



THE NAVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

DECEMBER 25, 2016

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

**Ministry Schedule
Saturday December 31, 2016 5:00 pm**

Greeters : Gene & Bev Determan
Lector : Brian Hohn
Gifts: Keith & Robin Kirscher
EM: Missy Cox & Terry Love
Servers: Aspen & Sierra Slyker
Music: Mary Garman

Ministry Schedule

**The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
Sunday January 1, 2017 10:00 am**

Greeters : Terri & Emmalin Fischer & Eileen Ryce & Fiona Nelson
Lector : Julie Lethert
Gifts: Tom & Julie Lethert
EM: Jill Menard & Chris Wright
Servers: Riley Richtmyer & Zach Wickens
Music: Dawn Blair
Home Ministry: Pat McNeive
Money Counters: Jill Menard & Judy Riddle

Prayer Chain

Gene Determan, Terri Thueson, Karen Lebahahn, 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, 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 25 - 11:30 am in East Helena
January 1 in East Helena at Noon
January 15 in Townsend at 1 pm.



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

Goal	\$21,800.00
Pledged	\$14,436.00
Paid	\$10,483.00
Outstanding Pledges	\$ 3,954.00
% of Goal	66%

Participation of Parishioners:

Registered Households	105
Total donors to date	64
Outstanding Pledged Donors	15
% of Participation	60.95%

Thank You!!

We are getting closer to our goal every week.

Reminder if everyone gives a little we will meet our participation goal. :-)

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. Call Brenda & Bill Chafin at 406-771-8658 or Terry and Dave Stuke 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 Stuke, Co-Coordinator
Brenda and Bill Chafin, Co-Coordinator
Stuke'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



**Stewardship of Treasure
12/17-18/2016**

Holy Cross	
50 HC Envelopes	\$2,344.50
1 OLL Envelopes	\$ 40.00
Loose	\$ 219.00
12 Youth	\$ 12.00
4 Christmas	\$ 225.00
1 Piano	\$ 25.00
1 Stipend	\$ 40.00
1 World Mission Sunday	\$ 5.00
Total HC	\$ 2,910.50

Our Lady of the Lake
No Mass until May 2017

Total Donation \$2,910.50

Holy Cross Parish Endowment Fund:
\$20,508.24 as of 9/30/16

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 9/30	\$26,859.38

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.

The Nazareth Page

A gospel meditation for the home

December 25, 2016 – The Feast of the Holy Family

John 1:1-18

Not all the gospels have the story about the birth of Jesus. In fact, only two of them do, those of Matthew and Luke. So why does the Church give us the opening words of John's Gospel as a gospel for Christmas? There is no mention of the baby Jesus, the scene at Bethlehem or the shepherds and wise men. No animals either.

John's gospel does not begin with the first Christmas but it goes all the way back to "the beginning." The beginning of what? Well, when you really think about it, it goes back to the beginning of everything. The first moment of the creation of the Universe. And at that beginning there was God and God's Word. And what was that word. It was the One through which all things came to be: through the creative Word of God it ALL became real. Everything, the atoms and the molecules, the galaxies and all space, the Milky Way galaxy and the solar system, the air, the wind, the earth and the fire, all that lives by the sea and under the sea, and eventually humans like us, that preceded us and from whom we came to be. Nothing came to be without the Word.

And that same Word of God did not remain distant, did not sit down and rest, did not take a vacation or even a free day. That Word of God became flesh, became human, became one of us. God made human came for us and for our salvation as we recite in an ancient creed.

God came in human form to enlighten the darkness of our narrowness and ignorance, to show us the way to live, the need to love, the joy that God intended for each of us. That same Word of God showed care and mercy to the least among us, to all who are poor in any way, to sinners who had lost all hope, to all (which is all of us) who needed and hoped for a redeemer, a saviour, a God who knew our weakness and who could give us life in full measure.

So, John's Gospel does give us the Christmas story. But it is painted on the largest canvas ever imagined. What's described is not just a simple scene that takes place in a small village called Bethlehem, but rather one that spans all time and space, from the very beginning. And includes everything. This Christmas, we are invited through the words of John's Gospel to think (and imagine) really BIG!

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.

Faith, Hope and Love . . . Are these present in your marriage? Have you given up hope that they can be?

In 1 Corinthians 13:13 Jesus tells us the greatest of these is Love. Living in a marriage that is missing love can be difficult. If you have given up hope that your marriage can and will get better, ask your spouse to consider attending a Retrouvaille program. Retrouvaille is an international Christian-based ministry that offers a three-stage program to help couples improve their marriages. First, a weekend program is attended, followed by post-weekend meetings. Finally, an on-going monthly small group of couples gather for support and growth. If improving your marriage is important to you, reach out today. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program **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 or