



Holy Cross Parish

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

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



Basics of Catholicism part 125

The Vows

The most essential part of the marriage rite is the vows. The vows are the promises that the couple makes to themselves which binds them together and forms the marriage bond. Without the vows, the marriage didn't happen. The vows emphasize and express the essential parts of marriage so that couple is agreeing to and promising to live the married life. These vows are made to each other and to God. The priest only receives the vows on behalf of the Church. The Church accepts two forms of these vows, which I included below:

I, N, take you, N, to be my wife/husband
I promise to be faithful to you
In good times and in bad
In sickness and in health
To love you and to honor you
All the days of my life

I, N, take you, N, for my lawful wife/husband,
To have and to hold, from this day forward,
For better, for worse,
For richer, for poorer,
In sickness and in health
To love and to cherish
Until death do us part.

Both of these types of vows express the same point. Marriage is a bond that lasts until death, as Jesus made clear in his teaching on marriage. Marriage is for the good of the spouses which means that they will remain together throughout the challenges of life. We can't assume that when the finances are down, the love is no longer there, or sickness takes a toll that we can jump ship and end the marriage. Marriage is a commitment, a promise, a desire to stay with someone for your entire life. Lastly, to love someone is to dedicate your life and to sacrifice for that person. Hence, the second to final line of both of the vows: "to love you ..." A promise, a vow, a commitment to love.

These vows are so critical that our marriage prep programs are designed to emphasize these points so that the couple can reflect on them. If one or both people don't agree to the vows or don't understand the vows they are taking, then the marriage didn't happen. This is how critical these vows are.

Fr. Cody

Western Montana Catholic Women's CONFERENCE

"COME TO ME" MATTHEW 11:28



Sister Jacinta Phipps



Celeste Behe



Jessica Echeverry

There Is No Place Like Home

Friday, April 10, 2026 ~ Cathedral of St. Helena
5:30 pm Mass and Rosary ~ All are welcome

Saturday, April 11, 2026 ~ 7 am check-in

Women's Conference, Speakers,
Confessions, Vendors, Fellowship

(including special "Montana Strong" speakers: Allison Bell, Kaylyn Lybeck, Lynnette Nilan)

Helena Civic Center

visit HelenaCWC.org



MOMS & LITTLES
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY
LITTLES UNDER 4
GAMES & CRAFTS
MARCH 13
11-12:30 PM
@HOLY CROSS CHURCH
RSVP TO NATALIE
(949)200-2315

Western Montana CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"Come to Me" Matt 11:28

April 11, 2026 - Civic Center, Helena, MT

www.helenacwc.org / 406.603.0175

Lord Jesus, thank you for the constant love you have for me. Thank you for the gift of life and the gift of faith. Today, take me into your Sacred Heart and renew me. I open my heart to your grace, to be



healed where healing is needed. Replace any wounds or worries with your peace and joy. Send your Holy Spirit into my whole being: body, mind, and soul. Guide me to be the woman you have created me to be: your beloved daughter, disciple, and friend. Please remove any obstacles that keep me from living this way. Make me a woman of faith, hope, and charity. Lord, pour out your grace upon the upcoming Catholic Women's Conference, upon the planning efforts, and upon many women that they may hear your invitation and say "yes." May the conference be a time of spiritual renewal, healing, reconciliation, and joy for all who attend. Thank you Lord Jesus for all this, I pray in your sweet name. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Mother Mary, Gate of Heaven



Gate of Heaven, you are the sweetest, the tenderest, the kindest of mothers, constantly watching me with eyes of love as I travel my weary way through this same valley of tears that was once marked by your own blessed footsteps. How surely does devotion to you open the heavenly portals to numberless souls! Be the Gate of Heaven to me by obtaining through your prayers all the graces I need to live a holy life and to enter the gates of heaven. Amen.

St. Monica intercessor

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers.

Dear St. Monica, we now ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all mothers who are worried over their children. Amen.



Mother Mary, Gate of Heaven, pray for us.
St. Monica, pray for us. Amen.

FEBRUARY 18-MARCH 29, 2026
INFORMAL KICKOFF 1:30PM
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026
1500 CANNON STREET, THIS
CAMPAIGNS OPEN HOURS ARE 7AM
TO 7PM. SIGN UP FOR YOUR
PREFERRED TIMES AT
40DAYSFORLIFE.COM/HELENA

WE CHOOSE
PRAYER OVER
DESPAIR. PEACE
OVER SILENCE.
COURAGE OVER
COMFORT

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. Their 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.

March 22: Love

April 26: Peace

May 24: **No Potluck** (Memorial Day Weekend)



To Benefit Good Samaritan's ministry of bringing stability to the lives of real people in need.

Let's Get Together At The Hop!

Bring the Family for a Fun-filled Night of 50's favorites!
Music - Games - Silent Auction

SINGLE \$10 - FAMILY \$25

Helena Civic Center
March 7th
Doors at 5pm

Call or visit our website for details.
(406) 442-0780
goodsamhelen.org

Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending February 22nd

Envelopes	\$2,572.00
Loose	\$603.08
Online	\$635.00
Total Weekly Contribution	\$3,810.08
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$2,483.00
Week 2	\$1,140.13
Week 3	\$1,681.51
Week 4	\$3,810.08
Total Monthly Contribution	\$9,114.72
Total Year to Date	\$123,739.61
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00

MASS	Schedule
Monday March 2	Mass 9:00a Mary Garman rb Lynn Doherty Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday March 3	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday March 4	
Thursday March 5	Imitation of Christ book study
Friday March 6	Youth ski Day
Saturday March 7	Adoration + Confession 2:00-4:00p
Sunday March 8	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p -7:30p RE

Don't let your mental health slow you down!



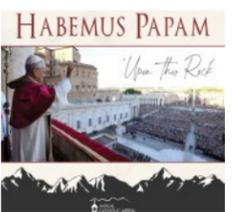
You are not alone. We're here for you.

Your mental health affects your spirituality, vocations, relationships, and all parts of your life. Take care of it!

- ✓ Our therapists are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of your therapy, although it is not required.
- ✓ You can meet with a therapist in-person or online.
- ✓ Therapists specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, and marriage/family.
- ✓ Therapy is completely confidential. We'll walk with you on your journey to achieve your goals.
- ✓ Your consultation is free. Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, some EAP, and private pay (discounts are available) are accepted for additional sessions.



To get started:
Call us at (406)442-4130 or
Message us at cssmt.org.



Annual Catholic Appeal

Holy Cross Parish Goal:
\$21,900.00

We have currently reached 48% of our parish goal, with \$11,175 to go!



HOLY CROSS PARISH BOOK STUDY

IMITATION OF CHRIST

by Thomas a Kempis

WE'LL MEET ON THE FOLLOWING THURSDAYS AT 9AM - 11AM

March 5	April 23
March 19	May 7
April 9	May 21

Open to men and women
Drop-ins are welcome
Meet downstairs in the quilting room..
For more info: Please contact Marge Kroeger 406-293-0514

The Holy Cross book study of the Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis will meet again on **Thursday, March 5th**. We are discussing the 1st section, Ch. 1-25. The study is open to all, including drop-ins.

We meet in the classrooms downstairs.

Contact Marge Kroeger at 406-293-0514 with any questions!

Scripture Readings



Third Sunday in Lent
03-08-2026

Reading 1:	Exodus 17:3-7
Psalms:	95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Reading 2:	Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Gospel:	John 4:5-42



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"How happy I will be if I keep my heart free from attachment to anyone, and chained to Jesus, my God, alone... I will devote all my efforts to this end... I will go before the Blessed Sacrament, and there sign these resolutions with my blood."

- St. Peter Julian Eymard

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, Don and Jenny Schauber, Judy & Franklin Silfka, Repose of the soul of Mary Garman, Karen Simonich, Stover family

Ministry Schedule

Sunday March 8, 2026 4:30pm

Greet:	Tacy Swanton
Altar Servers:	Lucas Bleile, Malikai Fiset, Mathyas Fiset
Lector:	Michael Fiset
Gifts:	Mike Gagen
EM:	Alex Estrada and John Bleile
Money Counters:	Juanita Bray and Karen Susag

Faith Formation

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 @ 4PM

MAR. 1 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES
MAR. 8 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
MAR. 15 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
MAR. 22 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
MAR. 29 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES



Youth Schedule

- 3/1/2026: RE Class (Sung Prayer)
- 3/8/2026: RE Class (Memorized Prayers)
- 3/15/2026: RE Class (Personal Prayer)
- 3/22/2026: RE Class (Making time for prayer)



Holy Cross Youth Ski Day Rescheduled to

Friday, March 6th

Showdown Ski Hill

Join us for a fun day of skiing. Holy Cross will pay for the youth's lift ticket and lunch. Any child younger than 6th grade needs to be accompanied by a parent. Please scan the QR code to register. If your child was already registered for the original ski day, no need to register again, but please contact Father Cody or Shawna Wickens if your child was registered but can not attend on the new ski date.



Attention Adults

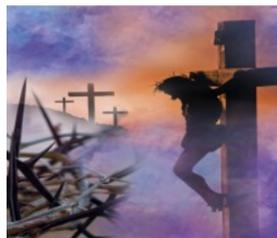
Join us for an adult group that will meet after mass on Sundays during RE class times. The adult group will discuss and explore the same topics as the youth. This year's focus is on Sacraments, the Mass, and prayer. Parents that join can continue the discussion and learning at home with their children.

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays during Lent

5:30pm

No Meal will follow



Holy Cross Parish Women's

Crepe Breakfast

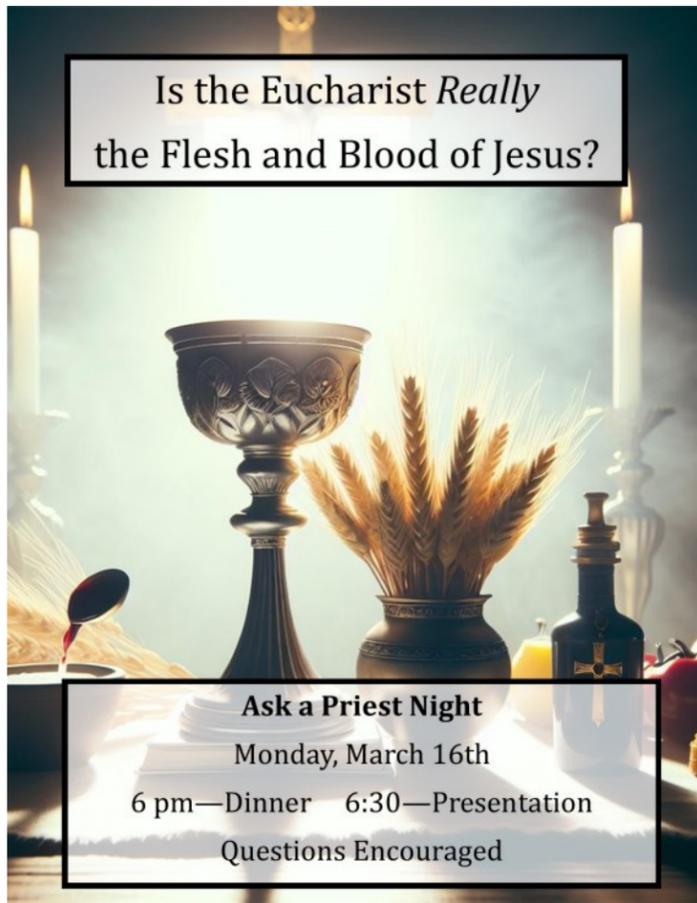
Friday, March 13th
9:00am – 11:00am

Holy Cross Parish Center

Come join us for some yummy food and fellowship!



Is the Eucharist Really the Flesh and Blood of Jesus?



Ask a Priest Night

Monday, March 16th
6 pm—Dinner 6:30—Presentation
Questions Encouraged

PENANCE SERVICES

Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30 pm



Middle School/High School Youth Lock-in

Friday March 6th 6:00 pm to
Saturday, March 7th 8:00 am
Holy Cross Parish Center

Holy Cross middle school and high school youth are invited to a lock-in where they will spend the night enjoying food, games, fun and fellowship. If your child would like to attend please scan the QR code to register them. Contact Father Cody or Shawna Wickens with any questions.



EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

MARCH 20-22, 2026
CARROLL COLLEGE | HELENA, MT

FEATURING:

HIS EMINENCE
CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

BISHOP Austin A. Vetter MOTHER Mary Clare, ACJ AND MORE!

Register Now!
DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/EUCHARISTICCONGRESS

Eucharistic Congress will have dedicated junior high and high school tracks for the weekend. Junior high and high school youth may attend either with their parent/guardian or a Virtus certified adult chaperone. Please contact Shawna Wickens if your junior high or high school youth would like to attend, but will not be attending with a parent/guardian, so chaperones can be arranged.