



Holy Cross Parish

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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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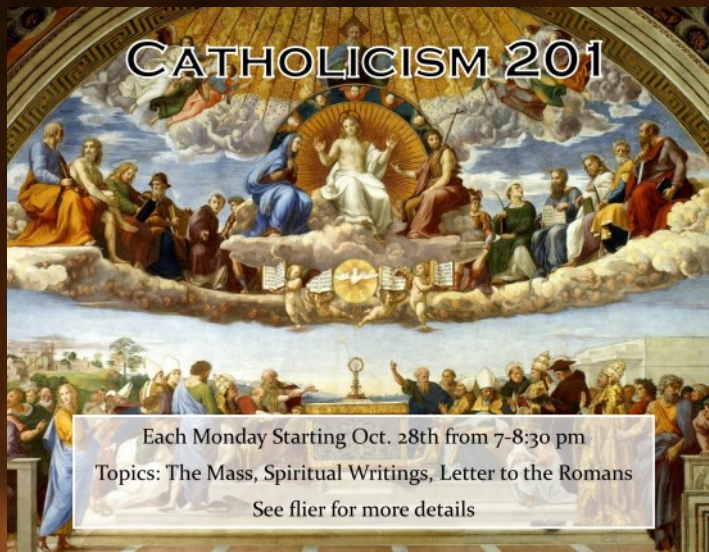
The Sacrament of Reconciliation

We turn our attention to the Irish Isles where a group of monks began practicing a new way of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Instead of going to a bishop, they would confess their sins to one another. Instead of the grave and public sins, they would confess all their sins. Although these monks and their confessions seem isolated, somehow this simple practice spread.

Somewhere in the 11-13th centuries the practice became common throughout Europe and the dominant way through which people received the forgiveness from their sins. St. Thomas Aquinas speaks about the structure and necessity of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in his *Summary of Theology (Summa Theologica)*. The Council of Lateran IV (1215) declared that all people must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation once a year.

What was this new practice and how did people experience it? Since the bishops were the only celebrants of this Sacrament for the first three centuries of the Church, the bishops had to delegate this authority to the priests. Some writers of the early church wrote about the connection between the priest and forgiveness of sins paving the way for this Sacrament. These early church writers took their inspiration from the Desert Fathers and Mothers who would regularly confess minor sins to each other and receive minor penances. Thus the form had already been in use in several locations and contexts by the 12th century. Regardless, the structure was very simple. A person would go to a priest either to request the confession of their sins or during a time of confessions. The priest would begin with a simple prayer, the person would confess their sins, the priest would give the person a penance, and then the priest would absolve the person from their sins. It was a quick and simple process that allowed for any sins regardless of gravity to be confessed and receive absolution.

The process was further clarified by the Council of Trent in 1565. For most of the prior eight centuries, the structure of the Sacrament as well as the allowed penances was set by the bishop or a freedom given to the priest. One of the major abuses of this Sacrament was money. A penance a person could be given was to give a chunk of their wealth to the church, especially during the age of the Crusades and leading up to the Protestant Revolution. These challenges sparked the need for reform and boundaries for this Sacrament. The Council of Trent defined many parts of this Sacrament. Only a priest or bishop could validly absolve a person from their sins. Any sin is confessable although some are reserved to the bishop or the pope. The structure of the Sacrament is the introduction, followed by the confession of sins, then the assigning of a penance, and the absolution of sins. One of the innovations following the Council of Trent was the manuals. The Manuals are books that list all the possible sins and their penances. For each sin and their number, the priest would find the appropriate sin with its penance, add up or multiply the sins with the penances, and assign this penance to the person. This could result in a very legalistic experience of the Sacrament and a rather lengthy penance, which was common for that time.



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

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

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



Holy Day of Obligation

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

Scripture Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent
 12-22-2024

Reading 1: Micah 5:1-4a
 Psalm: 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19
 Reading 2: Hebrews 10:5-10
 Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

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 16	Mass 9a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a No Catholicism 201 Faith Night 6p
Tuesday December 17	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday December 18	
Thursday December 19	
Friday December 20	
Saturday December 21	
Sunday December 22	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is bulletin@holycrossmt.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 22, 2024	4:30pm
Greet:	Karen Susag
Lector:	Julie Lethert
Gifts:	Larry and Buffy Woodring
EM:	Abby and Shawna Wickens
Money Counters:	Karee Eichinger and Tacy Swanton



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.



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.



Parish potluck Sunday, December 22nd after mass hosted by the Circle of Compassion. If you are in this circle please bring a dish.

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. 22 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
DEC. 29 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended December 8th

Total Weekly	\$167.16
Budget	\$2900.00
Variance	-\$2,732.84

Year to Date

Total	
Budget	
Variance	

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

"Not as common bread or as common drink do we receive these.... We have been taught that the food that has been Eucharistized by the word of prayer, that food which by assimilation nourishes our flesh and blood, is the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus."

- St. Justin Martyr

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