



**Holy Cross Parish Bulletin**  
**P.O. Box 610 (101 S. Walnut)**  
**Townsend, Montana 59644**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 18, 2016**

Fr. Bart Tolleson Pastor, Fr. Richard Kluk (In Residence) Parochial Vicar,  
 Deacon Iver Johnson

Office: 266-4811 Fr Richard Cell 406-459-8924

**Weekend Mass Schedule: Holy Cross**

**Confession: Saturday 4-4:30 pm or by appointment**

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 5 pm**

**Sunday 10 am**

**Email:**

**holycrossmt@gmail.com**

**Website: holycrossmt.org**

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Bulletin Deadline: Wednesday 10 am

**Mass Schedule**

Monday, December 19,	Daily Mass 6:30 pm Advent Only
Tuesday, December 20,	Daily Mass 9:00 am Seminarists
Wednesday, December 21,	Daily Mass 9:00 am Bishop's Intentions
Thursday, December 22,	Daily Mass 9:00 am Tony Francisco RB Bill & Anita Kearns
Friday, December 23,	Daily Mass 9:00 am Adoration 9:30 am Cookie Schaefer RB Connie Miller
Saturday, December 24,	Confession 4-4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass 5 pm Homebound Parishioners
Sunday, December 25,	Christmas Mass: 10:00 am Intentions For the Parish Family

**Quote of the Week:**

*"Now is the time to unleash the creativity of mercy, to bring about new undertakings, the fruit of grace."  
 December 14, 2016 Pope Francis*

**Announcements:**

- After rapid decline in support, with additional consultation from the Pastoral Council and the Helena area Deanery, the 6:00 pm Sunday night Mass at SS. Cyril & Methodius in East Helena will no longer be offered after Sunday, December 18th. The hope of returning it next summer, June-August, will be evaluated in the Spring of 2017. Thanks to all. Who supported this Mass, especially the Helena area musicians.
- There will be no scheduled Mass December 26-28.
- The office will be open limited hours December 26-29.
- Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday January 8. Classes will continue on the following Sundays, January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19 and 26. Please keep all those preparing for Confirmation in prayer.
- Thank you to everyone that has signed up to help out at the Townsend Food Pantry in January. Your gift of time to this ministry is greatly appreciated.
- We have received word that Tony Francisco passed away on December 6, 2016 in Mesa, AZ. A funeral mass will be held in Mesa on January 13, 2017 at All Saints Roman Catholic Church at 10 am followed by a reception for family and friends.

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

**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.

Mount Angel Seminary, St. Benedict, OR, Deacon Joe Paddock, and Shannon Augare.

St. John Vianney Seminary, Denver, CO, Deacon Kirby Longo, Matthew Christiaens, Tyler Frohlich, Codi Krueger. Nathan Scheidecker.

Spirituality Year: Joshua Harrison, Nicholas Modrow, and Kyle Tannehill.

- Gentle Reminder: The Parish Center bathroom sink is not the correct place to wash dishes. Thank you.
- The Parish has had to replace our piano. If you can, please help us meet this expense please write piano in the memo section of your check. If the Parish collects more funds than needed for the piano, the funds will be used for another specific need with in Holy Cross.



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 18, 2016**

**Our Lady of the Lake:  
Resumes in May 2017**

**Ministry Schedule  
Saturday December 24, 2016 5:00 pm**

*Greeters :* Missy Cox  
*Lector :* Felicia Head  
*Gifts:* Brian & Claudette Hohn  
*EM:* Chris Wright & Steve Kitt  
*Servers:* Jade Martin & Zoey Wickens  
*Music:* Mary Garman

**Ministry Schedule  
Sunday December 25, 2016 10:00 am**

*Greeters :* Martin & Doris Mingay  
*Lector :* Robin Kirscher  
*Gifts:* Keith & Robin Kirscher  
*EM:* Jill Menard & Buffy Woodring  
*Servers:* Braden & Ryan Racht  
*Music:* Jill Flynn  
*Home Ministry:* Jill Menard  
*Money Counters:* Allison Bakken & Karee Eichinger



Holy Cross Parish  
 Our Lady of the Lake Mission  
 12-15-2016

Goal	\$21,800.00
Pledged	\$13,986.00
Paid	\$ 9,944.00
Outstanding Pledges	\$ 4,043.00
% of Goal	64%

Participation of Parishioners:	
Registered Households	105
Total donors to date	63
Outstanding Pledged Donors	16
% of Participation	60%

Thank You!!

We are getting closer to our goal every week.

**ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!!!** The next Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend is January 27-29, 2017 in Great Falls. Sign up now!! Information and registration is available online at [WWW.GREATFALLSCEE.ORG](http://WWW.GREATFALLSCEE.ORG). Call Brenda & Bill Chafin at 406-771-8658 or Terry and Dave Stukeky at 406-452-3542 for more information. A Wedding is a Day: A Marriage is a Lifetime!

Great Falls Catholic Engaged Encounter  
 Terry and Dave Stukeky, Co-Coordinator  
 Brenda and Bill Chafin, Co-Coordinator  
 Stukeky's Home: [406-452-3542](tel:406-452-3542)  
 Chafin's Home: [406-771-8658](tel:406-771-8658)  
 Brenda's Mobile: [406-570-3696](tel:406-570-3696)  
[www.greatfallscee.org](http://www.greatfallscee.org)



**Stewardship of Treasure  
12/10-11/2016**

Holy Cross	
47 HC Envelopes	\$1,620.50
3 OLL Envelopes	\$ 110.00
Loose	\$ 31.00
2 Youth	\$ 2.00
1 Christmas	\$ 500.00
1 Religious Retirement	\$ 387.00
2 Immaculate Concept.	\$ 72.00
1 Cam. Human Develop.	\$ 50.00
Total HC	\$ 2,772.50

Our Lady of the Lake  
 No Mass until May 2017

Total Donation \$2,772.50

Holy Cross Parish Endowment Fund:  
 \$20,508.24

Cemetery	12-16-2016	
Outstanding Pledges	\$1,150.00	
Grave sites	\$ 00.00	
Short Term	\$ 00.00	
Long Term	\$ 00.00	
Total	\$ 00.00	

Cemetery Fund Donations	
Beginning Balance	\$ 12.44
Misc. Donations	\$ 319.50
Gravesites	\$ 2,200.00
Short Term	\$10,120.00
Total	\$ 12,651.94
Cemetery Endowment Fund	

Long term	\$24,667.00
Foundation to Date	\$30,059.38

**Prayer Chain**

Gene Determan, JerriThueson, Karen Lebahn, Joanie Pritchard, Doug Thomas, Brad Flesch, Mona Maddox, Kevin Ellis, Mary Ann Jensen, Jane Damuth, Greg Weber, Ryan Heffner, Lavinia Ellis, Wanda Martin, Troy & Shirley Helmick, Elaine Graveley, Kristen Johnson, Lauren Vogl, Larry Sullivan, Ron Shupe, Karen Langsather, Pat Mahon, Susie Hamilton, John Bartos, Madison McCauley, Andrew Murley, Paul Bray, Ward Schoffield, Pat Montonario granddaughter Zoe, Father Byrne, Lorrie Chase, Carole Plymale, Nate Simmons, Marie Hoeffner, Paul Schwisow, Rick Gebhart and Family, Dawn Schoffield, Dorothy Byrne, Alida Rhynard, Hazel Jean Bayers, Jenny Schaubert, Donna Wise, Billie Thorne

**Latin Mass Schedule**

Latin Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form  
 Rosary at 12:35 pm Mass at 1:00 pm (except for Christmas and New Year's Day)  
 December 18 - Mass 1 pm in Townsend  
 December 25 - 11:30 am in East Helena  
 January 1 in East Helena at Noon  
 January 15 in Townsend at 1 pm.

Holy Cross Parish Foundation fund had \$20,508.24 on 9/30/2016.

## *The Nazareth Page*

*A gospel meditation for the home*

*December 18, 2016 - Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Matthew 1:18-24*

Sometimes we just have to change our plans. We're heading toward one place and something happens that causes us to reverse direction and go another way. That's what happened to the foster father of Jesus. And if he was like most men, he changed his plans with some difficulty. Once on the road, some men would rather stay on the route they started, even if it's pointed out to them that it's the wrong way.

So let's think about St. Joseph. If he was like one of those men who doesn't like being told he's wrong, acting like a stubborn mule, we might not be celebrating Christmas at all. Or the Christmas story would have been quite different. There would be one less figure in the nativity set. This Sunday's gospel showcases St. Joseph, an almost forgotten figure during much of church history. Many think of St. Joseph as having only a minor role in the God's doings with us. We might want to think again about this.

Matthew writes that Joseph was surprised (and perhaps a bit angry as well) to learn that Mary was pregnant. According to both custom and law, Joseph could have divorced her. And that's the direction he seemed to be heading until another route was asked of him. God suggested something else, as God sometimes does. As the saying goes, when God closes one door, God opens another.

So, whether literally in a dream, or by an idea sparked in him by the Holy Spirit, Joseph was given new directions. He had to change his plans. So, he swallowed his pride and hoped that those he had told about his original decision would forget what he had said. He was clearly a man of courage, a strong man and an open-minded one who could bend and change if that's what God asked of him. And we know the rest of the story.

How often do all of us, especially those of us who are parents have to change our plans because something more important, more "the right thing to do," comes up? It's never easy, is it? But we can think about and pray to St. Joseph who deserves our gratitude for making one of the most important "change of plans" in history.

David M. Thomas, PhD

*Catholic Community of ...*

*SS. Cyril & Methodius, East Helena*

*120 W Riggs St.*

*St. John the Baptist, Clancy*

**Christmas Eve**

Saturday, December 24

4:00 & 7:00 p.m. in East Helena

8:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Clancy

**Christmas Day**

Sunday, December 25

9:30 a.m. in East Helena

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil,**

Sat., Dec. 31 – 5:00 p.m. in East Helena

Sun., Jan. 1 – 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. in East Helena

4:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Clancy

**Latin Extraordinary Form Mass**

at SS. Cyril & Methodius

Sunday, December 25 at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 1 at 12:00 pm



**Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church**

Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24

4:00, 7:00, and 9:00 pm

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25

9:00 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil/Masses

Saturday, December 31 – 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 1 – 8:00 and 10:30 am

Our office will be closed on Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.

We will have our regular Wednesday schedule for December 28 with Reconciliation – 5:45 pm and Mass – 6:30 pm.

Carroll College is again offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a student planning to attend Carroll for the first time in the fall of 2017. If you would like to apply for this scholarship please contact the Parish office. All completed applications must be back in the Parish office by February 1, 2017.

**Not willing to let go of your marriage? Many couples continue to struggle in a marriage, but are not willing to give up on each other. There is hope.**

Retrouvaille is a program designed to help struggling marriages regain their health. It helps a husband and a wife rediscover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program on February 3-5, 2017 at the Ursuline Centre, Great Falls, Montana for couples, contact registration team: at 1-800-470-2230 or visit our website: [www.retrouvailleMT.org](http://www.retrouvailleMT.org) or [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)