

Stewardship

12-10-2023

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Weekly Income

Envelopes	\$1,715.00
Christmas	\$1,000.00
Immaculate Conception	\$170.00
Stipend	\$100.00
Pews	\$270.00
Loose	\$60.10
Total	\$3,315.10

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

Short Term
Long Term
Grave Sites
Total

Cemetery Expenses-November

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

THANK YOU!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"It is happiness to be in heaven, no doubt, because it is to be with Jesus; but have we not almost the same happiness here? Do we not possess Him in the Most Holy Sacrament? Did we but know how to profit by His Divine Presence, we should in some way have no reason to envy the inhabitants of the Heavenly City."

- Marie Estelle Harpain (1814-1842)

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, Nicole Ito



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 an 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.



Third Sunday of Advent

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

Holy Cross Parish

December 17, 2023

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



Christmas 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, Dec. 23rd:

Confession 9a-12p and 3:30-4:15p

Mass 4:30p

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th:

Confession 8p

Mass 9p

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th:

Mass 8a



Basics of Catholicism part 20

Redemption and Salvation part 1

While we are on the topic of Jesus, I want to focus on Jesus' life, ministry, and the salvation he opened for us.

Do we need a savior? This question is critical for understanding God's plan for the world and Jesus' ministry. Many people could argue that we don't need a savior. The world is dark but we can do nothing to change it. The world was created with serious problems and nothing will fix it. This fatalistic view assumes that we are powerless over sin and death and therefore cannot stop its demise. Anyone who takes this view ignores the good and beauty that are part of our world. Our world was not created nor does it exist as a failed or broken experiment. God desired the world to be a place to be lived in and a place of peace and harmony. Over the last many millennia, humans have shown that we are incapable of bringing peace and harmony to the world nor can we fight and win against the powers of sickness, evil, death, and sin. We need a savior. If we have any hope for peace and harmony in our world, for something more to this world than to live and die, and a morality that reaches beyond our human desires, then we need a savior.

God planned this world to require a savior; a person or event that would cancel the sin of Adam and Eve and bring new life to this fallen world. He did not create the world to be destroyed or ruined but instead with the hope of restoration. These ideas are evident in Jesus' ministry. Whenever he travelled to a town or village, he cured, healed, forgave, and restored many people. The very act of Jesus restoring, healing, forgiving, or curing were signs of the new world to come. A world of peace and harmony that is freed from the corruption of the world. Jesus could only perform miracles on those who believed in him and felt the power of the restoring mission of Jesus. Jesus was not simply a healer; his power was not his own. He was a man whose focus was on restoring the world and showing the world its need for a savior.

On a final note for the introduction to this topic, nearly every civilization, religion, and people believed in some type of restoration or renewal for our world. Deep within the heart of every human is the belief in a world of peace and harmony. Every human has a desire for God to restore the world.

Fr. Cody

Scripture Readings



Third Sunday of Advent
12-17-2023

Reading 1: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm: 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29
Reading 2: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



MASS	Schedule
Monday December 18	Mass 9a First Responders Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 101 7p
Tuesday December 19	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday December 20	No Mass
Thursday December 21	No Mass
Friday December 22	No Mass
Saturday December 23	Holy Hour and Confession 9a-12p Confession 3:30-4:15p Mass 4:30p
Sunday December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent	Confession 8p Mass 9p Parish Family

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 31, 2023

4:30pm

Greet:

Eichinger Family

Lector:

Debbie Miller

Gifts:

Wickens Family

EM:

Karen Simonich and Nikki Weiss

Money Counters:

Karee Eichinger and Kristi Gersch



Hey kids, want some candy? Fr. Cody has a challenge for you. Using the bingo cards, once per Mass, if you recognize one of the words on the Bingo card from the Mass, show it to Fr. Cody and he will give you a stamp. If you get a bingo, you get candy.

Out of a desire to use our faith and our parish to help the world, I would like to start a program to support needs throughout the world. These acts of support will come from the parish resources and will not be a second collection or another appeal. If you have causes or people throughout the world that you would like to support, send an email to frwilliams@holycrossmt.org.

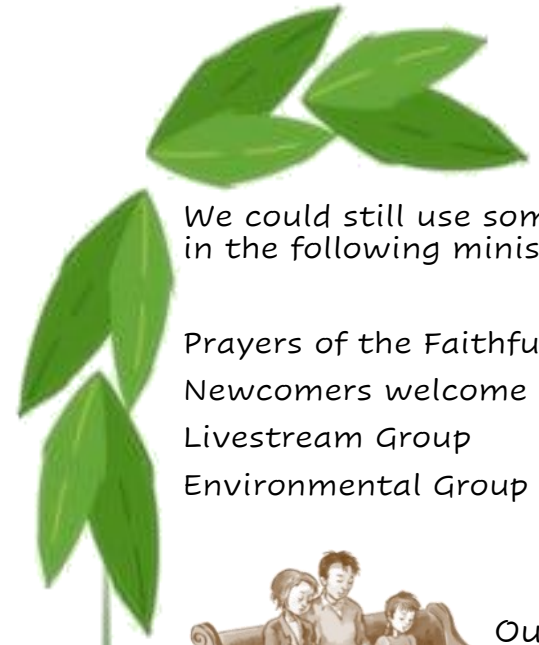
Blessings On the third Sunday of each month a blessing table will be set up in the entrance of the church. You are welcome to bring any objects of devotion that you would like blessed and Fr. Cody will bless them after Mass. This will be available each third Sunday of the month.



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.



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!



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



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!

Christmas Schedule

Holy Cross Parish:

- 4th Sunday of Advent Mass: Sat, Dec. 23rd at 4:30p with confession starting at 3:30p
- Christmas Eve Mass: Sun, Dec. 24th at 9p with confessions starting at 8p
- Christmas Day Mass: Mon, Dec. 25th at 8a
- No Mass Tues, Dec. 26th
- No Adoration or Catholicism Mon, Dec 25th
- No RE Sun, Dec. 24th or 31st
- Our parish Christmas Party is on Sunday, January 7th at 5:45 pm.

St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs:

- 4th Sunday of Advent Mass: Sun, Dec. 24th at 10:30a
- Christmas Day Mass: Mon, Dec. 25th at 10:30a

St. Joseph in Harlowton:

- 4th Sunday of Advent Mass: Sat, Dec 23rd at 8p
- Christmas Eve Mass: Sun, Dec. 24th at 5p



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.



The Diocese began a mental health initiative to provide counseling and Catholic counselors to anyone who would like one. Please see the announcement on the bulletin board for more information.

**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

ProLife Montana



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 65% of our goal.

CREATED GOOD

Townsend Community Family Night

DINNER
PROVIDED



FOR THE
WHOLE
FAMILY

Let's explore the goodness of our humanity through activities and events that focus on being created in God's image.

When: 1st Sunday of every month
5:45-7:00 pm
Where: Holy Cross Parish Center
101 S. Walnut St.

Jan. 7th: Christmas Party
Feb. 4th: What do I do with my life?
March 3rd: What does it mean to be forgiven?
April 7th: Easter Party
May 5th: How do I make strong relationships?

FREE EVENT

Catholicism 101

Mondays 7-8:30

The next topic is "Mass part 2: Liturgy of the Eucharist" on Monday, December 18th. 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.