



Holy Cross Parish

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 8, 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

2026 – SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT SPONSORED BY THE IRONMEN CATHOLIC MEN'S SEMINAR SERIES

Remember Jesus gave his life for you!

*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us;
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

1 Timothy 2:6

Saturday, February 14th 2026 -- 7:15am to 4:00pm
St. Ann's Parish -- 2100 Farragut St. -- Butte, MT

Open to men of all faiths, parishes and ages.

This retreat is being offered at no charge compliments of St. Ann's Parish
Light breakfast, full lunch & refreshments will be provided.

RSVP by February 11th 2026

For more information text or call: Jim Bellandi @ 560-2857

Please arrive in time for the start of Mass @ 7:15am



Marriage as a Sacrament

What do we mean by “marriage as a Sacrament”? This question is critical for understanding the Church’s teaching on marriage. As I outlined in the previous parts of this series on marriage, marriage is not simply a social contract. Marriage is something more, something rooted in God’s relationship with us, something that binds us to God and shows his love for the world. Therefore, we should assume that God intends more from marriage than a deal.

What is a Sacrament? A Sacrament is a visible expression of the invisible realities of God. Each Sacrament has a visible form that helps us to relate to it and experience it. Yet, every Sacrament has an invisible reality that the visible signs point to. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, the visible sign is the couple and their exchange of rings. The couple is the greatest sign since it shows the love shared between two people. The invisible sign of the couple is the incredible love that God has for his people. God binds himself to us like a couple exchanging vows to love each other for as long as they both shall live. Obviously the sign of the couple is limited by time whereas God’s love is eternal. Thus the invisible reality: God so loved the world that he gave himself entirely to us. The invisible reality behind the visible sign of the couple is God’s everlasting love for us. As the couple exchanges rings as a symbol of their love and commitment, God gives us signs and covenants. The sign of Jesus’ death and Resurrection is a constant reminder of the covenant that God established with all people through his blood as a sign of his love. Thus marriage is a Sacrament: a visible expression of something of the nature of God.

If we are not careful with the above description of a sacrament, we can easily expand it to include far more than the 7 Sacraments of the church. For instance, why are religious and consecrated single people not considered a Sacrament? Are they not signs of God’s love and devotion? People who devote themselves to God in this way show their commitment to God but not in the same way as marriage. Marriage and Holy Orders are both Sacraments because they share in the life and ministry of Jesus. As Jesus became high priest so that he could offer himself and the world to the Father, so do we have priests to imitate the self-offering of Jesus. As Jesus gave himself entirely to his Church, took her as his bride, and desires an eternal commitment to her, so too we have marriage as a Sacraments to imitate the love Jesus has for his Church. Marriage as a Sacrament teaches us about the nature of God in ways that other forms of callings or commitments do not. Marriage is the sign of God’s love and fruitfulness. He gives his life to the Church who brings forth spiritual children in the form of the baptized. Jesus gives himself to the Church to make her holy and draws her into the mystery of his life.

Too often today we think of marriage in very human terms. The two become one and share a household or marriage is about love. Marriage is not about love. Marriage is about commitment and to give our lives for the sake of another. The Sacrament of Marriage calls the couple to sacrifice for each other as Jesus gave himself for the Church. Marriage is a constant reminder of the everlasting love of God through which he gave his life for the salvation of the world.

Fr. Cody

Western Montana Catholic Women’s
CONFERENCE

“COME TO ME” MATTHEW 11:28



Sister Jacinta
Phipps



Celeste
Bebe




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





Special Collection Date: 2/22/2026
Envelopes available in the Narthex

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. Please keep all your items to be blessed with you until the end of Mass. Once Mass is ended, Fr. Cody will come to the entrance of the Church and bless any of the objects that are on the table. Those objects that are on the table belong to the people who want them blessed and are not free for the taking.

Blessings

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.

Join Our Lady of the Valley’s annual Chili Feed
and Silent Auction

Sunday, February 22nd at 5:15 PM

Enjoy delicious chili, great company, and support
St. Andrews’ furnace repair.

All are welcome!



Parish potlucks

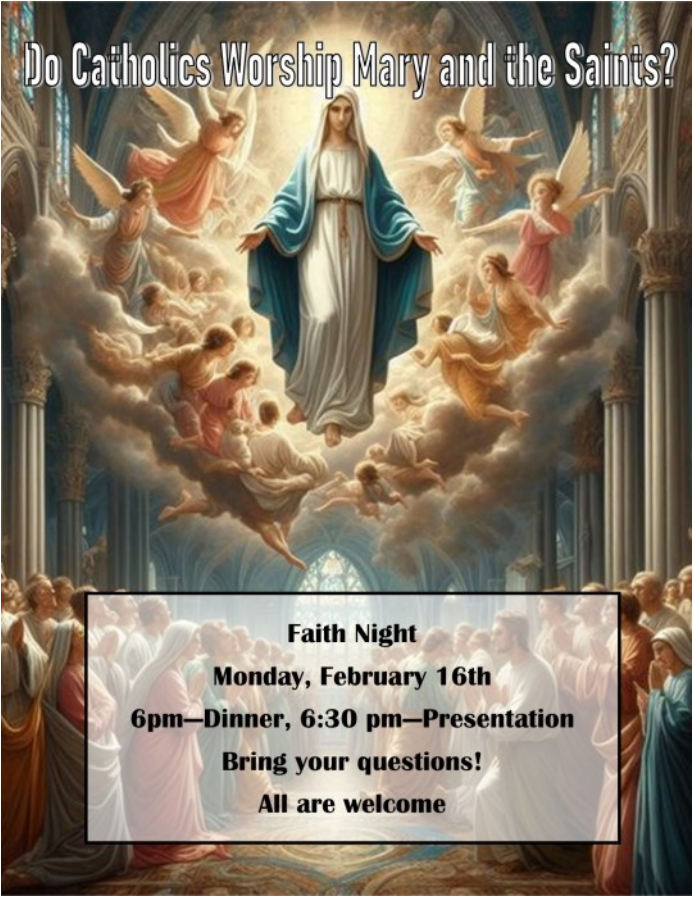
Every 4th Sunday of the month we have a parish potluck where anyone can bring a dish or come down and enjoy some good food. As part of the desire for the circles to be more active in the parish, I am assigning a circle to each potluck as the point group for the potluck. Their responsibility is to set-up, 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.

February 22: Hope

March 22: Love

April 26: Peace

Do Catholics Worship Mary and the Saints?



Faith Night
Monday, February 16th
6pm—Dinner, 6:30 pm—Presentation
Bring your questions!
All are welcome

GOOD SAMARITAN
MINISTRIES
THRIFT STORE

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
goodsamhelena.org



HOLY CROSS PARISH BOOK STUDY
IMITATION OF CHRIST
by Thomas a Kempis
Thursday, February 19th 9-11am
Open to men and women
Meet downstairs in the classroom
WE WILL REVIEW AND DISCUSS:
Chapters 1-25 of the First Section
(Chapters are short)
For more info: Please contact
Marge Kroeger 406-293-0514

BECOMING A MAN OF PRAYER



Men's
SKI RETREAT
FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

Join Fr. Cody Williams and other men for a weekend of prayer, skiing/snowboarding, and fraternal time. For more information go to holycrossmt.org/skiretreat


\$50
(covers food & lodging; lift ticket not included)

INFO & SIGN UP




| Holy Cross Parish Contributions | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Week ending February 1st | |
| Envelopes | \$1,905.00 |
| Loose | \$293.00 |
| Online | \$285.00 |
| Total Weekly Contribution | \$2,483.00 |
| Total Weekly Goal | \$2,629.31 |
| Monthly Summary | |
| Week 1 | \$2,483.00 |
| Week 2 | |
| Week 3 | |
| Week 4 | |
| Total Monthly Contribution | \$2,483.00 |
| Total Year to Date | \$117,107.89 |
| Yearly Goal | \$140,000.00 |

Scripture Readings



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
02-15-2026

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Reading 1: | Sirach 15:15-20 |
| Psalms: | 119:1-2,4-5, 17-18, 33-34 |
| Reading 2: | 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 |
| Gospel: | Matthew 5:17-37 |



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

O Jesus, You are always with us, "yesterday and today, and the same forever!" (Heb 13, 8). Always the same in eternity by the immutability of Your divine Person; always the same in time, by the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

- from *Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

| Mass | Schedule |
|--------------------------|--|
| Monday February 9 | Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a |
| Tuesday February 10 | Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners |
| Wednesday February 11 | |
| Thursday February 12 | |
| Friday February 13 | 6:00p Women's Bunko Night |
| Saturday February 14 | |
| Sunday February 15 | Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p Dinner provided by Knight's 5:30p -7:30p RE |

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

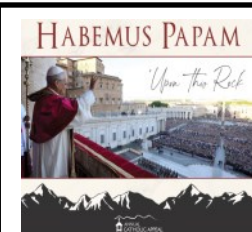
John Clark, Martin and Margy Clark, Marilyn Lane, Shanna Montonario, Kadence Saxton, Don and Jenny Schaubert, Judy & Franklin Silfka, Mary Garman, Bakum family, Karen Simonich

Ministry Schedule

Sunday February 15, 2026 4:30pm

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Greet: | Fisette Family |
| Altar Servers: | Lucas Bleile, Malikai Fisette, and Mathyas Fisette |
| Lector: | Mary Duede |
| Gifts: | Estrada Family |
| EM: | Shawna Wickens and Buffy Woodring |
| Money Counters: | Marge Kroeger and Joy Haggard |

HABEMUS PAPAM
Upon the Rock



Annual Catholic Appeal


Holy Cross Parish Goal:

\$21,900.00

We have currently reached 48% of our parish goal, with \$11,200 to go!

A Year with the Church Fathers


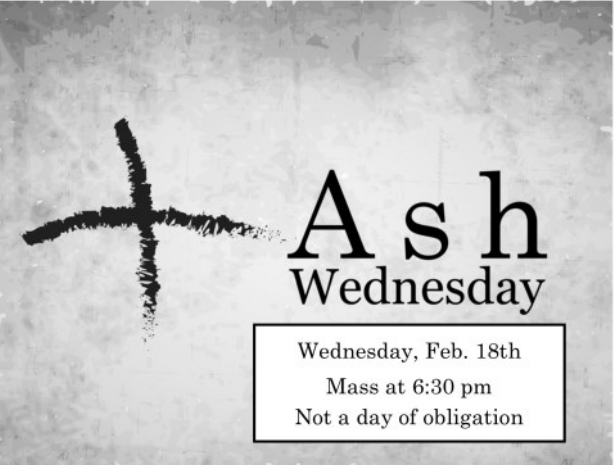
Mondays from 6:30-8 pm
 Starting Monday, Oct. 27th
 Explore the lives of the fathers.
 Read their theology and writing.
 Come to understand their value in the Church.
 See flyer for more information.



**LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY
SUNDAYS @ 4PM**

FEB 1 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES
 FEB 8 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
 FEB 15 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
 FEB 22 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
 MAR 1 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

We need someone to lead the rosary on Sunday at 4pm at least once a month. If you're interested, please contact the office. or speak with Shawna.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, Feb. 18th
 Mass at 6:30 pm
 Not a day of obligation

Women's Fun Night




Bunco Dice Game

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13
 6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.
 IN THE HOLY CROSS FAMILY ROOM
 OPEN TO ALL WOMEN
 SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
 BYOB
 THIS IS A FUN GAME THAT YOU CAN LEARN QUICKLY.
 IF YOU NEED A RIDE, CALL FRAN WRIGHT AT 856-379-5699

Faith Formation

Youth Schedule

2/8/26: **NO RE** (Superbowl Sunday)
 2/15/26: RE Class (Praying with the Mass)
 2/22/26: Re Class (What is Prayer)
 3/1/2026: RE Class (Sung 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 new ski date.



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.



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.

**2026
REGISTRATION
UPDATE JAN. 9**



| | |
|---|---|
| JUNIOR HIGH #1 JUNE 14-19 79% | HIGH SCHOOL #1 JUNE 21-26 90% |
| 5TH/6TH GRADE BOYS JULY 5-10 78% | HIGH SCHOOL #2 JULY 12-17 100% - Waitlisting |
| JUNIOR HIGH #2 JULY 19-24 100% - Waitlisting | 5TH/6TH GRADE GIRLS JULY 5-10 87% |

REGISTER TODAY!
 LEGENDARYLODGE.ORG

Holy Cross Parish is offering assistance for the cost of Legendary Lodge that can be used at the time of registration. If you are interested in a scholarship for your child to attend camp, please contact the parish office before registering your child.



You can make a difference!

- Grab a baby bottle.
- Fill it with cash, check, or change.
- Return it to church.

Return by February 8th

Learn more or give online!



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!

