



Holy Cross Parish

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 24, 2024

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



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Adoration and Exposition

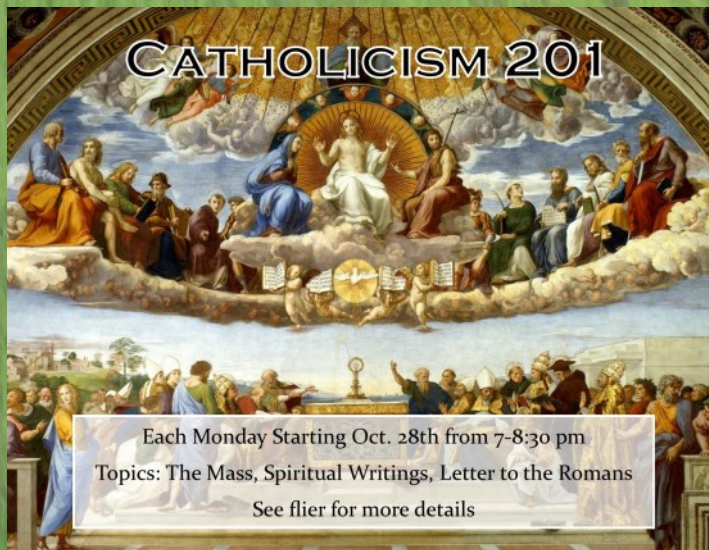
Dating back to the 4th century, Christians realized that there is more to the Eucharist than the act of eating. Some of the ancient writings state that people would gather in the churches after Mass just to spend time with the extra consecrated bread that was reserved for the sick. The essential experience remains. The earliest Christians wanted to spend time with Jesus not as an idea or just as a feeling in prayer. They wanted to be with him in a physical way, they wanted to be in his physical presence. The practice reached its pinnacle in the Middle Ages. During the 10-15th centuries, Adoration became the common practice of the people since most people wanted to receive communion but felt unworthy to do so. Instead, they would ask the priests to hold up the consecrated host longer so that they could adore him longer. Eventually the practice changed to putting the consecrated host in monstrance, to show it, and prolonged periods of time with the consecrated host exposed for the people.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has become increasingly popular in the last 20 years. Although most people receive Communion regularly, the practice of Adoration is no longer connected with non-receiving Communion but a desire to spend time with Jesus' Body. Although many people think that the Mass is boring and long, the reality is that the Mass is quite short. If you were to try to reflect on each of the prayers, the main parts of the Mass, the themes present, and to grasp the realities that we celebrate, it could take you all day if not a lifetime. Adoration provides us to the opportunity to return to Mass and allow ourselves to reflect more deeply on the mysteries we celebrate. Most importantly Adoration provides us the opportunity to spend time pondering and wondering about the great Sacrament we receive: The Eucharist.

The most common area of confusion for adoration and exposition is the difference between these two experiences. Every time you come into a church, Jesus' Body is present in the Tabernacle. Coming to a church to pray and recognizing Jesus' presence in the consecrated host in the Tabernacle is adoration. Exposition is the event when we take the Blessed Sacrament out of the Tabernacle and put him in a monstrance for prayer. This type of adoration is often considered "the better form." The only difference is the ability to see the Blessed Sacrament and feel like we have a focal point for prayer. Otherwise, they are technically equal in experience. Benediction is the rite that follows exposition during which the priest prays a series of prayers and blesses the people with the Blessed Sacrament. Usually Benediction follows Exposition. Anyone, with the permission of their pastor, can expose the Blessed Sacrament. Only a priest or deacon can celebrate Benediction.

I find that the greatest challenges in our devotion and experience of the Blessed Sacrament stem from both our understanding of the nature of the Eucharist and lack of both preparation and time in prayer before him. If we believed that the Eucharist is Jesus' Body, then how should we react when it is present before us? If we believe that Jesus is communicating with us, then why would we not want to spend time with him? If we understood that we could be physically present with Jesus, then why wouldn't we want that? These gifts are given to us that we may come to know our God.

Fr. Cody



Catholicism 201 has begun! The sessions are on Mondays from 7-8:30 pm. You can also join a livestream version on Thursdays from 6-7:30. If you would like to join, send an email to Fr. Cody.

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. The rotation of the circles is as follows:

Sunday, Nov. 24th – Circle of Love

Sunday, Dec. 22nd – Circle of Compassion

Sunday, Jan. 26th – Circle of Understanding

Sunday, Feb. 23rd – Circle of Hope

We will cycle through the circles following the above schedule for the rest of the months of the year. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Fr. Cody.



The Holy Cross Quilters would like to remind parishioners of the Baby Essentials that were collected, along with a large donation of diapers, wipes & rash creams from Catholic Social Services of Helena.

If you know of someone in the community who could use a gift basket of these items, please contact the Holy Cross office:

(406) 266-4811



Scripture Readings



First Sunday of Advent

12-1-2024

Reading 1: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: 25:4-5,8-9,10 and 14

Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28,34-36



2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

7-8:30 PM

FREE MOVIE, POPCORN AND SNACKS.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SPONSORED BY: HOLY CROSS CHURCH

101 S. WALNUT STREET

MASS	Schedule
Monday November 25	Mass 9a Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 201 7p
Tuesday November 26	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday November 27	
Thursday November 28	Happy Thanksgiving
Friday November 29	
Saturday November 30	
Sunday December 1	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is bulletin@holycrossmt.org

HOLY CROSS WOMEN

St. NICHOLAS Feast Day

No Host Breakfast!

FRIDAY DEC 6 @ 9:30 am

The Mint 305 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE
\$10 LIMIT STOCKING STUFFER GIFT TYPE

An All Women Event

CSSM

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES of Montana

Mental Health Services

Catholic Mental Health Counseling

CSSM's counseling program has served clients from over 20 communities in Montana and is ready to serve you!

- Our counselors are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of any counseling session, although it does not have to be. They have experience with clients from many different backgrounds, cultures, and ages. We are here for everyone.
- We specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship/marriage, and perinatal concerns.
- You can meet with us from your computer, tablet, or cell phone from anywhere in Montana. If you're in Helena or Billings, you can meet in-person with a counselor.
- We want to be a good match, so the first session is free. If you choose to continue, we accept insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and private pay, with a sliding fee scale and other discounts available.

To get started, call (406)442-4130 and select option '2' or send us a message at www.cssmt.org.

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to

bulletin@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 1, 2024

4:30pm

Greet:

Lector:

Gifts:

EM:

Money Counters:

Mary Ellen Schnur

Bleile Family

Buffy Woodring and Karen Simonich

Karee Eichinger and Kristi Gersch



The Annual Catholic Appeal has kicked off to raise money for the yearly expenses of the Diocese. Our parish goal for this year is \$21,900. Donation envelopes are available on the information table at the front of the church or you can donate online by going to diocesehelena.org.

The Mass for the Immaculate Conception, which is a Holy Day of Obligation, is on Mon. Dec. 9th at 6:30 pm



If anyone would like to donate towards the poinsettias we would greatly appreciate it. Please put poinsettias in the memo part of your check or write on the envelope that the donation is for poinsettias. There will also be envelopes for the flower donations at the back of the Narthex.

We are in need of volunteers to help with RE dinner. Dinners will feed all ages of the youth and their families, therefore, we should plan on feeding around 80 people every Sunday. Please consider either providing a full meal (planning, purchasing food & cooking) or simply preparing/cooking a meal with food that the parish purchases, either help would be greatly appreciated. We encourage you to partner up with another member/family of the parish to help ease the burden of feeding that many people.



Help needed:

The following tasks are some areas around the church that need attention. If you are willing to work on or complete these tasks, please contact Fr. Cody.

Moving the flyer shelf back to the entrance of the church

Do you know that we have Catholic Radio in Montana? KNEH, 97.3FM in Helena is an affiliate of Relevant Radio, which has 220 radio stations broadcasting across the US. You can listen LIVE to KNEH on the My Parish app by clicking on the Radio microphone icon or listen LIVE at www.kneh.org

The altar server training and party is scheduled for Sat. Dec. 6th starting at 5 pm. Anyone who is interested in becoming an altar server or is already an altar server is welcome to attend.

DECEMBER 7, 2024
Cathedral of St. Helena
ADULT \$55
STUDENT \$35
Supported by Knights of Columbus Insurance

MONTANA CATHOLIC MEN'S Conference

KEYNOTE SPEAKER **MATT BIRK**

GUEST SPEAKER **FRANK CROWLEY**

Interactive Breakout Sessions:
• The Playbook for Single Catholic Men
• Ringleading the Family Circus
• The Power of Perspective, Prayer, & Perseverence

10:00AM-5PM 5:00 PM
SPEAKERS MASS
(LUNCH INCLUDED)

SCAN TO REGISTER

The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena's "Faith in Action" grant program awarded the Montana Catholic Men's Conference a \$2,500 grant.

Ministry Trainings:

Homebound Ministry: these people visit those in nursing homes, care facilities, and those who cannot leave their homes. This is an important ministry to care for those who are homebound and to show our love and support for them. If you are interested in this ministry or would like to learn more about, come to the training on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd at 10 am.

Eucharistic Ministers: following Mass on Sunday, Dec. 1st we will have a training for Eucharistic Ministers. These people distribute the Eucharist at Mass. If you are interested in participating in this ministry or learning more about, please come to the training.

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY FOR THE POPE, CHURCH, PRIEST, FAMILIES, CHILDREN & FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

"Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world." Our Lady of Fatima, 1917



SUNDAYS @ 4:00

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

Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended November 17th

Total Weekly	\$3,717.87
Budget	\$2902.00
Variance	\$815.87

Year to Date

Total	\$51,810.31
Budget	\$58,000.00
Variance	-\$6,189.69

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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

THANK YOU!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"O how unspeakable is this Sacrament which sets our affections ablaze with charity. ... It is the fulfillment of Christ's Mystical Body."

- St. Thomas Aquinas

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.

Dcn. Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, and Jake Smith.

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Prayer Chain

Beginning September 29 bulletin unless otherwise requested after one month prayer request names will be removed from the prayer chain

John Clark, Martin and Margy Clark, Bill and Marilyn Lane, Shanna Montonario, Kadence Saxton



As the prices for everything continue to rise, so do the expenses of the Church. I strongly encourage everyone to consider the ways they can continue to support our church. One great way to support the parish is through increasing your offering, Every little bit counts. The second way is by providing support through time and talent. We have many projects that need to be completed and we either have to hire someone to do it or find someone with the expertise. Regardless, our goal is to at least break even with our expenses by the end of the fiscal year.

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.

Pastoral Council:

Jesse Swenson
Mary Ellen Schnur
Karee Eichinger
Michael Fiset
John Bleile

Finance Council:

John Rauser
Tim McAlpine
Tacy Swanton
Pat Miller
Monica Benton