

INTRODUCTION FROM BISHOP VETTER

Greetings to you! In the past days and months, I have heard from many of you from across the Diocese of Helena questions regarding immigration and the stance of the Church. I am happy to share with you our Special Pastoral Message on Immigration by the Bishops of the United States in unity with one another and with our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, issued on November 12, 2025, at our Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore. I stand behind this message 100%.

In Christ, I am

+ Austin A. Vetter

Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter
Bishop of Helena



STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS ON IMMIGRATION

From the Plenary Assembly in Baltimore - November 12, 2025



As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (*Genesis 1:27*). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (*Zechariah 7:10*). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (*2 Corinthians 8:9*), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (*Luke 10:30-37*), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (*Matthew 25*). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (*John 13:34*).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (*cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26*). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

As disciples of the Lord, we remain men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint! (cf. Romans 5:5)

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.



Holy Cross Parish

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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

Fr. Cody Williams, Pastor Email: frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org

Office: 406-266-4811

Email: office@holycrossmt.org

Shawna: RE@holycrossmt.org

Website: holycrossmt.org

Mailing address: P.O. Box 610 (101 S. Walnut)

Townsend, Montana 59644



All Male Priesthood


In the last part of this series, I indicated the strangeness that Jesus chose only men as Apostles, celebrated the Last Supper with only his disciples, and upon returning gave authority in the Church to only these 11 men. In this section I want to expand upon the strangeness and value of these moments in the lives of the disciples and the Church.

When people get frustrated with the Church over her teachings and declarations, usually the principal reason for the frustration is a desire for change. Since the dawn of Christianity, the Church had held firm on one principal value: our goal is to continue the desires of Jesus. The Church doesn't exist to help the people of the world to endure life or to make the world a better place. The Church doesn't exist to bring people together and to give them hope. The Church exists for only one purpose: to proclaim the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus with the hope that faithfulness to the mission of Jesus will bring people to salvation. For this reason, the Church maintains the importance of always doing as Jesus would want and to continually discern the will of God at each point in church history for the sake of continuing this proclamation. Whenever we struggle with a teaching or are in need of renewal or updates, we always go back to Scripture and the Tradition to understand the will of God for the Church.

The main struggle with the restriction of only men becoming deacons, priests, and bishops is that the Church doesn't have the authority to change this teaching. Since the time of Jesus, he only ordained men to be priests. The early Church, who is the best example of the continuation of the life and ministry of Jesus, could have changed this teaching or understood Jesus' actions in a different way but didn't. In the life of the early church, women held prominent places in the church including caring for churches and having forms of leadership but were never priests. Some of the most important martyrs of the early church were women but they too were not priests. We have no examples from the early church to suggest that Jesus desired his church to have anything but an all-male priesthood.

As we continue to examine the issue of an all-male priesthood, we also have to ponder some very valuable questions. Why did Jesus only want men to be priests? How does the maleness of the priesthood teach us about God's desire for his Church? What are the roles for men and women in the Church? What is the nature of the priest? Our goal is always to do the will of Jesus. If we continue to ponder his teachings and examples, then we come to a place where we can appreciate the wisdom of God. Otherwise, we continue to be upset that God has not matched our desires and conformed to our will.

Fr. Cody



SAVE THE DATE

Please Join Us!

MARCH for LIFE

January 16, 2026



11:30am at the State Capitol Rotunda

This year's Keynote Speaker is Kristan Hawkins, CEO of the Pro-Life Generation and President of Students for Life of America and Students for Life Action. She is a frequent speaker and analyst on the topics of abortion, feminism and disability advocacy. She has spent nearly two decades building a national network of more than 1500+ campus Students for Life groups in all 50 states.


She hosts "The Kristan Hawkins Show" weekly and discusses trending news items from a pro-life perspective. Her writings and interviews have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Fox News, CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, Newsweek, and NPR.

In addition to what is sure to be an informative and inspiring presentation by our Keynote Speaker, additional speakers will provide updates on Planned Parenthood facility closures and the latest developments regarding dissemination of the Abortion Pill. There are also plans to honor the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk.

This event is sponsored by:



For the latest updates on this event, please scan this QR code to go to the ProLife Montana EVENT page





Christmas Mass

Wednesday, December 24th @ 4:30pm



Special Collection Date:

12/14/2025

Envelopes available in the Narthex

Retirement Fund for Religious

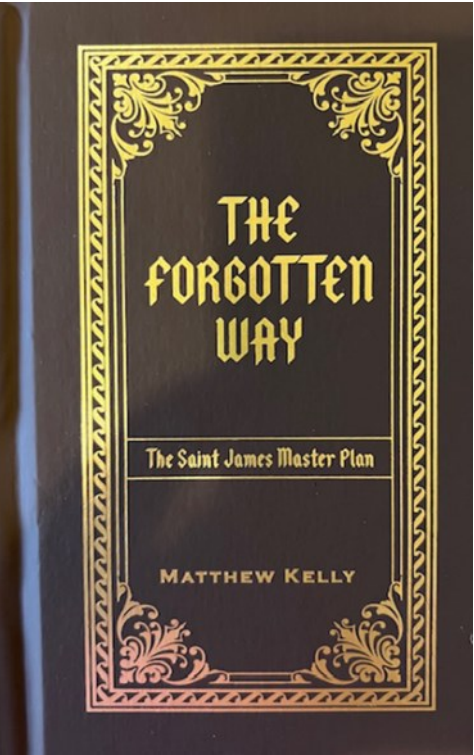
Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Congratulations!

A big Congratulations to the players and coaches of the Broadwater High School Volleyball team who took 2nd at the State Tournament. Well done!

Congratulations to all who participated in cross country and football this fall as well!

What a joy to see the members of our parish family participating in these events!



THE FORGOTTEN WAY

~ The Saint James Master Plan ~

Mathew Kelly's most recent book is available in the Narthex free for parishioners. This short book is full of wisdom and practices that provide a meaningful way to discover how to elevate your Christian life in the Way of St. James. Based on his words "Someone who does not trip up in speech has reached perfection," the book includes discussions about elevating our speech to improve our lives and relationships dramatically. It includes a prayer process and scriptural meditations that will help re-orient your spiritual life with that single truth. Wonderful to share as a family, with prayer and reading groups or simple reflection. There is a limited number, so 1 free copy per household, please.

Calling All Women

Are you interested in participating in a women's group?

Fr. Cody is calling all women of the parish who are interested in participating in a women's group to a meeting on

Saturday, December 13th
1:00 pm
Parish hall

We will discuss possible groups like the Daughters of Isabella and gauge interest in starting a new group. I hope to see you all there.

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.

- December 28: Love
- January 25: Peace
- February 15: Hope



Diocese of Helena List of Sacred Sites

As the Jubilee Year of Hope is coming to the end soon. Here are a list of places that Bishop Vetter has designated as Sacred spaces within the Diocese of Helena where the faithful may obtain the jubilee indulgence.

- Cathedral of Saint Helena, Holy Rosary Church, Bozeman
 - St. Rose of Lima Church, Dillon , St. Joseph Church, Libby
 - St. Ignatius Mission Church, St. Ignatius
 - St. Teresa of the Little Flower Church, Browning
 - All Saint’s Chapel, Carroll College-Helena
- For more info visit: <https://diocesehelena.org/jubilee-2025>

Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending November 23rd

Envelopes	\$1,650.00
Loose	\$64.00
Online	\$853.60
Total Weekly Contribution	\$2,567.60
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$5,043.83
Week 2	\$1,383.34
Week 3	\$2,182.74
Week 4	\$2,567.60
Total Monthly Contribution	\$11,177.51
Total Year to Date	\$70,465.55
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00

Thank you for your generosity

Mass	Schedule
Monday December 1	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday December 2	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday December 3	
Thursday December 4	
Friday December 5	
Saturday December 6	
Sunday December 7	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p -7:30p RE



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

HABEMUS PAPAM



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.

Scripture Readings



Second Sunday in Advent
12-07-2025

Reading 1:	Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms:	72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13,17
Reading 2:	Romans 15:4-9
Gospel:	Matthew 3:1-12



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

“If we but paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ’s love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude.”

– St. Angela of Foligno

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 Moodry, Mary Garman

Ministry Schedule

Sunday December 7, 2026 4:30pm

Greet:	Tom & Julie Lethert
Lector:	Julie Lethert
Gifts:	Karen Susag & Joy Haggard
EM:	Alex Estrada & Emmalin Fischer
Money Counters:	Tacy Swanson & Bernadette Swenson

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.

12/1 & 12/8 are the last sessions for the fall series

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY SUNDAYS @ 4PM

NOV. 30 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES
 DEC. 7 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
 DEC. 14 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
 DEC. 28 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

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

Faith Formation

Youth Schedule

11/30/25: **NO RE**— 8th grade/high school group meet for pizza & to watch Pope Leo's NCYC address
 12/7/25: RE Class (Mass as God's prayer)
 12/14/25: RE Class (Recognizing our need for God)
 12/21/25: **NO RE**
 12/28/25: **NO RE**

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.

Christmas Choir

George Jenkins will be leading a Christmas choir to sing during Christmas Eve mass. If you are interested in singing in the Christmas choir please contact George.

2026 Calendars

Available in the Narthex
 Please feel free to take one!

HELP NEEDED!

To make our evangelization event -"Resting in the Busyness of Life," on Friday, December 5th a success, we need your help! 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.

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.
 .. ——— ♡ ——— ..

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!

