



Holy Cross Parish

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 29, 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

Fr. Cody Williams, Pastor Email: frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org

Office: 406-266-4811

Email: office@holycrossmt.org

Shawna: RE@holycrossmt.org

Website: holycrossmt.org

Mailing address: P.O. Box 610 (101 S. Walnut)

Townsend, Montana 59644



Basics of Catholicism part 69

The Sacrament of Penance

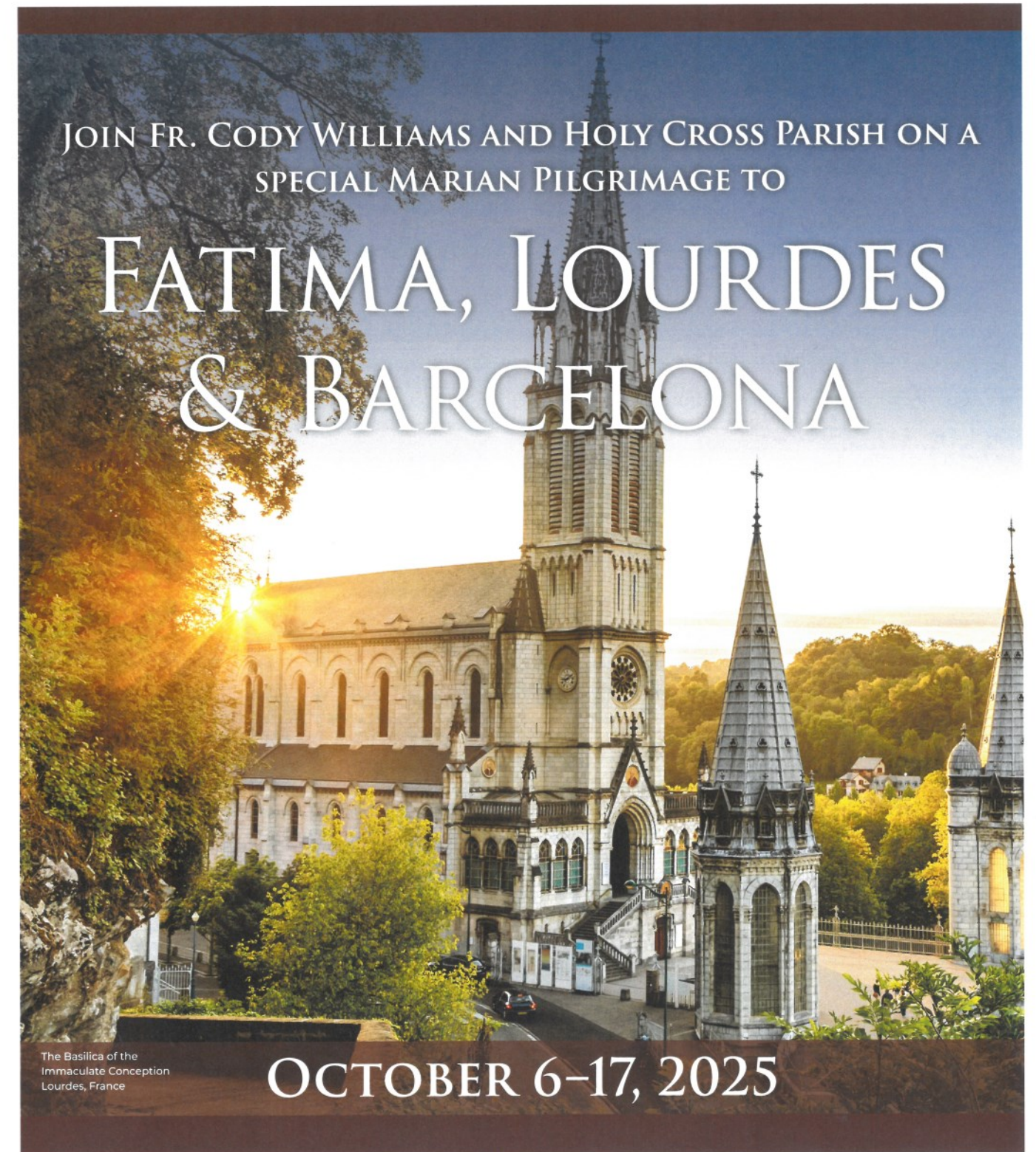
The greatest innovation and reform of the Sacrament of Reconciliation came from the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. After years of a legalistic experience of the Sacrament of Penance and a desire for the people to experience, to a greater extent, the mercy of God through this Sacrament, they made several reforms.

The first major reform was to connect Scripture with the Sacrament both in a penance service as well as in individual confessions. The idea of a "penance service" is new to our time. The goal of a penance service is to recognize the ecclesial dimension of sin. When I sin, I am not the only one affected by the sin. Sin affects everyone. Thus the penance service illustrates several important aspects of this Sacrament and our faith. 1. We all approach God together as sinners. 2. We are all sinners who need God's mercy. 3. Encountering God's word is a way to understand ourselves and what God has done for us. 4. We need to forgive one another and not just feel forgiveness from God. 5. The Church is part of the process of forgiveness and being forgiven. For these reasons, penance services always have a Liturgy of the Word so that we can encounter and reflect on God's word that helps us to know our sins, the forgiveness of God, and the importance of Jesus.

The second major reform was to make the Sacrament more of an encounter with Jesus. Prior to the Council, the Sacrament of Penance focused on the confessing of sins and the receiving of a penance. Vatican II added a part for the priests where they could counsel or encourage the person in their faith, help them with their sins, or provide counsel. This human touch gave the Sacrament a feeling of encountering a person who loves so that the person may recognize the power of Jesus' forgiveness.

The third major reform was the reduction in the possible penances and the amount of penance. The goal of this Sacrament is not the penance but the receiving of God's mercy. Therefore penances which are too harsh or severe, focus on the fulfilling of the penance, or the overcoming of the sin as opposed to the acceptance of God's free gift of forgiveness were highly discouraged. The turn away from harsh or severe penances was a turn towards the free gift of God given to us in Jesus. Too often people would become scrupulous and never feel forgiven. The goal was to reduce that feeling and encourage the feeling of forgiveness.

Fr. Cody



JOIN FR. CODY WILLIAMS AND HOLY CROSS PARISH ON A
SPECIAL MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO

FATIMA, LOURDES & BARCELONA

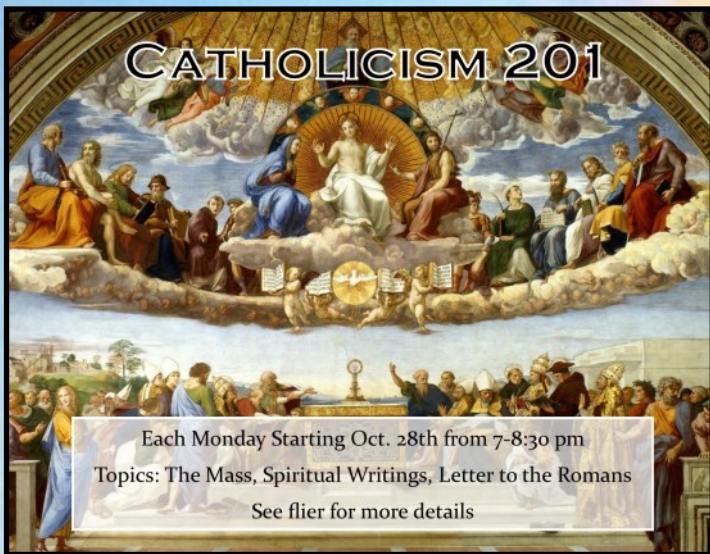
The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
Lourdes, France

OCTOBER 6-17, 2025



PILGRIMAGES
BY CORPORATE TRAVEL

41780 W Six Mile Road, Suite 100
Northville, MI 48168
866.468.1420 | info@ctscentral.net
www.pilgrimagesbycts.com



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, 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



Epiphany of the Lord

01-05-2025

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm: 72:1-27-8.10-11.12-13
 Reading 2: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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 30	Mass 9a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a No Catholicism 201
Tuesday December 31	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners Mary, Mother of God Mass 4:30p
Wednesday January 1	
Thursday January 2	
Friday January 3	
Saturday January 4	Mass 9:20a Adoration and Confession 2-4p
Sunday January 5	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family No RE Parish Christmas Party after mass

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

Faith Night

Exploring the issues of our times in the context of faith



The next topics:

Feb 17th—Prisons

Mar 17th—Immigration

May 19th—Poverty and Homelessness

For all ages. Free dinner

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
 Mass on Tues, Dec. 31st at 4:30 pm**



Holy Day of Obligation

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 January 05, 2025

4:30pm

Greet:

Larry and Buffy Woodring

Lector:

Mary Ellen Schnur

Gifts:

Eichinger Family

EM:

Niki Weiss and Missy Cox

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.



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.

Please Join Us For the Montana State

MARCH for LIFE

Friday, January 3, 2025 11:30am-1pm

At the Capitol Rotunda

"LIFE"

It's Why We March!

Individuals and Organizations from across Montana will be joining us to share their personal prolife testimonies. Each story is unique, inspiring and confirmation of God's "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Montana Family Foundation will also be speaking about the passage of CI-128 and how that impacts the future prolife landscape.

Thank you to the following organizations for their support of this event:

- 40 Days for Life
- Catholic Social Svcs
- Creative Design by Jenny
- Emily Schmeller
- Helena Fertility Clinic
- Knights of Columbus
- Montana Family Foundation
- Montanans for Life
- ProLife Montana
- TPUSA



2025 DATES & RATES

June 15-20 Junior High #1	July 6-11 Junior High #2	July 27-August 1 5th/6th Grade Girls
June 22-27 High School #1	July 13-18 High School #2	CAMP RATES Early Bird Rate: (Register in January) \$400 Standard Rate: \$425
June 29-July 1 Family Camp	July 20-25 5th/6th Grade Boys	

REGISTRATION OPENS

January 3rd at Noon for families who live within the Diocese of Helena
January 8th at Noon for families who live outside the Diocese of Helena

legendarylodge.org



We're Hiring!!!

CSSM's counseling program is here for everyone with holistic, Catholic-based counseling and therapy. With over 80 clients from nearly 30 Montana communities served, it's time to add another licensed counselor to the team! Interested candidates can view the position description by visiting CSSM's website at www.cssmt.org/staff-board/.

Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended December 22nd

Total Weekly	\$2,958.31
Budget	\$2900.00
Variance	\$58.31

Year to Date

Total	\$64,202.17
Budget	\$72,500.00
Variance	-\$8,297.83

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"Christ held Himself in His hands when He gave His Body to His disciples saying: 'This is My Body.' No one partakes of this Flesh before he has adored it."

- St. Augustine

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.

Since we moved to online giving about a year ago, we would like to know whom would like to continue getting and using envelopes for their offertory. If you do not contact the office by the end of the year, we will assume that you no longer want to receive envelopes.

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!

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