



Holy Cross Parish

November 9, 2025

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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Townsend, Montana 59644



The value of Holy Orders
Spiritual Guidance

Since the beginning of the Church, the faithful wanted guides who could help them to encounter God and follow him most fully. The life of the Christian is tough. What am I supposed to do? What does God want of me? Am I confusing myself or convincing myself that it is God’s will when it is my will? From the earliest times, men and women left the comforts of their homes to seek a deeper connection with God. These people became the hermits, monks, and nuns of the early Church. They would live lives of simplicity and prayer in a community of other monks or nuns. Eventually people noticed the holiness of these people and sought their advice on anything from spiritual matters to practical everyday matters. For most people, however, visiting the monks, nuns, and hermits was simply too much work. The simplest solution was their pastor, the priests.

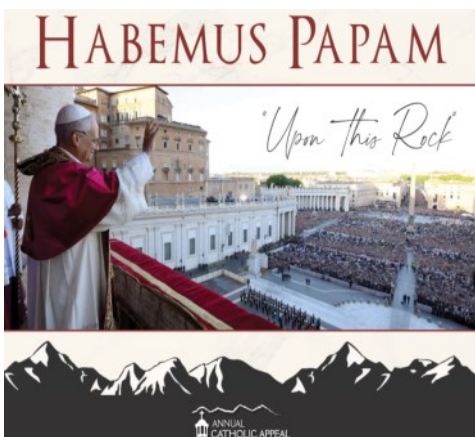
Since the beginning of the Church, the priests and bishops held a special role in the lives of the faithful as the teachers of the faith. Great examples like St. Augustine and St. Gregory the Great spent their lives instructing the faithful and guiding them through the challenges of life. Their dedication to prayer, study of Scripture and theology, their understanding of the world, and their role as leader of the faithful brought a wealth of insights that helped weather the challenges of their time and guided the faithful into life with God.

Today priests and bishops maintain the same role. Priests are highly encouraged to instruct and teach the faithful. In the document on the Liturgy by the 2nd Vatican Council, the council fathers explicitly state that priests are required to teach the faithful the liturgy so that they can come to appreciate it and be able to fully, consciously, and actively participate. Another role of priests and bishops today is spiritual direction. On a basic sense, spiritual direction is offering guidance or advice on living the spiritual life. On a more specific level, spiritual direction is for those who want to advance in their spiritual lives by taking on a director who meets with them and challenges them to grow. This relationship is not for everyone.

The most common way that priests instruct their faithful is through homilies. Homilies are not meant to be catechesis but a proclamation of the Gospel. If we swing too much on the side of catechesis, then the Mass becomes a lecture series. If we swing too much on the side of a talk, then the Mass becomes entertainment. The true purpose of the homily is to guide the faithful to understand the mysteries of Christ, proclaim the central mysteries of our faith, and offer guidance on applying these gifts to our lives.

The priest, as a celibate man, is taken from the world to live a life of deep connection with God through prayer, preaching, teaching, and the liturgy which gives him a special avenue to explore and know the mysteries of God. Through his life of simplicity and prayer, he can help guide his flock to understand God’s will, his presence in the world, and his desire for them.

Fr. Cody



The Annual Catholic Appeal kicks off this weekend. Our goal is to raise \$21,300. Many people are unsure of the value and importance of the Annual Catholic Appeal. Let me guide you to understand the importance of this appeal using the new image on the poster. To maintain the function of the church, we have three parts that need support. The parishes are an essential part of the church. Through the parishes, the people come to know God, desire to follow him, receive the Sacraments, and have a place to live their lives of faith. Yet, parishes cannot sustain themselves. They need support from the Diocese for administrative needs, clergy, and to connect them to the larger church as a reminder that we are part of Jesus' Church not our own. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports the education of priests, the ministries of the Diocese, administrative help to the parishes, and maintains our Catholic identity. Another aspect of the Church is the global aspect. We are not just a group of churches in Montana but part of the global Catholic Church. Recognizing our identity through these three aspects is necessary for understanding who we are. When all three of these aspects of the Church are understood, supported, and lived out, then we can understand who we are and our role in the Church of Jesus.



CATHOLIC JOURNEY EXPERIENCE:
ALL ARE INVITED!

This is your opportunity to attend a 3-day weekend retreat seeking guidance by the Holy Spirit into a deeper experience of Christian community, prayer, discussion, reflection and enlightenment!

Women's Weekend held at St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena
January 15-18th, 2026

Contact: helenacatholicjourney.women@gmail.com 406-431-7577

Men's Weekend held at St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena
February 12-15th 2026

Contact: Helenacursillorector@gmail.com 406-431-7544



Blessing bags are available in the Narthex. Please take and share them with someone in need.



Helena Catholic
Women's Conference

Save the date for the next
Helena Catholic Women's Conference

April 10-11, 2026
Helena Civic Center

Theme: "There Is No Place Like Home"
Visit helenacwc.org for more information

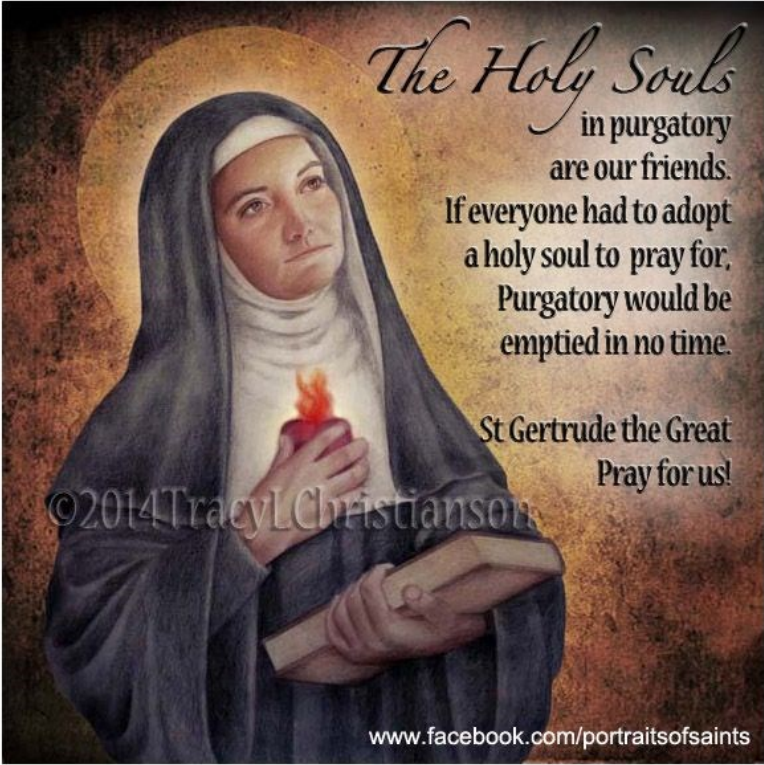
Parish potlucks

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. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Fr. Cody.

November 23: Hope

December 28: Love

January 25: Peace



Thank you to all the parishioners who volunteered at the Broadwater Food Pantry in September. Your kindness to our community is such a blessing!

Town Pump is matching monetary donations given to the food pantry from September thru November.

Please mail monetary donations directly to the Food Pantry. The address is:

Broadwater Food Pantry
PO Box 1164
Townsend, MT 59644



On the third Sunday of each month a blessing table will be set up in the entrance of the church. You are welcome to bring any objects of devotion that you would like blessed and Fr. Cody will bless them after Mass. This will be available each third Sunday of the month. Please keep all your items to be blessed with you until the end of Mass. Once Mass is ended, Fr. Cody will come to the entrance of the Church and bless any of the objects that are on the table. Those objects that are on the table belong to the people who want them blessed and are not free for the taking.

Blessings

Holy Cross Parish Contributions	
Week ending November 2	
Envelopes	\$4,504.16
Loose	\$92.69
Online	\$687.44
Total Weekly Contribution	\$5,043.83
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$5,043.83
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	
Total Monthly Contribution	\$5,043.83
Total Year to Date	\$64,331.87
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00
Thank you for your generosity	

Scripture Readings



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
11-16-2025

Reading 1:	Malachi 3:19-20
Psalms:	98:5-6,7-8
Reading 2:	2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel:	Luke 21:5-19



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"God in his omnipotence could not give more, in His wisdom He knew not how to give more, in His riches He had not more to give, than the Eucharist."

- St. Augustine

Mass	Schedule	
Monday November 10	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a	
Tuesday November 11	Mass 9:00a Homebound	
Wednesday November 12		
Thursday November 13		
Friday November 14		
Saturday November 15		
Sunday November 16	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p - 7:30p Dinner provided by the Knights	Blessing table in the narthex

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.

Deacon Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Liam Aippersback, Ryan Frampton, and Mason Yochum

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Prayer Chain

Unless otherwise requested, after one month prayer request names will be removed from the prayer chain

John Clark, Martin and Margy Clark, Marilyn Lane, Shanna Montonario, Kadence Saxton, Kammy Law, Don and Jenny Schaubert, Judy & Franklin Silfka, Mike McGonigal, Bob Moody

Ministry Schedule

Sunday November 16, 2026	4:30pm
Greet:	Karen Susag
Lector:	Mary Duede
Gifts:	Larry & Buffy Woodring
EM:	Alex Estrada and Debbie Miller
Money Counters:	Juanita Bray and Karen Susag

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted by email to


bulletin@holycrossmt.org

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a

A Year with the Church Fathers


Mondays from 6:30-8 pm
Starting Monday, Oct. 27th
Explore the lives of the fathers.
Read their theology and writing.
Come to understand their value in the Church.
See flyer for more information.



LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY

SUNDAYS @ 4:00

NOV. 2 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES
NOV. 9 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
NOV. 16 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
NOV. 23 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
NOV. 30 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES



"The Rosary is a weapon for these times."
- Saint Padre Pio

Faith Formation

Youth Schedule

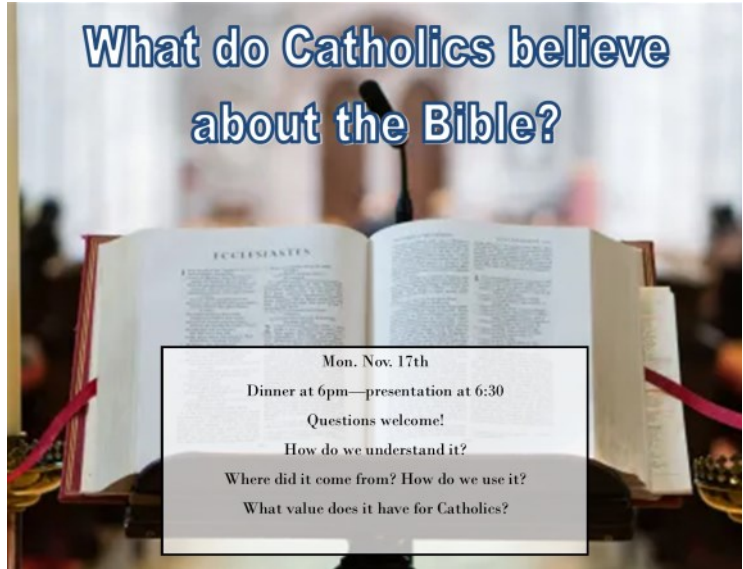
11/9/25: RE Class (Praying with the Liturgy)
11/16/25: RE Class (Ritual as part of life)
11/23/25: Pilgrimage presentation & RE youth Virtus lesson
11/30/25: RE Class (Mass as God's prayer)

Attention Adults

Join us for an adult group that will meet after mass on Sundays during RE class times. The adult group will discuss and explore the same topics as the youth. This year's focus is on Sacraments, the Mass, and prayer. Parents that join can continue the discussion and learning at home with their children.

What do Catholics believe about the Bible?

Mon. Nov. 17th
Dinner at 6pm—presentation at 6:30
Questions welcome!
How do we understand it?
Where did it come from? How do we use it?
What value does it have for Catholics?



Our next major event is quickly approaching!

On Friday, Dec. 5th, we are hosting a free event for the Townsend community at the Lodge. This event is designed to help people find rest, peace, and God within the busyness of life. The night will start with dinner at 6 pm, followed by testimony talks and discussion from 6:30-8. We need lots of help for this event in the following areas:

● Welcoming

● Food preparation

● Set-up

● Child Care

● Clean-up

If you are willing to help, please email either Shawna at re@holycrossmt.org or Fr. Cody at frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org with your desired area of help.

I hope that you all plan to attend this event.



We are working to increase and promote safety for those who attend and use our church. As part of our desire for increased safety, external doors to the building will be locked on Sundays during RE. The only door which will remain unlocked is the one leading from the parking lot to the basement. If you have questions or concerns about this change, please contact Fr. Cody.



2026 Summer Camp Season

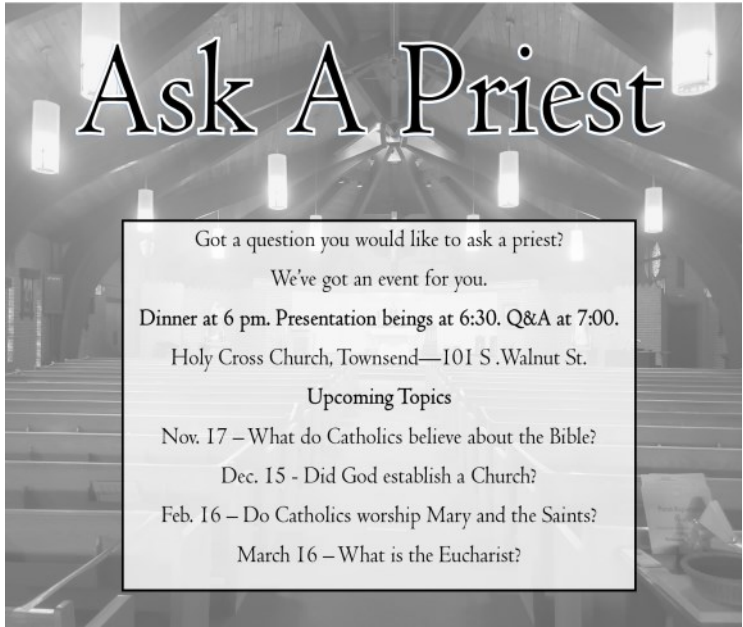
CAMPS SCHEDULE

June 14-19	Junior High #1	July 12-17	High School #2
June 21-26	High School #1	July 19-24	Junior High #2
July 5-10	5/6th Grade Boys	July 26-31	5/6th Grade Girls

Registration for **families who live within the Diocese of Helena** opens **Jan 5th**. Opens for all other registrants Jan 9th.

Ask A Priest

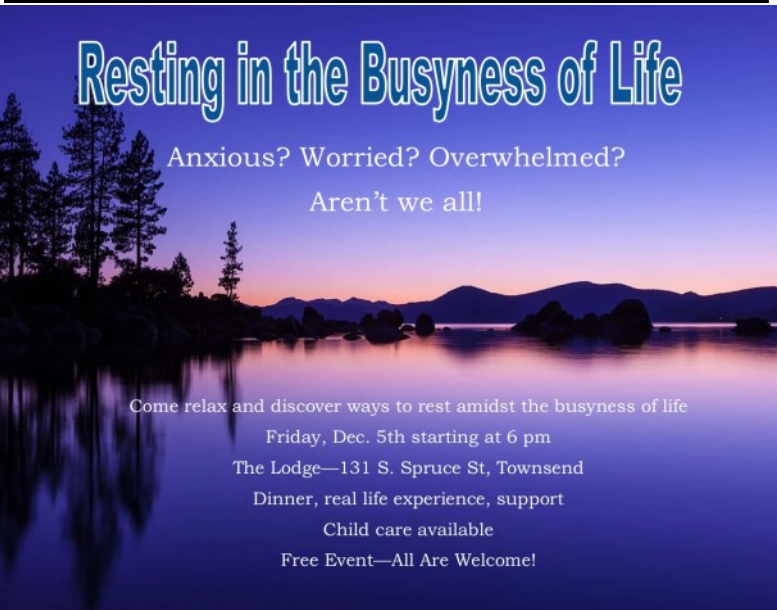
Got a question you would like to ask a priest?
We've got an event for you.
Dinner at 6 pm. Presentation beings at 6:30. Q&A at 7:00.
Holy Cross Church, Townsend—101 S. Walnut St.
Upcoming Topics
Nov. 17 – What do Catholics believe about the Bible?
Dec. 15 - Did God establish a Church?
Feb. 16 – Do Catholics worship Mary and the Saints?
March 16 – What is the Eucharist?



Resting in the Busyness of Life

Anxious? Worried? Overwhelmed?
Aren't we all!

Come relax and discover ways to rest amidst the busyness of life
Friday, Dec. 5th starting at 6 pm
The Lodge—131 S. Spruce St, Townsend
Dinner, real life experience, support
Child care available
Free Event—All Are Welcome!




The Prayer of St. Gertrude

.. ——— ♡ ——— ..

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family.

Amen.

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We are looking for volunteers to provide dinner after mass on some Sundays prior to RE. If you are interested in helping please contact Shawna Wickens or scan the sign up genius QR code.

Thank you for supporting our parish youth!

