

Stewardship

11-26-2023

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Weekly Income

Envelopes	\$1,985.00
Loose	\$57.00
Restricted	\$120.00
Total	\$2,162.00
Holy Cross Monthly Expenses-November	
City of Townsend	\$173.41
Spectrum	\$144.97
NorthWestern Energy	\$561.64
MT Energy Alliance	\$1,730.37
Broadwater County Treasurer	\$1,773.56
Flocknote	\$36.00
Broadwater County News	\$102.00
Magnificat	\$552.00

Cemetery

Cemetery Weekly Income
Cemetery Expenses-November

Short Term
Long Term
Grave Sites
Total

Please consider a memorial for your loved ones to the Holy Cross Cemetery instead of flowers.

THANK YOU!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"Blessed be Thou, my Lord Jesus Christ, who didst foretell Thy death before the time, and in the Last Supper didst wonderfully consecrate Thy precious Body of material bread, and also charitably gave it to Thy Apostles, in memory of Thy most worthy Passion,"

- St. Bridget

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.

Dillon Armstrong, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, and Matt Keck

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Prayer Chain

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



Elaine Graveley, Bob Masolo, Chris and Fran Wright, Ed and Jean Boucher, Mary Alice Upton, Martin and Margy Clark, Clara Boster, Shanna Montonario, LaReissa Swenson, Jenny Schaubert, Kadence Saxton, Tom Grewell and family, Alex Bakken, Millie Sullivan, JL and Janet Jones, Vince Boster, Paulette Obrigewitch

Did You Know!

Often we get criticism for "adopting" the pagan ritual of bringing tree branches and trees indoor during the winter or season of Advent and Christmas. The criticism is that we adopted pagan customs. The fact that most people ignore is that God created the universe and made everything that is good. If the pagan tradition of bringing evergreen branches contained something good – the hope of eternal life and the awaiting the joy of spring – then we should adopt it as it matches with the eternal truths of awaiting God's return and the hope of new life that comes through Jesus' birth, death, and Resurrection. The Catholic Church is malleable enough to adopt customs and cultures that are good and express the same ideas as our faith.

Holy Cross recommends that the following be respected:

Christian Burial:

Notice should be made with the priest before arrangements are made with the funeral director.

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.

Holy Cross Parish

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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

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Basics of Catholicism part 18

The Jesus Controversies: Is Jesus human or divine?

I have already hinted at this issue in an earlier part of this series. God was clear in the Old Testament that he is only one and there are no other gods making it clear to us that there is and will always be only one god. So, how can Jesus be God?

Some Christians of the 1st century felt that the declaring Jesus as divine was an affront to the majesty and supremacy of God who is one and only one. Therefore, they declared Jesus to be only human. Since Jesus had human emotions and human needs, i.e. eating, drinking, sleeping, he is clearly human. As a human, he followed God's laws so perfectly that he was given "god-like status." This shouldn't surprise us. Throughout the Old Testament God states his desire for his human creatures to share in his nature and to become gods like him, just not fully god. So to believe that Jesus in his humanity so perfectly following God's laws that he could become god-like is not surprising. The challenges with this idea are two-fold. Jesus' actions show his status as God: forgiving sins, healing people, commanding the powers of nature. These examples were explained away by the Arians, those who denied Jesus divinity in favor of his humanity, by saying that others could perform the same actions. The greatest challenge is that Jesus made it clear that he is God. Either we accept him at his word given the events of his life or we reject him entirely but there is no middle ground. The idea of Jesus as only human was rejected by the Council of Nicaea in 325.

The second idea, although much smaller, was that Jesus was only divine and not human. Since God cannot be bound by space and time but must always be omni-present and formless, Jesus only appeared human. Thus Jesus wore a "cloak" of humanity but was purely and only divine. Those who ascribed to this idea stated that Jesus was so cloaked in humanity that he didn't leave footprints when he walked. You think that people would have noticed this and made a note "oh look, he doesn't leave footprints. Let's note this." But no one did. Hence, everyone who encountered Jesus in the Gospels saw him as human and every feature they saw defended his humanity. The idea of Jesus as only divine and not human was condemned by the Council of Chalcedon in 481.

Following the Council of Nicaea and Chalcedon, the Church declared Jesus to be fully human and fully divine. 100% human and 100% God.

Fr. Cody

Scripture Readings



Second Sunday of Advent

12-10-2023

Reading 1: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
 Psalm: 85:9ab and 10,11-12,13-14ab
 Reading 2: 2 Peter 3:8-14
 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8



MASS	Schedule
Monday December 4	Mass 9a Mike Fisette RB Michael and Kaiya Fisette Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 101 7p
Tuesday December 5	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners Coralee Horne Funeral 11a
Wednesday December 6	No Mass
Thursday December 7	No Mass
Friday December 8	Mass 6:30p
Saturday December 9	Mass 9:20a
Sunday December 10 Second Sunday of Advent	Confession 3:30-4:15p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30-7:15p Knights Dinner

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to office@holycrossmt.org
 Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed
Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a
TWO weeks in advance

Ministry Schedule	
Sunday December 10, 2023	4:30pm
Greet:	Fisette Family
Lector:	Marilyn Vandersloot
Gifts:	Harold and Laura Gibbs
EM:	Buffy Woodring and Tom Aced
Money Counters:	Bernadette Swenson and Sara Holmes



Holy Days of Obligation. I know that many are confused about which days are Holy Days of Obligation and which are just important days. From now on, I will advertise the Holy Days of Obligation with a special poster on the doors of the church announcing the Mass times. In general, the only major solemnities which are Holy Days of Obligation are those which are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. For any holy days which fall on Mondays, Fridays, or Saturdays, the obligation is dispensed in this Diocese at the moment. The exception for December is Christmas. On a similar note, with Christmas in the future, everyone is required to attend a Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and one Mass for Christmas. The schedule for the Christmas Season will be out next weekend.

The Knights of Columbus are cooking dinner next Sunday, Dec. 10th. Donations for this dinner go to the Townsend Food Bank

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mass honoring the Immaculate Conception of Mary:
Friday, Dec. 8th at 6: 30p
No Mass Tuesday Dec. 26th



The Diocesan Capital Campaign has kicked off. The goal is to raise \$30 million as a Diocese in 5 years. These funds will create endowments for seminarian education and promotion of vocations, retired priests, spreading our faith, and supporting parishes. We get back 40% of all money raised in this parish. Please take a prayer card and pray for the success of the campaign. Fr. Cody will be calling everyone and setting up meeting to discuss this campaign and hear your desires for our parish.

We could still use some help in the following ministries:

- Prayers of the Faithful
- Newcomers welcome group
- Livestream Group
- Environmental Group



Our match for the Pews has been met! Due to a few generous donations, we have reached the goal meaning that we have gained an extra \$30,000 for our pews. Once I have signed some contracts, I will give you exact numbers for the remainder of the cost. We will have new pews next summer!



Book Sale: Karen Simonich is hosting a book sale on the 1st Sunday of each month. You are welcome to look through them and see if you are interested in any of them.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Since Christmas falls on Monday this year, this schedule is a little complicated. The 4th Sunday of Advent officially ends at 4:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 24th and Christmas begins.

- 4th Sunday of Advent: 4:30 pm on Saturday, Dec. 23rd
- Christmas Eve: 9 pm on Sunday, Dec. 24th
- Confessions starting from 8-8:45 pm on Dec. 24th.
- Christmas Day: 8 am on Monday, Dec. 25th



Every 4th Saturday of the month, we will have Adoration and Confessions from 9 am to noon. This is a great opportunity to spend some time with Jesus who is present in bodily form in the Eucharist as well as celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You are welcome to come for as little or as much time as you wish. Resources will be available to help you pray and make the most of the time you have. I encourage everyone to come and use this opportunity.

Next Holy Hour December 23rd

Have A Seat!



The Prayers of the Faithful Group has started! This group will be writing the Prayers of the Faithful, aka. The Universal Prayers, for our Masses. The goal of this group is to write prayers that match with the current social, political, and other concerns. If you have a concern that you would like added to the Prayers of the Faithful or would like to join this group, contact one of the members or Fr. Cody.

The 2024 Calendars are available on the information table in the entrance area of the church.

The Diocese of Helena in collaboration with the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings hired a special position to address social concerns in both dioceses and work to create avenues for local concerns at the local level. Two of these initiative include the Baby Boutiques which supply low to no cost baby needs for mothers and a Catholic bases counseling service via telehealth. If you are in need of either of these services or would like to promote them in our community, please contact Fr. Cody.



**Montana State
March for Life 2024**

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
MONTANA STATE CAPITOL
HELENA, MT

We Are Stronger Together




The Annual Catholic Appeal is in full swing. Our goal is to raise \$21,100 for the purpose of the Diocese, the parishes of the Diocese, and the mission of the Diocese. Please consider and make a donation to the ACA. We are currently at 58% of our goal. We need to raise \$8,850 to go to reach our goal.

Blessings 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.

Catholicism 101

Do you know someone who is interested in learning about Catholicism? Would you like to know your faith a little better? Then, this series is for you!

Mondays 7-8:30

Schedule of the topics on the bench in the entryway.

A livestream option for Catholicism 101 will be available on Mondays from 7-8:30 and on Thursdays from 6:30-8. Please invite your friends and family members who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. All are welcome!

The next topic is "Prayer part 1: Liturgy and Common Prayers on Monday, December 11th. The notes are posted on the website and a livestream version is available. If you would like to join the livestream version, send an email to frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org.

The Catholicism 101 series continues through Monday, Dec. 18th and then will take a one-week break.



Become a Montana Knight Before Christmas!

Join us today and receive a beautiful KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS key chain. Both you and your proposer will receive a key chain! Join the Knights today at www.kofc.org/joinus



Get ready for our parish Christmas Party on Sunday, Jan. 7th! Food, fun, games, and more! All are welcome!