



# Holy Cross Parish Bulletin

P.O. Box 610 (101 S. Walnut)  
Townsend, Montana 59644

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

Fr. David Severson, Pastor

Fr. Micah Bagayang, Parochial Vicar

Office: 266-4811 Email: [holycrossmt@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossmt@gmail.com) Website: [holycrossmt.org](http://holycrossmt.org)

Weekend Mass Schedule: Holy Cross

Confession: Saturday 4:15–4:45 pm; Sunday 8:30–8:45 am or by appointment

Saturday Mass 5 pm

Sunday Mass 9 am

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
9:30am to 2:30pm; Friday 9:30am-1:30pm

Bulletin Deadline: Thursday 10 am

Thought of the week: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you—Isaiah 60:1

### Holy Cross Mission Statement

Holy Cross parish is a Roman Catholic Parish that serves Christ the King, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Intercession of the communion of Saints. We are in union with the Roman Pontiff and the Bishop of Helena. Our faith, hope and love flow from the center of our parish family's life: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. From there we are compelled to love God, love our neighbor as ourselves and "Go make disciples..." (Matt 22:37 and 28:19-20)

Mass	Schedule
Monday, Dec 18, 2017	No Scheduled Mass
Tuesday, Dec 19, 2017	Rosary Mass 6 pm Bishop's Intentions
Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017	Rosary Mass 9 am Seminarians
Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017	Rosary Mass 9 am Poor Soul's in Purgatory
Friday, Dec. 22, 2017	Rosary Mass 9 am Adoration The Unborn
Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017	Confession 4:15-4:45 Vigil Mass 5 pm Pat Hooks RB Mary Hooks
Sunday Dec 24, 2017	Confession 8:30-8:45 am 4th Sunday of Advent Mass 9:00 am Parish Family
Decorate Church fol- lowing 9 am Mass	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 5 PM Homebound Parishioners
Monday Dec 25, 2017 Office Closed	CHRISTMAS MASS 10 AM Jill Menard RB Connie Miller

### Announcements:

- **Father Micah's** mailing address is Father Micah Bagayang, PO Box 422, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645.
- **Christmas Program, Dec. 17th**, following Mass. Please come down and support our youth. The Christmas program will begin with brunch while the children get ready then they will present their program. If your last name begins with A-F please bring fruit, G-L bread, or sweet rolls, M-O, Dessert and P-Z, please bring a breakfast casserole to share.
- **Christmas flower donation** envelopes are on the table in the back next to the bells and stars for those that would like to give a memorial donation for poinsettias. Place the donation in the envelope and place in the collection basket.
- **Christmas Cards** for Father Byrne. there will be a basket in the Narthex to place cards for Father Byrne. On Christmas day the cards will be given to Father Byrne.
- **New lector workbooks** are available in the office. If you can't make it in during office hours, please call and we will put the book in the file holder on the outside of the office door.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



"What wonderful majesty! What stupendous condescension! O sublime humility!

That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble Himself like this under the form of a little bread, for our salvation"

"...In this world I cannot see the Most High Son of God with my own eyes, except for His Most Holy Body and Blood."

- St. Francis of Assisi

### Prayer Chain



Gene Determan, Father Byrne, Jerri Thueson, Joanie Pritchard, Elaine Graveley, Madison McCauley, Pat Montonario's granddaughter Zoe, Marie

Hoeffner Fran Wright, Kelly Flynn, Elliot Weakland, Troy Helmick, Jenny Schaubert, Bill Fitzgerald, Martin Clark, Kathryn, Heidi Hill,

December 17, 2017

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 10-11 (8B)

Psalms Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:15-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

<b>Stewardship of Treasure</b>	
<b>12/9-10/2017</b>	
Holy Cross	
49 HC Envelopes	\$ 1,901.50
Loose	\$ 56.00
Youth	\$ 0.00
1 Sacristy	\$ 25.00
16 Immaculate Concept.	\$ 337.00
14 Religious Retirement	<u>\$ 407.00</u>
Total HC	<u>\$2,726.50</u>
Holy Cross Parish Endowment Fund: \$21,491.83 as of 09/30/17	
<b>Cemetery</b>	
Cemetery	12-01-2017
Outstanding Pledges	\$1,150.00
Cemetery Fund Donations	
Beginning Balance	\$ 12.44
Misc. Donations	\$ 319.50
Gravesites	\$ 3,700.00
Donations	\$36,807.00
Don. Direct to Found.	<u>\$ 1,700.00</u>
Total Donations	\$42,538.94
Total in Cemetery Acct	\$2,526.87
Cemetery Endowment Fund to 09/30/17	\$32,933.71
ACA 2017	11/15/2017
Goal	\$22,900
Pledged	\$ 11,480
ACA PD	\$ 8,915
<b>THANK YOU!</b>	

The Office will be closed on Monday, December 25, and January 1.

**December 24, 2017**  
**Scripture Readings:**  
**2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16 (11b)**  
**Psalms 89:2-4, 4-5, 27, 29**  
**Romans 16:25-27**  
**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

**Ministry Schedule**  
**Saturday December 23, 2017**  
**5:00 pm**

*Greeters :* Harold & Laura Gibbs  
*Lector:* Brian Hohn  
*Gifts:* Paul & Donna Latka  
*EM:* Missy Cox & Steve Kitt  
*Servers:* Jade Martin & Zoey Wickens

**Ministry Schedule**  
**Sunday December 24, 2017**  
**9:00 am**

*Greeters :* Larry & Buffy Woodring  
*Lector :* Doris Mingay  
*Gifts:* John & Missy Rauser  
*EM:* Tom & Julie Lethert  
*Servers:* Ryan Racht & Cubby Richtmyer  
*Music :* Jill Flynn  
*Home Ministry:* Jean Boucher  
*Money Counters:* Doris Mingay & Juanita Bray

**Ministry Schedule**  
**Sunday December 24, 2017**  
**5:00 pm**

*Greeters :* Monte & Cathy Armstrong  
*Lector :* Claudette Hohn  
*Gifts:* Jade Martin & Shari Toney  
*EM:* Tom & Julie Lethert  
*Servers:* Abby & Zoey Wickens  
*Music :* Choir

**Ministry Schedule**  
**Sunday December 25, 2017**  
**10:00 am**

*Greeters :* John & Missy Rauser  
*Lector :* Chris Wright  
*Gifts:* Eichinger Family  
*EM:* Chris Wright & Buffy Woodring  
*Servers:* Carson LeLacheur & Kennedy Vogl  
*Music :* Jill Flynn

Holy Cross recommends that the following be respected

**Infant Baptism:**  
 Parents are to be registered, active, practicing parishioners. Parents are required to attend a baptism preparation class offered by the parish. Dates are to be confirmed by the parish office prior to making any arrangements.

**Weddings:**  
 Six months notice required. Wedding date availability are to be confirmed by the priest prior to booking any reception venues.

**Christian Burial:**  
 Notice should be made with the priest before arrangements are made with the funeral director. A funeral Mass will replace the daily scheduled Mass.

**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** members: Mary Garman, Bernadette Swenson, Shari Toney, Shawna Wickens & Chris Wright

**Finance Council** members: Juanita Bray, Brian Hohn, Steve Visocan, Vince Vogl

**CCW** Co-Presidents Jill Menard & Karen Sussag wish to thank all who gave them support during the last two years and ask everyone to continue that support for new President Marj Kohn and VP Jeanne Steele. Finishing out their second year term as offices of CCW are Jane Slyker, Secretary and Bonnie Olsen, Treasurer.

**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, Shannon Augare.

St. John Vianney Seminary, Denver, CO, Matthew Christiaens, Tyler Frohlich, Codi Krueger. Nathan Scheidecker, and Kyle Tannehill.

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, West MA, T. Aidan Toombs

**Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.**

## Reflections for the Third Sunday of Advent

### Freedom and Joy

Although the idea of freedom, as we have seen, can be viewed as a meeting point between Christianity and present-day culture, it also appears paradoxically to be the point at which they are furthest apart. For modern man, to be free often means throwing off all constraint and all authority - "Neither God nor master." For Christianity, on the other hand, freedom can only be found by submitting to God, in the "obedience of faith" that St Paul speaks of. True freedom is not so much something man wins for himself; it is a free gift from God, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, received in the measure in which we place ourselves in a relationship of loving dependence on our Creator and Savior. This is where the Gospel paradox is most apparent: *"Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*

In other words, people who wish to preserve and defend their own freedom at any cost will lose it, but those willing to "lose" it by leaving it trustingly in God's hands will save it. *Their freedom will be restored to them, infinitely more beautiful, infinitely deeper, as a marvelous gift from God's tenderness. Our freedom is, in fact, proportionate to the love and childlike trust we have for our heavenly Father.* The living experience of the saints is there to encourage us. They gave themselves to God without reserve, wanting only to do his will. In return they received the sense of enjoying an immense freedom, which nothing in the world could take away from them, and which was the source of intense joy. How is that possible? We can try to understand it little by little.

- From *Interior Freedom* by Fr. Jacques Philippe, Community of the Beatitudes

(Great Christmas gift for oneself!)

**Holy Cross Advent & Christmas Schedule**

4th Sunday of Advent December 24th 9 am

Christmas Eve Sunday December 24 th5 pm

Christmas Day Mass Monday December 25th; 10 am

Mary, Mother of God January 1st—No scheduled Mass Since this falls on Monday; Holy Day Obligation is suspended

**SS Cyril & Methodist Advent & Christmas Schedule**

★ Christmas Eve - Dec. 24 - 4:30 & 7:00 pm in East Helena

★ Christmas Eve - Dec. 24 - 6:30 pm at St. John's in Clancy

★ Christmas Day - Dec. 25 - 10 am in East Helena

★ Christmas Day - Dec. 25 - 12 Noon - Latin Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form in East Helena

★ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Monday, January 1 - 10 am in East Helena

★ January 1 - 12 Noon - Latin High Mass in the Extraordinary Form in East Helena

**Advent/Christmas at Our Lady of the Valley**

4th Sunday of Advent - Sat. Dec. 23 - 6:00 pm  
Sun. Dec 24 - 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Masses - Sun. Dec. 24 - 4:00, 6:30 and 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass - Mon. Dec. 25 - 9:00 am

Mary, Mother of God January 1 - No scheduled Mass

**Christmas/Advent at Saint Mary**

★ Christmas Eve Masses - 5:30 and 10:00 PM

★ Christmas Day Mass - 9:00 AM

★ Mary, Mother of God - Vigil Mass on Dec. 31 at 5:30

