, 2022

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All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.

Amen.



The proper context of sex

Before we venture into the topic of sex and sexual expression, I want to spend time on the proper context of sexual expression so that you can understand the Church's perspective on sexuality and the issues with deviations from it.

The proper context of all sexual expression, i.e. sexual behaviors, is marriage. Marriage is the backdrop and foundation through which all sexual expression has meaning and dignity. Although most people understand sexual expression as sexual behavior, i.e. sex, this is not true. Sexual expression includes behaviors that express our deepest desires and our desires for communion with each other. Behaviors like caring for each other, desiring the good of another, building deep and intimate friendships, and even the way we relate to each other are founded in our sexual identities. Sex is the highest expression of these desires and actions as it expresses the most intimate sharing of two people physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The two ends of the Sacrament of Marriage explain and clarify the limitation of sexual expression to marriage. These two ends are the good of the spouses and the rearing of children. The good of the spouses is one of the most obvious expressions of marriage and the one most commonly used by society to encourage new waves of ideologies. The good of the spouses includes more than care. The truest expression of marriage is a commitment of love until death. Namely, no one else can or should be loved in the same way. The couple directs most of their time and energy to the good of their spouse as a sign of self-gift and love. The love shared in the committed marriage relationship between spouses is a sign of God's unending love for each of us. Therefore the highest sign of committed love, sex, should not be expressed except in this committed relationship through which sex gains its highest dignity and expression.

The second end of marriage is children. The love shared between the spouses produces children, both physically and relationally. Just as the love of the Father begets the Son and the love of the Son makes the Father, so does the love shared between the couple produce children. Some may argue that children are not necessary for marriage and some people cannot have children and therefore cannot be married. These are not true. The desire and openness to children is necessary for a valid marriage not the presence of children. Similarly, many married couples without children still live this desire for children in the way they love people. The desire for children as an expression of the marriage bond and the couple's love permeates their lives and flows out into their relationships with others. This desire and understanding that sex produces children clarifies the sexual act and gives it additional dignity. Sex is not only about pleasure but also produces children.

These two ends of marriage bound proper sexual expression and become the backdrop through which the next several parts of this series will make sense.

Fr. Cody



Scripture Readings



Second Sunday of Advent
12-4-2022

Reading 1: Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm: 72:1-2,7-8,1-13,17
Reading 2: Romans 15:4-9
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



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

office@holycrossmt.org

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a

TWO weeks in advance

MASS	Schedule
Monday November 28	No Mass
Tuesday November 29	No Mass
Wednesday November 30	Mass 9a Adoration 9:30a Fr. Jeremiah Sullivan RE- prek-5th grade 5-6:30p MS-HS 6:15-8p
Thursday December 1	Mass 9a Fr. Bob Hall No Church History Series
Friday December 2	OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday December 3	Christmas Gift Workshop 1p Confession 4-4:45p Mass 5p First Responders Lector Workshop after mass
Sunday December 4	Confession 7:30-7:45a Mass 8a Parish Family

Ministry Schedule

Saturday December 3, 2022

5:00pm

Greet:

Fisette Family

Lector:

Marilyn Vandersloot

Gifts:

Tom and Nora Bazuin

Ministry Schedule

Sunday December 4, 2022

8:00am

Greet:

Larry and Buffy Woodring

Lector:

Megan Bleile

Gifts:

John and Missy Rauser

Money Counters:

Bernadette Swenson and Sara Holmes

Ministry Highlights

Greeter:

The role of Greeter is far greater than saying hi and helping people find the bathroom. The role of greeter is to help people feel welcome coming into the church and to express of the joy we experience because of the Risen Lord. The primary goal of greeters is to welcome those who are not members of our church both inviting them to our celebration of the Mass or encouraging them if they are not Catholic or have fallen away from the faith. We should all be working to be inviting and encouraging so as to share our faith with others.



SAVE THE DATE for Eucharistic Revival 2023, "Cultivating Eucharistic Amazement." Join us May 5 & 6, 2023 at Billings Central Catholic H.S. with special guests Dr. Scott Hahn, Archbishop Alexander Sample and musical guest Jaime Thietten. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength — the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Join the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings in the movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery – The Most Holy Eucharist. We'll explore what the Eucharist means in each of our lives, how this Sacrament is meant to be adored, how we cultivate Eucharistic amazement in our lives and how we, as the Body of Christ, become Eucharistic people. Ticket prices start at \$15. Visit diocesegfb.org/revival to learn more or register. Seating is limited!



Small Groups:

Many of you have heard me explain the new model for our circles. Circles are not the only way to come to know our faith family and to share our faith. Many different programs and leaders throughout the Catholic world have promoted the necessity of small groups. Small groups are subsections of the parish who get together to support each other on their walk of faith. We need people who will support and challenge us in the walk of faith so that we can work through the challenges, share joys, and work to not become lethargic or complacent with our faith. If you are interested in hosting or leading a small group, talk with Fr. Cody.



TECH CREW NEEDED!

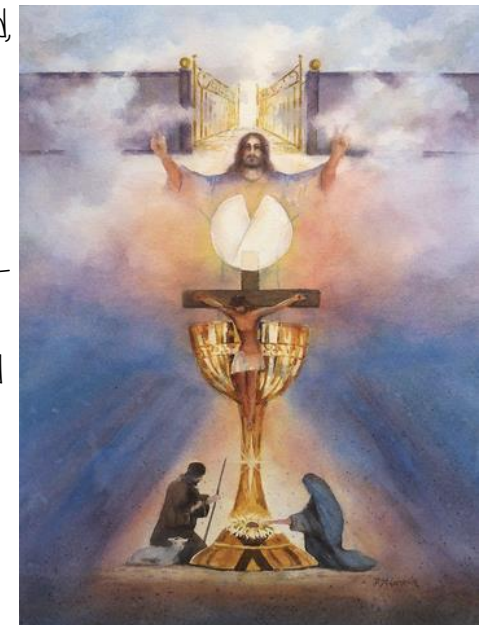
A new laptop was donated to our church to help with livestreaming Masses. I need a few people who are willing to run the livestream for Mass. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Cody.

Family Advent Calendars are available on the table in the vestibule as well as copies of the book Holy Moments by Matthew Kelley. Please feel free to take one per household as an Advent and Christmas Season gift from Women of Faith.



Announcements

Bishop Vetter has allowed us to distribute the Blood of Christ during Mass for the faithful to consume starting the 1st Sunday of Advent. In preparation for reinstating Communion under the Precious Blood, I want to draw your attention to this part of our Mass. Consuming both the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord better expresses his command to us to "take and eat" and "take and drink." The fullness of Jesus Body and Blood, however, are present in the Consecrated Host and Consecrated Wine. Each of them of their own contains the fullness of Jesus' Body and Blood. The faithful are not required to consume both the Precious Body and the Precious Blood. Even with the restriction rescinded, you still have the option to only receive the Consecrated Host and fully receive Communion. As this part of the Mass is reinstated, I encourage you to reflect on the great gift that Jesus has given us of his Body and Blood, signs of his love for us, his Body which enters our Body and brings transformation into himself. Jesus Body and Blood in form of the Consecrated Host and Consecrated Wine is the most precious gift the Church has and the greatest sign of God's ever presence with us.



Greetings in Christ!

I am writing to ask for your help and prayers with a very important effort. **I need you to participate in a brief online survey by December 2nd.** The Diocese has partnered with CCS Fundraising to gather the opinions and advice of the faithful like you.

The Diocese is at a pivotal moment in our history. After many months of reflection, consultation, visioning and prayer, we have embarked on a planning and feasibility study to explore a diocesan capital campaign to help address the challenges and foster hope through the love of Christ. Your opinion and prayers are critical to our success.

Thank you for your thoughtful, truthful responses to this five-minute survey and your continued dedication and prayers for your local parish and our Diocese.

In Christ, I am,

+ Austin A. Vetter

Most Reverend Austin A. Vetter
Bishop of Helena





December 4th from 5p-7:30p at the Cathedral of St. Helena

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas and create new family traditions with friends and neighbors. This FREE event includes live reindeer, photos with St. Nicholas, hot chocolate, and the opportunity to serve our Helena community and spread hope this holiday season!

As part of this event, we've created our own "St. Nick's Wishlist."

This list includes items desperately needed at God's Love and Our Place during these cold winter months. We encourage anyone who comes to this event to spend time as a family thoughtfully collecting a few of these items. Please package them in a shoebox and bring them with you on December 4th! At our St. Nicholas Celebration, your family will have the opportunity to write and color cards of encouragement that can be included in your shoebox.

*If you would like to donate any of these items but can't make it to the event, feel free to drop items off at the Cathedral office. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Nick's Wishlist:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| -Socks | -Reusable water bottles |
| -Hats | -Fleece blankets |
| -Gloves | -Rain Ponchos |
| -Hand warmers | -Coffee grounds |
| -Boots | -Creamer |
| -Slim Jim | -Sugar |
| -Individually packaged trail mix | |

Mass Celebrating the Immaculate Conception will be on Wednesday December 7th at 6p with dinner and an activity to follow



COFFEE HOUR

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting coffee hour Sunday, December 11th after mass.



Enjoy weekly video advent reflections on Formed with Fr. John Burns and discover the life God invites us to in Advent - one that brings us to a deeper and fuller way of living.



Parish Meeting updates

Thank you to all who came and gave your input at the parish meetings. For those of you who were not able to attend, I am going to give you the basics of the topics discussed at those meetings.

- Flocknote and Formed:** Flocknote is a text message and email service that allows me to send announcements and information to the parish by email or text at your preference. This system greatly increases the speed and efficiency of communication. In order to use this system well, I need to have everyone's phone number or email in the system so that you can receive the information. Formed is an online program that has audio books, books, movies, programs, and more. This service is free to anyone in the parish and provides many good Catholic resources to build your faith. Information about signing up for this free service is on the table in the front of the church.
- Circles:** I have a new direction for the Circles. Circles are small groups of the parish that work to build our faith together and find opportunities to serve our community. If you are not in a circle and would like to be, please contact Fr. Cody. More information about the circles is on a separate insert in the bulletin.
- Puttin' in the Pews:** many have asked about getting new pews. Starting in December I will begin a campaign to raise the \$125,000 necessary to replace the pews and get new flooring in the church. More details about this project will be available in December.

Pastoral Council:

I realized that many people would like to know the topics discussed at the Pastoral Council meetings. I want to assure you that the majority of the topics discussed I have told to the parish. Some topics discussed at the Pastoral Council meetings are confidential or the discussions continue for several months. As a way to increase transparency, I am going to highlight the decisions I made based on the advise of the Pastoral Council after our meetings.

Our November meeting focused on updates:

Upgrade to our internet system to further expand the availability of our wireless network in the building.

The wiring for the bell system is installed and as soon as I get time I will install the bell control system.

Our kitchen needs a grease trap and we have a clog in the drain.

Northwestern Energy has put in a new power pole.

The next major discussion topic for the Pastoral Council, and all of us, is evangelization. The last initiative is to collect 10 new addresses of formed Catholics or those who would like to receive a Christmas letter by Dec. 1. The new initiative is to buy Christmas gift for those families with young children.

Christmas Gift initiative

Following from the Pastoral Council's idea, I would like to get a group of parishioners who would like to select, wrap, and send gifts to families in our parish who have young children. The main goal is to reach out to those families and show our support and encouragement in their faith. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please come to our meeting on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 1 pm.



Parish Challenge

In order to reach out and bring in those who are Catholic, I am challenging the parish to provide 10 new addresses by Dec. 1. The goal is to send these people a Christmas letter which will invite them to Christmas Mass and our Christmas party in January. So far I have a list of names but no addresses.



The Annual Catholic Appeal kicked off. The Diocesan goal is \$2 million. Our parish goal is \$20,700. Every little bit counts. We have currently raised \$16,035.